

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.

“Inspiring One Another to Continue Taking Steps Toward Justice and Peace”

Western Washington FOR’s 20th. Annual Spring Assembly

Saturday, April 14th., 2018, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.



For the past 19 years, WWFOR has sponsored a day long get together to share information and help support and sustain each other in the ongoing journey of activism for greater justice and peace. This year we again will be gathering at Fauntleroy UCC Church, 9140 California Avenue, SW, West Seattle, for our 20th. annual get together on Saturday, April 14th. We intend to continue the feature of significant interactivity throughout the day.

Focus of the day’s theme and activities: As human beings, our immediate reaction to extreme stress is often to fight, flee, or freeze. For most of us, it is completely understandable that the current state of our country elicits one or more of these immediate actions. However, there is an alternative response: one that is more proactive, hopeful, empathic, and mindful. How can we get there, individually and collectively, in a manner that is truly just for all? The 2018 Spring Assembly is focused on sharing information, tools, and mutual encouragement to continue working toward this goal.

The emphasis on mutual sharing and interactivity will begin with small group participation around the theme of “Inspiring One Another...”

Workshops: There will be four, perhaps five workshops, 90 minutes each, including sharing of comments and questions. The various workshops will cover crucial topics such as environmental issues, nuclear weapons, Mindfulness and self-care for activists, one dealing with the bystander effect, and a workshop presented by the Mike Yarrow Peace Fellows.

Pre-register by Friday, April 6th, this will help us plan. However, do come to the Assembly even if you don’t register ahead of time. Suggested donation: \$ 20.00. Do come, whatever you can pay. Lunch will be provided with the fee as well as luncheon music.

Sponsor: Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation: 206-789-5565. wwfor@wwfor.org; www.wwfor.org-Information, **Pre-registration. (send to WWFOR: 225 N. 70th. St., Seattle WA. 98103)**Flyer to be available soon. We encourage car pooling.

Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation

presents a family friendly concert by

Michael Stern & friends

with special guests Eriko Kirsch & Jeffrey Powel

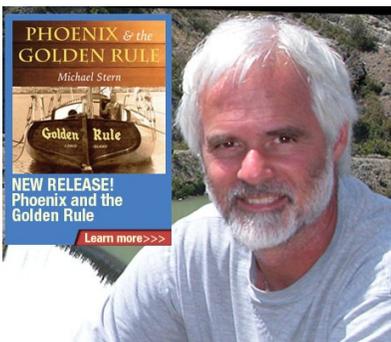
Saturday, April 28, 2018, 7 pm, at Seattle Mennonite Church,

3120 NE 125th St, Seattle, WA 98125 Suggested \$15 donation,

nobody turned away for lack of funds

Information about Michael Stern & his music at www.mikesongs.net

Concert Information (206) 789-5565 wwfor@wwfor.org



Let's Try a New Approach to Overcome the Politics of Division: Join the Poor People's Campaign

by John M Repp, West Seattle Neighbors for Peace and Justice a review of The Third Reconstruction: How A Moral Movement Is Overcoming The Politics of Division and Fear by Reverend Dr. William J Barber II with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Boston: Beacon Press, 2016).

This is a short autobiography of Rev. Barber as well as his recollections on the Moral Monday movement in North Carolina. There was an extreme right-wing takeover of the North Carolina legislature in 2013. The Koch brothers, ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) and local billionaires were behind the takeover. Their extremist agenda was the defunding state government through a flat tax, the denial of federally funded health care to half a million North Carolinians, the rejection of federal unemployment benefits for 170,000 individuals, cuts to public education, deregulation of environmentally destructive industries, a constitutional amendment to deny equal protection to LGBTQ citizens and the worst voter-suppression bill America had seen for a half century. (p.xiv) The Moral Monday movement organized 11 weeks of demonstrations in Raleigh where people were arrested after the extremist legislators refused to meet with their constituents. A total of a thousand people were arrested over the 11 weeks. A week after the North Carolina Legislature adjourned, 20,000 rallied in Raleigh. Moral Mondays got national press.

A bit of a flash back: we learn that between preaching at two conservative Christian churches, one in Virginia and the next in North Carolina, Rev Barber worked as an organizer for an NGO focusing on state government. Then after accepting the call to pastor in Greensboro, North Carolina, he stood for election in 2005 to the position of volunteer president of the North Carolina NAACP, using the slogan from "banquets to battle". He won and began traveling the state during the week, returning to preach on Sunday.

Rev Barber is above all a talented organizer and a visionary "In a year of almost non-stop travel, I learned something important about North Carolina: there wasn't a huge crowd standing together in any one place, but if you added up all the different groups who were standing for their justice issue, the potential base for a coalition was large – bigger, I thought, than anything North Carolina had ever seen before." (pp 48-49) At the initial workshop, the potential coalition partners were asked to list the issue that was most important to them on one sheet of paper, and on another, they were asked to list the forces standing in their way. What they found was, despite different issues, the same forces were opposing them all. And they realized they far outnumbered their opponents.

The coalition worked together for more than 6 1/2 years before Moral Mondays. They learned to trust each other. They took on and won several causes including a union organizing campaign, the case of a black man falsely accused of murder, and the defeat of an effort to re-segregate and privatize a school system.

The lessons the coalition learned as they worked on the causes they took up are revealing. For example, before they took up the effort to support the union organizing in a large hog slaughtering plant, the stories in the media and in the community were of the worker's interests versus the companies' interest. But

by getting local clergy and community leaders all over North Carolina to stand with the workers, they were able to change the narrative. They made the worker's low pay and difficult jobs into a moral cause. Then the worker's were able to get a contract, a raise and improved working conditions. About the same time, they discovered that the right-wing billionaires in North Carolina spent most of their money on "cultural infrastructure" like think-tanks and media, rather than election campaigns. Thus, the coalition realized how important it was to control the conversation and frame the issues.

Rev. Barber has an impressive knowledge of American history and uses it to inform his approach. During the First Reconstruction, after the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of slaves, when the Federal Army was still policing voting rights in the old Confederacy, a Fusion Party in 1868, blacks and whites working together, won enough seats in the state legislature to rewrite the North Carolina constitution. They were able to make a significant addition to Thomas Jefferson's list of human rights: All people are "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them are life, liberty, the enjoyment of the fruits of their own labor, and the pursuit of happiness." (p. 52) After the experience of 250 years of slavery, the Fusion Party understood that it is difficult to have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, if people are not able to receive just compensation for their labor.

The Civil Rights movement was the Second Reconstruction and it was also a fusion movement. There were many whites involved in and white support of the Civil Rights movement. Like the First Reconstruction, voting rights was a key goal for both movements. Voting rights is also a key in the Third Reconstruction which is seen by Barber as a movement to overcome the effects of the "Southern strategy" outlined by Kevin Phillips for Richard Nixon. If this Third Reconstruction can succeed in the South, the whole politics of the United States will change for the better. But fusion politics, fusing all the justice issues and fusing all the identity groups is the basis of the strategy.

In 2017 and 2018 Reverend Barber is organizing a national Poor People's Campaign, at first focusing on the states. Go to the website to see a short video, sign up and join the campaign: <https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/> Here is the Facebook page of the Washington State Poor People's Campaign: <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonPPC/> Here is a 45 minute video of Rev Barber speaking to the Steel Workers Union: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=oNDYpvN3EcE>

We are in an emergency. The current power of the large banks, multinational corporations, the corporate media and the successful efforts at voter suppression is so great that only a massive coalition like what Rev. Barber is trying to organize can "change the conversation" in our nation. Too many people who identify as "progressives" remain confined in single-issue organizations, NGOs or multi-issue sectarian political groups. And, we will need more people than just those who were active before Trump.

Black Lives Matter can't win alone. Immigrants can't win alone. Labor can't win alone. The peace movement and ban the nukes movement can't win alone. Medicare for all, education for all and jobs for all can't win alone. We need to work together to win the world we need.

I am almost afraid to hope. But reading this book and watching Rev Barber on YouTube gave me the idea that maybe a new approach and a new vision can turn things around.



Korean War Not Over !

by Mary Margaret Pruitt, printed in The Seattle Times, January 6, 2018, page A7

U.S. policy toward Korea has been deadly and dominating [“How Korean War shaped current tensions for U.S.,” Jan.2, A3]. Three million to 4 million Koreans were killed; 70 percent were civilians; 25 percent of North Korea’s prewar population was killed; the U.S. bombed with napalm; and children in North Korea are taught that the U.S. perpetrated a Holocaust.

We claim to be a democracy working as part of the United Nations. We have not arranged a peace treaty to end the Korean War. We have escalated our bases and military personnel in South Korea in opposition to the desires of many Koreans. We have not been supportive of the strong will of many Koreans to reunite their country. We have insisted on holding war games. Which are threatening and offensive near North Korea.

Justice and peace will be achieved through diplomacy and negotiation, not armed violence and belligerence.

Larry Says “Take Out the Trash”

by Larry Kerschner, Veterans for Peace

The last legitimately elected Republican President was Dwight D. Eisenhower. Richard Nixon committed treason in order to be elected. Nixon’s own records show that in 1968, as a presidential candidate, he ordered his liaison to the South Vietnam government, to persuade them to refuse a cease-fire brokered by President Johnson. This prolonged the war in Viet Nam and cost the lives of thousands of Americans and Vietnamese. Nixon’s interference violated the 1797 Logan Act, banning private citizens from intruding into official government negotiations with a foreign nation.

In 1980, President Carter reached a deal with newly-elected Iranian President Bani-Sadr over the release of the hostages held by radical students at the American Embassy in Tehran. Behind Carter’s back, the Reagan campaign led by George H.W. Bush and Robert MacFarlane, made a secret deal with Ayatollah Khomeini – to keep the hostages in captivity until after the 1980 Presidential election.

By the end of his corrupt Presidency, 138 Reagan administration officials had been convicted, had been indicted, or had been the subject of official investigations for official misconduct and/or criminal violations. In terms of number of officials involved, the record of his administration was the worst ever.

George W. Bush did not gain the presidency as a result of a popular mandate. Not only did Bush lose the popular vote nationally, he would have lost the popular vote in Florida had not five US Supreme Court justices questionably intervened to overturn an order of the Florida high court and stop the counting of votes in that pivotal state. Bush clearly was not elected president, he was selected by judicial fiat.

In 2016, 90,000,000 eligible voters did not vote. While Hillary Clinton had several million more actual votes, Trump’s 30% of the eligible voters happened to be in states with more Electoral College votes. By now most people with any

sense recognize how ill-suited Trump is to be President. The ineptitude of Trump is clear from the fact that in his first year in office there has been a record number of staff turnover, with 34 percent of the administration resigning, being reassigned or being fired.

However, Trump is a symptom of the mendacious Republican agenda. The Republican agenda includes among many other inhumane ideas **the repeal of all federal campaign finance laws**, and the immediate abolition of the Federal Election Commission, the abolition of **Medicare and Medicaid**, **opposition of any compulsory insurance or tax-supported plan to provide health services**, the repeal of the **Social Security** system, the opposition of all personal and corporate income taxation, including capital gains taxes, the abolition of the **Environmental Protection Agency**, the abolition of the Federal Aviation Administration, the abolition of the Food and Drug Administration, the repeal of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the abolition of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The Republican agenda is to keep most of the American people poor, sick, uneducated, unorganized and non-voters.

It’s time for everyone to vote in the next election. Time to take out the trash.



Ditch the Plow, Cover Up and Grow Diversity for a Sustainable Future

by John M Repp

A review of [Growing A Revolution: Bringing our Soil Back to Life](#) David Montgomery. (Norton, 2017)

Montgomery co-wrote [The Hidden Half of Nature](#) that explains how microbes in our lower gut and in topsoil make life and health possible. [Growing A Revolution](#) tells the story of a few farmers around the world that are adopting new practices that protect and enhance the life in the soil on land where humans farm or graze animals. Widespread adoption of these practices will keep the soil sustainable while maintaining crop yield for a better future.

Montgomery sees a pattern in the history of many civilizations. They started farming in the river valleys and as they prospered and grew, they moved up the hills. Their farming practices caused erosion and eventually they wore out or lost most of the topsoil. After that, the civilizations collapsed. There were exceptions like Egypt and China where the river valleys were large and periodic flooding brought in new fertility. Montgomery cites the long past of Greece as an example of the pattern he sees. First Bronze Age Greece recorded by Homer, followed by a dark age, then the ancient Greece of Plato and Aristotle, followed by another dark age, and finally, modern Greece. There was a two-thousand-year cycle. With ancient farming practices it took about a thousand years to wear out the soil, and a thousand years for nature to build fertility back into land not used by humans.

After World War II, agriculture in the developed countries became ever more mechanized and dependent on chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Monoculture and ending of the ancient practice of mixed farming of plants and animals completed what Montgomery calls the third revolution. The yields were spectacular at first and these methods spread. More recently however it has been ever costlier to maintain yields using these methods because of the need to use ever more agrochemicals and oil that are becoming

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more expensive. Lately, consumers have been demanding organically grown food, called here the fourth revolution. Montgomery is advocating a fifth revolution based on soil biology rather than soil chemistry that underpinned the third revolution. The three principles of the fifth revolution are: “1) Open up the soil only enough to plant a seed – minimally disturb the soil. 2) Make sure the ground is covered with prior crop residue at planting, and use cover crops to build biomass and soil organic matter. 3) Introduce diversity to the fields through rotations and intercropping”. (p. 129) Montgomery traveled to farms all over the world to see how these principles were applied to different climates and soils.

Looking through the lens of soil biology makes the first principle more understandable. Tilling breaks up mycorrhizal fungi strands, that together with certain bacteria, feed the plant phosphorus. Plant roots exude sugars that nourish the microbial and fungal life that naturally fertilize the plant. It is the sticky plant root exudates that gives soil its structure, making it crumbly, with aggregates as well as tiny opening spaces. Tilling breaks the capillary pores preventing subsoil water from rising to the surface, and allows rain water to be absorbed quickly. With no-till and the other two principles, crops are more tolerant of heavy rains and droughts.

The amount of organic material and carbon in soil is easily measured. The total amount of carbon in the soil over the entire world is estimated to be twice as much as the carbon in the atmosphere. Using the three principles, soil carbon can be built up quickly. Montgomery challenges the old idea that it takes a thousand years to build an inch of topsoil. Using all three principles together which he names “conservation agriculture”, farmers can build up healthy soil in decades. If conservation agriculture were practiced world-wide, up-to-a third of the carbon from global fossil fuel emissions could be sequestered in the soil. (p.126) That would go a long way towards mitigating global warming. Planting cover crops right after harvest is part of the practice. On some farms a substantial number of different cover crops are planted at the same time. In the spring some farmers crush the cover crops as the next crop is planted. A good rotation is more complex than the current rotation of corn followed by soy followed by corn, used all over the U.S. middle west. If the rotation is too regular some pests will adapt.

The book has a chapter on grazing. Mimicking what wild animals do to protect themselves from predators, the large herd is fenced into a few acres to make them graze close to each other. The herd is moved every four hours and will not return to the same spot for a year. A rancher who did this restored his soil to its native carbon content while the sugar and protein content of his grass increased. His fields could absorb rainfall up to 16 inches an hour while his neighbor’s fields absorb less than an inch an hour. (p.191)

The City of Tacoma transforms its sewage into TAGRO, a microbial digested fertilizer very popular with the city’s gardeners. Raw sewage is screened and skimmed, then heated up to kill off microorganisms and pathogens. Then oxygen is pumped in to power the growth of microbes that aerobically digest the sludge. Then methane digesters feed anaerobic bacteria that gorge of the bodies of their dead brethren. TAGRO is safe and given away to community gardens and sold out every spring to the public. Montgomery writes that we need to see wastewater treatment plants as resource recovery plants.

Montgomery writes that it is conventional thinking and powerful commercial interests that are holding back a wider adaptation

of conservation agriculture. All the government subsidies are backward. Except for a several years transition, conservation agriculture is more profitable than the method it is replacing, and requires less work. He thinks financially backstopping farmers during the transition is a good idea. Some of the other reforms he suggests are: having commodity support programs require cover crops and diverse rotations, paying farmers to sequester carbon, encouraging the reintegration of crop and livestock production, adopting soil-safe certification programs, and establishing regional demonstration farms.

This is a deeply hopeful book that can help overcome the gloom that too many good people are experiencing after Trump was inaugurated.

Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz (Harper Collins, 2017)

review by Marjorie Prince

This is not a book I would normally read, let alone recommend. But this witty and provocative volume engaged me, a technology skeptic, in ways I had not expected. Stephens-Davidowitz studied economics and Harvard, then became a Google data scientist and now a New York Times writer and self-proclaimed “internet data expert” He convinced me of his expertise. Stephens-Davidowitz wrote his Ph.D dissertation on “The Cost of Racial Animus on a Black Candidate: Evidence Using Google Search Data.”

Most interesting to students of history is the use of new primary sources that cast doubt on previously held assumptions about race, economics, politics, sex, education and a variety of other subjects. Stephens-Davidowitz observes that all of us lie about things we don’t want others to know about us, e.g., how often we have sex, how many books we read and actually finish, whether we voted in the last election and for who we voted. Facebook, according to the author, is not a reliable source for what we really think and really do because we tend to present to our “friends” our best side. The same is true of opinion surveys and voter polls. “the power of Google data is that people tell the giant search engine things they might not tell anyone else” For Stephens-Davidowitz, “people’s search for information is ...Information.”

Critical for us as the 2018 elections approach is to understand the virulent racism that is exposed through Google searches. Millions of Americans search for jokes about African Americans, “stupid niggers” and “I hate niggers.” After Obama’s 2008 victory, Stormfront, a white supremacist site, was over ten times more active than usual. Post-racial society indeed!

What did this predict about the 2016 election? We should have known that Trump would win. According to Google search data, and contrary to conventional wisdom, there is scant evidence to suggest that unemployment or economic anxiety played any role in Trump’s election. “You might think that a major cause of racism is economic insecurity and vulnerability.” However, says the author, “neither racist searches nor membership in Stormfront rises when unemployment does.”

Big Data is important not only because the size of the sample matters but also because of the kinds of information requested. Stephens-Davidowitz admits that more research is needed and that we should be careful in predicting individual actions. Many gory searches, for example, do not lead to criminal actions.

Stephens-Davidowitz’s previous experience at Google, as well as the possibility of search manipulation, may cause some concern. But uncovering new primary materials, in my opinion, opens up whole new ways of viewing old assumptions and are, therefore, valuable. The results should prompt all of us to recognize that our overt and covert racism is trashing our supposed democracy.

Black Lives Matter