

Olympia Fellowship of RECONCILIATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM MAY 2014 TO APRIL 2015

NEWSLETTERS:

- We published six more issues of our bi-monthly newsletter, SW Washington's most comprehensive peace & justice newsletter with substantive information about important issues and a huge calendar of local events. We mailed hundreds of copies of each issue to people throughout Thurston County and beyond. Also, we e-mailed each issue as a .pdf attachment to about 200 other people nationwide.
- Our newsletters inform and inspire people in a great many ways in support of peace, nonviolence, the environment, sustainability, and social & economic justice. We publicize the activities of not only the Olympia FOR but also those of many other organizations. We publicize information our readers don't see elsewhere.

TELEVISION PROGRAMS:

- The Olympia FOR produced and broadcast another year of one-hour interview programs about topics with fresh information and insights not available elsewhere. Each program aired 3 times a week for a full month on Thurston Community TV, cable channel 22 in Thurston County. Ours is TCTV's longest-running series – **more than 27 years!**
- Our topics were: *"The Death Penalty Is Unjust and Is Being Abolished," "Igniting a Grassroots Compassion Movement," "A Vietnam Veteran Now Works for Peace," "Militarism Is the Problem, Not the Solution," "TPP: A 'Free Trade' Scam Much Worse than NAFTA," "Palestine's Realities with Updates," "Our Best Values Lead to a Better Future," "Restoring the Deschutes Estuary to Its Natural Flow," "Climate Change: From Despair + Denial to Courage + Action!," "Human Trafficking: Problems and Solutions," "Clean Drinking Water: Global Problems and Local Solutions,"* and *"LBA Woods and Other Parks for Our Community."*
- More than 100 of our TV programs since 2005 are on our website so anyone anywhere can watch them at any time. Simply visit www.olympiafor.org, click the "**TV Programs**" link, and choose the program you want to watch. Many of these include links to program descriptions and guest lists (in Word and/or .pdf formats).
- Also, a good number and variety of additional special programs featuring high quality speakers are listed at the bottom of the website's "**TV Programs**" section.

WEBSITE:

- Our attractive website, www.olympiafor.org, features newsletters, calendars, information about a number of topics (climate, death penalty, global economics, drones, guns, etc.), and information about the Olympia FOR, our vigils, the theory and practice of nonviolence, etc.
- The website's "**TV Programs**" page includes a link to let you watch our current and past programs on your computer.

Next to most program titles is a link to a .pdf or Word document about the program and the guests we interview.

PEACE VIGILS:

- We completed **35 years** of vigiling from 12 noon to 1 pm every Wednesday since March 5, 1980 in the NW corner of Sylvester Park (Legion & Capitol Way).
- We completed **16½ years** of vigiling from 4:30 to 6 pm every Friday at Percival Landing, 4th & Water.
- A lively street band, the Artesian Rumble Arkestra, performs from 5 to 6 pm during our Friday peace vigils. They delight vigilers and passersby!
- We welcomed other organizations to join our vigils and featured special themes on some special dates.
- Many persons participated in our 39th annual Holiday Peace Vigil on Saturday December 20.

THE CLIMATE CRISIS:

- Our "Confronting the Climate Crisis" group works vigorously in several strategically diverse ways.
- We mobilized many persons to oppose plans for transporting coal and oil through our region and exporting them to Asia. We mobilized many people to attend public hearings and submit comments through the governmental processes.
- We have interacted with a variety of other governmental agencies and boards to urge them to protect the climate in specific ways. These include the Port of Olympia, which imports fracking proppants for North Dakota.
- We organized and sponsored a variety of public events that attracted many people, and we staffed information tables on several occasions.
- We worked to persuade several governmental bodies to divest from fossil fuel investments.
- We organized several creative nonviolent direct actions.
- We published climate information in each newsletter and on our website's "**Climate Crisis**" page.

AFGHANISTAN AND BEYOND:

- We strengthened our close working relationships with Afghan Peace Volunteers (aged teens to 20s) and vigorously promoted their heartfelt video messages for peace. (www.ourjourneytosmile.com)
- We continue helping local people to talk directly with young and adult peace supporters in Afghanistan and elsewhere through monthly "Days of Listening" phone and computer conversations. See www.globaldaysoflistening.org and www.thepeoplesjourney.org

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DEATH PENALTY:

- The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty persisted with monthly meetings where we educated ourselves and planned various outreach activities.
- We sponsored speaking engagements, film showings, discussions, information tables, and other public events.
- We communicated with many people through two e-mail lists, including a new interactive listserv.
- Our website's "**Death Penalty**" section offers a huge and varied amount of information, including many unique items written specifically for the Olympia FOR's efforts to abolish the death penalty, and not available elsewhere.
- We continue to offer our 6-session study group to faith communities and other local groups who want to study the various aspects of the death penalty. The host group may choose whether or not to include an interfaith aspect.
- We actively participated as an organizational member of the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and of the Safe & Just Alternatives campaign initiated by WCADP and the ACLU of Washington.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS EVERY MONTH:

- On the first Tuesday evening of every month we gather at 6:00 pm to discuss books we have read on the chosen topic. We choose a new topic each month.

BRING OUR BILLION\$ HOME:

- The Olympia FOR devoted less effort to our BOBH campaign to cut military spending and use the savings to fund human needs, but we can mobilize if volunteers want to.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- We organized (and co-sponsored with other groups) several speaking engagements, films, workshops and special events on a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence.
- We enjoyed a potluck picnic in August.
- We organized a public display of children's peace-related art for Fall and Spring Arts Walks in downtown Olympia.
- We staffed information tables and spoke to audiences at several local events.

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.
- The Olympia FOR is an affiliate member of Interfaith Works (www.Interfaith-Works.org).

- We actively participate in the Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net), 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 participated actively in the Western Washington FOR's activities.
- The Olympia FOR took leadership in planning WWFOR's well organized annual Fall Retreat in November. It focused on economic justice issues and attracted many people.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH:

- We continually welcome new people to our mailing list and to our many activities.
- We accomplish a tremendous amount of good results 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 wise and capable overall direction and decisions.
- Our Annual Gathering / Celebration / Election in May of each year 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) and other activities through the national FOR (www.forusa.org). More Olympia members are participating in these ways.
- We are an all-volunteer organization that relies entirely on voluntary tax-deductible contributions.
- While carrying out many 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 INVITE YOU TO JOIN WITH US
AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER!**

Olympia Fellowship of RECONCILIATION

5015 15th AVENUE SE, LACEY WA 98503-2723

(360) 491-9093

info@olympiafor.org

www.olympiafor.org

OUR FREE NEWSLETTER CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED.