

# Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

Vol 31

February 2021

No. 6

## Proposing a new “urban village”

# A “fixed and functioning West Bay” for whom and to what end?

Bethany Weidner

As new “market rate” apartment buildings sprout up all over downtown Olympia, developers have set their sights on prime shoreline across the bay. What is more appealing to a well-heeled transplant than a view of sailboats and an iconic mountain with picturesque Budd Inlet for your front yard?

Developers Brandon Smith and Ron Newman have proposed a large-scale mixed-use project bordering the water on West Bay Drive, where Hardel manufactured plywood until its buildings burned down in 1996.

The promoters are calling their project West Bay Yards, “in tribute to our timber heritage.” “Yards” is the latest in trendy labels for such upscale “urban villages.” If the project comes to fruition, Olympia will join Camden Yards in Baltimore, Hudson Yards in New York City, Lincoln Yards in Chicago, and Dexter Yard in Seattle as “cities to watch.”

### An economic magnet rising along the shore?

The sheer size and scope of such a project would make a significant change in the economic life of Olympia. West Bay Yards as proposed wouldn’t be a village, but a small town with a population exceeding that of many burgs—and an expectation to grow.

As Troy Nichols, the Phillips-Burgess spokesman representing West Bay Yards (WBY) told *The Olympian*: “Nothing happens without any economic impetus to get things going. If we’re ever to have a fixed and functioning West Bay, this the first step.” There’s already another proposal for a 40-unit apartment building across the road to the west.

### Reviewing the specifics of the project

Over last summer and fall, the developer’s people spent time with the staff of the Community Planning and Development department (CP&D) laying out the specifics of the project. In addition to five apartment buildings with a total of 478 units, there would be new restaurant and retail opportunities, recreation facilities and offices. There would be parking stalls for 680 vehicles—with an expectation that the bulk of them could be underground. The proposal contemplated creation of an additional 1–1.5 acres of upland by adding new fill into the tidelands to achieve the density sought.

There were site maps showing vehicle access from West Bay Drive,

an esplanade along the shore and an agreement that the developer would follow recommendations of a 2016 report on restoration of the “Hardel Reach.” There were construction sequencing documents and a shoreline restoration concept plan.

very minimal to very complicated. It also requires that Development Agreements be presented at a public hearing before being submitted to the City Council for their evaluation and approval.



Rendering of two of five buildings proposed as West Bay Yards from a posting at Thurston Economic Development Council.

### A useful tool for regulating phased projects

As these discussions wound down, the developer and city staff agreed that they would take advantage of a Washington law to give the West Bay Yards project certainty with a “Development Agreement” that would lock in current development standards for 15 years.

### A project becomes a “non-project action”

The staff and WBY representatives wrote up a Development Agreement (DA) that had few particulars. Among other significant elements, it was missing “mitigation measures” required as part of the DA law. It confined itself to establishing “pa-

**A project with impacts as potentially massive as the one proposed on a contaminated shoreline of a waterway that does not meet water quality standards...cries out for a comprehensive environmental analysis.**

A “Development Agreement” is a binding contract between a city and a developer that specifies the obligations the developer has to meet, and ensures that new obligations will not be imposed on them during the term of the Agreement. In exchange, the developer includes in the project some public benefit that the city could not otherwise require. This might be infrastructure improvements, public open space, etc.

Development Agreements are reserved for major projects; they also serve as powerful tools that can give a city increased discretion when it comes to approving a development. To ensure against a blank check, Washington law requires every Development Agreement to specify standards, ranging from the

parameters and phasing schedule for future developments on the property” stating that everything in the Agreement was vested in the developer “under the Existing Land Use Regulations and may not be changed or modified by the City.”

The CP&D staff used the Development Agreement as the basis for completing a checklist whose purpose is to indicate whether there’s a need for a full environmental impact assessment under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). By so doing, they turned the WBY project into a “non-project action.” Accordingly, they filled out the checklist for “The West Bay Yards Development Agreement” as a “non-project action.”

### The determination of non-significance

Not surprisingly, the Agreement was found to have no meaningful environmental impact. The result: a DNS—a determination of non-significance. [See a description of Development Agreements and “non-project” vs “project” actions on page 8]

Notwithstanding the DNS, Washington law requires that Development Agreements be presented at a public hearing and reviewed for approval by City Councils. This is one of the few

development decisions not delegated by Olympia’s council members to staff or an outside Hearing Examiner.

In November, the CP&D staff planned to recommend the Agreement to the Council. Pending the expected approval, the West Bay Yards project would go ahead under the Development Agreement. Findings of any subsequent environmental impact assessment could only be addressed within the terms of the DA. Instead, the train was stopped by a challenge to the “Determination of Non-Significance.”

### Evaluating impacts “at the earliest possible point”

On December 1, the Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation (OCEP), appealed the Determination Of Non-Significance (DNS) arising from the Development Agreement.

When OCEP learned of the West Bay Yards’ proposed Development Agreement, they were alarmed. “A project with impacts as potentially massive as the one proposed on a contaminated shoreline of a waterway that does not meet water quality standards mandated under the Federal Clean Water Act cries out for a comprehensive environmental analysis.”

Spokesman Troy Nolan of Phillips Burgess defended the City’s handling of his client’s application, “They

► Urban village, continued on page 8



**Works in Progress (WIP)**, is a community newspaper based in Olympia, WA, that has been published monthly since 1990.

WIP's mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy across classes, races, and genders.

**Editorial policy**

Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the corporate media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. We seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and account of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but material on other topics is also welcome.

Informed opinion pieces are accepted when accompanied by facts, examples, and sources. We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it's unproven or in serious dispute. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people won't be accepted.

Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP aims to print material that is consistent with our mission. WIP reserves the right to edit all submissions for accuracy, length, and clarity of expression. We will work with authors if there is a need for editing that extends beyond those areas.

Unless copyrighted by the author, all original material printed in WIP under Creative Commons license CC-BY-NC-ND.

- Workers in Progress Publishing Committee**  
Emily Lardner, Lori Lively, Kevin Pestinger, Enrique Quintero, Bethany Weidner
- Treasurer** Ann Vandeman
- Managing Editor**  
Bethany Weidner
- Associate Editor** Lori Lively
- Production & Design** Lee Miller
- Art & Photography** Lindsey Dalthorp, Ricky Osborne, Paul Peck, Lori Lively
- Editing:** Sarah Keefe
- Proofreaders** Fred Silsby, James O'Barr, Scott Yoos, Matt Crichton, Janet Jordan, Bruce Larson, Sarah Keefe
- Distribution** Kevin P, Dave Groves, Mike Pelly, Scott Yoos, Sandia Slaby
- Website** Carolyn Roos, Heather Sundean
- Social Media** Heather Sundean
- Tech guru** Lohen Che'

**Advertising Rates**  
\$10 per column inch  
Business card \$25/30  
Quarter page \$160  
Discounts for 6-12 months  
**Contact WIP:** olywip@gmail.com or by snail mail at PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507 or donate at our website: www.olywip.org



# We're already out of time, but...

There's a sentence that has stuck in my mind for years. I think it was in a book written by Richard Wright (the author of *Invisible Man*), but I'm not positive.

This is the sentence: *It's not that we don't know what to do. It's that we're not going to do it.*

Take this talk about "healing," how we need to heal; to unify the country. How about we try providing everyone with an equal opportunity to be a contributing member of society? What if we were to pay people in proportion to their contribution? All that nice talk about essential workers and how much we depend on them would be reflected in wages that communicated their importance and the high value society puts on their contribution.

Here is one thing we could do in pursuit of this goal. Senator Elizabeth Warren and others have repeatedly introduced a bill called "Schedules that Work" that would help working people to balance professional responsibilities with individual and family needs. It would address businesses' unstable, unpredictable and rigid scheduling practices, like putting workers "on call" with no guarantee of work hours, scheduling them for split shifts, sending them home early without pay when demand is low, requiring works to work the closing shift one day and the opening shift the next.

## THOUGHTS ON THE THEME

### Punishing workers who request schedule

This bill has been introduced repeatedly and is described as "having no chance of passage." Yet we can all see that having regular shifts, time off and time to take care of your family, receiving a good wage—are things that would chip away at other problems: domestic violence, neglected children, depression.

Racism is the preeminent illustration of knowing what to do but refusing to do it. This also relates to the question of "healing" and unity. The Kerner Commission report on urban violence in 1967 was clear that systemic racism had caused the riots:

"White society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it." The nation, the Kerner Commission warned, was so divided that it was poised to fracture into two radically unequal societies—one black, one white."

The Kerner Commission Report included detailed recommendations that would entail aggressive federal spending and new policies to move away from a racist society.

The backlash was immediate. Polls showed that 53 percent of white Americans condemned the claim that racism had caused the riots. There would be no government spending. The US was wealthy enough to go to the moon, but as one commentator observed, politically, spending billions on space travel was more saleable than striv-

ing to correct racial inequality.

White response to the Kerner Commission helped to lay the foundation for the law-and-order campaign that elected Richard Nixon to the presidency later that year. Instead of considering the full weight of white prejudice, Americans endorsed rhetoric that called for arming police officers like soldiers and cracking down on crime in inner cities.

Sound familiar? What happened to our resolve at the end of the demonstrations about the death of George Floyd, and to the realization that policing was part of the problem?

I think of the other issues where we know what to do. We know what would diminish domestic

violence, end the opioid epidemic, reduce homelessness—policies to encourage unions, mandate a living wage for all jobs, create and fund high quality childcare, invest massively in community-designed public housing, redesign the health care system to promote health...

We know what to do to diminish the destructive consequences of climate change—phase out fossil fuels and their derivatives, redesign and build a public/community infrastructure (transportation, recreation, education) to replace our excessive and consumptive addiction to personally owning one of everything.

Is it time to do these things?  
—BW  
Cover photo by Ricky Osborne.

## How to submit your writing or art to Works in Progress

**Works in Progress** is a community resource, so please take advantage by submitting your writing, drawings or cartoons.

**Guidelines for writing for WIP.** Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. Informed opinion pieces are welcome, especially when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. We like articles or stories or reflections that relate to the issue outlined for the theme, but that's not necessary. Once we receive a submission we will contact you if we are interested in publishing it.

**Submitting your writing.** Send an email to [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com) with the word SUBMISSION in the subject line. Attach your submission as a word document. Do not send pdfs or google docs.. Include your name, a brief bio to run and where to contact you. Ideally, your piece should be a maximum of 1200 words. For more detail on submitting, plus info on art, pictures or other material, go to our website, [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org) and click on "Submit Content."

## Upcoming themes

- March: Things revealed by the pandemic.** Deadline Feb 15
- April: Work vs Jobs vs Pay.** Deadline Mar 15
- May: The Ballot or the Bullet.** Deadline April 15

### Inside...

- A "fixed and functioning West Bay" ..... 1
- Peaceful Transition—Respect the Vote ..... 3
- Then this happened ..... 3
- Readers' Alert!..... 3
- Diagnosing the 2020 election malady ..... 4
- A new treaty outlaws nuclear weapons..... 5
- Will the US sign the treaty?..... 5
- Mental health in the time of COVID ..... 6
- Salud en tiempos de COVID ..... 7
- West Bay Woods..... 8
- On the inseparability of race and class..... 9
- The Port of Olympia report ..... 10
- Deep trouble with seabed mining ..... 11
- Washington's new food distribution project ..... 11
- A way to hold the past in your hand ..... 12
- Biden ends discriminatory policies affecting travelers, immigrants and refugees ..... 13
- What we already know about the idea of "healing" ..... 14
- Spotlight ..... 15



## MLK Day

# Peaceful Transition—Respect the Vote

Dan Leahy

In mid December, thirty neighbors on the Westside of Olympia began planning for an MLK Day event and chose Peaceful Transition, Respect the Vote as their theme. They had planned two previous events on the 4th Avenue Bridge, one in support of the National Nurses Union and one calling for Justice for George Floyd and all Black Lives.

The bridge can safely hold 250 participants separated by eight feet of space. They began to recruit using their email lists from previous events, and encouraged others to help recruit. They also made a point for obvious safety reasons to

stay off social media. People were asked to send in an email if they planned to join. Each new person who joined was vetted by someone the organizers knew. Participants were also asked to donate funds to cover the \$1,200 in expenses, which they did.

Another safety measure was the "Welcome Team." A welcome team had formed for the George Floyd event. This time, however, they increased their number to nine, picked a coordinator, met in advance via Zoom, developed internal communication and wore bright yellow jackets with "Welcome Team" on the back. Their job was to welcome folks, answer their questions, keep everyone safe, help

organize the group photo and hand out 150 yard signs to participants.

As with the George Floyd event, Beverly Farris, national program manager of the Alliance of Faith

by David Moseley. Mercy Kariuki-McGee also entertained the participants, singing and walking the sidewalks with her portable sound system.

The organizers recruited their own photographer, Ricky Osborne, whose photos (published here and on the cover) captured the essence of the event. Ted Warren, an AP



and Justice, provided leadership as the event's spokesperson. Ms. Farris had attended the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington. She walked the bridge carrying her photo of Dr. King.

The opening ceremony began at noon with Noel Parrish and Candace Penn burning sage and offering a song for peace and justice. Candace is a member of the Squaxin Island Tribe and Quileute Tribe. Noel Parrish is Turtle Mountain Chippewa. After the opening, participants were entertained by a group of samba drummers led

photographer, was also present and, ironically, his photo of the event appeared in Oregon's *Bend Bulletin* on Tuesday, January 19.

Just over 200 people lined the two sidewalks for one hour. While most were from Olympia, there were also participants from Seattle, Tacoma, Elma, Lacey, Tumwater and Rainier.

*Dan Leahy is an organizer. He lives in West Olympia.*

*Photos by Ricky Osborne*



## Then this happened

**Get out of jail free!** Fewer people are turning to the CARE fund for financial help for a surprising reason: referrals have slowed to a trickle because the powers that be have decided that it's stupid to keep people in jail for minor offenses—during a pandemic, that is. The fund has provided small amounts of financial help to indigent residents who need help on things like closing a court case or getting a suspended license back. By the same token, few volunteers and outside staff can enter the jail. Fund managers will be meeting to review their mission for the duration of the pandemic.

**Didn't slow to a trickle.** Neighbors of the Green Cove project (see January and March 2020 WIP) sent photos of runoff carrying significant amounts of silt into

a pond and thence continuing downstream under French Loop Rd NW and on to Butler Cove and Budd Inlet. As a result of citizens' work, the Department of Ecology added the Green Cove property to the state database for cleanup. Not sure what developer Jerry Mahan might be doing in terms of this finding.

**More like a flood.** In the middle of cranky arguments about whether people could get a one-time payment of \$600 or (wow) \$2000 there was nothing said about the wealthy getting repeated payments in the form of new tax breaks and loopholes, worth a total of \$240 billion of the \$900 billion included in the stimulus bill passed last December. You can read about them in detail at Americans for Tax Fairness

## Readers' Alert!

WIP has received a grant designated for including book reviews in 2021. How will it work?

Each month we'll publish a list of books we'd like to see reviewed. If you're interested in reading and writing a review of one of the books, contact us at [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com). We will buy the book and pay \$50 if the review is accepted. (See the review of *United States of Distraction* on page 13 of this issue.)

We plan to run one review each month, with a maximum length of 750 words. Contact WIP if you'd like to be considered to review one of the following books: [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com) and please put BOOK REVIEW in the subject line.

*Women who Rock*—Evelyn McDonnell

*Before Trans*—Rachel Msch

*Homewreckers*—Aaron Glantz

*Caste*—Isabel Wilkerson

*Deep River*—Karl Marlantis (a novel)





# Diagnosing the 2020 election malady

Jeff Angus

[Ed note: The author is a veteran of five decades of electoral work. His goal for 2020 was to take the Senate for Democrats. He agreed to work in Montana, a Trump state, but where the popular Democratic Governor was challenging a first-term Republican. He spent the last three weeks before the election leaning into cold winds from the mountains, talking with the dispersed voters of Montana. It turned out the headwinds from the Biden ticket were so powerful that they crushed the life out of the workers' hopes for the down-ballot race. 2020 ended in Montana with a Red sweep. Here is Jeff's diagnosis of how to cure the illness before the next cycle.]

The November election outcome was tragic. The Democrats had their once-in-a-generation opportunity for a "wave" election. Voters were done with Cheeto Mussolini. COVID-19 exposed both the incompetence of the Republicans and the structural inability of the United Statesian medical businesses to deliver First World- (or even Third World) health outcomes. What should have been a blue wave was a fiasco because of losses in down-ballot races.

Republicans held onto or expanded their ability to gerrymander and suppress votes in every state where they practice these dark arts. And because of the victories the Democrats did achieve, we are facing another red wave election in 2022, wiping out what gains the Dems did make—unless Never-Bold Biden reboots the norms with FDR-like boldness.

### How did this happen?

The key defects came from Democratic party leaders who elevate personal control of the party apparatus over winning elections; a lukewarm presidential candidate whose strategy was to recruit (thereby activate) Republican-leaning voters to vote for him (throwing down-ballot Dems under the bus) and from the Party's choice of issues to campaign on.

### Defect 1 – The wrong mission

The mission of the National Dems is not to win victories at the polls, but to raise money and maintain control of the party apparatus. The National Democrats' (DNC, DSCC, DCCC) pool of mediocre, unaccountable functionaries and consultants relentlessly impose their self-centered, low-quality strategies on state parties and candidates. They innovate only in fund-raising.

As in corporate boardrooms, no amount of dismal results leads to actual executive or process change. After November's bloodbath, the DNC replaced their failed chair—a nice, good-looking, intelligent and completely feckless leader with his deputy—the nice, good-looking, intelligent and completely feckless Jamie Harrison. Harrison is a proven loser, having just dropped \$120 million on his Senate campaign that failed by double digits.

### Defect 2 – The wrong focus

The National Dems chronically hyper-focus on the top of the ticket and undervalue elections below that. Unlike the Repugs, the Dems top player no longer asks voters for

their down-ballot support at every opportunity. Yet this is the way all historical Dem and Rep waves happen.

There was no long-term platform pointing out the willful incompetence of the Repug ideology of governance. Biden campaigned on a George Bush Junior nice-guy-to-

raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour, a classic Democrat thrust. The minimum wage won by over two million votes, outpolling Biden in 64 of Florida's 67 counties. At least 19% of Trump's voters statewide also voted for the \$15 minimum. The Democrats' party leaders ceded our economic issues to the Reds not just in Florida, but nationally, when embracing them would have harvested incremental votes.

### Where to look for a cure?

For a lot of structural reasons, including additional Republican House districts in heavily gerrymandered Texas and Florida, 2022 is going to be a challenging election year. Still, there is a possible remedy in grassroots organizing that ignores the national party and its incessant demands for cash. Hitch up your energy and dollars to grassroots talent engines like Stacey Abrams' constellation of activist powerhouses (New Georgia Project, Black Voters Matter, Fair Fight, and more).

If you're a Democrat, focus on the more skilled state Dem parties (Wisconsin or Texas' or Arizona) or on any of the county parties trying to innovate in the absence of the National party's ability to).

Finally, don't give up hope that as president, Joe Biden might do some useful things. His track record is listless at best, destructive more often than not. But remember that FDR's track record wasn't much better when he became President in a crisis time, and HE rose to the occasion. Biden might surprise us by breaking from his past as FDR did.

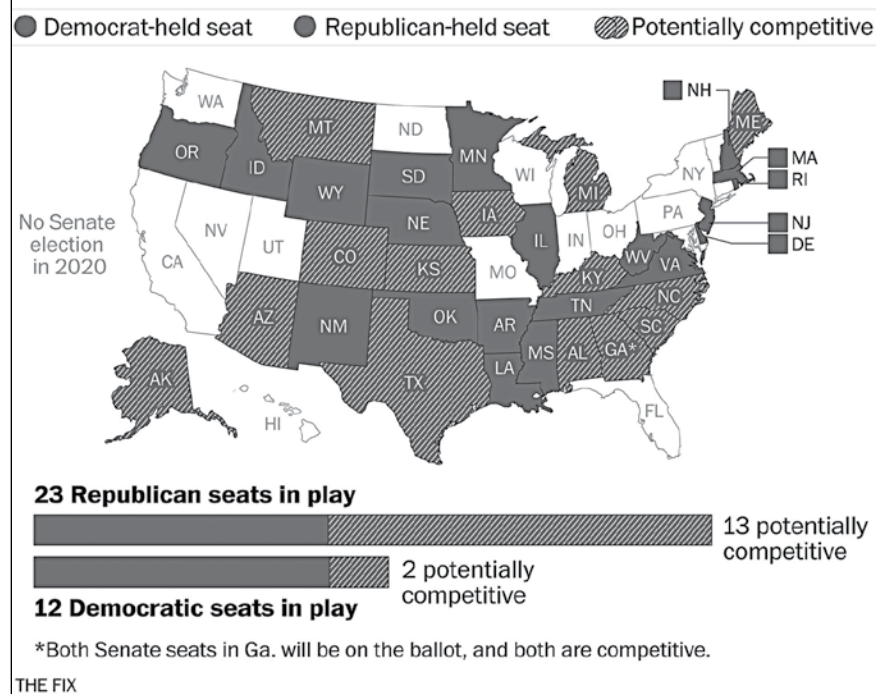
have-a-beer-with persona and anti-Covid plank, both obvious, unriskey and to too many voters un compelling.

Jettisoning working peoples' economic issues was extremely costly this year in too many states. In Florida, for example, Biden's collapse relative to Hillary Clinton's numbers in 2016 took down Blue members of the US House. Crucially, it prevented the Dems from getting enough state legislative seats to blunt an upcoming gerrymander that will disenfranchise our voters for a decade.

Worse, Biden did not take advantage of the opportunity to champion the state's ballot measure to

## Which Senate seats are in play in 2020?

Democrats need to pick up four seats to gain a majority in the Senate.



### Defect 3A – The wrong voters

The National Dems (since 1992, when this worked well-enough to win) take their base for granted and choose to chase "undecided" voters. Reds enlist their victims for life. Blues recruit temps, selling a single personality or a single election, thereby requiring the same level of effort every cycle.

Did you see Biden TV ads this year? In the dozens I saw across the country, there were zero endorsements of local candidates. Not even a mention of the word Democrat or Democratic Party outside of the fine print at the bottom of the screen. Unlike the Reds' recruitment ads, Dems ads sacrifice every principle and outcome lower down on the ballot in trying to preserve a centrist vote at the top.

The Red narrative was, "Blue is Evil, eradicate it." Blues' center-pandering approach reduced them to asserting, "We're not evil" and ignoring the much more dangerous evil posed by the Red program. This worked exactly as the Biden campaign designed it to: they snared the 1.5% of the electorate that is truly-Red-leaning-truly-independent to switch to Biden.

The Biden campaign turned out "just enough" Red and Red fellow-traveler voters dissatisfied with Trump but did not enlist their votes for other Democrats. He snared the presidency and guaranteed Republican dominance in all their other races.

### Defect 3B – The wrong issues

The National Dems anointed a presidential candidate whose strengths and weaknesses meant that the campaign would not take on the issues the voters cared most about. Blue's sole issue was the pandemic. Nothing addressed the scary economy, the struggle to attain or maintain a middle-class life, the need to balance security against the too-often homicidal racism of unaccountable, armed enforcement organizations, reform of a health care system that could be capable of overcoming an epidemic.

HUMANE. ORGANIC. LOCAL.

Available fresh in our dairy cooler

9 am - 8 pm daily • [www.olympiafood.coop](http://www.olympiafood.coop)

WESTSIDE STORE & GARDEN CENTER  
921 Rogers St. NW  
Olympia, WA 98502  
360.754.7666

EASTSIDE STORE & DELI  
3111 Pacific Ave SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
360.956.3870

CO-OP LOCAL

Olympia FOOD COOP



A 70-year nuclear gloom begins to lift

# A new international treaty outlaws use of nuclear weapons

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

Beginning January 18, 2021 four billboards around Puget Sound will display a public service announcement: "NUCLEAR WEAPONS BANNED BY NEW U.N. TREATY; Get them out of Puget Sound!" The four billboards will be located in Seattle, Tacoma and Port Orchard, and are paid for by Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and World Beyond War.

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) enters into force on January 22, 2021. For participating countries, the treaty outlaws not only the use of nuclear weapons, but also makes it illegal under international law to "develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices."

While the treaty's prohibitions are legally binding only in the 51 countries that are "States Parties" to the treaty, those prohibitions go beyond just the activities of

those governments. The treaty also prohibits these countries from assisting "anyone" engaged in any of those prohibited activities, including private companies and individuals who may be involved in the nuclear weapons industry.

## Most deployed nuclear weapons in the US are in the Puget Sound area

Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor is located a few miles from the cities of Silverdale and Poulsbo and is homeport to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US. Nuclear warheads are deployed

on submarines and are additionally stored on the naval base.

The submarine base at Bangor is 20 miles from downtown Seattle, yet only a small percentage of citizens in our region know that Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor exists. However, in the 1970s and 1980s, thousands demonstrated against nuclear weapons at the Bangor base and hundreds were arrested.

## New warheads for Trident sub-launched nuclear missiles

Currently, there are eight Trident-equipped submarines deployed

at Bangor. One Trident submarine carries the destructive force of over 1,200 Hiroshima bombs (the Hiroshima bomb was 15 kilotons). In early 2020, the Navy updated select submarines at Kitsap-Bangor with "low-yield" warheads (eight kilotons).

These new warheads create a dangerously lower threshold for the use of US strategic nuclear weapons. Any use of nuclear weapons against another nuclear weapon state would likely elicit a response with nuclear weapons and cause overwhelming death and destruction.

## Civic responsibility and nuclear weapons

Our proximity to the largest number of deployed nuclear weapons demands a deeper reflection and response to the threat of nuclear war. Citizens in a democracy also have responsibilities—which include choosing our leaders and staying informed about what our government is doing.

One such leader, President Obama, spoke in Hiroshima in 2016 and called for an end to nuclear weapons. He said that the nuclear powers "...must have the courage to escape the logic of fear, and pursue a world without them."

*Material for this story was provided by Leonard Eiger and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action was founded in 1977. The center is on 3.8 acres adjoining the Trident submarine base at Bangor, Washington. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action offers the opportunity to explore the roots of violence and injustice in our world and to experience the transforming power of love through nonviolent direct action. We resist all nuclear weapons, especially the Trident ballistic missile system.*



## Will the US sign the treaty?

The nine countries that have held the world captive to the threat of nuclear war are losing moral ground to 122 smaller countries that approved the world's first nuclear weapons ban in July 2017. Once 50 of those 122 approving countries completed the ratification process of the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

in their legislatures, it became international law in October 2020.

The law goes into effect January 22, 2021 to the profound relief of most people of the world. Those now 51 "freedom fighter" countries commit to having nothing to do with nuclear weapons—no design, testing, manufacturing,

storage, transport, use or threat of use. Consider this a marathon for disarmament to outpace the current nuclear arms race in which all nuclear-armed countries are, in lockstep, upgrading their weapons.

And this is only the beginning. Thirty-five additional countries are in the process of ratifying the Treaty; 50 more support the Treaty; a dozen more have immense popular support, among them Canada, and are one election away from signing the Treaty. If the United States, where a majority of citizens does not want to use nuclear weapons, signed the Treaty, the rest would follow.

### Key in your story

Send it to our editors at [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com)



**Advocating**  
for justice in housing  
**Supporting**  
the survival of the homeless  
**Helping**  
with basic encampment needs  
**Building**  
a community where everyone feels safe,  
valued, and respected.



Just Housing ▲ 360.562.0239  
For information on Rolling Refuse Removal,  
Mutual Aid Mondays, and weekly meetings:  
[contact@justhousingolympia.org](mailto:contact@justhousingolympia.org)

COMMUNITY POWERED RADIO

**KOWA**  
OLYMPIA, WA 106.5 FM

106.5 FM Olympia  
24/7 Public Affairs  
REALITY RADIO FOR OLYMPIA  
Also LiveStream us at: [www.kowalp.org](http://www.kowalp.org)

HARD KNOCK RADIO  
Black Agenda Radio  
RALPH NADER RADIO HOUR  
THE TARFU REPORT  
LETTERS & POLITICS  
PROJECT CENSORED

CounterPunch RADIO  
RISING UP WITH SONALI  
theREALNEWS.com audio  
DEMOCRACY NOW!

WITH JEREMY SCAHILL  
with Mitch Jeserich  
The News That Didn't Make The News



# Mental health in the time of COVID

## Experiencing grief, loss and isolation

Barbara M Young

As we enter the “darkest hours” of the winter, each of us copes with isolation, social distancing, anxiety, grief and loss from the effects of the pandemic. Many in this area experience SAD, Seasonal Affective Disorder, the absence of sunshine. The pandemic has layered new symptoms on mental health issues already present. Our society tends to stigmatize those with mental issues and provides limited funds for care of mental health. In this article, I will bring these issues forward.

The Centers for Disease Control, CDC, last June found that forty percent of American adults reported at least one adverse mental or behavioral health condition including symptoms of mental illness or substance abuse related to the pandemic. Because of social distancing requirements, some mental health therapists have gone online, but even these resources are scarce. Luana Marques, clinical psychologist at Massachusetts General Hospital predicts a “fourth wave” of the pandemic that will cause a spike in mental health problems disproportionately affecting marginalized communities.

We are as unprepared to cope with the mental health fallout as we

were unprepared for the physical presence of the pandemic. In an article, “The Hidden Fourth Wave of the Pandemic” Farhad Manjoo quotes the chief medical officer of the National Alliance on Mental Illness: “We are affected by fewer connections, more isolation and more uncertainty.” The Trump Administration was unprepared for the mental health consequences and the incoming Biden Administration as of this writing has not placed a mental health expert on the Pandemic Task Force.

“Coping with COVID, Grief and Loss.” a podcast from the Washington Dept. of Health captures coping mechanisms with the acronym H-E-A-L:

**H is for “Honor the loss.”** Recognize it. Name it. If your children ask questions, be honest. Tell them the truth. Doctors advise parents to listen to the concerns of their child and speak honestly to them. When the truth is withheld, children often fantasize a worse scenario. They can even become confused as to what is true and what is false.

**E is for “Express emotion.”** All emotions are valid. If you are feeling anxious, depressed, or sad, find someone to share your feelings. Others are probably having similar

emotions and may need a listener. Our neighborhood zoom meeting starts with a “check-in” to allow the participants to express what is going on with them.

**A is for “Acknowledge obstacles.”** Denying or avoiding acknowledgement of loss can keep you from seeing a way forward. When someone asks, “How are you?” Do you respond, “I’m fine,” when you’re not? It’s not a time to be ashamed to admit that you are hurting and need someone to listen.

**L is for “LIVE.”** Engage in life instead of withdrawing. Wear a mask and go for a walk with another person. Join zoom meetings or church services; talk with friends. You cannot solve their problems but you can listen and offer friendship.

In my West Olympia neighborhood, we have created a monthly zoom check-in where neighbors share concerns and creative ways of moving through grief, loss and isolation. One neighbor has a chair in her airy carport with a heating pad. She keeps warm while waiting to chat with people walking by. A musician described his anger at being unable to create music with others but began to play for his own comfort. Others walked in the woods; embarked on new

gardening projects, connected with nature. I signed up for zoom classes through the Senior Center and have moved my art table from the garage into my living room.

Looking farther away, we can find other models for handling the stresses of isolation. Tim Herrera in a New York Times article wrote about what we might learn from an astronaut, a researcher in Antarctica and from the eight folks who isolated themselves within a Biosphere for two years.

Christina Koch, a 41-year-old astronaut, spent 328 days on the International Space Station. Koch’s advice is, “Be comfortable with unpredictability. Know that something could go wrong in a planned schedule. You must rearrange and adapt. What you can control is how you react to the situation, whether you let yourself go down a bad mental path or not. Be creative in how you stay relevant in the lives of loved ones. Do things that feel like you are close.”

Christina “ran” a 13.1-mile half marathon on her space stationary bicycle while her friends were running the same time and distance on earth. She has more advice, “Set expectations in your mind to err on the side of being pleasantly surprised, rather than being disappointed.”

David Knoff lived with 24 people at the Davis Research outpost station in Antarctica. The temperature was a constant nineteen degrees Fahrenheit and with zero hours of daylight during winter weeks. One had to “change with the surroundings and train yourself to learn to make the best of a tough situation.” David said that he had to dig deep within himself for the motivation and resilience to return safely to his family. One evening a huddle of Emperor penguins waddled into the research stations and the researchers were treated to a beautiful and rare connection with the environment.

The eight researchers confined in the Arizona Biosphere experienced conflicts within the group. They found that the third quarter of their isolation was the most difficult. Yet knowing there was an end in sight allowed them to persevere.

Our “end in sight” is the community receiving a vaccine and developing immunity to COVID that will let us hug our family and friends. Following the model of H-E-A-L, we too will persevere.

### Resources:

**Coping with COVID: Grief and Loss Podcast**, Kira Mauseth, PhD and Doug Dicharry, MD, WA Dept of Health

**Washington Talks, call-in opportunity, 1-833-681-0211**

**Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1-800-273-8255**

**Emergency: 911**

Barbara Young is a member of the Southwest Olympia Neighborhood Association and has lived on the Westside for thirty years. As an RN, she lectured at the University of Washington, Tacoma, served as Nursing Director at St. Martin’s College, and Professor of Psychiatric Nursing at SPSCC. She has written several books including *Travels to Maya: 14 Days in the Yucatan* (2013), *The Interconnectedness of Story, Community, and Health* (2013), and *The Tree is Medicine: infant Mortality at Cedar Bay* (2016).

## Practice for changing frequencies

# An exercise to shift from fear to calm

Lori Lively

We’re all familiar with suggestions for countering occasional feelings of anxiety, fear and depression such as taking a walk, listening to music or reading something uplifting. All are helpful but they may not go far enough in harnessing the power available to us to create a physical shift in our feeling life.

Researchers like Lynn McTaggart tell us the unseen universal force known as the quantum field is not a punishing or rewarding one but is simply reflective and responsive to what emanates from us. Just as anger and frustration can build on each other to create a negative loop, feelings of peace and calm can be cultivated, too. An important first step is acknowledging the electromagnetic nature of our bodies and the necessity of engaging ourselves biologically to shift our energy.

The key that really unlocks this shift, however, is intention. It takes practice but learning to identify

the feeling we want to have, learning to visualize it and truly feel it is incredibly powerful. The next time you find yourself stuck in a cycle of negative thinking or feeling that you can’t seem to shake, try this practice to harness the power of the field to shift your energy frequency from darkness to light.

First, find some ambient music to play or, ideally, choose meditation music from the internet with a simple chant that lasts for 15-20 minutes (try Chattr Chkr Deep Relaxation (Bonus Track) by Mirabain Ceiba from the album *Sevati*).

Next, suspend your judgements about trying something new or what may be unfamiliar syllables in the chant. Simply give the practice a try.

Sit comfortably in a chair or on the floor with a straight back. Close the eyes and focus on the point between the eyebrows, as if you are looking at the inside of your forehead.

Bend the arms at the elbows with the palms up as though you are holding a tray at the level of your heart. Breathing long and slowly through the nose only (mouth closed), move the hands in a circular pattern to create small circles in the air. Only the hands move, the elbows stay at your sides and the wrists and palms remain facing up. Imagine, if it helps, that you are drawing circles in the air with your outstretched fingers.

At a slow, rhythmic pace that’s comfortable to you, move the palms in small outward circles for at 10–20 minutes while focusing on the brow point and listening to the chant.

Finish with a deep inhale and hold for several seconds, releasing the breath slowly. Sit quietly for one minute with palms on knees or thighs with thumb and forefinger touching. Notice any shift in the quality of your energy. Take one last deep inhale and exhale and flutter the eyes open gently.

*The exercise above is part of a 52 minute meditation available on youtube at The Good Morning Retreat Opening Circle with Tommy Rosen. Further reading on intention and the quantum field can be found in The Power of Eight by Lynn McTaggart. Lori Lively is assistant editor at WIP.*

**THE**  
**brotherhood**  
LOUNGE

daily happy hour 3-7

119 CAPITOL WAY  
WWW.THEBROTHERHOOLDLOUNGE.COM

## Centralia Square Antique Mall

Antiques • Restaurant • Hotel

### Directions from Olympia

South on Interstate 5  
Off at Exit 82 (Factory Outlets)  
East on Harrison  
Right on Pearl  
201 S Pearl & Locust

Open 7 days  
10am–5pm





# Salud en tiempos de COVID

## Nuestra experiencia de duelo, pérdida y aislamiento

Barbara M. Young

Al entrar en las “horas más oscuras” del invierno, cada uno de nosotros está lidiando con el aislamiento, el distanciamiento social, la ansiedad, el dolor y la pérdida por los efectos de la pandemia. Muchos en esta zona del país se enfrentan al SAD, o Trastorno Afectivo Estacional, causado por la ausencia de luz solar. La pandemia ha añadido síntomas adicionales a los problemas de salud mental ya existentes. Vivimos en una sociedad que tiende a estigmatizar a las personas con problemas mentales y proporciona fondos limitados para la atención de la salud mental. En este artículo, presentaré estos problemas.

Los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC), en junio pasado, encontraron que el cuarenta por ciento de los adultos estadounidenses reportaron al menos una condición adversa de salud mental o de comportamiento relacionadas con la pandemia, lo cual incluía experimentar síntomas de enfermedad mental o el abuso de sustancias químicas. Debido a los requisitos de distanciamiento social, algunos terapeutas de salud mental operan en línea, pero incluso estos recursos son escasos. Luana Marques, psicóloga clínica del Hospital General de Massachusetts predice una “cuarta ola” de la pandemia que provocará un aumento en los problemas de salud mental que afectarán de manera desproporcionada a las comunidades marginadas.

No estamos preparados para afrontar las consecuencias de la salud mental como tampoco estábamos preparados para la presencia física de la pandemia. En un artículo, “La cuarta ola oculta de la pandemia”, Farhad Manjoo cita al director médico de la Alianza Nacional de Enfermedades Mentales: “nos afecta el tener

menos conexiones, más aislamiento y más incertidumbre”. La Administración Trump no se ha preparado para las consecuencias de la salud mental y la Administración entrante de Biden al momento de escribir este artículo no ha colocado a un experto en salud mental en el Grupo de Trabajo contra la Pandemia.

“Enfrentando COVID, duelo y pérdida” es un podcast del Departamento de Salud de Washington que usa el acrónimo en inglés H.E.A.L. para describir formas de afrontar el dolor y la pérdida.

**H es para “honrar la pérdida”.** Reconócela. Nombrarla. Si sus hijos hacen preguntas, sea honesto. Diles la verdad. Los médicos aconsejan a los padres que escuchen las preocupaciones de sus hijos y hablen honestamente sobre el problema. Los niños pueden afrontar la verdad. Al ocultarles la verdad, los niños suelen fantasear con una situación peor.

**E es para “expresar emoción.”** Todas las emociones son válidas.

**A es para “reconocer los obstáculos”** que le impiden avanzar. Negar o evitar el reconocimiento de la pérdida puede ser un obstáculo.



**L es para “vivir”.** Participa en la vida en lugar de retirarte de ella. Comuníquese con otros y conéctese en el zoom con amigos u otros compromisos. Adopta alternativas. Apoya a los demás escuchando activamente. No puedes resolver sus problemas, pero puedes escuchar

y ofrecer amistad. Pregunta si puedes traer la cena o un regalo; proponer un paseo.

En mi vecindario de West Olympia, hemos creado un control de zoom mensual en el que los vecinos pueden compartir preocupaciones y formas creativas de superar el dolor, la pérdida y el aislamiento. Una vecina se instaló en su estacionamiento techado con una manta térmica para charlar con la gente que pasaba por allí. Un músico describió su enojo por no poder tocar durante todos estos meses.

Otros hablaron de proyectos de jardinería, de conexión con la naturaleza. Me inscribí en las clases a través del Centro para Personas de la Tercera Edad que comenzarán en enero y trasladé mi mesa de obras de arte del garaje a mi sala de estar.

Mirando más lejos, hay otros con experiencia en manejar el estrés del aislamiento. Tim Herrera en un artículo del New York Times escribió sobre lo que podríamos aprender de un astronauta, un investigador en Antártica y de las ocho personas que se aislaron dentro de una Biosfera durante dos años.

Christina Koch, una astronauta de 41 años, pasó 328 días en la Estación Espacial Internacional [nota del editor: no han pasado tantos días desde nuestro cierre y podemos salir sin flotar]. El consejo de Koch fue: “Adáptate y aprovecha al máximo. Siéntete cómodo con la imprevisibilidad. Reconoce que algo podría salir mal en un horario planificado.

Debes reorganizar y adaptarte. Tu puedes controlar cómo reaccionas ante la situación, esto es si te dejes llevar por un mal camino mental o no. Se creativo en cómo te mantienes relevante en la vida de sus seres queridos. Haz cosas que te hagan sentir estas ceca de ellos “.

Christina “corrió” un maratón de 13.1 millas en su bicicleta estacionaria espacial mientras sus amigos corrían al mismo tiempo en el Parque Nacional Glacier. “Establezca expectativas en su mente para errar por el lado de una agradable sorpresa, en lugar de una decepción”.

David Knoff, con otras 24 personas en la estación de Investigación Davis en la Antártida, con una temperatura constante de 19 grados Fahrenheit y cero horas de luz durante algunas semanas de invierno, dijo que uno tenía que “cambiar con el entorno y entrenarse para aprender a sacar lo mejor de una situación difícil.”

David aconsejó excavar en busca de motivación y resistencia para regresar a salvo con las familias. Una noche, un grupo de pingüinos emperador entraron caminando como patos en las estaciones de investigación y los investigadores pudieron disfrutar de una conexión poco común.

Los ocho investigadores confinados en la Biosfera encontraron que el tercer cuarto de su aislamiento fue el más difícil, pero sabiendo que había un final a la vista, pudieron perseverar. Nuestro final a la vista es la administración de la vacuna y el desarrollo de inmunidad al COVID.

Lo que se necesita es tomar en serio nuestra salud mental, expresar sentimientos de dolor y pérdida, así como el dolor causado por la soledad y el aislamiento. Recuerde la estrategia HEAL: Honra la pérdida. Expresa emociones. Reconoce los obstáculos ... y vive.

Ten en cuenta la lección de un astronauta para adaptarse a la imprevisibilidad; de un investigador de Antártica para encontrar dentro de ti la motivación para perseverar; y de los participantes de Biosphere que creían en el final estaba a la vista.

*Barbara Young es enfermera registrada y se desempeñó como Profesora de Enfermería Psiquiátrica en SPSCC. Ha escrito varios libros incluyendo Viajes a Maya: 14 Días en Yucatán (2013).*

### Otros recursos:

*Hacer frente a COVID:* Podcast de duelo y pérdida, Kira Mauseth, PhD y Doug Dicharry, MD, Departamento de Salud de WA

**Washington Talks, llame en oportunidad, 1-833-681-0211**

**NAMI: Alianza Nacional de Enfermedades Mentales Línea de vida para la prevención del suicidio - 1-800-273-8255**

**Emergencias: 911**



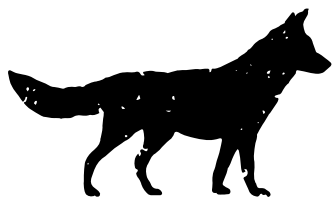
This telephone from times past appeared mysteriously on a tree in Priest Point Park in January. It is there now with a sign inviting anyone to make a call – a call that allows you to connect with someone not otherwise available, or to speak your mind, even to connect with your own emotions...so many people year have lost a loved one or a job or a community of friends or just a sense of certainty about what the future will bring. Visit the Telephone of the Wind to share a message or speak your feelings freely in the air and without judgment. Photo by Lindsey Dalthorp.



# West Bay Woods

Once you've walked the streets of your neighborhood more times than you can count, there are two trails on Olympia's westside where you discover the magical shelter of the West Bay Woods. The West Bay Woods is a special kind of park, on land purchased to protect and restore habitat for the Pacific Great Blue Heron. It provides a corridor for other wildlife within the urban landscape—and a connection for us humans to a neglected side of our nature.

Within the woods, there are large areas that are still forested with 100-year-old Douglas-fir trees, Western red cedar, and big-leaf maple that provide habitat for Pacific great blue herons, bald eagles, cooper's hawks, owls, falcons and others. Below the tree canopy, many other species of wildlife use the forest, including mountain beaver, coyote, red fox, Northwest salamander, Pacific tree frog, Puget Sound garter snake, and a robust population of black tailed deer.



One trailhead is at the end of Hays Avenue NW. This entrance features a rain garden which helps drain and filter stormwater before it enters the marine waters below. The second is where Dickinson Street dead ends. This accesses the heronry with the trail is open to hikers from September through January. This area is closed during nesting season, which is February to August each year.

West Bay Woods is the creation of OlyEcosystems, a coalition of concerned citizens formed in 2014 to preserve 3.5 acres of heron nesting ground. Since then the nonprofit has acquired another 15 acres of land that weaves around houses, condominiums and business complexes above West Bay Drive.

In the works are plans to create additional entrances to the woods from parcels recently purchased

along West Bay Drive. The woods is a remnant of shoreline forest



Photos from OlyEcosystems.org

that sits above the southern estuarine portion of Budd Inlet in South Puget Sound. These woods have seen various uses over the past 200 years that have left them marked, changed and degraded.

Persistent water quality issues in Budd Inlet and the long-term impacts of the now derelict, post-industrial West Bay shoreline have left the woods all but cut off ecologically from Puget Sound—but not quite. Yet the West Bay Woods are starting to tell a story of restoration and recovery.

There are wetlands and seasonal streams in the West Bay Woods, in addition to the permanent West Bay Creek. These features, as well as the steep forested slopes, if

face water from the neighboring urban areas before it reaches the Puget Sound. This is of heightened importance due to its proximity to Budd Inlet, where native salmonids, orcas, seals, shore birds and

hundreds of other marine species live.



The diversity of wildlife habitat along this shoreline area gives a glimpse of what was once here at a much grander scale. The area is an interconnected and sensitive network of environments

**These features...provide an extremely valuable stormwater service by filtering polluted surface water from the neighboring urban areas before it reaches the Puget Sound.**

managed appropriately, provide an extremely valuable stormwater service by filtering polluted sur-

that are dependent on each other for healthy ecological function. The vast majority of these woods have now been protected by the

## Urban village

from page 1

don't make the [environmental] determination willy nilly," he said. "The staff is thorough and fair and they do a good job." (The Olympian, Dec. 8, 2020)

(Phillips Burgess's role along with that of the Thurston Economic Development Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Olympia Planning and Community Development Department, is to advocate for more development. OCEP's role in the community is to advocate for Olympia's remaining ecosystems.)

### Leaving major environmental decisions to a private company

OCEP had important objections to the Development Agreement itself, including the fact that it relinquished to a private company some major decisions about water quality, shoreline habitat and public access that belong to the public. Even the provision in the Agreement that purported to offer

an otherwise unattainable public benefit was hollow because it was actually in the city's authority to require.

Other concerns involve the way the West Bay Yards proposal relates to Olympia's Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The proposal appears to contradict the SMP goal of ensuring no net loss of shoreline ecological function and processes, as well as the prohibition against restoration projects creating additional upland area—something explicitly intended for the West Bay Yards development.

OCEP's appeal calls for the Development Agreement to be replaced by a public SEPA scoping meeting.

This would initiate the environmental analysis of the project that is needed for staff, Counsel and community to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

"Existing environmental analysis of the area is limited and based on documents that are in some cases nearly 30 years old. No such analysis has contemplated a development on the scale proposed for West Bay Yards. No analysis—typically required in an environmental review of projects of unusual size

and scope—has investigated alternatives." (OCEP)

They point out that SEPA requires the environmental impacts of a proposal to be analyzed "at the earliest possible point in the planning and decision-making process, when the principal features of a proposal and its environmental impacts can be reasonably identified." The specifics of the West Bay Yard project are well established.

OCEP has asked for summary judgment of their appeal. It will be heard by Chehalis attorney Mark C. Scheibmeir who occupies one of the two positions that the City Council hires (the other is City Manager). Depending on the Hearing Examiner's decision on summary judgement, the outcome of the appeal might not be known until March. Consulted for this article were the appeal filed by Olympians for EcoSystem Preservation and a description of the project by the Thurston Economic Development Council among other documents.

*Bethany Weidner has lived in West Olympia and watched it evolve over the last 35 years.*

Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation.

Ongoing restoration work in partnership with the community is focused on enhancing this important remnant of the larger historic habitat for both wildlife and generations of people to come.

*OlyEcosystems is a volunteer-run, community-based urban conservation and advocacy group in Olympia, Washington. Their focus is the urban shoreline and associated watersheds in Olympia, driven by an understanding of the intrinsic value of all creatures in our ecosystem. They are united in believing in the value of biodiversity and that the community is enriched and defined by a relationship to the wilderness in our midst. This article was adapted from their website [www.olyecosystems.org](http://www.olyecosystems.org)*

## The State Environmental Policy Act, Development Agreements and kinds of actions

**Development Agreements.** RCW 36.70B.170 says a Development Agreement must set forth the "development standards" and provisions that "shall" govern and vest the development, use and mitigation of a proposed property. It goes on to say that "development standards" include a list of 10 things. Among the 10 are c) mitigation measures, development conditions and other requirements under RCW 43.21C—the State Environmental Policy Act; and d) such things as drainage and water quality requirements. Several examples of Development Agreements signed by other cities with their developers show up on the website of Washington's Municipal Research Service Center. They suggest that Development Agreements are arrived at after an environmental assessment has been conducted.

**Project and Non-project Actions.** Section 197-11 of the Washington Administrative Code sets the rules for SEPA, including a rule that defines what kinds of things are "actions" under the Environmental Policy Act. There are two kinds of actions: project actions and non-project actions.

Briefly, *project actions* are actions where an agency (like the City of Olympia) is making a decision on any activity that "will directly modify the environment, whether the activity will be conducted by the agency, an applicant, or under contract."

*Non-project actions* are where an agency is deciding on policies, plans or programs. The WAC specifies what these might be: adopting amendments to existing rules or regulations, etc., adopting or amending comprehensive land use plans or zoning ordinances and adopting a policy, plan or program that will govern a series of connected actions, and so on. All of these relate to broad determinations rather than to decisions on projects directly modifying the environment.



## Struggling towards MLK's "genuine equality"

# On the inseparability of race and class

Emily Lardner

Towards the end of his life, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. began arguing that racism, poverty, and militarism must be addressed as interrelated issues, as a package, in order to create a more equitable society. Many scholars today claim that connecting those issues is what led to his untimely death. Dr. King himself predicted that the struggle for "genuine equality" as he called it, which will require public investments in the billions, would find less support than the struggle for decency. In an address in Atlanta on May 10, 1967, less than a year before he was assassinated, King described this "new phase" of the civil rights struggle:

"The new phase is a struggle for genuine equality. It is not merely a struggle for decency now, it is not merely a struggle to get rid of the brutality of a Bull Connor and a Jim Clark. It is now a struggle for genuine equality on all levels, and this will be a much more difficult struggle. You see, the gains in the first period, or the first era of struggle, were obtained from the power structure at bargain rates; it didn't cost the nation anything to integrate lunch counters. It didn't cost the nation anything to integrate hotels and motels. It didn't cost the nation a penny to guarantee the right to vote. Now we are in a period where it will cost the nation billions of dollars to get rid of poverty, to get rid of slums, to make quality integrated education a reality. This is where we are now. Now we're going to lose some friends in this period."

### Multi-racial poverty

King's strategy for compelling the nation to spend billions of dollars was to organize a Poor People's March on Washington DC. He envisioned hundreds of thousands of people camping at the capital, refusing to budge until their demands had been met. In March 1968, just a month before he was murdered, King delivered an address to Local 1199 in New York City, a union whose members were mostly African Americans, Puerto Ricans, and other people of color. King explained to that crowd:

"I have come to see that it must be a massive movement organizing poor people in this country, to demand their rights at the seat of government in Washington DC... Now I said poor people, too, and by that I mean all poor people. When we go to Washington, we're going to have black people because black people are poor, but we're also going to have Puerto Ricans because Puerto Ricans are poor in the United States of America. We're going to have Mexican Americans because they are mistreated. We're going to have Indian Americans

because they are mistreated. And for those who will allow their prejudice to cause them to blindly support their oppressor, we're going to have Appalachian whites with us in Washington."

King was murdered in April 1968. The Poor People's March occurred in June, 1968, but without the transformative effect King was aiming for. However, the organizing work King started with that campaign has since been picked up by the Reverends William Barber and Liz Theoharris, co-chairs of the Poor People's Campaign. In a sign of their political power, members of the Poor People's Campaign met with members of the Biden domestic policy team in December. On Thursday, January 21, Dr. Barber gave the homily at the 59th Inaugural National Prayer Service, with President Biden in virtual attendance.

**"By the millions, people in the other America find themselves perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity."**

### The deep roots of racial inequity in public school funding

In 1967, Dr. King decried the inequitable funding of public schools. Those economic inequities, he argued, led to uneven life chances in "the other America":

"In this other America, thousands, yea, even millions, of young people are forced to attend inadequate, substandard, inferior, quality-less schools, and year after year thousands of young people in this other America finish our high schools reading at an eighth- and a ninth-grade level sometimes. Not because they are dumb, not because they don't have innate intelligence, but because the schools are so inadequate, so overcrowded, so devoid of quality, so segregated, if you will, that the best in these minds can never come out."

Those inequities in educational funding persist. A 2019 US News and World Report reported on study conducted by researchers at EdBuild that compared funding for poor nonwhite school districts to poor white school districts: "on average, the poor nonwhite school districts received 11 percent less funding per student, or \$1,500—a finding that (EdBuild researcher) Sibilia says hammers home the deep roots of racial inequity in education funding." The report calls out three states with particularly poor records. WA State is one of them. "Poor nonwhite school districts (in Washington State) receive 42 percent, or \$8,200, less per student."

### Underfunding community colleges harms students of color, low-income students

Community colleges, which serve disproportionately large populations of low-income students and students of color as compared with four year colleges and universities, are similarly underfunded. In *The \$78 Billion Community College Funding Shortage*, published by the Center for American Progress in October 2020, Victoria Yuen reports on the revenue gap between community colleges and public four-year institutions. In Washington State, the gap is approximately \$8000 per full time student enrollment—\$8000 vs. \$18,000. Some of that revenue gap is a function of tuition; a substantial chunk, however, is because of state and federal policy.

Community colleges also serve a disproportionate number of low-income students. A 2019 report by the Century Foundation found that the majority of students at community colleges come from the bottom half of the socioeconomic distribution nationally, while just one in five students at the most competitive and highly competitive four-year colleges come from that same socioeconomic distribution.

### The persistence of the racial wealth gap

A disproportionate number of those low-income students are also students of color, illustrating the persistence of this country's racial wealth gap. A Brookings Institute study in 2020 concluded that "a close examination of wealth in the U.S. finds evidence of staggering racial disparities. At \$171,000, the net worth of a typical white family is nearly ten times greater than that of a Black family (\$17,150) in 2016. Gaps in wealth between Black and white households reveal the effects of accumulated inequality and discrimination, as well as differences in power and opportunity that can be traced back to this nation's inception."

In both K-12 and in community colleges, we still choose, through our public policy choices, to provide less funding for schools and colleges that serve high populations of students of color and low-income students. At the same time, we know that increasing our investments in those educational institutions changes the outcomes. A study conducted by the Century Foundation in 2019 reported that "scholars looking at community colleges between 1990 and 2013 found that a 10% spending increase boosted awards and certificates by 15%."

### Inslee's proposed budget pays for anti-racism with workers' wages

Inslee's proposed budget separates, rather than integrates, the need to address racism and economic inequality. On the one hand, his proposal includes \$23 million to advance equity initiatives, including expanding the State Board for Community and Technical College's Anti-Racist Curriculum Review project. However, to pay for his anti-racist initiatives, Inslee proposes reducing the wages for state workers, cancelling the July 1, 2020 general wage increase for some non-represented, non-classified employees and requiring nearly all state workers to furlough—take a layoff—one day per month for 24 months.

Inslee justifies this trade-off by appealing to the generosity of state workers: "Just as they did a decade ago at the height of the Great Recession, state employees are making sacrifices to help the state address the budget challenges brought on by the ongoing, pandemic fueled, economic downturn." He fails to mention that our state has the most regressive tax system in the nation. He fails to notice that many of the workers he proposes to lay off barely make a living wage as it stands, and many of those workers are workers of color.

Dr. King cautioned us that we will never be able to address racism in this society if we don't simultaneously address economic inequality. The two go hand in hand, further exacerbated by the outsized proportion of our shared resources that are allocated for war. We can do better, Dr. King argued, as Dr. Barber will likely preach in the 59th Inaugural Prayer Service. The question is, when will we choose to?

*Emily Lardner lives in Pierce County and writes frequently for Works in Progress.*

## Cartridge Care Inc

The printer experts since 1990

**TONER | FILM | INK JETS**

Remanufactured and New  
hundreds in stock

**REPAIR | SERVICE | SALES**  
for

printers • fax • copiers • plotters  
free pick up & delivery

<https://www.cartcareinc.com/>

1314 Lebanon St SE, Lacey

**360-459-8845**

91.1 Westport 89.1 Montesano



#### News

*Democracy Now!*  
*Feature Story News*  
*National Native News*

#### Discussion

*Background Briefing*  
*Law and Disorder*  
*This Way Out*  
*We Do The Work*

#### Information:

*Alternative Radio*  
*CounterSpin*  
*Economic Update*

#### Politics

*Free Speech Radio*  
*Ring of Fire*  
*Thom Hartmann*

streaming @ kghifm.org  
PO Box 1892 Westport, WA 98595



## PORT REPORT

# What's been happening at the Port of Olympia

[Ed note: Olympia Port Commissioner EJ Zita provided this review of Port activities over 2020 with a look ahead to the coming year.]

**Progress:** We ended the Port of Olympia's fracking proppants contract; installed EV chargers at the Farmer's Market; funded community solar and agriculture initiatives; and shared warehouse space with community groups.

The Port agreed to improve environmental practices at the Marine Terminal, as the consequence of losing a significant lawsuit. We renewed our commitment to collaborate on sea level rise and Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary planning. While we declined an expansion of the Olympia Airport, we are exploring possibilities for electric and hybrid aircraft.

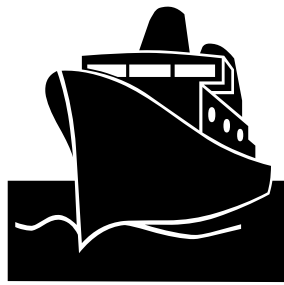
Members of the public can participate in online Port meetings, thanks to COVID and to good tech staff. Written public comments were included in Port minutes—(though recently they haven't been appearing there...) On a bigger scale, ports across Washington are showing more support for low-carbon initiatives this year—partly because they expect the Legisla-

ture to generate green funding.

Other news: Despite concerns I presented, the Port optioned approximately 200 acres of urban forest to a warehouse developer and removed houseless campers and their belongings; approved berthing two big military ships for five years and declined Tumwater's invitation to cooperate on a mitigation site. Unfortunately the Port raised taxes again and, within the Commission, made accusations against the minority Commissioner that took up time and proved false. The State Auditor's Office again issued "findings" regarding Port finances, and the Port paid millions in legal settlements and related costs.

### Work to do and questions to answer

Will Commissioners approve a Tribal Honor Statement? Many governments have adopted a tribal honor statement to acknowledge the past, present, and future of native people within their jurisdiction. The boundaries of Thurston



County sit on the native lands and waters of three recognized tribal governments: Squaxin Island, Nisqually, and Chehalis Indian tribes.

Ports have the authority to install dark fiber for broadband service, and we agreed to start planning how to address this public need. A Broadband Access Team (BAT) with the county, cities and the PUD would be a good first step.

Vision 2050 prioritizes environmental sustainability and waterfront recreation over business as usual at the Marine Terminal, yet shipping of logs and cattle continue. Will the port sell its money-losing crane?

Strategic planning for the Port, and master planning for the Airport and the Marine Terminal, are due but delayed. When will this work proceed, and is strong public engagement a priority?

Periodic review of our process for ensuring accuracy of public records, including minutes and transcripts is an essential responsibility. Are responses to public records requests timely and complete?

Financial measures approved by the Commission have been given a lower priority than other measures. What is the Port's commitment to meaningful financial performance reporting?

### Opportunities for engagement

The Port of Olympia is moving forward in some hopeful ways, from sustainable energy systems to regional planning processes thanks in part to public participation. Vigilance is still required.

The Port has adopted a set of core values that promote meaningful public participation. You can find them described and discussed here: <https://www.iap2.org/general/custom.asp?page=corevalues>

The Port has embarked on Waterfront development planning—that needs input from a wide spectrum of the public. Contact Amos@TASolympia.com to get on the Waterfront Development email list.

It's especially important to be part of the discussion of the Port's actions and their use of resources that rely on tax subsidies. This year, you will be voting for two Port Commissioner positions, District 2 and District 3. Candidate information is available at Thurston County Auditor's office and the PDC.

Get on the *Port News* email list by contacting JennieF@portolympia.com Access Port meetings at <https://www.portolympia.com/89/>. Regular Commission meetings are second and fourth Mondays at 5:30 (the public is encouraged to speak). Work Sessions are first and third Mondays at 2:30, where there is no public comment although people may attend.

You can email public comments to this email: [CommissionCoordinator@portolympia.com](mailto:CommissionCoordinator@portolympia.com).

## Just Desserts

A thousand crystal droplets of water  
On the bare branches of dark brown,  
Wink at me as I speed walk my dog.  
Jagged evergreens push into the horizon  
Of rippled sky.  
A lone hummingbird comes to feed  
In the dead of winter.  
And I wonder what the true meaning of  
An eye for an eye.

How can one pay for the  
Four hundred thousand dead as  
He played golf  
And promised otherwise.  
Babies torn from their parents  
Can never be repaired.  
My own consciousness of self changes  
From a hammer to a kiss  
I don't believe in the death penalty  
Not even for 45

But what are his just desserts?  
A lone cell in which he sits  
Never to hear or see his name  
Anywhere on the horizon.  
While the rest of us  
Forgive EACHOTHER for our sins  
Greta sails the Ocean.  
Georgia wins the day.  
A single baby elephant is saved.  
Life is a blessing  
No matter what.

Toni Lawrence

## COVID-19 and the Crisis of Racial Capitalism

K. Sabeel Rahman

The escalating COVID-19 pandemic impacts all of us, but for Black and brown people in particular, the combined health and economic devastation is truly terrifying. Communities of color have higher rates of asthma, less access to health care centers, are more likely to live in food deserts, and are among the most vulnerable in the face of this virus. The workers most on edge in our economy—and most likely to lose their jobs—are predominantly Black and brown. Most Americans lack even \$400 of savings to call upon in times of crisis, and that lack of wealth is even more pronounced for Black and brown communities.

Crises reveal deeper realities of power and inequity that have always been present but are often papered over in ordinary times. The conflagration of economic crisis and ailing communities may have been sparked by the novel coronavirus, but the kindling for

this fire has been laid by conservatives and liberals alike with the policy choices of the past 40 years. This is not just a pandemic crisis; it is a crisis rooted in our very system of racial capitalism and in the oligarchic inequities of American politics.

K. Sabeel Rahman is the president of *Demos*, a "think and do" tank that supports the movement towards a just, inclusive, multiracial democracy.

Link to site: <https://www.demos.org/blog/covid-19-and-crisis-racial-capitalism>

### Poetry in motion

A mob of unknown persuasion  
Conducted a statehouse invasion  
Though heavily armed  
they parted unharmed  
And that's how you know they're  
Caucasian

—Unknown.



TAROT BY ANNA

\$30

360.870.1547

[spanglefeather@gmail.com](mailto:spanglefeather@gmail.com)



# Deep trouble awaits if we pursue seabed mining

Lee First

We know more about the moon and the surface of Mars than we know about the deep ocean. Yet increasing demand for rare metals and valuable minerals could bring industrial-scale prospectors to the sea floor before we understand the nature of the ocean itself, let alone the consequences of ocean mining.

## The insatiable extractive economy

Seabed mining (SBM) is an emerging type of mining for minerals and rare earth metals on the ocean floor. SBM could help meet humanity's insatiable thirst for essential minerals and theoretically power a "greener" economy.

But these mining activities carry a high risk for marine life and our ocean ecosystems, and threaten nearshore waters like the three-mile-wide band of the Pacific Ocean managed by the states of California and Washington. SBM was banned in Oregon state waters in 1991.

The ocean, especially the nearshore ocean, already faces a mixture of stressors: industrialization, climate change, ocean acidification and other forces which will increasingly challenge our ability to understand and co-exist with a healthy ocean. It is increasingly worrisome that there is little left standing between the seabed mining machines and the wonders of the deep ocean.

## Threats to Washington's coastal zones

Washington's coastal waters are regulated by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). State waters include the nearshore area from extreme low tide to three miles offshore. In this zone, there are mineral-rich sands, semi-precious and possibly precious minerals (e.g. gold, titanium), phosphorite and heavy mineral placer deposits. Mineral-rich black sand placer deposits lie along the lower Columbia River, Grays Harbor, and coastal areas between Grays Harbor and Cape Flattery.

While the annual worldwide production of rare earth metals on land currently stands at around 100,000 tons, the deep seafloor is estimated to contain 15 million tons of rare earth oxides. Potential demand for these minerals may drive proposals for SBM. For example, there are concerns that global phosphorus deposits may eventually be depleted. As fertilizer producers perceive the need for new supplies, they may turn their attention to the phosphorus found in coastal zones on the west coast of the United States, including Washington.

## Vacuuming the seafloor

Oceanographer Sylvia Earle likens seabed mining to clear cutting forests. Mining is a short-term non-renewable activity. Whether on the earth or sea, once the minerals have been extracted, the resources and the jobs are gone, leaving behind a highly damaged landscape.

As with land mining, impacts of seabed mining are likely catastrophic. SBM extracts minerals by "vacuuming" the sea floor using heavy, high-tech dredging equipment. Dredged material is piped to a huge barge on the ocean's surface, where desired materials will be sorted and removed. The unwanted material is discharged back into the water.

## A new source of pollution

The effluent released by this process—sediment and toxic metal plumes—is capable of drifting for long distances. Sediment plumes from mining could upset phytoplankton blooms at the sea's surface, introduce toxic metals into marine food chains, interfere with migratory patterns, and make it difficult for aquatic life to breathe. It has the potential to stir up sediments, block surface sunlight, and destroy aquatic life.

Noise pollution is another consequence of SBM that could change the swimming and schooling behavior of fish, such as tuna. It could cause dolphins and whales to strand themselves. Areas where mining is being pursued represent habitat for turtles, whales and fish, as well as serving as waypoints for migrating species. Some of these

areas are already off-limits to deep sea trawler fishing because of documented declines in marine diversity.

## A perilous transformation of the planet

Along with environmental groups, representatives from the fishing industry are warning of severe risks to ocean fisheries posed by SBM. Additionally, mining in nearshore areas has the potential to be in direct conflict with recreational activities like beachgoing, whale watching, swimming, paddling and fishing.

SBM could also exacerbate climate change by releasing carbon stored in deep sea sediments. These are known to be a long-term storage system for "blue carbon."

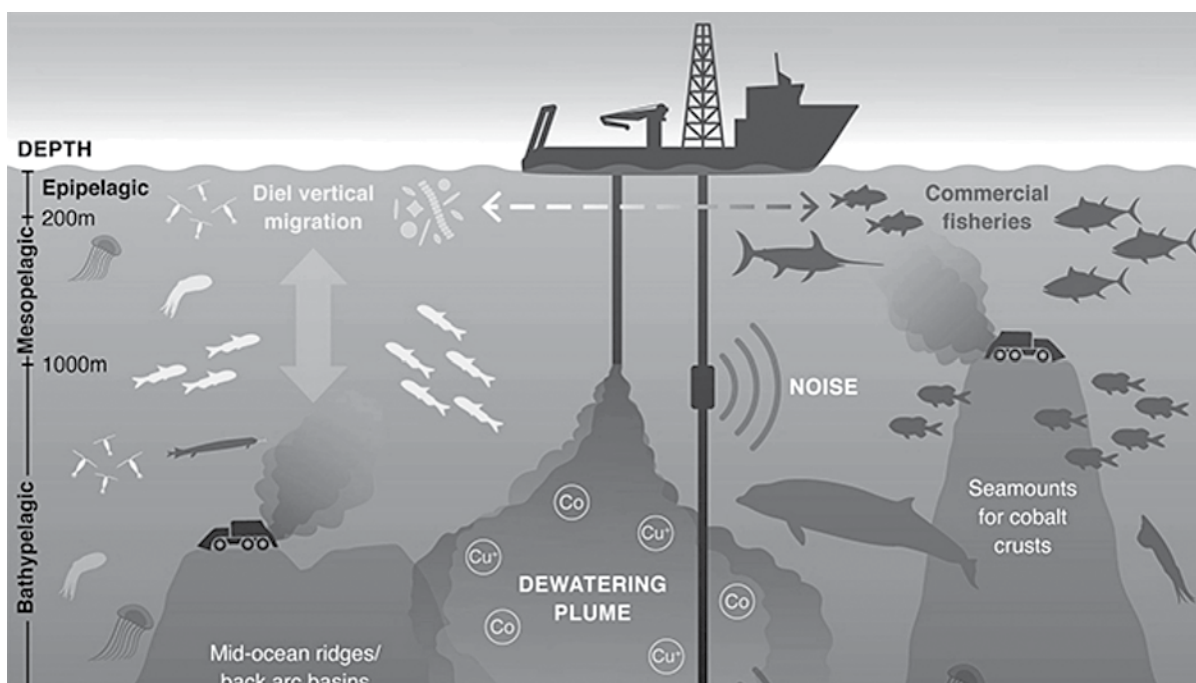
The combination of these risks presents SBM as one of the largest transformations that humans might enact on the surface of the planet.

## The campaign to prohibit seabed mining

There is an active campaign to prohibit seabed mining off the coast of Washington before it can start. Oregon banned seabed mining 30 years ago; Washington and California should enact their own bans. The campaign includes outreach and educational efforts directed at non-profit organizations, state agency officials and lawmakers. Several organizations are circulating a letter for coastal businesses to sign. For anyone who works for or owns a business in Washington or knows someone who does, the letter can be found at [/Biz-Against-Seabed-Mining-WA](http://Biz-Against-Seabed-Mining-WA)

Lee First is the Twin Harbors Waterkeeper. More info here: <http://twinharborswaterkeeper.org>

Sources consulted appear online at [www.olywp.org](http://www.olywp.org)



# Washington's new food distribution project

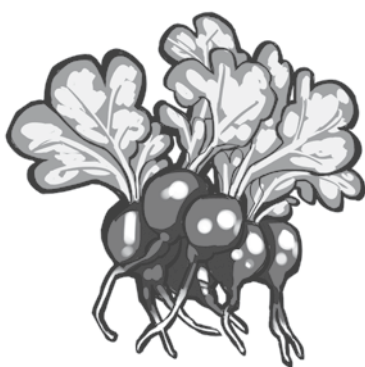
From news services. The Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC), together with a network of over 30 entities, is devoting the next three years to address food system infrastructure, food access, and education as the recipient of a \$994,400 grant from the US Department of Agriculture Regional Food System Partnerships Program.

The \$1.2 million project will coordinate one body of collaborators throughout an eleven-county region of the Puget Sound, all involved with feeding over 4.6 million people. The project launched in October.

"We recognize the Puget Sound region is an ideal region to develop a cohesive collaboration of existing agencies and entities," said NABC Executive Director, David Bauermeister. "Our common goal is to develop a vibrant and sustainable food system. Local, accessible, high quality food

is essential to all of us. We are thrilled to be collaborating to achieve that goal with so many committed partners."

NABC will serve as the project manager, leveraging long-standing relationships with multiple local, state and federal governmental agencies, nonprofits, lending institutions, colleges and universities, producer-owned cooperatives and more.



This project starts with a baseline of service to nine established producer-owned processing, marketing, and distribution cooperatives. NABC will coordinate with over 200 agricultural producers, currently serving more than 300 supermarkets, institutional food service providers, restaurants, and food banks.

"Developing infrastructure for value-added food processing and distribution is key," said

Bauermeister. "We'll also offer hands-on technical assistance to farms and food businesses, to support expansion and gain access to capital. Our organization is very experienced at offering this kind of support and training."

NABC will create a network of independent farmer-owned food hub cooperatives.

The project's final responsibility is to implement a replicable food access model, including focus on USDA-designated food deserts. Food deserts are generally defined as areas both urban and rural where it is difficult to access affordable or good-quality food.

"We need food hubs, farmers, and food banks all working together to ensure everyone can access good food including fresh fruits and vegetables," said Bauermeister. "We intend to look most closely at our communities facing persistent poverty."

Since 2006, NABC improves the economic viability of the agriculture industry and provides business resources and hands-on guidance to new or existing businesses who offer value-added or innovative agricultural products or services. NABC works within these eleven Washington counties: Grays Harbor, Island, King, Lewis, Mason, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston and Whatcom. To learn more visit [AgBizCenter.org](http://AgBizCenter.org)



Don't sell the Sand Point Archives

# A way to hold the past in your hand

Kathleen Byrd

The National Archives at Seattle holds 56,000 cubic feet (1 million boxes) of permanent records, including documents and artifacts from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. Access to these documents and artifacts is particularly important to genealogists, historians, writers, and others who seek a more intimate understanding of and connection with our region's past.

The Archive at Seattle holds treaty records for 272 federally recognized Native American Tribes and other unrecognized groups, Chinese Exclusion Act Records, and Japanese Internment Records. These records and documents contain intimate and tangible details of our region's history, details that bring to life stories of our past that matter to the present and to our future.

For example, information contained at the Seattle National Archive was critically important for federal recognition of the Klamath Tribes in 1986. Few of the documents are digitized, so physical access is critical for local historians, writers, genealogists, and tribal members to access the material.

For many, being in the physical presence of documents and artifacts is an important part of the research process. There's an emotional charge in finding a handwritten document, a photograph, or a record that offers insight into the past you are attempting to assemble, a past that suddenly surges into the present moment. It's as if the document or material item possesses the energy of the original moment — it's an experience of the past collapsing into the present, and the present meeting the past, an immediate sensation of connection.

The National Archives in Seattle is currently closed due to COVID-19, and this means a temporary loss of touch and intimacy for those seeking knowledge from the past. But the threat of permanent loss looms with the plan to sell the Seattle Archives property and move all of the records.

Moving these regional documents to far away parts of the country is beyond an inconvenience; it is a form of displacement; a way of detaching and distancing something that forms a part of this place. This is underscored by the list of tribes who are parties to AG Ferguson's 2021 lawsuit to prevent the sale and closure of the Seattle facility. To honor the treaties, to understand the depth and richness of our shared past, we need to honor these tribal members' access to the treaties and other historical records that belong to them.

## Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Duwamish Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
- Hoh Indian Tribe
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Kalispell Tribe of Indians
- The Klamath Tribes



- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Nez Perce Tribe
- NookSack Indian Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation
- Samish Indian Nation
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Spokane Tribe of Indians

- Squaxin Island Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

*Kathleen Byrd teaches English and poetry at SPSCC and is currently researching links between ancestry, place, and belonging.*

## It's not just a real estate deal

Washington AG Bob Ferguson has sued the federal government for illegally proceeding with the sale of the National Archives building in Seattle. The Trump Administration speeded up an earlier decision about selling the facility, announcing that it would award the contract to sell the building to a real estate broker this spring. The building's irreplaceable, un-digitized records are slated to be shipped more than a thousand miles away to archive centers in Kansas City, Missouri and Riverside, California. This will effectively eliminate public access to the records. Twenty-nine federally recognized tribes, Alaskan tribal entities, and tribal communities from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska, as well as nine community organizations, historical preservation societies and museums and the state of Oregon joined Ferguson's lawsuit. The AG website offers more details about the tangled path of the Trump Administration's effort to sell the Archives facility along with a taste of what's in the Archives: <https://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news>

Photos from Sand Point Archives: top, Metlakahtla children; center, Iditarod winner; bottom, Sand Point Archives building. These and other photos are posted in the AG's press release about the suit.

STYLING · CUTS · COLOR · PERMS

FREE CONSULTATIONS · FREE BANG TRIMS

"We'll trim it, rub it, or read it"

**JAMIE LEE & COMPANY**

309 E. 4TH AVE.  
OLYMPIA, WA 98501

360-786-6027  
JAMIELEEANDCOMPANY.COM

KAOS patron business.

BOTANICAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS

DEEP CONDITIONING · MANICURES · PEDICURES · MASSAGE · ASTROLOGY · TAROT

**AFFORDABLE CHIROPRACTIC CARE FOR INFANTS TO SENIORS**

Call me for a free consultation to discuss your needs!

~ Trevor J. Marum, Chiropractor

**VERT CHIROPRACTIC**

in Lacey at 360.999.9848  
[www.vertfit.com](http://www.vertfit.com)

injury care \* auto accidents  
back and neck pain \* migraines  
sports injuries \* posture pre & post natal



# Biden ends discriminatory policies affecting travelers, immigrants and refugees

## WIP contributors

President Trump and his advisors used their power to stop people from majority Muslim and other disfavored countries from entering the US, and to get rid of people from those and other countries who already lived here. Trump's "travel ban" first prohibited people from six countries from coming here and then was extended to exclude people from another six, including Venezuela. He turned immigration and asylum practices into tools to punish people who sought refuge.

The Trump Administration attempted to purge the United States of people who had lived in this country for years but weren't born here by deporting hundreds of thousands of people. It didn't matter if you had lived decades in the country. He ruined lives and disrupted communities.

Trump tried hard to end DACA, the program allowing people who had been brought to the US as young children by their parents to remain in the country without fear of persecution. His repeated efforts to curtail and eliminate the program were hampered by court rulings, but they represented a sword hanging over the head of thousands.

Trump even tried to turn the US Census from a Constitutionally required report of how many people live in the United States into a

report of how many of the people in the US have citizenship. The Administration hoped that excluding non-citizens would mean that Democratic majority states like California might lose Congressional seats.

All that changed on January 21, with a stroke of President Biden's pen:

**Policy change:** President Biden signed a Proclamation revoking the Travel Ban, including the "Expanded Travel Ban" that added four new countries to the list in 2020. It instructs the State Department to restart visa processing for affected countries. It further directs the Secretary of State to, within 45 days, provide a plan to expeditiously adjudicate pending travel ban waivers, and to provide a proposal for how individuals whose immigrant visa applications had previously been rejected under the Travel Ban could have their applications reconsidered.

### Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

**Policy change:** President Biden signed a Presidential Memorandum directing the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, to take all appropriate actions under the law to preserve and fortify DACA.

### Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians

**Policy change:** President Biden

signed a Presidential Memorandum to extend DED for Liberians until June 30, 2022, including extension of work authorization, and directed DHS to ensure that USCIS facilitates ease of application and timely adjudication for Liberians applying for residency under the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF) Act.

### Department of Homeland Security Statement on Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)

DHS issued a brief statement indicating that as of January 21, 2021:

- No new MPP cases will be started
- People who are already in MPP should wait for further information from the US government
- COVID-19 travel restrictions at the border are still in place, including Title 42, under which migrants may be immediately expelled from the border.

### Executive Order on the Revision of Civil Immigration Enforcement Policies and Priorities

**Policy change:** President Biden signed an Executive Order revoking Trump Executive Order that directed harsh and extreme immigration enforcement policies, and calling for revised enforcement priorities.

### Department of Homeland Security Memorandum Pausing Certain Deportations for 100 Days

- DHS issued a memorandum calling for a 100-day pause on certain removals pending a comprehensive review of enforcement and removal policies.
- Certain individuals are excluded from the deportation moratorium, including individuals engaged in or suspected of terrorism, individuals with an "aggravated felony," and individuals attempting to cross the border after January 20.
- The memo rescinds several enforcement policies of the prior Administration, including several broad memoranda issued in 2017 that implemented that Administration's hardline approach. It also rescinds the June 28, 2018 USCIS Guidance on Issuing NTAs, and indicates that USCIS should revert to preexisting guidance issued by USCIS regarding NTAs on November 7, 2011.

### Executive Order Reversing President Trump's Executive Order Excluding Undocumented Immigrants from the Census

*Nice work, Joe!*

## BOOK REVIEW

### United States of Distraction:

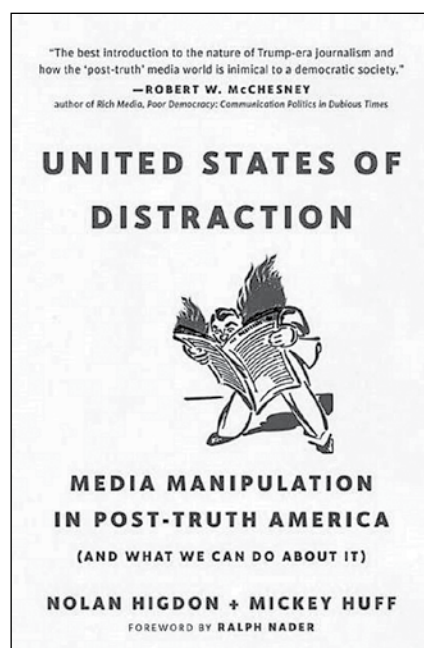
Media Manipulation in Post-Truth America (And What We Can Do About It), by Nolan Higdon and Mickey Huff

Ilana Smith

This book is an essential read for those who are confused by Trump's rise to political power and by the complacency of many in the nation even when confronted with his bad behavior and policies. The authors of *United States of Distraction* help us understand why so many people are taking up arms and spreading the rhetoric of this master manipulator. By examining the messaging and programming that led Trump's followers to support him so reverently, Dr. Nolan Higdon and Mickey Huff take the reader on a journey to explore the causes and effects of sensationalistic journalism and its role in the current climate of our country.

Both Higdon and Huff are from the San Francisco Bay Area. Higdon lectures in history and media studies at California State University and is on the board of the Media Freedom Foundation. Huff is co-chair of the history department at Diablo Valley College and is a lecturer in communications at California State University. Among other roles, he serves as director of Project Censored, an American media watchdog organization that encourages students to see the importance of a truly free press.

Starting with the founding doctrines of our nation, the authors take the reader up to the Trump



Era. This unfettered timeline springs from journalism within the

free press, through the corporate takeover of the media and on to the digital age. The authors paint a clear picture by understanding the forces behind media outlets and the money fueling them, coupled with the corporate manipulation of the American education system. This context helps provide understanding of those hoodwinked by a polished celebrity in the "post-truth era".

After the dismantling of the social protections in the 1934 Communications Act and the 1949 Fairness Doctrine, the media was primed to receive this showman candidate. Corporate America pounced on the opportunities abounding from the waning attention span of the digitally immersed populous. This book explores how corporate-owned media profited from Trump's "audience-amassing power" and in return gave him an ever-growing platform to market himself.

The polarization of America was influenced by the introduction of "alternative facts" and catch phrases like "fake news" and the detrimental labeling of those who questioned him as "un-American"

and "treasonous." Following polarization, the subversion of the mainstream media in favor of Twitter and Breitbart further contributed to Trump's platform. Trump's ability to share his messages directly to his followers partially enabled his misdirection of the masses and obfuscation of the ongoing theft of civil protections.

For those who are struggling to understand why friends or family members have ardently supported his rhetoric in blindly combative ways, this book provides a cathartic opportunity to reevaluate the process of their indoctrination and possibly provide a path to healing.

*United States of Distraction* flows in an easy-to-read, hard-to-put-down manner, with intellectual nuggets dispersed throughout. As they close, the authors leave the reader with a guide for free resources in areas including critical media literacy and civic engagement. Overall, a timely and insightful read.

Ilana Smith submitted this review as part of WIP's new grant for reviews of selected books. See the instructions on Page 2.





# What we already know about the idea of “healing”

Hamilton Nolan

World history books are not stories of peace. They are stories of war, jealousy and murder on a grand scale, stretching back thousands of years. They are stories of empires that rise violently, taste momentary glory, and are then destroyed — either by the rot of their own corruption, or by the rage of those they stole from. The times of prosperity and stability are just passing interregnums between cycles of power struggles driven by human nature. When we find ourselves faced with uncertainty, it's useful to stop and think about the things that we already know.

We know that for the past 40 years, inequality in America has been growing. Our nation has gotten wealthier and wealthier, and all of that wealth has gone to people who were already rich, while wages for regular people stagnated. We enjoyed a period of lower inequality for decades after World War II, but right around the time Ronald Reagan took office, the rich began taking more and more. They took even more wealth under the first President Bush, and even more under Clinton, and even more under the second President Bush, and even more under Obama. And even more under Trump. In this sense, we have experienced great continuity. We already know this.

Though American politics often has the appearance of being a vociferous argument, the fact is that the disagreements of our leaders are much less significant than the consensus that they have all agreed upon. For more or less the entire past half century, the military has gotten stronger, labor unions have gotten weaker, the stock market has gone up, and big business has gotten bigger than ever before. Trillion-dollar companies are no longer remarkable, which is remarkable. The power in this country belongs to capital. The government belongs to capital. Political parties belong to capital, though they disagree on various social issues, like siblings who claim to be different because they wear different colored shirts.

Among the people who actually wield power in this country, the left-most side of the policy consensus has long been, “Capital can do

what it wants as long as you give working people enough to live,” and the right-most side of policy consensus has been, “Capital can do what it wants,” and we have settled in the middle of those two positions. Global capitalism, the actual system of government that we all live under, has its own logic, and is happy to arrange the affairs of American by itself, according to its own needs. It is a steamroller inexorably creeping forward, and our elected government occasionally erects little barriers that may slow it down briefly, but which tend to be no match for its momentum.

Donald Trump himself is not interesting. Once you understand that he is driven by just a few base impulses — narcissism, aggressive ignorance, and fear — his outrages become dreary and repetitive. His value to the public has been as bait to attract the rats. The Trump era is interesting for what it has shown about a large class of people who were once considered to be respectable by the standards of mainstream discourse. In many, many cases, respectability is just an inch of makeup covering a bottomless will to debase yourself and harm others in return for proximity to

power. This, too, is a natural part of human nature, a driving force of history. Dangerous leaders are always carried along on the shoulders of cowards who have been waiting for a chance to show their true face to the world while obscured in the midst of a mob. The answer to the timeless question “Who Goes Nazi?” is always: More people than you would think.

We already knew, before the votes had been counted, that the Republican Party does not believe in democracy. It does not want everyone to vote. In fact, it is committed to systematically disenfranchising as many people as necessary in order to win elections. This is not an extraordinary occurrence, but instead a bedrock feature of party strategy that is vital to their success. We already know that in pursuit of electoral power, the most respectable mainstream Republican officials will lie, create bald propaganda, cater to racists, villainize powerless immigrants, unleash state violence on protesters, and lock millions of people in jail. (Democrats have their own flaws, but the simple fact that they are the opposition party has kept them away from pursuing the worst of these abuses as lustily as

their friends across the aisle.) They have done these things forever, in the shadows, and over the past few years they have had the chance to do them more openly. These are not the actions of a fringe group, but of the ruling party in the most powerful nation on earth. This is who we are.

I don't think a good person can be president. Or if he's good when he takes the job, he won't be by the time it's over. He may be better than the other guy, but that's all. There are too many bad things that will be done on his behalf. Too many fatal compromises are necessary to get there in the first place. Bad men have always had an advantage in jobs like that. They are less tortured by what they know, less troubled by the lies they tell, more at peace with the cut-throat necessities of maintaining power.

For the past four years, I've been thinking about what Trump's rise to power tells us about ourselves. And you know what? I don't think it tells us anything that we didn't already know. We feel like we are in a crisis because this president, in particular, refused to offer us the soothing appearance of normalcy that allows us to forget how the American pie is made. He delighted in dragging the ugly parts out of the shadows and flaunting them. But he didn't invent them. They were always there, politely ignored by the rest of us. Now they're all being waved around in public, and it freaks us out. The appearance of insanity has profoundly shaken us. But not the substance of the insanity itself. That's been there forever. We just need a new smiling face to make us forget it. Our little slice of world history only seems extraordinary because it hasn't ended yet.

*This is reprinted from In These Times, a 501(c)3 nonprofit publication, that does not oppose or endorse candidates for political office.*



## New Traditions Fair Trade

Café & World Folk Arts  
real good food always

Café closed until  
spring, but...

Check our website for  
store hours and  
come see us!

[newtraditionsfairtrade.com](http://newtraditionsfairtrade.com)

300 5th Avenue SW,  
Olympia 360.705.2819

## Thurston County Food Bank

Food Distribution at the Downtown, Client Service Center.

**Regular distribution 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Mon, Wed, Fri**

All food is prepacked and distributed through either the Drive-Up or Walk-Up distribution model.

Follow the signs for the vehicle line—please stay in your car—and friendly staff and volunteers will bring your food out and load it into your vehicle.

If you are on foot, line up along the Thurston Ave wall where there are marked spots to help with safe, social distancing.

Your food will be brought out to you once you check in.

### Office & donation hours

8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday

For more information go to our website:

<https://thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/80-2/grocery-distribution/>

Working to end hunger in our community

220 Thurston Ave. NE • downtown Olympia WA

REDUCE  
pain  
RESOLVE  
trauma  
RESTORE  
grace

FREE  
CONSULTATION

360.559.5680



Call Jazmine the Rolfer™  
to see what  
Structural Integration  
can do for you!

[bodyliteracyproject.org](http://bodyliteracyproject.org)

VICS  
PIZZERIA

233 Division St NW  
(360) 943-8044

Wildwood  
(360) 688-1234





## YOUR PHONE: a new tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

WA Notify is an anonymous exposure notification tool recommended by the Washington State Department of Health to help stop the spread of COVID-19. WA Notify can alert you if you've been near another user who later tests positive for COVID. It is private, anonymous and free. Models based on three counties in Washington state show that even a small number of people using WA Notify would reduce infections and deaths. The more people who use WA Notify, the more effective it will be. As of **January 21**, nearly 1.71 users had signed up. For more information on how to join, visit [WANotify.org](http://WANotify.org).

## TESC Art Lecture Series presents Gilda Sheppard and Simone Nicole Savannah

These presentations offer an opportunity for the broader community and the college to explore areas of inquiry and creative production through a lively exchange of ideas among speakers, students, faculty and members of the public. Lectures will take place every other Wed from 11:00 am via Zoom, beginning **January 13**. All events are free and open to the public. *Feb. 20*: Gilda Sheppard, Evergreen Tacoma faculty and filmmaker, speaking on incarceration and education *Feb. 24*: Simone Nicole Savannah, writer and poet, speaking on sexuality, black feminist criticism. For more information and Zoom links visit <http://blogs.evergreen.edu/artistlectureseries/>

## The Commons

The Commons is a documentary film about communities re-asserting sustainable futures using consensus, equity and shared resources – ancient Commons principles. The film explores the increasing privatization and destruction of commons, primarily in the United States, and shows how many activists are re-taking commons, re-establishing communities controlling their own commons: maker spaces, land trusts, cooperatives, local food production and distribution, shared housing, free education, community centers – all as Commoners stewarding what they share. The film is screening on Vimeo. Contact - [kevin@commonsFilm.com](mailto:kevin@commonsFilm.com).

## Garden raised bounty volunteer kickoff and hangout



**Feb. 17**, 6-8 pm. In March, GRuB intends to be open to individuals and households for outside volunteering, so if you want to get GRuBby as a volunteer, come join our Volunteer Kickoff and Hangout via Zoom on Feb 17 from 6-7p. We will do a GRuB checkin and game (online style!), share updates and hear what you've been up to. [goodgrub.org](http://goodgrub.org)

## Subscribe to Works in Progress

Support local journalism!  
\$35 / year. Doorstep delivery.

[Olywip.org](http://Olywip.org)

Checks to: **Works in Progress**  
PO Box 295, Oly WA 98507

## Just Housing Workshops

If you, your group, or your organization are interested in hosting a Just Housing workshop, please let us know! The best way to tell us is to fill out this form: <https://bit.ly/2KI8I7p>.

**Introduction to homelessness and encampments.** Participants in this workshop can expect to learn basic information about homelessness, social services, and encampments in Thurston County. The workshop will also focus on policies, practices, and issues related to encampments in our community. Further, folks will learn more about Just Housing– who we are, what we advocate for and why, and how you can get involved. Q & A is a significant part of this workshop.

### Moving beyond sweeps

In this workshop, participants will learn about, discuss, and explore:

- What “sweeps” are and how they are carried out in Thurston County
- Why sweeps don't work
- How the forcible removals of houseless camps impact all of us
- Olympia's history with encampments & sweeps
- Just and effective alternatives to sweeps, including Shelter-in-Place

## MAP - Mutual Aid Partners - Laundry fairies and do-ers

MAP volunteers provide essential services to people living unsheltered in the local community.

One of the biggest needs of any encampment is the availability of dry and clean clothes. Volunteers pick up laundry (Laundry Fairies) and take them to volunteers to do the laundry (Laundry Do-ers). The Fairies then pick up the clean laundry up and redistribute it to people in camps. Each Fairy has designated people and coordinates with Do-ers for location and time for dropping off and picking up.

OlyMAP can help make these connections and provides a structure to help complete this weekly task. If you're interested, check their website at [olympa.org](http://olympa.org) or OlyMAP at [admin@olympa.org](mailto:admin@olympa.org).



## CIELO

Since 1996, CIELO has served as a community hub, providing hope to immigrants in Thurston, Lewis and Mason counties. They educate, empower, and connect people with the resources they need to create better lives for themselves and achieve their dreams. These resources include: education, counseling services, crime victim advocacy, Desde 1996, CIELO ha estado brindando esperanza a inmigrantes en los condados de Thurston, Lewis y Mason. Aquí educamos, empoderamos, y conectamos a las personas con los recursos que necesitan para mejorar sus vidas y lograr sus sueños. During the COVID-19 pandemic CIELO's team has not moved out of our offices, we have moved in to the community. Durante la pandemia de COVID-19, el equipo de CIELO no se ha mudado de nuestras oficinas, nos hemos mudado a la comunidad. Contact us to learn more about our remote services. Contactanos para saber mas de nuestros servicios en forma remota. [www.cieloprograms.org](http://www.cieloprograms.org)



## Creative Writing: Fiction & Nonfiction – Olivia Archibald & Jim Lynch

**February 5 – March 12**, 2:00 – 4:30 pm, Senior Services for South Sound

Practice writing narratives under the direction of two masters of the craft. Activities will include brief discussions, writing practice, and small group critique in a nurturing environment. The class encourages writers to consider their own real and imagined life experiences as valuable storytelling material, especially when salted with craft and emotional resonance. (“Tis the writer's journey.”) General Public/Members: \$128/\$120 Six Sessions \*Limited to 15 students

## “Glen's Parallax Perspectives”

The **February 2021** TV interview with Joanne Dufour will cover a powerful worldwide campaign that is making progress toward abolishing nuclear weapons. Joanne has a long background in the peace movement, including experience volunteering with the United Nations in New York. Like Glen she is an active member of the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. This episode of Parallax Perspectives will explain the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which went into effect this January. For more details, read the article in this issue “A 70-year nuclear gloom begins to lift.” The interview airs on cable channel 22 of Thurston Community Media ([www.tcmmedia.org](http://www.tcmmedia.org)) at 1:30 pm **Mondays**, 5:00 pm **Wednesdays**, 9:00 pm **Thursdays**. Watch the interview and get a summary of the program plus more information at [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) in the “TV Programs” and “Nuclear Weapons” categories. Questions? Contact Glen Anderson, producer/host at (360) 491-9093 [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

## Laundry Services

Laundry Services are integral to supporting the health and well-being of those living unsheltered in our community. Our Laundry Fairies pick up dirty laundry from camp residents and take them to our Laundry Do-ers, then pick up the clean clothes and bring them back to their owners. OlyMAP provides orientation for volunteers and facilitates connections between volunteers and encampment residents in need of this service.



## WEST CENTRAL PARK GROUND BREAKING NEWS

**January 10, 2021** - The fencing is up, and we're waiting for construction to start. So excited about having this new addition in our neighborhood!

Construction is scheduled to begin soon on a new open-air canopy planned to house potential summer markets hosted by the park, as well as sheltering al fresco diners during the fall and winter. The project is the result of a collaboration with our neighbor, The Park Side Café, and will be situated on the east side of the Park's gravel event area.

In keeping with our mission to maintain a walkable neighborhood and a resilient, connected community, we believe the new canopy will beautify our space and support some ideas we have in mind for next year. We are grateful for the partnership with The Parkside Café and other neighboring businesses, and for support from all of you out there in the community.

Stay tuned for updates.



Free, take one!

¡Gratis, toma uno!

# Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry. A sea we must wade.

We braved the belly of the beast.

We've learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what "just" is isn't always justice.

And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.

Somehow we do it.

Somehow we weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished.

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.

And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine,

but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.

We are striving to forge our union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.

We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.

We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.

That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped. That even as we tired, we tried.

That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.

Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.

If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.

That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb, if only we dare.

It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.

It's the past we step into and how we repair it.

We've seen a force that would shatter our nation, rather than share it.

Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.

And this effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated.

In this truth, in this faith we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.

This is the era of just redemption.

We feared at its inception.

We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour.

But within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.

So, while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe, now we assert,

how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be:

a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.

We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation

because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation, become the future.

Our blunders become their burdens.

But one thing is certain.

If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.

Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.

We will rise from the golden hills of the West.

We will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution.

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states.

We will rise from the sun-baked South. We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.

And every known nook of our nation and every corner called our country,

our people diverse and beautiful, will emerge battered and beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid.

The new dawn balloons as we free it.

For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we're brave enough to be it.

*The Hill We Climb inaugural poem by Amanda Gorman, 2021*

