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“Nonviolent Solutions to Structural Oppression”

Western Washington FOR

17th Annual Spring Assembly

Saturday April 11, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fauntleroy UCC Church, 9140 California Avenue SW, West Seattle

Every year WWFOR brings grassroots folks together for a Spring Assembly to share ideas and strengthen the movements for social justice, nonviolence and peace. Our 2015 Spring Assembly on Saturday April 11 will be more participatory than ever.

This year's theme and activities: The problems we keep seeing at global, national, and local levels are huge, persistent, and deeply rooted. The Vietnam war was not an aberration from an otherwise peaceful foreign policy, nor are police abuses caused by “a few bad apples,” nor is homelessness the fault of people making bad choices, nor are people of color to blame for the effects of racial disparities. Big problems cause continuous violence, continuous injustice, and continuous trauma stress. Society needs profound healing from addictions to greed, violence, and racism.

These big problems that cause ongoing oppression are “structural” - built into our society's systems. Solving them requires more than masking symptoms, applying band-aids, or enacting liberal “reforms” that merely tinker around their edges.

Real solutions require radical (getting to the root) approaches based on nonviolent values that profoundly respect the unity of the entire human family and all of our ecosystems. Real solutions require active listening and bold, creative alternatives to structural oppression.

Today is VERY PARTICIPATORY! Instead of one keynote speech to a passive audience, **everyone** will be able to collaborate in shaping our keynote message to flesh out 2015's theme, “Nonviolent Solutions to Structural Oppression.” Morning workshops will explore problems. Afternoon small groups will allow **everyone** to generate creative nonviolent solutions.

→ Please bring announcements to post on our Announcement Wall.

→ Please bring issue-based information, handouts, petitions, etc., to display and distribute on our Information Tables

You will enjoy a stimulating and positive day as you:

- Meet old and new friends
- Participate in exciting workshops
- Gain and share knowledge and skills about issues and grassroots organizing
- Lift your spirits from the day's social and informational energy
- Network with other activists to build stronger movements
- Browse information tables for handouts, petitions, etc.
- Post and read information on our Announcement Wall

We'll even serve you lunch!

Sponsored by Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation (206) 789-5565 wwfor@wwfor.org www.wwfor.org

Information: See this posted on www.wwfor.org Contact Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

PRE-REGISTER: Please pre-register by April 3 if possible because this helps us plan. But even if you don't pre-register, come anyway!

DONATION: It costs WWFOR approximately \$15 per person to put on this Assembly. We welcome participants regardless of ability to pay, and hope those who can afford more will balance those who can afford less. Your registration donation includes a delicious catered lunch.

Print name(s):	Phone: ()
Address:	E-mail:
City:	ZIP:
Amount enclosed: \$ (See "DONATION" above)	
Carpool: () I could offer a ride for other persons. () I would like a ride.	
Do have any special needs?	

Mail this form to: Glen Anderson, 5015 15th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503-2723 or glen@olywa.net

Questions? Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

Arrive as early as 9:00 for social time and refreshments. The program will start promptly at 10:00.

Workshops from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

"Anticipating Stigma: The Double Burden of Homelessness and Race"

-- Carolyn Weisz is a Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Puget Sound.

Social stigma, whether anticipated or experienced, may create distress for individuals without homes and play a role in sustaining homelessness. Professor Carolyn Weisz will discuss her research on how stigma related to homelessness and race predicts psychological distress, physical health, and avoidance of using services. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to discuss the findings and generate ideas about reducing stigma, homelessness, and racism.

"Don't say, 'Thank You For Your Service.' That Continues My Oppression."

-- Dennis W. Mills is an Army veteran who participates with FOR, VFP, TCTV, Coffee Strong, and Friendly Water for the World.

-- Zahid Chaudhry is a lifelong peace & justice activist, community volunteer and disabled American veteran.

-- Mark Fleming is a veteran of the American War in Vietnam and a peace activist for decades.

These three Army veterans will lead a discussion on how today's service members and veterans have been structurally oppressed even before they enlisted and continue beyond in their civilian lives. Join us in exploring how war, moral injury, PTSD, sexual oppression, poverty draft, homelessness, unemployment, and militarism are the oppressors.

"Resistance Against Detentions and Deportations"

-- Maru Mora Villalpando is a community organizer, trainer, political analyst, consultant, and founder of Latino Advocacy.

Resistance against detentions and deportations — A movement led by undocumented immigrants has created a rippled effect around the nation, putting pressure in the Obama administration to act and building organizing inside the worst detention conditions in immigration prisons. Learn from undocumented leaders about their fight to be recognized as human beings and how to become a true ally to movements led by low-income people of color impacted by systematic legalized injustices and action.

"Yes, the Climate Crisis Is a Multi-Dimensional Example of 'Structural Oppression'"

-- Glen Anderson has organized FOR activities for 40 years and is active with Olympia FOR's climate group.

The climate crisis goes far beyond environmental concerns to actually hurt many aspects of our lives as individuals, as communities and societies, and as members of the earth's ecosystems. Scientists agree that humans caused the climate crisis. Powerful economic and political forces -- structural oppressors" in the context of today's event — cause the problems. As with other big problems, the solutions must arise from local grassroots organizing

"The Ukraine Crisis: A Serious Danger of Nuclear War"

-- Bernie Meyer and Mary Hanson have long experience organizing for peace and against nuclear weapons, especially through FOR and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

The Ground Zero community is alarmed by the escalating conflict between the US and Russia in the Ukraine. NATO and EU member nations are participants. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the minute hand at three minutes to midnight, due to nuclear war and rising climate crisis tensions. Let's understand the roots of the conflict and determine our response. Read www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/29369-ukraine-war-a-reverse-cuban-missile-crisis

Racial Justice

-- Harriett Walden, founder of Mothers Against Police Harassment

The agenda we'll hand out when people arrive will describe the workshop and its facilitator, Harriet Walden.

"Ending Mass Incarceration Through Transformative Education"

-- Mary Dewine

The agenda we'll hand out when people arrive will include a description of this workshop and its facilitator, Mary Dewine.