

# Olympia Fellowship of RECONCILIATION

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM MAY 2010 TO APRIL 2011

### NEWSLETTERS:

- We published six more issues of our bi-monthly newsletter (SW Washington's most comprehensive peace & justice newsletter). We mailed copies of each issue to hundreds of people throughout Thurston and nearby counties, and e-mailed it to dozens of other people nationwide.
- Our newsletters inform and inspire people in a great many ways in support of peace, nonviolence, and social & economic justice. We publicize information our readers wouldn't see elsewhere. We also help many other organizations by publicizing their activities as well as our own.

### TELEVISION PROGRAMS:

- The Olympia FOR produced and broadcast another year of one-hour interview programs with fresh information and insights about relevant topics. Each program aired twice a week for a full month on Thurston Community TV, cable channel 22 in Thurston County. Ours is TCTV's longest-running series – **24 years!**
- This year's subjects were: "Empowering Ourselves for Profound Democracy," "Pakistan: What Are the Realities?" "Understanding and Protecting Civil Liberties," "Starting to Understand Africa," "More Information on the 9-11 Attacks," Honduras," "International Day of Peace: Olympia Connects with the World!" "Converting to a Peace Economy," "Create a Publicly Owned Washington State Bank," "A Nonviolent Society for the Common Good," "End 'Corporate Personhood' and Other Power Grabs," and "Soldiers' Wounds: One Cost of War that Never Ends."
- We also aired Congressman Dennis Kucinich's local presentation on "The True Cost of War," which the Olympia FOR had organized for February 21 at the Capitol Theater. (See **SPECIAL EVENTS** below.)
- We have posted more than 70 of our TV programs from the past six years on the internet so anyone in the world can watch them. Visit [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org), click the "TV Programs" link, and choose the program you want to watch.
- Our additional TCTV series, "The Big Picture," showed a wide variety of interesting video documentaries at 10 p.m. every Sunday night. We changed our additional air time to 10 p.m. every Thursday night, immediately following our interview program.

### WEBSITE:

- Our attractive new website, [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org), features our newsletters, calendars, descriptions of our TV programs, and much more information than ever before about the Olympia FOR, our vigils and other activities, the theory and practice of nonviolence, and various issues, including the death penalty.
- The website's "TV Programs" page includes a link to let you choose programs to watch on your computer.

### PEACE VIGILS:

- We completed **31 years** of vigiling from 12 noon to 1 pm at Sylvester Park (Legion & Capitol Way) -- every Wednesday since March 5, 1980.
- We completed **12½ years** of vigiling from 4:30 to 6 pm every Friday at Percival Landing, 4<sup>th</sup> & Water.
- A lively street band, the Artesian Rumble Arkestra, performs at our Friday vigils from 5 to 6 pm, supporting our vigils and delighting us and passersby!
- We welcomed other organizations to join our vigils with special themes on several special dates.
- We made many new and timely signs for our vigils, including signs focusing on our campaign to "Bring Our Billion\$ Home" (See below), including a special series in the classic "Burma Shave" format.
- Many persons participated in our 35<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Peace Vigil on Saturday December 18.

### BRING OUR BILLION\$ HOME:

- The Olympia FOR is vigorously and creatively participating in the Western Washington FOR's campaign to cut military spending and use the savings to fund human needs.
- We organized Congressman Dennis Kucinich's local presentation on "The True Cost of War." (See **SPECIAL EVENTS** below.)
- We created and published a creative peace calendar, organized a campaign to send monthly postcards to Congress, created special vigil signs (See **VIGILS** above), and planned additional activities, including research, information tables, and special events.

### AFGHANISTAN AND BEYOND:

- We strengthened our close working relationships with Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (aged 10 to early 20s) and vigorously promoted their heartfelt video messages for peace. ([www.ourjourneytosmile.com](http://www.ourjourneytosmile.com))
- We created opportunities for local youths and adults to talk directly with them by phone and computer connections through quarterly "Days of Listening," which also included other powerful peacemaking activities. See [www.globaldayoflistening.org](http://www.globaldayoflistening.org) and [www.thepeoplesjourney.org](http://www.thepeoplesjourney.org)

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### DEATH PENALTY:

- The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty grew larger and more active this past year.
- We met every month for self-education and action.
- We organized a 6-hour vigil on the Capitol steps the night before last September's execution.
- We conducted 6-session study groups to help two local faith communities learn about the death penalty.
- We staffed information tables at Olympia's Pride Celebration, Tacoma's Ethnic Fest, and elsewhere.
- We actively participated as an organizational member of the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

- We brought Congressman Dennis Kucinich to Olympia. He spoke to 800 people about "The True Cost of War." We videotaped it, aired it on TCTV, and posted it on our website so everyone can watch it.
- We organized the annual peace lantern floating ceremony as part of the traditional Japanese Bon Odori mid-summer festival at Capitol Lake.
- We organized a public display of children's peace-related art for Fall and Spring Arts Walks in downtown Olympia.
- We displayed our name and peace dove on the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural in downtown Olympia.
- We welcomed about 30 people to our first "Summer Social" to help new people and continuing members get to know each other and strengthen our friendships.
- We enjoyed potluck picnics in June and August.
- We organized "secret cafes" that helped people enjoy face-to-face social time while raising money for our activities.
- We staffed information tables and spoke to audiences at several local events.
- We continued our monthly book study group about nonviolent alternatives to war.
- We co-sponsored, endorsed, and/or financially supported a great variety of events and activities for peace, social justice and nonviolence.

### ONGOING INFLUENCE AND SERVICE:

- We collaborated with a variety of local organizations to support their efforts and activities for peace, social and economic justice, human rights and nonviolence. We provided publicity, volunteers and financial support in various cases.
- The Olympia FOR is an affiliate member of Interfaith Works ([www.Interfaith-Works.org](http://www.Interfaith-Works.org)). We participated in many of IW's activities and wrote some of IW's *Perspectives* columns for the *Olympian*.
- We actively participate in the Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net), [www.tcpronet.org](http://www.tcpronet.org)

- We responded to a great many requests from individuals and organizations and provided an abundance of information, referrals, consultation, services and support for their efforts for peace, social justice, and nonviolence.
- We actively participated in activities of the Western Washington FOR. We contributed financial support to help WWFOR better serve us and the regional peace movement.
- Several Olympia FOR representatives actively served on the WWFOR's regional board and the planning committees of WWFOR's major events and activities.

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH:

- We continually welcome new people to our mailing list and our many activities.
- We accomplish a tremendous amount because we are committed to our values, are well organized, cooperate well with others, and earn the larger community's respect and cooperation. Also, we work very hard!
- Our large, active Steering Committee meets regularly and provides overall direction and decision-making.
- Our Annual Meeting / Celebration / Election encourages broad participation in strengthening the Olympia FOR and having a good time as peacemakers.
- We connected local folks with regional activities through the Western Washington FOR ([www.wwfor.org](http://www.wwfor.org)) and other activities through the national FOR ([www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)). A growing number of Olympia members participate in WWFOR activities.
- We are an **all-volunteer** organization that relies entirely on **voluntary tax-deductible** contributions.
- While carrying out a greater number of activities since May of last year, we also raised enough money to pay for these ambitious new activities.
- We even had fun raising money! Seattle folksinger Tom Rawson performed a highly enjoyable benefit concert. We enjoyed delicious and sociable benefit dinners last December and are planning additional benefit dinners in the future.

### Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

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