A stable income and predictable hours

Cooper Point Starbucks workers vote for union and a say in working conditions

Bethany Weidner and Gary Webb

On the corner of Cooper Point and Harrison, it’s a typical mall setting. Cars dominate the foreground, small chain shops border the asphalt parking lot; a Starbucks serves a steady stream of customers.

One thing is not typical. In front of the Starbucks, five people stand around a table holding signs: “Union busting is disgusting,” and “Unfair Labor Practices.” This location is one of two local Starbucks where everyone has been organizing to form a union—and on April 30, their efforts were successful. The Cooper Point Village employees voted 19-2 to move ahead with their union. Employees at the Starbucks at Capital and Trapper in Tumwater voted to form a union and will vote later.

The organizing goal

Outside the Cooper Point Village store, two employees were joined by several community supporters including members of the Democratic Socialists of America, Billie Adriason and Star Wannamaker. They talked about the reasons they filed to form a union. Top issues for these working people are pay, guaranteed minimum wage ($14.49). That’s the gross amount—not what ends up in your paycheck. Even at $15/hour, it’s a poverty wage. The barista working a paycheck. They must be available at short notice to work more—based on management’s assessment of the staffing situation on any given day. Another pay issue, according to Dylan Lux, a shift supervisor at the Tumwater store, is fair seniority pay.

some longer term employees make less than their newer co-workers.

Lux also observed that the raise Starbucks issued to employees earlier this year was so insignificant it didn’t make up for the effective pay cut caused by recent high inflation. “It’s impossible to keep up at this point. As one friend said, ‘if everything keeps going up like this, we’re all going to be homeless’.”

Average apartment rent locally has increased by 16% in the last six years and continues to climb. Thurston Regional Planning shows the cost of living in Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater is 10.3% higher than the average of all other urban areas covered by their 2021 survey.

Lux thinks that wages used to be what drew new staff to Starbucks, but that has changed. “Last year a good 70% of our staff left in their first few months because they kept finding better jobs—better pay, more consistent hours. Every day I walked in, another person had put in their notice or quit on the spot.” A search for local barista job openings found hourly pay listed at $18 and $19.

Guaranteed minimum 20 hours a week scheduling

With no fixed schedule of hours, a Starbucks employee doesn’t know until she gets a text which days and how many hours she’ll be working in the next two weeks. According to Lux, twenty-hour/week shifts are now routinely cut to four to eight hours a week. For part-time workers receiving a barely livable wage, having hours cut is a big issue.

Star Wannamaker, a Cooper Village barista, explains that her weekly scheduled hours don’t amount to enough to live on. She’s always checking her phone to see if there are more shifts she can work. “They know they can count on me to come in early and stay late* to inch her paycheck up. It’s a common situation for Starbucks employees since the company policy is to flex employee hours depending on customer volume.

Seattle’s “secure scheduling” law defeated at the state level

Washington has no law requiring a minimum predictable schedule for employees. An employer has the right to change an employee’s schedule at any time, with or without notice. An employer is also not required to pay an employee a minimum number of hours when the manager dismisses the employee from work prior to completing their scheduled shift.

Only in Seattle do shift workers have the right to stable scheduling. After workers organized, the city in 2017 adopted “secure scheduling”

> Starbucks, continued on page 11

PERSPECTIVE

Hilary Franz’s “Carbon Project”

A new era for old forests or business as usual at DNR?

Jenni Post and Jessica Ryan were part of the group tabling at Starbucks Village on April 16. “With all the urgent crises of our time, supporting our local Starbucks partners in their fight to democratize their workplace and form a union, feels like a really productive use of my time. By being a pro-union, positive presence with people as they walk in or go through the drive through, we’re giving more support for what the workers are doing—a few supportive words or a donation to the relief fund.”

Plus, my comrades in DSA all contribute to making tabling enjoyable. It makes talking to strangers a lot easier”—Jenni Post

SOME FRIENDS OF LEGACY FORESTS

On April 6, the Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands launched an unprecedented carbon leasing project. The first of its kind on state trust lands, this initiative enters ecologically valuable forests into leases to generate revenue for trust land beneficiaries by reserv- ing them for other uses. Through voluntary carbon markets, this project is intended to generate revenue for trustland beneficiaries by selling forest timber for logging.

The project will be implemented in two phases. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), led by Franz, claims that the first phase (Phase One) protects a total of 3,750 acres of land, however, at least 1,240 acres of that total was already off-limits to logging for other reasons.

The areas DNR claims to have protected under Phase One all contain controversial timber sales, and most are located near large cities.

The DNR website indicates that the remaining 2,500 of the acres were originally planned for harvest, and are now protected under Phase One of the new carbon project. Although the agency has not yet announced areas protected in Phase Two, the DNR claims that their plan eventu-
ally will protect about 10,000 acres of ecologically valuable forests in Western Washington.

How much additional protection?

While this initiative marks a step in the right direction, it is a very small step. Data obtained from DNR’s Public Disclosure Office by the Center for Responsible Forestry (CRF) contradicts DNR’s statement that timber sales were planned on 2,500 acres of land included in Phase One of the project. In fact, DNR had definite plans to harvest only 1,080 acres of the 2,500 acres it claims to have “protected.” Furthermore, some of

> Timber, continued on page 10
Works in Progress (WIP), in a community newspaper based in Olympia, WA, that has been published monthly since 1999. WIP’s mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental, and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy across classes, races, and genders.

Editorial policy
Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the corporate media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. We seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but expand on other topics is also welcome.

Informed opinion pieces are accepted when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it’s unproven or in serious dispute. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people won’t be accepted.

Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. While the views expressed in the material may not always be those of the author alone, WIP aims to print material that is consistent with our mission.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions for accuracy, length, and clarity of expression. We will work with you if there is a need for editing that extends beyond those areas.

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WIP editors began working on this issue of the paper with the idea that we would look back at our stories over the last few years to see where there are “loose ends.” What stories did WIP publish about government threats or citizen efforts to improve things—where there needed to be on-going coverage?

The reality is that there is no one covering the important matters that affect the lives of people in Thurston County. The Olympian is a shadow of a paper that even in its best days was not worthy of a capitalist society. Studies show that as newspapers stop covering City Hall and other local institutions, residents become stunted about what the issues are that affect them, and less engaged with local government. They will have no real idea of where their taxes are going, nor what policies are driving the shape of their communities.

Local government information is not designed to reveal who is making decisions, and whether decisions are made in the best interest of all residents. Instead, the information that governments provide on their websites and through public communication focuses on all the wonderful things that the government is doing.

In the absence of a robust daily paper, no one is being paid to ferret out what is going on and to synthesize these findings in a way that gives people solid, ongoing information about what their local government is doing and the businesses that dominate them—are up to something.

WIP in Progress even with only volunteers published a number of stories about the situations where there are “loose ends.” Here are just a few that illustrate how vital it would be to have local newspaper in Thurston County.

Housing policy and homelessness. The cities of Olympia, Lacey and Centralia are collectively issuing dozens of plans outlining the crisis in affordable housing—homelessness, increasing rents, historical discrimination, and barriers to ownership.

WIP reported on three proposals to Olympia City Council that offered means to address the problem of high rents, in contrast to automatic awards of tax exemptions. If there had been a local paper covering City Hall these would have remained in the news and action could have followed.

In November 2019, tenants asked the Olympia City Council to adopt an ordinance to require a landlord that makes renting impossible for some, by allowing “move-in” fees to be paid at signing. It’s been two years later and nothing was ever heard again about this. Did the Council ever even consider it?

In March of 2020, registering rental properties emerged as a key need from a forum that involved tenants and landlords. That same “Housing Action Plan” states that a registry is envisioned—but when? And is anyone working on it?

A series of articles in 2020 brought to light the fact that the city of Olympia was awarding property tax exemptions to boost profitability for developers of downtown market-rate apartment buildings. The practice of awarding tax dollars to developers over funding to increase housing affordable to those making workers’ salary was not scrutinized beyond WIP’s stories.

In January 2021, advocates went to the City Council with a proposed “Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Ordinance.” A TOPO allows renters the right of first refusal when a property is being sold by its own- ers. At the time, City officials said they would make TOPO a focus in their new Housing Action Plan. That Plan was finalized in June of last year. Is TOPO a priority? Are more renters in jeopardy of losing their homes?

Local democracy. Thurston County, its municipal governments and the Port conveniently delegate their authority to unelected officials and allocate hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax money to non-governmental organizations. Works in Progress has shed some light on how these actions diminish demo- cratic governance as the City Council just forget it?

In August and October 2021, articles about the role of the Olympia Hearing Examiner revealed shocking if unsurprising oversight of this powerful official.

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Due to a number of factors affecting the editorial conditions of some members of the publishing committee, and to a certain degree a confirmed reduction in the budget for next year, we’ve decided to reduce the production of the paper from a monthly to a quarterly publication.

We considered stopping publication altogether but ultimately decided to see if we can manage a quarterly publication, which has the following practical implications:

• Works in Progress can sustain a broader online presence and provide reliable form of information in our community.

• In this next year, we need to hear from progressive groups in the community interested in “guest editing” four pages of an online edition, to get a feel for what it’s like to produce a paper.

• If we don’t find strong collabora- tion, or even replacements for the publishing committee, WIP may have to fold next year.

New publishing schedule
The next issue at the end of our monthly publishing sched- ule. We’re taking a break and then beginning a quarterly publication schedule. The next issue of WIP will appear in September 2022, December 2022, March 2023, and June 2023.

Printed in Canada

www.olywip.org

May 2022

Thoughts on the Theme
No one here to tie up the loose ends

The Hearing Examiner position was opened up this spring, and the same individual was rehired. Nothing about alternative candi- dates, the issues, the prospects for better oversight ever made it to the public.

An article in October 2019 followed the Port Olympia acquisition of a business center in Lacey—based on staff’s glowing projections of healthy returns in a robust rental market—only to be appraised too late that all of those projections were wrong. What’s happened to that purchase? Did the Port sim- ply indebt itself further? No one knows, no one is accountable; there is no transparency.

“Economic development” is a broad label that supports local government spending of mil- lions of dollars of public money in ways that only a select por- tion of the community is privy to. The Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council and certain favored developers—these appear from time to time in WIP articles and news stories. But the EDC have to respond to public record requests, but it needs a real news agency or for professional reporters for citizens to know how these bodies influence our lives and the future they are creating for us.

—BW

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—BW
So very easy $2.3 million in new sales tax for Olympia

Dan Leahy

A Sales and Use tax was the only question on the April 26 ballot sent to Olympia’s 35,416 registered voters. Most of them didn’t vote: only 12,465 did. Of those, 7,242 voted in favor of the tax. That meant that 20% of Olympia’s registered voters imposed a sales and use tax on everyone. (Ed note: the 2022 adult population of Olympia is slightly over 42,000.)

The tax will generate an estimated $2.3 million dollars each year for the next seven years. The purpose of the tax includes funding capital expenditures or acquisitions of real property, construction of improve- ments to real property, technol- ogy and cultural access programs for Olympia’s non-profit cultural organizations with a 501(c)(3) status recognized by the internal revenue service. Ten percent of the funds are reserved for admin- istrative costs and ten percent for youth transportation costs. (from City of OW 36.180 and City Resolution M-22890). The tax collection begins almost immediately — July 1, 2022. The City of Olympia will create a special fund for the receipt of these tax dollars. Mayor Selby and the Council will create a nine-person Cultural Access Program Advisory Board (CAP Advisory Board). This Board will make rec- ommendations for funding to the Mayor and City Council.

Community Sustaining Fund Grant Applications due May 15

Calling all Change-makers! The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County (CSF) is now accepting Spring 2022 grant applications through May 16, 2022 for creative and im- pactful applications that serve Thurston County communities. In this grant cycle, additional funds are available through the Sue Lundy Memorial Fund, to honor Sue as a community activ- ist and volunteer at the Olympia Kiwanis Food Bank Garden. Fund- ing criteria and applications avail- able at https://oly-wa.us/csf/index.php.

How to Support

CSF is celebrating its 35th Anni- versary this year! In that CSF has gathered and dispersed funds in spring and fall grant rounds, awarding over $125,000 to 200 + local groups and individuals. One hundred percent of CSF contributions are directed to support these com- munity-based projects (from https://oly-wa.us/csf/coop.php).

• Check mailed to: 2103 Harrison NW, Suite 2715, Olympia, WA 98502. Please contact Ashley McBea for more CSF content, scheduling interviews, and marketing partnership opportunities: ashley@gmail.com 865.363.1308

www.oly-wa.us/csf/CSF on Facebook and Instagram.

The 5th Avenue dam in downtown Olympia. We can’t achieve this vision without your help. DERT welcomes those from all backgrounds and identi- ties. If interested, please visit https://deschutesarts- tuary.org/volunteer/join- derts-board/ or email our Executive Director, Paige Anderson, at anderson@deschutesestuary.org.

Discover a wilderness of healing with Wild Grief hikes

Wild Grief offers unique nature-based programs for grieving youth and families. Their programs combine peer support and nature connection to help anyone who has lost a loved one. The program helps young people to normalize the grief experience, and draw upon resilience and healing. All programs are free as well as providing all needed gear up to and including gas cards if needed.

Wild Grief will be sched- uling day hikes for teens and all ages throughout the summer. Two hikes will take place in June.

Mt. St. Helens, Saturday, June 4, 10:30 am to 4 pm. We will immerse ourselves in nature as the landscape continues to evolve and recover from the 1980 volcanic eruption. With spectacular views of other mountains and wilderness as far as the eye can see, we will breathe the deeply healing quality of nature. Our skilled leaders will set a pace for the 5-mile hike that accommodates the group.

Lower South Fork Skokomish River, Saturday, June 18, 2022—9:30 am to 4 pm. A beginner-friendly hike. We will hike 4.5 miles at a pace that accommodates the group. This is a free event and open to all ages. We may provide a van carpool from Olympia.

More information on these and other Wild Grief day hikes can be found at www.wildgrief.org/events.

Wild Grief also offers overnight camping trips for families and teens, but applications for these events closed at the end of April. If you are interested in learning more about Wild Grief, their pro- grams, and ways to support them visit www.wildgrief.org.

Don’t say they’re not reading!

Capital High students took first and third place in the 2022 “Battle of the Books” (BOB) Thurston County championships. Students from Timberline came in second. Battle of the Books is a team game based on reading a list of books se- lected during the school year. Students read the books and hold practice games during the school year. In a game show type format, the com- pete to answer ques- tions derived from those books. Each school’s teams then compete against teams from other schools in the Spring. At Capital, Battle of the Books is run by Mrs. Kristi Bonds, the CHS librarian. Other elementary and middle schools throughout Thurston County also have BOB teams and competitions.

As sales taxes grow, so does Washington’s income inequality

WIP editors

According to an index created by the Institute on Tax and Economic Policy, Washington state has the most unfair state and local tax system in the US. Their research shows that the lowest fifth of fam- ilies by income (making less than $27,000/year) pay 17.8% of that income in state and local taxes. The percentage share of income a family must devote to paying state and local taxes diminishes as you go up the income ladder. The result is that incomes are more unequal in Washington after state and local taxes are collected than before.

For families whose income puts them at the top 20% (making at least $150,000/year—no upper limit), as much as 7% and as little as 4% goes to state and local taxes. Do Washingtonians know how much we demand from the poor- est among us in order to avoid having a state income tax?

The picture is similarly distress- ing where Olympia is concerned. Olympia residents pay a higher sales tax than 89% of Washington localities. The total sales tax is currently 9.4%, of which 2.9% is levied by the City. That amount will go up to 3% in July when the City begins to collect the Inspire Olympia taxes passed by a vote of 59% in 2017 and 2018. Olympia voters also approved adding additional amounts to the sales tax. 0.1% for “public safety,” and 0.1% for a Home Fund dedicated to address- ing homelessness.

In addition, Olympia Council members approved an increase in the municipal utility tax from 11.5% to 13%. This is calculated on the City’s bi-monthly charge to residents for water/gar- bage/sewer services. City sales taxes are listed at www.salestax- handbook.com.

This year, high school students read the following books:

The Serpent’s Secret by Sayantani DasGupta; One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia; To Night Owl Prom Day Fish by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer; I Go Little Sister I Can Make This Promise by Christine Day; Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Wood- son; Claude & Exl Alien Warlord Cat by Johnny Margiano; Each Tiny Spark by Pablo Cartaya.

Thanks to KOUTG for reporting the BOB results for Capital.
The words of Governor Dan Evans echo down the years

[Note: The Evergreen State College celebrated its inauguration and dedication on April 17, 1967 — coinciding with a call for a national student strike against escalation of the Vietnam War. Eirik Steinhoff, an Evergreen adjunct faculty member, retrieved Governor Dan Evans' speech at the event as part of a year-long 50th anniversary inquiry into the past, present and future of the college. The speech is presented here with Eirik's comments and other material to provide context.]

True to form, and setting a precedent for consequential interactions between “current events” and College business, the Dedication/Inauguration ceremony was visited by what Founding Dean Charles McCann, to students, to the faculty members of this college — today the potential for doing that is unlimited because you have no footstep to follow. Tomorrow’s generation will travel in your footsteps, so I hope and trust that each of you will make these first steps innovative, and bold, and decisive, but most of all, make these first steps taken with a conviction that there is a future, that it is not predetermined, but that it will be what we make it. That must be the Evergreen challenge.]

The Governor’s remarks were followed by the installation of Charles McCann as Evergreen’s first president.

You can find Teske’s full description of the day at https://archives.evergreen.edu/1976/1976-12/teske_c/Notes_Future_Historians/UncertainGlory.pdf

Evans relates these insurgent endeavors to what he understood Evergreen to stand for:

“...to reorder society,” Evans called on his contemporaries “to reach inward, to reach down and touch the troubled spirit of America.”

And I think the question you ought to ask yourselves today, and I hope it is being asked by many, is “what will I face then?” Do you ever really think about it, or do you ever really care? And I think the real question is not what it will be like in the year 2000, but “how can I make it what it should be?” in the year 2000, not for just myself, but for the entire community. If Evergreen is to fulfill its commitment, as an institution it must dream not the small dreams, but the very large dreams.

I hope by the year 2000 that education will be much more individualized and personalized than it is today, and that much of that education will occur in the community and not solely in the separate and sometimes rather isolated campuses of our colleges, universities, and even high schools.

I believe by the year 2000 there will be an extensive interchange of people, from one country and one continent to another, and throughout that exchange and through that better understanding at the person-to-person level, perhaps we have the best single hope of reaching a peace that is lasting.

By the year 2000 we must have resolved the basic rights of each citizen of this nation to adequate medical care, adequate food and adequate housing for each citizen.

But most of all by the year 2000, I hope we have reached a society where success is not measured by the accumulation of material goods, but by how satisfying, how useful, and how personally rewarding a life becomes.

[applause]

Evans continues:

“Some word got around, of this community, that I was going to participate in an unusual event today...[chuckles, audience laughs] William Unsoeld suggested that I rattle down the clock tower...[audience laughter and applause] But in fact an even more improbable mode of locomotion was proposed.

What is vastly more important is that you leave your mark on Ev- ergreen. To President McCann, to students, to the faculty members of this college — today the potential for doing that is unlimited...”
The first fact that definition war is a catastrophic event that causes enormous suffering. The stream of close to four million refugees, the loss of Ukrainian and Russian lives, and the destruction of cities are a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine constitute the latest example of atrocities caused by armed conflict.

The second principle comes in the form of Clarinda Elyanna Calle, Chase Patton. Sarah Keefe, Ivy-Black, Linda Orgel, John Lace, Linda Nehm, Daniel Mootz, Max Elbaum, Ann Mosquera and more. Thank you all. Hope you hear from you in the coming months!

Some contributors who have made recent contributions include Elyanna Calle, Chase Patton. Sarah Keefe, Ivy-Black, Linda Orgel, John Lace, Linda Nehm, Daniel Mootz, Max Elbaum, Ann Mosquera and more. Thank you all. Hope you hear from you in the coming months!

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BOOK REVIEW

City Builders and Vandals in Our Age: Articles and Essays on Socialism
by Caleb Maupin, 2019

Dave Zink

In two inspiring and optimistic books, Caleb Maupin lays out where we are politically, how we got here, and points the way forward. You may not agree with him on some things, but he presents ideas and asks questions that merit consideration by any who favor transformative progress to change.

City Builders and Vandals

In this compilation, Maupin takes a long view of history, from the birth of civilization, through the Greek and Roman Empires, the emergence of feudalism, capitalism, and socialism to modern times. Along the way, he sheds light on the Paris Commune, China and the Belt and Road Initiative, Russia, the Middle East, and how capitalism, imperialism, and militarism are tied together today.

Maupin describes “city builders” in his introductory essay: “Throughout human history, two distinct trends have been present among us. There have always been innovators, scientists, unifiers, [and oth- ers] who push civilization toward a higher state of being, driven by an inner flame of creativity and boldness.”

Who are the “vandals”? “City build- ers have always stood in opposition to the efforts of vandals: hate-mongers, ignorance-celebraters, lynch- mob leaders, persecutors, snake-oil salesmen, bullies, [etc.].” Who are forces for division and profit from tearing down what others have built.

Today’s “vandals”? How about health insurance corporations.

The vibrancy of the winding streets and brightly colored homes are echoed by the chatter of chil- dren, playing and thriving. This will be the last home dedication in this Habitat development before we break ground this summer on a major project in Tumwater. Building generational wealth has no better catalyst than owning your own home and the need for decent and affordable places to live has never been more significant.

Families that partner with Habitat work hard to build a better life for themselves—and their children. Partner families spend many hours helping build their own homes and when they have completed all the program requirements, they purchase their Habitat home at an affordable price—mortgage payments are never more than 30% of their income.

Another Habitat project will also include homeownership. The City of Olympia has selected Habitat as the preferred develop- ment partner for city-owned prop- erty at 3900 Boulevard Road. The selection came after an outsourcing of support for Habitat’s proposal that promised housing for the poor as well as a focus on affordability for low income working families.

According to the city, the Habitat proposal “sets a vision for a mix of owner-occupied townhomes and ‘senior cottages’ with the inclu- sion of a small neighborhood cen- ter. Approximately 100-110 units are anticipated to be developed as part of this project. Over 50% of the homes will be ADA accessible, and all units will be built to the Ev- ergreen Sustainable Development Standard.”

As a next step, the City will be- gin to work with Habitat on the creation of an Exclusive Negotia- tion Agreement. This agreement will outline shared commitments between the two parties for the next 180 days. During this period Habitat will complete their due diligence for future development of the site and the two parties will negotiate a purchase price for the land.

Additionally, Habitat will initiate a neighborhood engagement process, refine their development concept and financing plan, and identify an additional development partner to assist with the neighborhood com- mercial center component.

We Are City Builders: The Center for Political Innovation (CPI) Education Manual

In this anthology, you’ll find some real gems. I really enjoyed “The Parable of the Water Tank,” by Edward Bellamy, “Why Socialism?” by Albert Einstein, a “Letter to American Workers” by Lenin, and speeches by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Vice-Presi- dent Henry A. Wallace.

“Traditionally, Henry Wallace would have been re-nominated as the Democratic Party’s Vice-Presi- dential candidate for Franklin D. Roosevelt’s unprecedented 4th Presidential campaign in 1944. Wallace was clearly the most popular choice for Vice President among Democrats. Many journal- ists predicted that he would win renomination.

Roosevelt, in failing health, sent a public letter to the Democratic Party convention chairman say- ing, “I personally would vote for [Wallace’s] renomination if I were a delegate to the convention.” If Wallace had become President after FDR’s death, the USA would probably be much better off today. It’s a tragedy of history that anti- New Deal backstabbers succeeded in getting Harry Truman on the ticket instead.

These are just a few of the threads Maupin weaves together in the CPI’s Educational Manual. After each section, there are thought- provoking questions for study and group discussion.

Dave Zink is a Veteran for Peace. You can find this book A Hundred Lifetimes at Orca, Olympia’s cooperative bookstore.
An interview with Maria Siguenza

Seeking to change the profile of leadership in Washington

Note: This interview was submitted by Maria Siguenza, who will run for Position 1 of Washington’s 22nd Legislative District. The seat is now occupied by Laurie Dolan who has announced her retirement at the end of this term.

Derek Day: Tell me about yourself.

Maria Siguenza: I am a first-generation American, born in Veracruz, Mexico, and grew up in the Skagit Valley. I like to say “where the tulips are” because The Valley is known for its picturesque festival each spring. I graduated from Western Washington University during the recession, and dental care. Our school-age children and the scenery. Currently, I live in Olympia with my partner and our dog and cat.

I have lived in Thurston County for the past decade and cannot imagine myself in another place. I love the people, the downtown cores, and the scenery. Currently, I live in Olympia with my partner and our dog and cat.

DD: What approach would you take to help resolve these issues?

MS: I think in terms of systems. It’s hard for me not to get wonky, so indulge me for a bit. The issues I mentioned are part of systems and those systems are all interconnected. The health of our local economy is vital for our community. I will ensure that small businesses have access to programs and resources they need to bounce back from the effects of the pandemic.

In the anti-poverty work that I do now, there’s a term “benefits cliffs,” which is when someone who is on state benefits gets a minor raise or some other new cash flow, and all of a sudden they are no longer eligible for benefits. But that cash flow is not enough to make ends meet. Sometimes people will forgo the raise or extra cash flow because they know they cannot afford it, even though it means giving up progress.

I will advocate for a solution to “benefits cliffs” so that working families can move forward without the risk of falling back. In regard to ensuring that our unsheltered neighbors receive the help they need, I will advocate for affordable and accessible medical access that includes behavioral health support. I will advocate for solutions that don’t create more spending. I know we are investing an unprecedented amount of money in programming and yet something is not working.

So much of this work requires leadership that exemplifies a common-sense approach and leaders who work with everyone so we move forward together. Let me stress that this work isn’t about how much I know, it’s about including all voices of our community so that we are working together.

DD: What kind of experience do you have that prepares you for a legislative position?

MS: Most importantly, this work is deeply personal to me. I was undocumented until my early high school years. My mom raised me and my brother by herself. During our hardest years TANF, food stamps, child support and WIC helped us make ends meet.

I know what it’s like to live at the margin and the stress and fear that comes with it. In my almost decade-long experience with the state, I have dedicated myself to anti-poverty and access policy work.

I am proud to have been part of the Poverty Reduction Work Group that published a nationally recognized 10-year strategic plan to reduce poverty. I’m proud of the work that I have done on the Governor’s Business Diversity Subcabinet to reduce barriers for micro-, small-, women-, veteran-, and minority-owned businesses.

And I’m proud of the work of the Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the work we’ve been able to do under my leadership. We expanded career pathways for Tri-Cities students with Career Connect Washington and helped to create a COVID 19 Immigrant Relief fund for folks that could not tap into unemployment benefits. We also carved out capital funding for a city park in dire need of repair and updating in Yakima in the heart of the Latino neighborhood.

DD: How can people learn more about you?

MS: I have a website: www.electsiguenza.com For those who want to help, the best way is to donate and sign up for volunteering opportunities.

DD: What do you like to do in your spare time?

MS: Right now I’m an active member in the Junior League of Olympia. I serve as Chair of the CIELO Board of Directors. I go to the gym regularly and when I go I like to bring a music app, back pack, go on scenic drives, and soak up sun rays near a body of water. During the winter you’ll find me likely working on a house project with my partner.

A couple fun facts are that I fall asleep during movies, so no one can count on me for quotes. I love music—all kinds—however, my music app tells me that I’m in the top 5% of Brandi Carlile’s listeners.

The goal is to create a vibrant and diverse small business community and to sustain living wage jobs. I will ensure that our community hubs—schools—are resourced to allow teachers to teach, students to learn, and families to get the support they need. From what I see, that looks like expanding mental health supports and expanding connections from the community supports to families.

I will advocate for solutions that don’t create more spending. I know it isn’t about how much I know, it’s about including all voices of our community so that we are working together.

For those who want to help, the best way is to donate and sign up for volunteering opportunities. For more information go to our website: https://thurstowncountyfoodbank.org/80-2/grocery-distribution/

220 Thurston Ave, NE
downtown Olympia WA

Thurston County Food Bank

Food Distribution at the Downtown, Client Service Center

Regular distribution 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Mon, Wed, Fri

All food is prepared and distributed through either the Drive-Up or Walk-Up distribution model.

Follow the signs for the vehicle line—please stay in your car—and friendly staff and volunteers will bring your food out and load it into your vehicle.

If you are on foot, line up along the Thurston Ave wall where there are marked spots to help with safe, social distancing. Your food will be brought out to you once you check in.

For more information go to our website: https://thurstowncountyfoodbank.org/80-2/grocery-distribution/
Bridge Music Project nurtures young talent in collaborative songwriting workshops

Jaina Elaine Nehm

The stage is set with speakers, a folding table with a water bottle, and a MacBook. A mess of cords snake over the stage and three groups are wheeling out from the shadows behind the curtains and settle it within the temporary base. Behind them is the Bridge Music Project logo, printed on vinyl, stretched between a free-standing PVC frame. A separable table with bottled water and pizza is pushed against the wall, between the front row and the descending from the Capitol Theater Stage. With the elegant awkwardness of a teenager, a collaborator reads aloud from the Community Contract: “Don’t judge by its cover, or its忽略.”

It is Week Two of the Bridge Music Project’s program for aspiring musicians between the ages of 14 and 21. Students who participate will work with experienced musicians who act as mentors for eight-weeks. Girded toward actualizing, BMP provides the space, guidance, and equipment to openly express themselves and establish a framework for artistic and personal endeavors through performance.

Starting simply and following the lead of program graduates

Today’s goal is for each group to choose the electronic beat for their project. Keith, a returning Bridge Music participant, walks up the group as he strains absently on an acoustic guitar. When the proper adjustments are made, Amanda jogs her eyes and leans to the microphone, “I need you to fall for me. You make me feel like a creep.”

He plays a slow melody beneath soft vocals, swaying slightly. He finishes the song, “From afar I can see you’re not really used to it.”

Amanda approaches the stage and Keith yields it to her. Another past student, she gives him warm praise and slides onto the piano bench. “I’m not braindead, I’m just really tired,” Amanda chirps, joking and light. She then sings soulfully, “My sensible ways. You’ve got something that makes me foolish”.

Her voice skips playfully with the lyrics, she passionately about troubled romance.

Amanda has become a mentor after visiting the project in Week Two, falling in with a group and performing with them in the final showcase. Her talent is obvious, and her energy excites the space. Amanda is an example for the potential of Bridge Music—creating active community members who continue to enrich the lives of creative youths through their experiences, mentoring, and as being a talented and engaging performance artist.

A mission to foster healthy self-expression

This project, one of nine programs offered by BMP, builds a community of likeminded and abled peers who collaborate to write and record original songs and organize them into a final showcase. All the programs strive to assist students in achieving BMP’s stated mission and vision statements:

Through mentoring youth in songwriting, singing, and rap, we equip them with tools of self-expression and understanding that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Our vision is to create a world where every youth is free to be their true, uncompromising self; a world where through music and self-understanding, young people can overcome any traumas to be the future leaders of tomorrow.

To cover this story for WIP, I was welcomed into one of the small groups that met weekly, usually at Capitol Theater. Every meeting began with Announcements from Bobby, an overview of the group’s timeline and present focus. Each week a different student read the Community Contract as drafted during Week One, either looking deeply into the paper before them or cracking jokes between rules, like “No Biting, which means don’t pull the singer’s hair.” A soft melody and harmonizing and aiding in group preparation for a solo audition.

After practicing for a month at Capitol Theater, the songwriting process, and work together to conceptualize a song which encapsulates each musician’s strength and passions. Charlee, a vocalist and lyricist, Kira describes herself as a poet, seemingly unaware of their full potential and current talent, harmonizing and aiding in group discussion, not yet comfortable with sharing their work.

Alaina is young, energetic, and has undeniable writing ability, which describes most of the group. Apollo and Adelyn excite each other, their musical back-and-forth inspiring and whimsical to observe. Both talented performers in their own right, they are knowledgeable and humble collaborators. Liam is a gifted guitarist, layering chords with the production to create a fuller sound.

Preparing a solo audition

After practicing for a month at Capitol Theater, the group temporarilly assimilates their process during Week Five at the Olympia Family Theater. The stage lights are low, every bulb visible. A painted, standing backdrop hides the narrow “backstage.” Glossy wooden seats with muted patterned cushions

reflections, and praise, they light the kindling for an impassioned project. Other voices drift down the hallway from neighboring rooms. Similar processes are taking place across differing genres, ages, and experience levels, the creative process and the consistent antici-

Coaching confidence and self-expression

I chose to spend time with Rachel’s group specifically, only observing that group’s interactions, within the entirety of BMP. As a group they discussed layering vocals and adding instrumental, navigating the creative process, and working together to conceptualize a song which encapsulates each musician’s strengths and passions. Chords is quiet, a vocalist and lyricist, Kira describes herself as a poet, seemingly unaware of their full potential and current talent, harmonizing and aiding in group discussion, not yet comfortable with sharing their work.

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reflections, and praise, they light the kindling for an impassioned project. Other voices drift down the hallway from neighboring rooms. Similar processes are taking place across differing genres, ages, and experience levels, the creative process and the consistent antici-
Krziz talks about the importance of production, and the power of the ‘DIY World’ emphasizing self-motivation and marketing. Bobby opens the floor to students, who ask about past songs, networking, and achieving work-life balance.

Most of the discussion is around how to be “successful” or making money from music. I wonder to how this emphasis on monetization of passion may tarnish a collaborative environment but say nothing.

As the Zoom call ends, the group gathers on stage to take a picture with Krziz. Once the screen is empty, the students returned to their seats, and after a quick catch up, filter back into their groups. We return to the room at the end of the corridor, and students resume their discussions of metaphor and creative approaches.

The show is a curation of current and past projects, during the final meeting, students listen to Krziz talk about the importance of production, and Bridge Music sound equipment. Before the meeting, Bobby opens the floor—budding talent presented and nurtured in the wings, the students mirror the audience.

Music Project. A range of projects and genres are for granted—budding talent presented and nurtured in the wings, the students mirror the audience.

In his opening remarks, Rappers, folk singers, im-

gaged, cheering, and clapping for every performer; in the wings, the students mirror the audience.

Julia Elaine Nehm is a student at TESC pursuing a degree in Cultural Anthropology. This project was part of her work to practice ethnographic skills under the supervision of WIP and professors Eric Steen and Toska Olson. She can be reached at jenelm08@gmail.com.

This is Olympia on music

Juli Kelen

Listening to live music is one of the most enduring sources of joy for humans but even though its roots are just as deep and its rewards every bit as satisfying, participatory music-mak- ing by non-professionals is hard to find in most communities. Not so in Olympia, where the sheer number of informal music circles—open to anyone with an interest in music, regardless of training—sets it apart from other towns of comparable size. Here are some of the regular opportunities for music lovers to sing, play and have fun creating tunes and tones.

Irish sessions

O’Blarney’s Irish Pub

441 Martin Way East, Olympia

Not many towns of the size of Olympia can boast two weekly Irish music sessions. After a pan- demic hiatus, the Tuesday night sessions at O’Blarney’s are about to resume and (great is the rejoicing). The Tuesday night sessions at O’Blarney’s were set to resume on April 26, and will run from 7—10 pm. All instruments are welcome. These sessions can go late and any-

one who likes to play an instrument is invited to attend.

Tugboat Annie’s

2100 West Bay Dr. NW, Olympia

Wednesday nights, 6:30—8 pm

The jam sessions at this Olympia institution on West Bay Drive are raging on Wednesday evenings again after being interrupted by the Covid virus. Come to eat and listen to ballads, jigs, reels and drinking songs or bring a fiddle, guitar, button accordion, Irish flute, mandolin, tinwhistle, or hammered dulcimer. Whatever you’ve got, including your voice—bring it any Wednesday evening.

For information on either Irish session, call Tom at (360) 280-4240

Sacred Harp Singing

800 Wilson St. SE

Lions Park, SE Olympia

There is a strong community in our region of singers who gather to raise their voices in this early American music form. In Olympia, bi-weekly meetings are held outdoors, usually on weekends and usually in Lions Park in SE Olympia. New participants are most welcome. It is very helpful to have basic music-reading skills. Loaner books will be available. For infor-

mation on upcoming meetings, see the Olympia Sacred Harp Facebook page.

Samba Olywa

Eagles Ballroom

805 4th Ave. E, Olympia

Sundays, 5-7 pm

Many Olympians know Samba Olywa from their vibrant and joyful performances at Pro-

cession for Peace and any other peace-related events. Samba Olywa asks that participants be covid-vaccinated, plus one booster shot, at this time. https://www.facebook.com/groups/224308165283

Marching Band

Fridays at the Kissing Statue

Percival Landing, Olympia

Fridays, 5-6 pm

The Artesian Rumble Arkestra meets each Friday in support of the weekly peace vigil there. If you care about peace and play a band instrument (using the most impossibly expansive definition of “band”), you will be welcome there, except in the most hideous weather. Check https://www.facebook.com/ArtesianRum-

bleArkestra for updates.

Oldtime Music Festival

February 2023 (?)

In the Before Times, the Oly Old Time Festival lit up the middle of February with a weekend’s worth of jams, concerts, dances, and workshops. Participants came from far and wide—Alaska, Can-

ada, Appalachia, New England, and of course closer to home. Just prior to the pandemic, the 2020 Old Time Festival went forward in grand style (and then… you know what happened). There were no Old Time Festivals in 2021 or 2022, but hopes are high for a Festy in February 2023. Check http://olyoldtime.weebly.com/ for updates.

Ukulele Song Circle

New Traditions Café

300 5th Ave. SE, Olympia

Mondays, 7-8:30 pm

A circle of uke-thusiasts of all levels of expertise gathers at New Traditions once a month. Wheth-

er you’ve been honing your skills for years, or just picked up a ukulele for the first time last week, you’ll find a warm musical welcome here. Much of the music is drawn from The Daily Ukulele, Vols. 1 and 2, but owning the books is not necessary—bring your instrument, a music stand, and copies of songs, words, and chords you wish to share (note: this is optional if you’d rather not lead a song). The uke group asks that you be vaccinated and boosted to attend. https://www.facebook.com/Ukomlynsians/info

The Olympia Peace Choir

Westminster Presbyterian Church

September 2022

The Peace Choir is an inclusive community chorus. They are not currently able to accept new members but those interested are encour-

ged to check the website at the beginning of September 2022 for information on joining. Re-

hearsals will be Mondays at Westminster Pres-

byterian Church. theolympiapeacechoir.org

Juli Kelen, a New York native, has lived in Olympia for nearly 40 years. She has a long career at KAGS radio, and doing PR for the Mud Bay TK’s Lounge. She plays music in her spare time. Since she is retired, all her time is spare.
Timber
From page 1

the parcels on which timber sales were planned may also have been protected under existing DNR policy guidelines that prohibit commercial logging of old growth. It is still not clear how much protection is actually gained under this phase of the project.

The following timber sale units are included in Phase One of DNR’s carbon project: units 1 and 6 of “Smuggler,” and all of the “Oracle” timber sale, unit 2 of the “Bessie” timber sale, all of “Echo System,” and the “Silent Hill” timber sale. The Smuggler, Oracle, and Echo System sales all contain known patches of old growth or old growth legacy trees.

DNR is already prohibited from logging old growth under the Policy for Sustainable Forests and the terms and conditions of its existing Habitat Conservation Plan. CRF has identified “Silent Hill” as a high priority sale in Capitol State Forest, and the “Silent Hill” timber sale. The Smuggler, Oracle, and Echo System sales all contain known patches of old growth or old growth legacy trees.

DNR has come under heavy fire from logging old growth under the Policy for Sustainable Forests and the terms and conditions of its existing Habitat Conservation Plan. CRF has identified “Silent Hill” as a high priority sale in Capitol State Forest, and the “Silent Hill” timber sale. The Smuggler, Oracle, and Echo System sales all contain known patches of old growth or old growth legacy trees.

Protecting sites near populated areas
The areas DNR claims to have protected under Phase One all contain controversial timber sales, and most are located near large cities. The Oracle and Smuggler timber sales are adjacent to a residential neighborhood twenty minutes from downtown Olympia, where multiple community hikes have taken place over the last 18 months. The Echo System timber sale is located adjacent to the town of Preston, just minutes from Issaquah. Most notable is the amount of land protected near Lake Whatcom, near the City of Bellingham. Nearly two-thirds of the total area (2,200 acres) included in Phase One of DNR’s carbon project is located in and around the Lake Whatcom watershed. Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for more than 100,000 people (about half the population of Whatcom County).

DNR has come under heavy fire for the Bessie timber sale near Lake Whatcom. It would have involved the clearcut logging of 120-year old trees above the lake. The Bessie sale has been the subject of a series of newspaper articles in the Bellingham Herald. Nearly 2,000 residents of Whatcom County signed a petition opposing the sale, and the Whatcom County Council recently submitted a letter to DNR requesting that the agency delay the sale. Thus, the future of this timber sale was in doubt even before the carbon project was announced. (See https://www.c4rf.org/bessie.)

Corporations get massive pandemic windfall, stiff workers

Judd Legum

For most Americans, this pandemic has been a traumatic experience. Nearly 1 million Americans have died. Millions more lost their jobs. Nearly everyone had their daily lives upended dramatically.

But for a number of large corporations, the pandemic created an unprecedented windfall and record profits. These profits would not have materialized without frontline workers, who put their lives at risk to keep companies operating and the economy functioning. However, corporations chose to use almost all of that extra cash to reward shareholders and executives, according to a new study by Brookings. Workers, comparatively, received almost nothing.

The Brookings study looked at performance of 22 major corporations, which collectively generated an additional $1.5 trillion in wealth for shareholders between January 2020 and October 2021. That was 57 times more than the additional wages provided to the workers whose labor generated that wealth.

—Judd Legum is the creator of “POPULAR INFORMATION” an extraordinary reliable report on the ways government and corporations run our world. Read the 61-page study at the link below. The authors have provided 11 pages showing sources and data used. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Pandemic_Profits_report.pdf
Amazon and other corporate climate pledges

Judd Legum

Corporations want the public to know that they take the climate crisis seriously. Most major corporations have taken a public “climate pledge,” promising to reduce net zero carbon emissions by a future date. Amazon is so into this concept that it started “The Climate Pledge” in 2019, promising to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

Amazon even bought the naming rights to the home of the NHL’s Seattle Kraken and called it “Climate Pledge Arena.”

Is there anything behind the pledges?

It’s easy to make a pledge to reach net zero. It’s much harder to create a credible plan to reach that goal and then execute that plan. Beyond mere pledges, are these companies demonstrating real leadership on climate issues by taking meaningful action?

Nestlé, for example, claims that it “will halve our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.” But its plan received very poor marks from the NewClimate Institute. Nestlé’s net zero by 2050 pledge includes “no defined target for own emissions reductions.”

The company further states it wants to remove 13 metric tons of carbon from the atmosphere by 2030 “but does not specify how.” The NewClimate Institute report estimates that the plan will only reduce Nestlé’s emissions by 18% by 2030. Nestlé’s plan is rated “very low” for transparency and integrity.

Amazon’s plan: low transparency and integrity

Amazon, despite founding The Climate Pledge, fares only slightly better. The NewClimate Institute report notes that its pledge to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 “remains unsubstantiated without any explicit reduction target for the company’s own emissions.” (In 2020, Amazon’s carbon emissions grew by 19%.)

Amazon is aggressively seeking to decarbonize its energy use, acquiring fleets of electric vehicles and procuring large amounts of energy from renewable sources. But it provides little details on “Scope 3” emissions, which includes emissions from the goods sold by Amazon. Amazon’s plan is rated “low” for transparency and integrity. Amazon did not provide a substantive response to these criticisms.

This is excerpted from an article called “Zero Credibility” in Popular Information, a news site founded by Judd Legum “for people who give a damn.” One subscriber describes it thus: “If you like your news to be succinct, sourced, and well-written, the Popular Information newsletter is the one for you.” Find this article in its entirety and more at <popularinformation@substack.com>.
The continuing shame of Guantánamo

Jim Lafferty

Thirty-nine suspects remain in the United States’ prison on Guantánamo Bay, or “GITMO” as it is commonly known. And nobody can reasonably predict when, if ever, they will be freed. Or be afforded a trial with any measure of due process.

In 2008, the Supreme Court, in Boumediene v. Bush, held that the US courts have jurisdiction over the cases of Guantánamo prisoners. It should be. The history of Guantánamo exposes the lie behind our claim to be a nation governed by the rule of law. Condemned by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and many other such groups, it is a permanent stain on the character of the American people.

GITMO began taking in suspected enemy combatants from al-Quada in 2002. At the height of its operations, close to 600 “suspects” from many different Muslim nations were held there, under torturous conditions, without any due process of law. The youngest was 13 years old! In fact, 21 of the detainees were children. Dozens of detainees were subjected to barbaric forms of torture. Many committed suicide. Over 550 were convicted in sham federal court trials, and others in illegitimate military tribunals. Many, if not most suspects, clearly bore no responsibility for combat operations in the Muslim nations where we were waging war, and, in some cases, are still waging war.

I feel the same way about this shameful chapter of American history as does Linda Greenhouse, the brilliant NPR reporter on the rulings of the Supreme Court. Greenhouse wrote: “I’ve come to think of Guantánamo Bay as a case born in fear and sustained through political cynicism and public indifference, as a mirror of ourselves during those opening decades of the current century, trapped no less than our 39 remaining ‘forever’ prisoners with no obvious end to their imprisonment.”

And I would add, as well, that there is no obvious end to the US capitalist parties when in power, and who are both responsible for the shame of GITMO. And in recent days the Congress and courts have poured more acid into the moral wounds in the operation of GITMO by further restricting the rights of the detainees.

As recent disclosures have revealed, right from the start the supposedly confidential conversations between lawyers and detainees were in violation of a most basic principle of due process, listened to by the very US government officials who were prosecuting the detainees.

GITMO is, of course, a consequence of our wars in the Middle East, wars for those countries’ oil, and for geopolitical gain. Over the many years of these wars, US presidents have repeatedly claimed we are not at war with Islam.

Well, tell that to the families of the millions of dead and wounded Muslims our bombing and invasion of Iraq caused; tell it to the thousands of Muslims forbidden to enter America through travel bans; tell it to the countless numbers of Muslim citizens and residents of America who’ve been discriminated against at work or in public; tell it to the Muslim children attacked on their way to school and called “terrorists;” tell it to the Muslim worshipers whose mosques have been infiltrated by government agents.

All US governing administrations love to preach about their concerns for human rights abroad. They even have the audacity to claim they invade other countries to bring human rights and democracy to those countries.

Many Americans, including some liberals, supported the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, seeing it as an opportunity to bring democracy and human rights to those countries. That was an obvious lie. They were invade with geopolitical advantage and for the rich resources those countries contain.

Then, too, American history is filled with countless examples of our elitist and racist nation looking down on the cultures of the countries we invade; we all the while falsely proclaim our desire to bring human rights to those countries.

It is because the men and children held in Guantánamo were and are Muslim and people of color, seem to be of an inferior culture to the white, Western culture of America, that has allowed America to continue holding those still in Guantánamo under torturous and brutal conditions, with no end in sight to their imprisonment. . . . or to our immorality and shame.

I urge all who read this to contact their congressional representatives, demanding freedom for all those still being held at GITMO, and demanding that our government return them to their country of origin, or to any other suitable country who will take them. And demanding, as well, that GITMO be permanently closed.

Only by keeping the American people aware of this shameful story, and then mobilizing ourselves to bring sufficient pressure on our government to finally close GITMO, will we have gone some distance toward lessening this grossly immoral and political blight on this nation, and on ourselves as citizens of this nation.

Jim Lafferty is Executive Director Emeritus of the National Lawyers Guild in LA, and host of The Lawyers Guild Show on LA’s Pacifica Radio station, KPFA.

This article first appeared in the LA Progressive. It is reprinted from Freedom Socialist, April-May 2022.
This 2002 edition includes a new introduction as well as some factual edits. Otherwise, it’s unchanged, making it a sort of time capsule of knowledge to herself as she grew up, praying by night to God to make her a girl, and by day praying the masculine rites of the English school system.

Conundrum

Jan Morris


Charlie McNabb

At a time when transgender youth are being threatened with parental separation [1] and transgender women and transfeminine people of color are being murdered at record rates [2], Conundrum is especially poignant. Originally published in 1974, this slim but substantial memoir follows the life and gender transition of acclaimed travel writer Jan Morris. This 2002 edition includes a new introduction as well as some factual edits. Otherwise, it’s unchanged, making it a sort of time capsule of the lived experience of a transsexual woman undergoing transition in the 1960s.

Jan Morris was born James Humphrey Morris in 1926 in Wales. Although she knew herself to be female by the age of four, Morris kept this knowledge to herself as she grew up, praying by night to God to make her a girl, and by day praying the masculine rites of the English school system.

Morris entered the Army at 17 and marveled at the privilege of observing the secrets of a closed male society. While she made friends easily, she knew she didn’t fit in. When at last Morris discovered a trans biography in a bookstore, she had confirmation that she wasn’t alone in her condition.

After exiting the Army, Morris was determined to explore her identity and the world around her. She found an exciting job as a journalist, working for the Arab News Agency in Cairo, The Times of London, and the Manchester Guardian.

After a decade as a foreign correspondent during the 1960s, she branched out and wrote over fifty books about travel, historical-cultural studies of cities and countries, as well as biographies and novels.

Her yearning for children led her to marriage to a woman that she loved dearly, though she chafed at the masculine role. But though her career and home life were satisfying, her dysphoria grew to such an extent that she decided had no choice but to medically transition. Morris spent the early 1980s seeking out psychiatrists and sexologists, most of whom were charlatans, to pursue medical transition. Although her gender T-experiences and Queer Adolescence. Charlie also enjoys Bigfoot and birdwatching.

Notes


3. Although many trans folks prefer to be referred to as “transgender,” some (including Morris) use the older term “transsexual.”


With 750 global bases, US military uses 4.6 billion gallons of fuel annually

Ground Zero

The Manchester Fuel Department (MFD) is the Department of Defense’s largest single-site fuel terminal in the United States. The depot provides military-grade fuel, lubricants and additives to U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels, and to those from allied nations like Canada. Records available from 2017 show over 75 million gallons of fuel stored at MFD.

The facility sits on approximately two miles of Puget Sound shoreline, storing product in 44 bulk fuel tanks (33 Underground Storage Tanks and 11 Aboveground Storage Tanks) on 234 acres. Most of the tanks were built in the 1940s. The fuel depot (tank farm and loading pier) is less than six miles west of Alki Beach in Seattle. Activists with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 350 West Sound Climate Action, and Earth Care Not Warfare demand that the U.S. military reduce its carbon footprint while reducing its global military footprint on the planet. The U.S. military has approximately 750 military bases around the world and emits more carbon into the atmosphere than 140 nations.

If the U.S. military were a country, its fuel usage alone would make it the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, sitting between Peru and Portugal.

Our proximity to the largest number of deployed nuclear weapons in the U.S. at Bangor, and to the “pentagon’s largest gas station” at Manchester, demands a deeper reflection and response to the threats of nuclear war and climate change.

While climate change and the threat of nuclear war are the two major threats to the future of humankind and life on our planet, their solutions are similar in that they require us to come together to solve one of the problems—whether to abolish or tightly control nuclear weapons or to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We could greatly help with the solution of the other.

The next Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action event is on May 7 at the Ground Zero Center in Poulsbo, and joins with other local and regional groups in demonstration in recognition of Mother’s Day. Please see www.gzcenter.org.
Revitalizing local food one cut at a time

James O’Barr

The founder and resident kitchen god at Delmonico’s, “Olympia’s only truly artisan butcher shop,” Brian McDonald, who seems to have found his niche after years gaining experience and honing skills in the culinary arts, the food service business, and related pursuits. He says he knew his stars were at home. “My grandmother taught me how to make a roux when I was four or five, and I grew my own herb garden around that time. In my teens, my palate expanded, and I got into ethnic foods.”

Brian made his way to Olympia and to Evergreen State College, in the late 1980s and though he says that working at the Evergreen cafeteria did not refine his culinary ambitions, some of the contacts he made, and the evolving food scene in Olympia, did. Through a fellow student he got his first professional cooking job at the old JJ North’s Grand Buffet on the West Side, and eventually moved upscale to Portland, not as a cook but in a management role. His resume includes chef, caterer, and wild fish broker.

Along the way, Brian built working relationships with people who grow, harvest, and produce local food, and it’s this network, he says, that forms the foundation for Delmonico’s. His very big idea, and his passion, is to “revitalize the local food economy and transform the American food landscape by empowering small farmers and consumers.”

In the shorter run, Brian wants Delmonico’s to be a model of what a truly local food economy can look like when people know where their food comes from, who produces it and how, and who processes it to get it into their hands. In the case of Delmonico’s, this means that fresh, whole, grass and grain-fed cows, pigs, lambs, and chickens are brought in weekly, directly from local farmers, knowing that the animals have been treated well and never subjected to inhumane “processing.” They are then expertly butchered into traditional cuts, and custom made ready for sale, offering the community not just a product, but “real food, wholesome practices, delicious results.”

Walk into Delmonico’s and have a look around. Just inside the door is a cold case. On the left, shelves full of grocery foods—sundry canned and bottled cooking ingredients and ready to eat delectations. On the right, a place for fresh Wild Yeast bread, and next to that, a case that holds assorted hams, agings, and carring cuts. On the walls all around are racks full of wine bottles (selected by the legendary Justin Wîlès, of Wine Loft fame). Back to the cold case, there’s an array of beef, lamb, pork, and poultry in various presentations: cut, rolled, stuffed, skewered, crown-cut, or ground. There is a selection of sausages: breakfast, Bavarian, sweet and spicy Italian, Chorizo, Andouille, and a favorite, the lamb-rich Merguez, which seem to go out as fast as they come in. Occasionally there will be something out of the ordinary: rabbit, say, or goose. On the upper shelves are an interesting cheese or two and a daily display of house-made cold cuts and delicatessans.

All good, all very good. But that’s only what’s showcased on the counter. At any given time in the workspace just beyond there may be two, or three, or even four people engaged in different tasks—butchering, cutting, prepping, washing, cleaning, setting up and breaking down equipment, making sausages, tying roasts. When whole animals, especially cows and hogs, are brought in for butchering, a lot of space and attention are required. But no matter how busy it is, when customers come through the door, someone will immediately step out to see how they can be helped. There’s nothing grudging about being interrupted, the workers are genuinely interested in what brings people in and, if necessary, are happy to help them better understand what it is they want.

What they all want, and what every human body needs is, good, healthy food. Sounds simple, but where to get that? Absolutely not from the industrial, profit-driven “food” production system, which can only offer products, which are, to one degree or another, deleterious to human health and which can never inspire anything but calculations of profit and loss. The craftwork of transformation that happens every day at Delmonico’s by Brian and his crew—Jesse, butcher-in-chief, Kurt, head chef, Biomia, sausage queen, and Owen, Drew, Joey, and Sasha—give us an opportunity to witness the dote-less magic of real food. In that vast pocket of a storefront, the words of poet Gary Snyder come to mind: “Sounds like another way of saying something to be grateful for: community.”

James O’Barr is a life-long carnivore and fine food enthusiast living in Olympia. Delmonico’s Heritage Butcher Shop at 518 Fourth Avenue East in Olympia is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am—7 pm and Sundays 11 am—5 pm. Ask about their new six-course dinner with wine pairing (by reservation only) at (360) 915-8795 or delmonicomeats.com.
**Olympia Little Theatre**

**The Originals**

Performances on May 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8

$11-$15 per ticket

Inspired by the true story of the women pilots who formed the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron during World War II and an elite squadron of women pilots who battle prejudice, betrayal, sabotage and personal loss to prove they belong in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Register at www.olympialittletheatre.org.

**Harlequin Productions**

**Sovereignty**

Directed by Esther Almazán (Yaqui/Yoeme Tribe)

May 6 – May 28 The State Theater

General $35 • Senior/Military $32 • Student/Youth $20

This original play, written by Mary Kathryn Nagle of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and partner at Pipistem Law, a firm specializing in tribal sovereignty of Native nations and peoples, covers the fight by Sarah Ridge Polson, a young Cherokee lawyer, to restore her Nation’s tribal jurisdiction while confronting the ever-present ghosts of her grandfathers. An epic tale of the powerful intersections of personal and political truths that Gloria Steinem called “fundamental and revelatory.” Content Advisory for children under age 12.

**Community Farmland Trust**

**Farms Forever 2022 An online benefit**

June 1-4

Join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Community Farmland Trust with this annual auction and benefi. Register at communityfarmlandtrust.org.

**Solstice Women’s Retreat**

**Millersylvania Park**

Friday, June 17 – Sunday, June 19

Wellness-centered classes, delicious nourishing food, community connection and good old fashioned summer camp fun to bring the community together for accessible collective healing that uplifts and supports us as a whole. Sponsored by Olympia’s Empowerment 4 Girls. Non-binary folks and trans women welcome. Register or learn more about fees at empowerment4girls.com/events or call 360-876-2043.

**Olympia Fiddle Camp**

OFF welcomes students ages 7-15 who are interested in playing violin/fiddle in a nurturing environment. No previous music or violin experience is required. The program will run Monday-Friday, June 26-July 1 (no full-day or half-day camp program this year). All classes will be held at the Olympia Center. Contact for more information: https://www.olympiakidsfiddlecamp.com/

**Fort Nisqually Living History Museum podcast series**

**Episode One: Walking Two Trails**

The first in this new series of podcasts features local tribal historians sharing Indigenous Puget Sound history and tribal knowledge and expertise with representatives from the Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, and Steilacoom Tribes.

**Episode Two: Reclaiming the Narrative**

This episode tells how tribal historians first came about learning about the Puget Sound Treaty War of 1855-56, the war through which tribes gained back access to reservation land that had been taken from them by the disputed Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854. Available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music, or at www.metroportarionca.org/indigenous-voices-podcast/walkingtwotrails.

**Olympia Underground Pop Cassettes!**

Cassette tapes are neat, concise, portable, sleek and terribly modern all over again. Olympia underground music-makers have released a stack of groovin’ musica on cassette tape in the last months, available now from The K Mail Order Dept.

**Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team**

Ever wonder what microscopic organisms you’re swimming with? Every week, biologists track plankton communities and screen for harmful algal blooms (HABs). The data is submitted to NOAA’s SoundFaxon program, to help protect human health and economic losses to fisheries. During this kayak activity, we will collect water quality data and plankton samples that will be analyzed onshore using microscopes. Learn more and register at https://deschutesestuary.org/kayak-boat-patrols/

**The Olympia Free Clinic**

The Olympia Free Clinic is looking for both medical and non-medical volunteers to continue their effort to provide accessible and free health care to our community. Sign up for the OFC newsletter to receive updates at https://www.theolympiafreeclinic.org/.

**Queer Body Love**

Tuesdays at 7 pm

Yoga Sanctuary, 1522 4th Ave. E

A gentle movement class that’s adaptive for all bodies and abilities, including wheelchair access.

**Glen Anderson Parallax Perspectives**


Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, Thursdays at 9:00 pm on Channel 22

Instead of military violence, we could defend our nation better through carefully planned strategies of nonviolent resistance. Besides eliminating the danger of nuclear war, a nonviolent national defense would also provide better security without all of the downsides that violent militarism causes. Learn more at www.parallaxperspectives.org, or contact producer/host Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glenanderson@integrar.net.

**Thank you from The Rachel Corrie Foundation**

We are delighted to report that 100% of our March 16th donations benefitting the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme helped raise $10,000 for GCMHP, an organization guided by the principles of justice and human rights and which provides inclusive, integrated, and specialized community mental health services in Gaza. Enormous thanks to all who contributed! In doing so, you honored Omar As’ad, Hajj Suleiman, and Rachel Corrie, in whose memories the gift is given.

Help us expand our community networks

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Hit “follow” on our Instagram page @olywip
SEEKING
GUEST EDITORS

As we consider the future of the paper, Works in Progress invites individuals or groups to try a practice run as Guest Editor, responsible for four pages of the September 2022 issue (we'll help). If you have writing or editing skills and want to help carry the WIP mission forward, drop us a line telling us why you or your organization might be a good fit for the volunteer (possibly ongoing) position:

olywip@gmail.org.

Put "GUEST EDITOR" in the subject line. Serious inquiries only!

Advocating for social justice since 1990.