



Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

5015 15th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503-2723 (360) 491-9093 www.olyfor.org
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Holiday PEACE Vigil SATURDAY DECEMBER 19 12 NOON TO 1 PM

WEST 4th AVENUE NEAR HERITAGE FOUNTAIN, Olympia

The Olympia FOR invites the public to participate in our 34th Annual Holiday Peace Vigil on Saturday December 19 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm along both sides of West Fourth Avenue -- along the south side of Percival Landing and also in front of Heritage Fountain.

The Olympia FOR provides many signs and also invites participants to bring their own. We invite participants to enjoy social time and free refreshments at a nearby location after the vigil.

Please bring children and friends! Some families make this a regular part of their holiday tradition.

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.

The vigil is free, but the Olympia FOR will gratefully accept donations to support the Olympia FOR's persistent work for nonviolence, social justice and peace.

For information contact Glen Anderson at 491-9093 or info@olyfor.org.

These photos from previous Holiday Peace Vigils are only the tip of the iceberg!



NINE DAYS of Food AND Fellowship "SECRET CAFÉ" DINNERS TO BENEFIT Olympia FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 6 THROUGH MONDAY DECEMBER 14

Our talented and generous cooks and hosts invite you to enjoy **Nine Days of Food and Fellowship** at a series of "secret cafés." Proceeds will benefit the Olympia FOR's ambitious and varied work for peace, social justice and nonviolence.

Building a world of peace, justice and nonviolence is possible only by working together – and creating fellowship and a sense of community to sustain us in the struggle. And this requires good food! Enjoy these delicious meals and opportunities to visit with old friends and meet new friends.

Please review the flyer enclosed with this newsletter for more information.

To help the cooks plan, please RSVP to Alice Zillah, who is coordinating this series. She is at alicezillah@yahoo.com or (360) 357-7705.

TELEVISION PROGRAMS

For nearly 23 years the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation 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: "THE '3 STRIKES' LAWS ARE Unjust"

During the past few decades the public and politicians were adopting one "tough on crime" proposal after another. In 1993 Washington voters passed an initiative that made Washington the first state to enact a "three strikes and you're out" law. Three qualifying felony convictions would result a sentence of life in prison without any possibility of parole. More than 20 other states copied Washington.

The foolishness of this law is now becoming apparent. Many people have outgrown their criminal pasts, turned their lives around, and yet linger in prison – costing the taxpayers money when these people could be free and contributing to society. The "three strikes" law actually sentences taxpayers to a lifetime of wasting money imprisoning people who are no longer dangerous. As these prisoners become elderly and develop more health problems, their medical care costs will impose an additional burden on taxpayers.

"Three Strikes" laws feed people's sense of revenge. But instead of providing justice, it reeks of racism and economic class bias, and it destroys families.

Although the initiative's supporters claimed it would protect us from "the worst of the worst," actually the "three strikes" law is too broad and sweeps up many people whose crimes were not so dangerous to society.

In 2001 Washington's Sentencing Guidelines Commission recommended removing Second Degree Robbery from the "Three Strikes" list and evaluating whether any form of Second Degree Assault should remain. For eight years the Legislature has shied away from reforming the law for fear of being labeled "soft on crime."

Now a variety of people and organizations want to reform or abolish the "Three Strikes" law.

Also, the state government is starting to distinguish between what actually works and what does not. The simplistic "Three Strikes" law does **NOT** work.

The Olympia FOR's December TV program features three guests with first-hand knowledge and fresh perspectives about the "Three Strikes" law:

- **Moira Hennings'** husband is in prison serving a "three-strikes" life sentence. She also volunteers for the Department of Corrections' Family Advisory Council.
- **Vance Bartley** was sentenced to life in prison for "three-strike" offenses, but in prison he studied law and discovered a serious defect in his case and – after 12 years in prison – got his sentence overturned. Vance's knowledge of the law earned him a job as a paralegal in a Seattle law firm.
- **Noemie Maxwell** is an exceptionally well-informed and hard-working volunteer on "three-strikes" and other criminal justice issues.

All three guests volunteer with Justice Works!, a Seattle-based organization that works to end racism in the criminal justice system. Justice Works! is affiliated with the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Justice Works! is a statewide organization that works specifically to reduce racism in the criminal justice system. Research shows that racial minorities are especially harmed by this law. Justice Works! is seeking volunteers. For information – and to help – please contact them at www.justiceworks.info or (206) 725-9189. Two other good sources of information and action are www.fix3strikes.org and www.justiceisnogame.org

JANUARY: "PROTECT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE"

The US Constitution's First Amendment protects Americans from governmental bias in religious matters. The government must not provide overt or covert support for any particular religion.



Also, in the US, a person is free to believe in any religion – or in none – without discrimination. This basic civil right has been protected by other constitutional amendments and by civil rights laws.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

TV PROGRAMS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2:

But there are always some people – inside and outside of the government – at federal, state and local levels – who want to use the government’s power and taxpayers’ dollars to support their particular religion or to oppose other people’s religions.

Since 1947 a nonprofit organization – Americans United for the Separation of Church and State – has focused exclusively on preventing those abuses and protecting the separation of Church and State. Americans United educates the general public and public officials about these matters. AU also takes legal action when necessary. Its track record is truly impressive.

AU is non-sectarian and non-partisan. Its members include people of a very wide variety of religious faiths, secular humanists, agnostics, atheists, and people from a wide range across the political spectrum. It is neither “liberal” nor “conservative.” It protects our constitutional rights.

Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and other founders were adamant that these rights must be protected and that there must be what Jefferson called a “wall of separation” between government and religion. This protects the general public and taxpayers and our nation’s freedom from religious intrusion. It also protects religious freedom from governmental intrusion. It is a “win-win” for everyone who values freedom.

In the summer of 2007 a local group was formed to carry out this mission in the greater Thurston County area. Some national staff members provided a full day of training and nurtured the local group into existence. The group meets monthly, typically at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Olympia Unitarian-Universalist Congregation, 2200 East End Street NW.

Three members of the local AU group will be guests on the Olympia FOR’s January 2010 program. Dennis Mansker, Kent Underwood, and Eric Quist are knowledgeable and articulate.

For more information contact Dennis at 786-9584 dmansker@comcast.net or Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, 518 C Street NE, Washington DC 20002 (202) 466-3234 americansunited@au.org or www.au.org

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 2), 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 pm every Sunday evening** and **3:30 am every Wednesday morning** for a full month. Info: Carol 866-7645 carolburns98@comcast.net

DECEMBER: “BREAKING RANKS” AND “DESERTER”

“**Breaking Ranks**” is a moving documentary that examines the current phenomenon of US soldiers seeking refuge in Canada as part of their resistance to the war in Iraq. With intimate access to four American military deserters, their lawyer and families, this film documents their experiences as they try to exercise their consciences amidst profound emotional, ethical and international consequences. If deported, they face the venom of mainstream American opinion and one to five years in prison. If Canada instead follows the legacy established by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau during the Vietnam War, when Canada welcomed tens of thousands of war resisters, there may well be an unprecedented crisis in US-Canadian relations. Filmed over the course of the refugee process, this provocative film explores the meaning of duty through the powerful testimonies of these young soldiers. In so doing, “**Breaking Ranks**” poses challenging political, cultural and historical questions for Canadians and the world. (55 minutes)

“**Deserter**” follows another man leaving the army as he and his wife cross the country to the Canadian border. (24 minutes)

JANUARY: “VENEZUELA RISING”

As seen through the eyes of grandmother and community organizer Gladys Bolivar, “**Venezuela Rising**” follows her and her compatriots five days before it is to be decided by popular referendum whether Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez will continue in office or step down. The entire nation has been mobilized – will it be “SI” – yes he will be recalled, or “NO” – he will remain in office. Most in Venezuela feel that no less than the entire future of their country is at stake.

The documentary addresses issues of democracy and politics. What constitutes a free and fair election? Is that enough to ensure citizen participation? How are elections the ultimate measure of a thriving democracy?

“**Venezuela Rising**” gets behind the headlines and into the neighborhoods of Caracas to find out how participatory democracy works on the ground. 2007. (65 minutes)

Afghanistan – How to Make Peace

Help Instead of Hurt

President Obama and all of the top military generals say there is no military solution in Afghanistan – but they still want to send tens of thousands of additional military troops.

Obama and the generals keep saying that we must win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people. One nationwide progressive organization urges this US policy: “Instead of spending 90 percent of the U.S. budget in Afghanistan on military operations and 10 percent on humanitarian aid, we say spend 90 percent on infrastructure, schools, jobs, medical care and humanitarian aid, and 10 percent on the military.”

Afghanistan: Ten Reasons to Resist

This is edited from a longer article in the December 2009 newsletter of Courage to Resist, a nonprofit organization that supports the troops who refuse to fight.

1. Like Iraq, it is also illegal

According to international law experts, the invasion and ongoing occupation of Afghanistan is as illegal as the US presence in Iraq. The UN Charter mandates that military force against another country is justified only when used in self-defense or authorized by the UN Security Council. [UN Security Council resolutions] never authorized military force, but the criminalization and prevention of terrorist activities....

2. No military solution to terrorism

There can be no military solution to terrorism. “Terrorism” is a tactic that is not tied to any specific place. By pursuing the ever-elusive “terrorist” enemy, the US has waged an open-ended war of attrition in Afghanistan. This occupation breeds the discontent that gives rise to “terrorism” in the first place and has had the effect of bringing forward local opposition to the occupation....

3. Funds used for war are needed at home

The US government is wasting billions of dollars on open-ended wars overseas instead of tending to problems in our own backyard. To date, the Congress has allocated \$915 billion toward the wars in Iraq (\$687 billion) and Afghanistan (\$228 billion). That amount does not include, among other things, the cost of borrowing the money, lost productivity, and the cost of health care for veterans. Include those expenses, and the total cost through 2009 for Afghanistan alone is \$864 billion. For both wars, its \$2.17 trillion! On our current course, we will end up spending \$3.4 trillion within a few years. It is past time that we put those resources towards solving our growing problems here at home, including housing, healthcare, education, and food scarcity.

4. Civilian casualties are not acceptable

Since the Gulf War, the media has spent an inordinate amount of time covering state-of-the-art “smart” weaponry. This same hype is now being applied to the use of unmanned aerial systems (UASs) to watch and attack targets in Afghanistan.... The promise is that these weapons will minimize civilian casualties in war zones. However, the reality is that civilian casualties rose 40% in 2008 according to a UN report. Civilian deaths in Afghanistan from US and NATO airstrikes nearly tripled from 2006 to 2007.

5. War is not good for women in Afghanistan

We have been told that the initial invasion, continued presence, and escalation in Afghanistan is needed to “protect” Afghani women and girls. However, women in Afghanistan have endured oppression and mistreatment at the hands of the Taliban, the current government, and by foreign occupiers. Women have had their families torn apart by war and are themselves killed by military violence. The US has been guilty of arming warlords and armed militias in its fight against the Taliban, contributing to unstable conditions which breed violence against women and children. The increased presence of foreign troops has caused sex trafficking of young girls, prostitution, and rape to skyrocket. Meanwhile, the US hypocritically supports regimes such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar that have similar repressive policies towards women as exist in Afghanistan.

6. Support the Troops: Bring them home now

All branches of the Armed Services fighting the “Global War on Terror” are now stretched extremely thin. Units and individuals who have endured three or four deployments in Iraq are now being ordered to Afghanistan. Over 840 US troops have been killed in Afghanistan so far. Casualties have steadily increased since 2004. In February 2009, the US Army reported the highest level of suicides among soldiers (in 2008) since it began tracking suicides.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

AFGHANISTAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

7. Torture and human rights abuses in Afghanistan

The use of torture and “enhanced interrogation” methods by US forces in Afghanistan – all clearly outlawed by the Geneva Convention – has been well documented. The most infamous torture site in Afghanistan is the US Bagram Air Base. “The investigative file on Bagram ... showed that the mistreatment of prisoners was routine: shackling them to the ceilings of their cells, depriving them of sleep, kicking and hitting them, sexually humiliating them and threatening them with guard dogs – the very same behavior later repeated in Iraq.” – *NY Times* Editorial. May 23, 2005

8. Climate change and resource wars

With climate change one of the most serious problems facing our planet—contributing to increased incidence of floods, famines, and droughts—fighting resource wars will not address the underlining issues but further polarize the world’s peoples.

9. War destabilizes Afghanistan and the region

According to UN Refugee Agency, 2.1 million Afghan refugees were reported in 72 asylum countries, making Afghanistan the largest country of origin of refugees. There are nearly a million internally displaced as well. Together, these statistics represent 10% of the entire population. Dire conditions and lack of employment are forcing many to relocate to Iran and Pakistan in search of work. The US supported anti-Soviet opposition in Afghanistan during the 80’s by funding training camps for the present home-grown Afghani oppressors and the development of the poppy trade as a resource to keep them funded. Backing the Karzai government today amounts to supporting one group of warlords over the others.

10. Respect Afghani self-determination; No to global military intervention

Afghanistan’s people must have the right of self-determination and be free to forge a society on its own terms. The war in Afghanistan is part of a trend of unwanted military intervention by the US.

*For more information contact Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610 (510) 488-3559
www.couragetoresist.org*

How Do You End A War?

This is edited from a longer October 30, 2009, article by Jim Fine, Legislative Secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Congress took a first step earlier this year when it prohibited funding for permanent U.S. bases in Afghanistan. By itself, this measure can't prevent escalation in Afghanistan. It does, however, signal that the United States military does, eventually, plan to leave the country, just as a similar prohibition did in the case of Iraq in 2006.

FCNL lobbyists will be working in four key areas over the next eight months, urging Congress to move towards de-escalating and ending the war in Afghanistan.

- **Require an Exit Strategy:** Before the military can leave Afghanistan, it will need a strategy for how to do it. Building congressional demand for an exit strategy will be an important tool for encouraging Congress to push for de-escalation and withdrawal. In July, 138 representatives voted for an amendment requiring the administration to prepare an exit strategy for Afghanistan, but only 101 have cosponsored a separate bill to require an exit strategy.... Even after a decision on troops is made, congressional support for an exit strategy will be a key indicator of opposition to the war.
- **Improve U.S.-Iran Relations:** Iran can do much to help or hinder the U.S. in Afghanistan. If U.S.-Iran relations deteriorate over a failure to resolve concerns over

Iran's nuclear program – driven in part by a push in Congress to impose economic sanctions on Iran – the United States could be in for a much rougher ride in Afghanistan.

- **Cap U.S. Troop Levels in Afghanistan:** Another avenue for de-escalating and ending the war is to stop the United States from sending more troops to the country. Rep. Barbara Lee (CA) has introduced legislation that would prohibit funding for additional U.S. troops in Afghanistan beyond the number present when the bill is signed into law. Congress will have at least one, and probably two, opportunities in the next eight months to take this step toward de-escalation and withdrawal. The provision could be amended to a supplemental funding bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is likely to be introduced in the next four months. It could also be added to the Fiscal Year 2011 military appropriations bill.
- **Require a Status of Forces and Withdrawal Agreement:** In Iraq, negotiating this agreement became the mechanism that forced both Iraq and the U.S. to recognize the necessity of a complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. Negotiating an agreement with Afghanistan would likely engage nationalist sentiment and practical considerations leading to the same conclusion.

For more information contact the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), 245 Second St NE, Washington DC 2002 (202) 547-6000, Toll-free (800) 630-1330 www.fcnl.org

DOMESTIC POLITICS PREVENT AFGHAN PULL-OUT

Jonathan Schell's thoroughly researched article in the November 30, 2009, issue of *The Nation* magazine (pages 18-22) documents that – even though Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and many of their top advisers knew that the US could not win the Vietnam War – they dared not to pull out because Republicans would accuse them of “losing” Vietnam to the communists. They were acutely aware that President Truman was blamed for “losing” China to the communists. Sen. Joe McCarthy and others unleashed an era of brutal anti-communism in the US that escalated the Cold War and repressed dissent in the US.

For decades afterward – right up to the end of the Cold War – anyone who advocated peace risked being labeled “soft on communism.” This fear kept many people in the government and in the general public from opposing nuclear weapons or challenging the US's harsh foreign policy in any way.

At any time during the 1950s and 1960s the otherwise intelligent politicians in the Executive and Legislative branches were calculating the effects on the next election, so – fearfully looking over their shoulders at Republicans and other hawks – they kept the

Cold War and Vietnam War going rather than risk the electoral political consequences of taking a positive new direction.

Schell writes that former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara told Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward in 2007 that President Johnson was “more afraid of the right than the left. And he was afraid that if he did anything to in any way appear to appease the North Vietnamese, he would be severely criticized by the right wing of American politics. Therefore he didn't do it.”

Likewise, President Obama and many of the smart people in his administration know that Bush's war in Afghanistan, but they dare not end it for fear that Republicans and other hawks will blame him for “losing” Afghanistan and being “soft on terrorism.”

As Jonathan Schell says near his article's end, “[I]t is no secret that Obama's support for the war in Afghanistan served as protection against charges of weakness over his policy of withdrawing from Iraq.” (For those of us who are frustrated by Obama's slow pace of withdrawing from Iraq, this only compounds our frustration and reinforces the power of Schell's argument.)

Obama has referred to the Afghanistan war as “necessary.” But Schell writes, “Unfortunately, impossible missions do not become possible because they have been dubbed necessary; on the contrary, they become quagmires.”



Mohd Hussein starts 2nd Cup of Tea Peace Vigil with eight other Afghan youth peace volunteers

Mohd Hussein and 8 other Afghan peace youth volunteers began their 2nd Cup of Tea Peace Vigil on November 15, and they have continued it daily from 12 noon to 1 pm Bamiyan time, at the Bamiyan Peace Park, Afghanistan.

Please watch Mohd Hussein invite us for Afghan tea! www.youtube.com/watch?v=rF0msK8dlh4

The video includes a photo of the Olympia FOR's solidarity vigil on October 27 at Percival Landing.

In solidarity, some Olympia Veterans for Peace and Olympia FOR members are also vigiling for peace from 12 noon to 1 pm every day until December 10. (See information to the right of the photo.)

Thanks to Doug Mackey, Dennis Mills and Terry Zander for organizing and sustaining this!

More information about these sweet young Afghan peace organizers is at <http://ourjourneytosmile.com/blog>

HEY, OLYMPIA!

Join several of Olympia's Veterans for Peace and FOR members in our 2nd Cup of Tea Peace Vigil every day from November 15 to December 10 from 12 noon to 1 pm at **Sylvester Park** and at **The Evergreen State College**.

Yes, we will serve you two cups of hot tea!

Come join us for hot tea and friendly conversation!

Olympia FOR's STRATEGIC PLANNING PRODUCE SEVERAL NEW ACTIVITIES

New opportunities and activities are resulting from the hard work the Olympia FOR invested in strategic planning.

We've been generating volunteers for 13 new activities through sign-up lists at various events, a special mailing in late summer, and a community empowerment event on October 10. (See A through M listed in the column to the right.)

Some of these are starting already, and even more will start in the new year. Each of the 13 options has generated at least 3 potential volunteers thus far, and some generated 8 or more. After these first new activities are underway, we will pursue additional improvements identified by our strategic planning process, beyond these first 13.

- Chuck Schultz is convening an **Olympia FOR Book Group** that will read and discuss strategies for peace. See page 12 for information or to participate.
- Glen Anderson is convening a series of **small group gatherings to learn about practical strategies for using nonviolence in various situations**. See page 12 for information or to participate.
- Terry Zander invites a variety of people to join him in planning for a **two-day festival of peace, social justice, the local environment, and more!** See page 12 for information or to participate.
- Our new **Outreach and Public Relations Committee** has met once and is starting to strengthen the various ways the Olympia FOR reaches out to the larger community. Kerri Griffis volunteered to chair this committee. Although she has moved to King County, she is continuing her active involvement with the Olympia FOR. Contact her at (253) 735-7355 **kerri-griffis@yahoo.com**
- Our new **Fundraising Committee** has met three times already! It is ambitiously working to erase the deficit from Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and to raise enough income to meet our projected expenses for FY 2009-2010. The first new initiatives are a series of benefit dinners in early December and a special fund that will match donations we receive by December 31 from persons who have not contributed from January 1, 2007, through November 30, 2009, up to the matching fund's \$1,000 total. Alice Zillah volunteered to chair the Fundraising Committee. Contact her at 357-7705 **alicezillah@yahoo.com**

We can still use more volunteers – especially persons who might want to convene a meeting of persons who have expressed interest in working on the new activities listed below. For now, we are focusing on these 13 possible goals and activities:

- A. Create small groups to work actively and effectively on issues and activities. (See the first bullet item above)
- B. Welcome new people with social gatherings at least quarterly.
- C. Bring many more young people and families into the Olympia FOR, and involve them in activities.
- D. Address racial justice issues and support communities of color in various ways.
- E. Offer substantive training and/or study in nonviolence at least three times a year to include a total of at least 100 persons per year. (See the second bullet item above)
- F. Strengthen faith-based and interfaith understanding, commitment and activities for peace, social justice, and nonviolence.
- G. Explore how the Olympia FOR could more effectively use the arts.
- H. Promote reconciliation in many ways.
- I. Hold a one-time or annual event for our community's entire peace movement, including persons who are at local colleges. (See the third bullet item above)
- J. Devise strategies, activities, communications, etc., to significantly reduce or eliminate military use of the Port of Olympia.
- K. Rebuild, activate, and sustain the Olympia FOR's Fundraising Committee. (See the fifth bullet item above)
- L. Create and sustain a skilled and effective Outreach and Public Relations Committee. (See the fourth bullet item above)
- M. What else would you like to do for the Olympia FOR? What would you like to work on and/or organize by yourself and/or with others?

If you would like to help, contact Glen Anderson 491-9093 **info@olyfor.org**, or one of our Steering Committee Co-Chairs, Jody Mackey 915-6757 **hungryfor-peace@gmail.com** or Berd Whitlock 259-4291 **robertfwhitlock@gmail.com**

SUCCESSES SINCE OUR PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

Activists for peace, justice and the environment have such ambitious agendas! We care about everything, see problems everywhere, and jump from one crisis to another. We have strong values and bold visions. Therefore, when we achieve a victory we typically fail to celebrate it – or even notice it – because we always see the unfinished business of bigger goals ahead. Deep down, we might feel guilty – or not radical enough – if we were to celebrate the victories we achieve.

But human psychology is based on reinforcement, and if we fail to celebrate our victories we fail to generate the reinforcement necessary to keep us going. Failing to reinforce our efforts leads to cynicism and burnout. For some people it leads to feelings of desperation that lead to tactics that turn out to be counterproductive.

For our own well-being – and for the long-term sustainability and growth of the overall peace & justice movement – we need to **recognize the tremendous accomplishments that we are achieving all the time.**



Listed below are dozens of victories for peace, justice and the environment since our previous newsletter.

WAR AND PEACE:

- A few Afghan kids and some Americans of all ages succeeded in getting the US Ambassador to Afghanistan to advise President Obama not to escalate the US war there. (*See page 6*)
- Barack Obama credited peace & justice activists for the Nobel Peace Prize. He said, “This award – and the call to action that comes with it – does not belong simply to me or my administration; it belongs to all people around the world who have fought for justice and for peace.” Let’s take him at his word and keep pressuring him for peace and justice.
- Sustained public pressure persuaded the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs, its chairperson, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to call for lifting the ban on people’s travel to Cuba.
- The US Army gave up on its three-year effort to punish First Lt. Ehren Watada for publicly refusing to deploy to Iraq. Watada did not see himself as a conscientious objector, but saw the Iraq war as an illegal war of aggression. He was the first officer to do this. The Army had botched its court-martial trial and finally allowed Watada to resign from the military on October 2 “under other-than-honorable conditions.”
- Thousands of people gathered at Fort Benning, GA, where the US Army has trained many thousands of Latin American military troops and officers to commit violence, murder, terrorism and torture against their own people for many decades. Four persons were arrested when they crossed the military line at the School of the Americas (renamed WHINSEC), and hundreds of others risked arrest by marching in the street outside the military base. SOA Watch, www.soaw.org
- The European Union imposed sanctions and an arms embargo on the military junta that dominates the African nation of Guinea and had massacred more than 150 persons who were simply calling for democracy. A massive campaign (including 125,000 petitions) persuaded the European Union to stop the flow of weapons into Guinea’s illegitimate government.
- The Rachel Corrie Ramadan Soccer Tournament in Rafah, Gaza, was a big success. During 25 days, 12 youth teams with 168 players and 14 adult teams with 392 players played 45 matches,

and a lively Kids Day event occurred too. Volunteers raised more than \$9,000 to make it all possible.

- The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has nearly completed its new meeting house. Massive amounts of volunteer labor and generous financial support have built a workable space for the nonviolent movement to abolish nuclear weapons, including the Trident nuclear submarines, which are based on the other side of Ground Zero’s fence in Poulsbo/Bangor, WA.

JUSTICE:

- A civil rights organization’s lawsuit succeeded in prohibiting military-style checkpoints in Washington DC. It was a landmark victory when the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled unconstitutional the police practice of stopping people in their cars at checkpoints, interrogating them, and preventing them from driving on even though they were never suspected of committing a crime. Washington DC’s Chief of Police had considered appealing the Appeals Court decision to the US Supreme Court, but he decided to simply do away with the program.
- In 2005 Congress required the US Department of Labor to produce a report listing goods produced by child labor and slave labor around the world. The Bush regime dragged their feet and when DOL finally produced the report they kept it secret. Public pressure forced the current DOL to publicly release it.
- Congress finally passed a law protecting gays, lesbians, and transgender people from hate crimes. President Obama signed it into law. People worked more than a decade for this victory.
- Right-wing extremist Glenn Beck’s racist and hate-filled broadcasts prodded Color of Change and other grassroots groups to mount massive pressure on advertisers to stop advertising on Beck’s program. In response to 275,000 e-mails and phone calls, more than 60 major companies have withdrawn their ads.
- Massive and vigorous public pressure removed Lou Dobbs from CNN, where he had been spouting lies and bigotry that targeted immigrants, especially Latinos.
- Strong public pressure forced US Attorney General Holder to release the so-called “torture memos” that would document the role of the Bush regime’s lawyers in authorizing torture.

- Supporters of Constitutional rights seem to have convinced Congress and President Obama not to establish a new, permanent system of indefinite detention, which would have allowed the US government to imprison people forever without charges and without trial. Congress heard so much opposition to the scheme that they told Obama not to propose it. (However, the US continues to imprison people without charge at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and at Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan, which could become the new Guantánamo -- except with more prisoners, in harsher conditions, and no access to lawyers. Stay tuned – and stay active – on this one!) (*See page 10*)
- Powerful public advocacy convinced the Centers for Disease Control and President Obama to end the discriminatory ban that had prevented persons with HIV from entering the US.
- After a company that sells children's books had removed one of its books from popular school book fairs simply because a character has two moms, public pressure forced the book company to reverse its decision – and make a public commitment to “a review process that considers all books equally regardless of their inclusion of LGBT characters and same sex parents.”
- For years the Environmental Protection Agency has rubber-stamped coal companies' requests to remove entire mountaintops to extract the coal there. Now the EPA has declared that all 79 of the pending permits submitted by the Army Corps of Engineers would likely violate the Clean Water Act. More than 150,000 environmental activists worked with one nonprofit organization to achieve this, and other organizations also mobilized many thousands of persons. Giant coal companies are using their wealth and political power to resume their destructive practices, so we need to make this temporary delay permanent.
- Public pressure stopped coal companies' attempt to prevent the US Environmental Protection Agency from spending money to "regulate or control carbon dioxide" from any sources other than a mobile source next year. We protected our climate from global warming pollution from coal plants and other big polluters by keeping EPA regulation alive.
- Public pressure forced many well-known giant corporations to resign from the US Chamber of Commerce, which had recently begun fighting legislation to protect our global climate.
- Activists forced Nestlé to withdraw its proposal to build a bottling facility in McCloud, California, because it would have hurt local water resources and increased corporate control over local resources. This follows a successful campaign to limit the amount of water Nestlé could withdraw in a Michigan county.
- After years of neglect, the National Park System's 2010 funding will increase significantly over 2009, thanks partly to vigorous and organized support from the public.
- In November voters throughout Washington State elected environmental candidates in the vast majority of races where environmental issues were at stake.

ECONOMICS, LABOR, COMMUNICATIONS:

- People who support the climate and American jobs united to make sure that a Texas wind farm project seeking stimulus funds will build the equipment in the US instead of China, as originally planned. A new US plant will manufacture wind turbines and create 1,000 American green jobs.
- Public pressure forced the US Department of Justice to begin investigating the giant, abusive Monsanto Corporation for anti-trust violations. Monsanto has cornered 90% of the soy, 65% of the corn, and 70% of the cotton market, and has a rapidly growing presence in the fruit and vegetable market. Finally, the Justice Department has started to take action, partly in response to massive public pressure.
- Supporters of local community-based radio convinced a US House subcommittee to overwhelmingly approve the Local Community Radio Act (HR 1147). This would open the airwaves to hundreds of local independent radio stations. Grass-roots support pushed this bill farther ahead than ever before.
- Years of public pressure for Net Neutrality (requiring internet providers to treat customers and messages equally, rather than favor their own content) are bearing fruit. New FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced plans for new Net Neutrality rules. Pres. Obama and Congressional strongly support Net Neutrality. The tide is clearly turning in our favor.
- Organized public pressure stopped BusRadio from broadcasting commercial advertising to children on school buses. The final straws included 1,000 formal comments submitted to the Federal Communications Commission.
- Alert consumers challenged the food industry's new marketing scheme to persuade customers to buy more highly processed foods, and consumers won a major victory. The food industry's marketing scheme would have deceived consumers into thinking that these products were more nutritious and less harmful than they really are. Consumers confronted some of the scheme's organizational supporters and exposed the deception. The organizations bailed out of the bogus labeling scheme.
- Consumers seem to have convinced Congress to hold chicken processed in China to the same standards as chicken from here in the US. It took two years for citizen action to defeat agribusiness giants like Tyson, Cargill, and Smithfield.
- Public pressure helped move the Obama administration to direct federal prosecutors not to arrest medical marijuana patients and caregivers who are complying with state laws. This is the most significant, positive policy development on the federal level for medical marijuana since 1978. It is an especially big change from the Bush regime, which had used federal agents to raid, arrest, and otherwise terrorize medical marijuana and their caregivers in the 13 states that have passed medical marijuana laws.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE:

- Environmental activists helped persuade the Environmental Protection Agency to protect rivers, lakes and streams from toxic coal wastes.

MANY ISSUES ARE STALLED AND NEED MUCH MORE PROGRESS

WHILE WE CELEBRATE THE SUCCESSES LISTED ON PAGES 8 AND 9, WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK ON OTHER ISSUES THAT ARE STALLED OR MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

Bogging down in Afghanistan's quagmire of corruption:

Before Hamid Karzai was appointed to run Afghanistan in December 2001, Karzai was reportedly a consultant for Unocal, the giant US oil company that had been trying for some years to build an oil pipeline through Afghanistan. After the first few years of war – and incredible fraud and corruption – the Afghan government governed only about as far as the city limits of the capital, Kabul. The rest of the country has been run by various warlords, drug kingpins (Afghanistan still supplies about 90% of the world's opium poppies, and Karzai's brother is widely reported to be a major drug dealer), and other undemocratic elements. The US pays warlords and extortioners "protection money" to let the US run trucks of supplies along the nation's highways. (See *The Nation* magazine, Nov. 30, 2009).

Accepting Afghanistan's phony election: On August 20, 2009, Karzai declared victory, but the election was characterized by very widespread intimidation, lack of security, ballot-stuffing, and other electoral fraud. Karzai rebuffed pro-democracy pressure for an honest run-off election with the other top candidate. Instead, Karzai insisted that the decision about a new election would be made by an electoral commission that he had packed with his own appointees. Only after the overwhelming evidence could no longer be denied did Karzai admit that he had won less than 50% of the votes and accept international demands for the run-off election. However, Karzai used his power to prevent meaningful voting reforms that pro-democracy people were urging, so the run-off would still be as corrupt and fraudulent as the original election. In response, his run-off opponent withdrew in protest, and Karzai was declared the winner. **In spite of all this, he US government – which pays lip service to democracy – accepted Karzai as the continuing leader of Afghanistan and continues to send tens of thousands of US troops and spends countless billions of dollars to defend Karzai's corrupt, undemocratic government.**

Expanding US military threats to Latin America: The US and Colombia recently arranged for the US military to use seven Colombian military bases for the next ten years. This will give the US military a much larger presence in Latin America and the ability to easily reach nearly anywhere. The rationale was to support "counter-narcotic" and "counter-insurgency" efforts within Colombia. However, a recently publicized U.S. Air Force document reveals a far more ominous explanation and emphasizes the **"opportunity for conducting full spectrum operations throughout South America" against "anti-U.S. governments" in the region.**

Trashing democracy and human rights in Honduras:

After Honduras' military and right-wing business elites violently overthrew the government on June 28, the US government has waffled back and forth between criticizing it and accepting it. The Organization of American States (OAS) and world opinion denounced the coup and demanded the return of democratically elected president Manuel Zelaya. The military has violently suppressed civil liberties and prevented meaningful democracy, but is holding an election in which meaningful dissent is not allowed. **The US is virtually alone in the world in pretending that the phony election is valid.**

Violating human rights at Guantanamo and elsewhere:

While we are glad that a new, permanent system of indefinite detention without charges or trial was withdrawn, we remain frustrated that **the US continues to imprison people without charge at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and at Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan.** Guantanamo remains open, despite President Obama's promises, and **the US imprisons many more persons at Bagram and other places outside of the US without constitutional protections.**

Abusing our Constitutional rights: After eight years of abuse to the US Constitution, freedom-lovers are disappointed that **President Obama has continued to practice many of Bush's worst policies**, including violating people's privacy, expanding government secrecy, immunizing government officials who were responsible for torturing people, and other abuses.

Invading your computer privacy: Just recently the US government subpoenaed IndyMedia.us (an independent progressive news service) to provide the e-mail address of all visitors to its website on a certain day, and also ordered IndyMedia not to disclose that the government had demanded this. We would have expected this from the Bush regime, but not from the current administration. The Electronic Frontier Foundation acted quickly to protect our civil liberties in this case.

Renewing the Patriot Act's worst parts: The US Senate Judiciary Committee and President Obama are trying to renew many abusive parts of the unjust Patriot Act, which are set to expire on December 31. These leaders are trying to continue Bush's abuse of civil liberties, including National Security Letters, which the FBI uses to compel Internet service providers, libraries, banks, and credit reporting companies to turn over sensitive information about their customers and patrons – and compile vast dossiers about innocent people. They also want to continue the "material support" statute, which criminalizes a very broad range of activities,

regardless of whether they actually or intentionally further terrorist goals or organizations. Obama also quietly supported continuation of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which legalized Bush's blatantly illegal dragnet collection of U.S. residents' international telephone calls and e-mails without warrants.

Refusing to oppose landmines: In late November the Obama administration refused to sign an international document banning landmines. More than 150 other countries have signed it, but not the US.

Refusing to support women's rights: The US, which pays lip service to human rights, has **not yet ratified the Treaty for the Rights of Women**. The treaty has been stuck in the US Senate for 30 years! The US is one of only 7 or 8 countries in the world (e.g., Sudan and Somalia).

Accepting a "cap-and-trade" bill that is too weak to seriously reduce global climate disruption: The European Union's 2005 "cap-and-trade" deal resulted in windfall profits for electric utilities, higher energy costs to customers, and questionable reductions in emissions. **Both the US House and Senate versions of the "cap and trade" bill are full of shortcomings.** The program of using "carbon offsets" has been a colossal failure in fighting global warming. Both bills give away the vast majority of emission allowances for free to polluting industries. The bills also would transfer wealth from taxpayers to the nuclear and fossil fuel utilities. Both bills set low targets and defer cuts until later than the prompt progress that is necessary. The bills would put Wall Street in charge of an unregulated secondary energy market which could easily be gamed. (Look at what Wall Street did with derivatives and the subprime mortgage market!).

Reducing our hopes for Copenhagen's climate protection goals: What began with high hopes for progress to protect our global climate seems to be limping toward **verbal promises instead of commitments**, and scaled-back promises at that. The biggest carbon emitters – the US and China – each feels less need to do much to solve the problem as long as the other doesn't do much either. The worldwide gathering at Copenhagen now seems slated to produce promises that perhaps some goals will be set when the nations meet next year in Mexico City.

Dumbing down Americans' knowledge of global warming: Public opinion polls show declining numbers of Americans who think global warming is caused by humans. Coal and oil companies and right-wing political and media forces have been putting out propaganda that contradicts what a consensus of scientists have been saying, and **the propaganda seems to be swaying public opinion.**

Protecting health insurance companies more than the public: Awhile ago President Obama stopped talking about "health care reform" and started talking about "health insurance reform." His rhetoric matched Congress's failure to design legislation to provide strong health care for all Americans. Instead we have legislation to **subsidize capitalistic insurance companies** to cover only some people and a "public option" that is so weak that it will **serve only a tiny percentage of the people who need it**. The bills' few good parts are popular and could easily have passed as stand-alone legislation.

Appointing chemical agribusiness cronies to high level positions: President Obama is continuing some of the same kinds of appointments that Bush was doing – **favoring the special interests over the public interest**. Despite his campaign promise of "change," he is **nominating a number of special-interest insiders to key positions**. For example, Obama recently nominated agribusiness executive Islam Siddiqui for the position of chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative. When Siddiqui worked for the US Department of Agriculture, he attempted to weaken or kill the original organic standards by overriding guidelines proposed by the organic advisory board. The USDA organic label proposed by his office would have allowed the use of sewage sludge, irradiation, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and even some synthetic pesticides. Only a public outcry convinced the USDA to reverse that decision. Now Obama wants him to be chief negotiator for international agricultural trade. Likewise, Obama is appointing Roger Beachy, who had worked for a Monsanto-funded chemical agribusiness science lab.

Failing to meaningfully reform banks or Wall Street: You'd think that giving countless hundreds of billions of taxpayers' dollars to banks and Wall Street would come with some strings attached – and perhaps some tough reforms to prevent them from continuing the reckless behavior that caused the global financial collapse. You'd think that, but you'd be wrong. As one prominent US Senator stated, **"The banks own Congress."** The reforms offered are minimal.

Neglecting homeless people while rescuing banks and Wall Street: A special rapporteur from the United Nations criticized the **US's failure to address the worsening homeless crisis**. A British news report said, "A United Nations special investigator who was blocked from visiting the US by the Bush administration has accused the American government of pouring billions of dollars into rescuing banks and big business while treating as 'invisible' a deepening homeless crisis."

THESE ISSUES TEACH US THIS LESSON:

**PEOPLE WHO WANT PEACE AND SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE
NEED TO KEEP WORKING AS HARD NOW AS WE EVER HAVE.**

NEWS – RESOURCES – OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Olympia FOR's new Book Group on reducing war's role in our society: The Olympia FOR's strategic plans include creating more opportunities to enhance our sociability while working for peace and justice. A book group serves both objectives. Chuck Schultz wants to convene a book discussion group with the tentative theme: "**How can we overcome war's solidly established role in society?**" The idea is to improve our chances for a peaceful society. Chuck invites people to meet and discuss the theme, where and when to meet regularly, what kind of convener/leader we need, guidelines for satisfying discussions, how to select books, and books you would like to consider. He says, "Call or e-mail me, and let's get started." (306) 705 8520 chuck-schultz3@msn.com

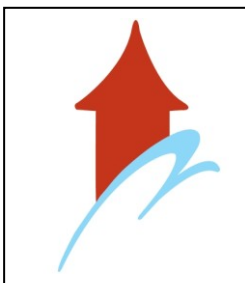
Attend a series of small group gatherings to learn about the practical power of nonviolence: How can nonviolence be used effectively in a variety of situations? The Olympia FOR's members want to learn about nonviolence, according to the information we received during our strategic planning process. Starting in January, anyone interested in meeting on a few Saturdays and/or Sundays will have opportunities to watch some exceptionally interesting DVDs and read some materials that break new ground with very practical information about nonviolence's power and effectiveness. The first DVD features long-time nonviolent activist and trainer George Lakey discussing the difference between using nonviolence for "social change," "social defense," and "third-party nonviolent intervention." Each has different uses and strategies, and all three can be effective. Please contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 glen@olywa.net so we can arrange a schedule that will meet everyone's needs.

A festival for peace, justice, the local environment, and more: Terry Zander invites people to join him in planning a two-day event at Heritage Park on Saturday and Sunday September 18-19, 2010. He envisions music, food, dancing, a parade, non-competitive games, and much more! Terry invites people to see a festival in India at www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrB7f6-vSdI (*The organizers in India invited Olympia's Bernie Meyer to attend and portray Mahatma Gandhi there. Look for Bernie many times in this video!*) Who wants to generate ideas and start planning for next September's festival in Olympia? Contact Terry at 943-6109 tezzer1.tz@gmail.com



SOA Watch and Father Roy Bourgeois have been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize because of their sustained faithful nonviolent witness against the disappearances, torture, and murder of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians by Latin American military forces who were trained at the US Army School of the Americas at US taxpayer expense. SOA Watch and Bourgeois were nominated by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the Quaker-based peace and justice organization that had won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947. Info: www.soaw.org

Keep on organizing for single-payer health care: People nationwide and here in Thurston County are still organizing for single-payer health care. Contact Sandy Mayes at 956-1136 sandymayes36@gmail.com



Help end family homelessness this holiday season: Housing for a family requiring a 1-bedroom home would cost \$450/month (\$5,400/year), 2-bedroom \$500/month (\$6,000/year), or 3-bedroom \$625/month (\$7,500/year). Register to sponsor a homeless family, and join together with your friends, family, coworkers, or service group to raise funds for one family's housing. Hold fundraising events. Give a warm home instead of material presents this holiday season. Or simply write a check to The Family Support Center with "HBH" indicated in the note section, and mail it to: ATTN: Family Support Center P.O. Box 784, Olympia WA 98507-0784. Credit/Debit payments are accepted online at www.familysupportctr.org. Please indicate that the donation is for "HBH." Information: Patty Gregory, Programs Manager, 754-9297 ext 206, or programmanager@familysupportctr.org

Start the nuclear abolition process now: The US-Russian Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) expires on December 5. In June Presidents Obama and Medvedev pledged to sign a replacement agreement by the end of this year. But even if they do, the agreement will only reduce ready-to-use, long-range warheads. It will not affect those held in reserve, non-strategic warheads, or the size of the total stockpiles, nor will it require dismantlement of any nuclear warheads. It will not affect either country's nuclear use policies, and in 2016 each side will still retain a total inventory of **more than 7,000** nuclear weapons – still enough to destroy all life on this planet! An agreement to succeed START is only a modest step toward controlling nuclear weapons. Much more must be done if the US and Russia are to meet their 40-year old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obligation to negotiate in good faith the **elimination** of their nuclear arsenals. Info: wslf@earthlink.net

Elementary and secondary school students deliberately socialize across races on “Mix It Up Day” – In most public schools the kids segregate themselves by race at various lunch tables and in small groups on playgrounds. But throughout the entire nation, on “Mix It Up Day” the students at a growing number of elementary, middle and high schools deliberately choose to sit with and play with kids of other races. They create banners and other publicity to encourage kids to reach out and make new friends of different races. The Southern Poverty Law Center promotes this and receives feedback. See www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up

Buy Local – Keep our dollars in our local community: The 2010 “Our Money Matters” Local Savings Book is hot off the press! Information: 918-3740 buylocalss@gmail.com www.sustainsouthsound.org

Protect civil liberties in the State legislative session: The ACLU accomplished great results during the 2009 legislative session. When the Legislature reconvenes on January 11, it will consider legislation about government surveillance, reforming marijuana laws, replacing the death penalty with life without parole, and more. You can help! If you are not already on the Washington State ACLU’s E-mail Activist Network, sign up now. Visit action.aclu-wa.org

Free labor history presentations are available now! The Labor Center at The Evergreen State College offers great stories from the history of labor organizing, a Power Point slide show, and music! They can bring this educational and entertaining presentation to classrooms, meetings or events. Contact Sarah Laslett, Labor Educator for Union and Community Women, at 360-867-6527 lasletts@evergreen.edu

Global Youth Connect – Summer 2010 International Human Rights Training in Bosnia: Persons aged 18-30 may apply for the program, which will run from June 23 to July 13, 2010. Tuition is \$2,500. Information and applications are at www.globalyouthconnect.org/participate

Intensive training in peacebuilding next summer in Canada: The second annual Canadian School of Peacebuilding, a program of Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from June 14 to July 2, 2010. Three 5-day sessions, each with two or three courses running concurrently, will be offered for academic credit or for professional training for practitioners. The Canadian School of Peacebuilding has been created to serve practitioners, professionals, activists, students, non-governmental organizations and faith-based groups engaged in peacebuilding. Enjoy their excellent and quite varied curriculum with outstanding instructors! Info: www.cmu.ca/csop

"Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him."
-- Martin Luther King Jr.

"If we could read the secret history of our 'enemies,' we should find in each person's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."
-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"Compassion is the radicalism of this age."
-- The Dalai Lama

CALENDAR

EVENTS SPONSORED by FOR ARE PRECEDED by THE symbol ►

PHONE NUMBERS ARE IN (360) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

TCTV PROGRAMS USE CABLE CHANNEL 22 IN THURSTON COUNTY.

EVERY WEEK:

NOTE: TCTV programs use cable channel 22 within Thurston County.

► **Every Sunday evening at 10 pm AND every Wednesday morning at 3 am:** The Olympia FOR's "Big Picture" documentary videos on TCTV. DEC: "Breaking Ranks" and "Deserter." JAN: "Venezuela Rising." See page 3. Info: Carol 866-7645 carolburns98@comcast.net

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

Every Monday through Friday from 9 to 10 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: "The 'Three-Strikes' Laws Are Unjust." JAN: "Protect the Separation of Church and State." See page 2 or www.olyfor.org

► **Every Wednesday from 12 noon to 1 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 Thursday at 9:30 am and every Friday from 9 to 10 pm: Veterans for Peace airs a locally produced program on TCTV. Info: Robert Poteat (360) 880-4226 rpoteat@hotmail.com

Every Thursday from 12 to 1 pm: "Parallel University" on KAOS 89.3 FM features interesting, informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. Info: Kim Dobson at parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

► **Every Thursday from 9 to 10 pm:** Olympia FOR's TCTV Program: DEC: "The 'Three-Strikes' Laws Are Unjust." JAN: "Protect the Separation of Church and State." See page 2 or www.olyfor.org

► **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. Also enjoy the Artesian Rumble Arkestra jazz band that performs here to support our vigil! Sponsor: Olympia FOR. Info: 491-9093 info@olyfor.org

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

► **Every 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 peacepoet@gmail.com 360-807-5106

SPECIFIC DATES:

Wed Dec 2: Film: “The Yes Men Fix the World” – This is a screwball true story about two gonzo political activists who – posing as top executives of giant corporations – lie their way into big business conferences and pull off the world’s most outrageous pranks that expose corporate greed. From New Orleans to India to New York City, armed with little more than cheap thrift-store suits, the Yes Men squeeze raucous comedy out of all the ways that corporate greed is destroying the planet. Watch the film with members of the Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net) and then go to a nearby restaurant for snacks, drinks and social networking. 6:30 pm at Capitol Theater 206 5th Ave SE, Olympia. Info: www.tcpronet.org

► **Thurs Dec 3: “The ‘Three-Strikes’ Laws Are Unjust.”** Olympia FOR’s December TCTV program debuts today and airs this month every Thursday at 9:00 pm and every Monday at 1:30 pm on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County. (See page 2) Info: info@olyfor.org www.olyfor.org or 491-9093

Sun Dec 6: Support GI resisters Travis Bishop and Leo Church, who are being held at in Fort Lewis brig: They are being held virtually incommunicado, and their Sixth Amendment right to private conversations with their attorney has been routinely violated. The army is abusing their rights in many other ways. Leo Church will be released December 11. Gather from 1:30 to 3:30 pm outside gates at Fort Lewis (Exit 122 on I-5), and gather at nearby Coffee Strong, 15109 Union Ave. SW (west on Berkeley Street exit, right on Union), Lakewood.



Sun Dec 6: “Seven Days from a Gaza Diary” – This is a riveting personal account of the first seven days of Israel’s

assault on Gaza last winter, written by a young woman living under the bombing. Hear these excerpts from the diary of 27-year old Khulood Ghanem, who wrote about her experiences throughout Israel’s 22-day assault on Gaza. Seattle playwright Edward Mast adapted the first seven days of her diary for reading performance. This debut in Tacoma features three actors. Enjoy a post-performance Q&A with the director and a friend of the diarist. 4 pm at Kings Books, 218 St. Helens Ave, slightly north of downtown Tacoma. Free admission.

Sun Dec 6: Bridges Not Walls meets to plan ways to help our communities value and respect immigrants:

For meeting time, location, etc., contact bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net

Sun Dec 6: International Trauma Treatment Program graduation & fundraiser: ITTP will award diplomas to Chester Clark of Liberia and Ivana Vidacovic of Serbia. Both have collaborated for three months with our volunteer faculty to improve trauma treatment in Olympia and overseas. The evening will include refreshments (beer, wine, non-alcoholic drinks, breads, cheeses, olives, and various delectable dishes provided by volunteers), a silent auction, and a live auction. This is ITTP’s only fundraiser for the year. Tickets are \$40 per person. 5-8 pm at the Phoenix Inn, 415 N. Capitol Way. Reservations: Juliet Van Eenwyk 493-1592 or at ittpolympia@gmail.com

► **Sun Dec 6: Sri Lankan curry dinner to benefit Olympia FOR:** Peter Gerard will prepare three curry dishes from his home country of Sri Lanka. Enjoy these with rice, a vegetable platter, and beverages. 6:00 pm at the home of Dennis and Anne Mills in NW Olympia. Suggested donation is \$15-25. Seating is limited. Please RSVP right away to Alice Zillah, alicezillah@yahoo.com 357-7705

Mon Dec 7: POWER Outage: “Brainstorming for Legislative Change” – On the first Monday of every month, **Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER)** meets to do something special together with our community. Sometimes it’s a training, discussion, or film screening. This month they’ll hold a potluck dinner and plan how to get poor people’s voices heard at the State Legislature, which convenes on January 11. First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia. 5:30 potluck, on-site childcare 6-8 pm. Info: 352-9716 welfare-rights@riseup.net www.oly-wa.us/power

Mon Dec 7: Save Our Sound Soirée: Sway to the rhythms of the live band Jungle Boss and watch some of the unaired footage about Puget Sound in the “Frontline: Poisoned Waters” program. This is your chance to find out what **People For Puget Sound** is doing in the South Sound and to help Save Our Sound! Bring your friends, bring your neighbors and please, bring your checkbook. Please plan on a minimum donation of \$10 at the door with a suggested donation of \$25. Food and drink will be provided. 7-9 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW. Info & RSVP: 754-9177

Tues Dec 8: Candlelight vigil for a strong Public Option: Bring signs and candles to demand a STRONG public option in the health care legislation. 5-6 pm at Percival Landing, 4th & Water SW. Info: Lee 923-4806 leestacie@comcast.net

Tues Dec 8: National Organization for Women (NOW) meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW. Info: Linda Malanchuk 357-7272

Tues Dec 8: Organize to stop sweatshops: South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices. SSCCC meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Info: Dick Meyer 705-2819 and www.southsoundcleanclothes.org

Wed Dec 9: League of Women Voters: Organizing a Food Education Program: They are considering a wide variety of food-related subjects, and they welcome your input as they create this education program. 6-7 pm at 2221 Water Street SW, just west of Capitol Way. Info: Eve Johnson 754-1455 johnsonel@peoplepc.com

► **Wed Dec 9: Olympia FOR Steering Committee meets** for overall planning and decision-making. 7:00 at Monica Hoover's home in NE Olympia. Everyone is welcome. Parking is quite limited, so please carpool. Directions: 943-3070 mmhoove@gmail.com. Agenda: Jody 915-6757 hungryforpeace@gmail.com or Berd 259-4291 robertfwhitlock@gmail.com

Thurs Dec 10: Human Rights Day: On this date in 1948 the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document is so revolutionary that it has yet to be seriously implemented. Info: www.un.org/en/rights

Thurs Dec 10: Enjoy an uplifting presentation on "Our Journey to Smile" about the young Afghans who are vigiling for peace and engaging others around the world, including Olympia's VFP, FOR, and other peace supporters. 6-7 pm at Olympia Library, 8th & Franklin. Info: Terry Zander 943-6109 tezzer1.tz@gmail.com



Fri Dec 11: Heartsparkle Players: "Stories of the Power of Youth" -- This month's performance collaborates with Planned Parenthood's Teen Council. **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 is welcome! A \$5-\$10 donation is requested if you can afford it; nobody is turned away. 7:30 pm at Traditions Cafe, 5th & Water SW, Olympia. Info: Debe Edden 943-6772 debek@olywa.net www.heartsparkle.org

Sat Dec 12: Alternative Gift Fair: Tired of commercialized holiday gift-giving? Give something from 25 local charitable organizations that feed the hungry, help the homeless, protect our environment, and more. Olympia Center, 222 Columbia NW. Info: Debbie 754-5397

Sat-Sun Dec 12-13: ArtPOWER: A sale and celebration of local artists and crafters – to benefit local welfare rights organizing: Find unique and affordable gifts! Listen to live music! Eat fabulous desserts! Support an important cause! All proceeds benefit the artists and Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER). POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated. They will accept donations of art until Fri Dec 11. Artists can keep up to 50% of the proceeds. 10 am to 5 pm at Whittle, 116 Capitol Way N, in downtown Olympia. Info: 352-9716 welfarerights@riseup.net www.oly-wa.us/power

► **Sat Dec 12: Lewis County's FOR Chapter – the "Fire Mountain FOR" -- meets** from 1 to 3 pm at the St. Lucia Coffeehouse, Locust & Tower in downtown Centralia, following their 12 noon to 1 pm peace vigil nearby in Washington Park on Pearl Street. Info Larry Kerschner 360-807-5106 or peacepoet@gmail.com

► **Sun Dec 13: Delicious homemade vegetarian Brunch to Benefit Olympia FOR:** Chuck Schultz and Rozanne Rants will make everything from scratch, including Chuck's famous home-baked bread, the quiche, and the frittata. Also enjoy fruit compote, coffee and tea. They will host you at their home in NE Olympia. Suggested donation is \$15-\$20. Seating is limited. Please RSVP right away to Alice Zillah, 357-7705 alicezillah@yahoo.com

Sun Dec 13: PFLAG-Olympia Monthly Meeting: PFLAG is the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender persons. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of these persons and their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. 2:00-4:30 p m in the Gathering Place room at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE (near Boundary Street), Olympia. Info: www.pflag-olympia.org

Sun Dec 13: Veterans for Peace #109 monthly meeting: 5:30 pm, Traditions Cafe, 5th & Water SW. Info: Terry Zander 943-6109 tezzer1.tz@gmail.com

Sun Dec 13: TCTV Annual Membership Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner: Hear a review of 2009's activities and what's ahead for 2010. Meet candidates for the Board of

Directors. Enjoy Q&A. 5-7 pm at Lacey Senior Center, 6757 Pacific Ave SE, next to the Lacey Community Center. Dinner is served at 5:00 pm, and the meeting starts at 5:45. Info: 956-3100 www.tctv.net

► **Sun Dec 13: Gourmet Indian Dinner to Benefit Olympia FOR:** Dr. Muhammad Ayub says, “I love to feed people!” He and his wife Amy will prepare lamb curry, chana masala, dal maharani, mango chutney, basmati rice, potato curry, salads, pita bread, and desserts, and they will host you in their home on the far east side near Martin Way. Suggested donation is \$15-\$25. Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Alice Zillah, alicezillah@yahoo.com 357-7705

► **Mon Dec 14: Enjoy a cozy home-style vegetarian dinner inspired by the Moosewood Cookbook – and an “old-timey” fiddle band – to Benefit Olympia FOR:** Audrey Daye, a talented and passionate cook, will delight you with her creations. Also enjoy Pedestrian Interference, an “old-timey” fiddle band. Suggested donation is \$8-\$20. After-hours seating at Traditions Café (5th & Water SW, downtown) is abundant, but Audrey needs to know how much food to prepare, so please RSVP to Alice Zillah, 357-7705 alicezillah@yahoo.com

Mon Dec 14: Thurston County Climate Action: “Imagine Olympia” – Review and comment on the City of Olympia’s Comprehensive Plan Update. Put Climate into the Comp Plan: 7-9 pm at the MIXX 96 Meeting Room at the SW corner of State and Washington. Info: Barb 878-9901

► **Tues Dec 15: Death penalty abolition committee of Olympia FOR** meets to educate ourselves and work on further activities to abolish that atrocity. 7 pm at a special location in Lacey. Info: Rozanne or Chuck, 705-8520 rozannerants@yahoo.com chuckschultz3@msn.com

Tues Dec 15: Film: “In Transition: From Oil Dependence to Local Resilience” -- This newly released documentary about the Transition Movement is about change, hope, and creating a practical vision for a post-consumer, post-fossil-fuel society where ordinary people can make a difference. The public is warmly invited to this free event. Following the film, a Fossil Fuel Fir Tree will be decorated with items we will learn to live without when we run out of fossil fuels. Please bring items in reality, in miniature or in paper suitable for a five foot tree. 7-9 pm at MIXX 96, SW corner of State and Washington, Olympia. Info: www.transitionolympia.com

► **Sat Dec 19: Olympia FOR’s 34th Annual Holiday Peace Vigil:** Join 100-200 other local folks in a friendly vigil for peace from 12 noon to 1 pm at Percival Landing’s south end (4th & Water SW) and along the south side of 4th near Heritage Fountain. Gather afterward nearby for social

time and plenty of free refreshments, including delicious soups and plenty of munchies. See page 1 and the enclosed flyer. Info: 491-9093 info@olyfor.org

Sun Dec 20: Bridges Not Walls meets to plan ways to help our communities value and respect immigrants: For meeting time, location, etc., contact bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net

Sun Dec 20: Veterans for Peace: Monthly meeting: 5:30 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia. Info: Terry Zander 943-6109 tezzer1@tz.gmail.com www.vfp109rcc.org



Sat Dec 26: Jim Page performs politically astute and witty folk music at 8:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia. Bonnie Raitt enthusiastically said, “Jim’s been writing great topical songs for as long as I can remember, bringing his acute wit and wry humor to a host of subjects that can really use both. In the tradition of Woody and Dylan, he cuts right to the heart with music you actually enjoy listening to. I’m a longtime admirer.” Tickets: \$12 Student/low income: \$8



Mon Dec 28: Peace Vigil for the Holy Innocents to remember child victims of war: 7-8 am (morning rush hour) on the south side of 4th Ave SW, west of Water Street, across from Oyster House Restaurant in downtown Olympia. The children

killed and injured by our weapons and policies are dismissed as “collateral damage.” We challenge this dismissal and challenge the war policies that create more child victims. Info: Bob Zeigler 570-0848 zeiglerbob@msn.com

Mon-Wed Dec 28-30: Winter Freedom School for persons aged 15-21 to learn about racism and how to undo it: 10 am to 4pm each day includes presentations, lunches, field trips, and more. Seattle. Sponsors: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the People’s Institute NW. Info: Dustin Washington 206-632-0500 ext.14 dwashington@afsc.org or John Page 206-250-7737. Applications are due by December 10, 2009.

Thurs Dec 31: Gaza Freedom March: Many thousands of Palestinians in Gaza – along with an international delegation – will participate in an historic nonviolent march in northern Gaza toward the Erez border crossing with Israel to focus international attention on Israel’s ongoing siege of Gaza, one year after Israel had brutally attacked last December. Solidarity actions will also occur elsewhere. The International Coalition to End the Illegal Siege of Gaza is mobilizing an international contingent for a nonviolent

march alongside the people of Gaza to end Israel's illegal blockade. www.gazafreedommarch.org

Sun Jan 3: Bridges Not Walls meets to plan ways to help our communities value and respect immigrants: For meeting time, location, etc., contact bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net

► **Mon Jan 4: "Protect the Separation of Church and State." Olympia FOR's January TCTV program** debuts today and airs this month every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm and every Thursday 9-10 pm on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County. Info: Glen info@olyfor.org www.olyfor.org 491-9093

Wed Jan 6: Interfaith Works Earth Stewards Meeting: Everyone is invited to participate in a group working to link faith and earth stewardship. Enjoy monthly meetings at First Christian Church, 7th & Franklin SE, Olympia. Info: 459-5825 and LeslieHR@aol.com

Fri Jan 8: Heartsparkle Players: "Audience Up" –This month's performance invites the audience to join the players on stage, and it will also feature Senior Services for South Sound's Forever Young Chorus. **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, 5th & Water SW, Olympia. Info: Debe Edden 943-6772 debek@olywa.net www.heartsparkle.org

Sat Jan 9: Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Annual Meeting: Look for information soon from WCADP, 206-6322-8952 info@abolishdeathpenalty.org or from the Olympia FOR's death penalty abolition committee, 705-8520 rozannerants@yahoo.com chuck-schultz3@msn.com

Sun Jan 10: PFLAG-Olympia Monthly Meeting: PFLAG is the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender persons. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of these persons and their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. 2:00-4:30 p m in the Gathering Place room at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE (near Boundary Street), Olympia. Info: www.pflag-olympia.org

Mon Jan 11: "Facing a Rising Tide" -- Olympia Climate Action's monthly meeting: Olympia Climate Action meets the second Monday of every month, 7-9 pm, at the MIXX 96 Meeting Room at the SW corner of State and Washington. Hear Andy Haub from the City of Olympia talk about sea level rise. Info: Barb 878-9901

Tues Jan 12: "Communicating to Connect" – Nonviolent Communication introductory session: Learn Marshall Rosenberg's radical process to help heal relationships, resolve conflicts, promote social change, and increase personal happiness. Liv Monroe offers excellent insights and skills, 6:45-9:00 pm, Lincoln Elementary School cafeteria, around the corner on Washington Street from 213 21st Ave SE, Olympia. Free, but donations help support these trainings. Info: 357-4503 livmonroe@gmail.com

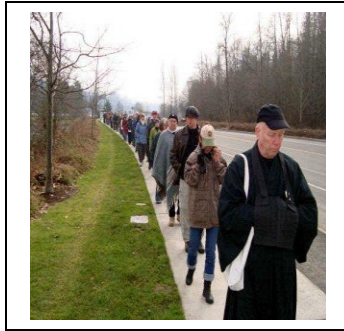
Tues Jan 12: Organize to stop sweatshops: South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices. SSCCC meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Info: Dick Meyer 705-2819 and www.southsoundcleanclothes.org

Tues Jan 12: National Organization for Women (NOW) meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW. Info: Linda Malanchuk 357-7272

Wed Jan 13: "Poetry and Sustainability" – Dr. Don Foran and Dr. Kathleen Byrd will read others' poetry and a bit of their own as they relate the poetry to an ongoing study entitled "Curriculum for the Bioregion." Stephen J. Gould memorably said, "We cannot win this battle to save species and environments without forging an emotional bond ... for we will not fight to save what we do not love." Poetry is a powerful way, as many poets have demonstrated, to forge the necessary emotional bond. Discussion will follow this innovative presentation. 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia. Sponsors: Earth Care Catholics and Interfaith Works. Info: Don Foran 352-5733 foranfam4@gmail.com

Sat Jan 16: Vigil and direct action at Trident nuclear submarine base: The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action invites peace supporters to vigil at the gates and support the nonviolent direct action that will occur there. This is a powerful way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who worked for peace as well as justice, and who opposed nuclear weapons. In his 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech Dr. King said, "I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear annihilation." For more than 32 years Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has honored Dr. King's nonviolent spirit as it has steadfastly resisted Trident and worked to abolish nuclear

weapons. Gather at 8:30 am at Ground Zero, 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, for nonviolence training and action planning. We will walk (rides available if needed) to the Bangor Trident submarine base for the afternoon vigil and nonviolent direct action. Bring sack lunch, water, umbrella, warm clothes, money to donate, and a peaceful spirit. A printable flyer and full schedule will soon be available at www.gzcenter.org. Email info@gzcenter.org with questions.



Sun Jan 17: Silent Peace Walk: The South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship will conduct a silent peace walk in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Anyone wishing to walk in silent meditation in support of peace and non-violence is warmly invited to attend.

There will be no banners or signs, no chanting or cheering. Simply people walking in silence for peace, honoring the memory and principles of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The walk will begin precisely at 12 noon. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to allow for instructions. Info: Miles 866-9316 or korodo@msn.com Info about South Sound Buddhist peace Fellowship: www.ssbpf.org This photo shows Olympia's silent peace walk on 2008's MLK Holiday.

Sun Jan 17: Bridges Not Walls meets to plan ways to help our communities value and respect immigrants: For meeting time, location, etc., contact bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net

Sun Jan 17: Veterans for Peace: Monthly meeting: 5:30 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia. Info: Terry Zander 943-6109 tezzer1@tz.gmail.com www.vfp109rcc.org

Mon Jan 18: Martin Luther King Holiday: Look for publicity about various events and activities as this day approaches.



Sun Jan 24: 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 www.ssbpf.org

Mon-Fri Jan 25-29: 40-hour professional mediation training with the Dispute Resolution Center: Learn powerful skills you can use at home, at work, or as a DRC volunteer helping people to solve conflicts in a healthy way. \$585. Info: 956-1155 www.mediatethurston.org

Tues Jan 26: Environmental Lobby Day: Please join Earth Ministry staff, many people of faith, and friends of the environment throughout Washington State in at the State Capitol in Olympia to meet your legislators and support good climate legislation. Your voice will make a difference! Registration for Lobby Day will become available in January. Info: leeanne@earthministry.org or clare@earthministry.org

► **Tues Jan 26: Death penalty abolition committee of Olympia FOR** meets to educate ourselves and work on further activities to abolish that atrocity. 7 pm in Tumwater. Info: Rozanne or Chuck, 705-8520 rozanne-rants@yahoo.com chuckschultz3@msn.com

Five Tuesdays: Jan 26 through Feb 23: Foundations of Nonviolent Communication: If you have taken an introductory workshop (e.g., the one on Tues Jan 12) or read Marshall Rosenberg's book *Nonviolent Communication*, you can develop deeper skills through practice. Communicate from your inner honesty and compassion, hearing others as you would like them to hear you, and incorporating skills for peace of mind, integrity of heart, and true connection. Requested contribution \$125-\$200, \$75 is OK, but discuss with Liv if you can only afford less. Location in NW Olympia. Info: Liv Monroe livmonroe@gmail.com 357-4503

Sat Jan 30: "The Good Soldier" film benefit for Olympia's Veterans for Peace Chapter 109: 4:00 pm, Capitol Theater, where Olympia Film Society operates. Tickets: \$8 general, \$6 OFS member. Info: Terry Zander 943-6109 tezzer1.tz@gmail.com

February is Black History Month. Plan to read substantially and/or to do something significant.

► **Sat Feb 6: Tom Rawson's Folk Music Concert to Benefit Olympia FOR:** Mark your calendars now for 7:30 pm at Traditions Café. Tickets go on sale January 1. Info: (360) 491-9093 info@olyfor.org

Members of Congress should be compelled to wear uniforms like NASCAR drivers, so we could identify their corporate sponsors.

Olympia Fellowship of RECONCILIATION
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EVENTS push and pull us in all directions.
WE MAKE PROGRESS AND SUFFER SETBACKS.

PAGES 4-6 of THIS NEWSLETTER EXAMINE AfGHANISTAN
FROM SEVERAL dimensions.

PAGES 8-9 list A GREAT MANY SUCCESSES SINCE OUR
PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER.

PAGES 10-11 EXAMINE SOME ISSUES WHERE WE HAVE
NOT YET ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR.

**MAY WE GRAPPLE WITH THE REALITIES AND
BREAK THROUGH INTO POSITIVE ACTIONS!**

Mark your 2010 calendars now!
Tickets will go on sale January 1.

**Tom Rawson's
Folk Music Concert
to Benefit Olympia FOR
Sat. Feb. 6, 7:30 pm**

Traditions Café, Olympia
Information: (360) 491-9093 info.olyfor.org



PAGE Table of CONTENTS

1	Holiday Peace Vigil
2	Benefit dinners
2-3 TCTV	DEC: The "Three-Strikes" Laws Are Unjust JAN: Protect the Separation of Church & State
3	"Big Picture" documentaries on TCTV
4-6	Afghanistan: How to Make Peace – 4 articles
7	Olympia FOR's new activities
8-9	Successes since our previous newsletter
10-11	Not nearly enough progress on these issues
12-13	News – Resources – Opportunities
14-21	Calendar

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