

225 N 70th St, Seattle WA 98103 206-789-5565 <http://www.wwfor.org>

***WWFOR** seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.*

“Nonviolent Solutions to Structural Oppression”

Western Washington FOR’s 17th Annual Spring Assembly

Saturday April 11, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Every year WWFOR brings grassroots folks together for a Spring Assembly to share ideas and strengthen the movements for social justice, nonviolence and peace. Please join with other people from mid-morning to mid-afternoon on Saturday April 11 at Fauntleroy UCC Church, 9140 California Avenue SW in West Seattle.

Our 2015 Spring Assembly on Saturday April 11 will be more participatory than ever.

This year’s theme and activities: The problems we keep seeing at global, national, and local levels are huge, persistent, and deeply rooted. The Vietnam war was not an aberration from an otherwise peaceful foreign policy, nor are police abuses caused by “a few bad apples,” nor is homelessness the fault of people making bad choices, nor are people of color to blame for the effects of racial disparities. Big problems cause continuous violence, continuous injustice, and continuous trauma stress. Society needs profound healing from addictions to greed, violence, and racism.

These big problems that cause ongoing oppression are structural – built into our society’s systems. Solving them requires more than masking symptoms, applying band-aids, or enacting liberal “reforms” that merely tinker around their edges.

Real solutions require radical (getting to the root) approaches based on nonviolent values that profoundly respect the unity of the entire human family and all of our ecosystems. **Real solutions** require active listening and bold, creative alternatives to structural oppression.

Today is VERY PARTICIPATORY! Instead of one keynote speech to a passive audience, **everyone** will be able to collaborate in shaping our keynote message to flesh out 2015’s theme, **“Nonviolent Solutions to Structural Oppression.”** Morning workshops will explore problems. Afternoon small groups will allow **everyone** to generate creative nonviolent solutions.

à **Pre-register by April 3 if possible** because this helps us plan. But even if you don’t pre-register, come anyway!

à **Suggested donation:** It costs WWFOR approximately \$15 per person to put on this Assembly. We welcome participants regardless of ability to pay, and hope those who can afford more will balance those who can afford less.

Your registration donation includes a delicious catered lunch.

The Spring Assembly is sponsored by Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation (206) 789-5565
wwfor@wwfor.org www.wwfor.org For information and pre-registration contact Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093

**Some of the articles on pages 2 through 6 are
abridged versions of longer articles posted on the
website: www.wwfor.org**

The 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer

By John M Repp

Our departed friend, Mike Yarrow, former organizer for WWFOR and a founder of the Peace Activist Trainee program, was a volunteer in the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. His six letters to family and friends during that fateful summer have been put up on a website dedicated to Civil Rights Movement Veterans. <http://www.crmvet.org/> This site is a library of source materials for use by students and activists learning about the civil rights movement. To see Mike's letters, click on *Site Search* on the left side of the Home page and type in "Yarrow" At the time, Mike wrote to a friend who typed them up on a typewriter and forwarded them to his support group.

This essay is background and is dedicated to Mike.

The Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964 was a direct action campaign to register black voters in Mississippi. It was organized primarily by SNCC, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, (pronounced "snick") with the help of individuals from other civil rights groups. The SNCC organizers in Mississippi were paid so they could focus full time on their work.

Mississippi was at the time a police state. The White Citizens Council had a lock on politics and the Klan had infiltrated the police and sheriff's departments. Social pressure enforced separation of the races and whites who broke the taboo were shunned while blacks were punished more severely. Blacks were prohibited from registering to vote not by law but by economic sanctions i.e. they would lose their jobs and if that did not work, by violence like trumped up arrests, beatings, and killings. The few who went down to the Courthouse to register were asked to recite clauses from the State Constitution and explain what they meant.

Mississippi was an outlier even in the South. Martin Luther King, Jr's advisors told him to stay away from Mississippi because it was too dangerous, even though he thought the 1964 summer Project was the best thing going at the time in the civil rights movement. (King did go to Mississippi in 1964, but quietly.) Selma came the next year.

A member of SNCC, Bob Moses began working in Mississippi in 1960. He learned that the blacks there did not want to integrate public accommodations as much they wanted to vote. By the summer of 1963 SNCC had organized a parallel election. SNCC signed up voters on rolls they kept secret from the white authorities to protect the blacks who participated. They ran candidates and the election to demonstrate that blacks wanted to vote and were capable of it. At the end of the summer they brought in a few white college students to help with the Freedom Election. That experience gave them the idea to bring down to Mississippi a thousand white college students the next summer to try again to officially register voters and to build an alternative political party, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party(MFDP) The MFDP was to go to the national convention in Atlantic City where LBJ was to be nominated. The idea of bringing down white college students was intensely debated within SNCC's ranks. Despite



great skepticism Bob Moses convinced the others it would work. He saw it as a way to get the attention of the nation and get the U.S. Justice Department to intervene in Mississippi.

Mike's first letter describes his experience of the orientation week in Oxford Ohio. The Mike we knew in Seattle loved to sing. Learning and singing the songs of the black led civil rights movement in the mass meetings was an experience that held the idealistic young white students and the veteran black staffers together, in Oxford and throughout the summer. There was also a tension rooted in the very different life experience of the two cohorts. On Tuesday of his orientation the tension spilled out into the open. They got through it after a long night.

SNCC had decided to tell the white volunteers the truth about the risks they faced going to Mississippi. SNCC staffers told of their own experiences, the beatings, the arrests, the threats, and stories of the murders and the bombings of churches where they held public meetings. SNCC expected many to decline to go to Mississippi. Few did decline. Instead the volunteers were inspired by the courage they saw in the staffers. So, facing the dangers, the volunteers set off for Mississippi as described in Mike's second letter.

The day the volunteers arrived in Mississippi was the day three of staff, James Cheney, Andrew Goodman, and Mickey Schwerner, disappeared. The three had left Ohio early to investigate a church bombing. SNCC had a system where they kept track of everyone so they knew right away of the disappearance of the three. The senior staff was sure they had been murdered. But the volunteers and SNCC continued their work. The power of nonviolence becomes manifest when activists do their work and continue their work in the face of the threats and the violence of their opponents. Mike describes the fears he felt. The nation did not learn that the three were murdered until 44 days later.

Where did the courage come from? One veteran of the movement said courage had nothing to do with it! "It was *esprit de corps*. These were my friends and they were going and I was going with them." (Bruce Watson. *Freedom Summer*. 2010. p. 34) True, but these people were brave!

At the orientation Moses said that if they survived the summer, that would itself be a success. One of the main ideas of nonviolent direct action is that "Means are ends in the making." Having the white students stay with black families and having the white volunteers work with the mostly black SNCC staff was as we say now "pre-figurative". It anticipated the goal of an integrated society. During the debates within SNCC the summer before, Fannie Lou Hamer argued "If we're trying to break down the barrier of segregation, we can't segregate ourselves." In the same way, the Freedom Election of 1963 and the organizing of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964 were ways of forming a new society in the womb of the old. It was a very powerful tactic of direct action, close to the highest which is parallel government.

Today, 50 years after Freedom Summer, Mississippi has more black political officials than any other state in the union. Mike got arrested twice but survived the summer. He remained an organizer for peace and justice the rest of his life. I always wondered why he often wore a straw hat to demonstrations. It was an outward sign of the formative experience he had in 1964.

Inequality Kills

by Stephen Bezruchka, University of Washington, Dept. of Global Health, by permission of the author

For nearly two hundred years America was one of the healthiest and longest-lived countries, but today, over thirty countries have better health by many measures. In 2013, the U.S. Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a book called *U.S. Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health*. The IOM report includes a long section on the factors for our high death rates. Among the main causes cited are poverty, income inequality, low social status, stress, and early-life disadvantage. Although recent attention has been paid to the rising economic inequality in the United States, the links of that trend to our health have not been presented to the public.

The life-course perspective in particular is out of the public eye. Looking more deeply into research on the effects of early life, it is possible to estimate that roughly half of our health as adults is programmed from the time of conception to around two years of age. The importance of these “first thousand days” is the subject of increased interest and study, and explains a lot about the difficulties of focusing on short-term interventions to improve health. Countries with healthier populations structure this formative period by making it easier for parents to parent. In practical terms, this means that in modern societies where most people work outside the home, providing paid parental leave is the single most effective social intervention that can be undertaken for improving health. It can be thought of in the same light as public sanitation systems that make water safe to drink. We all benefit, rich and poor alike, from clean water, from sewage treatment, from immunizations, and other public health measures. The rest of the world seems to understand this simple fact, and only three countries in the world don’t have a policy, at least on the books, for paid maternal leave—Liberia, Papua New Guinea, and the United States.

Infant death rates, those occurring in the first year of life, are a particularly sensitive measure of health in a population. According to a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released in 2013, our infant mortality rate is about 6.1 deaths for every thousand live births. Sweden has an infant mortality rate less than half of ours, 2.1 deaths per thousand births. If we had Sweden’s rate of infant deaths, the United States would have around forty-seven fewer infants dying every day in the United States.

Differences in mortality rates are not just a statistical concern—they reflect suffering and pain for very real individuals and families. The higher mortality in the United States is an example of what Paul Farmer, the noted physician and anthropologist, calls structural violence. There is growing evidence that the factor most responsible for the relatively poor health in the United States is the vast and rising inequality in wealth and income that we not only tolerate, but resist changing. Inequality is the central element, the upstream cause of the social disadvantage described in the IOM report. A political system that fosters inequality limits the attainment of health. The extent of inequality in society reflects the range of caring and sharing, with more unequal populations sharing less. Those who are poorer struggle to be accepted in society and the rich also suffer its effects. A recent Harvard study estimated that about one death in three in this country results from our very high-income inequality. Inequality kills through structural violence. There is no smoking gun with this form of violence, which simply produces a lethally large social and economic gap between rich and poor.

The last part of the IOM report lays out ideas for what to do, saying that we know enough to act without requiring more research. Their first call to action is **the need to alert the public** to our alarmingly low relative health status and stimulate a national discussion about it. The corporate-dominated media seem oblivious to the impact of inequality and almost never point out our poor health status relative to other nations.

Creating awareness and understanding of the basic problems constraining our achievement of better health will be a major challenge. A very successful ploy of advertisers is the endless repetition of simple statements that stick in people’s minds. To save those forty-seven infant lives every day, we could take a similar action, and create a “broken record” to run throughout the entire range of public spheres, from local and county governments to the national administration, Congress, and the courts, with the message: “Americans Die Younger Than People in All the Other Rich Nations.” If that statement were included in every speech made by governmental leaders and other public figures, repeated over and over, it might stimulate us to improve our health status. Only widespread understanding of the problem we face will lead us to develop effective solutions.

A look at our own not so distant history points out what Americans thought, and did, before we became so lethally unequal. In 1969 a Republican president proposed a Family Assistance Plan that would have guaranteed a basic income for all American families. Editorial opinion then was 95 percent in favor of such support to families. Our values at that time were to decry the poverty in our midst to try to

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make it vanish from the country. President Nixon's bill passed the House of Representatives, then languished in the Senate. When Nixon became embroiled in the Watergate scandal it died—along with a credible, feasible plan to strengthen the health of families in this country and prevent what was soon to become a relentless decline in our relative health.

Tackling inequality directly would have a greater impact on health than any more direct “health” intervention, and the time may be ripe for those actions. We could follow the lead of other countries and consider having a maximum pay ratio within companies; Switzerland, for example, has proposed that the salary ratio of CEO to the lowest-paid worker should not be greater than 12:1. We could return the maximum tax rates to the levels they were when we were much healthier relative to other nations; many today are shocked to hear that in 1966 the highest marginal tax rate was 70 percent. Similarly, we could tax corporations at rates that more realistically reflect their profit levels as we did in the past.

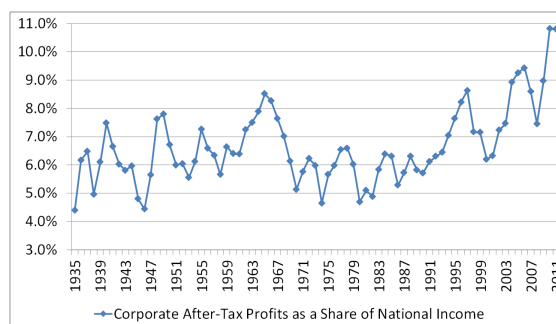
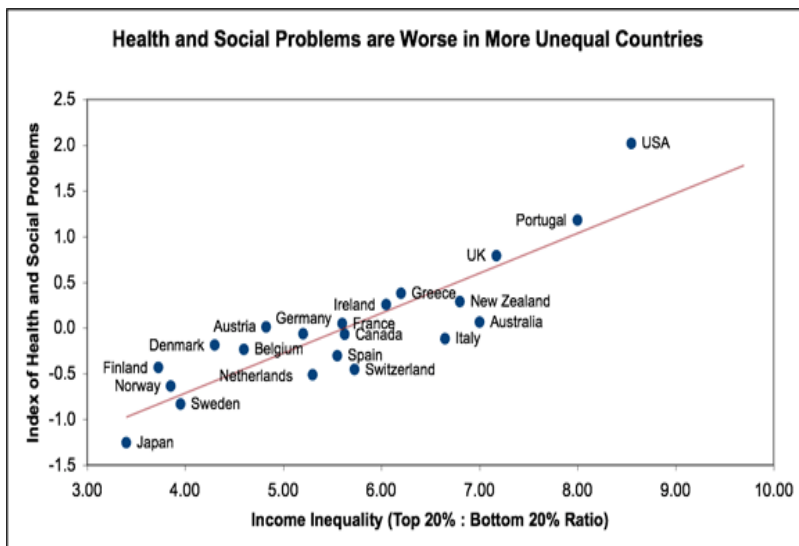
Another beneficial measure would foster more employee-owned enterprises. Already 130 million Americans participate in ownership of co-op businesses and credit unions. Public banks, as an alternative to corporate, profit-oriented ones, could stabilize the economy. North Dakota has had a state bank for over ninety years, and that state suffered far less during the 2008–9 economic meltdown than the rest of the country.

What gets measured gets done. Let's measure health outcomes and have every American know how much shorter their lives are than they need to be. That will have us watching for progress. The president should report on our health and inequality goals in the annual State of the Union speech.

Countries can set health goals, just as the United States set a goal to land a human on the moon in the 1960s. We monitored progress toward that goal and were eventually successful. The United Kingdom, for example, set a child poverty reduction goal a few years ago and monitors success toward that aim. Australia has set a goal of being the healthiest nation in the world by 2020. It will not be easy, but they have outlined a plan and are monitoring progress.

The United States also regularly sets goals. The effort began with the Healthy People 2000 outcomes; but when we failed to reach those targets, we set more lofty ones for 2010—which again we didn't achieve. For 2020 we need to set realistic goals, benchmarks, and strategies for getting there, and we need to achieve them. Those

strategies need to include meaningful social and economic changes that will give everyone in the country a chance of growing up, and living a long and healthy life. Every single day that we delay, another forty-seven American babies will die needlessly.



The “Pacific Pivot” and the “Ukrainian Crisis”: U.S. still engaging in provocative actions

By Larry Kershner

In November 2014, I visited Jeju Island, South Korea. I went with a group, organized by the late Fr. Bill Bichsel of the Tacoma Catholic Worker, to stand in solidarity with villagers of Gangjeong Village who are opposing the construction of a naval base in their village. The base is supposedly a Korean Navy base but a look at the plans clearly shows that wharfs and docks are fitted to the size of US naval vessels.

At fifty hectares, this base will be one of the largest in the Pacific Basin. The base will house up to twenty-four warships. The 7,000 troops along with dependents will overwhelm the culture of the village of 2,000 fishers and farmers. There are currently no bars or prostitutes in Gangjeong village but the villagers know that this will change when the base is completed in December 2015.

The villagers see US bases being built or used in South Korea, Guam, Diego Garcia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, and Okinawa along with the central command of the US Pacific Fleet in Hawaii as part of President Obama's military shift to the Pacific. Additional current bases at American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Marshall Islands, as part of this military buildup, will form a semi-circle of naval and other military bases surrounding China. Villagers are told the naval base is for Korean national security but they see this base as being more likely to lead to war with China than in making them more secure.

The recent military buildup in the Pacific is a response by America to the increasing economic power of China. Under President George W. Bush, the United States emphasized the strengthening of relations with existing allies in Asia, began moving toward a more flexible and sustainable troop presence in the region, concluded a free trade agreement (FTA) with South Korea, brought the United States into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) FTA negotiations, and forged new partnerships with India and Vietnam. In the fall of 2011, the Obama Administration issued a series of announcements indicating that the United States would be expanding and intensifying its already significant military role in the Asia-Pacific, particularly in the southern part of the region.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade agreement, which the Obama administration is trying to push through with little public scrutiny, is part of the American Empire seeking full economic in addition to military dominance in this part of the Pacific. As envisioned by the Office of the U.S.

Trade Representative, the TPP will be a free trade agreement between the nine negotiating parties — Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam — which will form the basis for a broader agreement that eventually could include all the economies of the Asia-Pacific region, including China. According to some analysts, U.S. interest in negotiating an expanded TPP was spawned by concerns that the United States could be left out of an emerging, highly-integrated and rapidly growing Asian economy. Asian nations have been actively pursuing greater economic integration in their region.

Economic containment of China is the immediate goal of the TPP despite claims by the White House otherwise. China is the United States' second-largest trading partner, its third-largest export market, and the largest foreign holder of U.S. government debt. During the past year China and Russia reached two natural gas deals worth a total of \$725 billion. By 2020 China will get 25% of their natural gas from Russia which will be more than the Russians will be selling to Europe. This trade agreement undercuts plans of American natural gas producers to control the gas market to China and other Asian nations. The as-yet-to-be-constructed pipeline from Siberia will provide gas to China at a lower cost than the Americans can match.

In another deal Russia will double other petroleum exports to the People's Republic. China also recently launched an Asians-only lending institution, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank with initial capital of \$50 billion, to rival the Western-controlled Asian Development Bank which is part of the World Bank.

The American Empire's military encirclement is not limited to China. The United States approved of and supported the neo-Nazi Svoboda Party in its Kiev coup ousting the democratically elected President of Ukraine. Ukraine is yet another chapter in the West's ongoing, US-led military march threatening post-Soviet Russia, which began in the 1990s with NATO's eastward expansion and continued with US-funded NGO political activities inside Russia, a US-NATO military outpost in Georgia and so-called “missile-defense” installations in Poland and Hungary near Russia.

A leaked phone conversation between Victoria Nuland, assistant U.S. Secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs, and Geoffrey Pyatt, the US ambassador to Ukraine, has exposed the anti-democratic and colonialist character of the Obama administration's intervention in the former Soviet republic. U.S. government officials speak frankly with one another about the real agenda—advancing Washington's geo-strategic and economic interests in Eastern Europe by installing pro-US and anti-Russian puppet figures in the Ukrainian capital.

The demonization of Russian Leader Vladimir Putin in the Western liberal press is reminiscent of the demonization of the leaders of North Korea over the years.

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The United States is pressuring Russia through several fronts in addition to the Ukraine situation. The 14,000 NATO troops being left in Afghanistan are part of the military encirclement which will support pressure through the Caspian Region and Central Asia. The continuous attempts by the U.S. to destabilize North Korea is also part of this strategy.

In addition to threats through NATO, the American Empire is pressuring Russia economically. Using the situation in the Ukraine as an excuse, the U.S. Congress has applied economic sanctions against Russia including denying the Russian Central Bank the ability to borrow money from Western Banks.

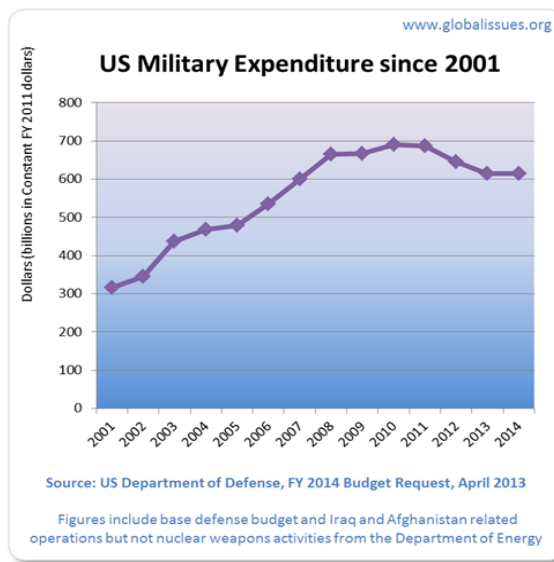
In September 2014 Germany brokered a cease-fire between Kiev and the rebels in Ukraine's eastern Donbass region. The U.S. opposes peace in this region as they will have less reason to continue its pressure on Russia. A great part of the Russian economy is based on revenue from the sale of oil.

A week after the cease-fire agreement, Secretary of State John Kerry convinced the Saudis to increase oil production and at the same time to cut the price at which they were selling crude oil. It costs the Saudis about \$30 to produce a barrel of oil while it costs near \$100 for Russia to produce a barrel of oil. Since then the price being paid on the international markets for a barrel of crude oil has been around \$70 a barrel – high enough for the Saudis to still make a good profit. This has directly caused the Russian economy approach collapse.

The previously noted economic sanctions against bank borrowing prevent the Russian Central Bank from taking action to stabilize their economy. On December 6, 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives in 16 pages of war propaganda essentially declared war on Russia. H. Res. 758 was billed as a resolution "strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under President Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination."

The foolishness of our political masters is readily apparent. Suppose the People's Republic of China decided it wants to sell all the U.S. government debt it holds? The dollar and the American economy would collapse. The Russians have a large debt payment coming due to European banks in 2015. Suppose they say that, since the attack on the ruble is political in nature, we won't be able to make our debt payment at this time? We will pay later when the ruble is more stable. The total capital of a number of European banks consists of the Russian debt. What will happen to the European economy (and then the world economy) if large European banks start to fail?

The whole Western banking system was shown to be a house of cards in the 2008 economic debacle. Suppose that Russia decides that given the continuing threats from NATO along with the attack on the ruble, they will no longer sell natural gas or any other petroleum product to any NATO country? European governments would fall, NATO would collapse and the American Empire would speed up its fall into history as have so many empires that preceded it.



Ongoing Mondays, 1:30 pm, TCTV channel 22 in Thurston County, **Olympia FOR TV monthly program**. March topic “**Clean Drinking Water**: Global Problems and Local Solutions.” info Glen 360-491-9093. Watch programs at <http://www.Olympiafor.org>

Ongoing Wednesdays, noon - 1 pm, NW corner of Sylvester Park, at Legion & Capitol Way, Olympia, **Peace Vigil**, come for all or part to sustain **Olympia FOR's** persistent (since 1980) witness for peace and nonviolence; bring signs or use ours; info Glen 360-491-9093

Ongoing Wednesdays, 5 pm, **Olympia FOR TV** program, see Monday 1:30 pm listing.

Ongoing Thursdays; 5 - 6 pm, near the Westlake Park arch at 4th and Pine, downtown **Seattle**; A **Peace Vigil** and leafleting by Women In Black, a group in the tradition of the women who vigil weekly in Israel and Palestine, standing in silent vigil for peace, justice and non-violent solutions to conflict. info <http://seattlewomeninblack.pbworks.com/> or seattlewomeninblack@yahoo.com

Ongoing Thursdays, 9 pm, **Olympia FOR TV** program, see Monday 1:30 pm listing.

Ongoing Fridays, 4 - 5 pm, in front of the Bellingham Federal Building; join **Bellingham FOR** members and others in the **Whatcom Peace Vigil** followed by open discussion at the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center, info 360-733-4146

Ongoing Fridays, 4:30 - 6 pm, south end of Percival Landing, W 4th & Water, Olympia; Please join **Olympia FOR** in a friendly **peace vigil** all or part of the time. Signs provided or bring your own. Enjoy Rumble Arkestra street band that joins us! info 360-491-9093 or glen@Olympiafor.org

Ongoing Fridays, please check website for confirmation and details, 7-9:30 pm, at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl., Seattle; Friday Night At the **Meaningful Movies** and Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice present film and community discussion! Free and open to the public; donations welcome. info <http://www.meaningfulmovies.org>

Ongoing Saturdays, 11 am - noon, at Bothell & Ballinger, Lake Forest Park; **Lake Forest Park for Peace** vigil. All are welcome. info trutnaubob395@gmail.com

Ongoing Saturdays, noon - 1 pm, Pearl St. at Locust, along Washington Park in front of **Centralia** library; 9th year of Vigil for **Peace and Education** by **Fire Mountain FOR**; Often followed by conversation at a nearby coffee house. info Larry 360-807-5106 or larry@peacepoet.me

Ongoing Sundays, 12:30 -1:30 pm, at Brackett's Landing, Main St & Railroad Ave, Edmonds; Snohomish Women In Black, **Silent Vigil For Peace**; All welcome and you don't have to dress in black. info beb@igc.org or 425-775-5383

Fri Feb 27, 7:30 pm, at 2915 N 10th St, Tacoma; **Tacoma FOR's** new Thoughtful Movies series presents film “Square” about the Arab Spring Uprising in Tahrir Square. No charge. info David Lambert, 253-759-2280 or lambert-david39@gmail.com

Sun March 1, and subsequent 1st Sundays, 1:30-2 pm, at Westlake Park, 4th Ave. and Pine St., downtown Seattle; Silent Vigil to **Stop Human Trafficking**. info Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center 206-223-1138

Mondays March 2, 9, and 16, 7 pm at University Temple United Methodist Church, 1415 43rd Street NE, Seattle; **The Deep Politics of 9/11: Working the Dark Side**. Three evenings of films and conversation about the strange events and unanswered questions.

Tues March 3, 6 pm at 1621 Tullis NE, Olympia; **Olympia FOR's book discussion** group about moving from war to peace. Ask Chuck for the topic to read about and discuss for this month. info Chuck 360-705-8520 or chuckschultz3@msn.com

Sat March 7, 7-9:30 pm, at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, 7500 Greenwood Avenue, Seattle, on #5 busline; Sing, Eat, Drink, and Make Merry at the **Seattle Labor Chorus** annual Singalong featuring songs of labor, peace, and justice with words projected on a screen. Free snacks, soft drinks for sale, quilt raffle, silent auction (checks or cash). Suggested \$15 adult, \$5 child, no one turned away. This fundraiser allows the chorus to sing for free in support of working people at strikes, protests, union halls, and more. info Janet Stecher 206-524-7753 or rebel-voz@aol.com

Sat March 7, 7:30 pm, at Traditions Café, 5th & Water in downtown Olympia; Folk singer **Tom Rawson's** annual **folk music concert** to benefit the **Olympia FOR**. Tickets available from Traditions or from the Olympia FOR. Suggested donation \$10 to \$25. info <http://www.olympiafor.org> or Glen 360-491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Sun March 8, business meeting 3:15 pm, program 4 pm, potluck 5:30 pm, at Tacoma Friends Meeting House, 2508 S 39th St, Tacoma; **Tacoma FOR** program, with Fran Hall on “Legislative Update: Foxes in the Chicken-House - and Senate.” info David Lambert, 253-759-2280 or lambert-david39@gmail.com

***Pacific Call* Western Washington FOR CALENDAR Vol. 35, No. 1, March 2015 & beyond**

Sun March 15, 2:30-4:30 pm, at Horizon House, 900 University St., Seattle; **Health Care For All** Board Meeting, all welcome, info Mary Margaret 206-382-3785

Sun March 15, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Horizon House, 900 University St, downtown Seattle **NOTE LOCATION**; **Seattle FOR** program "Local Justice: A Conversation with Rev. Benny Wright" on **militarization of local police departments**, controversy over the Seattle Youth Detention Center, and leadership of the Seattle Police Department. Free, collection taken. All welcome. info 206-789-5565

Weds March 18, and subsequent 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia Street NW, downtown Olympia; **Olympia FOR's Confronting the Climate Crisis** group. info Bourtai 360-352-6327 or cli-mate@olympiafor.org or http://www.olympiafor.org/Climate_Crisis.html

Sat March 21, 6:30-9:30 am (Pacific Time), **Global Days of Listening**: On the 21st day of each month, you can connect by telephone and/or computer (through Skype software), or listen live at <http://globaldaysoflistening.org/pages/livestream>, with the **Afghan Peace Volunteers** and other peacemakers of all ages in Afghanistan, Iraq, Gaza, and many other countries. info <http://www.globaldaysoflistening.org>, or Doug Mackey 360-915-6757 DougWMackey@gmail.com

Sat March 21, 9 am - 9 pm at Longhouse Education and Cultural Center at The Evergreen State College, 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW, Olympia; **"The Future of Rail: Safety, Workers, Community & the Environment."** We need railroads to be environmentally sound, not dependent on shipping fossil fuels. \$30 registration includes meals. Register at www.tinyurl.com/mnmp6rp info www.tinyurl.com/lf7vojy or wallisjeanette@gmail.com

Tues March 24, 7 pm, in Tumwater; **Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty** meets monthly to educate ourselves and work on this issue. info Emily 360-352-0695 or deathpenalty@olympiafor.org

Sun April 5, and subsequent 1st Sundays, 1:30-2 pm, at Westlake Park, 4th Ave. and Pine St., downtown Seattle; **Silent Vigil to Stop Human Trafficking**. info Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center 206-223-1138

Sat April 11, 9 am - 3:30 pm, at Fauntleroy UCC, 9140 California Ave SW, West Seattle; **"Nonviolent Solutions to Structural Oppression"** WWFOR's 17th Spring Assembly, a participatory, multi-issue gathering with morning workshops and afternoon small working groups, catered lunch, and plenty of information and networking. info and registration form will be posted at <http://www.wwfor.org/projects/spring-assembly/> info Glen Anderson 360-491-9093 glen@olywa.net

Weds April 15, and subsequent 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia Street NW, downtown Olympia; **Olympia FOR's Confronting the Climate Crisis** group. info Bourtai 360-352-6327 or cli-mate@olympiafor.org or http://www.olympiafor.org/Climate_Crisis.html

Sat & Sun April 18 & 19, 9:30 am - 6 pm, at 2100 Building, 2100 24th Ave S, Seattle; **Compassionate Listening Workshop**: Cultivate Compassion; Develop the Fair Witness; Respect Self and Others; Listen with the Heart; Speak from the Heart. \$175 - \$350, register at <https://4-2014-cl.eventbrite.com>, info 206-783-8561 or <http://www.compassionatelisting.org>

Sun April 19, 2:30-4:30 pm, at Horizon House, 900 University St., Seattle; **Health Care For All** Board Meeting, all welcome, info Mary Margaret 206-382-3785

Sun April 19, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N 70th, Seattle; **Seattle FOR** program with topic to be announced. Free, collection will be taken. All welcome. info 206-789-5565

Tues April 21, 6:30-9:30 am (Pacific Time), **Global Days of Listening**: On the 21st day of each month, you can connect by telephone and/or computer (through Skype software), or listen live at <http://globaldaysoflistening.org/pages/livestream>, with the **Afghan Peace Volunteers** and other peacemakers of all ages in Afghanistan, Iraq, Gaza, and many other countries. info <http://www.globaldaysoflistening.org>, or Doug Mackey 360-915-6757 DougWMackey@gmail.com

Sun May 10, business meeting 3:15 pm, program 4 pm, potluck 5:30 pm, at Tacoma Friends Meeting House, 2508 S 39th St, Tacoma; **Tacoma FOR** program, topic to be announced. info David Lambert, 253-759-2280 or lambert-david39@gmail.com

Sun May 17, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N 70th, Seattle; **Seattle FOR** program with topic to be announced. Free, collection will be taken. All welcome. info 206-789-5565

Weds May 20, and subsequent 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia Street NW, downtown Olympia; **Olympia FOR's Confronting the Climate Crisis** group. info Bourtai 360-352-6327 or cli-mate@olympiafor.org or http://www.olympiafor.org/Climate_Crisis.html

Thurs - Sun July 2-5, Mark your calendar! at Seabeck Conference Center, 57th Annual **FOR Northwest Regional Conference at Seabeck**, WA, Talks, workshops, music, child & youth programs in a beautiful setting on Hood Canal. Theme is **"Peace, Justice and Sustainability: Strengthening the Links."** Keynote speakers **Jacqueline Patterson**, Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program, and the **Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou**, a national FOR fellow leading our participation in the Black Lives Matter movement. Watch for more information! info 206-789-5565