

NEWS — RESOURCES — OPPORTUNITIES

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's newsletters work hard to keep you informed of a variety of topics related to peace, social justice, economics, sustainability, etc. Each newsletter includes a series of one-paragraph announcements under the heading **NEWS — RESOURCES — OPPORTUNITIES**. The next few pages include interesting news and action items under these topic headings:

- **PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**
- **HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC JUSTICE**
- **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, RESOURCES, SUSTAINABILITY**
- **MEDIA**
- **OLYMPIA FOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUESTS**

PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urged Congress and Obama to stop the wars, cut the military budget, and use the savings to fund local needs: Mayors from around the US met in Baltimore in June to set public policy for the billions of people living in big cities, depending on municipal services to stay safe. On June 20 the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a bold statement that strongly supports the message that the Olympia FOR, Western Washington FOR, and other peace and civic groups have been organizing. We call our campaign "Bring Our Billion\$ Home," and other organizations have their own names for their own similar campaigns. The message is clear, and the mayors – who are closer to the grassroots people than Obama and Congress are – understand the vital need to stop the wars, cut the military budget, and use the savings to fund local needs. See this newsletter's page 2. More information is at www.commondreams.org/headline/2011/06/207 **In early August the Olympia FOR will post the actual resolution at our website. Visit www.olympiafor.org, click the **Hot Topics** link, and see this resolution.**

Invite your mayor to become a Mayor for Peace! The activists behind the Puget Sound Nuclear Free Zone (<http://psnukesfree.blogspot.com>) are launching an effort to get more mayors to join the international group **Mayors for Peace**. The organization, which originated in Japan and currently has 4,732 member cities in 150 countries, works to raise international public pressure to abolish nuclear weapons. The U.S. Conference of Mayors just recently – and unanimously – called for the abolition of nuclear weapons. (www.wagingpeace.org/articles/db_article.php?article_id=114) Relatively few U.S. mayors currently belong to Mayors for Peace, so we should build on the Conference of Mayors' good work and urge more mayors in the Pacific Northwest to join Mayors for Peace. Ask Leonard Eiger (subversivepeacemaking@gmail.com) to send you a packet with everything you need to approach your local mayor to join this most worthy organization. **In early August the Olympia FOR will post the actual resolution at our website. Visit www.olympiafor.org, click the **Hot Topics** link, and see this resolution.**

The United States has vetoed Palestinian freedom and equality at the United Nations 41 times and announced its 42nd veto: On July 27 the U.S. announced plans to veto the Palestinian demand for self-determination for the 42nd time. Palestine has applied to join the U.N as a member state. The U.S. has repeatedly revealed hypocrisy when it pays lip service to freedom, democracy, and international cooperation, but denies these to Palestine. This obstinacy only marginalizes the U.S. in the world community.

New poll shows most Americans support the United Nations as helping to solve world problems: On May 24, 2011 the Better World Campaign and its sister organization, the United Nations Foundation, released a poll confirming that most Americans view the UN as an important global venue to address the world's greatest challenges. **85% of voters** — Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike — overwhelmingly believe the UN is an important organization in which the U.S. needs to maintain an active role. **6 out of 10 Americans** (60%) favor the U.S. paying our dues to the UN on time and in full. **Nearly 7 in 10 voters**, across party lines, support full funding of our UN peacekeeping commitments. See www.betterworldcampaign.org/news-room/press-releases/poll-shows-overwhelming-voter.html Info: www.betterworldcampaign.org (202) 462-2686

Dissolve NATO after the Cold War's end; it simply promotes wars nowadays: On November 3, 2010, the highly respected pacifist organization War Resisters' International issued a call to dissolve the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). WRI's statement, said, in part: *NATO was founded ostensibly to defend the "free" West against Soviet expansion. Why then did not NATO dissolve when the Soviet Union disintegrated and Warsaw Pact dissolved? The reason is quite simple:*

because it had become the main vehicle for the coordination of Western military strategy. What follows is a call for peace activists to commit ourselves to raise the demand for the dissolution of NATO. You can read the one-page statement and circulate a petition. See <http://wri-irg.org/node/11629> Since then NATO has escalated its militarism to include conducting an illegal war against Libya. Now WRI, the War Resisters League, and many other organizations – including the national Fellowship of Reconciliation – are organizing a campaign leading up to a May 2012 meeting of NATO in Chicago. Now is the time to educate the public and pressure our governments. **In early August the Olympia FOR will post more information at our website. Visit www.olympiafor.org, click **Hot Topics** link, and see this article.**

Global Zero targets nuclear spending: The international anti-nuclear group Global Zero has released data showing that world leaders plan on spending **one trillion** dollars on nuclear weapons over the next ten years – about \$60 billion a year in the US alone. One trillion dollars (\$1,000,000,000,000) would provide education, clean water, and basic health care for millions of people around the world. The yearly cost of just one nuclear weapon would cover healthcare for 36,000 low-income Americans, 99,000 square feet of solar panels, or 400 college scholarships. Global Zero puts pressure on governments and delivers the message: **“If you have to cut the budget, start with nukes, not the things that we desperately need.”** They are inviting people to sign onto the campaign in support, at www.cutnukes.globalzero.org. As Global Zero says, “By making nukes spending part of the national budget conversation, we are reminding them that they work for us, and we expect them to use our money responsibly.”

Obama and Congress want to spend even more money to build even more nuclear weapons! Peace folks have many opportunities to oppose nuclear weapons! The government and mainstream news media have led the public to believe that the U.S. is reducing nuclear weapons (and we are reducing some of them), but they have not warned the public that they want to spend even more money to build even more nuclear weapons. A great many activities are planned for this summer and beyond. **In early August the Olympia FOR will post more information at our website. Visit www.olympiafor.org, click the **Hot Topics** link, and see several articles and updates and links to further information.**



See the new counter-military recruitment leaflet from the War Resisters League: *“Know Before You Go, ‘Cause There’s No Reset Button”* breaks down the enlistment contract and life in the military and provides new statistics about sexual assault in the military, racial disparities in becoming an officer, and stop-loss. It was written to provide the most important info for making a fully informed choice about joining the military, and to be accessible to everyone. The leaflet is a collaboration between with the War Resisters League (a pacifist organization founded in 1923 – www.warre-sisters.org) and Ya-Ya Network (Youth Activists – Youth Allies – www.yayanet-work.org), a youth-led antimilitarist organization based in New York City. It’s available from WRL’s on-line store for 15 cents per copy plus 20% shipping. The black & white and color versions are also available for FREE download. For more information on WRL’s counter-recruitment work, email kimber@warresisters.org or call (212) 228-0450 ext. 12.

Alternatives to joining the military: Know of people, especially youth, who are looking for alternatives to the military? The Center on Conscience and War has some options! CCW recently updated and streamlined its list of alternatives to enlistment, ranging from money for college/university to job training opportunities and apprenticeships to various internships and voluntary service placements. CCW’s information is categorized state by state, allowing for easier searches to finding the desired information. The same list can be found in two parts of its website: www.centeronconscience.org/military-outreach/alternatives-to-enlistment.html and also at www.centeronconscience.org/co/alternatives-to-enlistment.html **More info:** Center on Conscience & War, 1830 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009 www.centeronconscience.org

Nonviolent Peaceforce helps South Sudan: The Nonviolent Peaceforce is an unarmed, paid civilian peacekeeping force, which fosters dialogue among parties in conflict and provides a protective presence for threatened civilians. The Peaceforce has had a presence in South Sudan for one year. Southern Sudan declared independence as a result of the overwhelmingly pro-separation vote in January’s referendum, so Sudan officially divided into two separate countries on July 9. The largely peaceful referendum was the capstone event of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005, which brought an end to over 20 years of civil war between the north and the south. This new country will be one of the least developed nations in the world, requiring ongoing support from the world community. A major goal of Nonviolent Peaceforce is to institutionalize nonviolence by showing that nonviolent conflict intervention should be used as the first strategy for reducing violent conflict and building peace. The Peaceforce is largely supported by individual donations. To learn more and support their work, visit www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org.

SOA Watch to send delegation to Haiti: The SOA Watch movement – formed to restrict US support for military thuggery in Latin America – has conducted solidarity trips to seventeen countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Now SOA Watch will make its first delegation to Haiti from October 1 to 8. Eighteen months after a devastating earthquake shattered Haiti, more than one million people there still remain homeless. Most lack access to basic services like clean water and sewage. The recent cholera epidemic has only served to exacerbate the situation and add 4,000 more victims to the earthquake’s tally of 300,000. The UN presence in the country, with 12,000 military and police forces, does not fully provide the assistance and support needed by the people, but instead represents a “neo-colonial occupation of Haiti” according to deposed president Jean Bertrand Aristide. SOA Watch founder Father Roy Bourgeois and Lisa Sullivan will lead the delegation, which express solidarity with the Haitian people. To request an application to join the delegation, or to just learn more about the trip, e-mail Lisa at LSullivan@soaw.org

Thurston Santo Tomás Sister County Association sustains a strong relationship with Nicaragua: Since 1988 our local community has built and sustained a strong relationship with a sister community in Nicaragua. The Thurston Santo Tomás Sister County Association (TSTSCA) has built peace and across thousands of miles of distance by interacting face-to-face with delegations from north to south and from south to north and by collaborating on practical projects in Santo Tomás. While the Reagan Administration was making war on Nicaragua, people in Thurston County and Santo Tomás forged relationships of mutual understanding and respect. Bypassing governments, we just went ahead and did what was needed – and what was right. Six students from The Evergreen State College spent ten weeks of spring quarter working on hands-on activities in Santo Tomás, and another delegation of Olympia community members went there in July. Look for a report-back from this event in October, and look for additional ways to connect. TSTSCA has 501(c)3 tax-deductibility status. **Some strong supporters of TSTSCA have pledged to match dollar-for-dollar all donations up to a total of \$1,000 that TSTSCA receives by August 31 from persons who have not given to TSTSCA in 2009, 2010, or thus far in 2011.** Please mail donations to TSTSCA, PO Box 561, Olympia WA 98507. To request a copy of TSTSCA’s latest “newsy update” with a lot more information about these activities – or to learn more about TSTSCA and its activities – please contact Jean Eberhardt at (360) 943-8642 or TSTSCA@gmail.com

Host families needed for international teens: Youth for Understanding is looking for volunteers to host an international teen this fall. Host families come in many shapes and sizes – some have young children, some are empty nesters, some are retirees – but all act as exemplary citizen diplomats by welcoming an international visitor into their homes. If you are willing to open yourselves to new experiences, share your lives with a fascinating teenager from a foreign land, and provide guidance, love and support to a young person, you would make a great host family. Since 1951, YFU has been a leader in youth exchange programs in more than 60 countries. As a nonprofit organization, YFU and its dedicated volunteers help exchange more than 4,500 students around the globe each year. Visit the YFU website to learn more about hosting and meet the YFU students arriving later this summer at www.yfuusa.org or call 1-800-872-0200 extension #2.

HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Many prisoners in California suffer a long-term hunger strike to oppose very brutal conditions: Courageous prisoners have organized hunger strikes since early July at Pelican Bay and other California prisons. Conditions in the prisons are very brutal, and California’s prison system and state government have rebuffed efforts to improve the human rights abuses there. The prisoners’ only hope is support from people outside. Outside support is literally a matter of life or death for these prisoners. **In early August the Olympia FOR will post more information for you and phone numbers you can call. Visit www.olympiafor.org, click the **Hot Topics** link, and look for this information.**

Five Myths About Americans in Prison: The U.S. imprisons more persons than any other nation on earth. An article by Marc Mauer and David Cole debunks five common myths, and the *Washington Post* published their article in mid-May. **In early August the Olympia FOR will post this article at our website. Visit www.olympiafor.org, click the **Hot Topics** link, and see this article.**

Privatized prisons abuse prisoners and lobby for more corporations with bad records of mistreating prisoners are imprisoning more immigrants. The Corrections Corporation of running private prisons for state governments, also has government’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) the nation’s largest detainers of undocumented immigrants. abusing prisoners, undertraining guards, and underpaying the GEO Group (GEO), runs the NW Detention Center on waste site). GEO also is charged by watchdog groups with bad industry vigorously lobbies for more prison sentences and for



imprisonment: Several giant lobbying for longer sentences and America (CCA), the largest company contracts with the federal and the U.S. Marshal Service. It is CCA has been widely blamed for guards. Another giant corporation, Tacoma’s tide flats (a superfund toxic conditions. The private prison imprisoning more undocumented

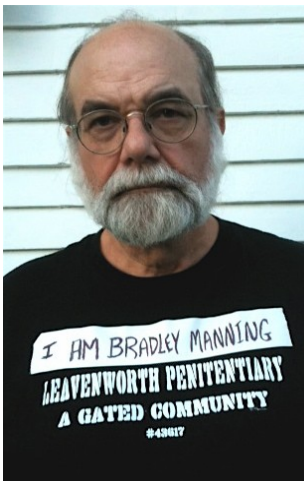
immigrants. Information came from pages 8-9 of the August 2011 issue of *In These Times* (www.inthesetimes.com)

“Running Against the Death Penalty” – Support Olympia woman running a 26.2-mile marathon to raise funds to abolish death penalty: Death penalty abolitionists typically head to Walla Walla, Washington to protest an execution at the Washington State Penitentiary. However, in October 2011, Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (WCADP) Steering Committee member Emily Hammargren will travel from her home in Olympia to Walla Walla to run a marathon against the death penalty. While the Walla Walla Marathon officially has no connection to death penalty abolition efforts, Emily will use the 26.2-mile run as a tool to personally raise funds for WCADP. To support WCADP through Emily’s Walla Walla Marathon Fundraising Project, visit: www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/emilyhammargren/walla_walla_marathon www.tinyurl.com/Walla_Walla_Marathon Info: Emily 352-0695 emily74437@yahoo.com

National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) increases outreach through letters to editors: The American public seems too complacent about accepting torture, so NRCAT created the LTE Project to change American attitudes on torture. To achieve this goal, NRCAT recruits committed supporters from across the country to write three letters per year to their local newspaper(s) on issues related to torture. NRCAT monitors the news for “trigger” topics on torture-related issues. Three times per year, when NRCAT identifies a compelling topic, NRCAT will prepare relevant talking points in response to the issue. LTE Project participants will write the letters (incorporating their own voice and local knowledge) and submit them to their local newspaper(s). If the trigger topic is featured in the LTE Project participants’ local newspaper, the participant’s letter should respond directly to the local article. Sign up at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LK2HZ8B or contact David Fridland at (202) 547-1920 or racintern@nrcat.org for more information.

Mon Aug 15: The Thurston Diversity Council meets at 6:00 pm on third Monday of each month in Building One, Room 152 of the Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW. The Thurston Diversity Council is recruiting members who will help to promote cultural diversity and human rights. Info: Carolyn Lynch 754-6697 and diversitycouncil@msn.com

Help plan the January 2012 Martin Luther King Holiday weekend’s activities: The Thurston Diversity Council and other concerned persons are creating a committee now to plan the annual Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend for January 2012. Meetings occur on various evenings. Info: Ruth Elder 754-2813 or diversitycouncil@msn.com



A creative way to support Bradley Manning, the accused whistleblower: Randy Rowland, a GI resister from a previous era, invites people to support Bradley Manning in a creative way. Bradley Manning is the army private who is accused of slipping information to Wikileaks, including that infamous video of the helicopter gunning down innocent Iraqi civilians, including children and journalists. Instead of being brought to trial, Manning was confined in such torturous conditions that people in the administration left, the international community condemned his treatment, etc. He was subsequently moved to a cell block in Fort Leavenworth, but still has not been tried or convicted. GI resisters from the past and present know the power of GI resistance and the importance of supporting those who do resist. Assuming Bradley did what the government accuses him of, he is a hero, a whistle-blower, the Daniel Ellsberg of these times. You can support him by visiting www.couragetoresist.org Among other things, take a photo of yourself with an “I am Bradley Manning” sign. Talk about his case, vigil, send money, write him letters, etc. We all have to support courageous resisters.

Peace and Conflict Negotiations – Thoughtful grounding in conflict theory and practical suggestions: Dale Raugust wrote a thoughtful and practical article for the May-June 2011 issue of *Handful of Salt*, the newsletter of the FOR’s affiliate in Spokane, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS), www.pjals.org. His article includes some helpful ways to understand a variety of conflicts (international, interpersonal, etc.) and some helpful steps toward resolving conflicts effectively. The article will soon be posted on the Hot Topics page of the Olympia FOR’s website. Visit www.olympiafor.org, click the **Hot Topics** link, and look for this article.

New website promotes publicly owned banks: A group of folks from Keep Our Money In Washington State has designed a new web site on Public Banking and particularly why a publicly owned bank would be good for Washington. It is still a work in progress, but check it out. It is impressive. You can also sign up for a monthly newsletter. wpublicbankproject.org



MIND THE GAP!

The U.S.'s wealth gap weakens our nation and our society: The wealth gap between the “haves” and “have-nots” in the U.S. violates our founding belief that all are created equal, and have equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. A Catholic-based social justice group called NETWORK launched the “Mind the Gap” campaign (www.networklobby.org/campaign/mind-the-gap) to explore the wealth gap in the United States and its effect on who we are as a nation. **The wealth gap is a power gap, and it is cracking the democratic foundation of our country.** NETWORK believes that the large and growing wealth gap is a crisis that needs urgent national attention and action.

A creative alternative to “trickle-down” tax breaks for the rich: On July 24, 2011, John Seavey posted what he calls “The Incentive Plan” at several sites. He questions the conservative demand that we keep rich people’s tax rates low so they’ll create jobs for the rest of us. Instead he proposes tax rates that would provide a powerful incentive for them to create jobs. **If we really want “the free market” to solve problems, he proposes tying the top income tax rate to the unemployment rate.** If unemployment is low, the top tax bracket would be relatively low. But for every percentage point the unemployment rate exceeds a low baseline rate, the top tax bracket would be increased significantly – up to a maximum of 99%, he says. This would provide a strong incentive for the very rich to actually create jobs in the U.S.

Children’s Defense Fund issues report with serious wake-up call to protect our nation’s children from falling even farther behind: “The State of America’s Children 2011”: The new CDF report, *The State of America’s Children® 2011*, is a national wake-up call to our political leaders and to everyone. Either we get our priorities straight and correct course today or we risk losing a more equitable and prosperous American future forever. With rampant unemployment, foreclosures, homelessness, hunger and massive federal and state budget cuts looming, children’s well-being is in great jeopardy. The gap between rich and poor families continued to grow and millions more children fell into poverty. One in five children is poor and children are our nation’s poorest age group. Every 32 seconds another child is born into poverty. American education, once the envy of the world, is in dire straits with more than 60 percent of fourth, eighth and 12th grade public school students reading or doing math below grade level. For Black and Hispanic children, it is nearly 80 percent or more. Children of color, now 44 percent of America’s children, are at increased risk of being uninsured and in poor health and being killed by guns. A Cradle to Prison Pipeline haunts them from birth to adulthood. This downward spiral for America’s children continues through all indicators, as the recession and slow recovery have taken the harshest toll on the most vulnerable. See CDF’s website, www.childrensdefense.org and the report at www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/state-of-americas-children-2011/ and



2011 Global Peace Index ranks U.S. a dismal #82: The 2011 edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) ranks 153 nations based on 23 measurements of the degree of violence in society. Overall, the study indicates that the world is less peaceful this year than previous years. Expansion of international conflicts, political instability, increase in prison populations, greater potential for terrorist acts, lower respect for human rights, and economic decline are crucial contributing factors. The GPI indicates that countries with less discrimination, more informed citizens, high levels of trust, and support for gender equality tend to be more at peace. Iceland is ranked as the country most at peace, replacing New Zealand. Iraq is no longer at the bottom for the first time in five years now that Somalia has replaced it. The United States came in at 82nd – less peaceful than 81 other countries. The full study is available at www.visionofhumanity.org.

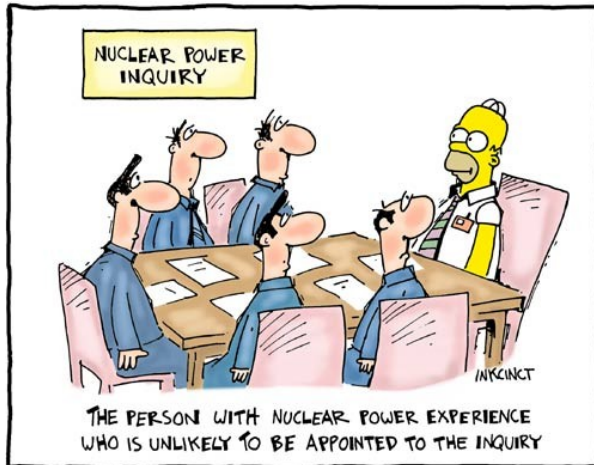
Corporations should not have the Constitutional rights of people! The Olympia chapter of Move to Amend has launched a new website, www.movetoamendolympia.org, and announced many new activities. The group is part of a nationwide effort to amend the Constitution so that corporations will no longer be considered “persons,” endowed with the same rights as actual people. The chapter regularly tables at public locations and participated in Tumwater’s Fourth of July parade. Members will attend the Veterans for Peace national convention in Portland, Oregon, and the August 24-28 Democracy Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. (See p. 19) Another positive development is that Olympia City Councilmember Steve Langer is working with Move to Amend to draft a resolution in support of the Constitutional amendment. Contact the group at M2AOly@gmail.com.

Office space available in Olympia for progressive organizations: The Washington State Labor Council’s building at 9th & Columbia (between downtown Olympia and the State Capitol) can lease office space to progressive organizations. Enjoy a

great landlord that maintains and services the building exclusively by union members. About 40,000 square feet of office space is available – whole floors or individual offices. Info: WSLC Secretary-Treasurer Lynne Dodson (206) 281-8901

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, RESOURCES, SUSTAINABILITY

Good news for a park on Olympia's Isthmus: On July 5 the Thurston County Commissioners awarded a \$600,000 Conservation Futures grant to the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation to support the Foundation's efforts to acquire some of the



land on Olympia's Isthmus needed to create the Capitol/Olympic Vista Park. The three commissioners, Karen Valenzuela, Sandra Romero, and Cathy Wolfe unanimously accepted the recommendation of the expert ranking committee and the staff to award the grant. The grant has two conditions: (1) The Olympia Capitol Park Foundation will need to raise an additional \$1 million within one year of the award; and (2) The Foundation will need to raise the entire amount (now estimated at \$3 million) needed for Phase I of the development plan within two years. The Foundation is confident that – with continued cooperation and hard work with the City of Olympia, the Trust for Public Land, and community supporters – they will meet the County Commissioner's reasonable expectations. The Olympia FOR's September TV program will provide background information, bring the community up to date on this exciting civic project, and look ahead to next steps. (See pages 4-5.) See www.olycapitolparkfoundation.org or contact

the Foundation's Chair, Jerry Reilly, at 561 4212

Federal government is approving new U.S. nuclear plants with dangerously risky designs: Despite the nuclear power catastrophe at Fukushima, Japan, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is still planning to approve new nuclear plants with design flaws that a number of experts have said are terribly risky. The AP1000 reactor designed by Westinghouse-Toshiba has not been adequately tested but is proposed for 14 sites across the southeastern United States. Recent news articles have revealed that the NRC – instead of enforcing safety standards when nuclear power plants have violated them – has simply weakened the standards to match the nuclear industry's dangerous performance. Instead of protecting public safety from the nuclear industry, the NRC has protected the nuclear industry from public oversight. Tom Clements, Friends of the Earth's southeastern nuclear campaign coordinator, said, "The NRC's main goal is to bulldoze this license through no matter the pending safety questions." More information is on pages 9-10 of the August 2011 issue of *In These Times* (www.inthesetimes.com).

Want to talk and organize with others about nuclear power? In the wake of the disaster at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan, Wendy Tanowitz is looking for others who want to meet to discuss nuclear power plant accidents, and what can be done. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the bad news, consider meeting with other local folks to plan pro-active ways to educate and inform the community about the dangers of nuclear power. Contact Wendy green-girl@comcast.net.

Moving Planet – Creative solutions to climate change: Momentum is building for the "Moving Planet" Day of Action on September 24, with hundreds of events planned all over the world, including an Olympia event. Yes, we can move around without fossil fuels! "Moving Planet" is a day to demand action to the climate crisis and move away from our dependence on fossil fuels. On the organization's website, activists have listed many creative plans, including a march in Gambia, a bicycle rally in Australia, a tour of victory gardens in New Mexico, and tree planting in Ghana. Many more great ideas are listed at www.moving-planet.org. Local activists with the Green Party of South Puget Sound are discussing ways to hold an engaging, visible event in Thurston County. To get involved and contribute your thoughts, contact Green Party at www.greenparty-sps.net.

Three Ways Climate Change Can Fuel Deadly Conflict: The crisis of climate disruption is not only a danger to the environment and sustainability, but it also leads to violent conflict. The Quaker-based public interest group, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) created a very readable two-page summary titled, "3 Ways Climate Change Can Fuel Deadly Conflict." You can read it at FCNL's website, www.fcnl.org/issues/ppdc/FlyerFinalVersion.pdf. Also, in early August the Olympia FOR will post this article at our website. Visit www.olympiafor.org, click the **Hot Topics** link, and see this article.

Volunteer with South Sound Estuary Association (SSEA): SSEA needs volunteers to help do community outreach at the following events: August 27 Sand in the City, September 24 Nisqually Watershed Festival, October 2 Cruising for the Sound. Volunteer with Melanie melanie@sseacenter.org

Media

TCTV needs more people to produce local TV series and programs: The schedule of Channel 22 at Thurston Community Television (TCTV) has vacancies for more programs. There has been a decline in the number of local persons and organizations producing TCTV programs, so this creates opportunities for local individuals and organizations to start producing programs for TCTV's Channel 22. For example, we have so many high quality speakers coming through our community that perhaps someone could videotape some of these local presentations and create a series where these are aired in the subsequent month. Talk with your friends and explore possibilities. For information contact TCTV at 956-3100 www.tctv.net

New group connects alternative media outlets: The Olympia Media Alliance is forming to create new forms of alternative media for the community. Possibilities include an open video lab and a magazine, as well as promoting local alternative media that already exist. The Alliance would like to showcase local non-mainstream media at the People's Movement Assembly in Olympia this fall, with radio stations and publications providing presentations about their work and how volunteers can get involved. The Olympia Media Alliance meets regularly. Contact Brendan Funtek at mobydick1980@aim.com

Urge Congress to investigate Rupert Murdoch's crimes in the U.S.: The charges against Rupert Murdoch's British newspaper, *News of the World*, have escalated into many other parts of his right-wing media empire. Top employees appear to have broken serious laws and violated public trust in many ways with outrageous violations of privacy and decency. Murdoch's media empire includes U.S. print and broadcast media, including Fox News, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Post*. Murdoch has enormous power over the media and politics of the U.S. as well as the U.K. The problem is not just the thoroughly documented outright lies and Republican partisanship, but actual crimes. Many media watchdogs and public interest groups are urging Congress to hold hearings to investigate how far Murdoch's scandal goes – and whether he has broken U.S. laws. This link will let you urge Congress to hold hearings: www.mediamatters.org/action/newscorphearings Many organizations study and expose and oppose bias in the media, including Media Matters (www.mediamatters.org) and Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR – www.fair.org)

Olympia FOR's ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUESTS

Do we have your e-mail address? Occasionally the Olympia FOR needs to communicate with our people by e-mail. If you are not receiving our occasional e-mails, please share your e-mail address so we can keep in touch. Please contact us at info@olympiafor.org Thanks!

Would you like to receive your newsletter by e-mail instead of on paper? We are happy to send paper copies to everyone who wants them, but we're finding many people who would prefer to receive .pdf versions. If you would like to receive your newsletters electronically – or in both printed and .pdf formats – please contact info@olympiafor.org or (360) 491-9093.

Olympia FOR needs people to help our Outreach Committee: The Olympia FOR is constantly reaching out to our community in various ways to tell people who we are and what we do. We set up information tables at public events, communicate with various organizations and constituencies, write information about the Olympia FOR to print on paper and post to various websites, and so forth. We created an Outreach Committee to plan and carry out these activities, but the committee is very short-handed. Are you interested in this creative way to help the Olympia FOR? If so, contact Glen Anderson at 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org Our **Fundraising Committee** also needs more volunteers.

Would you help sometimes with Olympia FOR's mailing parties? We typically assemble our newsletters on a weekday afternoon every two months and our other mailings at various days and times. We can contact you when we need help. If you're available, great! If you're not available, that's OK; we can try on another occasion. Contact Glen Anderson at 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

Would you host the Olympia FOR's newsletter mailing parties? Once every two months we need a space where we can bring about six people together on a few tabletops (or perhaps a large table and a kitchen counter) so we can collate, fold, tape and address our Olympia FOR newsletter. Our schedule is flexible (weekday, weekend, day or evening). It takes just a few hours. Could you provide a space? Please contact Glen Anderson at 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

Please help the Olympia FOR meet our budget of \$10,139: The Olympia FOR's Steering Committee adopted a budget of \$10,139 for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. We invite local folks to help us accomplish all of our ambitious activities. (We don't solicit funds from Lewis County people, who have their own local FOR chapter, or from people outside of our local 985___ zip code area.) Thank you! Questions? Ask Glen Anderson, (360) 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org
