

THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT IS DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

From Tunisia to Egypt to Spain to Wall Street to Olympia – and many hundreds of places in between – people are demanding democracy, human rights, and economic justice. Some thoughts appear below and at various places throughout this newsletter. Plenty of good information and wise political insights are available from sources specifically focusing on the Occupy Movement, including www.occupywallst.org, occupytogether.org, and www.occupyolympia.org, and from progressive news sources, including www.democracynow.org, www.thenation.com, www.truthout.org, www.commondreams.org, www.alternet.org, and others.

Also, there is no substitute for visiting an Occupy site in person and talking face-to-face with people there.

The U.S. preaches democracy to other countries but the U.S. is still providing deadly weapons for brutal governments to use against their own people. This bi-partisan policy has persisted for decades and continues now in Egypt, Bahrain, Colombia, other nations, and even in some U.S. cities.

Police in New York City, Oakland CA, and some other places have violently suppressed nonviolent First Amendment activities,

but the former police chiefs of Seattle and Philadelphia have sharply criticized police brutality. Seattle's former police chief Norm Stamper wrote a powerful article denouncing recent years' militarization of police throughout the U.S. See www.thenation.com/article/164501/paramilitary-policing-seattle-occupy-wall-street and www.latimesblogs.latimes.com/nationnow/2011/11/seattle-wto-protests-norm-stamper.html

The federal, state, and local governments have failed to take care of people's basic needs for food, housing, safety, etc., and the general public tends to shun people who are homeless or mentally ill, but volunteers in the Occupy Movement have stepped forward to welcome all kinds of people and have organized to meet their needs. A few days ago a taxi delivered to Occupy Olympia a patient who was discharged from St. Peter Hospital with no place else to go, and Occupy Olympia welcomed her into their makeshift village.

This newsletter includes Occupy-related items, including quotations on pages 2-3 and the article on pages 6-7 describing our December and January TV programs on Washington State taxes and the Occupy Movement, respectively.



36th ANNUAL HOLIDAY PEACE VIGIL

SAT. DEC. 17, 12 NOON TO 1 P.M., ALONG WEST 4th AVENUE AT PERCIVAL LANDING, OLYMPIA

The Olympia FOR invites the public to participate in Olympia's 36th Annual Holiday Peace Vigil on Sat. Dec. 17 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. along W. 4th Ave, at Percival Landing's south side and in front of Heritage Fountain.

The annual vigil is a 36-year Olympia tradition. We provide signs and also invite participants to bring their own. We welcome children. Members of the Artesian Rumble Arkestra will perform. We invite you to enjoy free refreshments nearby after the vigil.

During this season of joy and good will, let us set aside all violence and militarism, which are the opposites of joy and good will. The vigil gives participants and passersby an opportunity to pause and choose peace instead of war. Peace is so much more consistent with the holiday spirit.

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

More information is at (360) 491-9093, info@olympiafor.org and www.olympiafor.org

QUOTATIONS RELEVANT TO THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT'S CONCERNS

CONCENTRATED WEALTH:

- “Permit me to issue and control the money of a nation and I care not who makes its laws.” -- Mayer Amschel Rothschild, founder of the Rothschild banking dynasty
- In 1873 former Wisconsin State Supreme Court Justice Edward Ryan stated: “There is looming up a new and dark power.... The enterprises of the country are aggregating vast corporate combinations of unexampled capital, boldly marching, not for economical conquests only, but for political power.”
- Wall Street is occupying America.
- Louis Brandeis, Supreme Court Justice from 1916 to 1939, said this: “We can have a democratic society or we can have the concentration of great wealth in the hands of the few. We cannot have both.”
- “We won't pay for their crisis!” -- Slogan of European labor union members who opposed “austerity” measures after the 2008 economic meltdown

GOVERNMENT:

- America is not socialistic. With socialism, the government owns the businesses. Here, it is just the opposite.
- “And the banks -- hard to believe in a time when we're facing a banking crisis that many of the banks created -- are still the most powerful lobby on Capitol Hill. And they frankly own the place.” -- U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), April 2009, while trying unsuccessfully to pass legislation to help people by reforming bankruptcy laws.
- “Freedom is when the people can speak. Democracy is when the government listens.” -- Alastair Farrugia
- “Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, the people alone have an incontestable, unalienable, and infeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter, or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness require it.” -- John Adams, 1776
- Elizabeth Warren stated: “There is nobody in this country who got rich on his own. Nobody. You built a factory out there -- good for you. But I want to be clear. You moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for. You hired workers the rest of us paid to educate. You were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for. You didn't have to worry that marauding bands would come and seize everything at your factory.... Now look. You built a factory and it turned into something terrific or a great idea -- God Bless! Keep a Big Hunk of it. But part of the underlying social contract is you

take a hunk of that and pay forward for the next kid who comes along.”

- In 1912 -- BEFORE he was elected president -- Woodrow Wilson said this about democracy in the United States: “Suppose you go to Washington and try to get at your government. You will always find that while you are politely listened to, the men really consulted are the big men who have the biggest stakes -- the big bankers, the big manufacturers, the big masters of commerce.... Every time it has come to a critical question, these gentlemen have been yielded to, and their demands treated as the demands that should be followed as a matter of course. The government of the United States is a foster child of the special interests.”
- Members of Congress should be compelled to wear uniforms like NASCAR drivers, so we could identify their corporate sponsors.
- “[B]oth political parties are now adept at enacting hollow laws that appear to serve large public purposes but are actually wired with special-interest traps that guarantee continued evasion and meager results.” -- William Greider, *The Soul of Capitalism*, page 309

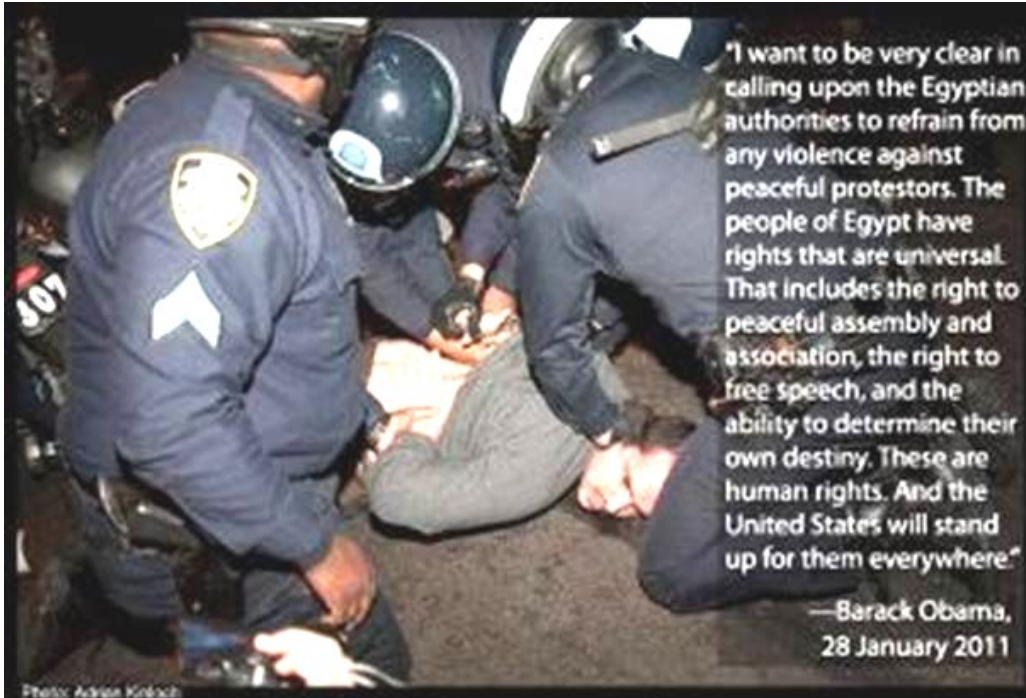
MEET PEOPLE'S NEEDS:

- “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people.” -- Isaiah 10: 1-2
- U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders said: “The deficit was caused by two wars not paid for, huge tax breaks for the wealthiest people in this country, and a recession as a result of the greed, recklessness and illegal behavior on Wall Street. And if those are the causes of the deficit and the national debt I will be damned if we're going to balance the budget on the backs of the elderly, the sick, children, and the poor. That's wrong.”
- “...the moral test of government is how that government treats those in the dawn of life, the children; those in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those in the shadows of life: the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.” -- Hubert H. Humphrey, US Vice President 1965-69
- Tax the greedy! Help the needy!
- “The most effective way to reduce the deficit is to put America back to work.” -- US Congressman Keith Ellison, Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus

ORGANIZING BIG CHANGES:

- “The success of the system is to make unthinkable the possibility of alternatives.” -- Herbert Marcuse

- “There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part; you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop. And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all!” -- Mario Savio, a key activist in the Berkeley Free Speech Movement, 1964
- “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
- “Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom.” -- Martin Luther King Jr.
- “As individual fingers we can easily be broken, but all together we make a mighty fist.” -- Sitting Bull
- “In the U.S., liberals ask what is “politically feasible” and ask for small changes that the political parties and giant corporations could be persuaded to grant us. In Latin America, people demand bold reforms and agitate actively. In the U.S., our modest reforms are watered down and deferred. If we want real progress, we must be more like the Latin Americans.” -- Glen Anderson



Occupy ANTARCTICA: LET'S CONNECT THE DOTS BETWEEN THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE Occupy MOVEMENT:



IRAQ: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

by Glen Anderson

Soon after overthrowing Iraq's government in the spring of 2003, on May 1 George W. Bush wore an Air Force flight suit and landed on an aircraft carrier just offshore from San Diego (but with camera angles looking toward the ocean, not the shore), and gave a speech in front of a banner proclaiming, "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED."

Of course, the war continued to drag on for more than eight additional years without accomplishing whatever the "mission" was supposed to have been. The more of Iraq we destroyed, and the more of its people we humiliated and injured and killed, the angrier the Iraqi people became at the U.S.

Bush had bullied Iraq's government to exempt U.S. troops from any accountability under Iraq's laws for the rapes, murders, and other crimes our troops were committing there. Iraq's government held firm, so the Status of Forces Agreement that Bush signed required that the U.S. troops leave Iraq by December 31, 2011, or else become accountable to Iraq for their crimes. When Obama became President he continued bullying Iraq's government to exempt U.S. troops from accountability under Iraq's law, but Iraq continued to insist on their national sovereignty. In the end – in order to avoid that – Obama had to acquiesce and withdraw U.S. troops on the deadline that Bush had already accepted.

Just as Bush had meaninglessly proclaimed, "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED," Obama likewise claimed that he had (finally) kept a campaign promise to end the war. He failed to admit that he was merely keeping Bush's promise.

The peace movement had strongly opposed the war since before Bush launched it, and eight years later a spring 2011 CNN poll found that two-thirds of Americans opposed the war. That number has held steady for several years.

This miserable war has actually gone on for twenty years. The older Bush's early 1991 Gulf War killed a great many Iraqi people and destroyed many schools, hospitals, power plants, water and sewage treatment plants, and other parts of Iraq's infrastructure. The older Bush imposed cruel economic sanctions, and Bill Clinton continued to enforce them for eight more years. The sanctions prevented Iraq from rebuilding any of the infrastructure the U.S. had destroyed in the 1991 Gulf War. Without the ability to clean their water or treat their sewage (or even put glass back into hospital windows or buy sheets for hospital beds), diseases became rampant and killed many more Iraqis, especially children. In this way the U.S. had used biological weapons to

continue killing Iraqis continuously from the 1991 war through the 2003-2011 war.

And, of course, the U.S.'s use of artillery shells hardened with uranium caused huge problems of radiation and a whole generation of babies with devastating birth defects. So in this way the U.S. used chemical as well as biological weapons – cynically mimicking the groundless accusations our government had made against Saddam Hussein.

When Democratic President Clinton's Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was confronted with the fact that the U.S. war and economic sanctions had killed about 500,000 innocent Iraqi children, she said, "it was worth it."

Before 1991 Iraq had the region's best medical system, free tuition through college, and equal rights for women, who served in many professions that in other countries are commonly dominated by men. But since 1990 school enrollment has declined sharply, millions of Iraqis have been forced out of their hometowns and often out of the country, the economy is now persistently in shambles, and poverty is at epidemic proportions. The U.S. war unleashed years of violence between various ethnic and religious factions, greatly tilting Iraq's political power toward Iran. Please tell me what "mission" was accomplished.

The proclaimed "withdrawal" of troops is highly misleading. The U.S. leaves behind many thousands of troops who are re-labeled from "combat" to "training" and "advisor" roles. Also, the U.S. is paying for many thousands of mercenaries who are not counted as "troops." The U.S. also maintains the world's biggest embassy, four branch embassies, thousands of persons State Department employees and contractors to do who-knows-what, dozens of U.S.-owned helicopters under the control of the State Department's own Air Force, and pilots working for a federal anti-drug agency that will provide "surveillance and ground movement air support." The State Department's many activities will cost the U.S. taxpayers at least \$ 6 billion a year. U.S. weapons manufacturers continue to sell billions of dollars of additional weapons, with much of that cost borne by U.S. taxpayers.

Meanwhile, many hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops and their families and communities are suffering from physical and psychological disabilities caused directly by the wars, and all of us will bear those costs for many decades to come.

Two Bushes and one Obama claim "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED." Would someone please tell me what the mission is, and what we really accomplished?

"Going in and occupying Iraq, thus unilaterally exceeding the United Nations' mandate, would have destroyed the precedent of international response to aggression that we hoped to establish. Had we gone the invasion route, the United States could conceivably still be an occupying power in a bitterly hostile land."

-- *George H.W. Bush (Bush senior) and Brent Scowcroft in their 1998 book, A World Transformed.*

"American democracy is decaying because freedom has been mortgaged to bear the costs of empire."

-- *Marcus G. Raskin and A. Carl Levan, in In Democracy's Shadow: The Secret World of National Security*

SAME PROPAGANDA USED FOR LAUNCHING IRAQ WAR Is Used AGAIN AGAINST IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

The United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) debunked the Bush Administration's bogus claim that Iraq was building nuclear weapons, but Bush's lies pushed our nation into war despite the facts.

Now mainstream media and hawkish U.S. politicians are distorting the IAEA's recent report about Iran in order to create the same fears that had duped our nation into attacking Iraq – only now with Iran in the U.S.'s gun sights. The IAEA's report did **NOT** conclude that Iran is close to building nuclear weapons. For one thing, the IAEA repeatedly states that Iran is **NOT** diverting uranium from its energy program to weapons purposes. Also, Iran continues to allow international weapons inspectors to do their jobs.

Some experts surmise that Iran wants “nuclear latency” similar to Japan's program, which involves knowing how to build a bomb quickly in case another country were ever to directly threaten Iran with invasion or overthrow. While Iran might want to keep that option open, it is **NOT** on the verge of making nuclear weapons. All the facts seem to indicate that Iran's nuclear enrichment program focuses mainly on civilian energy and medical uses with no known nuclear weapons program as such. Unlike the U.S., Iran is fully complying with the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Meanwhile, hawkish agencies and elements within the U.S. government have also been exposed for concocting a very fishy (almost certainly fictitious) tale of an Iranian plot to kill the Saudi ambassador to the U.S.

On Nov. 21, 2011, Seymour Hersh, an expert on such matters, gave *Democracy Now!* an informative interview available in video, audio and printed transcript on its website, www.democracynow.org. Hersh says that the IAEA report is not a scientific document, but rather it represents the political views of IAEA's new head, who is a “center-right” man from Japan who strongly allies himself with the U.S. government's political positions toward Iran.

Hersh talked with former inspectors who say the latest IAEA report does not contain new facts in. Also, a former IAEA inspector has denounced the report's claim about a chamber for testing nuclear explosions.

But actual facts don't seem to deter U.S. politicians who see political advantages by threatening Iran. Will the American people let opportunistic politicians lie us into war again – this time against a nation with a population that is highly politicized and five times bigger than Iraq's?

For a collection of articles on this topic, please e-mail glen@olympiafor.org

FEDERAL TAX FREeloadERS

Across the political spectrum, everybody talks about federal taxes but uses different information.

Typically, conservatives want tax cuts to benefit rich people and corporations. They claim that their taxes are too high.

They also complain that 47% of Americans don't pay income tax, so those Americans are freeloaders, and they want to shift some taxes from the rich onto the 47%.

However, the reason so many people don't pay income tax is that the conservatives' economic policies

have slashed their incomes so now they fall below the taxable threshold. Instead of shifting rich people's taxes onto them, we need to lift them out of economic depression.

The real potential for generating more tax revenue would come from taxing big, profitable corporations that avoid their responsibility to pay for the system that has made them rich.

On November 3 a non-profit organization called Citizens for Tax Justice (www.ctj.org) released a report detailing how 280 big, profitable corporations paid little or no tax for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Some of these profit-

ble corporations even received money back from the federal government (subsidized by the rest of us taxpayers).

The report stated, “Sixty-seven companies paid effective three-year tax rates of less than 10 percent.” Thirty companies that raked in \$160.3 billion in profits during that three-year period received net money from the government.

CTJ's study found that a56 percent of federal tax subsidies go to four industries: financial services, utilities, telecommunications, and oil & gas.

Taxes are the dues we pay for living in a civilized society.

With the Phony-Baloney “SUPER COMMITTEE” OUT OF THE WAY, PERHAPS WE CAN MOVE AHEAD TO SOLVE THE REAL PROBLEMS

by Glen Anderson

The federal debt limit had been routinely increased more than 100 times before the Republicans made a stink over it in the summer of 2011 and nearly crashed our government. Ever since President Obama was elected, their game plan has been to prevent the economy from recovering and to hamstring the U.S. government, with the hope that voters would punish Obama in the November 2012 election.

When Republicans obstinately prevented Congress from performing its primary Constitutional responsibility – passing a budget – a “Super Committee” of only 12 persons was appointed to do what 535 members could not do.

The Republicans’ destructive strategy prevented the “Super Committee” from accomplishing its mandate. Even when Democrats agreed to seriously jeopardize Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the Republicans rigidly protected the richest 1% of Americans and Wall Street. Without a bi-partisan “Super Committee” deal to hurt the 99%, the American people can put such nonsense behind us and work on real solutions to our systemic economic and political problems!

The Institute for Policy Studies (www.ips-dc.org) recently released a report titled, *“America Is Not Broke: How to Fix the Crisis While Making the Country More Equitable, Green, and Secure.”* One of the co-authors, Karen Dolan, says, “The report asserts that the current economic crisis presents us all with the opportunity and challenge to use our nation’s vast wealth to create a sustainable economy which functions well for all of us.”

IPS’s proposed solutions total seven times the total savings that the “Super Committee” was assigned to find. IPS’s solutions would vastly correct our distorted national priorities, improve the U.S.’s long-term debt situation, and reform taxes and spending in ways that would create a society that works for 99% of us. Dolan says, “If we had the political will to actually achieve success, we could achieve at least \$824 billion per year by doing the following:”

- **Generate revenue equitably:** Let’s go beyond rolling back Bush’s tax cuts for the wealthy. The report proposes reforms would generate \$375 billion per year. IPS proposes ways to make Wall Street and the wealthy pay their fair share. We should tax trades of stocks, bonds, and derivatives in order to generate revenue and discourage high-risk and frequent trading.
- **Ensure that security spending actually makes our country more secure:** We could raise \$252 billion per year from smart cuts in the military budget. Cut the enormous number of overseas U.S. military bases; eliminate obsolete and wasteful military programs; and end the war in Afghanistan.
- **Create a clean, sustainable environment:** We could generate \$197 billion per year in revenue by stopping corporate welfare for the oil/gas industry and by introducing new taxes on pollution. These changes would create incentives to adopt green technologies and reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil.

In addition, some people continue to urge a single-payer (“Medicare-for-all”) health care system instead of the complex and wasteful system that lets insurance companies and Big Pharma exploit sick people for profit. Dolan says, “if we had universal access to health care and the same per person costs as Canada, we would save \$1.2 trillion a year, with \$600 of the savings going to the government.”

More information is in Karen Dolan’s article posted on November 21, 2011, at www.CommonDreams.org Karen Dolan is a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies (www.ips-dc.org), an excellent source of information on many issues. She co-authored IPS’s recent report, *“Battered by the Storm: How the Safety Net Is Failing Americans and How to Fix It.”* www.ips-dc.org/reports/battered-by-the-storm

YOU CAN WATCH MORE THAN 80 OF THE OLYMPIA FOR’S
PREVIOUS TV PROGRAMS THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, www.olympiafor.org.
Click THE TV PROGRAMS link. THEN SCROLL DOWN AND click ON A PROGRAM YOU WANT TO WATCH.

OBAMA SENDS U.S. TROOPS TO UGANDA, WHICH HAPPENS TO HAVE OIL IN ADDITION TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. U.S. MILITARY WILL ASSERT BIGGER PRESENCE IN AFRICA.

In mid-November several sources reported that 100 U.S. troops will work in four central African countries until Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), is captured or dead. The LRA is notorious for kidnapping children and forcing them to work as soldiers and sex slaves. The LRA's human rights abuses have been horrible for about 20 years, but President Obama's decision to send U.S. troops to the region came only after rich oil fields (more than two billion barrels' worth) were discovered in Uganda. Some commentators suspect that the U.S. is trying to prevent Russia, China or other economic competitors from gaining access to Uganda's oil. Obama has been beefing up U.S. military activity in Africa, including a major military base there.

An Obama official has said that about 100 Special Operations Forces will primarily advise and train African forces looking for Kony but will not participate in direct combat missions, although they are authorized to open fire in self-defense. This will be the largest deployment of U.S. forces to an African conflict zone since Marines landed in Liberia in 2003. While most of these U.S. troops will be based in Uganda, a "small number" are working at a joint operations center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Meanwhile, Uganda's oil sector, oil-related government officials, and the government overall have been rocked by corruption scandals. Stephen Oola, a Kampala-based human

rights lawyer and interim coordinator of the Advisory Consortium on Conflict Sensitivity, said, "it is unfortunate that Obama's first tangible action under the LRA Disarmament Act is to send military advisers instead of a credible peace delegation. It is a typical Washington solution."

In 2007 during George W. Bush's second term of office, the U.S. Defense Department created the USA Africa Command ("Africom") to coordinate U.S. military activities in Africa. The U.S. seems to have created Africom at its own initiative, not by request of legitimate governments of African nations.

One writer stated: "Vice Admiral Moeller was the man President George W. Bush entrusted with the mission of Africom. Moeller knew that mission in and out. At the United States' Africa Command Conference held at Fort McNair on 18 February 2008, this American head of Africom declared that, 'Protecting the free flow of natural resources from Africa to the global market is one of Africom's guiding principles.' Admiral Moeller specifically cited 'oil disruption,' 'terrorism,' and the growing influence of China as a major challenge to United States' interests in Africa."

The U.S. did this soon after bombing Somalia, a small African country, further destabilizing it and making it virtually ungovernable, now plagued with sea piracy and kidnappings

See www.allafrica.com/stories/201111180985.html for more information about Africom.

CUT MILITARY SPENDING! FUND HUMAN NEEDS! BRING OUR BILLION\$ HOME!

We invite you to participate in the "Bring Our Billion\$ Home" campaign, organized by Olympia FOR, Western Washington FOR, and other local FOR chapters in Western and Eastern Washington. Olympia's BOBH organizers meet every few weeks to plan more activities. We also work through committees. What are your interests? We can connect you! For more information contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org



Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation MISSION STATEMENT

The Olympia Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation works for a nonviolent world, a healthy environment, social justice, economic justice, and peace.

We bring together people of diverse ages, races, and faiths who are committed to active nonviolence as a transformative way of life and as a means of profound social change.

We model these principles by personal example.

We collaborate and dialogue with the larger community for mutual education and to engage in nonviolent and compassionate actions.

-- Approved by the Olympia FOR Steering Committee on April 9, 2009

TELEVISION PROGRAMS

For nearly 25 years the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced TV programs related to peace, social justice, economics, and nonviolence. The Olympia FOR's programs air on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. Each program airs **every Monday at 1:30 p.m. and every Thursday at 9:00 p.m. for a full month.** This creates many opportunities to watch each program. **You can also watch the interview programs described below (and more than 80 of our previous programs) at www.olympiafor.org**

DECEMBER: "WASHINGTON STATE NEEDS TAX REFORM"

A few years ago the State of Washington experienced a budget crisis, so the Governor proposed drastic cuts, and the Legislature enacted drastic cuts. Then our state experienced another budget crisis, so the Governor and Legislature slashed again. Revenue keeps falling short of the needs, so they keep slashing and slashing. They have cut funding for state employees, state parks, K-12 education, higher education, health care, assistance for our poorest people, and pretty much everything.

But it's still not enough. A special legislative session from November 28 through much of December will propose even more cuts, and more cuts are likely again in the next regular session beginning on January 9, 2012.

The Governor and state legislators scrutinize everything on the **expenditure** side, but they have been refusing to seriously examine the seriously dysfunctional **revenue** side. They don't seriously examine "tax expenditures" – various tax breaks, exemptions and loopholes. Some of these have existed for decades without any oversight.

And they have refused to consider **systemic** changes in Washington State's tax system, which is the most **regressive** in the nation. This means that our state's richest people pay very low tax rates, while poor people pay very high tax rates.

This month's TV program examines all of this. We expose the growing gaps in income and in wealth. Washington State's tax system (mostly sales tax, property tax, and a Business & Occupation tax) is terribly regressive.

Over decades, major changes in the economy have crippled Washington's current tax system from being able to keep up with needs. Now it is a smaller portion of the state's economy – and lower per capita – than before.

Recent years' spending cuts have seriously hurt many people's quality of life, and further spending cuts threaten even worse suffering to our people and our state. One guest flatly says, "**We cannot cut our way to prosperity.**"

We are long past any notion of merely "cutting the fat." For several years we have been cutting muscle and bone. The only solution is to increase revenue. If we think of the budget as a pie chart, we can adjust the relative sizes of the

pieces of the budget pie. We also can make a bigger pie by adding revenue.

The Olympia FOR's December TV program explores short-term remedies and long-term solutions.

Our guests call for transparency and accountability in our tax system. They urge closely reviewing – and closing – many millions of dollars in tax breaks for "special interests" that are simply not justifiable. We also must consider additional revenue sources, such as taxing income, wealth, and financial transactions. Our political and economic systems have made some people and corporations fabulously wealthy. They have a great moral responsibility to pay for the system that made them rich. We could raise taxes on the rich in order to help the working class and the poor.

During recessions governments should create jobs and stimulate the economy, but, instead, federal, state and local levels have been doing the opposite. Slashing budgets and laying off workers only depresses the economy further and feeds into a downward spiral into a deeper hole.

A budget is a numerical way of expressing your values – what you believe in. What do our local, state and federal budgets say about **our** values? Washington State's governor and legislature keep cutting programs that are absolutely necessary for children, the sick, and the poor. The guests call upon the TV viewers to get involved.

We have three exceptionally well informed guests:

- **Jim Dawson** is the Campaign Director for Fuse Washington, a statewide non-profit organization that works on taxation and other public policy issues.
- **Brendan Williams** is a former State Representative from the 22nd Legislative District. He earned a great reputation for boldly analyzing and critiquing our state's fiscal problems and for speaking and acting boldly to solve those problems.
- **Chris Reykdal** is a current State Representative from our 22nd Legislative District. He likewise is vigorously representing the public's interest in promoting social and economic justice in various ways, including working to reform our state's tax system.

JANUARY: "Occupy Wall Street, Olympia AND EVERYWHERE"

The democracy movement that swept Tunisia, Egypt, and many countries in the Arab world in 2011 also was demanding a fair economy instead of corruption by cronies in unaccountable governments. (See the Olympia FOR's July 2011 TV program posted at www.olympiafor.org).

Los Indignados in Spain, the anti-austerity protests in Greece, and other actions around the world are also related to this movement for democracy, human rights, and a humane economy. And now – with similar consciousness and demands – the Occupy Wall Street movement has swept the U.S., resulting in hundreds of local "Occupy" encampments, protests and other grassroots activities.

This newsletter Pages 1-3, and 8 of offer information and insights into the Occupy Movement and its context for which this fall's encampments have been a physical manifestation. The Occupy Olympia encampment that began in Heritage Park in mid-October was planned to serve as a base for grassroots organizing on a range of issues, espe-

cially issues related to Olympia's role as the state capital. Participants learned to work together across differences, practiced hands-on democracy, and collaborated to provide food, housing, first aid, safety, and other basic needs. They shared knowledge about issues and skills in grassroots organizing. Participants in the Occupy Movement were consciously building the kind of new society they want to see.

Occupy Olympia became a participatory village that was inclusive – all ages, students, unemployed, seasoned activists, newcomers, homeless persons – and came close to representing the diversity of folks in the 99% whose needs have not been met by "politics as usual."

The Olympia FOR's January 2012 TV program will feature four local guests who have participated first-hand in planning and carrying out Occupy Olympia's many activities. All four are knowledgeable and articulate, so be sure to watch our January program for local angles and insights on this nationwide and global movement.

Olympia FOR's "Big Picture" DOCUMENTARY SERIES ON TCTV

In addition to the Olympia FOR's TV series of locally produced interview programs (see page 8) we have also been airing thought-provoking documentaries that you're not likely to see elsewhere on TV. Under the series title "**The Big Picture**," Carol Burns has been finding interesting documentaries and arranging to show them on Thurston Community Television (**TCTV channel 22**) for cable subscribers in Thurston County. Our December program will air at 10:00 p.m. every **Thursday** evening immediately after our interview program and also at 10:00 p.m. every **Sunday** evening for the full month. Info: Carol 866-7645 carolburns98@comcast.net

It has gotten hard to find films with the kind of broadcast rights that we need, so our "Big Picture" documentary series will end on December 29. But Carol Burns encourages people to borrow many of our previous videos that we have donated to the Timberland Regional Library and the lending library at Traditions Café, 5th Ave & Water Street in downtown Olympia. **Thanks to Carol for informing the people for many years!**

DECEMBER: "THE MEAN WORLD SYNDROME: MEDIA VIOLENCE & THE CULTIVATION OF FEAR"

"The Mean World Syndrome" is based on the groundbreaking work of media scholar George Gerbner. Ranging from Hollywood movies and prime-time dramas to reality programming and the local news, the film examines how media violence forms a pervasive cultural environment that cultivates a heightened state of insecurity, exaggerated perceptions of risk and danger, and a fear-driven propensity for hard-line political solutions to social problems.

Viewer Advisory: Contains graphic violence and strong language

52 minutes, 2010, www.medaied.org

Also, look for another program about Fear, which is available to borrow from Traditions in downtown Olympia or can be downloaded from several different sources. "The Power of Nightmares," subtitled "The Rise of the Politics of Fear," is a BBC documentary film series, consisting of three one-hour parts first broadcast in the United Kingdom in late 2004. The film series gives factual information helpful for understanding the origin of radical Islamism, showing a range of influences in different countries. They compare the rise of the Neo-Conservative movement in the United States and the radical Islamist movement, showing similarities between the two. The final chapter illustrates how the threat of radical Islamism as a massive, sinister organized force of destruction, specifically in the form of al-Qaeda, is a myth perpetrated by politicians – particularly American Neo-Conservatives – in an attempt to unite and inspire Americans, after they could no longer generate fear about the threat of Communism.

NEWS – RESOURCES – OPPORTUNITIES

PEACE AND GLOBAL CONCERNS

Guests from Santo Tomás, Nicaragua, will come to Olympia in spring 2012: The Thurston – Santo Tomás (Nicaragua) Sister County Association (TSTSCA) is excited about organizing a delegation of two Tomasinos to come here for approximately April 11 to May 2, 2012. This exciting project requires a significant amount and variety of volunteer help (before and during) and a lot of financial support. Will you pitch in? **Please see the December 2011 Update** that will soon be posted at TSTSCA's website, www.oly-wa.us/TSTSCA or contact Jean Eberhardt at (360) 943-8642 eberhardtjl@yahoo.com

U.S. and Somalia refuse to ratify treaty for children's rights: In the whole world, only two nations have refused to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Somalia and the U.S. (Source: Page 29 of the October 2011 issue of *The Progressive*) A few decades ago the U.S. also refused to pass the Equal Rights Amendment to recognize women's equal rights with men. Shockingly, the U.S. has refused to ratify a number of other treaties.

The world outlawed war in 1920s: People don't seem to know that the massive peace movement of the 1920s accomplished the abolition of war as an instrument of national policy. The Kellogg-Briand Pact is stronger than the United Nations Charter in denouncing and prohibiting all wars. See Bruce E. Levine's interview with David Swanson at www.alternet.org/vision/153153 It was posted on AlterNet on Nov. 21, 2011. David Swanson's recently released book, *When the World Outlawed War*, tells the powerful story.

"Somos Una América - Shut Down the SOA," a film about the struggle against the U.S. Army's notorious School of the Americas and U.S. militarization, is available on DVD. The bilingual documentary features insightful interviews and exciting protest and direct action footage from across the Americas. More information is available at www.SOAW.org/dvd.

Military spending has been HURTING OUR ECONOMY for decades! Fixing our economy requires CUTTING military spending and CONVERTING to a peace economy: Building public and Congressional pressure to cut military spending requires addressing the economic issues, including the "jobs" issue and the "Boeing" issue that people will raise. In 1977 Glen Anderson wrote **"The Case for Peace Conversion: Its Impact on Washington State and Suggestions for Converting Successfully."** This 100-page report with 335 footnotes argues convincingly that military spending – rather than boosting our economy – actually damages our economy systemically. The military-industrial-Congressional complex is so massively huge that it has corrupted our economy in many ways. Military spending has prevented us from meeting human needs, skewed our economy away from useful civilian productivity, weakened US industries to be less competitive with foreign industries, and caused other systemic problems in how the US economy functions. A billion dollars spent on the military produces FEWER jobs than if that

money had been spent in the civilian sector, so our massive military spending has destroyed millions of American jobs. The realities and trends documented in this report have worsened since 1977 as a result of massive increases in military spending since then. The report also examines the possibilities of converting military industries, bases, and workers to civilian purposes. The report is in a 3-ring binder, not available to send electronically. To borrow a copy, contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

Express your values and priorities through the "Build a Better Budget" activity: The federal budget is about what we value as a nation. It's about how we pool our collective resources to invest in our people, expand opportunity and provide security for our families, our communities and our country. It's not hard to build a budget – it's about priorities. Several organizations are collaborating to launch "Build a Better Budget." Please participate by visiting www.buildabetterbudget.org.



Rich Nations "Give Up" on New Climate Treaty Until 2020: After failing to act boldly enough at Kyoto and retreating from responsibility in subsequent international climate meetings (e.g., Copenhagen in 2009), governments of the world's rich nations have given up on forging a new treaty on climate change to take effect this decade. The global gathering at Durban, South Africa, is doomed to fail because the richest countries are stalling the rest of the world. Privately they are admitting that no global agreement will be reached before 2016 at the earliest, so no climate treaty would come into force until at least 2020. The 2009 Copenhagen climate talks failed, but rich governments said they would try again in 2012, when many of the Kyoto protocol's requirements expire. Now these governments are saying they will not act meaningfully in 2012, so no real progress could be possible until 2020 at the very earliest. Many "developing" countries are furious at the rich nations, but – hey – what else is new? The Alliance of Small Island States, which represents some of the nations most vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise, called the rich countries' delay "reckless and irresponsible." Many scien-

tists now fully expect climate change to become catastrophic. Once global warming gets really underway, the process will feed on itself, accelerating into climate chaos far beyond the extreme weather and destruction we have seen in the past few years. Since the rich nations that cause most of the climate problems are utterly failing to act, any hope of averting disaster must rest with local communities, regions, smaller countries, and private businesses.

“ORGANIZE THIS!” is the theme of WRL’s 2012 Peace Calendar: 2012 will be the final year for the annual calendar published by the War Resisters League (WRL) around particular themes. The 2012 calendar will feature full-color reproductions of all 56 previous covers, starting with 1955. It is laid out for use on a desk or hand-held with a sturdy spiral binding down the middle, one week laid out on the left side, and a beautiful color image on the right side. It also includes important movement history dates throughout the year and directories of U.S. and international social change organizations. It costs \$14.95 each (or four for \$55) plus shipping and handling of \$2.50 per calendar. Order by mail (War Resisters League, c/o We-Fulfill, 218 Round Rock Circle, Grand Junction CO 81503), or by phone (877-234-8811), or online (www.warresisters.org)

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL/ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Washington’s Governor urges hurting the poor instead of taxing the rich: Seattle school teacher Jesse Hagopian recently wrote: “In a feeble attempt to defray these draconian budget cuts, Washington State Gov. Chris Gregoire has proposed a regressive sales-tax increase. Yet in a state that gives away \$6.5 billion through tax loopholes, mostly to big business, taxing already struggling Washingtonians is no solution. Washington-based Microsoft received \$143 million last year in special tax breaks, and aircraft maker Boeing got \$104 million. JPMorgan Chase, which took over Washington Mutual in 2008, continues to receive a \$120 million tax break on interest collected on first-time mortgages. There are also loopholes for cosmetic surgery (\$6.25 million this year) and private jet enthusiasts (\$5 million this year). By some measures, Washington State has the most regressive tax system in the entire nation, which has already led to 2.7 billion in cuts to K-12 education over the past three years.” His article is posted at <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2011/11/25/1039861/- Occupy-Seattle-Shopping-For-Handcuffs-On-Black-Friday>

We need a Financial Transaction Tax: Wall Street’s wheeler-dealers crashed our economy. Congress had deregulated Wall Street in the 1990s, letting Wall Street take dangerous risks, so Congress is at fault too. After the current crash, Congress has failed to re-regulate Wall Street. Also, for many years Congress has failed to adequately tax Wall Street. The financial institutions that were “too big to fail” are even bigger now because they have gobbled up smaller banks. The vast majority of American people want to hold Wall Street accountable for its recent recklessness, and we want to prevent them from ruining the economy again. We need many strong reforms, including a financial transaction tax (FTT) patterned on Let Wall Street Pay for the Restoration of Main Street Act of 2009: www.tinyurl.com/financial-transaction-tax Nowadays many billions of dol-

lars in stock and international currencies and shares of stock are bought and sold again just a few minutes later to skim profits of a few cents per transaction. This excessive trading provokes volatility in the in prices and volatility in national and global economic systems. A tax on each transaction would suppress such excessive trading while painlessly generating billions of dollars a year in revenue for the government. Average Americans pay fees or taxes on just about any transaction we make. It is only fair that Wall Street gamblers do the same. If Congress cared about us they would act on this.

Training for volunteers to help homeless folks at Olympia’s new advocacy center: Interfaith Works of Thurston County is getting SideWalk, our community’s new homes advocacy center, up and running. They are recruiting volunteers to help in various ways, such as welcoming clients at the door, introducing new clients to advocates, screening clients into overnight shelters, and providing support to staff and volunteers with light office duties including data entry, photocopying, and filing. An 11-hour basic training course will occur on the evenings of Tuesday December 6 and Thursday December 8, and all day Saturday December 10. Please register or get more information from emma@interfaith-works.org or 515-5587.

Constitutional amendment would end corporate personhood and ban corporate money from political campaigns: In one of the greatest signs yet that the 99 Percenters are having an impact, Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL), a member of the House Judiciary Committee, introduced an amendment that would ban corporate money in politics and end corporate personhood once and for all. Deutch’s amendment, called the **Outlawing Corporate Cash Undermining the Public Interest in our Elections and Democracy (OCCUPIED) Amendment**, would overturn the *Citizens United* decision, re-establishing the right of Congress and the states to regulate campaign finance laws, and to effectively outlaw the ability of for-profit corporations to contribute to campaign spending. This information came from www.thinkprogress.org

Amnesty International helps people write letters on behalf of individuals for the annual Write-a-thon: For 50 years Amnesty International has informed and mobilized people around the world to write letters to governments urging the freedom and human rights of people who have been imprisoned and/or oppressed because of matters of conscience and other legitimate activities. Please observe International Human Rights Day (December 10) or any other day of the year by writing such a letter. One possible beneficiary could be Liu Xiaobo, a Chinese human rights defender who suffers behind prison bars for seeking to promote peaceful political and social reforms in China. Please stand with human rights supporters around the world by joining the Global Write-a-thon at www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon.

Opportunities to take specific actions to help Amnesty International’s work: In addition to responding to urgent abuses of individuals’ human rights, Amnesty International also works on several larger ongoing campaigns and provides monthly guides to help people work effectively. For example, AI USA’s November Campaigns Bulletin is at this link: www.amnestyusa.org/pdfs/campaigns_bulletin_november2011.pdf?tr=y&aid=9830406 Each month’s Campaign Bulletin breaks down our

work into simple, timely and relevant actions you can take each month to make a difference on behalf of individuals suffering in justice. For example, while citizens around the U.S. have been “occupying” their cities to protest our government’s failure to hold corporations and financial institutions accountable, in November Amnesty International’s Dignity Campaign worked to hold the oil industry accountable and clean up Africa’s Niger Delta. At the same time, Amnesty International’s Crisis Prevention & Response Team needs urgent support for new legislation to hold the U.S. government accountable for weapons sales to Bahrain, the Middle Eastern nation whose armed forces have used tanks, armored vehicles and projectile weapons to injure and kill peaceful protestors. As of November 1, almost 70,000 letters have been pledged for the 2011 Write for Rights Write-a-thon, and we need you to sign up as well - since **every letter counts** and the more we write, the greater the impact! Info: Amnesty International USA, 5 Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10001 Toll-free (866) 273-4666 www.amnestyusa.org

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture offers resources for Human Rights Day (December 10) and beyond: NRCAT collaborated with the Torture Abolition and Survivor Support Coalition (TASSC) to produce NRCAT’s video *“Preventing Torture Everywhere,”* featuring the stories of three TASSC members and a study guide. NRCAT offers resources for people to use for education and action in religious congregations and other group settings. Get more information from www.nrcat.org/human_rights_day or John Humphries at jhumphries@nrcat.org.

LOCAL ORGANIZING

Local environmental group invites you to join its “Enviro-talk” listserv. For more than ten years about 150 local persons have kept connected with news, ideas, activities, etc., to protect the environment because the South Puget Environmental Education Clearinghouse (SPEECH) has connected them through its listserv “Enviro-talk.” Membership is moderated to avoid spam and personal attacks and endorsements of political candidates or parties. They invite more people to join by sending a message to envirotalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You will receive a response telling you the next steps. Or you may send e-mail to envirotalk-owner@yahoogroups.com and ask to join. Provide some basic information about yourself and why you want to join.

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

Olympia FOR’s ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUESTS

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

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



Would you please help sometimes with Olympia FOR’s mailing parties? With about five or six people we can assemble,

fold and label our newsletters and other mailings in just a few hours. We schedule mailing parties at various days and times in order to accommodate various volunteers’ schedules. We can contact you when we need help. If you’re available, great! If you’re not available, that’s OK; we can try on another occasion. Please contact Glen Anderson at 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

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

Please help the Olympia FOR meet our budget of \$10,139: The Olympia FOR’s Steering Committee adopted a budget of \$10,139 for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. Local volunteers accomplish all of our ambitious activities. (We do **not** solicit funds from Lewis County people, who have their own local FOR chapter, or from people outside of our local 985__ zip code area.) Thank you! Questions? (360) 491-9093 info@olympiafor.org

National FOR offers various holiday and interfaith greeting cards: The FOR’s national level has long been appreciated for a great selection of cards. For example, “Peaceful Coexistence” is a greeting card with lines translated from the Persian poet Hafiz, who is still revered in modern-day Iran: “I am in love with every church/and mosque/and temple/and any kind of shrine/because I know it is there/that people say the different names/of the one God,” and depicts a dark-hued woodcut of six different types of worship building. See www.forusa.org/content/for-bookstore-publications-greeting-cards-postcards.

CALENDAR

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 Sunday at 2:00 pm: The Olympia Coalition for a Fair Budget meets at Media Island, 816 Adams Street SE to organize for a state budget that is fair and humane, especially to low-income people and other vulnerable folks.

FOR Every Sunday evening at 10:00 pm during DECEMBER: The Olympia FOR's "Big Picture" documentary video on TCTV: "The Mean World Syndrome: Media Violence & the Cultivation of Fear." See DEC-JAN newsletter page 9. Info: Carol 866-7645 carolburns98@comcast.net

Every Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 am AND from 4 to 5 pm: "Democracy Now" with Amy Goodman on TCTV

Every Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 am: Amy Goodman's "Democracy Now" on KAOS 89.3 FM

FOR Every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm: Olympia FOR's TCTV Program: DEC: "Washington State Needs Tax Reform." JAN: "Occupy Wall Street, Olympia and Everywhere." See DEC-JAN newsletter pages 8-9 or www.olympiafor.org

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

Every Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm: Veterans for Peace airs a locally produced program on TCTV. Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

FOR Every Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm: Peace Vigil in NW corner of Sylvester Park (at Legion & Capitol Way). Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Info: glen@olympiafor.org 491-9093

Every Wednesday at 2:30 pm: Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER) holds volunteer meetings every week at the POWER office, 309 5th Ave, next door to Rainy Day Records. Children are welcome. Info: 352-9716 welfarerights@riseup.net www.oly-wa.us/power

Every Thursday from 8:00 to 9:00 pm: Veterans for Peace airs a locally produced program on TCTV. Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net



Every Thursday from 12:00 to 1:00 pm: "Parallel University" on KAOS 89.3 FM features interesting, informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and alternative view-points. Info: paralleluniversity@yahoo.com

FOR Every Thursday from 9:00 to 10:00 pm: Olympia FOR's TCTV Program: DEC: "Washington State Needs Tax Reform." JAN: "Occupy Wall Street, Olympia and Everywhere." See DEC-JAN newsletter pages 8-9 or www.olympiafor.org

FOR Every Thursday evening at 10:00 pm during DECEMBER immediately following the end of our interview program: :The Olympia FOR's "Big Picture" documentary video on TCTV: "The Mean World Syndrome: Media Violence & the Cultivation of Fear." See DEC-JAN newsletter page 9. Info: Carol 866-7645 carolburns98@comcast.net

FOR Every Friday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm: Peace Vigil at south end of Percival Landing at 4th & Water downtown. Please join us for whatever length of time you can. We provide plenty of signs. The Artesian Rumble Arkestra jazz band joins us at 5:00 to support our vigil! Sponsor: Olympia FOR. Info: 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm: "Women in Black" Silent Vigil for Peace on the south side of W. 4th Ave. near the fountain. Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Since 1988 "Women in Black" has been a loose network of women worldwide committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to war and violence. Info: Karin Kraft 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

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. On most Saturdays gather afterward nearby at the Santa Lucia Coffee House. Sponsor: Fire Mountain FOR. Info: June Butler 748-9658 or Larry Kerschner 880-4741 peacepoet@gmail.com

SPECIFIC DATES

Thurs Dec 1: Open House at SideWalk, the new Intake and Advocacy Center that helps homeless adults:

From 4:00 to 7:00 pm you can enjoy appetizers, music, and great company as we celebrate all the great work that has been done already and the exciting work to come. Special guests include Mayor-Elect Stephen Buxbaum and other great friends and advocates of ending homelessness. 1139 5th Ave SE, Olympia. Info: 357-7224, or 515-5587 www.interfaith-works.org

Thurs Dec 1: End Corporate Power “House Party” featuring a call by U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (Independent from Vermont):

On January 21, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that corporations have a First Amendment right to spend as much money as they want to promote or defeat candidates. Local house parties nationwide are kicking off efforts to plan a nationwide day of action to protest the decision on January 20-21, 2012. (See Jan. 20 Tacoma action below.) 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the MIXX-96 Conference Room, 119 Washington St SE (kitty-corner from the IT bus station). Tonight’s special guest is Scott Silber from the Boulder, Colorado, Move to Amend group. This local event is hosted by www.MoveToAmendOlympia.org Information: Molly Gibbs, 412-1519 mollygibbs3@gmail.com More info: www.democracyforpeople.org

FOR Thurs Dec 1: “Washington State Needs Tax Reform.” -- Olympia FOR’s December TCTV program debuts tonight:

Watch it every Thursday at 9:00 pm and every Monday at 1:30 pm on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County. See DEC-JAN newsletter page 8. Info: Glen 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

FOR Thurs Dec 1: “The Mean World Syndrome: Media Violence & the Cultivation of Fear” on TCTV: -- Olympia FOR’s December “Big Picture” documentary debuts tonight.

Watch it at 10:00 pm every Thursday night immediately after our interview program and at 10:00 pm every Sunday night throughout this month on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County. See DEC-JAN newsletter page 9. Info: Carol Burns, 866-7645 carolburns98@comcast.net

Fri Dec 2: “Have a Heart for Kids Day” at the State Legislature’s special session:

The Governor and Legislature are considering cutting 4,000 kids off of child care assistance, denying health care to 25,000 children, eliminating food assistance for 14,000 kids, and hurting kids and families in other ways. The Children’s Alliance – an excellent advocacy organization – encourages people to participate at the Capitol from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Info: Register online now at www.childrensalliance.org or contact Community Organizer, Emijah Smith at emijah@childrensalliance.org or (206) 324-0340 ext. 25.

Sat Dec 3: “The Wobblies” film: This is a good account of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW, “the Wobblies”) during the early part of the 20th Century. Enjoy film interviews with eye-witnesses and members of the Union filmed in 1979. Tacoma’s IWW invites everyone to attend and will provide

members who can answer your questions and engage in discussion. They suggest a \$5 donation and invite low-income or unemployed persons and students to contribute what they can afford. 7:00 p.m. at Kings Books, 218 St. Helens, Tacoma. The Tacoma General Membership Branch of the IWW has monthly meetings, guests are welcomed. Contact TacIWW@iww.org or get more info at www.iww.org

Sun Dec 4: Informational and Fundraising Luncheon to Benefit the South Sudan Community Restoration Project:

After almost 30 years of civil war, South Sudan received its independence on July 9, 2011. South Sudanese refugees in many places hope to return. Friendly Water for the World (www.friendlywaterfortheworld.com) is helping. The Olympia Friends Meeting (Quakers) Right Sharing of World Resources Program and Friendly Water for the World invite you to today’s informational and fundraising luncheon to benefit the South Sudan Community Restoration Project. It starts at 12:00 noon at the Olympia Friends Meeting House, 3201 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia. Everyone is invited to the Quaker worship at 10:00 a.m. at that location, before this event.) Info: David Albert (360) 352-0506 david@friendlywaterfortheworld.com

FOR Sun Dec 4: Mailing party for Olympia FOR’s December fund appeal mailing:

We need more volunteers to help at 2:00 or as soon thereafter as you can arrive at Glen’s home in Lacey. “Many hands make light work.” Thanks! Glen 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

Sun Dec 4: TCTV’s Annual Membership Meeting, followed by 25th Anniversary Celebration:

For 25 years Thurston Community Television (TCTV) has been doing great work to implement the First Amendment and to promote an informed population for a stronger democracy. Everyone is invited to their Annual Membership Meeting from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., followed by TCTV’s 25th Anniversary Celebration from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Both will occur in the TCTV Studio, 440 Yauger Way SW, Suite C, on Olympia’s west side. 956-3100, www.tctv.net

FOR Tues Dec 6: Olympia FOR’s book discussion group about moving from war to peace:

7:00 pm at Chuck Schultz’s home, 1621 Tullis NE (a little north of San Francisco Street Bakery). For this month we’ll each find and read various materials about the Mondragon worker-owned collective businesses in the Basque region of northern Spain. Info about books and discussions for tonight and in future months: Chuck at 705-8520 chuckschultz3@msn.com

Wed, Dec 7: Performances by Jim Page, Johnnie Hahn, and Danny Kelly will benefit Rick Fellows and Media Island:

Enjoy an evening of folk-on-a-mission-music and scathing songs of unabashedly political content! It’s also a benefit for Olympia’s beloved mechanic & caravanista, Rick Fellows, and for Media Island. The organizers suggest \$15 per person -- more if you can, less if you can’t. Enjoy a great evening with good friends. 7:00 p.m. at Traditions Café, 5th & Water, downtown Olympia.

Wed Dec 7: Whales: “The Road to Recovery for Endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales” – Lynne Barre from National Marine Fisheries will talk about her experience going to fight to get our resident orca pods listed under the Endangered Species Act, what it took to write the management plan for them, and how they have been doing since. 7:00-9:00 p.m. at LOTT’s WET Science Center, 500 Adams Street NE, Olympia. Info: Leihla (360) 888-0565 or leihla@sseacenter.org

FOR Wed Dec 7: Watch our short, entertaining, informative skit “Bringing Warbuck\$ Home” –It airs at 8:00 p.m. on TCTV channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County.

Thurs Dec 8: Buy Local: The Local Economics Study Group and Roundtable, a self-led monthly group focused on weaving the philosophical approach and operational tasks within a local economic system, meets on the second Thursday of each month at 112 4th Avenue E Suite 206 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Info: Sustainable South Sound’s Buy Local Program 918-3870 buylocalss@gmail.com

FOR Fri Dec 9: Watch our short, entertaining, informative skit “Bringing Warbuck\$ Home” –It airs at 5:30 p.m. on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County.

Fri-Sat-Sun Dec 9-10-11: Handel’s “Messiah” – Enjoy hearing a full orchestra, soloists, and a chorus with singers aged 14-84 perform this enduring classic. \$10 advance or \$12 at the door. Shelton High School Performing Arts Center, 3737 Shelton Springs Road with Bremerton Symphony. Info: (360) 898-5000 www.annasbay.org

Fri Dec 9: Heartsparkle Players – “Stories of Finding a Home” in collaboration with the **Out of the Woods** residential shelter for homeless families with children. Heartsparkle Players will use Playback Theatre, a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue. Each month the Heartsparkle Players collaborate with a different local group. 7:30 pm at Traditions Café, 300-5th Ave SW (& Water Street), in downtown Olympia). A \$5-\$10 donation is requested, but Heartsparkle never turns anyone away for not donating. Info: www.heartsparkle.org and Debe 943-6772

Fri-Sat Dec 9-10: Racial justice workshop: Everyone is invited to the Seattle Race Initiative, which will help us have everyday and nonthreatening discussions about race. Master Facilitator, Dr. David Campt (known as the Race Doctor, www.davidcampt.com) will help this event succeed. Friday evening will look at race through the lens of the arts, looking at ways that artists explore race through literature, dance, music, the spoken word and visual arts. We’ll be led in a fun discussion about how we perceived the art and then have Q & A with the artists. Saturday will focus on groups based on our work and/or interest identities. This is a great way to ensure that participants start with something important in common. The groups will have members of different ages, life stages, races and ethnicities, neighborhoods and experiences with race and racism. Free registration. Meals will be provided. RSVP: I-emckinney@comcast.net Location: Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1634 19th

Ave, Seattle. (206) 322-6500 www.mountzion.net More info: jehale@earthlink.net



Sat Dec 10: Human Rights Day: How long has it been since you read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted it on December 10, 1948. This powerful document has informed, inspired and motivated people for 63 years. Read it at www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/ and do something to bring this powerful vision into reality!

Sat Dec 10 (and the 2nd Sat. of each month): Protect immigrants’ human rights: Gather from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the NW Detention Center, 1623 East J Street in Tacoma’s industrial tideflat area. This privately owned and operated prison for immigrants has a notoriously bad reputation. Bring signs and protest the injustices. Stop the raids on immigrants. Keep families together. Pass humane immigration laws. Info: (360) 381-0293 decomunidad@qwest.net

Sat Dec 10: An Evening with the World Sacred Music Festival: Enjoy performance by Kyle Ward & Maureen Browning of Raven House Healing (Himalayan singing bowls & wind gong); Russ Salton & Friends (acoustic music with upbeat, thoughtful lyrics and unforgettable melodies); and Sean Gaskell (21-string West African harp). 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Worthington Center, Saint Martin’s University, Lacey. \$15 or \$10, \$5 for low-income and kids under 12. Info: www.OlySacredMusic.org There’s also a Facebook event (invite your friends!) at <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=269839813051082>

Sat-Sun Dec 10-11: Compassionate Listening 2 day Basic Intensive, Dec 10/11 in Seattle: This two-day training in the deep and powerful practice of Compassionate Listening can help you to bring peace and healing to your life and our world. You will develop skills in our five core practices: Cultivate Compassion; Develop the Fair Witness; Respect Self and Others; Listen with the Heart; Speak from the Heart. (*Note: Compassionate Listening is a different organization with a different approach to teaching and practice than Nonviolent Communication (NVC), which is sometimes called Compassionate Communication, although the practices are compatible.*) This training will run both days from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the 2100 Building in Seattle (near where MLK/Rainier intersect). Sign up at <http://dec2011intensive.eventbrite.com> We encourage you to take both days, but you may take the first day only and pick up the second day at a later time. Cost is \$175 to \$350 (\$90 to \$175 for one day). You may decide how much to pay at the end of the workshop. Low-income or group rate of \$150 for 2 days (\$75 for one day). Partial scholarships may be available and we want to work with you to make your participation possible, so please don’t let cost be a barrier. “Group discounts” are possible, so invite your friends! Susan Partnow and Andrea Cohen, Certified Senior Trainers, The Compassionate Listening Project, (206) 783-8561 www.compassionatelisting.org

Sun Dec 11: PFLAG monthly gathering: PFLAG works with GLBTQ folks and their families and friends – and reaches out to the general public to improve society’s understanding and inclusiveness. 2:00-4:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE. Alec Clayton alec@alecclayton.com



Tues Dec 13: Organize to stop sweatshops: South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public entities to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices.

SSCCC meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW on the 2nd Tuesday of each month: Dick Meyer 705-2819 www.southsoundcleanclothes.org

Tues Dec 13: National Organization for Women (NOW) meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW. Info: Linda 357-7272 lryh@hotmail.com



Tues Dec 13: Bats! “Fly by Night” – John Fleckenstein of the Washington Natural Heritage Program will speak about bats at 8:15 p.m. at the Olympia REI store in Capital Mall, 625 Black

Lake Blvd SW. He is an expert in bat research and a passionate advocate for protecting bat habitat. He will dispel common myths about bats and share astonishing realities about their ecological importance throughout Washington. Sponsored with Capitol Land Trust, which helps to conserve more than 4000 acres in the South Sound.

FOR Wed Dec 14: Olympia FOR Steering Committee Meets at 7:00 pm sharp at Beth Rodman’s home in SW Olympia. All Olympia FOR members are welcome. Info: 491-9093 info@olympiafor.org

Wed Dec 14: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wed. evening of each month to work on global and local issues. Meet at the POWER office, 309 5th Ave SE, Olympia. Info: Larry 866-2404 lmosqueda@comcast.net

Thurs Dec 15: Kinema Nippon: Moving Images from Japan: Six experimental Japanese films will be introduced and shown by artist Nine Eglantine Yamamoto-Masson. The event is part of an international series of screenings called Kinema Nippon that present curated programs of experimental films, video art, and Japanese classics. This program takes place at the Olympia Timberland Library, 313 8th Ave SE, Olympia, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. after the library closes, so no other library services will be available. Sponsor: Friends of the Olympia Timberland Library. Donations will go to the Japan Society's Earth-

quake Relief Fund. Info: www.kinemanippon.org and Emily Vineberg, Library Associate, Olympia Timberland Library (360) 352-0595

FOR Sat Dec 17: Olympia FOR’s 36th Annual Holiday Peace Vigil: What a great annual event! Join us from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the south end of Percival Landing, 4th & Water, and afterward for hot soup and other refreshments at a nearby location. See article on newsletter page 1. Info: Glen (360) 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

FOR Sun Dec 18: Seattle FOR Holiday Party: Everybody is welcome to enjoy a festive potluck, music and mingling. Please bring non-perishable food donations for our needy neighbors. 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Bloedel Hall, St. Mark’s Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E, Seattle. Info: (206) 789-5565 wwfor@wwfor.org www.wwfor.org

FOR Sun Dec 18: Tacoma FOR hears speaker from Occupy Tacoma: Enjoy a 3:00 pm business meeting before the 4:00 speaker, Michael Collier from the Micah Project, speaks about Occupy Tacoma. Then enjoy the 5:00 potluck. Gather at the Tacoma Friends Meeting-House, 2508 S. 39th St. (behind the old Borders bookstore). Info: Susan Donaldson (253) 536-9185 wrigdon88@hotmail.com

Sun Dec 18: Veterans for Peace: Olympia’s VfP chapter 109, the Rachel Corrie Chapter, meets at 5:30 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water. Info: www.vfp109rcc.org and 867-1487

Mon Dec 19: The Thurston Diversity Council meets at 6:30 pm tonight (but usually at 6:00) on the third Monday of each month in Building One, Room 152 of the Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW. Tonight is the annual Human Rights Awards reception. A Lifetime Achievement Award will go to Community Youth Services (with particular note for Rosie’s Place), and a Unique Achievement Award will go to Occupy Olympia. The Thurston Diversity Council invites the community to celebrate these two organizations’ achievements. The Thurston Diversity Council is recruiting members to help promote cultural diversity and human rights. Info: Ruth Elder 754-2813 or e-mail diversitycouncil@msn.com

FOR Wed Dec 21: The Global Days of Listening project continues to grow. Every month more people connect by telephone, computer, Skype and other technologies to talk with the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers and other peace organizers around the world. AYPV translator Dr. Hakim recently traveled in Australia and Indonesia, activating a wider range of participants for these monthly conversations. The next “Global Days” will occur December 21. A special New Year’s “Inter-Occupy the Airwaves” will begin on December 31. Regular monthly listening time for the 21st of each month is from 7 a.m. to 12 noon Pacific time. The New Year’s GDoL will be a 24-hour-long call starting in the afternoon of December 31, ending after noon on New Year’s Day. Info: www.GlobalDaysofListening.org



Art work by Lee Miller

Wed Dec 28: Feast of Holy Innocents Peace Vigil to remember child victims of war. The children who are victims of our weapons and policies are dismissed as merely “collateral damage.” This annual vigil challenges this dismissal and calls upon our government and allies to stop wars that victimize more children. 7:00-8:00 a.m. during the **morning rush** hour on the south (fountain) side of

Fourth Avenue (west of Water Street, across from the Oyster House Restaurant), downtown Olympia. Dress Warm! Info: Bob Zeigler (360) 570-0848 zeiglerbob@msn.com

Wed Dec 28: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wed. evening of each month to work on global and local issues. Meet at the POWER office, 309 5th Ave SE, Olympia. Info: Larry 866-2404 Imosqueda@comcast.net

Thurs Dec 29: FILM: “Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai” – How does the simple act of planting trees lead to winning the Nobel Peace Prize? Ask Wangari Maathai of Kenya. In 1977, she suggested rural women plant trees to address problems stemming from a degraded environment. Under her leadership, their tree-planting grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, defend human rights and promote democracy. And brought Maathai the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. This is part of a series organized by the State Capital Museum and the Independent Television Service to bring award winning documentaries to Olympia. 7:00 p.m. at the State Capital Museum, 211 21st Avenue SW, in Olympia’s historic South Capitol Neighborhood. Admission is free, but a \$2 per person donation is suggested. Info: Susan Rohrer, State Capital Museum, 586-0166 susan.rohrer@wshs.wa.gov www.washingtonhistory.org

FOR Sat Dec 31: The Global Days of Listening 24-hour conversation extending into New Year’s Day: See Sat. Dec. 21 description and www.GlobalDaysofListening.org

FOR Tues Jan 3: Olympia FOR’s book discussion group about moving from war to peace: 7:00 pm at Chuck Schultz’s home, 1621 Tullis NE (a little north of San Francisco Street Bakery). Info about books and discussions for tonight and in future months: Chuck at 705-8520 chuckschultz3@msn.com

Wed Jan 4: Nuclear weapons resisters appear in court in Kitsap County: Persons who took nonviolent action at the Trident Nuclear Submarine base on Hiroshima Day 2011 will appear at 1:15 p.m. before Judge Reihl in Kitsap District Court, 614 Division Street (probably in room #104), Port Orchard (south end of Kitsap County).

Thurs Jan 5: Amend the Constitution to eliminate “corporate personhood” – The local Move to Amend group meets tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the MIXX 96 Conference Room, 119 N Washington Street (just south of State

Ave), in downtown Olympia. Catch up on local organizing efforts, including progress toward a City Council resolution for a constitutional amendment declaring that only humans have human rights. The Move to Amend group is organizing in various ways. Info: mta.oly@gmail.com and www.movetoamend.org and www.thealliancefordemocracy.org

Sat Jan 7: Washington Environmental Council’s 2012 Legislative Workshop: Learn from the state’s leading conservation groups, legislators, environmental lobbyists and others to prepare for the legislative session, which begins on Mon. Jan. 9. Coordinate to focus on high priority environmental goals for the 2012 session: Toxic-Free Kids, Fulfill our Clean Energy Initiative, and Pollution-Free Prosperity. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the University of Washington’s Kane Hall #120 (1410 NE Campus Parkway), Seattle. \$20 with lunch or \$10 without lunch. (Students with valid student ID are \$10 with lunch.) Register by Jan. 5. Nicole Keenan (206) 473-0324 nicole@wecprotects.org and www.environmentalpriorities.org

Sun Jan 8: PFLAG monthly gathering: PFLAG works with GLBTQ folks and their families and friends – and reaches out to the general public to improve society’s understanding and inclusiveness. 2:00-4:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia. Info: Alec Clayton alec@alecclayton.com

Tues Jan 10: Organize to stop sweatshops: South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public entities to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices. SSCCC meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Dick Meyer www.southsoundcleanclothes.org 705-2819

Tues Jan 10: National Organization for Women (NOW) meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW. Info: Linda Malanchuk 357-7272

Wed Jan 11: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wed. evening of each month to work on global and local issues. Meet at the POWER office, 309 5th Ave SE, Olympia. Info: Larry 866-2404 Imosqueda@comcast.net

Wed Jan 11: On the 10th anniversary of the first prisoners to arrive at Guantanamo Bay (and three years since President Obama pledged to close that prison), a broad coalition of groups hold a National Day of Action Against Guantanamo. The National Religious Campaign Against Torture is an important part of this. The organizers invite people to gather in Washington DC for a massive public witness, including a human chain extending from the White House to the Capitol. (**Join us in Washington, DC**) The organizers also encourage people to carry out local activities throughout the nation. Info: and **Organize activities in your own congregation and community** More info: www.nrcat.org/gitmo2012 and local Resources for worship, advocacy and public witness are all available on NRCAT’s website.

Wed Jan 11: Martin Luther King information comes to life through lecture, projected images and song: Charles Lambert performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Olympia Timber-

land Library, 313 8th Ave SE, Olympia. Info: Sara Peté, librarian, 352-0595 spete@trl.org

Thurs Jan 12: Buy Local: The Local Economics Study Group and Roundtable, a self-led monthly group focused on weaving the philosophical approach and operational tasks within a local economic system, meets on the second Thursday of each month at 112 4th Avenue E Suite 206 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Info: Sustainable South Sound's Buy Local Program 918-3870 buylocalss@gmail.com

Fri Jan 13: Heartsparkle Players will collaborate with the Sustainable Prison Project, whose mission is to bring science and nature into prisons: Heartsparkle Players will use Playback Theatre, a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue. Each month the Heartsparkle Players collaborate with a different local group. The Crisis Clinic empowers people, especially those in crisis, through telephone intervention, and information and referral, every hour of the year. 7:30 pm at Traditions Café, 300-5th Ave SW (& Water Street), in downtown Olympia). A \$5-\$10 donation is requested, but Heartsparkle never turns anyone away for not donating. Info: www.heartsparkle.org and Debe 943-6772

Sat Jan 14 (and the 2nd Sat. of each month): Protect immigrants' human rights: Gather from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the NW Detention Center, 1623 East J Street in Tacoma's industrial tideflat area. This privately owned and operated prison for immigrants has a notoriously bad reputation. Bring signs and protest the injustices. Stop the raids on immigrants. Keep families together. Pass humane immigration laws. Info: (360) 381-0293 decomunidad@qwest.net



signs or talk. This silent meditative walk is done in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Sponsor: South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship - Walk Chairperson: Miles at korodo@msn.com

Sun Jan 15: Veterans for Peace: Olympia's VFP chapter 109, the Rachel Corrie Chapter, meets at 5:30 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water. Info: www.vfp109rcc.org and 867-1487

FOR Sun Jan 15: Larry Kerschner reports back from his recent Afghanistan trip: Recently Larry Kerschner, Jody Mackey and Douglas Mackey spent three weeks in Afghanistan. Larry will share information and insights with the Seattle FOR this evening. Enjoy a 5 p.m. finger-food potluck, 6:00 p.m. announcements, and 6:30-8:00 p.m. presentation at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N. 70th (on Phinney Ridge NW of Woodland Park), Seattle. Free admission, but voluntary dona-

tions will be accepted. Info: (206) 789-5565 wwfor@wwfor.org www.wwfor.org

Mon Jan 16: Martin Luther King, Jr., strongly opposed nuclear weapons – and you can do so too on his birthday holiday: The Ground Zero



ter for Nonviolent Action invites you to its event in Kitsap County from 9:00 a.m. to mid-afternoon. Info will be posted at www.gzcenter.org and become available from Olympia supporters Alice Zillah 357-7705 alicezillah@yahoo.org and Bernie Meyer berniemeyer2001@gmail.com

570-0975

Mon Jan16: Martin Luther King celebration: 4:00 p.m. at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, 515 Washington Street SE, downtown Olympia. Thanks to generous support from Olympia Federal Savings and the City of Olympia. Info: Ruth Elder 754-2813 or diversitycouncil@msn.com

Thurs Jan 19: “Communicating to Connect” – Nonviolent Communication introductory session: Learn Marshall Rosenberg's radical process to help heal relationships, resolve conflicts, promote social change, and increase personal happiness. Liv Monroe offers excellent insights and skills, 6:45-9:00 pm, Lincoln Elementary School cafeteria, around the corner on Washington Street from 213 21st Ave SE, Olympia. Free, but donations help support these trainings. Info: 357-4503 livmonroe@gmail.com

FOR Thurs Jan 19: Deadline for Olympia FOR's February-March newsletter: Send news, announcements and calendar items by this date or very soon after. 360-491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

Fri Jan 20: Occupy the Federal Courts to protest the Citizens United v. FEC decision and oppose corporate personhood: The national level of Move To Amend (one of the main organizations opposing the notion that corporations are entitled to the Constitution's human rights) will mark the second anniversary of the *Citizens United* decision by calling for actions at federal courts nationwide. The federal court nearest to Olympia is in downtown Tacoma. This was inspired by scholar/writer/activist Dr. Cornell West, who was **arrested on the steps of the Supreme Court** in October. Info: www.movetoamend.org/OccupyTheCourts Local planning could include getting permits, inviting speakers and local celebrities, and promoting this in many ways. Remember: “**Corporations are NOT people! Money is NOT Speech!**”

Sat Jan 21: Faith, Climate, and Coal: Join Earth Ministry's Jessie Dye to discuss the role of religious community involvement in the campaign to transition Washington off of coal and importance of such involvement in new campaigns against coal. Hear about the power that people of faith can have in shaping proactive public policy at the state and national levels. St. Michael Parish, 1208 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA



Sat Jan 21: Thurston – Santo Tomás (Nicaragua) Sister County Association Garage Sale: Great selection! Worthy cause! 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary School Gym, 21st & Washington Street SE, Olympia. You can

8:30 am to 5:30 pm both Saturdays for \$625. Pre-register now. Info: 956-1155 and www.mediatethurston.org

Tues Jan 24: India goes West in a big way, while Bernie Meyer goes East in a big way: How do the twain meet? Bernie Meyer (“the American Gandhi”) returned from India in October, his 11th trip to bring Gandhi’s message since 2005. His portrayals in diverse places and venues recast Gandhi’s way to the realities of our world now. “I experience the best and the beauty of India’s people, while being exposed to the worst of humanity’s choices. It’s moving and exciting, heart-warming, yet disconcerting, fun with the pinch of fear.” If you want to get the highlights of West-East today through the return of Gandhi, “The Father of India,” to his homeland in the person of Bernie, come to Traditions Fair Trade and Café, 5th and Water St in downtown Olympia for Bernie’s 7:00 p.m. presentation. Info: 570-0975 berniemeyer2001@gmail.com

help in three ways: #1: Donate items. #2: Volunteer to collect items in advance or set up and sort items on Friday (from 3 p.m. to late), and/or help on Saturday (before 9 a.m. to clean-up after 3 p.m.). #3: Browse and buy. Information: tstsca@gmail.com or Emily Calhoun Petrie mlecalhoun@gmail.com and www.oly-wa.us/TSTSCA

Wed Jan 25: Environmental Lobby Day at the State Legislature: Many environmental groups collaborate to focus on high priority legislation. Today is the day to show up! Info: www.environmentalpriorities.org

Sun Jan 22: South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship hosts an open meeting. SSBPF includes members of the local Buddhist community engaging in the Buddhist path of right action in regard to working for peace, justice and social change. 3:30-5:00 pm. Location and info: Robert Lovitt 357-2825 ssbpf@comcast.net www.ssbpf.org

Wed Jan 25: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wed. evening of each month to work on global and local issues. Meet at the POWER office, 309 5th Ave SE, Olympia. Info: Larry 866-2404 Imosqueda@comcast.net

Mon Jan 23: How will sea level rise affect Olympia? Andy Haub, Planning and Engineering Manager of the City of Olympia’s Public Works Dept., will provide an annual update to the community on the effects of sea level rise in Olympia. He also will discuss the long-term strategy for how to respond to up to 50 inches of sea level rise. This event – sponsored by Transition Olympia – is free and open to the public from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW. Refreshments will be available at 6:45. Info: www.oly-wa.us/transitionolympia

Sat Feb 4: International Day in Solidarity with Leonard Peltier – with a march and rally in Tacoma: 12:00 noon: March for Justice starts at Portland Ave. Park between E. 35th & E. Fairbanks. (I-5 to Portland Ave. exit, then go east.) 1:00 p.m. Rally for Justice at the U.S. Federal Court House, 1717-Pacific Ave., downtown Tacoma. Olympia’s carpool leaves at 10:15 from Harrison & Division. Info about Tacoma activities and Leonard Peltier’s case: bayou@blarg.net More information: <http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/violations.htm>

FOR Mon Jan 23: Death penalty abolition committee of Olympia FOR meets to educate ourselves and work on further activities to abolish that atrocity. 7 pm at a pleasant new location in West Olympia (Get address from olyalice@gmail.com) or 943-4076. Other information: Emily Hammargren 352-0695 deathpenalty@olympiafor.org

FOR Sat March 3: Tom Rawson’s folk music benefit for Olympia FOR: 7:30 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, downtown. Tickets will be available February 1. Info: (360) 491-9093 info@olympiafor.org

Mon-Fri Jan 23-27: 40-hour Professional Mediation Training: You can learn powerful skills for helping people to solve conflicts in a healthy way. You can use these skills at home, at work or as a volunteer for the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County (DRC). The DRC offers its 40-hour Mediation Training from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm both Thursdays and

Sat March 10: 2012 Lacey Ethnic Celebration: Enjoy food, music, dance, widely varied cultural information – and meet new friends – from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Martin’s University, Lacey. Sponsor: Lacey Parks & Recreation. Info: Sean Finney 491-0857

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

"To develop the drop of compassion in our own heart is the only effective spiritual response to hatred and violence." -- Thich Nhat Hanh

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

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This issue of the Olympia FOR's newsletter includes information and insights about the concerns the Occupy Movement is addressing.

Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

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Newsletter Writer, Editor, Layout: Glen Anderson

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Thank you!

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