



# Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

August/September 2008 Issue #217

## Float Lanterns for Peace at Olympia's Japanese Bon Odori Festival Saturday August 9th

Olympia celebrates Bon Odori, the traditional Japanese midsummer festival, on **Saturday August 9**. When the dancing ends at dusk, the public is invited to move from Water Street to another area of Capitol Lake to float lanterns for peace. The Olympia FOR is organizing this part of the Bon Odori festival as we have for about the past 17 years.

In Japan the annual Bon Odori midsummer festival welcomes our ancestors and other people who have died to come back to the world of the living to spend some time partying and dancing with us. At the end lanterns are floated on a body of water to guide their spirits back to the other world. Since the U.S. bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki during this time of year, the traditional Japanese lantern floating ceremony has taken on additional meaning. Now floating these lanterns is also a way to remember all who were killed when our government dropped the atomic bombs, to remember all other people who have died in wars, and to rededicate ourselves to working for peace.

When the Bon Odori dancing ends, an announcement will tell people where to go to participate in the lantern floating ceremony. Each participating family or individual will be given a lantern consisting of a small block of wood, a candle, and a paper lantern frame. We will invite participants to write the names of one or more persons they want to remember and/or a prayer or message for peace on the paper lantern frame and then to place them in Capitol Lake, where the wind will move them gracefully along. This beautiful sight in the night hushes the crowd into a reflective silence. **You will be glad you attended!**

Thanks to Olympia FOR member Kristen Dahle for organizing this event and recruiting volunteers to help. We could use a few more helpers at the beginning of this event and one more volunteer with a canoe who could retrieve the lanterns from the lake at the end. For information or to volunteer, please contact Kristen at 357-3553 or [kjdahle@comcast.net](mailto:kjdahle@comcast.net)

## Olympia FOR Potluck Picnic Follows Steering Committee Meeting Wednesday August 13th

**Everyone is invited** to the Olympia FOR's potluck picnic at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday August 13** in the Rose Garden kitchen area at Olympia's Priest Point Park. Go north on East Bay Drive, turn right into the park, and bend left. We'll be in the open-air structure just past the rose garden. The picnic builds community by inviting us to share food and leisurely, wide-ranging conversations. Come and enjoy!



**Our 6:30 potluck picnic follows the 5:30 meeting** of the Olympia FOR Steering Committee – to which **everyone also is invited**. The Steering Committee provides overall guidance and decision-making for the Olympia FOR.

For information contact Glen Anderson at 491-9093 [glen@olywa.net](mailto:glen@olywa.net)



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**Our Mission Statement:** The Olympia Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation seeks to replace violence, war, racism, intolerance, and economic and social injustice with nonviolence, peace and justice. We are an organization of many faiths committed to active nonviolence as a transformative way of life and as a means of profound social change. We model these principles by personal example. We collaborate and dialogue with the larger community to educate and to engage in nonviolent and compassionate actions.

## Long-Range Strategic Planning Will Help the Olympia FOR Work More Effectively



The Olympia FOR has been working hard for 32 years – since May 1976 – and we have accomplished a lot. But much has changed since 1996-97, when we rigorously examined our purposes, our unique roles in the community, our various activities, and how we function organizationally. In 1997 we developed and adopted a Mission Statement (see bottom of newsletter page 1) and some guidelines to strengthen our organizational functioning. We also identified issues and activities that our people wanted to pursue.

In June 2008 our Steering Committee decided to study these and additional matters again, so it appointed a 5-person committee (Bert Whitlock, Jody Tiller, Dennis Mills, Kim Dobson, and Glen Anderson) to design a process for long-range strategic planning. The planning committee has met twice in July and is devising an ambitious work plan to gather various kinds of information from people on our mailing list and from people and organizations in the wider community. The planning committee will help the Steering Committee and other committed FOR folks generate information, analyze a variety of current realities, and figure out how to function more effectively as an organization. The planning committee wants to do this right, so it anticipates that the process could continue through June 2009.

We are eager to find out what you think, what you want, and how to help you be more effective in your efforts for peace, social justice and nonviolence. Look for information, surveys, etc., in future newsletters and perhaps a special mailing. If we don't have your current e-mail address, please send it to [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org) so we can keep in touch in that way also. A special one-day retreat to help generate ideas will be planned for sometime this fall, so we hope you will participate in that. Look for more information throughout the coming months.

For information contact any of the planning committee members or the Olympia FOR office at (360) 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org).

## Urgent: The Peace Movement Needs a Strategy for Afghanistan!



On July 24 Medea Benjamin, founder of the feminist peace organization Code Pink, published an article with this title at [www.CommonDreams.org](http://www.CommonDreams.org). (You can read her original article there.) She credits the peace movement for pushing political candidates toward withdrawing troops from Iraq and using diplomacy instead of war in Iran. But she says, “the peace movement has been missing in action” regarding Afghanistan. She points out that Obama recently called for sending 10,000 more troops to Afghanistan, and that John McCain also has called for escalating the Afghan war.

Benjamin said that she went to Afghanistan “during the height of the U.S. invasion in 2001,” and she was horrified to see how many innocent civilians the U.S.’s so-called “smart bombs” were killing and injuring. Now, seven years later, the U.S. is bogged down in Afghanistan. She wrote, “Innocent Afghans continue to be killed and maimed, more US soldiers are now dying in Afghanistan than Iraq, the Taliban have gained new strength, opium production has soared, and Osama bin Laden has not been found. The Afghan people continue to be among the poorest in the world, women are still oppressed, and the U.S. government reneged on its promise of a ‘Marshall Plan’ to rebuild Afghanistan.”

She laments that both Obama and McCain both want the same “solution” – send more troops. She wrote, “Just ask the Russians. With nearly twice as many troops as the U.S./NATO forces and with three times the number of Afghan soldiers, they left defeated after 9 years of fighting and 15,000 dead.”

She calls for the peace movement to develop a position about Afghanistan – something that goes beyond simplistically calling for “troops out now.” Should the peace movement urge the US and NATO to talk with the Taliban? What should we do about the areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan where terrorists are training in preparation for future violence? How can we “prevent future attacks, without waging an open-ended war?” What role would we advocate for international law and justice institutions? How could we collaborate with peace movements in NATO countries? What do the Afghan people really need, and how could we help them meet their needs without violence?

She concludes the article by asserting that the peace movement can't delay any longer to deal with these and related concerns, nor can we settle for knee-jerk slogans. “We, the peace movement, need to come together and develop a strategy before our troops are sent from the ‘bad war’ in Iraq to the ‘good war’ in Afghanistan.”

## If Not the Death Penalty, What? by Glen Anderson

**POINT #1: People ask this question, so we do need to address it. However, this question is misleading, because it assumes that the death penalty is a common sentence for murder cases, and the death penalty's absence would leave a great void.**

**Actually, very few homicide cases could even qualify for death sentences.** In Washington State, for example, death sentences are possible (not required, but merely possible) only in **very rare** situations. Death sentences are possible **only** for those homicides that are First Degree Murder **and** have certain aggravating factors that are defined by law **and** are free from mitigating circumstances that are defined by law **and** for which the county prosecuting attorney has chosen to charge as capital crimes **and** for which the juries are unanimous in imposing a sentence of death. The death penalty is possible **only** for cases that meet **all** of these requirements. **Death sentences cannot be imposed in cases that are lacking even one of these requirements.**

The death penalty cannot be considered for the vast majority of homicides. The vast majority of homicides are already covered by state laws that impose prison sentences through the regular sentencing procedures.

In Washington State only about ten individuals are on death row at any given time. This is an almost trivial number when compared to the overall number of homicides. With such small numbers, the question "If Not the Death Penalty, What?" is practically irrelevant.

**POINT #2: Furthermore, even when death sentences are imposed, the offender is very UNLIKELY to be executed, so – in effect – we are already dealing with the "What" alternative even in death penalty cases.**

Washington executed nobody at all from the mid-1960s through 1992. We executed four persons from 1993 through 2001. With only four executions in more than 40 years, the death penalty clearly is not much of a solution to the crime problem.

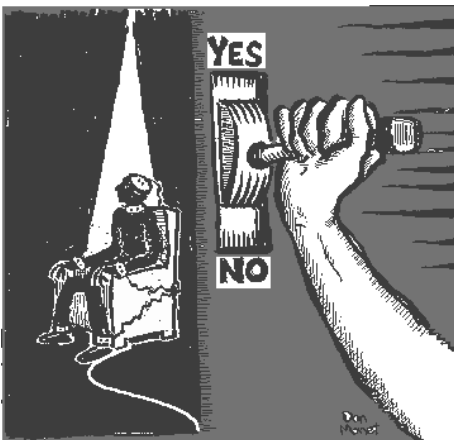
Except for those four cases, people stay on Washington State's death row until appeals overturn their sentences or until they die of natural causes.

**POINT #3: Washington State Law already provides an alternative to the "What" question.**

In Washington State, for the very rare kinds of homicide cases that could result in the death penalty, the **default** sentence **already** is a life sentence without any possibility of parole. If for whatever reason the jury is not unanimous in imposing a sentence of death, the offender would serve a life sentence and never be eligible for parole.

**POINT #4: Fourteen states in the U.S. and 91 nations worldwide – including all of the European Union nations – do not use the death penalty, so they are already effectively dealing with the "What" alternative.**

The question "If Not the Death Penalty, What?" is not a difficult question at all. It's a non-issue in much of the U.S. and much of the world. Besides the 91 countries without death penalty laws, 33 more have death penalty laws on their books but don't actually impose death sentences. All of these U.S. states and other nations impose prison sentences without getting mired in the problems and complexities of trying to impose death sentences and wade through the complexities of so many appeals. Effective solutions already exist. Asking the "What" question just keeps us stuck in the past.



The **Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty** meets one evening every month. We share information, conduct outreach to the larger community, and work on related activities. New people are always welcome! Our next meetings are Tuesday August 26 and Tuesday September 23. Both will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Mixx-96 meeting room at the SW corner of Washington and State near the IT bus station in downtown Olympia.

For information about our local efforts, contact Rozanne Rants [rozannerants@yahoo.com](mailto:rozannerants@yahoo.com) or Chuck Schultz [chuckschultz3@msn.com](mailto:chuckschultz3@msn.com) or (360) 705-8520.

For more information about the death penalty in Washington State, contact the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, P. O. Box 3045, Seattle, WA 98114, (206) 622-8952, [www.AbolishDeathPenalty.org](http://www.AbolishDeathPenalty.org)



For 21 years the Olympia FOR has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence. The Olympia FOR's program airs on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. Each program airs **EVERY Monday at 1:30 p.m. and EVERY Thursday at 9:00 p.m. for a full month.** This creates many opportunities to watch each program.

## AUGUST: "Citizen Diplomacy: People-to-People Exchanges"



President Eisenhower once said that the people want peace so much that one of these days the government will have to get out of the way and let them have peace. The Olympia FOR's August TCTV program explores the power of citizen diplomacy, people-to-people exchanges, and international solidarity.

For several decades the national FOR has sent citizen peace delegations to areas of conflict (*e.g.*, Israel and Palestine) and "enemy" nations (*e.g.*, the Soviet Union during the Cold War, Iraq before the 1991 Gulf War, and Iran now) to promote mutual understanding and cultivate human relationships that can nurture peace and justice across international borders.

The greater Thurston County area has enjoyed rich participation in a variety of grassroots organizations working to build peace and solidarity. The second TCTV program the Olympia FOR ever produced (in March 1987) featured an interview with Jean Eberhardt, who had recently returned from the Seattle-to-Nicaragua Construction Brigade. Jean and others soon created the Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association, which continues to this day. TSTSCA has organized many delegations of local folks to visit Santo Tomas and nine delegations of Tomasinos to visit here. In solidarity with community organizations there, TSTSCA has provided support for a variety of projects that serve the people of Santo Tomas. **Anna Shelton**, who has been very active in TSTSCA, is one guest on our August TV program..

More recently, local folks have worked hard to implement Rachel Corrie's vision for a sister-city relationship between Olympia and Rafah, a city in Gaza, Palestine. The Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project ([www.orscp.org](http://www.orscp.org)) has worked hard on a number of activities, sometimes in cooperation with the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice ([www.rachelcorriefoundation.org](http://www.rachelcorriefoundation.org)). Early in 2008 **John Harvey** represented the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project and did a lot of good work in Rafah and elsewhere in Palestine. He is another guest on this TV program.

Simple interactions and friendships across borders – without explicit political goals – are important too. The Friendship Force International is a nonprofit cultural exchange organization with active clubs in 55 countries. Each year more than 6,000 persons travel as citizen ambassadors to other countries and live in the homes of ordinary families for a week or two. Friendship Force ([www.TheFriendshipForce.org](http://www.TheFriendshipForce.org)) began in 1977, and the Olympia Friendship Force has been active since 1984. **JoAnn Mitchell Young**, an active leader in the Friendship Force of Olympia, is another TV guest.

Our fourth guest is **Char Simons**, a member of the FOR who participated in the national FOR's second peace delegation to Iran in May 2006. Char also teaches about the Middle East at The Evergreen State College and leads field programs to Arab and Turkish parts of the Middle East.

## SEPTEMBER: "9-11 Truth: Is It OK to Ask Questions?"

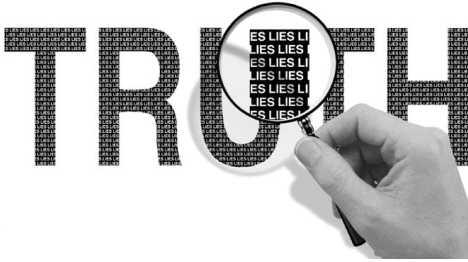
Beginning on September 11, 2001, the government and mainstream news media were quick to give us a story line about what had happened. They said, for example, that they had found the passport of one of the hijackers immediately below the point where the airplane had struck the World Trade Center many hundreds of feet above. Somehow his passport had come out of his pocket and out of the airplane and had fallen exactly straight below and had not been singed by the fires and had not been blown away by the tremendous wind created by the falling skyscraper. The mainstream news reported this as evidence supporting the government's contention that it knew who the individuals were who had done it.

On the very next day Dick Cheney said that we needed to respond by attacking Iraq.

Bush told us to just go shopping and let him fight a war. Ordinary people put flags outside their houses and attached "United We Stand" stickers to their vehicles. Bush told us that if we are not "with" his policies, then we're "against" the U.S. The government, mainstream media, and American culture all emphasized the need for patriotism and "rallying around the flag."

The very next month Bush launched a war against Afghanistan, and Congress passed the PATRIOT Act without reading it. Everything was happening at once, and people felt overwhelmed by the rush of events. Author Naomi Klein explains how extremists within the government cause massive "shock" to make the public feel vulnerable to radical change from the top down, and to manipulate and exploit the public to achieve the extremists' selfish goals. They started wars, militarized several aspects of the U.S.,

**TCTV September (cont.)**



pushed laws through, took away our rights, illegally spied on us, and did many other things in the wake of the 9-11 “shock.”

Soon after September 11, a few people started challenging some of the bizarre “evidence” that the government and mainstream media were feeding us. People started asking questions but were not getting credible answers.

A growing number of people were discovering evidence that undermined the official story about what had happened on September 11. The Bush/Cheney administration vigorously resisted creating an official commission to study it. When public pressure

became too much, they allowed an official commission to be formed, but they staffed the commission with loyalists. The commission did not pursue the most challenging questions, nor consider the most provocative evidence.

The official orthodoxy has been trying to make it “not OK” to ask questions. But a “9-11 Truth” movement has been growing. Increasing numbers of people have been questioning the orthodoxy, and a substantial number of people think that elements within the government either had a hand in the September 11 tragedies or at least knew they were coming and allowed them to occur.

Most skeptics are not “conspiracy nuts,” as the official culture would have us believe. Most skeptics are thoughtful, well informed and respected citizens who have studied the facts, found that the official story has holes in it, found evidence that rebuts the official story, and discovered what seem to be deliberate attempts to prevent the truth from coming out.

Is it OK to ask questions about 9-11 now? The Olympia FOR’s September TV program will help us open up the possibility of asking questions and considering evidence. Our guests will be **Drew Gibbs** and **Terry Macinata**, two local persons who have calmly and thoughtfully been asking questions and studying the facts.

**OLYMPIA FOR’S “BIG PICTURE” DOCUMENTARY SERIES ON TCTV**



In addition to the Olympia FOR’s TV series of locally produced interview programs (see page 4), we also air thought-provoking documentaries that you’re not likely to see elsewhere on TV. Under the series title “**The Big Picture**,” Carol Burns finds suitable documentaries and arranges to show them on Thurston Community Television (**TCTV channel 22**) for cable subscribers in Thurston County. Thanks to Carol for continuing to inform the people! You can watch these programs at **10 p.m. every Sunday evening** and **3:30 a.m. every Wednesday and Friday morning** for a full month. Info: Carol 866-7645 [carolburns98@comcast.net](mailto:carolburns98@comcast.net)

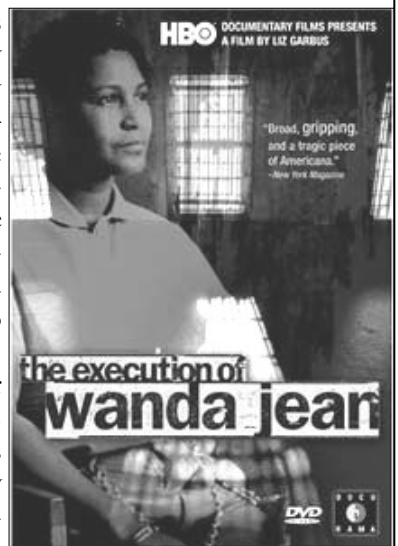
**AUGUST: “THE GLEANERS AND I”**



This is a joyful documentary about people who survive on what others have left behind. Film maker Agnes Varda travels around France, introducing us to the folks who receive sustenance from harvested fields, produce market discards, and back-alley dumpsters. They are, mostly, highly functioning people whose view of their place in the food chain makes the rest of civilization seem absolutely insane. (In French with English subtitles) (82 Minutes)

**SEPTEMBER: “THE EXECUTION OF WANDA JEAN”**

Filmmaker Liz Garbus's in-depth documentary examines the controversy surrounding the 2001 execution of black inmate Wanda Jean Allen, a convicted murderer whose low IQ bordered retardation, yet an Oklahoma court sentenced her to death by lethal injection. The film chronicles her final days and the state's execution process as Wanda's family, joined by legal and medical professionals, fights tirelessly for commutation of her sentence. (88 Minutes)



## NEWS - RESOURCES - OPPORTUNITIES

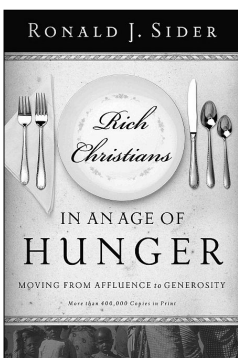
**Keep in touch with Olympia FOR by e-mail:** Occasionally – not too often – the Olympia FOR communicates with our people by e-mail. If you haven't received an e-mail from us lately (not counting listservs you might be on), we probably don't have your current e-mail address. Please let us know. We're at [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org). Thanks!

**National FOR's blog connects you with many sources of information:** Visit the new blog -- <http://forpeace.net/> -- and consider signing up there for e-mails about what's new.

**National FOR's youth activities:** The national FOR's Nonviolent Youth Collective connects and empowers young people. Programs include the "I Will Not Kill" campaign to challenge the militarism pervasive in our culture and to promote a broad understanding of conscientious objection; the Peacemaker Training Institute's training for youths 18-25; counter-recruitment; and organizing to break the conveyor belt that channels people from high school to either the military or prison, and other activities. See [www.youth.forusa.org](http://www.youth.forusa.org)

**Congress legalizes Bush's illegal wiretapping and gives retroactive immunity to telecom companies that illegally spied on us:** On July 10, Bush signed into law H.R. 6304, the FISA Amendments Act, which Congress passed despite widespread public opposition. The original Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) was an extremely weak bill – basically a rubberstamp – but Bush had routinely bypassed even this rubberstamp approval for spying on people. He repeatedly broke the law and many big telecom companies (except Qwest, which refused because Qwest knew Bush's requests were illegal) repeatedly broke the law too. Bush wanted Congress to bless his crimes and relieve him and the telecoms from legal liability, so – after a long struggle and tremendous public opposition – Congress gave Bush what he wanted. The House voted for the bill 293-129, and the Senate voted for it 69 to 28. Washington state's senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell felt the public pressure and voted "NO," but our local Representatives Brian Baird and Adam Smith both voted "YES." Senator Chris Dodd, a vigorous opponent of the bill, said on the Senate floor, "When laws ends, tyranny begins." After all, remember that the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states: **"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."** Neither Bush nor Congress has the authority to override the Constitution! The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is filing a lawsuit. The ACLU criticizes the new law for allowing **"mass, untargeted and warrantless surveillance** of all communications coming into and out of the United States." The immunity for telecom companies' illegal domestic spying "means your phone calls can be tapped and emails read with virtually no proof of threat, and there's no chance to learn how the telecoms invaded your privacy," according to the ACLU, which asserts, **"It's outrageous, unconstitutional and un-American."**

**Senate rejects Bush's major new nuclear weapon program:** On July 10 the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a spending bill rejecting all funding for the new Reliable Replacement Warhead that Bush had been aggressively pushing. The Senate's decision marks the second year in a row that Congress has denied funding for the controversial program, which would have been the first new U.S. nuclear weapon in more than two decades. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a terrific source of information on this and a variety of peace issues. See [http://fcnl.org/press/releases/RRW\\_071008.htm](http://fcnl.org/press/releases/RRW_071008.htm)



**What do social justice teachings in the Christian tradition say about global and local issues?** Emily Lardner and Selena Kilmoyer are facilitating an ecumenical Just Faith study/reflection group at St. John's Episcopal Church (19<sup>th</sup> & Capitol Way), starting at 7:00 pm on Monday September 29, for 30 weeks. The program is co-sponsored by JustFaith and Bread for the World. The group will read and discuss ***Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*** and other books. Participants don't have to be Christians, although the Christian tradition is the focus of these sessions. The group wants to connect study and action, and it will work on making local connections throughout their time together. The \$140 cost per person will cover all the books. They have access to some scholarship funds, so interested persons should not let cost be a barrier. The group is limited to 15 participants. Advance registration is required. Info: Emily Lardner 705-3678 [lardnere@hotmail.com](mailto:lardnere@hotmail.com)

**Volunteers are needed for TCTV crews – and TCTV provides the training:** The Olympia FOR relies on volunteer labor to produce our TCTV programs. Sometimes we are short on crew members. Can you help? TCTV provides training at low cost through the Olympia FOR's organizational membership. Please notify the Olympia FOR (491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)) when TCTV has certified you for camera, audio, field production, editing, directing from the control room, or other functions. If you'd like to learn to direct TCTV programs (not necessarily the Olympia FOR's, but any program), Carol Burns offers to mentor you to help you develop the skills in directing. Carol is at 866-7645 [carolburns98@comcast.net](mailto:carolburns98@comcast.net). Many

## NEWS - RESOURCES - OPPORTUNITIES (cont.)

other TCTV programs in addition to the Olympia FOR's need volunteer crew members from time to time too, so you will have plenty of opportunities to use your skills, and you can volunteer as your schedule allows. Info: 956-3100 [www.tctv.net](http://www.tctv.net)

**KOWA 106.5 FM low-power alternative radio from Olympia needs volunteers:** KOWA-LP's mission is to give voice to individuals, organizations and movements working for social justice, economic democracy, ecological sustainability and peace. KOWA also plays music. KOWA is looking for local DJs and community participation in building the station. Organizers meet from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Media Island, 816 Adams St. SE (just east of the Olympia library). For more information contact KOWA at 352-1646 or [kowa@riseup.net](mailto:kowa@riseup.net) <http://kowalp.org>

**Support GI opponents of war with a Coffee House – a safe place for GI's to seek information and meet with fellow soldiers:** During the Vietnam era GI coffee houses were a powerful part of the overall resistance movement. Now they are starting again near Fort Drum, New York, and near Fort Lewis, Washington. Local info: [KT2@aol.com](mailto:KT2@aol.com) or [mollygibbs3@gmail.com](mailto:mollygibbs3@gmail.com). National level info: [www.citizen-soldier.org](http://www.citizen-soldier.org) and [www.differentdrummercafe.org](http://www.differentdrummercafe.org)

**A new "Buy Local" campaign will support local farms and businesses:** Sustainable South Sound (formerly the Sustainable Community Roundtable) has just launched a Buy Local campaign to promote local farms and businesses in Thurston County. Buying from locally owned farms and businesses keeps money in our community, reduces carbon emissions, keeps our community unique, creates more good jobs, gets you better service, encourages local investments, creates local prosperity, and ultimately contributes to world peace. Look for "Buy Local" decals in supporting business window fronts. In October's kick-off event you can get a coupon book and a Local Business Directory. To volunteer, contribute financial support, or get information, please contact Karin Kraft at 754-5352 or [info@sustainsouthsound.org](mailto:info@sustainsouthsound.org)

**Buy  
Local**  
SPEND IT HERE • KEEP IT HERE

**Should the public buy Puget Sound Energy's operations in Thurston County from the capitalists?** Many people are disturbed that the electricity and natural gas utility that serves eleven counties in Washington wants to sell itself to a consortium of investors from Australia and Canada. It's bad enough being owned by American stockholders with a headquarters in Bellevue, but foreign owners would leave us relatively powerless (no pun intended). The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) provides a little buffer, but people worry that the new owners would raise our rates to pay for the billions they'd borrow to pay for buying PSE. Some local folks have formed the Thurston Public Power Coalition to explore the potential for the local public to buy out PSE by expanding a local water utility, the Thurston County Public Utility District. Local public ownership would reflect local public values such as accountability, conservation, serving consumers rather than investors, better customer service, and lower electric rates through a long-term contract with the Bonneville Power Administration. Skagit County's PUD recently completed a feasibility study that found a public buyout is "technically feasible and economically feasible." Connect with the new local group through Kyle Taylor "Raven" Lucas 915-9257 [kyletlucas@yahoo.com](mailto:kyletlucas@yahoo.com) and through <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TPPCoalition>

**Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp still needs adult male volunteers for camp counselors:** Kids entering 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades can enjoy experiences and fun with kids of other religious faiths from Sunday August 24 through Friday August 29. Sponsor and info: Interfaith Works 357-7224 [www.Interfaith-Works.org](http://www.Interfaith-Works.org)

**Don't let conservatives privatize or trash Social Security:** Some conservatives are trying to undermine public confidence in Social Security in order to pressure people into privatizing it or reducing its universality. The Social Security "crisis" is a right wing myth. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the Social Security trust fund will run a surplus until 2019. The fund's assets, held in the form of U.S. Treasury securities, will last another 38 years. The right wing "solution" of privatization does not even address the supposed problem. Privatization means diverting workers' Social Security deductions from the Social Security trust fund into private accounts. Diverting SS's income stream would cause the trust fund's surplus to run out much sooner. Consequently, most privatization schemes would cripple the trust fund. The whole point of Social Security is to ensure a minimum income for retirees, not just to benefit individuals but also to protect all of society. Pushing millions of Americans into the stock market guarantees that the number of seniors living in poverty will multiply. Do you really trust Wall Street's wheeler-dealers to protect your retirement? **Progressives propose real solutions.** The Social Security payroll tax currently applies only to the first \$102,000 a worker makes; any earnings above that are tax-free. One progressive solution is to apply the tax to some or all earnings above \$102,000. This information came from the Making Sense 2008 website. (See below.)

**New website offers info on economic issues – facts, talking points, progressive solutions, etc. – to help us shape public opinion, influence governments, etc.:** Information about energy, health, housing, taxation and trade is at [www.ourfuture.org/makingsense](http://www.ourfuture.org/makingsense). This is a project of the Campaign for America's Future, a source of progressive information and advocacy on public affairs issues.

## BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE PEACE MOVEMENT

This is the **fifth** of a series of articles exploring various ways the peace movement can strengthen itself and become more effective. These articles recognize that: (1) The way to win peace and social justice is through grassroots organizing to build an ever-larger movement of the general public; (2) To win public opinion, nonviolence is both necessary and powerful; (3) We need to strategize carefully to build this movement through a variety of smart campaigns and activities; and (4) Details that might seem small can mean the difference between success and failure. Each issue of the Olympia FOR newsletter includes an article related to one of these topics, although not necessarily in this 1-2-3-4 order. Previous articles will soon be posted on our website, [www.olyfor.org](http://www.olyfor.org)

### Strategizing to Work on Issues, Reach New Audiences, and Build Alliances BY GLEN ANDERSON

#### DE-POLARIZE OUR THINKING – OPEN OURSELVES TO REALLY INVITING THE PUBLIC TO JOIN US:

The nonviolence movement does not pretend that conflict does not exist. Conflict has always existed, and conflict will always exist. What nonviolence does is **change the dynamics of conflict so the parties are able to pursue truth – to pursue new, workable solutions.** Nonviolence is always open to discovering the truth and inventing creative solutions to old problems. Nonviolence sees the possibilities of bringing people together to work to protect every person's inherent human dignity. Nonviolence is inherently positive. A thorough grounding in the theory and practice of nonviolence can protect us from cynicism, which only disempowers people.

Poll after poll reports growing numbers of people saying the U.S. is on the wrong track. People experience and feel profound problems in our nation, even if they don't analyze the problems in the same ways that organizers for peace and justice do. Public opinion is ripe for us to help the public understand the world in new ways – and to empower and organize the public to solve the problems and create a more humane and satisfying world.

Peace and justice movements have tremendous potential for changing how our nation functions, but often we unwittingly hold ourselves back. Sometimes we express cynicism and negativity that turn off the people we want to reach. Sometimes we defiantly stake out our turf opposing the *status quo* – but that can be perceived as feeling negative or dismissive toward the general public. **If we convey an attitude that the general public is an enemy or an obstacle, we're rejecting the very people we want to be reaching out to and inviting into the movement.**

Historically, nonviolent social change movements have succeeded by reaching out to larger and larger portions of the public and welcoming them into our movements. **Now – since the public already senses that our country is seriously on the wrong track – the public is ready to join with us.** We need to listen to people open-mindedly and

empathetically, and offer the public hope and practical solutions.

#### REFRAME POLITICAL AND SOCIETAL VALUES TO INVITE PEOPLE INTO OUR MOVEMENTS:

**We could discover new political allies by re-thinking our political assumptions.** For example, we are used to thinking of a political spectrum ranging from left to right. But we've discovered that Socialists and Libertarians alike oppose the U.S. empire and the military occupation of Iraq. And actually the ACLU and the National Rifle Association both oppose the PATRIOT Act. Many examples of "left" and "right" similarities occur on other issues.

Perhaps the real differences are between those who want to concentrate political and economic power at the top and those who want to decentralize political and economic power. **A number of "strange bedfellows" oppose concentrations of power in the hands of governments, militaries, police, economic elites, and other domineering forces.** In many cases Progressives could frame the issues in terms of a "pro-democracy" movement and reach out to a wide variety of people as potential allies.

We know that sending troops to war does not "support" them, and that we "support the troops" better by keeping them safe at home. Likewise, why let the right wing claim "family values" as their own exclusive property? Big business's policies are hurting families, so labor unions actually protect the "family values" that are economic. Remember the bumper sticker "War is not healthy for children and other living things" – and the current gay-friendly one "Hate is not a family value"?

In what additional ways could we position our progressive values (peace, social justice, etc.) in ways the general public (and especially people who might have been labeled "conservative" or "non-political") could easily hear and accept? **Rather than blame the general public for their values, we can show them that their deepest values are really compatible with ours.**

A great many people in our society have experienced 12-

## Strategizing to Work on Issues, Reach New Audiences, and Build Alliances (CONT)

step programs to cure addictions. Even Bush has admitted that the U.S. is addicted to oil. Can we help the public see that the U.S. is also addicted to nationalism, violence, and militarism? If so, people who understand 12-step programs could share their tools to help cure our national addictions.

Some people tell us that we are wasting and exhausting the earth's natural resources. They urge us to live in radical simplicity and radical justice – to “live simply that others may simply live.” This is a Gandhian approach. Gandhi worked for *swaraj*, a term that means more than mere “national independence.” Gandhi's *swaraj* was a more profound independence that would free people from domination by any hierarchical power (political, economic, etc.) and would cultivate local self-reliance and an egalitarian society that respected and empowered every person.

In a society where most people feel powerless – everything is controlled by people outside of our control – don't we also need *swaraj*? How could the nonviolent peace and justice movement help the American people liberate ourselves from giant corporations, unresponsive government, arrogant media, dysfunctional electoral systems, and so forth? How many ordinary Americans would join us if we would reach out to them with sensitivity to their values and needs?

### REACH OUT EFFECTIVELY TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

Peace and justice activists tend to accumulate information and talk among ourselves. In order to make political progress, we'll have to **interact with the general public, discover the widely held frustrations, create a vision of the society we all want, define some clear goals, and strategize how to accomplish our goals.**

Most Americans are repulsed by political conflicts that get polarized or negative. If that's what we offer, they'd rather settle for the *status quo*. So how can we engage the public in making political change? How can we help mainstream people stretch enough beyond their comfort zones to engage in grassroots activism? We will have to offer them conversations and activities that are safe – rooted in nonviolence and mutual respect – and that model the positive values of the new society we want to create.

**EXERCISE #1: Spend 5 minutes with a sheet of paper and write down a number of answers to this question: How could we help the general public feel comfortable about challenging the *status quo* of US foreign policy?**

Part of our solution must include embodying the **spirit** of nonviolence – not just the **tactics** of nonviolence but also the spirit. In his book *Stride Toward Freedom*, Martin Luther

King said: “A basic fact that characterizes nonviolence is that it does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent, but to win their friendship and understanding... It avoids not only external violence but also internal violence of spirit. Nonviolent resisters not only refuse to shoot their opponents, but also refuse to hate them.”

**EXERCISE #2: Spend 5 minutes with a sheet of paper and write answers to this question: How could we better practice the spirit of nonviolence in our grassroots organizing?**

**EXERCISE #3: Spend 5 minutes with a sheet of paper and write answers to this question: How could we draw upon the power of nonviolence – and convey our non-violent attitudes – when we talk with people who assume that we need to continue occupying Iraq for the foreseeable future?**

Successful political and social change movements can provide insights that we can adapt for other movements. For example, gay and lesbian folks have achieved tremendous progress in the past few decades. They made progress by being open about who they are – by “coming out.” When some people “come out,” other “closeted” people feel more free to publicly reveal – and feel good about – their own identities.

In contrast, many people who want to abolish the death penalty have not “come out” to their friends, family members, and the public about opposing the death penalty. **If more people would “come out of the closet” and publicly oppose the death penalty, the abolition movement would achieve more mainstream visibility and status.** The general public's attitudes would become more open to abolishing the death penalty, and politicians and mainstream media would yield to this growing social movement. **Social science indicates that a modest number of individuals can create powerful social movements by energetically spreading the word.** Epidemiologists know that epidemics of diseases can spread through a few virulent carriers, and sociologists know that the same is true of ambitious and well connected activists.

### EXPRESS OUR VALUES, VISIONS AND GOALS IN POSITIVE WAYS:

Peace and justice activists are slammed with negative stereotypes. Let's not act in ways that only reinforce those stereotypes and marginalize ourselves. Let's pay attention to our messages, images, methods, and every other aspect of how

## Strategizing to Work on Issues, Reach New Audiences, and Build Alliances (CONT)

we function. We can convey ourselves in ways that communicate the message that we want to convey, without letting people be distracted by appearance, behavior, and other factors that would interfere with or distract people from our actual messages.

Typically, peace and justice activists react **against** what we don't like. We protest **against** this war, protest **against** that injustice, and protest **against** yet another environmental abuse. As a result, the public, news media and governments see as negative. Actually, we oppose war because we **want peace**, we oppose injustice because we **want fairness** for everyone, we oppose environmental abuse because we **want a healthy and sustainable environment**. Besides protesting against what we oppose, let's also articulate clearly the new society we want. **We could create a better public image – and be more effective in the long run – by devoting more time and effort to expressing our positive values, visions and goals.**



President Reagan massively escalated the nuclear arms race in 1981, and the public reacted with horror. The public rediscovered that the U.S. had long been willing to start a nuclear war, was building many new “first-strike” nuclear weapons, and was getting closer to destroying the world, whether on purpose or by accident. People were terrified of utter destruction, and perhaps extinction. In 1982 the Thurston County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign organized a county-wide ballot issue calling for a freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons. But instead of using a slogan like, “Holy crap! We’re gonna blow ourselves up!” the local Freeze campaign devised the slogan, “Ain’t it great to be alive!” A serious subject was expressed in a positive way. We won the November election with a 62% “YES” vote.

Another effective approach is to state our vision or goal in the present tense, as if it were already true. Examples: “Everyone has a home” or “Olympia declares peace.” Then instead of an ambitious goal appearing to be merely an unrealistic dream, it is placed on the table and in our minds as an achieved reality. Now it seems more realistic, and more people can join us for implementation.

**We can make progress by rooting our message in terms of widely held public values and mainstream culture.** For example, a few years ago the Olympia City Council tried to cram a very unpopular conference center down the public’s throats without a public vote. In response, the

opponents affirmed the widespread value of democracy and voting rather than an arbitrary top-down decision-making process. They also objected to spending public tax dollars for private interests, so they named their organization “Public Funds for Public Purposes.” They also appealed to the widely held “Olympia way” of doing things, which the City Council’s proposal violated. They did a huge amount of outreach in many ways, including door-to-door conversations, and they stopped the conference center proposal.

### MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE:

People tend to do things that they feel comfortable doing. While it’s OK to challenge people, that’s an uphill struggle, and we’re more likely to gain support by offering people ideas and activities that they can more easily identify with.

For example, relatively few people in the general public see themselves as the kind of people who attend demonstrations. If we focus on organizing peace demonstrations, people won’t participate, even if they oppose the war. Relatively few people drive somewhere to hear a speaker, but we keep doing that over and over and wonder why new people don’t attend. We need to figure out what the people we want to reach are likely to do. **Instead of merely telling people to come to us at our stereotypical events, we need to reach out to people where they actually are and devise low-threshold ways to involve them.**

Peace and justice activists often frustrate ourselves because we can’t convert the people on the far opposite sides of our issues. Actually, we don’t need to convert our hard-core opponents to our side in order to win on our issues. There is a whole spectrum ranging from people who already agree



with us, people who are pretty sympathetic but not totally committed, people who tilt somewhat our way, people who are in the middle, people who tilt somewhat against our view, people who are more strongly against our view, and finally the people who are absolutely on the opposite side. Imagine those various constituencies along the spectrum. We don’t have to convert the opposite person to swing all the way to our side. We can win on the issue if we can strategize ways to move some of the various constituencies one notch toward our direction. Further, we can devise and implement specific strategies for specific constituencies within each of those various notches in the spectrum. **The center of gravity will then shift our way, and we can win.**

# LOCAL CALENDAR

## Within Thurston County

FOR-sponsored events have a ♦ before them.



These TCTV programs use cable channel 22 in Thurston County.

The events on this page occur every week.

The Every Every Every Every Department: ▼▼▼



♦Every Sunday evening at 10 pm AND every Monday and Wednesday morning at 3:30 am: The Olympia FOR's "Big Picture" documentary videos on TCTV. AUGUST: "The Gleaners and I." SEPTEMBER: "The Death of Wanda Jean." See article on page 5. Info: Carol 866-7645 carolburns98@comcast.net

Every Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 am AND from 4:00 to 5:00 pm: "Democracy Now" with Amy Goodman on TCTV

Every Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 am: "Democracy Now" with Amy Goodman on KAOS 89.3 FM

Every Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 5:30 pm: Free Speech Radio News on KAOS 89.3 FM

Every Monday from 6:00 to 6:30 am: "Reclaiming Democracy," a locally produced program on TCTV, addresses issues related to big business, public policy, democratic values, etc. Info: www.sounddemocracy.org or Rus Geh 705-0862 rusgeh@yahoo.com

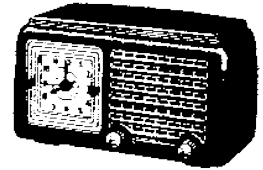
♦Every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm: Olympia FOR's TCTV Program: AUGUST: "Citizen Diplomacy: People-to-People Exchanges." SEPTEMBER: "9-11 Truth: Is it OK to Ask Questions?" See page 4.

♦Every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00 pm: Peace Vigil in NW corner of Sylvester Park (corner of Legion & Capitol Way). Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Info: 491-9093 info@olyfor.org

Every Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:00 pm and every Thursday at 9:30 am: Veterans for Peace airs a locally produced program on TCTV. Info: Robert Poteat (360) 880-4226 rpoteat@hotmail.com

Every Thursday from 12 to 1 pm: "Parallel Univer-

sity" on KAOS 89.3 FM features interesting, informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. Info: parralleluniversity@yahoo.com



♦Every Thursday from 9:00 to 10:00 pm: Olympia FOR's TCTV Program: Olympia FOR's TCTV Program: AUGUST: "Citizen Diplomacy: People-to-People Exchanges." SEPTEMBER: "9-11 Truth: Is it OK to Ask Questions?" See page 4.

♦Every Friday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm: Peace Vigil at south end of Percival Landing near W 4th Ave. We need more participants! Please join us for whatever length of time you can. We provide plenty of signs. Sponsor: Olympia FOR. Info: 491-9093 info@olyfor.org

Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm: "Women in Black" Silent Vigil for Peace on the south side of W. 4th Ave. near the fountain. Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Since 1988 "Women in Black" has been a loose network of women worldwide committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to war and violence. Info: Karin Kraft 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Every Friday from 6:00 to 6:30 pm: "Reclaiming Democracy," a locally produced program on TCTV, cable channel 22, addresses issues related to big business, public policy, democratic values, etc. Info: www.sounddemocracy.org or Rus Geh 705-0862 rusgeh@yahoo.com

The Every Every Every Every Department: ▲▲▲



**Fri Aug 1: Amnesty International's Olympia group works for human rights worldwide:** Meet on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Mixx-96 meeting room at the SW corner of State & Washington in downtown Olympia. Everyone is welcome to share information, write letters, and organize community outreach to promote human rights. Info: Kerri Griffis 867-9237 [kerrigriffis@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrigriffis@yahoo.com)



**Sat-Sun August 2-3: 5th Annual Community Meditation and Prayer for Global Peace:** This 24-hour silent event will occur from 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday at the Tivoli Fountain on the State Capitol Campus, just west of Capitol Way near where 12<sup>th</sup> Ave

would be. At 11:15 a.m. a Walking Meditation for Peace will begin at Marathon Park on the west side of Capitol Lake and slowly walk very slowly up the hill to the Capitol Campus. These events are open to people of all religions and spiritual practices and people with no particular one. Spend any part or all of this 24-hour period in silent meditation for peace throughout the world. A chime symbolizing our presence for peace will ring every hour. Otherwise there will be no disruptions. Please do not carry on personal conversations, and do not bring any signs or posters. You may use a flashlight after dusk. Sponsor: Interfaith Works 357-7224 [www.Interfaith-Works.org](http://www.Interfaith-Works.org)

◆ **Mon Aug 4: "Citizen Diplomacy: People-to-People Exchanges" – Olympia FOR's August TV program** debuts today and runs every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm and every Thursday from 9:00 to 10:00 pm through August 28 on TCTV cable channel 22 within Thurston County. Info: Glen 491-9093 [www.olyfor.org](http://www.olyfor.org) See page 4.

**Mon Aug 4: Protect Olympia's downtown isthmus from tall buildings!** A new group has formed to investigate the feasibility of acquiring the area of the proposed rezoning and the 9-story Capital Center Building for eventual incorporation into Heritage Park. The new group is called the "Steering Committee for Public Acquisition." It includes former Olympia Planning Commissioners who believe that the current 35-foot height limit on the isthmus should not be increased to 90 feet, as recently proposed. What do **you** think? If there's enough community interest, the Steering Committee plans to create a non-profit association to pursue how to de-develop and preserve the isthmus as a great public space for the benefit of all. Come to the public meeting at 7:00-9:00 pm in Room 2004 at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW. Info: Jerry Reilly [jerreyreilly@msn.com](mailto:jerreyreilly@msn.com) 561 4212 or Jeff Jaksich at [eastbay4@comcast.com](mailto:eastbay4@comcast.com) 352 2735

**Wed Aug 6: Building Sustainable Systems Workshop: "Effective People Skills" –** Lee Segawa, Certified Effectiveness Institute trainer. 1:00-4:00 pm at Tumwater Timberland Library, 7023 New Market Street. Sponsor: TOGETHER! Info and registration: 493-2230 ext. 24 or [enelson@thurstontogogether.org](mailto:enelson@thurstontogogether.org)

**Thurs Aug 7: KOWA 106.5 FM alternative progressive radio**

**monthly meeting:** This low-power FM station seeks to give voice to individuals, organizations and movements working for social justice, economic democracy, ecological sustainability and peace. KOWA also plays music. Come to the monthly meeting from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Media Island, 816 Adams St SE, just east of the library. KOWA is looking for local DJs and community participation in building the station. Info: 352-1646 [kowa@riseup.net](mailto:kowa@riseup.net)



**Thurs Aug 7: Peace walkers pass through Olympia – Gather for a potluck!** Puget Sound peace walkers will pass through Olympia on August 7 on their way to Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Kitsap County for the annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversary action at Bangor, home port of nine Trident submarines and site for storage and military use of nearly 2,000 nuclear warheads. Ground Zero will host the resistance weekend from August 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited! 6:00 pm potluck tonight. At 7:00 pm Holly Gwinn Graham will provide music and song, and the walkers will share with us about their experiences. Learn about Ground Zero and its mission. All can share! At Tibor's place, 5537 40<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Olympia. From Mud Bay Road, go south on Delphi Road SW, and turn right onto 40<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. Organizers include Tim Russell, Bert Whitlock, Alice Zillah, Patti Imani, Shannon Bushnell, Bernie Meyer, Jody Tiller, and Jami Heinricher.

◆ **Sat Aug 9: Float lanterns for peace at Bon Odori traditional Japanese midsummer festival:** Gather near Capitol Lake at dusk after the traditional Japanese folk dancing ends on Water Street. See page 1.



**Tues Aug 12: Karma Cafe – open forum explores life as seen through Buddhist/Taoist perspective:** This roundtable discussion is casual and allows everyone to share personal viewpoints in an open and nonjudgmental setting. 6 to 8 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the Mud Bay Coffee Meeting Room (1600 Cooper Pt Rd SW, near Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia). Info: 867-9316 [korodo@msn.com](mailto:korodo@msn.com)

**Tues August 12: Local organizing against sweatshops: The South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign** formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and to get public agencies to adopt sweatshop-free purchasing practices. Meet at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water. Info: [www.southsoundcleanclothes.org](http://www.southsoundcleanclothes.org)



**Tues August 12: National Organization for Women (NOW)** meets at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water. Info: Linda Malanchuk-Finnan 357-7272 [lryh@hotmail.com](mailto:lryh@hotmail.com)

**Wed Aug 13: Interfaith Earth Stewardship committee meets** 12:00 noon in the library of First Christian Church, 7<sup>th</sup> & Franklin on the second Wednesday of each month. Info: [LeslieHR@aol.com](mailto:LeslieHR@aol.com)

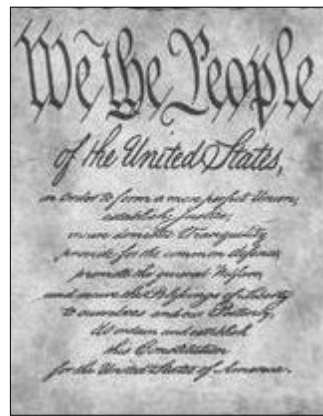
◆**Wed August 13: Olympia FOR Potluck Picnic (6:30 pm) follows our 5:30 Steering Committee meeting: Everyone is invited** to the Olympia FOR's second potluck picnic of the summer at 6:30 pm Wednesday August 13 in the Rose Garden kitchen area at Olympia's Priest Point Park. Go north on East Bay Drive, turn right into the park, and turn left toward the Rose Garden. We'll gather in the open-air building at the end of the Rose Garden. The picnic builds a sense of community through sharing food and leisurely, wide-ranging conversations with other Olympia FOR folks. Come and enjoy! Our 6:30 potluck picnic follows the 5:30 meeting of the Olympia FOR Steering Committee – to which **everyone also is invited**. The Steering Committee provides overall guidance and decision-making for the Olympia FOR. Info: 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)

**Wed Aug 13: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)** meets from 7 to 9 pm to plan a variety of activities to work for justice and peace everywhere. Olympia Community Free School, 610 Columbia SW. Everyone is welcome. Info: Peter Bohmer, [peterbohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:peterbohmer@yahoo.com)

**Fri Aug 15: Iraq Moratorium occurs on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month:** The Iraq Moratorium is a monthly series of actions demanding an end to the war. Devote a significant part of today to build the peace movement and show the U.S. government that our troops must be brought home, now! Take this pledge: "On the third Friday of every month, I will break my daily routine and take some action, by myself or with others, to end the War in Iraq." Info: [www.iraqmoratorium.org](http://www.iraqmoratorium.org)

**Tues Aug 19: Protect the separation of church and state:** The local chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Olympia Unitarian Church, 2200 East End Street NW. Go north on Division, left on 20<sup>th</sup>, and right on East End St. Info: Dennis Mansker 786-9584 [dmansker@comcast.net](mailto:dmansker@comcast.net)

**Tues Aug 19: VOTE! This is the last day to mail or deliver your primary election ballot.** Anyone can vote for any candidate, regardless of party. Info: 786-5408 [www.co.thurston.wa.us/auditor/Elections/electns.htm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/auditor/Elections/electns.htm)



◆**Wed Aug 20: "Reclaiming Our Constitution" -- Multi-issue gathering at Congressman Brian Baird's office** to bring people-power, letters, etc., to push him toward better positions on peace, social justice, impeachment, and other concerns. 4:00-5:00 pm at 120 Union Ave SE, Suite 105, Olympia. Carole Willey is reaching out to a variety of local groups to create a monthly

presence and people-power pressure on around the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month between now and the January presidential inauguration. Several local groups including the Olympia FOR have signed on to this effort. Info: Carole Willey 352-5361.

**Sun-Fri Aug 24-29: Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp** for kids entering 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades to enjoy experiences and fun with kids of other religious faiths. Info and application at [www.soundinterfaithcamp.org](http://www.soundinterfaithcamp.org)

◆**Tues Aug 26: Death penalty abolition committee of Olympia FOR** meets to work on further activities to abolish that atrocity. 7-9 pm at the Mixx-96 meeting room at the SW corner of State and Washington in downtown Olympia. Info: Rozanne or Chuck, 705-8520 [rozannerants@yahoo.com](mailto:rozannerants@yahoo.com)

**Wed Aug 26: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)** meets from 7 to 9 pm to plan a variety of activities

to work for justice and peace everywhere. Olympia Community Free School, 610 Columbia SW. Everyone is welcome. Info: Peter Bohmer, [peterbohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:peterbohmer@yahoo.com)

◆**Mon Sept 1: “9-11 Truth: Is it OK to Ask Questions?”** – Olympia FOR’s September TV program debuts today and runs every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm and every Thursday from 9:00 to 10:00 pm through September 29 on TCTV cable channel 22 within Thurston County. Info: Glen 491-9093 [www.olyfor.org](http://www.olyfor.org) See page 4.

**Thurs Sept 4: Public presentation about opening of exhibit from August trip to Egypt and Jordan:** Olympia FOR member Char Simons, who teaches about the Middle East at The Evergreen State College, and her students returning from Egypt and Jordan will display their projects (photos, art work, written works, etc.) for one month at the TESC Library. A public presentation at 5:00 pm today opens the exhibit. Char’s citizen diplomacy efforts to the Arab and Turkish Middle East and her previous trip to Iran are part of the Olympia FOR’s August TCTV program (see page 4), which focuses on citizen diplomacy and people-to-people exchanges. Info about the TESC events: (360) 867-6710

**Thurs Sept 4: KOWA 106.5 FM alternative progressive radio monthly meeting:** This low-power FM station seeks to give voice to individuals, organizations and movements working for social justice, economic democracy, ecological sustainability and peace. KOWA also plays music. Come to the monthly meeting from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Media Island, 816 Adams St SE, just east of the library. KOWA is looking for local DJs and community participation in building the station. Info: 352-1646 [kowa@riseup.net](mailto:kowa@riseup.net)

**Fri Sept 5: Amnesty International’s Olympia group works for human rights worldwide:** Meet on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Mixx-96 meeting room at the SW corner of State & Washington in downtown Olympia. Everyone is welcome to share information, write letters, and organize community outreach to promote human rights. Info: Kerri Griffis 867-9237 [kerri-griffis@yahoo.com](mailto:kerri-griffis@yahoo.com)

**Sun-Mon Sept 7-8: Arlington Northwest memorial with more than 4,000 markers representing U.S. soldiers who died in the Iraq war:** Each marker lists the name of the fallen service person, their hometown, rank, etc. Veterans for Peace (VfP) will set it up at Heritage Park on W 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in downtown Olympia. The neatly arranged rows of markers make a striking memorial to the loss that has been suffered. VfP’s goal is to help people understand the loss. Political signs and statements are discouraged. They need about 30 volunteers to help set up

Sunday morning and clean up the site Monday evening. Info: Ken Schwilk 412-0065 [kenard10@comcast.net](mailto:kenard10@comcast.net)

**Tues Sept 9: Karma Cafe – open forum explores life as seen through Buddhist/Taoist perspective:** This round-table discussion is casual and allows everyone to share personal viewpoints in an open and nonjudgmental setting. 6 to 8 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the Mud Bay Coffee Meeting Room (1600 Cooper Pt Rd SW, near Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia). Info: 867-9316 [korodo@msn.com](mailto:korodo@msn.com)

**Tues Sept 9: Local organizing against sweatshops: The South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign** (See Tues Aug 12th announcement)

**Tues Sept 9: National Organization for Women (NOW)** (See Tues Aug 12th announcement)

**Wed Sept 10: People for Puget Sound Forum:** Learn about protecting Puget Sound’s environmental quality, and connect with others. 7:00 pm at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water SW, Olympia.

**Wed Sept 10: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)** meets from 7 to 9 pm to plan a variety of activities to work for justice and peace everywhere. Olympia Community Free School, 610 Columbia SW. Everyone is welcome. Info: Peter Bohmer, [peterbohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:peterbohmer@yahoo.com)

**Tues Sept 16: Protect the separation of church and state:** The local chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Olympia Unitarian Church, 2200 East End Street NW. Go north on Division, left on 20<sup>th</sup>, and right on East End St. Info: Dennis Mansker 786-9584 [dmansker@comcast.net](mailto:dmansker@comcast.net)



**Fri Sept 19: Iraq Moratorium occurs on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month:** The Iraq Moratorium is a monthly series of actions demanding an end to the war. Devote a significant part of today to build the peace movement and show the U.S. government that our troops must be brought home, now! Take this pledge: “On the third Friday of every month, I will break my daily routine and take some action, by myself or with others, to end the War in Iraq.” Info: [www.iraqmoratorium.org](http://www.iraqmoratorium.org)

◆**Fri Sept 19: “Reclaiming Our Constitution” -- Multi-issue gathering at Congressman Brian Baird’s office** to bring people-power, letters, etc., to push him toward better positions on peace, social justice, impeachment, and other concerns. 4:00-5:00 pm at 120 Union Ave SE, Suite 105, Olympia. Carole Willey is reaching out to a variety of

local groups to create a monthly presence and people-power pressure on around the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month between now and the January presidential inauguration. Several local groups including the Olympia FOR have signed on to this effort. Info: Carole Willey 352-5361.

◆**Fri Sept 19: Deadline for Olympia FOR's Oct-Nov Newsletter:** Mail or e-mail articles, news, calendar items, etc., before this date if possible, or slightly past this date for late-breaking news. Contact Glen 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)

**Sun Sept 21: Veterans for Peace:** All veterans and others are invited to connect and work for peace. 1:30 social time. 2:00 pm meeting. Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water. Info: Jody Tiller 915-6757 [hungryforpeace@gmail.com](mailto:hungryforpeace@gmail.com)

**Sun Sept 21: A member of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Green Belt Team that planted trees in Kenya** will speak in Lacey at 3:00 pm. Wangari Maathai's simple idea of planting trees inspired people in Kenya and around the world, and it led to her winning the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. A visiting activist from her Green Belt Team will speak at 3:00 pm at the Vista Village clubhouse at 3300 Carpenter Road SE (south of the county fairgrounds) in Lacey. Enjoy a barbecue picnic too. Sponsor: Friendship Force of Olympia. Friendship Force is one of the featured groups on the Olympia FOR's August TCTV program (see page 4). Info: 491-1637 [drjoann@earthlink.net](mailto:drjoann@earthlink.net)

**Mon Sept 22: Religious folks meet to take care of the environment:** Local faith communities' environmental stewardship committees invite people of faith who care about the environment to gather from 6:30 to 9:00 pm in the Fireside Room on the second floor of The United Churches, 110 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Olympia. This is an opportunity to share successes, ideas, and initiatives for the future. Sponsors: local environmental groups, Interfaith Works, and Providence St. Peter Hospital. Info: Connie Walker 493-7236

◆**Tues Sept 23: Death penalty abolition committee of Olympia FOR** meets to work on further activities to abolish that atrocity. 7 pm at the Mixx-96 meeting room at the SW corner of State and Washington in downtown Olympia. Info: Rozanne or Chuck, 705-8520 [rozannerants@yahoo.com](mailto:rozannerants@yahoo.com)

**Wed Sept 24: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)** meets from 7 to 9 pm to plan a variety of activities to work for justice and peace everywhere. Olympia Community Free School, 610 Columbia SW. Everyone is welcome. Info: Peter Bohmer, [peterbohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:peterbohmer@yahoo.com)

**Sat Sept 27: Sound Alliance Leadership Institute - Part 1:** This 12-hour training gives members of faith, labor and other organizations the tools to move their institutions to take action for the common good. It helps each organization develop a Core Team that has the skills and commitment to strengthen its institution and engage its members in public action. The Institutes are based on the philosophy and prac-

tices developed by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) in over 65 years of organizing experience. **Part 2 of this two-day program occurs next Saturday October 4.** Each days session runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at The United Churches, 110 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Olympia. Info and registration: Rachel da Silva (206) 200-8192 or [rachel@soundorganizing.org](mailto:rachel@soundorganizing.org)

**Sun Sept 28: South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship hosts an open meeting.** SSBPF

includes members of the local Buddhist community practicing the path of "right action" and "right speech" in regard to working for peace, justice and social change. 3:30-5:00 pm.

Location & more info: Robert Lovitt 357-2825 [ssbpf@comcast.org](mailto:ssbpf@comcast.org) or [www.ssbpf.org](http://www.ssbpf.org)



**Mon Sept 29: Ecumenical study/reflection series on Christian social teachings begins:** Emily Lardner and Selena Kilmoyer are facilitating an ecumenical Just Faith

study/reflection group at St. John's Episcopal Church (19<sup>th</sup> & Capitol Way), starting at 7:00 pm on Monday September 29, for 30 weeks. The program is co-sponsored by JustFaith and Bread for the World. The group will read and discuss *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* and other books.

Participants don't have to be Christians, although the Christian tradition is the focus of these sessions. The group wants to connect study and action, and it will work on making local connections throughout their time together. The cost is \$140 per person, which covers all the books. They have access to some scholarship funds, so interested persons should not let cost be a barrier. The group is limited to 15 participants. Advance registration is required. Info: Emily Lardner 705-3678 [lardnere@hotmail.com](mailto:lardnere@hotmail.com)

**Fri Oct 3: Greg Palast, investigative journalist, speaks in Olympia** about elections and other hot issues. He wrote *Armed Madhouse* and *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*.

His research, writing and speaking are informative and powerful. 7:00-9:30 pm at South Puget Sound Community College's Minnaert Center, 2011 Mottman Rd SW, Olympia. Sponsors include SPSCC's progressive student group BRICK (Building Community by Increasing Community Knowledge) and TC Pro-Net (Thurston County Progressive Network). Info: [info@tcpronet.org](mailto:info@tcpronet.org)

◆**Fri-Sat Nov 7-8: Western Washington FOR Fall Retreat in Lacey:** Mark your calendar now! Plan to join dozens of other FOR folks from throughout Western Washington from Friday suppertime to Saturday mid-afternoon. We'll focus on a theme (to be determined soon) related to peace, social justice or nonviolence. Low cost and enjoyable! Info: [glen@olywa.net](mailto:glen@olywa.net) (360) 491-9093

## OUT-OF-TOWN CALENDAR

### Outside Thurston County

FOR-sponsored events have a ♦  
before them



Hundreds of events and activities (mostly in the [Seattle area](#)) are listed at Jean Buskin's calendar at [www.scn.org/activism/calendar](http://www.scn.org/activism/calendar). She'll e-mail it to you regularly if you request it at [bb369@scn.org](mailto:bb369@scn.org) and specify text and/or RTF format.

♦ **Every Saturday: Peace Vigil in Centralia:** 12 noon to 1 pm on the edge of Washington Park at Locust & Pearl in downtown Centralia. Sponsor: Fire Mountain FOR. Info: Karen Kirkwood 360-767-0161 or June Butler 360-748-9658

**Every Saturday: People for Peace Justice and Healing (PPJH)** meets 10 am to 12 noon at Associated Ministries, 1224 S. I St., [Tacoma](#) to plan local peace activities. [www.associatedministries.org/pages/directions.htm](http://www.associatedministries.org/pages/directions.htm)

**Every Saturday: Peace Vigil in Tacoma:** 12:30-1:30 pm in front of Borders Books at 38<sup>th</sup> & Steele. Sponsor: United for Peace of Pierce County, [www.ufppc.org](http://www.ufppc.org)

**Sun August 3 to Mon August 11: Puget Sound Interfaith Peace Walk from Suquamish through Seattle and through Olympia to the Trident submarine base at Bangor (Kitsap County):** Support a nuclear-free future! You may join the Peace Walkers for all or any part of the route. Peace walkers will be in the Seattle area on August 4-5, proceed south through Olympia (See Thurs Aug 7 in our Local Calendar), and then walk north to the Trident base. Info: Reverend Gilberto Perez (206)356-4362 of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order, or Karol Milner or Glen Milner 206-365-7865 of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. See [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

♦ **Sat Aug 9: Fire Mountain (Lewis County) FOR** meets 10:00 am to 12:00 noon (just before their 12 noon peace vigil in Washington Park). For location and other info contact Karen Kirkwood 360-767-0161 [kirkwood-weaver@gmail.com](mailto:kirkwood-weaver@gmail.com) or June Butler 360-748-9658 [juneb2@earthlink.net](mailto:juneb2@earthlink.net)

**Sat Aug 9 (and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday): Vigil for Human Rights at the NW Immigrant Detention Center:** Community to Community Development invites all social justice, faith, labor and community groups to vigil peacefully from 11 am to 4 pm on the second Saturday of each month

at the privately-run Northwest Detention Center in the industrial area near [Tacoma's](#) tide flats. As the US government's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) clamps down on immigrants, people are coming together to protect their human rights. Come with signs that show support for immigrant workers inside and outside this modern day concentration camp. Consider bringing coffee, water and baked goods or sandwiches for families visiting their detained relatives inside. Stay and learn how to get involved with the growing immigrant rights network the region! (From Olympia, go north on I-5 to Tacoma, take the right-lane I-705 exit north, take the left lane exit toward City Center and Tacoma Dome. Take the E 26<sup>th</sup> St. exit, turn right onto E 26<sup>th</sup>, turn left onto E D St., which becomes E. 15<sup>th</sup> St. Turn right onto E. J St. and end at 1623 E. J St.) Info: 360-381-0293 [decomunidad@qwest.net](mailto:decomunidad@qwest.net)

**Sat-Mon August 9-11: Nonviolent Resistance at Trident submarine base to mark the 63rd Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombing:** The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action sponsors a nonviolent direct action and event opposing the Trident nuclear missile and submarine system. The commemorative events will take place at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and the gates of the Bangor Trident submarine base at Bangor in [Kitsap County](#). Gathering begins at Ground Zero at 9 am on Sat. Aug. 9. Nonviolent direct action will occur at the main gate of the Bangor submarine base at 5:30 am on Mon. Aug. 11. Info: Anne Hall (206) 545-3562 or Jackie Hudson or Sue Ablao (360) 377-2586 **A printable flyer is available for this event.** PDF format, two files, front and back sides. The front can be used as a poster, the back contains the complete schedule and other vital information. *Front:* [www.gzcenter.org/leaflets/august\\_2008\\_front.pdf](http://www.gzcenter.org/leaflets/august_2008_front.pdf) *Back:* [www.gzcenter.org/leaflets/august\\_2008\\_back.pdf](http://www.gzcenter.org/leaflets/august_2008_back.pdf)

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## Health Care for All - Washington

Working for high quality affordable health care for ALL Washington residents

**Tues Aug 12: Health Care Caucus takes public input for health care reform:** One of seven opportunities for people to speak out and connect for progressive health care reform (e.g., a universal single-payer system) will occur from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street, [Bellevue](#). It's sponsored by the Healthy Washington Coalition. Get more information from Health Care for All – Washington, an organization working for universal single-payer solution statewide. Contact Ruth Knagenhjelm, HCFA-WA Outreach Coordinator, at [OLYMPIA FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION](mailto:geor-</a></p>
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giaboy@qwest.net or call HCFA-W at 206-323-3393 or toll-free 877-903-9723 or visit [www.healthcareforallwa.org](http://www.healthcareforallwa.org)

**Sat Aug 16: Basic training in Nonviolent Conflict Intervention** will be conducted by Peaceforce Oregon at the Multnomah Friends Meeting House, 4312 SE Stark St, Portland OR, from 9 am to 5 pm. Course materials and coffee, tea, snacks and a vegetarian/vegan lunch will be provided. Sliding-scale cost starts at \$35 but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Info & registration: [www.peaceforceoregon.org/?q=node/18](http://www.peaceforceoregon.org/?q=node/18)

**Sat Aug 16: The Gift of 'No-ing' – a workshop based on Nonviolent Communication:** “N-O” are the scariest two letters in the alphabet. Being fully alive means being able to say “yes” to what you really want and “no” to what does not serve you. Being able to say and hear “no” without



guilt, hurt, or anger is a gateway to a more authentic and respectful relationship. Saying “no” in Nonviolent Communication is more joyful because others can hear the “yes” that is in your heart. Likewise, when someone says “no” to you, you can release your fear of rejection because you can hear what they are saying

“yes” to. Janice Eng presents this workshop from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm in NW Seattle. Requested donation \$95-\$120. Sponsor: Northwest Compassionate Communication, a nonprofit organization promoting Marshall Rosenberg’s Nonviolent Communication model and methods. Info: 206-382 8576 or [www.nwcompass.org](http://www.nwcompass.org)



**Sat-Sun Aug 16-17: Northwest Federation of Community Organizations** meets at Seattle University. Info: [www.nwfco.org](http://www.nwfco.org) or Jill Reese 206-568-5400 [jill@nwfco.org](mailto:jill@nwfco.org)

**Sat-Sun Aug 30-31: Arlington Northwest memorial with more than 4,000 markers representing U.S. soldiers who died in the Iraq war:** Each marker lists the name of the fallen service person, their hometown, rank, etc. Veterans for Peace (VfP) will set it up on Ruston Way in Tacoma. The neatly arranged rows of markers along the waterfront with the mountain in the distance make a striking memorial to the loss that has been suffered. VfP’s goal is to help people understand the loss. Political signs and statements are discouraged. They need about 30 volunteers to help set up

at 6 am Saturday morning and clean up the site at 6 pm Sunday evening. Info: David L. Dittmore, 253-952-6893 (home) or 253-590-8501 (cell) or [ddittmore@aol.com](mailto:ddittmore@aol.com)

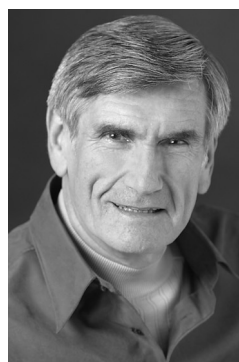
**Sat-Sun Sept 6-7: Compassionate Listening: Healing Our World from the Inside Out: An Intensive Introductory Training:** The Compassionate Listening Project teaches skills to transform conflict and create peace in our daily lives – in our families, communities, in the workplace, and among nations. It teaches speaking and listening from the heart, even in the heat of conflict. Andrea Cohen and Susan Partnow will



facilitate this training at the Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 4272 Fremont Ave N, Seattle. Sliding scale from \$150-\$350. Advanced registration required. Info: Andrea Cohen 206-523-6018 and [www.compassionatelistening.org](http://www.compassionatelistening.org). Registration [www.eventbrite.com/event/93784512](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/93784512) To tailor a talk or training for your group, please call 360-297-2280.

◆**Sat Sept 13: Fire Mountain (Lewis County) FOR** meets immediately before their 12 noon peace vigil. Info: Karen Kirkwood 360-767-0161 [kirkwoodweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kirkwoodweaver@gmail.com) or June Butler 360-748-9658 [juneb2@earthlink.net](mailto:juneb2@earthlink.net)

**Sat Sept 13 (and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday): Vigil for Human Rights at the NW Immigrant Detention Center in Tacoma:** See info at the Sat Aug 9 listing above.



**Thurs-Sun Sept 11-14: “Nonviolence as a Way of Life” – a major conference** featuring **Marshall B. Rosenberg**, creator of Nonviolent Communication; **Rev. C. T. Vivian**, key civil rights strategist and collaborator with Martin Luther King; and **Julia Butterfly Hill**, environmental activist, author and poet. **Nearly 100 more trainers, professionals and activists** will share tools and experiences of

nonviolence and Nonviolent Communication across all areas of human living. Enjoy keynote speakers, workshops, explorations of philosophical and spiritual roots

of nonviolence, and much more. Location: Univ. of Ore. in Eugene, OR. Space is limited, so pre-register now. A variety of admission prices, scholarships, and work-trade options allow wide participation. Info: [www.nonviolentliving.org](http://www.nonviolentliving.org)

**Sat Oct 3 and Sat Oct 10: Compassionate Listening: Healing Our World from the Inside Out – an Intensive Introductory Training Workshop will be held at Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church on Bainbridge Island (west of Seattle) from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm each day.** Compassionate Listening workshops teach heart-based skills for peace building and reconciliation in our families, communities, on the job, and in deeply conflicted parts of the world - speaking and listening from the heart, even in the heat of conflict. **Facilitator Leah Green. Sliding scale cost \$175-\$350. Advance registration is required. Info: [www.compassionatelisting.org](http://www.compassionatelisting.org)**



**Fri-Sun Oct 10-12: Community Organizing Retreat for Deep Democracy:** Why do corporate “persons” have more rights than human beings? Learn legal and educational strategies to more successfully organize for local democracy in your community. Examine case studies of cutting-edge local campaigns from across the country, such as Measure T, a ballot initiative passed in June 2006 that prohibits non-local corporations from participating in

local elections in Humboldt County, CA. This weekend retreat uses discussion and activities to give participants the history, analysis, networks, and legal and educational strategies you need to more successfully organize for local democracy in your community. Location: **the Occidental Arts & Ecology Center in Sonoma County, Calif.** Workshop tuition, meals, modest housing: \$250-\$400 sliding scale. Ask about scholarships. **Sponsor: Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County (DUHC),** a community-based grassroots organization using education and action to challenge corporate rule. Register today; space is limited. 707-269-0984 [www.DUHC.org](http://www.DUHC.org)

**Sat Oct 11: 2008 Seattle Race Conference:** Mark your calendars now to save this date for the annual conference coordinated by community volunteers to support racial justice. Info: 206-448-9000 [www.seattleraceconference.org](http://www.seattleraceconference.org)

**Wed-Sat Nov 12-15: Environmental Education Association of Washington Annual Conference: “Generation Green: Sustainability Takes Root”** – Connect with environmental educators from throughout Washington state, and help empower and inspire today’s generations to make decisions now that will ensure healthy ecologies, healthy

economies, and healthy people for seven generations to come. This conference is especially for persons who care about environmental and sustainability education. This includes young people, teachers, school administrators, college level educators and administrators, early childhood educators, researchers, business and governmental leaders, persons who work in civic, community-based and informal organizations, and other interested persons. It will occur at the Wenatchee WA conference center. Info: EEAW, PO Box 6277, Olympia, WA 98507 360-943-6643 [info@eeaw.org](mailto:info@eeaw.org) [www.eeaw.org/conference](http://www.eeaw.org/conference)



**Fri-Sun Nov 21-23: Close the U.S. Army School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia:** The annual vigil and civil disobedience action at the army base where the U.S. trains Latin American militaries to commit human rights abuses is a powerful event for peace and human rights. Info: 202-234 3440 [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

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**"PATRIOTISM MEANS TO STAND BY THE COUNTRY. IT DOES NOT MEAN TO STAND BY THE PRESIDENT OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIAL SAVE EXACTLY TO THE DEGREE IN WHICH HE HIMSELF STANDS BY THE COUNTRY. IT IS PATRIOTIC TO SUPPORT HIM INsofar AS HE EFFICIENTLY SERVES THE COUNTRY. IT IS UNPATRIOTIC NOT TO OPPOSE HIM TO THE EXACT EXTENT THAT BY INEFFICIENCY OR OTHERWISE HE FAILS IN HIS DUTY TO STAND BY THE COUNTRY. TO ANNOUNCE THAT THERE MUST BE NO CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT OR THAT WE ARE TO STAND BY THE PRESIDENT RIGHT OR WRONG IS NOT ONLY UNPATRIOTIC AND SERVILE, BUT IS MORALLY TREASONABLE TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC."**

**- PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

## Why I Participated in Ground Zero Actions By Larry Kerschner

*On Sunday May 11, Larry Kerschner, a medical professional in Lewis County, participated in the Mother's Day action at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor in Kitsap County. The action was organized by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. In this article (originally published in Ground Zero's newsletter), Larry explains his reasons for participating in direct action and getting arrested. Get more information from Ground Zero, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo WA 98370 (360) 377-2586 [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org).*

One of my patients recently saw an article in the local paper about my recent arrest at Bangor during the Ground Zero action for Mother's Day. This was my fourth or fifth arrest in a Ground Zero civil disobedience action. He asked, "Why would you do that?"

I was in the Infantry in Vietnam and I killed a number of people. I was defending myself but I was in the wrong, being an illegal foreign military occupier of another's country. I know the pain that can be involved in just one violent death.

The idea of mutely being involved in the support of our country's plans for the violent death of millions of people is enough to literally break one's heart. Each Trident submarine has the potential of purveying nuclear death at a rate of over seven thousand times the killing force used on the people of Hiroshima. If I could physically destroy any or all of the Trident submarines, I would and would gladly accept the consequences. That possibility is so unlikely as to be a fantasy.

What I can do is be a witness to this evil that we have created and support with our taxes and apathy. I can stand with like-minded people and make it known that some of us see behind the obscuring curtain that death hides behind in our culture. We all need to remember that most of what we think we know about war, resistance to war, support for war, the "enemy" and truth, justice and the American way has come to us through the myths and propoganda of the warrior culture we have all lived in for at least the last sixty years.

I corresponded on occasion with Phil Berrigan before he died. In one of his last letters he said, "I've been reading Sr. Rosalie Bertell and fleshing out her statement that the nuclear club – led by the US – has killed, maimed or sickened 1.7 billion people since '45. Dr. Bertell, the great Toronto nun, is a world class expert on nuclearism. I read that statistic and was bankrupt for words." We as a society are bankrupt in every sense if we continue our plans to kill everyone everywhere for all time. We need to stop living in fear and stand up publicly for hope."



### Taking their message to the streets.

(L to R) Joy Goldstein, Julia Rusk, Thomas Hodges, and Larry Kerschner at the Mother's Day action.  
Photo by Leonard Eiger.



*Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation  
5015 15th Ave. SE  
Lacey, WA 98503*

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**Sat-Sun August 2-3: 5th Annual Community Meditation and Prayer for Global Peace:** This 24-hour silent event will occur from 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday at the Tivoli Fountain on the State Capitol Campus, just west of Capitol Way near where 12<sup>th</sup> Ave would be.

At 11:15 a.m. a **Walking Meditation for Peace** will begin at Marathon Park on the west side of Capitol Lake and slowly walk very slowly up the hill to the Capitol Campus. **See Page 12 for details**

**Office location and Newsletter:**

5015 15th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503  
(360) 491-9093, [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)  
[www.olyfor.org](http://www.olyfor.org)

**Financial Donations:**

P.O. Box 7273  
Olympia WA 98507-7273

To place items in the upcoming newsletter, please mail or e-mail by the 19th of odd numbered months. Newsletters will be mailed near the beginning of even numbered months.

Content Editor: Glen Anderson  
(360) 491-9093, [glen@olywa.net](mailto:glen@olywa.net)  
Layout Editor: Robert Lovitt



***be here now,  
but be there then...***

**Our feelings won't be hurt!**

We are happy to send our newsletter to anyone who wants it. We also realize that some people who once wanted our newsletter might later decide that they no longer want to receive it. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list please notify us at (360) 491-9093 or [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)