

THE NATIONAL FOR CELEBRATED 100 YEARS IN 2015.  
THE OLYMPIA FOR'S WILL CELEBRATE 40 YEARS IN 2016.

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## Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

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Thanks to Robert Whitlock for his photo of our 2008 Holiday Peace Vigil in the snow.

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Holiday PEACE Vigil ON SAT DEC 19

FROM 12 NOON TO 1 p.m. ALONG WEST 4<sup>th</sup> AVENUE AT PERCIVAL LANDING, OLYMPIA

The Olympia FOR invites the public to participate in our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Peace Vigil on Saturday December 19 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. along West Fourth Avenue, along the south side of Percival Landing and in front of Heritage Fountain.

The Olympia FOR's annual vigil is a beloved local tradition. We provide a good variety of signs to hold, and you may bring your own. We welcome children. It's OK to bring something to sit on if you can't stand. The Artesian Rumble Arkestra will perform their

delightful upbeat music. We invite everyone to enjoy free hot soup and light refreshments at a nearby location after the vigil.

The Olympia FOR also invites you to our weekly peace vigils: Sylvester Park (corner of Legion and Capitol Way) from 12 noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday since March 5, 1980; and Percival Landing near the Kissing Statue (4<sup>th</sup> & Water) from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. every Friday since November 1998.

Info: Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org) or visit the Olympia FOR's website, [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)

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## THE NATIONAL SECURITY STATE'S INCESTUOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH ISIS

Tom Engelhardt writes smart, informative, well-written articles, including one with the title shown above, posted on Nov. 21, 2015. I highly recommend reading this article at this link:

[http://inthesetimes.com/article/18622/ISIS\\_Paris\\_Radical-Islam](http://inthesetimes.com/article/18622/ISIS_Paris_Radical-Islam)

The author writes, "A fundamental aspect of ISIS' strategy lies in the necessity of a heavy-handed, reactionary response from the West to further their own narrative, ideology and recruiting. Western governments are playing into their hands." He explains very clearly why the U.S.'s reaction to 9-11 was exactly what Osama bin Laden wanted, and how ISIS is using that same psychological dynamic to incite military reactions from the West that will only polarize the world further and create more "failed states" and opportunities for violent extremism to flourish. Sadly, France, the U.S. and other Western nations are

taking the bait and playing into the script that ISIS has written for the West's self-destruction.

This also increases the power of the domestic "National Security State," which consumes huge amounts of our tax dollars, takes away our freedoms, and oppresses people in the name of "national security." Tom Engelhardt's article sees ISIS and the "National Security State" as incestuous and mutually reinforcing, to the detriment of ordinary people and human rights.

I highly recommend reading the article at the link in the first paragraph above and sharing these insights with other people, including politicians and people in mainstream and alternative media. *See more on [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)'s section about "Issues ..."*

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## WE CAN REPLACE CYNICISM AND DESPAIR WITH EMPOWERMENT AND HOPE

→ This fresh, hopeful article runs from **Page 2 to Page 6**.

→ Also see the "Nonviolence" part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org) for a .pdf version of this article that you can print out and/or share with other people. Our website's "Nonviolence" section includes more resources about organizing for nonviolent action.

# WE CAN REPLACE CYNICISM AND DESPAIR WITH EMPOWERMENT AND HOPE

→ See the “Nonviolence” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org) for more resources on organizing and nonviolent action.

by Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org)

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## PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD AND IN OUR NATION:

Let’s face it. There are many serious problems at the global, national and local levels. We are suffering from simultaneous crises, including climate chaos, political corruption, nuclear weapons, terrorism, economic crash, creeping fascism, concentration of media ownership, violations of the Constitution, the ineffectiveness of the political process, etc., etc.

It is easy to feel powerless and despair caused by the powerful political and economic forces that overwhelm us with practically “shock-and-awe” kinds of ways. Furthermore, capitalistic-owned media fail to cover these abuses, and even when they do cover issues we care about, they do it with bias. No wonder so many Americans feel despair nowadays!

A dying empire needs to censor the truth in order to perpetuate the illusion that the empire is still alive and well. Therefore we should not be surprised that the Obama Administration has harassed journalists and whistleblowers worse than Nixon or other presidents in recent memory. He has prosecuted more journalists and whistleblowers under the 97-year-old Espionage Act than all previous presidents combined.

Election years can be especially frustrating for several reasons: (1) The US’s electoral system is corrupted by rich individuals and corporations that buy politicians and dominate propaganda. (2) Two political parties have corrupted our system to share a “duopoly” of power and exclude alternative voices coming from the grassroots. (3) Mainstream news media are owned by giant corporations that also exclude alternative voices and bias their reporting to serve the status quo. (4) Campaign reporting focuses on “horserace” aspects and trivial irrelevancies, avoiding thoughtful discussion of serious issues. (5) Ordinary people get caught up in partisanship and silly election “news” and get distracted from working on substantive issues, so this decline in grassroots organizing hampers efforts to fix our nation’s problems. (6) Preoccupation with elections downplays the important realities of real democracy percolating from the bottom up – from people organizing and acting at the grassroots – so the preoccupation with elections actually disempowers real democracy.

The remedy – especially in election seasons – is to ground ourselves in our core values and work vigorously and proactively on real issues. The rest of this article helps us do that.

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## How people feel about these problems:

Each crisis alone is daunting, and together they are even worse. These crises seem overwhelming, overpowering us with forces beyond our control. Many Americans feel overwhelmed, powerless and depressed, so instead of responding with meaningful actions, they react with the fears and escapist illusions that many politicians and businesses provide. When we retreat into powerlessness and despair, this suits the powerful political and economic interests just fine, because it allows them to proceed without pushback from the public.

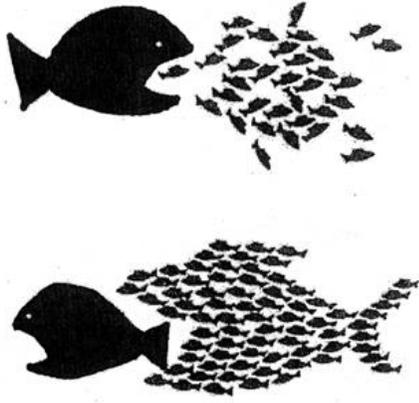
People in the progressive movement are not exempt from those debilitating feelings. Fear and despair can inhibit people from acting when our activism is needed most. Now is such a time because so many daunting threats come at us from all directions. The progressive movement and its various parts (peace, social justice, economic justice, democracy, etc.) all face stiff opposition and entrenched “powers and principalities” that are keeping us down. Many in the progressive movement feel despair. But many others feel determination to stand up for what’s right. I have long believed that the progressive movement needs psychological and spiritual support more than just more facts.

I agree with whoever wrote, “Feelings of powerless, futility and despair are ‘the elephant in the room’ that prevent the broad population – and especially progressives – from making effective action to produce massive change.” The overabundance of “ain’t-it-awful” articles and fact-based resources can overwhelm us with what we already know and fear. Republicans and Shock Doctrine cynics manipulate us with fear. **We need to get beyond that toward empowerment and constructive action.**

During the 1980s nuclear weapons were rapidly escalating and people were traumatized by very real fears of nuclear war. Joanna Macy accomplished much with her “Despair and Empowerment” workshops and her book *Despair and Empowerment in the Nuclear Age*. She helped people grapple effectively with the problems and emerge with energy and hope for making progress. Now Joanna Macy offers new workshops based on her new approach, “The Work that Reconnects” ([www.workthatreconnects.org](http://www.workthatreconnects.org)). These can help us during this time of planetary emergency and the widespread feelings of overwhelm and despair. A workshop on this occurred in Olympia in May 2014. Perhaps we could benefit from an all-day session to experience some of her participatory

exercises in a workshop like her recent one titled, “Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re in without Going Crazy”

## GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING IS AN EXCELLENT REMEDY:



Almost all of the positive political and social changes that have occurred in the U.S. were achieved through grassroots organizing. It’s not enough for activists to merely accumulate more information and talk

among ourselves. In order to make political progress, we must interact strategically with the general public to move public opinion. “Grassroots organizing” means **working locally through other people to make good things happen!**

Instead of overwhelming people with more facts, which can make them feel even more powerless, let’s expose the political and economic forces that cause feelings of powerlessness. But when we do this, let’s be sensitive to their feelings, not overload them further, or else we’ll push people away instead of healing and empowering them.

**We can choose not to live by fear. We can act creatively and boldly.** In the mid-1990s, Serb militias were firing into downtown Sarajevo, Bosnia, from the hills around the city, and the Bosnians were terrified. After one day’s Serb shelling killed many people waiting for bread outside a bakery there, Vedran Smailovich, a skilled cellist, performed classical music outside on the street at that very same location, courageously empowering people to hear beautiful music and effectively countering fear. (I later heard him play the same piece at the Seattle Center.)



**WE DO HAVE POWER – more power than we realize – and more power than the Establishment wants us to realize.** Broad-based “people power” overthrew dictators in several nations, including Marcos in the Philippines

(**see photo**). The Berlin Wall came down and later the Soviet Union crumbled **NOT** by the US’s huge military or nuclear weapons, but by people power. There are more of us than there are in the elite levels of politics, the economy and the military.

### What if .....

- What if Thomas Jefferson is right, and the power really does reside with the people – and the power we temporarily granted to governments we can also take away?
- And what if Gandhi is right, and ordinary people can bring down a powerful empire by withdrawing our consent?
- And what if Martin Luther King is right, and “the arc of the moral universe” does indeed “bend toward justice”?
- And what if scholar Gene Sharp is right, and there are at least 198 methods of nonviolent resistance that have been used successfully throughout history against all sorts of tyrants and dictators, including Nazis and communists?

### If these are true – and I believe they are – then .....

**Now is the right time to learn how to organize nonviolent social change movements with long-term strategies, nonviolent resistance, and progressive alternatives to the status quo.** For more information – and for resources and workshops on effective grassroots organizing – contact the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation at (360) 491-9093 [info@olympiafor.org](mailto:info@olympiafor.org) and visit the “Nonviolence” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org).

We keep reacting against the bad things happening in political, social and economic realms, so we have gotten trapped in always playing defense. This wears us down and causes us to feel powerless. It would be more energizing – and strategically more effective for our grassroots movements – to act proactively! **We would energize ourselves and attract new people if we were to set bold but achievable goals and plan strategies, campaigns and activities to help us achieve these goals.** Instead of being perennially trapped in defensiveness, we would be boldly proactive, and we would generate new energy and vigor.

**This is true, no matter which party runs Congress or lives in the White House.** Deep down, the American people probably know in our guts that the problems are more fundamental than a mere change of political party can solve. Don’t look to any level of government for leadership. I enjoy wearing a button that says, “When the people lead, eventually the leaders will follow.” A powerful saying affirms, “We are the people we’ve been waiting for.” **The solution to our current mess is to create strong issue-based grassroots movements that organize proactively for the political and social changes that we really want!**

Therefore – no matter which issue we’re working on – in order for a political or social change movement to win, **the movement must:**

- (1) Make the issue so hot and compelling that our society, media, institutions, and “leaders” will have to deal with it.
- (2) Reach out to the general public, educate the public, and convince an increasingly larger majority of the public.
- (3) Mobilize this new majority into an effective force that brings about the necessary social or political change.

In order to win public opinion, the movement must reach out to the public from the **inside** – as Americans who are grounded in society’s deeply held values, beliefs, traditions, and symbols. We must show that **our progressive movements uphold these true American values**, while the powerful forces promoting greed and militarism are violating them.



To attract new people to our progressive movements, we can **reach out in friendly, open ways to all sorts of people**. They will be attracted to a movement that welcomes them into working for a better world and other clearly positive goals. We can offer understanding and solidarity as we help the public see how peace and other progressive policies are really in their best interests.

**We can devise fresh approaches to catch public attention and help people see the progressive movement in fresh ways.** We can rewrite the old scripts of political action, replacing old worn-out stereotypes of activism (methods, messages, images, etc.), and engage people in creative new ways.

We’ll make good progress by framing our message in ways that actually affirm society’s best values and culture. A few years ago the City of Olympia tried to cram an unwanted convention center down our throats. The City’s end-run around democracy violated our sense of local democracy and citizen control, so our local community rose up, rejected the City’s leaders, and **demanding the right to vote** on the proposed conference center. The grassroots organization that challenged the City called itself “Public Funds for Public Purposes.” What a winning concept! The grassroots movement challenged the establishment by invoking **powerful democratic values of grassroots empowerment, public accountability, fiscal responsibility, and open government**.

Creative strategies, tactics and actions catch people’s attention and participation – and they are fun for us! Creative nonviolent strategies and actions can help us break out of lethargic frustration and move our issues ahead.

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## STRATEGIES AND METHODS FOR ORGANIZING GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS:

Small groups of people who know and trust each other can work together closely as “affinity groups” over a period of time. Each small group can figure out what to do, based on their interests, abilities, personalities and schedules, and flex from one issue or activity to another over a period of time, as it chooses.

When we seek to change public opinion, let’s recognize that “the public” includes different constituencies and also different people who are at different points along the spectrum from strong opponent to strong supporter. Let’s devise different strategies tailored to communicate with – and move – each people in each constituency and the people who are at each point along the spectrum. For example, we might devise specific ways to move people who oppose our position toward the middle “undecided” point on

the spectrum, and we might devise other specific ways to move undecided people toward modest support.

Likewise, we might devise specific strategies to help people who are not even paying attention to the issue to start paying attention and informing themselves about it. And we would devise different strategies for mobilize the people who already know about the issue but have not chosen to start working on it.

**If we are not changing what a debate is about, we will lose the debate. We must re-frame the issues and point to the real problems.** Let’s break corporate power’s chokehold over our democracy – including the nationalist, capitalist and militaristic assumptions and top-down systems that inhibit changing to a peaceful, humane, democratic, and sustainable society.

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## OUR GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING WORKS BEST WHEN IT IS NONVIOLENT, POSITIVE AND WELCOMING:

Many ordinary people hate political squabbles (not only partisan squabbles, but also any kind of political conflict that gets polarized or negative). Many people do not like polarization, so they tend to settle for the *status quo* and reject anyone challenging it in a confrontational way. **Very often it is we progressives who are challenging the *status quo*. So we must devise ways to propose profound changes without turning off the public.**

Too often we complain about what we are AGAINST without proposing POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES that people will find it easier to connect with. Many people do not want to hear more bad news, so **our organizing and publicity should engage people in positive and welcoming ways** – and support our proactive goals.

During 1982 – when President Reagan was recklessly escalating the nuclear arms race and the world was fearing imminent nu-

clear war – the Thurston County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign organized a county-wide ballot issue that won a landslide victory in the November election. Instead of slamming people with frightening “doom-and-gloom” imagery, our slogan was friendly and positive: **“Ain’t it great to be alive!”** We provided the necessary information in an appealing way, engaged with ordinary voters with a positive alternative, brought them into the movement, and achieved a landslide electoral victory.

Another effective strategy is this: Instead of blaming what we are against, state the new reality that we want to achieve, and do this with a present tense verb: (e.g., “Olympia Is Free!” or “Olympia Declares Peace!”)

Instead of repeating the same stereotypes (and methods, slogans, messages, images, etc.), let’s devise fresh new ways that will

**reach out to people where they currently are, engage them, and invite them to participate from where they already are.**

- How can we do this for people who do not yet see themselves as part of the peace movement?
- Why should ordinary families care about the climate crisis?
- How could we help ordinary employees support the movement for a \$15/hour minimum wage?

Glen Gersmehl, a savvy nonviolent strategist and peace organizer, offers suggestions for “How to Be a Bridge in a World Full of Walls.” He suggests: **Breathe:** Take a breath. Find your center. **Listen First:** Genuinely and actively listen. **Inquire:** Ask questions. Seek the other person’s truth, find their humanity. **Truth:** Speak your own truth with kindness. **Keep It Light:** Be easy-going. Pause. When appropriate, use humor.

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## INSPIRING US TO WORK FOR PROGRESS:

People have an inherent need for their lives to have purpose and meaning – to make a unique contribution to the world’s well-being. Each person can pay attention to his or her own values that provide a “calling” to make their world a better place.

People of conscience recognize that – as a society and as individuals – there is a vast gap between where we are and where we could be. We recognize our individual personal resources (intellectual, spiritual, moral, social, financial, skill-based, etc.) and look for ways to apply them to help heal the world. When we participate actively and practically in healing the world, we feel better about ourselves and generate energy to do even more good work.

**Are we doomed, or is there hope? Really, it’s all up for grabs. We decide about doom vs. hope by what we do or don’t do.** Everything we do makes a difference, but we might not notice the results right away. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, “The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

**Different people help in different ways.** Some individuals would write to Congress but would never sit on the railroad tracks to block a train carrying nuclear weapons, while other individuals would sit on the tracks but never write to Congress.

In the 1980s when the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation used to conduct annual workshops about resisting war taxes, Irwin Hogenauer, who had refused to pay war taxes since the 1940s, explained the usefulness of this nonviolent method because, “You never know which one of us will be the straw that breaks the IRS’s back.” (Also see the story about the snowflake on the branch at the bottom of the the right-hand column.)

Listen to the old Black Church’s spiritual music that inspired the Civil Rights Movement. Their music contained strong inspiration of resistance and hope, and it affirmed divine support for the Movement. This spirit of bold confidence and hope was absolutely crucial for the Movement’s success. If people had a “gloom-

and-doom” attitude, they never would have achieved anything. **Our success depends on our having self-confidence and real hope for accomplishing goals.**

“Hope” is not really a matter of probability – a feeling of whether we have more than 50% likelihood that we will succeed. Rather, it’s a matter of **possibility** – the fact that the future is uncertain and that even if we are underdogs with less than 50% likelihood of succeeding we can still act with determination, take strategically smart actions, and actually turn things around!

Farmworkers marched and chanted “Si Se Puede” (Yes, it can be done) with a strong vision of success. The song “We Shall Overcome” has been inspiring people for decades.

**Many people have been inspired by the old story about the Weight of a Snowflake:**

“Tell me the weight of a snowflake,” a sparrow asked a wild dove.

“Nothing more than nothing,” was the answer.

“In that case I must tell a marvelous story,” the sparrow said.

“I sat on a branch of a fir tree, close to its trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not a giant blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn’t have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch – nothing more than nothing, as you say – the branch broke off.”

Having said that, the sparrow flew away. The dove thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself, “Perhaps there is only one voice lacking for peace to come in our world.”

## QUOTATIONS TO INSPIRE OUR EFFORTS:

### THE NEED:

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept." ~ Angela Davis

"We grow up in a political culture that shows us only a VERY LIMITED range of choices. Most people choose from this VERY LIMITED range, so our political culture remains stuck. We can make progress only if we CREATE A MUCH WIDER RANGE of choices – and then using our best values and our best thinking to choose the wisest, most compassionate ones – and also ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER OTHER PEOPLE to explore wider possibilities too." ~ Glen Anderson

"You could describe activism as having two primary strains: the attempt to change something problematic outside itself, and the attempt to build something better – though the two strains are irrevocably and necessarily intertwined."  
~ Rebecca Solnit in her book *Hope in the Dark*, Page 87

### YES, it is possible:

"There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come." ~ Victor Hugo

"We have the power in this room, if we mobilize it, to change the future course of America." ~ Martin Luther King speaking to about 35 people in a church basement

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it. It always seems impossible until it is done."  
~ Nelson Mandela

### HOPE:

"If you don't feel hopeful, you're not doing enough." ~ Josh Fox, creator, director and narrator of the film "Gasland"

Our struggle is long-term: "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

### STRATEGY:

"If there is going to be real change, it will have to work its way from the bottom up, from the people themselves."  
~ Howard Zinn

"In *The Art of War*, Sun Tzu said most battles are decided before they begin by the choice of battlefield. The higher up

the political strata you go, the more powerful corporations get and the weaker we get. The closer to the ground you push, the stronger citizens' movements are and the weaker corporations are." ~ Jim Shultz, Democracy Center, Bolivia

In light of the quotation above, Glen Anderson says if we are frustrated by lack of progress at the global or national level, work on a local aspect of a problem, where we are more likely to achieve some tangible result more quickly.

"We must organize more skillfully from the grassroots. Part of our strategy must be to change what the debate is about. If we are not changing the debate, we will lose the debate."  
~ Glen Anderson

"Social movements must be based on widely held universal values. To place their social movement in the center of society... movement activists must consciously stand for and articulate the culture's fundamental values, such as justice, democracy, civil and human rights, security, and freedom."  
~ Bill Moyer in his book *Doing Democracy: The MAP Model for Organizing Social Movements*

"First they ignore you, then *they laugh at you*, then they fight you, then you win." ~ Mohandas K. (the "Mahatma") Gandhi

### TAKE ACTION:

"Activism is my rent for living on this planet."  
~ Author and poet Alice Walker

"Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it." ~ Mohandas K. Gandhi

"Take one step out of your comfort zone." ~ Jackie Hudson

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."  
~ Mohandas K. Gandhi

"Children are educated by what the grown-up is and not by his talk." ~ Carl Jung

In light of the quotation above, let's be aware that the personal character and actions of members of the peace and justice movement tell the general public more than the ideas we express verbally. Or – as Albert Schweitzer said, "Do something wonderful. People may imitate it."

### RESOURCES:

For more information – and for resources and workshops on effective grassroots organizing – contact the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation at (360) 491-9093 [info@olympiafor.org](mailto:info@olympiafor.org)

Feel free to contact me for a variety of books and other resources, free consultations for the issues and non-profit organizations you care about, and additional help.

# CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

→ Much news about the climate – some negative but some positive – has occurred, but there is not enough room in this newsletter to cover even a few of the most important news items, so by mid-December we will post **much** new information on the “Climate Crisis” part of Olympia FOR’s website, [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org). That’s [www.olympiafor.org/Climate\\_Crisis.html](http://www.olympiafor.org/Climate_Crisis.html) **THOSE LINKS ARE LIVE**, so you will be able to click to read the entire articles that we have summarized very briefly.

The Olympia FOR’s “Confronting the Climate Crisis” group works on a variety of strategically important methods. We educate ourselves and the general public, communicate with all levels of government, urge entities to divest from fossil fuel investments, promote sustainable alternatives, and organize and participate in a variety of public activities.

→ **Meet with us:** Our exciting and productive climate group meets on the **third Wednesday of each month** at 6:30 pm at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia Street NW, downtown Olympia. Info: **(360) 352-6327** [climate@olympiafor.org](mailto:climate@olympiafor.org)

However, on **Wed Jan 20** we will meet from 4:30 to 9:00 pm at a different location to conduct strategic planning so we can thoughtfully figure out how to be most effective during 2016. Contact us for the location. Bring potluck snacks to share.

## CLEAR, SOLID INSIGHTS INTO THE PARIS CLIMATE SUMMIT NOV 30 TO DEC 11, 2015

Wildly differing articles have been written about the **global climate summit (the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties = “COP21”) underway through December 11 in Paris**. For example, some articles assert that this is a “make or break” summit on which everything depends, so if this fails we are doomed. Meanwhile, other articles cynically lament that we are already doomed, that the powerful interests (rich polluting nations, oil companies, etc.) will prevent anything meaningful from being accomplished. This smart article refutes three myths about the global climate summit: [www.tinyurl.com/jrbxd6p](http://www.tinyurl.com/jrbxd6p)

I very much appreciate the major collection of articles in the November 2015 issue (*NI 487*) of the highly credible and progressive magazine *New Internationalist* ([www.newint.org](http://www.newint.org)), which I have been reading for several decades. This periodical is based in Britain and covers global issues from progressive on-the-ground perspectives, often written by people from poor countries in the global South. The articles in *NI 487* provide useful information and insights that can help our work for the climate even after COP21.

**These articles include a mix of optimism, pessimism, and analysis. Here are some of these articles’ main points:**

Shell Oil spent \$7 BILLION over 10 years before abandoning its plans to drill in the Arctic. Despite what Shell said explicitly, it was really the protests and resistance – especially by indigenous people – that stopped them.

Mainstream media sometimes suggest that the Paris climate talks will produce good solutions to the climate crisis. However, “Paris is not going to deliver a plan to avert climate disaster.” A Nigerian climate campaigner says the climate summit’s outcome will be “a pack-

age of non-binding promises and non-commitments. It will be another carbon stock exchange.” The article says, “The most-polluting nations’ pledges “won’t even keep temperature rises below three degrees,” dooming low-lying islands and coastal cities.

“The entire process is held hostage to global power dynamics, where the ‘lowest common denominator’ rules,” said one person. Another Nigerian said they’ll kick the can further down the road. This process has worsened since 2009’s COP15 in Copenhagen.

But the victory over Shell’s Arctic drilling points in a more positive direction. A Bolivian climate organizer said, “We thought a strong international deal could be achieved that would change politics at the national level. But it needs to work the opposite way, from the grassroots fighting back against the systems. This will lead to changes in the bigger structures.”

The rapidly growing “blockadia” movement has great potential to impede nasty projects. Likewise, the divestment movement and anti-sponsorship campaigns are de-legitimizing the fossil fuel industry.

We have opportunities to use the Paris summit for good purposes. Support poor and Southern negotiators, challenge rich governments’ narratives, and build the climate justice movement.

While a few extremists want to shut the whole COP21 down, this would only make problems worse and increase rich countries’ power over poor ones. These global summits include all nations. Without this very broad participation, the world’s climate talks would likely revert to the G8 collection of extremely rich nations that would serve their own interests selfishly.

We need to use economic strategies that are different from rich countries' beliefs in "market-based" solutions about buying and selling carbon pollution rights and other "privatization" schemes. Likewise we need to resist risky "technofix solutions" that violate the precautionary principle and could cause horrible new problems.

**The climate movement and social movements must be "incredibly careful what message they convey.** The story we tell through protests, marches and other mobilizations must be strategic and nuanced. Some organizations are getting it spectacularly wrong." For example, one writer criticized an online petition titled, "Five months to save the world," which implies that the planet's fate depends upon what happens from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11. If we don't get what we want, have our movements failed? Should we give up? We must not buy into the "make-or-break" messaging around COP21. While avoiding unrealistic hope to save the world in a two-week event, we must also avoid gambling everything upon that.

**350.org is strategically smart to downplay expectations "by talking pointedly about the 'road through Paris' and mobilizing for the end, not the beginning."** Likewise, the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice, which is based in the grassroots of the global South, avoids calling for unspecified "climate action" but actually specifies a clear set of "climate justice" goals.

"The biggest opportunities at Paris may therefore be outside, rather than inside the talks." One organizer says, "We need to see Paris as a stepping stone, a moment when people can mobilize, meet up, build alliances for the stronger civil society movement that we need."

**While governments have moved only a little, the climate movement has strengthened itself and become more strategic,** "with critiques of capitalism, economic growth, environmental racism and white privilege. Unions will demand climate jobs while standing in solidarity with refugees. Campaigners will emphasize the need to resist trade deals that could make climate regulation illegal."

"[R]enewable energy is falling dramatically in price and taking significant market share. The oil and fracking industries are starting to take serious hits from the floundering oil price and on-the-ground resistance. Institutions worth \$2.6 trillion have now pledged to divest from fossil fuels. Leftwing, climate-friendly candidates are suddenly electable in Europe, and the Pope's outspokenness on climate is mobilizing faith communities and shaming world leaders."

We must move quickly and strategically during the brief window of time for stopping temperature rise. We'll be on an emotional rollercoaster with victories and defeats, but we must hang on for the ride. Every grassroots campaign starts with a problem and sees its starting position as weakness, so we must fight for the solutions.

When the 2009 climate summit in Copenhagen ended with a very weak deal, people blamed China, but that's not quite fair. The Obama Administration also prevented a better outcome.

One article in *NI 487* provides smart information about China's rapid transformation to reduce their own pollution and their damage to the world's climate. China has implemented tough new air pollution laws and regulations and has made much recent progress in reducing air pollution and climate damage. Also, China has become the world's largest investor in renewable energy.

Innovative technology – for China's own use and for export – is strategically valuable to help China's economy. China's current President Xi Jinping seems genuinely committed to alternative energy and climate protection.

Western pressure on China – especially criticism after Copenhagen – seems to have been rather ineffectual. A bigger reason for China's progress has been massive pressure from Chinese public opinion. **Tens of thousands of protests have occurred in China in each of several recent years.**

Two pages in *NI 487* summarize useful information and point out that the thousands of COP21's participants are not on a level playing field. "While Sudan and Somalia might bring one delegate, the US has hundreds. Some 3,000 journalists cover the event, hordes of corporate lobbyists will have privileged access, tens of thousands of protesters will critique it, and all leave has been cancelled for the French police." [After that article was written – and after the terror attack in Paris – the French government's fear of terrorism has led it to prohibit public gatherings outside COP21, although France's soccer games, Christmas shopping, etc., will continue.]

One article offers help about what to NOT say, and what TO say instead. Do NOT say, "It's not the perfect deal but it's the best we could do." DO say, "We are nature defending itself."

COP21 will consider how to reduce carbon pollution (including carbon trading), how to finance cures for the climate crisis, how to protect forests, and how to share responsibility among various kinds of nations. A two-page article in *NI 487* provides good **insights about good solutions we should support and bad ones to oppose.**

Some oil companies (especially foreign-based companies) are saying they want to help solve the climate crisis. But don't take their publicity at face value! They want to shift from oil to natural gas, and they want a market-based carbon pricing scheme that they can manipulate. The U.S.-based companies are very bad. We know about Exxon's climate denialism. When the international community regulated tobacco, it wisely cut tobacco companies out of the process. Let's do this regarding climate change!

One article in *NI 487* ("The Real Power Is Below") quotes smart, strong insights from other countries' climate organizers. For example, someone from Bolivia's Democracy Center urged working at levels below the national level. "Sub-national governments are in a position to do a lot, whether it's renewables, changing transportation patterns, phasing out dirty energy. The political equations are very different and activists can have much more of a real impact the closer to the ground the decision-making takes place. Governments are timid by nature. They tend to jump into things after somebody else has proven it works. So post-Paris, people need to be very practical about where they're going to put their activist energy. ... [C]orporate interests ... are heavily invested in the status quo and ... skilled at converting money into political power. In *The Art of War*, Sun Tzu said most battles are decided before they begin by the choice of battlefield. The higher up the political strata you go, the more powerful corporations get and the weaker we get. The closer to the ground you push, the stronger citizens' movements are and the weaker corporations are."

# TELEVISION PROGRAMS

Every month since February 1987 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 three times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at [www.tctv.net](http://www.tctv.net).

Also, watch the program described below (**and more than 100 of our previous interview programs and special programs** at the Olympia FOR's website, [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org). Simply click the "TV programs" link, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch. Many of our website's TV program listings also include links to documents describing the program in Word and/or .pdf format.

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## DECEMBER 2015

### "Why UNIVERSAL SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE Is THE REAL SOLUTION – AND How TO Accomplish It"

**NOTE:** This program's description posted on [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org) summarizes what the guest and host discussed during the TV program and **also much additional information** about universal single-payer health care. We hope the list of topics below will entice you to read the article we posted and watch the program.

by Glen Anderson, producer and host of this TV series

**A VERY MUCH MORE THOROUGH description of THE PROGRAM is posted ON THE "TV PROGRAMS" PART of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)**

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's December 2015 TV program examines the continuing problem of Americans' lack of access to affordable, high quality health care. Although Congress passed President Obama's Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") in March 2010, it has failed to cover many millions of Americans and failed to control costs. The real solution is universal single-payer health care, which other modern countries use to produce far better results at far lower cost.

Our guest is Dr. Sarah K. Weinberg. She knows a lot about the problems, and she has been working for universal single-payer health care as the best solution. She has worked very hard with two non-profit organizations, Health Care for All –

- Compare health outcomes in the U.S. with those of other nations
- Compare access to health care in the U.S. with access in other nations
- Cost and affordability of health care in the U.S. vs. other nations
- How do some other countries' health care systems work?
- How a system can work
- What has the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") accomplished?
- How does Obamacare (the Affordable Care Act) fall short of meeting our needs?
- Why was Obama's Affordable Care Act designed to be so weak and inefficient?
- Insurance companies are obstacles to solving our nation's health care problems
- Single-Payer: Basic concept and functioning
- Why should we create a universal single-payer health care system in the U.S.?
- To make progress, we must debunk the myths about American health care
- Debunk myths and misconceptions about single-payer
- Debunk other American political and cultural obstacles to Single-Payer
- Grassroots movements, constituencies and organizations support Single-Payer

Washington and Physicians for a National Health Program. We list websites for these two organizations and several other resources at the end of our TV program and the description posted at our website).

The very thorough description posted on the "TV Programs" part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org) includes the main points we made during the TV interview and a huge amount of supporting information. I encourage reading it.

#### **Our TV program addresses these main topics:**



- National legislation for Single-Payer
- Other states' legislation for Single-Payer (Vermont, Colorado, etc.)
- Washington state legislation for Single-Payer
- How to inform the public and build more grassroots support for Single-Payer
- Summary and encouragement
- Two excellent books, one short video, several non-profit organizations

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## JANUARY 2016

### “Bold, Friendly Action to Help GLBTQ People Escape Danger in Homophobic Uganda”

by Glen Anderson, producer and host of this TV series

What can we do when people in another part of the world are in serious danger because of who they are? Quakers in Olympia have decided to act boldly to protect their safety.



The government of Uganda (slightly east from the middle of Africa) passed a law criminalizing homosexuality, targeting that nation's LGBTQ population, and putting those people's lives, health and freedom in serious danger. Uganda's government also threatens people who help them. In 2014 Olympia's Quaker congregation, the Olympia Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, created a bold nonviolent response to help endangered people escape from Uganda and settle in countries where they would be safe.

This project, Friends Ugandan Safe Transport Fund, (formerly known as “Friends New Underground Railroad”), has already accomplished a number of successes. See much information at [www.friendsugandansafetransport.org](http://www.friendsugandansafetransport.org). They have attracted support from other faith communities and non-profit organizations. They persist through volunteer efforts and tax-deductible donations. See their website for more information. Our TV guests will be volunteers from Olympia Friends Meeting: Gabi Clayton, Kathleen O'Shaunessy, and Alan Mountjoy-Venning.

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# Abolish THE DEATH PENALTY

Important news is happening nationwide and in Washington State. See the “Death Penalty” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org).

**Now** is the time to organize to abolish Washington State's death penalty! See news & opportunities at the “Death Penalty” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org).

Connect with local folks working to abolish the death penalty:

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty began under a different name in 1989 and has been working continuously since then. We meet every month (except December) and organize a variety of activities to educate the public, the media, and government officials. You can see much information on the “Death Penalty” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org) and contact our committee through [deathpenalty@olympiafor.org](mailto:deathpenalty@olympiafor.org). You can interact with other folks by signing up for our interactive listserv and our Facebook page (see website).

The government will not abolish the death penalty unless we organize and work strategically and energetically, but if we do that we can win!

# CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2015 + JANUARY 2016

EVENTS SPONSORED BY FOR ARE PRECEDED BY THE SYMBOL FOR.

PHONE NUMBERS ARE IN (360) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

EVENTS OUTSIDE OF THURSTON COUNTY HAVE THEIR LOCATIONS UNDERLINED.

TCTV PROGRAMS USE CABLE CHANNEL 22 IN THURSTON COUNTY.

## EVERY WEEK:

**Every Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 am: “Democracy Now” with Amy Goodman** on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County. (For a number of years the Olympia FOR has provided financial support for TCTV’s airing of “Democracy Now.”)

**Every Mon through Fri from 9:00 to 10:00 am: Amy Goodman’s “Democracy Now,”** KAOS 89.3 FM

**FOR Every Monday at 1:30 pm: Olympia FOR’s program on TCTV, cable channel 22 in Thurston County – or watch it at any time on your computer through [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org): DECEMBER: “Why Universal Single-Payer Health Care Is the Real Solution.” JANUARY: “Bold, Friendly Action to help GLBT People Escape Danger in Homophobic Uganda.”** See descriptions in our December-January newsletter and on the “TV Programs” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org). Info: Glen Anderson 491-9093 [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org)

**Every Monday through Friday from 4 to 5 pm: “Democracy Now” with Amy Goodman** on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County. (For a number of years the Olympia FOR has provided financial support for TCTV’s airing of “Democracy Now.”)

**Every Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 5:30 pm: Free Speech Radio News** on KAOS 89.3 FM

**Every Monday at 5:00 pm: Veterans for Peace** airs a locally produced program on TCTV. Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 [mills.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:mills.dennis@gmail.com) and [www.vfp109rcc.org](http://www.vfp109rcc.org)

**FOR Every Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm: Peace Vigil** in NW corner of Sylvester Park (at Legion & Capitol Way) has persisted since March 5, 1980. Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a friendly way for peace and non-violence. We provide plenty of signs. Info: [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org) 491-9093 [www.olympiafor.org/vigils.htm](http://www.olympiafor.org/vigils.htm)

**FOR Every Wednesday at 5:00 pm: Olympia FOR’s program on TCTV, cable channel 22 in Thurston County – or watch it at any time on your computer through [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org). DECEMBER: “Why Universal Single-Payer Health Care Is the Real Solution.” JANUARY: “Bold, Friendly Action to help GLBT People Escape Danger in Homophobic**

**Uganda.”** See descriptions in our December-January newsletter and on the “TV Programs” section of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org). Info: Glen Anderson 491-9093 [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org)

**Every Wednesday at 5:00 pm: Hear “Talk Nation Radio” on KAOS-FM 89.3:** This 29-minute radio program offers politically progressive programs through the Pacifica Network. Info: <http://davidswanson.org/talknationradio>

**Every Thursday from 12:00 to 1:00 pm: Kim Dobson’s “Parallel University”** on KAOS 89.3 FM interviews knowledgeable, interesting experts on peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. Info: Kim Dobson. 951-4382, [parralleluniversity@yahoo.com](mailto:parralleluniversity@yahoo.com), <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Parallel-University-Radio-Show/148750248532028>) See list of current and past topics and guests. Listen locally at 89.3 FM or at [www.kaosradio.org](http://www.kaosradio.org)

**Every Thursday from 4 to 5 pm: Cop Watch volunteers invite you to connect with local efforts to monitor police behavior:** Cop Watch’s concerned citizens are available to hear your stories and strengthen local efforts. Come to Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, Olympia.

**Every Thursday at 8:00 pm: Veterans for Peace** airs a locally produced program on TCTV. Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 [mills.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:mills.dennis@gmail.com) and [www.vfp109rcc.org](http://www.vfp109rcc.org)

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**Every Friday from 8:30 to 10:30 am: The Housing Justice Project can help low-income tenants:** From 8:30 to 10:30 am Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services presents the Housing Justice Project at the Thurston County Superior Courthouse, Bldg 2, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia. They offer landlord/tenant advice for the tenants, unlawful detainer docket representation, and help for mobile home owners with

complaints about rules violations, notices from landlords or park owners and mobile home eviction cases. Call 705-8194 for information or to schedule an appointment. For immediate legal information call toll-free (888) 201-1014 between 9:15 am and 12:15 pm Monday through Friday.

**FOR Every Friday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm: Peace Vigil** at Percival Landing's south end, 4<sup>th</sup> & Water, downtown. Please join us for whatever length of time you can. We provide plenty of signs. The Artesian Rumble Arkestra street band joins us at 5:00 with lively, delightful music to support our vigil! The Olympia FOR has sponsored this since November 1998. Info: 491-9093 [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org) [www.olympiafor.org/vigils.htm](http://www.olympiafor.org/vigils.htm) and [www.oly-wa.us/artesianrumble](http://www.oly-wa.us/artesianrumble)

**Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm: "Women in Black" Silent Vigil for Peace** on the south side of W 4<sup>th</sup> 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: Rosemary Barnhart 866-7589 [rosemary.b@comcast.net](mailto:rosemary.b@comcast.net)

**FOR Every Saturday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm: Peace Vigil in Centralia** on the edge of Washington Park at Locust & Pearl in downtown Centralia. Sponsor: Lewis County's "Fire Mountain" FOR chapter. Info: June Butler 748-9658 or Larry Kerschner 880-4741 [larry@peacepoet.me](mailto:larry@peacepoet.me)

**Every Saturday at 2:00 pm: Veterans for Peace** airs a locally produced program on TCTV. Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 [mills.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:mills.dennis@gmail.com) and [www.vfp109rcc.org](http://www.vfp109rcc.org)

**Every Sat and Sun: The South Sound Estuarium, a marine life discovery center, is open** from 11 am to 4 pm every Saturday and Sunday at 309 State Ave NE, Olympia. You can schedule group visits during the week by appointment only. Regular admission \$5 for a family, \$3 per individual adult, \$1 for children 17 and younger, and free for association members. Info: Leihla 888-0565 [www.sseacenter.wordpress.com](http://www.sseacenter.wordpress.com)

## SPECIFIC DATES

**Now through December 31: Help local homeless kids by donating for matching grant program:** The Family Support Center at 201 Capitol Way N (corner of State Ave) in downtown Olympia has a "Homeless No More" project (Help Us Move In Inc. -- HUMI) through which people can have financial donations matched from now through December 31, 2015. HUMI has helped kids escape homelessness for the past 15 years, but child homeless has tripled in the past few years. Info: (360) 890-1174 and [www.helpusmovein.org](http://www.helpusmovein.org)

**FOR Tues Dec 1: Olympia FOR's book discussion group** has been meeting on the first Tuesday of each month for several years. For tonight, **please read and come ready to discuss any book related to recruiting people to join grassroots organizing.** Jim Bellinger, (360) 359-2212, [jimabellinger@comcast.net](mailto:jimabellinger@comcast.net), is our new host/facilitator, at 6:00 pm at his home, 1515 Tullis St NE, just a bit north of San Francisco Street NE.

**FOR Wed Dec 2: "Why Universal Single-Payer Health Care Is the Real Solution – and How to Achieve it" -- The Olympia FOR's December TV program** debuts at 5:00 this afternoon and airs three times a week all month long on TCTV channel 22 for Thurston County's cable subscribers. You can watch it and read a **VERY THOROUGH SUMMARY AND MUCH MORE INFORMATION** at [www.olympiafor.org/tv\\_programs.htm](http://www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm)

**Thurs Dec 3: Get big money out of politics! Local meetup tonight to turn in I-735 petition sheets, make plans for next week (including special signature-gathering locations), etc.:** Olympia's Move to Amend group invites everyone to join them for a local meetup from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, Olympia.

Info: Michael Savoca [masavoca@fairpoint.net](mailto:masavoca@fairpoint.net) Jennifer Sprague 866-8906 [jbsprague@hotmail.com](mailto:jbsprague@hotmail.com) [www.WAmend.org](http://www.WAmend.org)

**Thurs Dec 3: Learn about the gigantic oil train proposal for Vancouver WA:** 6:30 pm at the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Hall, 1205 Ingalls St. Vancouver, WA 98660. Please **RSVP** for the workshop via email to [dan@columbiariverkeeper.org](mailto:dan@columbiariverkeeper.org). Also see **Tues Jan 5** listing below for info on the hearing, rally, and submitting comments.

**FOR Fri Dec 4: Please help with Olympia FOR's fund appeal mailing party** at 10:00 a.m. at Glen Anderson's home in Lacey. With several volunteers we can complete this in two hours and help generate the income we need to keep our group active. If you can help, please contact him at 491-9093 or [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org) Thanks!

**Fri Dec 4: Nicaragua Solidarity, Context, culture:** Enjoy Latin dance and storytelling to help the people of El Lagartillo, Nicaragua, sustain traditional ways of life. 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, Olympia. Suggested donation \$15 includes meal and dance. Info: (509) 701-6406

**Sat Dec 5: Dana Lyons in concert:** He is the singer/songwriter best known for his outrageous hit comedy songs "Cows with Guns," "RV" and "Ride The Lawn." Captain Paul Watson from the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society says, "Every movement has its minstrel. The unions had Woody Guthrie. The peace movement had Phil Ochs. The environmental movement has Dana Lyons." 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water SW, Olympia. Info: [www.traditionsfairtrade.com](http://www.traditionsfairtrade.com) (360) 705-2819

**Sat Dec 5: The Illuminated Ball – a very festive indoor event – is the primary annual fundraiser for the Procession of the Species:** It runs tonight from 8:00

pm to midnight in the Grand Ballroom at the Eagles, at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E and Plum Street. Enjoy a “wow” experience with a Luminary Procession after RADCO dance troupe performs. Enjoy dancing when Pump House rocks down the house! Besides all the fun in the Ballroom, shop their craft boutique filled with local artists and their wares. This year’s Illuminated Ball includes light desserts and a great selection of wines and beer at their no-host bar. Tickets (\$25 each) are available at Traditions Café, 300 5th Ave SW, Olympia, or online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

**Sun Dec 6: Brunch to benefit a local non-profit org:**

On the first Sunday each month Media Island International (MII) hosts a benefit brunch from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to raise visibility and funds for a local non-profit organization. Today’s beneficiary is the Friends Ugandan Safe Transport, which protects GLBT people from violence in Uganda by helping them escape to nations where they will be safe. This effort was created by the Olympia Friends Meeting, the Quaker congregation in Olympia WA. Info: [www.friendsugandansafetransport.org](http://www.friendsugandansafetransport.org) and Gabi Clayton (360) 888-5291. Enjoy a simple, tasty brunch for a worthy cause each month, and donate a voluntary amount rather than a fixed price. Media Island is at 816 Adams Street SE (just east across Adams Street from Olympia’s downtown library). If you need a handicap entrance, use the alley behind it, accessible from 9th Ave SE.

**Sun Dec 6: Veterans for Peace (Olympia’s chapter 109) invites veterans and others to their monthly meeting** from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Media Island International, 816 Adams SE (across the street west of the Olympia Timberland Library). Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 [mills.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:mills.dennis@gmail.com) and [www.vfp109rcc.org](http://www.vfp109rcc.org)

**Sun Dec 6: Watch the highly relevant film “Syriana”** at 7:00 pm at Media Island International, 816 Adams SE (across the street west of the Olympia Timberland Library). This 2005 film is still relevant and thrilling. The plot twists and tangles with oil magnates and the CIA manipulating nations for a pipeline and complications. The Green Party of South Puget Sound (GPOSPS) organized this film showing and asks \$5 donation to watch it and \$1 for lemonade or popcorn. GPOSPS paid \$300 to rent this film so they hope for a good turnout to inform the community and create an opportunity to see friends and make new ones. Info: Janet Jordan (360) 232-6265 [janetjordan@fastmail.fm](mailto:janetjordan@fastmail.fm)

**Mon Dec 7: Olympia Ad Hoc Committee on Police and Community Relations:** This is the third in a series of community forums to develop opportunities for broad-based and inclusive engagement with the community about criminal justice issues. The City of Olympia Ad Hoc Committee on Police and Community Relations would like to hear about your experience with police interactions with social service providers and clientele in the downtown area. The intention is to create community-wide opportunities to solve problems together. They invite people to join in a community discussion especially about their experiences and opinions about these specific topics:

- Why do you come into contact with Olympia police officers in the greater downtown area, and what do you feel is currently working, or currently not working, for you when interacting with the police?
- What opportunities do you see to reduce conflicts among downtown populations, including residents, businesses, people seeking services (such as for homelessness or other life challenges), and how better communication with the police, or changing the police response, might help?
- In your “wish list” ideal world for downtown Olympia, what would you like to see to improve interactions and communication with the Olympia Police Department? What should the City of Olympia be working on?

The event runs from 5:00 to 8:30 pm at First Christian Church, 701 Franklin St. SE, downtown. Light refreshments will be provided. Info: <http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/advocatory-committees/police-relations-committee.aspx> Also, you can contact the committee at [pcr@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:pcr@ci.olympia.wa.us)

**Mon Dec 7: Climate Policy and Environmental Action for local communities: This event occurs in Tacoma:**

Do you feel like global climate change is too vast and overwhelming to deal with? Not sure what’s happening or how all our efforts can make a difference? Join the City of Tacoma’s Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability for a FREE three-part series on climate risks and how our nation, state and city can reduce our climate pollution and improve our local environment while preparing for change. The final session in this series is tonight. **Cities are leading the way toward environmental sustainability.** Hear from local leaders and elected officials about Tacoma’s goals and help prioritize our local community and municipal actions. If possible, please RSVP. Info: Kristin Lynett at the City of Tacoma’s Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability, [kristin.lynett@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:kristin.lynett@cityoftacoma.org) (253) 591-5571 [www.cityoftacoma.org/sustainability](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/sustainability) [facebook.com/tacomastustainability](https://www.facebook.com/tacomastustainability)

**Tues Dec 8: Special holiday gathering and more for Thurston County’s chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW):**

Instead of a December monthly meeting this year, you are invited to NOW’s holiday gathering at Hearthfire Grill, 1675 Marine Drive, on Budd Bay from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. To add your reservation for the NOW table, please call Irene 943-1881 or call the restaurant directly 705-3473. Please bring a donation for the YWCA Other Bank. Enjoy a short very business meeting, a good dinner and fun socializing! More info: Linda 357-7272 [lryh@hotmail.com](mailto:lryh@hotmail.com)

**Tues Dec 8: Olympia Science Café: “Science Fraud: Problems and Solutions”**

-- Humanity is facing major challenges that will require scientific solutions. However, there are recent signs that not all is well with the scientific enterprise. Growing numbers of scientific papers are being re-

tracted, and the reproducibility of research findings is increasingly questioned. A few high-profile cases of research misconduct threaten to erode public confidence in science. Repairing the scientific enterprise will require a renewed societal investment and a return to the basic values of rigor, reproducibility and responsibility. Tonight's speaker, Ferric C. Fang, M.D., is a Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Microbiology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, where he performs basic research on bacterial pathogenesis. He has written more than 180 peer-reviewed articles and has other impressive accomplishments and credentials. Olympia's Science Café meets on the second Tuesday of each month to provide an informal atmosphere where people with and without scientific background can meet to deepen their understanding of interesting topics in science and technology. 7:00 pm at Orca Books, 509 East 4th Avenue, 352-0123 [www.orcabooks.com](http://www.orcabooks.com) Info: about Olympia Science Café: John Weiss, [jweiss@stmartin.edu](mailto:jweiss@stmartin.edu) 412-6102

**FOR Wed Dec 9: Olympia FOR's Steering Committee meets** from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Kim Dobson's home in NE Olympia. All Olympia FOR folks are welcome. Info: 491-9093 [info@olympiafor.org](mailto:info@olympiafor.org)

**Wed Dec 9: Hear Nate Fields, an innocent man who served 20 years on death row, and also meet active abolitionists and raise funds for the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty:** This occurs at 7:00 pm tonight in Seattle. RSVP to [www.tinyurl.com/qeews9](http://www.tinyurl.com/qeews9) or visit and share WCADP's Facebook event page, <https://www.facebook.com/events/772950796160687/> Info: Danielle Fulfs, Program Director, Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, 4759 15th Avenue NE #309, Seattle, WA 98105 (206) 622-8952 [www.abolishdeathpenalty.org](http://www.abolishdeathpenalty.org) [info@abolishdeathpenalty.org](mailto:info@abolishdeathpenalty.org)

**Wed Dec 9: Watch feature film "Consumed" about GMO food. It is an entertaining narrative thriller that tackles the GMO issue in a substantive way:** See the trailer at [www.consumedthemovie.com/media-video](http://www.consumedthemovie.com/media-video) It airs only once in our area – and only if enough tickets are sold in advance. It would be 7:30 pm at the Martin Village Stadium 16 and Imax on Martin Way in Lacey, east of College Street and I-5. Please reserve your tickets immediately at <https://gathr.us/films/consumed> this link so they'll have enough people to show the film.



**Thurs Dec 10: International Human Rights Day:** Events will be happening worldwide, so why not here? Read the Call to Action at [www.tinyurl.com/hzycqha](http://www.tinyurl.com/hzycqha) All of the hot issues we about – violence and peace, social and economic justice, environment, climate, etc. – have serious implications for human rights. Unfortunately, the Olympia area does not have a local

chapter of Amnesty International ([www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)). Would you start one? In any case, each of us can do something (write a letter to an editor do something creative) to support human rights. If nothing else, re-read the United Nations' 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_Declaration\\_of\\_Human\\_Rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_of_Human_Rights).

**Thurs Dec 10: Defeating Racism Today: What Does it Take?** Does repealing racist laws really combat institutionalized racism? How does subtle and sometimes hidden institutionalized racism affect the citizens, economy, and future of Washington state? Eva Abram talks about the history of racism and how it affects specific groups in our society today. This program is sponsored by Humanities Washington and the Friends of the Olympia Timberland Library. 7:30-8:45 pm at Olympia Timberland Library on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, between Franklin and Adams Streets, downtown. Info: [www.trl.org](http://www.trl.org)

**Thurs Dec 10: The Thurston Climate Action Team invites people to their monthly meetings – now on the second Thursday evening at a new time and location:** TCAT does good, practical work to protect the climate, especially interacting with governments and the Thurston Regional Planning Council. TCAT is also looking for ways to fund local climate efforts. TCAT now meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, downtown Olympia. Info: Graeme Sackrison 791-8376 or Tom Crawford, [tom@thurstonclimateaction.org](mailto:tom@thurstonclimateaction.org) 280-0242

**Thurs Dec 10: Get big money out of politics! Local meetup tonight to turn in I-735 petition sheets, make plans for next week (including special signature-gathering locations), etc.:** Olympia's Move to Amend group invites everyone to join them for a local meetup from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, Olympia. Info: Michael Savoca [masavoca@fairpoint.net](mailto:masavoca@fairpoint.net) Jennifer Sprague 866-8906 [jbsprague@hotmail.com](mailto:jbsprague@hotmail.com) [www.WAmend.org](http://www.WAmend.org)

**Thurs Dec 10 Thurston County Coalition Against Trafficking works to prevent human trafficking:** 6:00 to 7:30 pm at a NEW LOCATION, the Family Support Center, 108 State Ave NW. Info: Linda Malanchuk-Finnan [Iryh@hotmail.com](mailto:Iryh@hotmail.com) 360-357-7272 More info: [www.waengage.com](http://www.waengage.com)

**Thurs Dec 10: "The BLOB: What is Causing the Drought?"** South Sound Estuary Association's Discovery Speaker Series presents Dr. Christopher Krembs, oceanographer for the Washington State Department of Ecology. Dr. Krembs will present an overview of the changing Pacific Ocean currents and explain how the unusually warm ocean water off Washington's coastline is responsible for our changing climate. Doors open at 6:30 pm for the 7:00 program at the WET (Water Education and Technology) Science Center at the LOTT (Lacey Olympia Tumwater Thurston) sewage treatment plant, 500 Adams St NE, north of downtown Olympia. [www.lottcleanwater.org](http://www.lottcleanwater.org)

**Fri Dec 11: Celebrate “Rejoicing for Rights” with the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice:** This annual event will reflect on the year’s struggles and celebrate the pursuit of global human rights in response. The evening of music, dancing, food, drink and special guest speaker is from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Woman’s Club (Abigail Stuart House), 1002 Washington Street SE, in Olympia. For information and \$35 tickets visit either [www.rachelcorriefoundation.org](http://www.rachelcorriefoundation.org) or <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2420585>

**Fri Dec 11: “Stories of How Music Impacts Our Lives in collaboration with Sound Star Academy of Music Generations Connecting” – Enjoy Heartsparkle Players’ amazing improvisational “playback theater”** at 7:30 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, downtown Olympia. Typically they collaborate with a local non-profit organization. This month they collaborate with a group whose mission is to enable the pursuit of excellence through music education and performance and to build confidence through self-expression. Suggested donation is \$5 to \$10, but nobody will be turned away for lack of money. For more info visit [www.heartsparkle.org](http://www.heartsparkle.org) 943-6772

**Sat Dec 12: Climate actions are planned worldwide to begin after the Paris climate summit ends on Fri Dec. 11, to keep the pressure on world leaders:** Regardless of whether world leaders make significant progress, the struggle must continue. A “make-or-break” assumption and a “doom and gloom” pessimism would work against us, so let’s inform ourselves with smart insights and plan to follow up strategically! For summaries of informative, insightful articles, contact [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org)

**FOR Sun Dec 13: Tacoma FOR will show Olympia FOR’s video, “100 Years of FOR’s Bold Nonviolent Work for Peace and Social Justice”** – The business meeting will run from 3:15 to 4:00, the video program will begin at 4:00, and a potluck dinner will begin at 5:30. Tacoma FOR meets at [Tacoma Friends Meeting House](http://TacomaFriendsMeetingHouse.org), 2508 S. 39<sup>th</sup> (off 38<sup>th</sup> Street, north of Tacoma Mall). Info: David Lambert (253) 759-2280 [lambertdavid39@gmail.com](mailto:lambertdavid39@gmail.com)

**Sun Dec 13: FILM: “This Changes Everything” by Naomi Klein will be shown at 3:00 pm** at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Rd NW, Poulsbo (in Kitsap County). This FREE film showing for the public is presented by Free Range Films. A facilitated, respectful discussion will follow. Info: (360) 297-3894 and [freerangefilmskitsap@gmail.com](mailto:freerangefilmskitsap@gmail.com) and <https://www.facebook.com/FreeRangeFilms> Free Range Films is a collaboration of the North Kitsap 99% and Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

**Mon Dec 14: History in Your Backyard: Learn about the history and culture of Oyster Bay, and discover how to work together to record your own community’s history:** Author and anthropologist Llyn De

Danaan will lead today’s event starting at 5:30 pm at the Tumwater branch of Timberland Regional Library, 7023 New Market Street, Tumwater 98501-6563

**Mon Dec 14 through Tues Jan 5: The national Audubon Society moved the date for their annual Christmas Bird Count to the three-week period from MON DEC 14 to TUES JAN 5:** This is a scientifically valid census organized by specific geographical areas, so participants must register in advance to get information and coordinate with local organizers. See information, including local opportunities everywhere, and sign up to participate at this link: [www.audubon.org/content/join-christmas-bird-count](http://www.audubon.org/content/join-christmas-bird-count) Also, in the greater Olympia area, connect through the Black Hills Audubon Society, [www.wa.audubon.org/chapters/black-hills-audubon-society](http://www.wa.audubon.org/chapters/black-hills-audubon-society) or (360) 352-7299

**Tues Dec 15: Sign up by today to participate in civil disobedience (or support it) in April 2016 to protect electoral democracy from big money corruption:** Three years ago Occupy Wall Street caught the nation’s attention and put the issue of the 1% vs. the 99% squarely on the public agenda. Now people are planning a nationwide nonviolent focus on the climate crisis. The organizers are urging people to pledge their participation for a date in 2016 by today’s deadline, so they can proceed with planning. They say, “Our democracy is in a state of emergency. Our politicians still take orders from the corporations—including Big Polluters—that fund their campaigns. ... What if we leveraged peaceful, mass direct action to challenge the biggest threat facing our democracy? Could we change the game on the tsunami of big money flooding American elections?” The organizers say, “If at least 1,000 people pledge to risk arrest by December 15th, U.S. Climate Plan, Avaaz, 99Rise, and a growing coalition of will organize Democracy Spring — the largest American civil disobedience action in a generation — next April in Washington D.C.” **Here’s the plan:** On April 2 a pioneering group of Americans will embark on a 10-day march from the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia to the US Capitol in Washington DC, at which time Congress will be faced with a simple choice: take immediate action to make the 2016 elections free and fair for all people as equal citizens, or be prepared to send thousands of patriotic Americans to jail simply for demanding an equal voice. When the marchers arrive in DC they’ll be greeted by thousands who have gathered there from all across the US to be part of this historic moment. At that point, either Congress will have miraculously come to its senses and passed the perfectly viable reform bills now pending before it, or those who protect corruption will leave us no choice but to reclaim the People’s House in mass nonviolent sit-ins.” Info about this historic “Democracy Spring” -- [www.democracyspring.org](http://www.democracyspring.org)

**Tues Dec 15: Americans United for the Separation of Church and State will NOT meet tonight:** See the Tues Jan 19 listing.

**FOR Wed Dec 16: “Confronting the Climate Crisis”:** Olympia FOR’s vigorous group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, downtown. Info: (360) 352-6327 [climate@olympiafor.org](mailto:climate@olympiafor.org) [www.olympiafor.org/Climate\\_Crisis.html](http://www.olympiafor.org/Climate_Crisis.html)

**Thurs Dec 17: Get big money out of politics! Local meetup tonight to turn in I-735 petition sheets, make plans for next week (including special signature-gathering locations), etc.:** Olympia’s Move to Amend group invites everyone to join them for a local meetup from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, Olympia. Info: Michael Savoca [masavoca@fairpoint.net](mailto:masavoca@fairpoint.net) Jennifer Sprague 866-8906 [jbsprague@hotmail.com](mailto:jbsprague@hotmail.com) [www.WAmend.org](http://www.WAmend.org)

**Fri Dec 18: FREE FILM SHOWING of Naomi Klein’s new documentary “This Changes Everything”** at 7:00 pm at the Center for Spiritual Living, 206 North J Street (corner of North J and Division), [Tacoma](http://Tacoma) 98403

**Fri Dec 18 to Thurs Dec 24: An excellent film about Iran will be screened at Olympia Film Society.** Info will be available soon at [www.olympiafilmsociety.org](http://www.olympiafilmsociety.org)



**FOR Sat Dec 19: 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Peace Vigil from 12 noon to 1 pm along West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Percival Landing, downtown Olympia:** The public is warmly invited to participate in this great annual event from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. along West Fourth Avenue, along the south side of Percival Landing and in front of Heritage Fountain, and to gather nearby afterward for soup and other refreshments. The Olympia FOR’s annual Holiday Peace Vigil is a beloved local tradition. The Olympia FOR will provide an abundant variety of signs, but participants may bring their own. Children are welcome. The Artesian Rumble Arkestra will perform. Participants may enjoy free refreshments nearby after the vigil. (To volunteer to bring hot soup or other refreshments call Chris Carson at 943-2375. Info: Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org) and [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)

**FOR Mon Dec 21: Global Days of Listening: Participate in this monthly worldwide conversation for peace:** The opportunity in Olympia is at the home of Chuck Schultz and Rozanne Rants very early this morning (4:30-7:30 am), which is from 5 to 8 pm Kabul, Afghanistan time. Recent guests have included Dr. Erica Chenoweth, Elliot Adams, and Kathy Kelly. The Afghan Peace Volunteers’ #Enough! Campaign was launched during the GDoL conversation on Sept. 21, 2015, the International Day of Peace. The #Enough! Campaign is a

multi-year/24/7 project connecting the Afghan Peace Volunteers’ two projects: their ongoing Street Kids School of Kabul and The Duvet Project, which are in their 2nd and 4th years of operation, respectively. Info: Doug Mackey (360) 915-6757 [dougwmackey@yahoo.com](mailto:dougwmackey@yahoo.com) and [www.globaldaysoflistening.org](http://www.globaldaysoflistening.org)

**FOR Tues Dec 22: Olympia FOR’s Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty will NOT meet tonight.** We’ll resume our regular schedule (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month) on Tues Jan 26.

**Sat Dec 26: Progressive folk singer Jim Page with Orville Johnson in concert:** For decades Jim Page has been a Northwest favorite with powerful, enjoyable (often with wry humor!) songs about peace, social & economic justice, and much more. He is in the best tradition of Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan. 8:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, Olympia. Tickets \$15 general or \$10 student/low income. (360) 705-2819 [www.traditionsfairtrade.com](http://www.traditionsfairtrade.com)



Thanks to Lee Miller for this art work.

**Mon Dec 28: Vigil for peace on this day of the Holy Innocents, marking Herod’s attempt to find and kill the baby Jesus more than 2000 years ago. Children still die from war and violence. Stand up for peace during this morning’s rush hour:** Everyone is welcome to dress

warmly and stand from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. along 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, west of Water Street (near the fountain across from the Oyster House Restaurant in downtown Olympia). Everyone is welcome to participate. “When Herod found out that he had been tricked by the wise men, he became furious. He gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its neighborhood who were two years old or under. This was done in line with what he had learned from the wise men about the time when the star appeared.” (Matthew 2:16) Info: Bob Zeigler 570-0848 [ZeiglerBob@msn.com](mailto:ZeiglerBob@msn.com)

**Fri Jan 1: Starting date of a new online course titled “A World Beyond War”** – This online course will examine the possibility, desirability, and feasibility of abolishing the institution of war. It will examine arguments for the desirability and necessity of war, considering possible costs and benefits of war, and weighing alternative strategies for advancing the cause of reduction and abolition. Sign up for it during December through the World Institute for Social Change. The instructor encourages students to bring any and all examples and arguments to the discussion. Each week will include text and video, discussions, Q&A, and feedback on students’ writings. Each course costs \$50 (\$25

for low-income people). Some of this funding will go to an excellent non-profit organization, World Beyond War ([www.worldbeyondwar.org](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)) See info at the WISC website, <https://zcomm.org/zschool/moodle/> It is related to the *Z Magazine's* online network of resources. See <https://zcomm.org/znetarticle/world-institute-for-social-change-education-and-action/> To sign up for the course, visit <https://zcomm.org/zschool/moodle/login> Follow several steps of directions. If you encounter technical problems, contact [sysop@zmag.org](mailto:sysop@zmag.org)

**Sun Jan 3: Brunch to benefit Food and Water Watch's efforts, including reducing the excessive use of antibiotics in industrial meat production:** On the first Sunday each month Media Island International (MII) hosts a benefit brunch from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to raise visibility and funds for a local non-profit organization. Today's beneficiary will be Food and Water Watch ([www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)), which does excellent work nationwide to protect us from fracking, excessive use of antibiotics in industrial meat production, and many other hot issues related to food and water. Enjoy a simple, tasty brunch for a worthy cause each month, and donate a voluntary amount rather than a fixed price. Media Island is at 816 Adams Street SE (just east across Adams Street from Olympia's downtown library). If you need a handicap entrance, use the alley behind it, accessible from 9th Ave SE.

**Sun Jan 3: Veterans for Peace (Olympia's chapter 109) invites veterans and others to their monthly meeting** from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Media Island International, 816 Adams SE (across the street west of the Olympia Timberland Library). Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 [mills.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:mills.dennis@gmail.com) and [www.vfp109cc.org](http://www.vfp109cc.org)

**Tues Jan 5: Speak out against the Tesoro-Savage oil terminal proposal:** If Tesoro-Savage's monstrosity is built in Vancouver WA, it would be the nation's largest crude oil by rail terminal. Its capacity to handle 360,000 barrels per day would need four trains every day to deliver the oil, filling a tanker nearly 700 feet long for shipment down the Columbia River for export. This monstrous hazard to our region's environments and the world's climate would risk accidents, derailments, explosions, and oil spills all along the rail and tanker route. It could seriously hurt Vancouver's economy and quality of life. The project directly conflicts with a \$1.3 billion waterfront redevelopment plan for 3,300 new homes and nearby restaurants, shopping and office space. Twenty-two city blocks of the waterfront development would be within 100 feet of the rail line. Tesoro Savage's proposal is opposed by the Vancouver City Council, Vancouver Firefighters Union IAFF Local 452, ILWU Local 4, Columbia Waterfront LLC, the Cities of Washougal and Spokane, the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission, the environmental community, and people from all walks of life across the NW. **PARTICIPATE TODAY IN PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMUNITY RALLY in Vancouver (Ridgefield) WA.** Public comments are open from 1 to 11 pm (or when the last speaker has spoken). The RALLY will occur at 5:00 pm. Go to the Clark County Event

Center at the Fairgrounds Hall B, 17402 NE Delfel Road, Ridgefield, WA 98642 Also attend the **informational session on Thurs Dec 3 (see above)**. Info: Beth Doglio at Climate Solutions ([www.climate-solutions.org](http://www.climate-solutions.org)), [beth@climatesolutions.org](mailto:beth@climatesolutions.org) (360) 292-1228 or (360) 352-1763 ext 101 or cell (360) 628-0935 **SUBMIT COMMENTS ONLINE OR ON PAPER by Friday night January 8:** Submit comments by mail to the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC), P.O. Box 43172, Olympia WA 98504, or online through the website for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is at <https://ts.efsec.wa.gov/>

**Tues Jan 5: Sierra Club South Sound's monthly meeting** from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Mekong Restaurant, 125 Columbia Street Northwest (SW corner of State Ave), Olympia. Enjoy the meeting and delicious food. Info: Phyllis Farrell, [phylisfarrell@hotmail.com](mailto:phylisfarrell@hotmail.com) and visit [www.sierraclub.org/washington/local-groups](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/local-groups)

**FOR Tues Jan 5: Olympia FOR's book discussion group** has been meeting on each month's first Tuesday month for several years. Tonight's topic will be chosen during our Tues Dec 1 gathering. Meet at 6:00 pm at the home of Jim Bellinger, 1515 Tullis St NE, just a bit north of San Francisco Street NE. Info: (360) 359-2212, [jimabellinger@comcast.net](mailto:jimabellinger@comcast.net)

**Fri Jan 8: "Stories of Living Locally" – Enjoy Heartsparkle Players' amazing improvisational "playback theater"** at 7:30 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, downtown Olympia. Typically they collaborate with a local non-profit organization. This month they collaborate with *Sustainable South Sound*, which is dedicated to building sustainable community in South Puget Sound through education, advocacy and celebration. Suggested donation is \$5-\$10, but nobody will be turned away for lack of money. Info: [www.heartsparkle.org](http://www.heartsparkle.org) 943-6772

**FOR Sun Jan 10: Bernie Meyer and Mary Hanson will discuss the Ukraine crisis with the Tacoma FOR:** The business meeting will run from 3:15 to 4:00, the program will begin at 4:00, and a potluck dinner will begin at 5:30. Tacoma FOR meets at Tacoma Friends Meeting House, 2508 S. 39<sup>th</sup> (off 38<sup>th</sup> Street, north of Tacoma Mall). Info: David Lambert (253) 759-2280 [lambertdavid39@gmail.com](mailto:lambertdavid39@gmail.com)

**Tues Jan 12: Glen Anderson discusses the climate crisis at a public event in Panorama City, Lacey:** For decades Panorama City's Democratic Study Group has hosted speakers at its monthly series on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month. The group's leaders asked Glen to speak today about the climate crisis. Enjoy a 30-minute talk and 30 minutes of Q&A and discussion. It will occur at 1:30 pm in Panorama City's Auditorium. From Sleater-Kinney Road SE, go south a little south from 14<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, turn left into the campus, go around the roundabout and bend left around behind some houses to see the new Auditorium on the left. Info: Polly Boyajian 438-5700

pgboyajian@comcast.net or Glen at 491-9093 glenander-son@integra.net.

**Tues Jan 12: Thurston County's chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) also serves adjacent Mason, Lewis and Grays Harbor counties:** 5:30-7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, downtown Olympia. Info: Linda 357-7272 lryh@hotmail.com

**Tue Jan 12: Introduction to Nonviolent Communication – “Communicating to Connect”** -- Liv Monroe's excellent workshop (“Communicating to Connect”) offers hope and practical communication tools to increase understanding, respect, honesty and fun. You can change from furious to curious – and you can change from shame and blame – to understanding and compassion. Her workshops are based on Marshall Rosenberg's “Nonviolent Communication” process, which helps people resolve conflicts with other people in our daily lives and in the larger community. It also helps people resolve their own internal conflicts and increase personal happiness. Tonight's workshop runs from 6:45 to 9:00 pm in the cafeteria on the ground floor of Lincoln Elementary School, 21<sup>st</sup> Ave SE and SE Washington Street. (Park and enter from around the south end on Washington Street.) It's free, but donations are appreciated. Info: Liv Monroe 357-4503 livmonroe@gmail.com

**Tues Jan 12: Bernie Meyer shares best stories from his latest experiences in India:** Bernie Meyer (“the American Gandhi”) has spent extensive amounts of time in India on more than a dozen locations over the years. After returning from each trip he thoughtfully processes the experiences and shares moving stories with the community. He traveled there last Sept 18 to Oct 10 and will share experiences and insights at 7:00 pm tonight at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water, in downtown Olympia. The theme of this trip blended Gandhi's authentic message with implications for our own current times, as Bernie faces the world's serious issues, including nuclear weapons, the climate crisis, the depletion of natural resources, the underlying reality of the economy, and population and poverty.

**Tues Jan 12: Olympia Science Café provides information about color vision:** Olympia's Science Café meets on the second Tuesday of each month to provide an informal atmosphere where people with and without scientific background can meet to deepen their understanding of interesting topics in science and technology. 7:00 pm at Orca Books, 509 East 4th Avenue, 352-0123 [www.orcabooks.com](http://www.orcabooks.com) Info: about Olympia Science Café: John Weiss, [jweiss@stmartin.edu](mailto:jweiss@stmartin.edu) 412-6102

**Thurs-Mon Jan 14-18: Join the Nipponzan Myohoji Bainbridge Island Dojo for its annual peace walk honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.:** This year's walk theme urges “A world free from Racism and Militarism” It begins on Bainbridge Island and ends in Seattle in time to join the MLK Seattle Rally and March. For a full schedule and contact details, please see the Events Calendar at [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

**Sun Jan 17: Friendly Water for the World presents a FREE LUNCH along with the topic, "There Is No Such Thing as a Free Lunch"** -- The goal is create a Friendly Water Sustainers Circle of volunteers and contributors. The free lunch will be an Assyrian menu catered by Ninevah. This will occur at 1:30 pm at the New Bridge Community Church, 812 Central St SE, Olympia (site of the OLD Madison Elementary School until 1999). Interested? Contact David Albert at [david@friendlywater.net](mailto:david@friendlywater.net) or (360) 918-3642.

**Mon Jan 18: Join with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Seattle's MLK Seattle Rally and March:** Gather just before noon at Seattle's Garfield High School near the grassy knoll along 23rd Avenue. Help carry signs and banners or hand out leaflets with Ground Zero's message of nonviolence and abolishing nuclear weapons. See more info at the Events Calendar at [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

**Mon Jan 18: Join with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Seattle's MLK Seattle Rally and March:** Gather just before noon at Seattle's Garfield High School near the grassy knoll along 23rd Avenue, Seattle. [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

**Tues Jan 19: Americans United for the Separation of Church and State:** You are invited to their monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian church, 2315 Division St NW, Olympia. Sometimes after convening the meeting decides to move itself to Pints & Quarts at Capital Mall. Info: Dennis Mansker [dmansker@comcast.net](mailto:dmansker@comcast.net)

**FOR Wed Jan 20: Special time and place for Strategic Planning to help Olympia FOR's vigorous “Confronting the Climate Crisis” group accomplish even more during 2016:** We meet on the third Wednesday of each month, but TODAY we're starting at 4:30 and will run until 8:45 or 9:00 at a different location in order to conduct strategic planning so we can make much progress during 2016. Please bring potluck snacks to share. We'll choose today's location soon. Ask for it from Bourtai Hargrove (360) 352-6327 [climate@olympiafor.org](mailto:climate@olympiafor.org) See much information at our website, [www.olympiafor.org/Climate\\_Crisis.html](http://www.olympiafor.org/Climate_Crisis.html)

**FOR Thurs Jan 21: Global Days of Listening: Participate in this monthly worldwide conversation for peace:** The opportunity in Olympia is at the home of Chuck Schultz and Rozanne Rants very early this morning (4:30-7:30 am), which is from 5 to 8 pm Kabul, Afghanistan time. Recent guests have included Dr. Erica Chenoweth, Elliot Adams, and Kathy Kelly. The Afghan Peace Volunteers' #Enough! Campaign was launched during the GDoL conversation on Sept. 21, 2015, the International Day of Peace. The #Enough! Campaign is a multi-year/24/7 project that connects projects of the Afghan Peace Volunteers: their ongoing Street Kids School of Kabul and

The Duvet Project, which are in their 2nd and 4th years of operation, respectively. Info: Doug Mackey (360) 915-6757 [dougmackey@yahoo.com](mailto:dougmackey@yahoo.com) and [www.globaldaysoflistening.org](http://www.globaldaysoflistening.org)

**Tues Jan 26: Lobby Washington State Legislature to abolish the death penalty:** Every year the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (WCADP, [www.abolishdeathpenalty.org](http://www.abolishdeathpenalty.org)) organizes a Lobby Day so ordinary Washingtonians can visit our state legislators and urge them to abolish this cruel, wasteful, ineffectual practice. In 2016 the WCADP's Lobby Day will be on TUES. JAN. 26. Sign up now through this link: [www.tinyurl.com/prqr6pt](http://www.tinyurl.com/prqr6pt)

**FOR Tues Jan 26: Attend the monthly meeting of the Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty** at 7:00 pm at a comfortable, convenient location in West Olympia. We educate ourselves and plan activities toward abolishing this atrocity. (Glen offers an additional opportunity at his home in late afternoon to learn and strategize outreach.) Info: Emily Hammargren 352-0695 [deathpenalty@olympiafor.org](mailto:deathpenalty@olympiafor.org) or Glen Anderson 491-9093 [glen@olympiafor.org](mailto:glen@olympiafor.org). More info: [www.olympiafor.org/death\\_penalty.htm](http://www.olympiafor.org/death_penalty.htm)

**Mon Feb 1 to Sun Feb 7: Interfaith Harmony Week Compassion Games:** The Compassion Games UN Interfaith Harmony Week Coopetition is a great opportunity for any organization, group, congregation or interfaith community to play in the Games in the spirit of growing global unity and respect for all of Creation. By using our innate creativity, the competitive altruism of the Games inspire and catalyze people to compete with each other, not against each other for the greater good of compassion and service for others and the world. Info: [www.compassiongames.org/interfaith-league-feb-1-7/](http://www.compassiongames.org/interfaith-league-feb-1-7/)

**FOR Tues Feb 2: Olympia FOR's book discussion group** has been meeting on each month's first Tuesday month for several years. Tonight's topic will be chosen during our Tues Jan 5 gathering. Meet at 6:00 pm at the home of Jim Bellinger, 1515 Tullis St NE, just a bit north of San Francisco Street NE. Info: (360) 359-2212, [jimbellinger@comcast.net](mailto:jimbellinger@comcast.net)

**Tues Feb 2: Sierra Club South Sound's monthly meeting** from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Mekong Restaurant, 125 Columbia Street Northwest (SW corner of State Ave), downtown Olympia. Enjoy the meeting and delicious food. Info: Phyllis Farrell, [phyllisfarrell@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllisfarrell@hotmail.com) and also [www.sierraclub.org/washington/local-groups](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/local-groups)

**Sun Feb 7: Brunch to benefit Gateways for Incarcerated Youth:** On the first Sunday each month Media Island International (MII) hosts a benefit brunch from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to raise visibility and funds for a local non-profit organization. Today's beneficiary will be *Gateways for Incarcerated Youth*. Gateways provides the individualized approach needed to reengage young people who are incarcerated. Their focus on culture – helping all students learn their own and respecting others – helps to break the cycle of incarceration, violence and recidivism. Enjoy a simple, tasty brunch for a worthy cause each month, and donate a voluntary amount rather than a fixed price. Media Island is at 816 Adams Street SE (just east across Adams Street from Olympia's downtown library). If you need a handicap entrance, use the alley behind it, accessible from 9th Ave SE.

**Mark your calendars now for this special event on Sat Feb 20: Holly Gwinn Graham celebrates her 70th birthday in concert** at Traditions Fair Trade Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water SW on Feb. 20 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are sliding scale from \$10 - 20. Help Holly celebrate many years of activism through and with music! Reservations are highly recommended. Call Traditions at (360) 705-2819 to reserve your tickets.

**FOR There will be no Tom Rawson concert to benefit the Olympia FOR in March 2016,** because no date matched the availability of both Tom and the Traditions Café. We hope to offer this benefit concert again in early March 2017.

**FOR Fri-Mon July 1-4: "Persevering FOR Peace" – FOR's 58<sup>th</sup> Annual conference at Seabeck in Kitsap County will focus on the power and effectiveness of nonviolent action:** Two excellent keynote speakers are Jamila Raqib, Executive Director of the Albert Einstein Institution (Gene Sharp's excellent non-profit org that researches and publicizes how to use nonviolent action to resist oppression, repel invaders and topple dictators, [www.aeinstein.org](http://www.aeinstein.org)), and Erica Chenoweth, whose research into the past century's civil wars and other conflicts proved that the ones that relied upon nonviolence achieved better results than those that used violence. See Erica's Ted Talk at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJSehRIU34w>. Also enjoy our Seabeck Conference's many workshops, delightful music, friendly people, and fun for all ages from little kids through very elderly. Glen will arrange carpooling from Olympia. Info: [www.forseabeck.org](http://www.forseabeck.org)

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If you like the Olympia FOR's calendar and newsletter, please tell your friends. They can sign up to receive the paper version or a .pdf attached to an e-mail.

Also refer them to [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)

**THANKS!**

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NEWSLETTER WRITER, EDITOR, LAYOUT: GLEN ANDERSON

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 → See the article on pages 2-6.

**Curious about the global climate summit underway in Paris?**  
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**Olympia FOR's Newsletter for DECEMBER 2015 + JANUARY 2016**

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