



# Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

December/January 2008/2009 Issue #219

## Execution Vigil Tuesday December 2



The State of Washington's plans to kill Darold Stenson shortly after 12 midnight on the morning of Wed. Dec. 3 are delayed thanks to a temporary stay. The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty has planned a somber - mostly silent - vigil on the State Capitol steps at 7:00 pm Tuesday evening December 2. Please join us.

## About the enclosed postcards ...

Please help an innocent journalist who is being illegally imprisoned by his government. Olympia's recently revived Amnesty International group is working to free Chief Ebrima Manneh from prison and violation of his human rights.

Olympia's Amnesty International group has adopted a prisoner of conscience named Chief Ebrima Manneh from The Gambia. He is a journalist who is the victim of enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention without trial. He was detained by plainclothes police officers July 11, 2006. After repeated attempts by his family and fellow journalists to find out what happened to him, the government issued a statement denying any involvement in his arrest or knowledge of his whereabouts. There are conflicting reports about the reason for his arrest. One source says it was due to a disagreement with a friend of the president; others say it was because of reporting he did that was critical of the government. There have been a number of potential sightings of Mr. Manneh in police custody. What has happened to him has been part of a larger pattern of police detention of journalists without charge.

Please cut the enclosure into two postcards to the President and the Minister of Information, read the postcards, sign both of them, attach **94 cents in postage** to each postcard, and mail them right away. The Olympia FOR's December TV program about Amnesty International provides more information, but **please mail the postcards immediately**, without delaying to watch the TV program. For more information contact Leanne Smith in Olympia at (360) 923-2344 [leanneksmith@yahoo.com](mailto:leanneksmith@yahoo.com)

## OLYMPIA FOR'S 33RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY PEACE VIGIL SAT. DEC. 20

The Olympia FOR invites the public to participate in our **33rd Annual Holiday Peace Vigil** on **Saturday December 20 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** along both sides of West Fourth Avenue -- along the south side of Percival Landing and also in front of Heritage Fountain.

The annual vigil is a valued Olympia tradition. The Olympia FOR provides many signs and also invites participants to bring their own. Please bring children and friends! Participants may enjoy free refreshments nearby after the vigil.

During this holiday season of joy and good will, let us set aside all violence and militarism, which are the opposites of joy and good will. The vigil gives participants and passersby an opportunity to pause and consider choosing peace instead of violence. Peace is so much more consistent with the holiday spirit.

The Olympia FOR also has also sponsored a weekly peace vigil in Sylvester Park at the corner of Legion and Capitol Way, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday since March 5, 1980, and another vigil at the south end of Percival Landing from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. every Friday since November 1998.

For information contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org) or visit the Olympia FOR's website, [www.olyfor.org](http://www.olyfor.org)

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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.

## PROPOSALS TO REFORM CRIMINAL SENTENCING

The 2009 Criminal Justice Transition Coalition, which includes The Sentencing Project and 20 other prominent national organizations, has just released a collaborative report identifying critical needs for federal policy reform. *Smart on Crime: Recommendations for the Next Administration and Congress* contains comprehensive policy recommendations at every stage of the justice system for the new Administration and Congress.

“Americans of all political stripes, and especially professionals with experience in every aspect of the criminal justice system, recognize that the system is failing too many, costing too much, and helping too few,” said the report. Included among the recommendations to overcome these challenges are:

- Eliminate the crack cocaine sentencing disparity.
- Expand alternatives to incarceration.
- Fund prisoner reentry through the Second Chance Act.
- Extend federal voting rights to people released from prison.
- Restore welfare and food stamp eligibility to individuals with drug felony convictions.
- Analyze and reduce unwarranted racial and ethnic disparity in the federal judicial system.

The policy catalogue will be distributed to the Obama/Biden transition team and key leaders on Capitol Hill. The administration’s transition team has already identified the need to eliminate crack cocaine sentencing disparities as one of its civil rights agenda items.

In its entirety, the document identifies 15 issue areas within criminal justice for policy change. Additional issue areas featured in the catalogue include death penalty reform, prison reform, and juvenile justice. The comprehensive document features contacts for various field experts and organizations, and includes issues pertinent to the community of criminal justice advocates, practitioners and legislators.

For more information contact The Sentencing Project, 514 10th St NW Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004 [www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org)

## OLYMPIA FOR MAKES PROGRESS IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Olympia FOR wants to fulfill our mission as effectively as possible. We are several months into a year-long (July 2008 through June 2009) effort to understand our strengths and build on them, to understand our weaknesses and correct them, to understand our community’s needs and how we might fulfill those, and ultimately to develop a strategic plan to guide the Olympia FOR during the next five years.

On Saturday November 15 a variety of people who care about the Olympia FOR gathered for a Planning Retreat. Participants enjoyed high spirits and expansive visions of what is possible. This well-designed session produced smart insights and creative proposals. The Olympia FOR’s Steering Committee will consider the thorough notes when it meets on Wednesday December 10.

The Steering committee also will review the results of the paper survey we had mailed to our mailing list persons who have 985\_\_ zip codes. Many people filled out and returned their surveys. If you have not yet done so, please make sure we receive it by Saturday December 6.

Do you have additional feedback or suggestions? The Olympia FOR invites anyone to contact us at (360) 491-9093 or [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org) to share your additional ideas. Also, look for more opportunities to help set our new directions during the coming months.



Some of the Planning Retreat  
Participants in our Nov. 15th. Meeting



For 22 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.

## DECEMBER: "Amnesty International Works for Human Rights"

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a powerful statement affirming a great many inherent human rights for every person on this planet. In recognition of December 10, Human Rights Day, and in support of Olympia's revitalized branch of Amnesty International, the Olympia FOR's December TCTV program examines a number of human rights concerns and the powerfully effective work Amnesty International is doing to protect human rights.

Amnesty International was founded in 1961 and has won a well-deserved Nobel Peace Prize. It is best known for adopting individual "prisoners of conscience" who have been imprisoned unjustly for their nonviolent work for democracy, social or economic justice, journalism, and other good work, or because of their ethnicity, religion, or other characteristics. Amnesty International's members and volunteers write letters and postcards on their behalf, such as the postcards enclosed with this newsletter.

Governments think they can be secretive about treating people unjustly, but these letters, postcards and other efforts shine a bright spotlight of world opinion on the abusive governments. Very often this publicity results in improving treatment, stopping torture, or releasing the prisoners of conscience.

In recent years Amnesty International has adopted a number of U.S. war resisters as prisoners of conscience.

Amnesty International is working hard to restore justice to correct the U.S.'s abuses in the so-called "war on terror" – to close the illegal prison at Guantanamo, to stop torturing people anywhere, to restore due process, and so forth. Amnesty international is urging President-elect Obama to fix a number of specific problems during his first 100 days in office.

Amnesty International works on widespread and systemic issues too, including ending violence against women and abolishing the death penalty.

The organization has a terrific track record of success, and its members derive enormous satisfaction from the work they do.

Our TV guests are Kerri Griffis, Leanne Smith, and Pat Wald. You can contact Olympia's Amnesty International group at 867-9237, the AI group at The Evergreen State College at 867-6105 [olyamnesty@riseup.net](mailto:olyamnesty@riseup.net), and the national level at [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)

## JANUARY: "A New Foreign Policy"

The world has heaved a great sigh of relief that the arrogant, violent, and abusive Bush/Cheney regime is near its end. But U.S. foreign policy is notoriously bipartisan. While it bends a little this way or that way from one administration to the next, the underlying assumptions and core policies have remained frustratingly stable for many decades.

For example, the U.S. government claims the right to launch nuclear weapons against any nation, including non-nuclear nations. The U.S. seems to feel a "manifest destiny" to exert control anywhere in the world to "protect U.S. interests," which include oil (the "Carter Doctrine") and other economic resources. The U.S. seems willing to use military violence (now merely called by the euphemistic term "force") to require other countries to do what our government wants.

The new Obama administration has great potential to turn things around, and it will certainly reform many policies and practices, but the choice of Vice President and the early appointments show a frightening portent of continued hawkishness rather than the "change" that many voters were demanding.

To his credit, President-elect Obama has repeatedly encouraged people to contact him with our advice and suggestions. He has even created a website for this purpose, [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov) Please use this opportunity to send **your** comments! We wish the new Congress would be so inviting!

To help stimulate fresh thinking for global peace and justice, the Olympia FOR's January TCTV program will explore positive new directions that Obama and Congress could take to produce a peaceful and just foreign policy.

For example, a coalition of 30 peace organizations recently developed **five key principles** on war, weapons, sustainable agriculture, the environment, and human rights. The coalition urges President-elect Obama, the new Congress, and other leaders to move in these new directions:

- 1. Our nation should invest in peace.** Our country should invest in diplomacy, development, and conflict prevention. These are cost-effective ways to improve national and global security.

(cont. on page 4)

## TCTV - JANUARY: "A New Foreign Policy" (cont.)

2. **Military force should be the last option.** The military is not an effective relief agency. The government needs a strong civilian foreign assistance and crisis response team.
3. **Give diplomacy a chance.** With a highly skilled diplomatic corps, the United States can prevent conflict and restore its international reputation.
4. **Be a part of global efforts.** We must work with renewed commitment in international institutions and partners to address major global conflicts and challenges, such as nonproliferation, climate change, migration, public health, and poverty.
5. **Create justice through development and trade policies.** The nation's interests – and the world's – benefit from trade and development policies that alleviate poverty, treat men and women equally, and protect the environment.

Think of these principles as a **Roadmap for Peace** – a route toward a more peaceful, more secure future. To help with this effort, please visit [www.roadmapforpeace.org](http://www.roadmapforpeace.org) Watch our January TCTV program to find out what our guests (who will be confirmed soon) are recommending. You might have your own suggestions for fresh directions for a humane foreign policy. Now is the time for a broad public discussion.

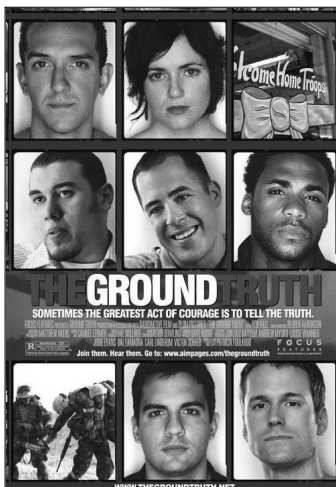
### OLYMPIA FOR'S "BIG PICTURE" DOCUMENTARY SERIES ON TCTV

In addition to the Olympia FOR's TV series of locally produced interview programs (see page 3), 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 interesting 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)

#### DECEMBER: "THE GROUND TRUTH"

Shocking and heartbreaking, "The Ground Truth" is an Iraq war documentary that spotlights American soldiers sharing their experiences on the battlefield in Iraq and back home as they try to reassemble their lives. With aching honesty, these men and women discuss the anguish of war, the difficulties of readjusting to life after their tours of duty, post-traumatic stress disorder and the often callous treatment returning troops receive from the military and the Veterans Administration.

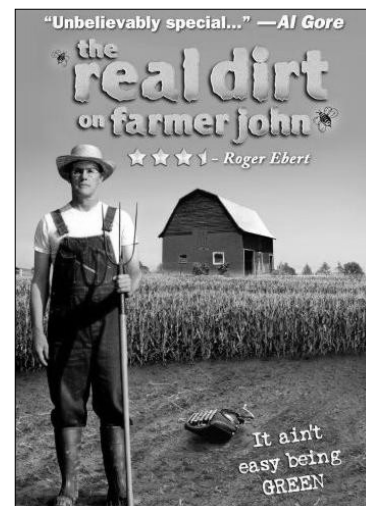
78 Minutes, 2006, Rated R for Disturbing Content and Language



#### JANUARY: "THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN"

This loving, moving, inspiring, quirky documentary was made while the lives it records were being lived. John Peterson is a unique individual who grew up on his family farm in Illinois and inherited it at a time when small farms were failing. He transforms his farm into a "hippy haven" attracting the suspicions of his neighbors. He struggles to find his way back to farming, this time organically. Financial support comes at last with the Community Supported Agriculture Program, as city people visit his farm, delighted with the opportunity to reconnect with the source of their food.

82 Minutes



**A WARM, FASCINATING AND LOCAL STORY  
ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S EFFECTIVENESS  
BY PAT WALD, A GUEST ON THE OLYMPIA FOR'S DECEMBER TCTV PROGRAM**



In May of 1986, as a member of Olympia's Amnesty international Group, I was writing letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience in Central America. I'd been working very late and was on my way to bed when I noticed on my desk a request to write a letter on behalf of Maria Teresa Tula, a human rights activist in El Salvador. I remember reading that she had been arrested, interrogated for two days, and then left in a park where she was found and taken to a hospital. She was arrested again and was being held incommunicado by El Salvador's Treasury Police, who were known to use torture.

I remember thinking it's 1 am and this looks pretty hopeless, but then I thought, "Isn't this what it's all about, not giving up?" So I wrote a letter.

We continued to write letters and follow her situation. Maria gave birth to a baby boy in prison, and that following October, she and her son were released.

The next year, Maria visited Olympia on a speaking tour, and I attended her press conference. I accidentally spilled my file that had all the papers following her time in prison, and I saw her look at them and realize that I was one of the Amnesty International volunteers who had written on her behalf. She came across the room and gave me a big hug.

A mother from a prison in El Salvador thanking a mother on a sheep farm in Washington State. In all my years of doing human rights work, that was the most important thank you I ever received.

**LOCAL BUDDHISTS WORKING FOR PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE? OH MY!**



Us good/them bad, us right/them wrong, us blue/them red - those simplistic and self-serving political (and day-to-day) outlooks get sort of tiring don't they? Serving the self, the ego, solidifying situations and people - that is an outlook and mental habit that Buddhists painfully see in themselves - and want to try to start stepping away from. To be replaced with what? Perhaps a springboard to others (& oneself!) based on compassion.

Four years ago, we founded the **South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship (SSBPF)** a local chapter of the International Buddhist Peace Fellowship, which dates back to 1978. We strive to: offer a public witness through our practice, for the peace and protection of all beings; raise humanitarian, environmental, and social justice concerns among Buddhist communities; and to bring a Buddhist perspective to contemporary peace, environmental and social justice movements. Sounds great but what does that mean in concrete terms?

Well, what it means locally is that we meet every other month to plan how to best engage in local activities that other groups have set in motion or to come up with some of our own [but our meetings are short and often involve refreshments!] We are an Affiliate member of Olympia's Interfaith Works and have actively participated in the annual CROP Walk for Hunger as well as in the 24-hour Peace Vigil that has taken place around Hiroshima day. We participate in FOR activities and other Interfaith events. We've raised over \$14,000 towards various causes such as UCAN AIDS services and education, the Crop Walk to help alleviate worldwide/local hunger, Medical Help for Iraqi Children, and the Vietnamese Friendship Village (which is a prototype of reconciliation and compassion!). We helped organize the "Buddha Day" celebration that some of you attended a couple of years ago.

But who are we? **SSBPF** is comprised of individual Buddhist practitioners and members from various Olympia area Buddhist Sanghas (such as Tibetan, Zen & Vipassana). We'll be standing with our lovely blue banner at the **FOR annual holiday peace vigil**. You will see us leading a **MLK Meditative Peace Walk** around Capitol Lake on January 18<sup>th</sup> (see page 17 for details). We'll be staffing a table at the Sacred Music festival at SPSCC in March... But meanwhile, we can be "seen", from the comfort of your home, at our website: **www.ssbpf.org** Please check us out and please join in and help us with our efforts at being, and engendering - peace! Robert, 357-2825, or **ssbpf@comcast.net**

"conquer the  
angry man  
by love  
conquer the  
ill-natured  
man by goodness  
conquer the miser  
with generosity  
conquer the liar  
with truth"  
- the dhammapada

## NEWS - RESOURCES - OPPORTUNITIES

**Election results:** We are not done yet. This is only the beginning! President-Elect Barack Obama said on election night, “This victory alone is not the change we seek -- it is only the chance for us to make that change. And that cannot happen if we go back to the way things were. It cannot happen without you.” A great many organizations that work for peace, social justice and nonviolence responded with urgent requests for volunteers to keep organizing and working to take advantage of the new opportunities resulting from the election. We still face a tremendous uphill struggle against the forces of militarism, empire, greed, and – yes – “politics as usual.” Many of those forces will even be given positions in the new Obama administration, as seen by the appointments announced already, and the Democratic House and Senate seem to be continuing pretty much as before. We have some opportunities, but we can make progress only if we keep working hard! The world needs you!

**Cut the military budget! Is it becoming thinkable again?** Although Obama has publicly and repeatedly stated that he would **not** reduce military spending, a recent article in the *Boston Globe* reported that a senior Pentagon advisory board has advised President-elect Barack Obama that the current military budget is “not sustainable.” A similar article released by Taxpayers for Common Sense confirms that Obama has pledged to review military spending for possible cuts. Rep. Barney Frank (MA), chair of the House Financial Services Committee, has called for a 25 percent reduction in military spending as part of an economic recovery program. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), a Quaker-based information & lobbying organization, has launched a new coalition campaign, **Our Nation’s Checkbook**, to bring public attention to our lopsided budget priorities and advocate for redirecting military spending to human needs. FCNL urges constituents to talk to their Congress members about budget priorities. Look for information about the federal budget and **Our Nation’s Checkbook** at FCNL’s web-site, [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org). FCNL also urges you to call your US senators **toll-free at (800) 473-6711**.

**Urge an organic farm on the White House lawn:** Join Michael Pollan (of “The Omnivore’s Dilemma”) and the organizers of the White House Organic Farm Project urge the next U.S. President to oversee an organic garden on the White House lawn, as an example of how we can grow our own food, and as the beginning of an American patriotic food movement. Americans pay for the White House lawn, so the petition suggests we make a part of that land more productive. Sign the petition – or get more info about videos, volunteering, and opportunities for students and teachers – at [www.thewhofarm.org](http://www.thewhofarm.org)

**Don’t let Bush pardon himself or others:** On November 20, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Chair of the Constitution Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, introduced H. Res. 1531, “Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President of the United States should not issue pardons to senior members of his administration during the final 90 days of his term of office.” To sign a petition urging your House and Senate members to support this resolution, visit [www.democrats.com/nadler-pardons](http://www.democrats.com/nadler-pardons)

**Prosecute Bush, Cheney, and others after January 20:** Massachusetts law school Dean Lawrence Velvel stated, “If Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, and others are not prosecuted, the future could be threatened by additional examples of Executive lawlessness by leaders who need fear no personal consequences for their actions, including more illegal wars such as Iraq.” Velvel and others are urging the prosecution for war crimes of President Bush and others after Jan. 20. The group is also: seeking disbarment of lawyers who were complicitous in facilitating torture; warning against Bush’s pardoning himself or aides for war crimes; convening a major conference on the state secret and executive privilege doctrines, which have been pushed to record levels during the Bush administration; and taking other actions. See [www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=10554](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=10554)



**FOR convenes groundbreaking dialogue between Iran’s President Ahmadinejad and U.S. peace movement:** On September 24 the national Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) facilitated a historic meeting between Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and 150 US peace and religious leaders. President Ahmadinejad was in New York at that time to speak to the United Nations General Assembly. “The Iranian president’s comments showed forward movement over the past four years on some important issues,” said the Iranian-born Leila

Zand, who directs FOR’s Iran program. “While I am still disappointed about his comments on several topics, I believe there has been progress and that this shows the importance of increased communication between our countries.” The far left edge of this photo shows national FOR Executive Director Mark Johnson. Information and comments are posted on the FOR’s blog at <http://forpeace.net/tag/iran-dialogue-2008>

**FOR staff member detained in Beijing for Free Tibet sign during the Beijing Olympics:** National FOR staff member Liza Smith, who work on FOR’s Colombia program, was arrested in August along with four other Americans at the Olympic Park in Beijing. Their crime was holding up a sign for 20 seconds that read “Free Tibet” in English and Chinese. (See the photo.)

## NEWS - RESOURCES - OPPORTUNITIES (cont.)



Liza and her fellow demonstrators were deported to the U.S. the next day. She wrote several blog entries, such as the ones at <http://forpeace.net/tag/tibet> Thousands of Tibetans were arrested during an uprising in March and remained imprisoned for months without due process, trial, or foreseeable release.

**The FOR's national level offers monthly e-mail-based newsletters** to help you stay informed about news, events, programs, and any other items that might interest you. If necessary, special urgent emails might sent at other times when needed, as well as optional newsletters on specific topics. The national FOR knows that everyone these days is barraged by too much email, so they keep these to a minimum. Sign up at [www.forusa.org/actionnetwork](http://www.forusa.org/actionnetwork)

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**Violence, nonviolence, and FOR's presence in Colombia:** The national FOR's Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean (TFLAC) has emphasized our Colombia program for several years. FOR maintains a permanent presence for peace and nonviolence in San José de Apartadó, a rural community that refuses to support any of the violent factions warring around them – the rebels, the military, or the paramilitaries. As a result of the community's nonviolent refusal to align themselves, they are attacked by all sides, especially by the paramilitaries that operate with impunity and seeming collaboration by Colombia's government. FOR sends frequent delegations to Colombia so they can bring their first-hand experiences back to communities in the US. You can read more reflections of our Colombia delegates and see their photos on our blog at: [forpeace.net/blog/peace-delegates-reflect-their-trip-colombia](http://forpeace.net/blog/peace-delegates-reflect-their-trip-colombia)

**FOR's work opposing killings in Colombia makes NY Times front-page news:** The October 29 *New York Times* featured "Colombia Killings Cast Doubt on War Against Insurgents." The article follows up on a **lead editorial published two months ago by the *Los Angeles Times*** which also focused on documentation done by FOR's Colombia program and Amnesty International. Contrary to US law, the US is giving the most funding to the parts of the Colombian military that are committing the largest numbers of extrajudicial killings. See [www.forcolombia.org](http://www.forcolombia.org)

**Temporary part-time job for national FOR's website:** Work from home: The national FOR needs an energetic, creative person to help transition our current website's content to our new web site. As we migrate from static HTML to a database-driven content management system, we need someone to work for \$10/hour for a total of 20-40 hours over 2 to 4 months managing and organizing our content so it can be moved. (The actual website design and development will be handled by a separate contractor.) It's OK do this work from home. Info: Glen at 491-9093 [glen@olywa.net](mailto:glen@olywa.net) in Olympia or Ruby Sinreich (919) 883-5224 [ruby@forusa.org](mailto:ruby@forusa.org)

**"No Soldier Left Behind" – a comprehensive plan to bring all troops home from Iraq:** Peace Action, the respected nationwide peace organization that resulted from the merger of the half-century-old SANE and the early 1980s Nuclear Freeze movement, has launched an open letter to President-Elect Obama. It calls for bringing all U.S. troops home from the failed war on terrorism and for supporting the troops when they are back home. "No Soldier Left Behind" is a comprehensive plan to bring our troops home from Iraq once and for all - safely, speedily, and with the interest of sustainable peace in mind. It calls for:

- **Withdrawing all troops and private contractors** within one year without leaving a vulnerable and provocative residual force
- **Creating a "diplomatic surge"** that engages Iraq's neighbors (including Iran and Syria) and the international community
- Leading donor efforts for **Iraqi-controlled reconstruction and humanitarian aid**, and securing assistance to Iraq's almost 5 million displaced people, as well as for Iraqis endangered due to their assistance of the US effort
- Assisting in the establishment of **international peacekeeping and stabilization forces** if requested by the Iraqi people

Please sign the open letter – and get more information about Peace Action – at [www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org)

**Ehren Watada won't be retried on 3 of 5 counts:** On October 21 a federal judge ruled that 1st Lt. Ehren Watada cannot face a second court-martial on three of five counts. In 2006 he had refused to deploy to Iraq with his Fort Lewis brigade, but the army bungled his February 2007 court martial and the army judge declared a mistrial. In October the federal judge agreed with Watada's defense that retrying him would violate his constitutional protection against double jeopardy. After thoroughly studying the US war in Iraq Watada had determined that it was illegal under international law and US law. He did not consider himself a Conscientious Objector to war in general, just to this particular war, so he would not qualify for C.O. status and did not apply for it. Instead, he spoke out publicly against the war and refused to deploy. He continued working at Fort Lewis, where

## NEWS - RESOURCES - OPPORTUNITIES (cont.)

he had been assigned a desk job. Although he cannot be tried again for three charges, he still could be prosecuted on two other counts involving conduct unbecoming an officer. Watada was the first Army officer to face court-martial for refusing to serve in Iraq.

**Coffee Strong**, near Fort Lewis, is the second antiwar GI Coffeehouse to open its doors in the US since Vietnam, and serves as a safe space for military veterans, active duty soldiers and progressive minds to discuss issues like the wars, deployment, PTSD, and the hardships of military life. Coffee Strong is completely funded by community donations and is supported also by peace activists and veterans who believe that individuals within the military can find ways to help end wars. It is at 15109 Union Ave. SW, Lakewood, in southern Pierce County near Fort Lewis. Info: [www.givoice.org](http://www.givoice.org)

**Iraq Veterans Against the War** was founded by Iraq war veterans to give a voice to the large number of active duty service people and veterans who are against this war, but are under various pressures to remain silent. There are currently more than 1,300 members and 54 chapters in 48 States. Info: [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

**What does God think about torture?** The U.S. government tortures people. It was unthinkable just a few years ago, but now many people are used to it. Now the religious community is organizing against it. The Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture (WSRCAT) encourages local faith communities to take public stands. One way is to get a banner from WSRCAT and post it visibly outside your congregation's building so the public can see it. Banner messages may vary (*e.g.*, "Torture is wrong," or "Torture is a moral issue"). Various religious faiths and denominations participate in this interfaith effort, and the Western Washington FOR actively participates. Info: [www.stopustorture.blogspot.com](http://www.stopustorture.blogspot.com)

**Conscientious Objection to paying war taxes!** Since 1940 federal law has recognized that Conscientious Objectors should have legal alternatives to being drafted into military service. But what about when the IRS drafts our tax dollars into paying for war? For more than 35 years peace folks have been promoting legislation that would allow the military portion of our tax dollars to be diverted into new peace-oriented purposes. The **National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund** (NCPTF) is a Washington DC-based non-profit organization that advocates for passing the **Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill (currently H.R. 1921)**. Info: NCPTF, 2121 Decatur Place NW, Washington DC 20008 (202)483-3751 or toll-free (888)PEACETAX [www.peacetaxfund.org](http://www.peacetaxfund.org)

**Many refugees of all ages are trapped in statelessness:** The organization Refugees International reports that millions infants, children and youth around the world are denied education, health care, and the basic rights that accompany citizenship. Refugees International's latest report, *Futures Denied: Statelessness among Infants, Children, and Youth* identifies the causes and consequences of this endemic problem and calls on governments and the UN to take steps to prevent millions of these hidden youth from growing up poor, uneducated, and isolated from society. See a link at [www.refugeesinternational.org](http://www.refugeesinternational.org)

**The Listening Project helps people connect with each other, identifies problems and solutions, and fosters new grassroots leaders:** The Rural Southern Voice for Peace (RSVP), an FOR affiliate for more than 20 years, undertakes many projects, including one with a network of conservative churches in North Carolina's rural mountain region. The Christian Stewardship Listening Project (CSLP) helped churches cultivate concern for the environment – God's creation – by conducting in-depth interviews with 28 local church leaders, including those who in the past have been uninvolved, suspicious or negative about "environmentalism." Now the CSLP steering committee, composed of local church leaders, is creating a community agenda that is based on education, citizen priorities and cooperative community action. CSLP is a model that can be applied within any faith or interfaith group. RSVP is also working on immigration, trade and agriculture in Maine, and RSVP is addressing violence and other problems in Asheville NC's middle school. The Asheville Schools Listening Project is engaging teens, parents, service providers and neighborhoods in developing new solutions and programs that empower youth. RSVP offers to send information on those specific projects. RSVP has facilitated successful Listening Projects in more than 20 states and in other nations too. Listening Project results include:

- Identifies problems and issues that people and communities care about.
- Includes often unheard or unheeded voices.
- Fosters emergence and development of new community leaders.
- Generates creative solutions for community needs and problems.

## NEWS - RESOURCES - OPPORTUNITIES (cont.)

- Disseminates issue-related information and determines needs for additional information.
- Encourages personal growth as all involved consider new views and information.
- Forms uncommon coalitions and alliances through which diverse viewpoints can resolve - rather than clash over - difficult issues.
- Promotes insight and understanding among people with conflicting views.
- Creates long-term capacity for grassroots community building.

RSVP invites more FOR members to work with their Listening Projects. Please send your contact information to [info@listeningproject.info](mailto:info@listeningproject.info). And see their web site, [www.listeningproject.org](http://www.listeningproject.org)

**UN reinforces its call to end all executions:** On November 20, 2008, the United Nations issued a resolution applauding the record number of countries that have supported the campaign to end capital punishment. A large majority of states from all regions called for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. This reinforces the worldwide trend toward abolishing the death penalty. 105 countries voted in favor of the draft resolution, 48 voted against and 31 abstained. Amendments proposed by a small minority of pro-death penalty countries were overwhelmingly defeated. As of November 2008, a total of 137 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. Nevertheless, during 2007, at least 1,252 people were executed in 24 countries, and at least 3,347 people were sentenced to death in 51 countries. The decrease in countries carrying out executions is dramatic. In 1989, executions were carried out in 100 nations, but in 2007 Amnesty International recorded executions in only 24 countries. The Nov. 20 resolution is a draft adopted by the Third Committee of the General Assembly, and it is expected to be adopted by the General Assembly sitting in plenary in December.

**Participate in Moments of Blessing after local homicides:** A Moment of Blessing is a faith-based response to homicides in our local community. To reclaim the place of violence as a place of life and peace, and to bring support to the victim's family and friends, faith leaders and lay people gather near to the site of the death to conduct a short (20 minute) interfaith service of comfort and healing. Please participate in future Moments of Blessing. They usually take place at 4:00 on a Friday afternoon. Whenever you see or hear news of a local homicide, contact Interfaith Works 357-7224 [interfaithworks@comcast.net](mailto:interfaithworks@comcast.net) to learn time and location of the blessing.

**Volunteer for the Crisis Clinic:** Are you a good listener? Do you want to help others? Are you interested in personal growth? The Crisis Clinic Resource Network needs volunteers. The Crisis Clinic offers free anonymous, confidential, and non-judgmental crisis intervention phone service to callers in Thurston and Mason Counties 24 hours a day. Contact Cassandra Bella at 360-586-2888 ext 108 to schedule an interview and join the next training.

**Universal, Single-Payer Health Care:** Health Care for All-Washington (HCFA-WA) is the statewide organization pushing for legislation to provide health care for every Washingtonian and a simplified payment system that could thrive without insurance companies. In 2007 HCFA-WA promoted legislation for a Washington Health Security Trust (WHST). See a copy at [www.healthcareforallwa.org](http://www.healthcareforallwa.org). Organizing continued through 2008, and it's planning for the 2009 legislative session. For information contact Ruth Knagenhjelm (206) 242-3606 or Chuck Richards (206) 783-9245. To keep informed of news you can receive a "Perspectives in Health Care Reform" e-mail every week or read weekly updates at a special page of Health Care for All-Washington's website, [www.healthcareforallwa.org/perspectives](http://www.healthcareforallwa.org/perspectives)

**Physicians for a National Health Program – Western Washington:** See "Latest News" and "Upcoming Programs" at this organization's regularly updated webpage. It offers additional information and links. See [www.pnhpwesternwashington.org](http://www.pnhpwesternwashington.org)

**Organize a Local Teach-In or Town Hall Meeting about the Economic Meltdown:** People across the country are organizing "Teach-Ins" and "Town Hall Meetings" to educate local communities about the impact of the economic crisis. **Now is the time to get people together to learn, talk, and take action.** The \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street has left individual people feeling frustrated and powerless about the rapidly changing economy, so this is a "teachable moment" to help people understand economic realities – and to engage and mobilize for political and economic change. Now is the time to hold Congress accountable. Several organizations are offering variety of information sources, possible speakers, and organizing ideas. Contact the Olympia FOR at (360) 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org) or see our website, [www.olyfor.org](http://www.olyfor.org), for practical information.

**Free Speech Zone – Olympia style:** Got something to say you want all of Olympia to hear? Wanna let the world know what you think about how Lacey treats the homeless? What do you think of high-rise condos on the isthmus? How about military ship-

## NEWS - RESOURCES - OPPORTUNITIES (cont.)



ments through the Port of Olympia? Pick your topic and share your opinions out loud, in public, with others at Olympia's **Speaker's Corner** coming in the spring of 2009. Watch for signs and flyers around town this winter announcing exactly where (possibly Heritage Park) and when (probably Sundays). Info: Scott at [speakerscornerolympia@yahoo.com](mailto:speakerscornerolympia@yahoo.com)

**An alternative community currency – Life Dollars – and other solutions might help us cope with the economy:**

Gail Di Marzo of Fertile Ground Guest House is organizing for a local community currency. She laments that Sound Hours stopped circulating because they were

hard to maintain. But she says Life Dollars – with only a few members yet in the Olympia area but more than 600 members statewide – has the potential to be very workable because its web-based system requires less maintenance. She is organizing a series of potlucks with the theme of “economic resilience” to consider Life Dollars and a variety of other local economic alternatives. The potlucks will be held at Fertile Ground, 311 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, just south of the Olympia library, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Tuesday December 9 and 16. (See calendar pages 14 and 15.) Info: 352-2428 or [www.fourthcornerexchange.com](http://www.fourthcornerexchange.com)

**The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County (CSF)** was formed almost 20 years ago and provided its first grants in 1989. CSF raises money locally and turns it into social change – specifically, for grants to fund local efforts to create more democratic, equitable, nonviolent, and environmentally sustainable communities. The all-volunteer CSF keeps administrative costs to a bare minimum and gives away the money it raises each six month grant cycle to between six and ten qualifying applicants. A large majority of CSF's funds comes from folks who shop at the Olympia Food Co-op and “round up” at the check stand. Several other local businesses also participate, and CSF raises funds in other ways too. Info: [www.myspace.com/thurstoncsf](http://www.myspace.com/thurstoncsf)

**Friendship Force supports international people-to-people exchanges:** During all of January 2009, Friendship Force of Olympia will display world travel and home exchange information at the Tumwater Library. This past year displays were completed at the Lacey and Olympia Timberland Libraries. Guests are always welcome at all Olympia Friendship Force activities. The Olympia FOR's August TCTV program featured Friendship Force along with other people-to-people citizen diplomacy efforts. Info: Jo Ann and Mike Young 491-1637

**A Camp Quixote homeless tent city in Lacey?** The Lacey City Council has been making it hard for local churches to host the Camp Quixote encampment for homeless persons. What needs to happen next? How can we urge the Lacey City Council to practice compassion and let churches perform their works of mercy? Info: Jim Dick 459-3244 [jedi0549@yahoo.com](mailto:jedi0549@yahoo.com)

**2009 calendar supports peace in Middle East:** Interfaith Peacebuilders (IFPB), a project started by the national FOR to promote interfaith support for Middle East peace, has produced a 2009 calendar that you can buy for \$20 each, including shipping. The calendars' 14 photos were taken by recent delegates in interfaith delegations. Each photo includes an informative caption, so the calendar is a tangible way to educate others on the Israel/Palestine conflict. In addition to featuring compelling photos from IFPB's delegations to Israel/Palestine, this 12-month 2009 calendar also features US holidays; Muslim, Jewish, and Christian holy days; and recommendations for books and films. All proceeds from the 2009 calendar sales will go to support IFPB's scholarship fund so lower-income people can participate in future delegations. Info: [www.ifpbdel.org/announce/2009calendar.html](http://www.ifpbdel.org/announce/2009calendar.html)

**2009 calendar recounts U.S. radical history:** Every year the War Resisters League publishes a peace calendar on a different theme. WRL's 2009 peace calendar is titled “**The Path of Most Resistance: A U.S. Radical History Tour.**” It highlights more than 50 episodes of nonviolent resistance throughout U.S. history. This calendar opens out to display a 5 ½” x 8 ½” left-hand page with writing space for each day of that week, and a right-hand page with a few paragraphs of history and a photo or other visual image. Proceeds support the War Resisters League, which has worked nonviolently for peace and justice since 1923. \$14.95 or four for \$55, plus \$3.50 postage per calendar. Info and ordering: [www.warresisters.org](http://www.warresisters.org) or toll-free 877-234-8811

**Rachel Corrie Foundation thanks Olympia FOR for supporting their Peace Works 2008 conference:** Cindy Corrie sent us a warm and gracious letter of thanks in response to the Olympia FOR's contribution of \$100 toward their October 17-19 conference, “Dual Occupations: Sovereignty and Freedom from Iraq to Palestine.” Info: [www.rachelcorriefoundation.org](http://www.rachelcorriefoundation.org)

**President-elect Obama wants to know what kind of change you want:** Visit [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov) and leave a brief message with your advice. Feel free to do this several times!

## DEATH PENALTY: BAD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS

### **BAD NEWS in Washington:**

The State of Washington is planning the pre-meditated killing of Darold Stenson at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla. A temporary stay has delayed his execution that had been planned for Wed. Dec. 3, but a somber and mostly silent vigil on the State Capitol steps will be held anyway at 7:00 p.m. Tues. Dec. 2. The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty is sponsoring the vigil, with co-sponsorship by the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. This is slated to be the fifth execution in the 16 years since January 1993, after a 30-year period without any executions. The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty has more information. 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)



The Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (WCADP – [www.abolishdeathpenalty.org](http://www.abolishdeathpenalty.org)) tried every legal method they could to prevent the execution, including urging the Governor for clemency and commutation. Mr. Stenson has always maintained his innocence, but he gave up hope and did not ask Gov. Christine Gregoire for clemency that would have commuted his death sentence to a sentence of life without possibility of parole.

### **GOOD NEWS in Maryland:**

On November 12, 2008, the Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment voted 13-7 to urge Maryland's legislature to abolish the death penalty. The study commission cited problems including racial and geographic disparities, the death penalty's high cost, the fact that the death penalty does not deter murder, and the risk of executing innocent persons.

### **GOOD NEWS in New Jersey:**

In December 2007 New Jersey's legislature and governor abolished that state's death penalty. That was the first U.S. state to legislatively abolish the death penalty since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976. The victory followed a long, vigorous struggle of grassroots organizing, efforts by religious bodies, and other efforts for abolition. New Jersey, which had not executed anyone since 1963, became the 14th state without a death penalty. Abolitionists in Washington State have been urging a statewide commission to study how the death penalty really functions in our state, but the legislature has not yet created such a commission. The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty has more information. 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)

### **GOOD NEWS in Texas:**

In other news related to more kinds of felonies, a bit of light is shining in Dallas County, Texas, where 19 persons have been exonerated from faulty prosecutions based on DNA evidence. That troubling news has shaken Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins, who announced in September 2008 that he would re-examine nearly 40 death penalty convictions and would seek to halt executions, if necessary, to give the reviews time to proceed. He said he wants to make sure that nobody on death row from Dallas County is actually innocent. The 19 exonerations for other felonies have routinely revealed faulty eyewitness testimony and, in a few cases, prosecutorial misconduct.

One Dallas County, Texas, case was particularly ironic in showing how prosecutors can actually prevent guilty persons from being held accountable. One man was cleared of a 1992 robbery and rape. However, even though other persons have actually admitted to having committed the crimes, they could not be prosecuted because the statute of limitations to prosecute them had expired. The previous District Attorney Bill Hill had been refusing to allow the convicted man to undergo DNA testing. In the end, it turned out that the convicted man was innocent and the actual criminals could no longer be prosecuted. "That's really what got me to thinking," Mr. Watkins said. "This is larger than just having innocent folks in jail. This is about having criminals out on the street with cover to go and commit their offenses."



"May the bad not kill the good,  
Nor the good kill the bad  
I am a poet, without any bias,  
I say without doubt or hesitation  
There are no good assassins."

Pablo Neruda (1904-1973), Chilean writer, Nobel Prize winner

## TOP 25 CENSORED STORIES FOR 2008

**CENSORED**

Many crucially important news stories are never – or only minimally – publicized by the mainstream news media, so Project Censored identifies the Top 25 Censored Stories for each year. Here is the list for 2008. Links to each story are at :

[www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/category/y-2009](http://www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/category/y-2009)

- # 1 Over One Million Iraqi Deaths Caused by US Occupation
- # 2 Security and Prosperity Partnership: Militarized NAFTA
- # 3 InfraGard: The FBI Deputizes Business
- # 4 ILEA: Is the US Restarting Dirty Wars in Latin America?
- # 5 Seizing War Protesters' Assets
- # 6 The Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act
- # 7 Guest Workers Inc.: Fraud and Human Trafficking
- # 8 Executive Orders Can Be Changed Secretly
- # 9 Iraq and Afghanistan Vets Testify
- # 10 APA Complicit in CIA Torture
- # 11 El Salvador's Water Privatization and the Global War on Terror
- # 12 Bush Profiteers Collect Billions From No Child Left Behind
- # 13 Tracking Billions of Dollars Lost in Iraq
- # 14 Mainstreaming Nuclear Waste
- # 15 Worldwide Slavery
- # 16 Annual Survey on Trade Union Rights
- # 17 UN's Empty Declaration of Indigenous Rights
- # 18 Cruelty and Death in Juvenile Detention Centers
- # 19 Indigenous Herders and Small Farmers Fight Livestock Extinction
- # 20 Marijuana Arrests Set New Record
- # 21 NATO Considers "First Strike" Nuclear Option
- # 22 CARE Rejects US Food Aid
- # 23 FDA Complicit in Pushing Pharmaceutical Drugs
- # 24 Japan Questions 9/11 and the Global War on Terror
- # 25 Bush's Real Problem with Eliot Spitzer

We get whatever quality of news media the public allows or demands. When the public settles for pabulum, that's what we get. But if the public were to demand accurate and thorough coverage, we could get that instead.

In contrast to mainstream news media, many of these stories have been covered by alternative media. Independent and diverse news sources are crucial for a democracy.

## URGE U.S. TO RATIFY CEDAW, A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

The Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations in 1979 as a result of the UN's First World Conference of Women held in Mexico City in 1975. This Treaty provides an international standard for protecting and promoting women's human rights and is the only one addressing all aspects of women's lives. **But the United States has never ratified it!**

- As of August 2006, 185 member countries of the UN have signed CEDAW. They have agreed to work toward ending discrimination against their women citizens in political, social, civil and economic life.
- **The United States has the dubious distinction of being the ONLY industrialized democracy NOT to have ratified it.**
- President Carter signed it in 1980, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recommended it in 2002 but it has languished ever since in the Senate, which must ratify all treaties.
- Women's Rights are vital for the struggle for freedom and human principles for all. We see it in countries like Afghanistan, which also has not signed CEDAW.
- CEDAW is a tool used by women around the world to improve their conditions. With ratification by the U.S., it would be a much stronger instrument to support their struggles for women's rights.
- CEDAW could enhance our own laws on violence against women, access to legal protections, and so forth.

### What can we do to help?

#### Join the local campaign to get CEDAW ratified:

- Work with the National Organization for Women (NOW) and other groups locally to help Washington state's legislators pass a Joint Memorial encouraging the US Senate to vote on and ratify CEDAW.
- Help plan educational events explaining the importance of CEDAW. Spread the word that we need CEDAW to help all women internationally achieve full protection and realization of their rights.
- Attend the **Friday January 16 CEDAW Forum** with speaker Heidi Evans from Amnesty International USA, at 7:00 p.m. at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water Street, Olympia. Heidi is a knowledgeable and articulate attorney and long-time CEDAW activist in Portland.

For more information – or to help – please contact Liana and Thurston County NOW (National Organization for Women) at (360) 359-1290, P.O. Box 2041, Olympia WA 98507 or [now\\_thurston@yahoo.com](mailto:now_thurston@yahoo.com) Thank you!

# 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. DEC: "The Ground Truth." JAN will be confirmed soon. (See article on page 4.) 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

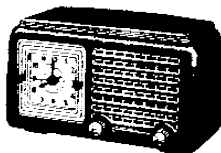
♦Every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm: Olympia FOR's TCTV Program: DEC: "Amnesty International Works for Human Rights." JAN: "A New Foreign Policy." (See page 3.)

♦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 880-4226 rpoteat@hotmail.com

Every Thursday from 12 to 1 pm: "Parallel University" 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: DEC: "Amnesty International Works for Human Rights." JAN: "A New Foreign Policy." (See page 3.)

♦Every Friday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm: Peace Vigil at south end of Percival Landing near W 4th Ave. 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

The Every Every Every Every Department: ▲▲▲



Muriel Lester, the British pacifist, and F.O.R. member wrote: "Our Job as Peacemakers"

"Sometime in the cold light before dawn, in an unexpected moment of solitude, we suddenly find ourselves facing stark reality - our future, the world's future, war, pain, hunger. We feel almost intimidated as we consider the condition of men and things. 'One half the world is sick, fat with excess. The other half, like that poor beggar past us even now, who thanked us for a crust with tears.'

"The issue becomes clear and urgent: Are we going to spend our lives struggling and fighting for a place in the fat half? Or shall we tilt against the old specters of war and inequality, unmasking them, stripping them of their glamour, revealing them as old fashioned imposters and tyrants we can no longer tolerate in a world that might be full of common sense, plenty and goodwill?"

◆**Mon Dec 1: “Amnesty International Works for Human Rights” - Olympia FOR’s December 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 Dec 29 on TCTV cable channel 22 within Thurston County. Info: Glen 491-9093 [www.olyfor.org](http://www.olyfor.org) See page 3.

◆**Tues Dec 2: Vigil opposing Washington State’s execution of Darold Stenson and anyone else:** Join us for a somber, mostly silent, vigil on the State Capitol steps at 7:00 pm See page 1. Sponsor: Olympia FOR’s Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)

**Wed Dec 3: Nonviolent Communication workshop – “Communicating to Connect”** – Enjoy this introduction to Nonviolent Communication to learn some immediately usable tools for resolving conflicts, reducing criticism, defensiveness, blame, shame, misunderstanding and violence, and for increasing respect and hope in your everyday life and in the world. 6:45-9:00 pm at Lincoln Elementary School cafeteria, 213 21<sup>st</sup> Ave SE (corner of 21<sup>st</sup> & Washington). Info: Liv Monroe 357-4503 [livvm@comcast.net](mailto:livvm@comcast.net)

**Wed Dec 3: David Ray Griffin speaks on “The New Pearl Harbor Revisited: 9/11, The Cover-up and the Exposé”** – Hear new evidence since his respected 2004 book *The New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing Questions About the Bush Administration and 9-11*. Free admission! Capitol Theater, 206 5<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Olympia. Sponsor: South Puget Sound Community College’s BRICK student group and “Washington 9/11 Investigators Group.” Last Word Books will have available copies of Griffin’s books and DVDs for sale and signing. Info: BRICK 870-7637 or Audrey Henley 753-5463.

**Thurs Dec 4: Youth Theater: Live performance of: *Becoming an Ally*** Join 1+1=3 Theatre for an evening of playback theatre and dialogue around creating positive culture, breaking down stigma and harassment, examining the sexism, racism, homophobia, etc., that we often see either subtle or blatant. Using playback and forum theatre as tools we will explore real moments and re-create them on stage while inviting strategies from the audience to address the challenges expressed! 7:00 PM at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water SW, Olympia. Info: Tim McLeod at 754-1556

**Thurs Dec 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 Dec 5: Olympia Jazz Senators Holiday Concert to benefit Interfaith Works:** This sizzling big band brings the excitement of the holiday season with a jazzy twist as they play Duke Ellington's Nutcracker, an original Chanukah medley, and a variety Christmas classics. The Olympia Jazz Senators Big Band is fast becoming one of the most sought after local bands, and includes many of the finest jazz musicians in the South Puget Sound area. Proceeds benefit programs of IW including the homeless shelter for women and families, Interfaith Youth Camp, and the World Sacred Music Festival. 7:00 pm at South Puget Sound Community College’s Minnaert Center, 2011 Mottman Rd. SW \$20 general, \$15 for low-income. Advance tickets are available at Traditions Fair Trade, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water SW, or from Interfaith Works. Info: 357-7224 [www.interfaith-works.org](http://www.interfaith-works.org)

**Tues Dec 9: 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: [korodo@msn.com](mailto:korodo@msn.com)

**Tues Dec 9: 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 Dec 9: Economic revival potluck to consider community currency and other alternatives:** Economic revival potlucks on December 2, 9 and 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Fertile Ground (311 9th Ave SE, Olympia) will generate ideas for how the community can band together during these tough economic times. Also a new yahoo group called Oly Economic Revival is open to anyone who wants to join. A new Community Currency called “Life Dollars” could be part of your economic tool kit. Systems like Life Dollars are already in place and functioning throughout America and the rest of the world. Life Dollars began in Bellingham in 2002 and has over 700 members around the state of Washington. There’s no script to carry, just a debit/credit database online where buyers and sellers record their exchanges. If you still have old Sound Hours, you can exchange each Sound Hour for one Life Dollar. Just mail them in with your membership form. See [www.fourthcornerexchange.com](http://www.fourthcornerexchange.com) or contact Gail Di Marzo in Olympia at 352-2428 [gail@fertileground.org](mailto:gail@fertileground.org)

**Wed Dec 10: 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 Dec 10: Olympia FOR Steering Committee meets** to provide overall planning and decision-making. Tonight's agenda will work especially on long-range strategic planning, based on the results of the Sat Nov 15 Planning Retreat and the paper survey of people in the local 985\_\_ zip code areas. 7:00 pm at Dennis Mills' home in NW Olympia. Info: 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org) 867-1487 [mills.dennis@comcast.net](mailto:mills.dennis@comcast.net)

**Wed Dec 10: "Rebuilding Hope" film about Sudan's "Lost Boys"** - In 2007 author and filmmaker Jen Marlowe accompanied three young men who returned to Sudan to find surviving family members and to rediscover and contribute to their homeland. Marlowe will present her work-in-progress documentary film about this journey, "Rebuilding Hope," at 7:00 pm at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW. "Rebuilding Hope" features Gabriel Bol Deng, Koor Garang and Garang Mayuol who as young children were forced to flee South Sudan in 1987 when militiamen led violent attacks on their villages. Crossing the country on foot, they reached safety in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya and in 2001 came to the U.S. as part of a large group of Southern Sudanese young men nicknamed "Lost Boys." The film also sheds light on what the future holds for South Sudan in its struggle for peace, development and stability. Tonight's pre-screening and fundraiser is sponsored by the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice and will include Q&A with the filmmaker. All proceeds will support completion of this documentary. Proceeds from the completed project will go to healthcare and education projects in Sudan initiated by the three young men featured in the film. Info: Jen Marlowe (202) 375-3492 [jenmarlowe@hotmail.com](mailto:jenmarlowe@hotmail.com)

**Wed Dec 10: ACLU discusses the death penalty:** Thurston County's ACLU meets from 7 to 9 pm for Alice Curtis's presentation about the death penalty and Q&A. Room 206 in Olympia Center, 222 Columbia NW, downtown. Everyone is welcome.

**Fri Dec 12: "Rebuilding Hope" film about Sudan's "Lost Boys"** - See Wed Dec 10 listing. This will be shown also at 5:30 pm Fri Dec 12 in Lecture Hall 3 at The Evergreen State College. Sponsor: TESC's Amnesty International group. Info 867-6105 [olyamnesty@riseup.net](mailto:olyamnesty@riseup.net)

**Fri Dec 12: Heartsparkle Players: "Stories of Freedom: Our Traditions/Our Future"** - This month's performance collaborates with **Stonewall Youth**, a local nonprofit organization that supports, informs, and advocates for bisex-

ual, lesbian, gay, transgendered, queer and questioning youth up to 21 years old. It began in 1991 as a series of community meetings to discuss the needs of GLBTQQ youth in the area. The people involved had drive, passion and vision that grew into providing a consistent weekly support group for youth that still continues to meet today. Since then, Stonewall Youth has grown in amazing and wonderful ways. Weekly support group meetings are still happening and usually have anywhere from five to thirty people present. **Heartsparkle Players** is an outstanding local troupe with a loyal following. They use Playback Theatre, a spontaneous collaboration between performers and the audience. People tell moments from their lives, and then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue. Each month they collaborate with a different local nonprofit group around a different theme. Everyone welcome! A \$5-\$10 donation is requested if you can afford it; nobody is turned away. 7:30 pm at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water SW, Olympia. Info: Debe Edden 943-6772 [debek@olywa.net](mailto:debek@olywa.net) [www.heartsparkle.org](http://www.heartsparkle.org)

**Sat Dec 13: International Human Rights Day:** Olympia's Amnesty International will staff a table where you can send letters and postcards supporting human rights for people around the world. Several hours during the day at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water SW. Info: Kerri Griffis 867-9237 [kerrigriffis@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrigriffis@yahoo.com)

**Sun Dec 14: Friendship Force of Olympia holds quarterly meeting:** This group organizes international trips to other countries and hosts international visitors here. Guests are always welcome at all Olympia Friendship Force activities. 3:00 pm at Tugboat Annie's, 2100 West Bay Dr NW, Olympia. Buffet costs \$15.00 per person. Please make reservation with Ted Samlund at 491-6348. Info: Jo Ann and Mike Young 491-1637

**Mon Dec 15: Amnesty International's Olympia group works for human rights worldwide:** 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)

**Tues Dec 16: Economic revival potluck to consider community currency and other alternatives:** See the Tues Dec 9 listing above.

**Tues Dec 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

◆ **Tues Dec 16: 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) [chuckschultz3@msn.com](mailto:chuckschultz3@msn.com)

**Fri Dec 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)

◆ **Sat Dec 20: Olympia FOR’s 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Peace Vigil** from 12 noon to 1 pm on both sides of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, near the south end of Percival Landing on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, west of Water Street. We provide plenty of signs or you may bring your own. Please bring friends, relatives, kids, and strangers. Social time and refreshments afterward at the Family Support Center’s 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Info: Olympia FOR (360) 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org)

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



**Sun Dec 28: Feast of Holy Innocents Peace Vigil to remember child victims of war.** This day remembers 2000 years ago when Herod killed baby boys throughout the region where baby Jesus lived in a jealous attempt to kill his rival. Nowadays, children are still victims of weapons and policies, but our

government dismisses their deaths as “collateral damage.” We will challenge this dismissal and the continuing war policies that create more child victims. Vigil from 12 noon to 1 pm in downtown Olympia on Fourth Avenue west of Water Street, near the fountain, across from the Oyster House restaurant. Info: Bob Zeigler (360) 570-0848.

**Tues Dec 30: “Soldiers of Conscience” film** features conscientious objectors to war. 11:30 pm on KCTS TV channel 9. Info: [www.soldiers-themovie.com](http://www.soldiers-themovie.com)

◆ **Thurs Jan 1: “A New Foreign Policy” – Olympia FOR’s January 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 Jan 29 on TCTV cable channel 22 within Thurston County. Info: Glen 491-9093 [www.olyfor.org](http://www.olyfor.org) See page 3.

**Mon Jan 5: Amnesty International’s Olympia group works for human rights worldwide:** Meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Call Kerri Griffis at 867-9237 to verify location. Everyone is welcome to share information, write letters, and organize community outreach to promote human rights. Info: 867-9237 [kerrigriffis@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrigriffis@yahoo.com)

**Fri Jan 9: Heartsparkle Players: “Audience Up”** - Join the Heartsparkle Players in a special performance where the audience has the opportunity to get up on stage and act!. See Fri Dec 12 10 for basic info or contact Debe Edden 943-6772 [debek@olywa.net](mailto:debek@olywa.net) [www.heartsparkle.org](http://www.heartsparkle.org)

**Sat Jan 10: The Righteous Mothers perform:** Their wit, social commentary and musical harmony have made them favorites locally and beyond. 8:00 pm at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water SW. \$15 general, \$10 students and low-income. [www.righteousmothers.com](http://www.righteousmothers.com)

**Tues Jan 13: 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: [korodo@msn.com](mailto:korodo@msn.com)

**Tues Jan 13: 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, Info: [www.southsoundcleanclothes.org](http://www.southsoundcleanclothes.org)

**Wed Jan 14: 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 Jan 14: 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. 814 Adams SE, just east of the Olympia library. Everyone is welcome. Info: Patty Imani [pattyimani@hotmail.com](mailto:pattyimani@hotmail.com) or Peter Bohmer, [peterbohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:peterbohmer@yahoo.com)

**Fri Jan 16: 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 Jan 16: National Organization for Women (NOW) forum on the Convention for the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, featuring Heidi Evans, a labor attorney from Portland's Amnesty International, meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water. Info: Linda, 357-7272 [lryh@hotmail.com](mailto:lryh@hotmail.com) (See page 12).

**Sat Jan 17: Holly Gwinn Graham sings with power and wit:** Tonight's theme is "Songs from Femur! The Musical and other humorous looks at the turns life takes when we aren't looking." Some guest musicians will perform too. 8:00 pm at Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water. Tickets: \$12 general; \$8 students & low-income. [www.hollygwinngraham.com](http://www.hollygwinngraham.com)



**Sun Jan 18: Meditative Walk for Peace in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by the South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship. Location: The walk begins precisely at

noon at Marathon Park on Capitol Lake, rain or shine. Please arrive 15 minutes early to allow for instructions. This is a **SILENT** peace walk in the tradition of Thich Nhat Han. Anyone wishing to walk in silent meditation in support of peace and non-violence is invited to attend. There will be no banners or signs, and no chanting. We welcome you to join into the procession at anytime.

**Sun Jan 18: Veterans for Peace:** All veterans and others are invited to connect and work for peace. 1:30 pm social time. 2:00 meeting. Traditions Cafe, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water. Info: Jody Mackey 915-6757 [hungryforpeace@gmail.com](mailto:hungryforpeace@gmail.com)

**Mon Jan 19: Amnesty International's Olympia group works for human rights worldwide:** Meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Call Kerri Griffis at 867-9237 to verify location. Everyone is welcome to share information, write letters, and organize community outreach to promote human rights. Info: 867-0237 [kerrigriffis@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrigriffis@yahoo.com)

**Mon-Fri Jan 19-23: 40 hours of training in how to mediate disputes:** The Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County offers this powerfully effective training from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. \$585 for adults, \$295 for teens. (The next opportunity for this 40-hour training

course will be 20 hours on Thurs-Sat March 12-14 and the other 20 hours on Thurs-Sat March 19-21.) Info: (360) 956-1155 [www.mediatethurston.org](http://www.mediatethurston.org)

◆**Wed Jan 19: Deadline for Olympia FOR's Feb-March 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)

**Tues Jan 20: 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)



**Sun Jan. 25: South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship** hosts an open meeting. SSBPF includes members of the local Buddhist community engaging in the Buddhist path of right action in regard to working for peace, justice and social change. 3:30-5:00 pm. Location and info: Robert Lovitt 357-2825 [ssbpf@comcast.net](mailto:ssbpf@comcast.net) [www.ssbpf.org](http://www.ssbpf.org)

◆**Tues Jan 27: Death penalty abolition committee of Olympia FOR** meets to work on further activities to abolish that atrocity. 7 pm. To confirm date and location, please contact Rozanne or Chuck, 705-8520 [rozannerants@yahoo.com](mailto:rozannerants@yahoo.com) or [chuckschultz3@msn.com](mailto:chuckschultz3@msn.com)

**Wed Jan 28: 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. 814 Adams SE, just east of the Olympia library. Everyone is welcome. Info: Patty Imani [pattyimani@hotmail.com](mailto:pattyimani@hotmail.com) or Peter Bohmer, [peterbohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:peterbohmer@yahoo.com)

**Mon Feb 2: Nonviolent Communication workshop – "Communicating to Connect"** – Enjoy this introduction to Nonviolent Communication to learn some immediately usable tools for resolving conflicts, reducing criticism, defensiveness, blame, shame, misunderstanding and violence, and for increasing respect and hope in your everyday life and in the world. 6:45-9:00 pm at Lincoln Elementary School cafeteria, 213 21<sup>st</sup> Ave SE (corner of 21<sup>st</sup> & Washington). Info: Liv Monroe 357-4503 [livvm@comcast.net](mailto:livvm@comcast.net)

**Mon Feb 3: Amnesty International's Olympia group works for human rights worldwide:** Meet at 7:00 pm on the first and third Mondays of each month. Everyone is welcome to share information, write letters, and organize community outreach to promote human rights. Location and info: Kerri Griffis 867-9237 [kerrigriffis@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrigriffis@yahoo.com)

## 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: June Butler 360-748-9658 or Larry Kerschner 360-807-5106 or [peacepoet@gmail.com](mailto:peacepoet@gmail.com)

**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)

**Sat Dec 6: Art & Hope: Peace Leadership Training for youth aged 15-20:** All-day workshop using the arts and hands-on activities to explore our hopes for our world and how we can make them a reality. You don't have to consider yourself an "artist" to attend -- this is art for everyone! The day includes personal reflection, group activities exploring peace and justice, learning skills for making change, and encouraging each other. No matter how much you know about justice, or how much you have been involved in your community, you'll find like-minded friends who will inspire you. We encourage you to register and come with other friends from your school, student group, youth group, or church. This event is for youth ages 15-20, 9 am to 5 pm at University Friends Meeting, 4001 9th Ave. NE in [Seattle's](#) University District. Cost: \$25-50 sliding scale with scholarships available. To register please email [lpfyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lpfyouth@gmail.com) or call (206) 720-0313 ask for Monica or Lindsey.

**Fri-Sun Dec 12-14: United For Peace and Justice holds 4th National Assembly:** Activists and organizers from around the US will meet near [Chicago's](#) O'Hare Airport to assess the current situation and set the directions and priorities for UFPJ's large part of the peace movement for 2009. Info: [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)

**Sat Dec 13 (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. 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 Dec 13: The Cycle of Life: Eagles and Salmon:** Each winter, hundreds of bald eagles migrate from Canada and Alaska to the Skagit River to feast on the Puget Sound's most fecund run of chum salmon. Bundle up, grab your binoculars and join Libby Mills, a renowned naturalist who has studied this natural wonder for more than 20 years. Share transportation to the [Skagit and Sauk Rivers](#) and examine the interrelated biology of salmon and eagles, their adaptations and migratory wanderings, as well as conservation strategies for these intertwined species. This wild spectacle is a gift to the Pacific Northwest--join us in celebration and discovery. \$95 tuition includes van transportation. To register please visit [www.ncascades.org/programs/seminars/course.html?workshop\\_id=918](http://www.ncascades.org/programs/seminars/course.html?workshop_id=918)

♦ **Sat Dec 13: Fire Mountain ([Lewis County](#)) FOR** meets 10:00 am to 12:00 noon (just before their 12 noon peace vigil in Washington Park, [Centralia](#)). For meeting location and other info, contact June Butler 360-748-9658 [juneb2@earthlink.net](mailto:juneb2@earthlink.net) or Larry Kerschner 360-807-5106 [peacepoet@gmail.com](mailto:peacepoet@gmail.com)

♦ **Sun Dec 21: Seattle FOR Holiday Party** co-sponsored with Episcopal Peace Fellowship, 5-8 pm at Bloedel Room at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 10<sup>th</sup> Ave E, [Seattle](#). Enjoy festive potluck dinner, collection of toys for needy families, and time with nice FOR folks! Info: 206-789-5565 [wwfor@connectexpress.com](mailto:wwfor@connectexpress.com)

♦ **Sat Jan 10: Fire Mountain ([Lewis County](#)) FOR** meets 10 am to 12 noon, immediately before their 12 noon to 1 pm vigil in SE corner of Washington Park, [Centralia](#). Info: : June Butler 360-748-9658 [juneb2@earthlink.net](mailto:juneb2@earthlink.net) or Larry Kerschner 360-807-5106 [peacepoet@gmail.com](mailto:peacepoet@gmail.com)

Sat Jan 10 (and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday): Vigil for Human Rights at the NW Immigrant Detention Center in Tacoma: Info at Sat Dec 13 listing above.



**Thurs-Sun Jan 22-25: Nationwide conference and training to abolish the death penalty:** The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP) holds this special opportunity for people to learn how to oppose the death penalty at the state and community levels. Learn effective organizing techniques, how to work with local stakeholders and the media, and more. Harrisburg PA. Info: NCADP 202-331-4090 [www.ncadp.org](http://www.ncadp.org)

**Fri-Sun March 6-8: Veterans for Peace holds 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NW Regional Conference:** The 2009 conference theme is **“Peace Movement at the Crossroads: Where Do We Go From Here?”** Mark your calendars now for this Seattle-area event with speakers, workshops, sharing sessions, networking and more!



**Sun-Wed April 26-29: Mobilization to End Poverty:** Join with thousands of Christians in Washington DC to call upon Pres. Obama and the new Congress to take immediate steps to address extreme poverty. Hear great speakers, learn a lot, network with others, and visit your members of Congress. This uphill struggle needs a lot of

people power! It’s organized by Sojourners, [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net), and other organizations working to end poverty.

**Seabeck**



◆**Thurs-Sun July 2-5: FOR's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual FOR Conference at Seabeck: “Building a Just and Sustainable World”** - Join 200 other FOR folks of all ages for an amazingly informative, inspirational and enjoyable weekend near Hood Canal. Look for more information soon. Info: Oly FOR 491-9093 [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org) or Western Washington FOR (260) 789-5565 [wwfor@wwfor.org](mailto:wwfor@wwfor.org)

O U T O F T O W N

**PRAYER OF PEACE**

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born  
to eternal life.

by Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)



**MAY  
YOUR  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON  
BE  
FILLED  
WITH  
PEACE**

**PRAYERS FOR THE EARTH**

For once on the face of the earth let's not speak  
in any language  
Let's stop for one second and not move our arms so much.  
It would be an exotic moment without rush,  
without engines.  
We would all be together in a sudden strangeness.  
Fishermen in the cold sea would not harm whales  
And the man gathering salt would look at his hurt hands.  
Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas,  
wars with fire, victory with no survivors  
Would put on clean clothes and walk about  
with their brothers  
in the shade doing nothing.  
What I want should not be confused with total inactivity,  
Life is what it is about.  
I want no truck with death.  
If we were not so single minded about  
keeping our lives moving,  
And for once could do nothing,  
Perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
And of threatening ourselves with death.  
Perhaps the earth can teach us when everything  
seems dead and later proves to be alive.

by Pablo Neruda (1904-1973)

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

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*Reminder!*

### **Olympia FOR Planning Survey**

On November 12 we mailed a survey to everyone on our mailing list who has a 985\_\_ zip code. Thanks to many of you who have filled them out and returned them. **If you have not yet completed and returned your survey, please do it right away and make sure we receive it by Saturday December 6.**

If you need a replacement for the one we sent you – or an additional one for another household member who wants to fill one out – please call (360) 491-9093 or e-mail [info@olyfor.org](mailto:info@olyfor.org), so we can provide one for

#### **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 (Robbie) Lovitt

#### **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)