

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at www.tctv.net.

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs) at the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org. Simply click the TV programs link to reach www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

MARCH 2013

“NUCLEAR WEAPONS THREATEN LIFE AND WASTE MONEY”

The Cold War ended more than 20 years ago, and the Soviet Union no longer exists. But the U.S. is still fighting this obsolete Cold War with very dangerous and very expensive nuclear weapons.

Politicians and mainstream news media occasionally provoke fear about other countries that have – or might possibly want – nuclear weapons. But that is fear-mongering. There is no thoughtful conversation in Congress, or in the media, or among the general public about nuclear weapons.

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's March 2013 TCTV program brings viewers up to date. We especially focus on the Trident nuclear submarines based at the Navy base at Bangor in Kitsap County, just 60 miles north of Olympia and 20 miles west of Seattle. Tridents are always on hair-trigger alert and poised for a suicidal first strike against Russia or some other target. If used, the Trident submarine could destroy the world. So it's worth spending an hour watching this program!

During the Vietnam war, the port at Bangor was used for shipping a large portion of the weapons and ammunition for use there. A small nonviolent group called the People's Blockade protested there and blocked the railroad tracks and the ocean-going freighters.

During the Cold War our suicidal nuclear policy was actually called “Mutually Assured Destruction.” We discuss the US's nuclear weapons after the Cold War, including Trident and the others designed specifically for a “first strike,” to actually begin a nuclear war.

Tom Rogers tells his own personal experience commanding a nuclear submarine and how he changed his mind. Leonard Eiger shares his own reasons for working for nuclear disarmament.

Our two guests have been working hard to abolish nuclear weapons, especially the Trident system, through the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, which is located immediately next to the Trident base:

- **Tom Rogers** served in the Navy for 32 years on submarines and retired as a cap-

tain. He commanded a nuclear attack submarine during the Cold War. Now he volunteers actively to stop nuclear weapons.

- **Leonard Eiger** has a professional background in public health. For a number of years he has worked to abolish nuclear weapons, and has publicized the activities of Ground Zero and nonviolent activists there.

Nuclear weapons are incredibly dangerous! They can destroy life on earth. It makes no sense to waste billions of dollars on something that is too dangerous to be used. Every day there is a small chance of accident or miscalculation that could destroy the world. The likelihood on any given day is small, but the danger is cumulative. Since 1945 – 68 years – the cumulative danger has become large. And the danger of accident or miscalculation will continue unless we abolish nuclear weapons.

The US is the only nation to have actually used nuclear weapons against another nation. The US has more of them than any other nation. The US has led the advances in the nuclear arms race, and other nations have tried to catch up.

To possess first-strike nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert means we still threaten to use them. This is illegal under international law.

The US also has been violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for the past 40 years. This sets a terrible example to set for other nations. The US has absolutely no moral authority to tell other nations that we can have nuclear weapons by they can't. The US has the moral responsibility to take the lead, but the US keeps failing to show leadership.

The US government is planning to spend countless billions of dollars on “modernizing”

Trident and other nuclear weapons. There is no strategically valid reason to replace the Trident submarine and missile system with a new generation that will continue to threaten the world throughout most of this century.

Unless we abolish nuclear weapons, eventually the odds will catch up with us, and we'll destroy the world. “We the people” must take responsibility for what the government does in our name and with our tax dollars. We must urge President Obama to leave a positive and humane legacy from his second term. We must make Congress stop wasting our tax dollars on weapons that threaten to destroy the earth.

We mention the history of resistance to nuclear weapons since the 1940s, including the Plowshares movement for the past 20 years, and the history of resistance to Trident at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action since the 1970s.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action (360-930-8697 www.gzcenter.org) is a great local resource. It conducts ongoing organizing and activities and holds three big annual weekend events each year on Martin Luther King's Holiday in January, Mother's Day in May, and Hiroshima-Nagasaki Days in August.

Leonard also volunteers toward creating a Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. See www.psnukefree.org

Additional information is at the blog of the Disarm Now Plowshares, <http://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com>

Another good resource opposes nuclear weapons at a nuclear weapons plant in Tennessee. Contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance at www.orepa.org