

**Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation**  
**225 N 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle WA 98103**

November 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation

This is [our annual fundraising email](#) – coming at a time when the need for nonviolence couldn't be clearer. *If you don't need reminding how wonderful our organization is, you can just skip down to the highlighted paragraph toward the end with postal and online donation info.*

Of course, we are distraught about the continuing war in Ukraine and the newer war in Gaza, among other violence in the world, as well as the inadequate global response to climate change threatening the entire future of our species on our one-and-only home planet.

With these heavy problems in our minds, it was uplifting and inspirational to hear from a diverse group of activists at our November 11, 2023, Fall Retreat with theme The Human Right to a Livable and Just World.

We heard about the groundbreaking successful court case in Montana which was placed by, or on behalf of, 16 young people suing for the right to a healthy environment and how 12 of these children and youth testified in court. We are hopeful that their success will stand through appeals.

We also heard from several young activists working on climate change including several current fellows in WWFOR's Mike Yarrow Peace Fellowship program.

At the higher end of the age spectrum, two seasoned activists who are core members of the Poor People's Campaign told us about how they are carrying on Martin Luther King Jr's struggle against racism, militarism, and poverty, and have added the related issue of climate justice.

One workshop was led by a Vietnam War veteran who is now active in Veterans for Peace's Climate Crisis and Militarism project. Another was presented by an activist from Front and Centered, a coalition committed to a Just Transition centering communities of color, people with lower incomes, and Indigenous people to create a more sustainable, more equitable, and more just world.

Throughout the gathering, in presentations, workshops, and small group discussions, the issue of Ceasefires to end the killing in the current war came up. Parts of this event were recorded and we hope to have videos online soon.

How appropriate that this gathering fell on Armistice Day. We recall that our other main annual conference, the Spring Assembly featured Helena Cobban speaking passionately about the need for an Armistice in Ukraine. She shared her experiences as a mother of small children and a journalist in war zones.

Between these inspirational conferences, WWFOR members and friends are working toward a more just, sustainable world in many ways. We list a few:

- Our newsletter, Pacific Call, is posted online and available by postal mail with about 4 issues yearly and new articles posted online between issues.
- Our emails go out to our list of about 1100 subscribers 3 to 5 times a month, with many events and suggested actions. We are happy to report that we have about equal numbers of actions via Jewish Voice for Peace and US Campaign for Palestinian Rights. [Is this “fair and balanced”? Absolutely not! We are on the side of peace and do not publicize calls for war.]
- We have program meetings sponsored by our Olympia, Tacoma, and Seattle chapters about 10 times a year.
- Olympia chapter maintains a visible presence with 2 peace vigils weekly, and other public events.
- Seattle chapter belongs to the Seattle AntiWar Coalition which holds demonstrations and meetings, and we are closely affiliated with From Hiroshima to Hope’s annual remembrance event
- Tacoma Chapter with the help of The Tacoma Friends Meeting had a hybrid style in-person meeting and is thinking of doing more. It worked beautifully.
- Our governing body, the Regional Council, meets 6 times a year, with decisions between meetings by email.
- We participate in Coalitions including Washington Against Nuclear Weapons, and the Poor Peoples Campaign.
- Our “star” continues to be the Mike Yarrow Peace Fellows project with 22 current fellows, each of whom has an individual year-long activist project. The project is run by a small group of seasoned activists, and we have been fortunate to have assistance from a succession of MYPF alumni.

Please consider a donation to keep WWFOR active as our regional organization, helping connect chapters and individuals in Western Washington and beyond. Our main expenses are supporting the MYPF youth activist program and maintaining our office and web presence (rent, phone, computers, etc.). **If you are able to contribute, please do so now.**

We welcome checks to WWFOR, 225 N 70th, Seattle WA 98103, or online donations at <https://wwfor.org/home/donate/> (via the FOR USA website). If donating online please make sure to specify “Western WA FOR” in the box at the bottom labeled “Special Instructions.”

We want to continue be a voice for nonviolence, working to abolish nuclear weapons, opposing racism in all forms, and training youth activists. Please contribute what you can.

*Best wishes from the WWFOR Office Volunteers and your Regional Council*

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**We want to stay in touch!** Website <https://wwfor.org/> , phone 206-789-5565, email [wwfor@wwfor.org](mailto:wwfor@wwfor.org)