

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

OCTOBER 2015

“100 Years of F.O.R.’s Bold, Nonviolent Work for Peace and Social Justice”

This article by Glen Anderson, producer and host of this TV series, summarizes what our guests said during the TV interview. This article also includes a few additional points that we did not have time to say during the hour.

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's October 2015 TV program celebrates highlights about the FOR's 100 years of accomplishments in the United States.

The national FOR has accomplished much, but usually has been too modest about promoting itself. The FOR works well with other organizations and wants to accomplish good work, regardless of who gets the credit for doing it. As a result, although the FOR is not very well known, it has actually accomplished quite a lot during the past 100 years.

This TV program highlights only a few of the fascinating pieces of the past 100 years, but we illustrate them with a great many visual images, so this TV program is visually compelling in addition to being interesting to hear.

Local FOR members and FOR chapters (such as the vigorous one in Olympia, Washington) can act upon the FOR's values at the grassroots level, so this TV program includes a few of these examples.

To do all of this, three guests share interesting information and insights:

- **Douglas Mackey** was chosen by FOR members in the Pacific Northwest to represent us on the FOR's national board of directors, the National Council. He served us for a number of years and became quite an expert in FOR's history. He has also served on the boards for the local FOR chapter in Olympia, Washington, and on the regional board

for the FOR in the western part of Washington State.

- **Jody Mackey** also has served on Olympia FOR's Steering Committee, and she has been active in our local Veterans for Peace chapter. She is well known and much loved for her participation in a variety of local peace activities and her skill as a story teller. Many people appreciate her work for our local “fair trade” retail store and café, Traditions Fair Trade.
- **Ron Young** worked as the national FOR's National Director of Youth Work from 1965 to 1972. During that time, the national FOR assigned him to organize and lead a number of significant nationwide peace activities. After that he worked for the Quaker-based American Friends Service Committee and other peace organizations. He is especially respected worldwide as a leader in working for peace in the Middle East. He has accomplished much by bringing together people of different faiths to collaborate for peace in the Middle East.

The FOR was founded in Europe in 1914, and in the U.S. in 1915. We work for peace and refuse to let governments turn us into enemies.

In 1914 astute Europeans recognized that war clouds were gathering in Europe, so some of their religious leaders gathered to explore how the religious community could prevent war from breaking out. Unfortunately, World War I broke out in early August just when the European religious conference was ending. Two of the participants – Henry Hodgkins (a British Quaker) and Friedrich Sigmund-Schulz (a German Lutheran) – were saying good-bye to each other

at the train station when they resolved that they would remain friends and would continue working for peace, even though their respective governments were going to war.

Instead of letting their governments pressure them into becoming enemies, they were literally a “fellowship of reconciliation” across national borders even during wartime. This sense has persisted throughout the FOR’s history, promoting international understanding and cooperation for a hundred years. Likewise, throughout the FOR’s first century, we have been a “fellowship of reconciliation” across races, religions, and other differences,

For example, when South Africa was plagued by the brutal Apartheid system, the FOR’s South African affiliate was multi-racial in defiance of their national laws. During the Cold War the FOR created US-USSR reconciliation exchanges. Our Middle East work has brought together Jews, Muslims and Christians in joint delegations for conversations and reconciliation throughout that region. The list goes on and on.

The FOR’s “Statement of Purpose” articulates our core values with a multi-issue commitment to peace, social justice and nonviolence.

As a principled peace organization, the Fellowship of Reconciliation has opposed every war for 100 years. But the FOR’s underlying values of peace and nonviolence also inspire us to see multi-issue connections and apply these underlying values to other areas of life, including social and economic justice. Our nonviolence is grounded in profound compassion, solidarity, and commitment to solving problems.

The FOR expresses our values through our “Statement of Purpose,” which lays out a broad vision for how we see peace and nonviolence. It points out that besides opposing war, we are also committed to “a just and peaceful world community, with full dignity and freedom for every human being.” This Statement of Purpose offers an expansive vision for “active nonviolence to transform” every kind of oppression against any kind of person, and creating “a social order ... in which no individual or group will be exploited or oppressed for the profit or pleasure of others.” The Statement of Purpose explicitly includes “offenders against society” and victims.

The FOR sees nonviolence – and bold, compassionate nonviolent action – as relevant to every issue. We see the big picture and “connect the dots” across issues. For example, from the mid-1950s to early 1960s when the U.S. government was promoting fallout shelters to protect us from nuclear war, the FOR and other peace groups knew that instead of pretending we could survive nuclear war we should abolish nuclear weapons altogether. When a New York City law required people to practice going to fallout shelters, the

FOR created the “Shelters for the Shelterless” program, which recognized that homeless people have nowhere to live. During our TV program, Glen held up a poster the FOR created in 1962 for its “Shelters for the Shelterless” program.

This is just one example of the FOR’s bold, creative non-violent organizing across issues of peace and justice. A number of years ago when I served on FOR’s governing body, the National Council, we amended the Statement of Purpose to expand from referring to the oneness of humanity to refer to “the essential unity of all creation,” so now the environment is included in our reconciliation work.

Many well respected persons have belonged to the FOR in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Many prominent people who have worked in various ways for peace, social justice and nonviolence have joined the FOR. Jody Mackey read a list of some names of just a few of these prominent Americans: Jane Addams, A.J. Muste, Albert Einstein, Daniel Berrigan, William Sloane Coffin, Jr., James Lawson, Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Sister Joan Chittister, Martin Luther King, Jr., Jim and Shelley Douglass, Pete Seeger, Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, and Joan Baez.

Jody also read the names of some famous FOR members from elsewhere in world: Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Niemöller, Martin Buber, Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hanh, Desmond Tutu, and Mairead Corrigan Maguire.

Many FOR leaders and members have also been active with other organizations, so we have long, productive working relationships with other organizations. Also, some organizations that began as FOR projects have spun off to become independent.

During World War I, people who refused to fight – including draft resisters and Conscientious Objectors whose religious beliefs opposed war – were treated very badly by the U.S. government, so some FOR leaders (including Roger Baldwin) and others created an FOR project to protect their human rights, especially free speech. This spun off into an independent organization, the American Civil Liberties Union.

A number of other organizations began with support from the FOR or were started by FOR members. Also, we have worked with many hundreds of organizations over the years.

The FOR started publishing high quality, influential magazines in 1918, and continued ever since the name changed to *Fellowship* in 1935.

Doug Mackey has researched very, very extensively into the history of the national FOR's publications, which have tracked peace and justice issues for nearly 100 years. Before our national magazine took the name *Fellowship* in 1935, it began under another name in 1918. Doug showed images of some of the front covers and mentioned some of the expert writers who wrote for those early issues.

Doug said that FOR's publications have been one of the best places to follow news and solid information about the peace and social justice movements nationally and internationally for nearly a hundred years. For example, the very first issue in January 1918 featured an article about the racial injustices African Americans experienced in military service during World War I. A later issue reported on the canvassing of more than 22,000 American religious leaders regarding their thoughts and convictions about war, peace, and especially nonviolence.

Before the internet, before TV, and even before radio became widespread, print media such as thoughtful magazines were crucial for informing the public and moving people ahead politically. *Fellowship* and its predecessor, *The World Tomorrow*, published well-reasoned arguments for peace and nonviolence.

In 1935 our national magazine's name changed to *Fellowship* and continued at a high level of quality seriously exploring issues of peace and nonviolence. We published articles by writers who included Mohandas Gandhi, Reinhold Niebuhr, Norman Thomas, Vera Brittain, Muriel Lester, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thich Nhat Hanh, the Berrigan brothers, and many, many others.

The magazine was not afraid to expose the role of the United States government and business corporations as oppressors of ordinary people. In 1927, a cover article featured John Nevin Sayre on horseback when he went to Nicaragua to meet with Augusto Sandino, who was working with poor farmers for economic and political justice when oppressed by a brutal, greedy U.S.-sponsored government.

Fellowship covered the FOR's expanding efforts for civil rights and racial justice movements during the 1950s and 60s, including the courageous nonviolent movement-building work of Bayard Rustin, George Houser, the Rev. James Lawson, and others.

After the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-1956 (see below), the FOR published the story in a comic book format and distributed it widely. This helped spread news about the movement and the nonviolent methodology throughout the American South and other countries. We also published a Spanish version, and someone else translated it into Arabic.

Fellowship has publicized bold nonviolence in different faiths (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and others), and also showed the power of interfaith cooperation in working for peace and justice. *Fellowship*'s current editor, Rabia Terri Harris, has been a leader in the U.S.'s Muslim peace movement.

The covers and contents of many *Fellowship* issues are literally works of art.

FOR's sense of social and economic justice included nonviolent organizing for workers' rights.

FOR's commitment to social justice includes economic justice, so this includes concern for people in the working class. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, labor disputes in the U.S. sometimes resulted in violence. But nonviolence should be in the labor movement, along with all other areas of our lives. In the 1930s the FOR supported workers' rights to form unions and struggle nonviolently for better pay and working conditions. Instead of violent actions, the FOR supported nonviolent labor actions such as the famous 1937 "sit-down strike" at an automobile factory. In the 1960s and 1970s our support for economic justice included support for the United Farm Workers' organizing efforts.

During World War II, the FOR opposed putting Japanese Americans in concentration camps.

During World War II, the FOR and the American Friends Service Committee were the only two nationwide organizations that strongly opposed putting Japanese Americans in concentration camps. Gordon Hirabayashi, an FOR member from the Seattle area, was the only second-generation Japanese American to refuse to register for evacuation to the concentration camps. His case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, but the Court ruled against him. He later wrote a book about his experience, and several video documentaries have celebrated his case.

FOR provided for visits to the concentration camps and set up a travel loan fund to help resettle people after they were released from them. In the Seattle area, some FOR members took care of some Japanese people's belongings while they were in concentration camps. The national FOR office added a young Japanese-American to its staff to interpret to schools, churches and FOR groups what was happening to people of Japanese ancestry.

After the war, an FOR member from Seattle, Floyd Schmoie, went to Hiroshima and built several houses for people whose homes the US had destroyed with the atomic bomb.

FOR has supported Conscientious Objectors and draft resisters during all wars.

The FOR has always supported people whose consciences led them to refuse to fight in wars.

Before Pearl Harbor – in 1939-1940 – Congress was writing a new law for a new military draft. When the Military Selective Service Act was being written, John Swomley and a number of other prominent FOR members helped make sure the new law would include protections for Conscientious Objectors.

When World War II came along – and only a very few peace organizations existed – a great many Conscientious Objectors joined the FOR and participated actively for the rest of their lives.

A good number of World War II's Conscientious Objectors settled in the greater Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia area, and we enjoyed their inspiration and leadership over the decades.

FOR supported the 1955-1956 boycott of segregated buses in Montgomery, Alabama.

Long after the Civil War, racial injustice continued to be very widespread and very brutal throughout much of the U.S. The FOR has worked on racial justice quite actively throughout nearly all of our history. A highlight came when Martin Luther King asked for our help with African-Americans' boycott of the segregated buses in Montgomery, Alabama, which lasted more than a year from December 1955 to December 1956. Bayard Rustin, an African-American Quaker and FOR member, was a highly skilled organizer who worked with the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and – at King's request – the national FOR also sent another experienced organizer, Glenn Smiley, to help in several ways. Glenn Smiley, who was white, was a great helper, so when Montgomery, Alabama's first integrated bus ran in December 1956, Martin Luther King asked the FOR's Glenn Smiley to sit next to him on that first integrated bus. Soon after the victory, King wrote a book about the Montgomery Bus Boycott, *Stride Toward Freedom*, in which he mentions FOR and Glenn Smiley. Rustin and Smiley continued to help the Civil Rights Movement in a number of ways over the years. Many years later on several occasions I met Smiley and enjoyed hearing his fascinating stories. I have also seen the FOR membership card that King had signed when he joined FOR.

FOR has a long history of working interracially for racial justice in the US and Africa.

George Houser and others have done huge amounts of work with the FOR in Africa itself from the 1940s to the 1960s to support the movements for freedom from colony status.

The FOR and our top leaders founded the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1942 and the American Committee on Africa. FOR leaders and members have done much significant work over the decades. Many recent examples of gross injustices have moved the FOR to increase our racial justice work again now. In light of the ongoing crisis in Ferguson, Missouri, the FOR assigned a national staff member, the Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou, who came from that community near St. Louis, to work there on-site with the local community.

Over the years, the FOR increasingly worked for interfaith understanding and cooperation in working for peace, justice and nonviolence.

Besides being an interracial organization, the FOR is also broadly interfaith. While faiths may differ in theology and practice, there is a level of depth that we share in common, grounded in profound respect for human worth and unity.

Years ago, Rabbi Michael Robinson told me he had grown up Jewish in North Carolina and – when he was a young adult – he figured out that he was a pacifist and a Conscientious Objector. He discovered the FOR and joined, even though at that time in the 1940s the FOR's core document (the Statement of Purpose) referred to Jesus Christ. But Michael understood the depth of the FOR's spirituality went beyond any particular faith, so he joined. This young rabbi and other diverse people have helped to broaden our interfaith commitment.

Over the years the FOR has come to embrace all faiths, and we also have many agnostics and atheists. The FOR collaborates with a number of Religious Peace Fellowships that help people work within their own faith traditions to work for peace, social justice and nonviolence. For a list of our Religious Peace Fellowships and how to connect with them, see www.forusa.org/groups/religious-peace-fellowships

Ron Young worked as the FOR's National Director of Youth Work from 1965 to 1972. He organized a burning of draft cards in New York City and a big march to the United Nations headquarters.

One of this TV program's guests – Ron Young – worked on the national FOR's staff from 1965 to 1972, organizing youth-related work and a variety of activities regarding the Vietnam War. Ron's conscience led him to apply for Conscientious Objector status, and in 1965 his draft board

agreed and recognized him as a C.O. As time went on he recognized that his conscience would not let him cooperate at all with the military draft, so on April 15, 1967, he was one of fifty men who burned their draft cards in New York City's Central Park just before tens of thousands of persons marched to the United Nations building for a rally at which controversially both Martin Luther King, Jr., and Stokely Carmichael spoke. Ron was a key organizer of this action, which reflected the growing "We Won't Go" draft resistance movement that was more collective, political and advocating than traditional individual pacifist conscientious objection had been in previous years.

While working for national FOR, Ron Young organized the 1969 March Against Death in Washington DC.

The FOR authorized Ron Young to spend his FOR staff time serving as National Coordinator for the New Mobilization Committee's November 13-15, 1969, March Against Death and Mass March in Washington DC. This March Against Death was one of the most creative protests against the war, as it commemorated 38,000 Americans who had been killed, while at the same time condemning the war and calling for U.S. withdrawal. Participants from all states gathered and wore placards with the names of persons from their respective states who had died in the Vietnam War. As they passed by the White House, each person called out the name of the person he or she was commemorating.

Although Americans know the names of our fellow Americans who died in the war, we did not know the names of the Vietnamese people that our government had killed. So – to remember the equally valuable Vietnamese lives – people called out the names of Vietnamese towns and villages the U.S. had attacked.

Ron also told a story that illustrated the range of activities occurring during this era. In order to cover costs of this event, volunteers had collected donations. At the end of the day they were depositing the proceeds through a special arrangement near the back of the bank. Meanwhile, the radical Weathermen were out in front of the bank, protesting capitalism and banks.

The event itself was peaceful, but the Nixon Administration had kept publicly predicting violence.

Ron also told a story about Richard Kleindeinst, a Deputy Attorney General in President Nixon's Department of Justice. While talking with Ron on the phone, Kleindeinst used the nastiest racist term to describe Washington DC's African-American mayor.

Some of the photos we showed about the March Against Death and the Study Mission to Saigon (addressed below) were taken by John Goodwin, so we appreciate the right to use those photos.

Ron Young also organized the national FOR's interfaith, interracial Study Mission to Saigon in 1970.

The FOR's work during the Vietnam era was powerful and important. The FOR assigned Ron to organize the national FOR's Study Mission to Saigon, Vietnam, which occurred in July 1970. This was both interfaith and interracial.

Despite the U.S. government's claim that the South Vietnamese government was a democracy with freedom, actually it was very repressive and lacked popular support. The FOR sponsored an interfaith/interracial Study Mission to Saigon in order to focus on repression in South Vietnam, and assigned Ron to organize and lead this. The Study Mission included American civil rights, student and religious leaders. A major article about it appeared in *Fellowship*.

About 200 Americans had sent their draft cards with the delegation in order to have their draft cards burned in a peace rally organized with Vietnamese students. Saigon's police attacked this peace march and broke it up with tear gas.

After the Study Mission ended, they wrote a report about the South Vietnamese government's repression of independent and peace-oriented activities. The report concluded that there was no viable, political "third force" that could avoid a Communist take-over after US. withdrawal. Several Democratic and Republican senators praised the report.

FOR organized a wide variety of international activities from its early years through the Cold War.

In addition to working for peace to prevent or stop wars, the FOR also worked in many other international settings to support peace, human rights, and social and economic justice. This began early in FOR's history and has continued throughout our first century of activism. This TV program had time to mention only a very few examples, but a great many more occurred.

From 1912 to 1933 the US military occupied Nicaragua. Augusto Sandino was leading the resistance to that. The FOR sent a top FOR leader to Nicaragua to meet with Sandino, but Nicaragua's new dictator had Sandino assassinated before the FOR leader could reach him.

The FOR did a variety of international work during our early years. We have always practiced "citizen diplomacy" by connecting directly with people of other nations and other races in defiance of governments. During the Apartheid era, our South African was multi-racial, in violation of the Apartheid laws. During the Cold War the FOR organized people-to-people exchanges between the US and the USSR.

Ron mentioned that soon after the FOR hired him in 1965, his first international trip was to the Dominican Republic, where the U.S. was on the wrong side of the coup

against the democracy. He briefly summarized that story involving Juan Bosch, that nation's rightful leader.

The national FOR worked with Vietnamese people on the Dai Dong project, which connected environmental and other concerns along with peace.

The national FOR connected with Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Zen Buddhist teacher and writer, and helped to generate worldwide exposure for his thinking and writings. Ron Young worked directly with him.

George Houser was one of a great many national FOR leaders who accomplished much during a long life (1916-2015).

Doug's extensive research into FOR history led him to learn a lot about George Houser, one of many, many of the FOR's truly great leaders for peace and human rights. Doug enjoyed meeting George about five years ago in relation to a national FOR project that had begun in Olympia, Washington (the Iraq Memorial to Life). Doug also met with him shortly before George died on August 19, 2015, at age 99.

His life spanned all the years of the FOR's history, and for 75 years he acted boldly for peace and justice. During the World War II era he and some fellow students at Union Theological Seminary resisted the draft and went to prison.

He organized major work for racial justice through the FOR and beyond, both in the U.S. and in Africa. In 1947 he was among the interracial group of justice activists who organized the Journey of Reconciliation, seeking to integrate interstate bus service, 14 years before the more famous Freedom Rider actions in 1961.

The FOR's international work continued in additional locations (Middle East, Latin America, Bosnia, Iran, Iraq, etc.) after the Cold War.

After the Cold War ended a quarter century ago, the FOR continued working for peace.

Over many years, the FOR organized a great number and variety of activities – often interfaith – for peace in the Middle East.

Decades ago the FOR created the Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean (TFLAC) and employed John Lindsay-Poland, who did amazingly excellent work for the FOR during the 25 years he worked for us. TFLAC forced the U.S. military to clean up its waste in Panama. TFLAC worked in solidarity with people in Chiapas, Mexico, and other troubled locations.

FOR's Latin American affiliate, Servicio Paz y Justicia, and Adolfo Perez Esquivel, won a Nobel Peace Prize.

In the mid-1990s the FOR created the Bosnian Student Project to address the serious dangers for young people in Bosnia who were from the "wrong" group during Bosnia's civil war. The FOR and a Sufi Muslim congregation in New York collaborated to rescue academically talented young people and bring them to the U.S. so they could continue their educations in safety. When national FOR staff member Doug Hostetter, who was organizing the project, spoke in Olympia about it, Olympia FOR member Bernie Meyer and his teenaged daughter Amanda thought perhaps we could host a student here. We and other community members joined together to create the Olympia FOR's Bosnian Student Project, and we ended up with more students here in Olympia than in any other community nationwide. After the Bosnian war settled down, the FOR sent American volunteers of various ages to spend time in Bosnia working with young Bosnians from the various sides to work together to rebuild and heal their country.

FOR's significant work in Colombia included nonviolent accompaniment for a non-aligned nonviolent peace community there.

Jody highlighted the FOR's work for peace and nonviolence in Colombia. The U.S. government has been supporting a brutal government there – and the government has been supporting brutal paramilitaries – all against a left-wing insurgency and poor farmers and other people who want social, economic and political progress. People in one rural community, San José de Apartadó, declared themselves to be a community of peace and nonviolently refused to collaborate with either side in the violent conflict. But instead of being left alone in peace, the military and paramilitaries have been attacking and killing the people in this rural non-violent peace community. The national FOR and other entities have been providing volunteers to live in the community in an "accompaniment" program that provides international visibility and has reduced the violence against them.

FOR has been supporting peace with Iran.

Ever since Britain and the U.S. overthrew Iran's democracy in 1953, the U.S. government has been hostile toward Iran. But the FOR has consistently worked for peace. Over the years we have done a number of things to reconcile and improve understanding. Jody mentioned that since the year 2000 the FOR has sent fifteen delegations there to build friendship and understanding.

Now in 2015, Iran and six major power nations have reached a diplomatic agreement with Iran to address the nuclear controversy. The FOR supports this diplomatic agreement.

Jody likes this quotation from Hafiz, a 14th Century Iranian (Persian) poet: “We have come into this exquisite world to experience ever and ever more deeply our divine courage, freedom and light!”

FOR’s history is embedded in the visual images that begin each episode of the Olympia FOR’s TV program.

Each episode of the Olympia FOR’s TV program (except this episode) begins with saxophone music and a sequence of slides of FOR history. While each image we’ve been using has just a few words of captioning, now Glen provides a bit more background and context to help our viewers understand these images. This sequence of images also highlights a few of the stories we’ve shared during this hour, along with a few additional ones. The TV program shows each image on the screen while Glen mentions just a little more about each one. **Here we go!**

PHOTO CAPTION: “A workshop for World War II draft resisters” – Bayard Rustin, who worked for the national FOR for a number of years, resisted the World War II military draft and served time in prison. He urged other men to resist the draft too.

PHOTO CAPTION: “Ready to board the bus for an interracial trip through the South in 1947” – The national FOR’s racial justice work in the 1940s included this interracial “Journey of Reconciliation” through some southern states. Black and white participants rode buses together to challenge segregation in interstate bus service long before the famous boycott of segregated city buses in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955-1956, and the 1961 Freedom Rides. In the 1980s I met a number of these courageous nonviolent activists.

PHOTO CAPTION: “Anti-apartheid demonstration, New York, 1953” – The nonviolent movement to abolish South Africa’s extremely brutal racial segregation and discrimination had started decades before ordinary Americans got involved in the anti-apartheid movement of the 1980s. The national FOR participated in this demonstration in New York way back in 1953.

PHOTO CAPTION: “FOR supported independence for African colonies” – In 1953 the FOR helped organize the American Committee on Africa (now part of Africa Action (www.africaaction.org)) to support the movements for African independence.

PHOTO CAPTION: “Civil defense protest, New York City, 1955” – In the mid-1950s, the U.S. government was rapidly escalating the nuclear weapons arms race. The government tried to fool people into thinking that we could survive an all-out nuclear war. When I was in kindergarten in 1954-1955, we were taught to hide under our school desks or in the school hallway. The government urged people to

hide in our home basements and in underground fallout shelters in cities. The national FOR and some other peace groups exposed the cruel deception and invited people to publicly refuse to participate in massive drills that herded people into fallout shelters.

PHOTO: “This house has no fallout shelter” – The national FOR printed these signs for people to display, so we could visibly withdraw our support from the national deception that nuclear war is winnable or even survivable. In the early 1960s the national FOR launched the “Shelters for the Shelterless” program to highlight the reality that many people were homeless – without any shelter at all – while the government was wasting money and effort on fallout shelters that were deceptive and utterly ineffective.

PHOTO CAPTION: “Martin Luther King joined FOR in the 1950s” – I have seen the actual membership card he signed. King worked with the FOR and some of our leaders starting from the time of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

PHOTO CAPTION: “FOR worked actively for peace in Vietnam” – The foreground of this photo at the Washington Monument shows Ron Young, a guest on this TV program, who was working for the national FOR as director of youth activities. He organized major nationwide actions, such as the one in this photo showing the Washington DC event opposing the 1970 U.S. invasion of Cambodia.

PHOTO CAPTION: “A solemn moment at a Vietnam peace event” – The FOR has always worked for peace boldly and seriously.

PHOTO CAPTION: “FOR works to abolish nuclear weapons” – Since 1945 the national FOR has always opposed nuclear weapons.

PHOTO CAPTION: “Trident nuclear submarine base” AND THE NEXT TWO IMAGES – The “Bangor” sign is near the point where railroad tracks enter the Navy base containing the largest number of nuclear weapons in the world, just 20 miles west of Seattle. FOR members and others have been protesting nuclear weapons here since the 1970s. FOR members and other peace supporters protested at this very same site during the Vietnam War, because many of the weapons going to Vietnam came here by train and were loaded onto ocean-going freighters at Bangor’s port for shipment to Vietnam.

PHOTO: (Two women holding signs for peace) – The Olympia FOR has held many peace vigils at this downtown location for a number of decades. The woman on the left, the Rev. Marion Kline, joined the FOR in 1934 and worked actively for peace until she died in 2014 at the age of 102.

PHOTO CAPTION: “Nonviolent resistance toppled the Philippines’ dictator” – Nonviolent revolutions don’t just happen by themselves. People connected with the FOR and religious bodies conducted extensive nonviolent organ-

izing and training in the Philippines. This nonviolent preparation prepared people to be strong and effective in struggling to transition peacefully from dictatorship to democracy.

PHOTO CAPTION: “Remembering Archbishop Romero” -- AND -- (Washington State Capitol steps) – The national FOR and members of the FOR chapter in Olympia, Washington, were very active in the nationwide Pledge of Resistance, which opposed the Reagan Administration’s wars and repression in Central America.

This TV program needed to end in just one hour, so we did not have time to show and explain the remaining photos that we use at the beginning of the Olympia FOR’s TV programs. Here are the explanations for the photos we did not have time to show now, but you can see at the beginning of future episodes of the Olympia FOR series:

PHOTO CAPTION: “20 years after the 1963 March on Washington” – The national FOR played an important role in organizing the 1963 March on Washington, which called for both racial justice and economic justice. Twenty years later the FOR and others organized events to sustain those movements.

PHOTO CAPTION: “FOR peace mission to Iraq, 1990” – Before George W. Bush launched the U.S.’s long war in Iraq in 2003, the older President George H.W. Bush launched his Gulf War in 1991. But the FOR was already organizing activities, including this 1990 peace mission to Iraq, which was intended to show that the American people wanted peace.

PHOTO CAPTION: “On the eve of an execution, 1993” – The national FOR has opposed the death penalty for a great many years, and so has the FOR chapter in Olympia, Washington. We have organized vigils on the steps of the Washington State Capitol Building on the eve of each of the five executions that the State of Washington has carried out in the modern era, starting with this one in 1993.

PHOTO CAPTION: “The beloved ancient bridge at Mostar was destroyed in the Bosnian war” – When the horrific war in Bosnia was tearing Yugoslavia’s population apart from 1992 to 1995, the national FOR and a Sufi Muslim congregation in New York created the Bosnian Student Project to help endangered students come to the U.S. to continue their educations. The FOR chapter in Olympia, Washington, welcomed more Bosnian students here than any other community of the U.S. One of our Bosnian students came from Mostar and loved this ancient bridge, which the war destroyed.

I hope you have enjoyed learning more about the context for these slides you’ve been seeing at the opening of the Olympia FOR’s TV programs over the years. Next time you watch one of our programs – whether on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County, Washington, or on your computer through our website, www.olympiafor.org, I hope

you will be inspired by this century of peace and justice work that we highlight at the start of each program.

The national FOR’s website, www.forusa.org, has more information about FOR’s history, the Statement of Purpose, a way to join as an actual member, ways to connect with our activities, find local chapters throughout the U.S., and more.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation’s record of accomplishments over the past 100 years is truly significant and inspiring. Entire books have been written about them.

This 1-hour TV program is not nearly enough. We could have invited a different combination of guests to tell a different combination of stories and still only touched the surface!

You can learn more about our history through the national FOR’s website, www.forusa.org and www.forusa.org/about/history

Early in this program, I mentioned the Statement of Purpose, which expresses our values. You can read it through our website at www.forusa.org/about/sop That link also says how you can join to become an actual member of the FOR.

No annual dues are required, but of course they encourage voluntary donations.

Local FOR chapters exist in some parts of the U.S., and you could start a new chapter if your local community does not have one. See www.forusa.org or get help from the Olympia FOR chapter.

You can get much more information from the national FOR at (845) 358-4601, www.forusa.org Their website provides much history at www.forusa.org/about/history

Thanks to all of the people who made this TV program happen, and all who have helped the FOR accomplish so much during the past 100 years!

I am grateful for our three guests – Doug Mackey, Jody Mackey, and Ron Young – for sharing their knowledge and insights with us.

I am grateful for the work of Fred Silsby and Dennis Mills, who worked very hard behind the scenes with Doug Mackey to find and prepare the images that we’ve shown on the screen.

Thanks to John Goodwin for some of the old photos about Ron Young.

Thanks also to Olympia's Bob Zeigler, who photographed some of the local activities we show in our TV program's slides near the end of this program – which we usually show with the opening credits and with a local volunteer's beautiful saxophone music.

Of course, I appreciate all of the people of the Fellowship of Reconciliation – worldwide, in the U.S., and in local communities – who have brought the values of peace, justice, nonviolence and compassion to life in so many, many ways.

We also appreciate the 2014 book by our TV guest, Ron Young. It offers well-written and interesting insights into his lifetime of experiences. The title is *Crossing Boundaries in the Americas, Vietnam, and the Middle East*. We also recommend a fascinating 21-minute interview with Ron Young, which you can watch at this link: www.activistvideoarchive.org/pages/RonYoung.html

Olympia FOR invites you to connect – and to participate in whatever ways can use your interests and skills.

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence by contacting the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation at (360) 491-9093 or www.olympiafor.org

We're all one human family,
and we all share one planet.
We can create a better world,
but we all have to work at it.
The world needs you! You can help!