

Olympia Fellowship of RECONCILIATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM MAY 2013 TO APRIL 2014

NEWSLETTERS:

- We published six more issues of our bi-monthly newsletter, SW Washington's most comprehensive peace & justice newsletter. We mailed copies of each issue to hundreds of people throughout Thurston County and beyond, and also e-mailed it to more than a hundred other people nationwide.
- Our newsletters inform and inspire people in a great many ways in support of peace, nonviolence, the environment, sustainability, and social & economic justice. We publicize the activities of not only the Olympia FOR but also those of many other organizations. We publicize information our readers don't see elsewhere.

TELEVISION PROGRAMS:

- The Olympia FOR produced and broadcast another year of one-hour interview programs about topics with fresh information and insights not available elsewhere. Each program aired 3 times a week for a full month on Thurston Community TV, cable channel 22 in Thurston County. Ours is TCTV's longest-running series – **more than 27 years!**
- Our topics were: *"Creating a Sustainable Local Food System," "Solving Homelessness Problems in News Ways: A Systems Approach," "Social and Economic Justice Can Help Ease the Climate Crisis," "Peace from Local to Global," "Iran: Understanding Realities -- Achieving Peace," "Dangers of Genetically Modified Food," "TPP: A 'Free Trade' Scam Much Worse than NAFTA," "How to Resolve Conflicts," "Living Meaningful Lives," "Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System," "Preventing Humanity's Suicide,"* and *"Strengthen Democracy with a Community Rights Ordinance (CRO)."*
- We have posted approximately 100 of our TV programs since 2005 on our website so anyone anywhere can watch them. Simply visit www.olympiafor.org, click the "**TV Programs**" link, and choose the program you want to watch. Many of these include .pdf links to program descriptions and guest lists.
- Also, we videotaped and aired several special programs featuring high quality speakers visiting our area.

WEBSITE:

- Our attractive website, www.olympiafor.org, features newsletters, calendars, information about a number of topics (climate, death penalty, global economics, drones, etc.), and information about the Olympia FOR, our vigils, the theory and practice of nonviolence, etc.
- The website's "**TV Programs**" page includes a link to let you watch our current and past programs on your computer. Next to most program titles is a link to a .pdf document describing the program and identifying the program's guests.
- The website's "**Death Penalty**" page offers a huge amount of information, including many unique items written

specifically for the Olympia FOR's efforts to abolish the death penalty, and not available elsewhere.

PEACE VIGILS:

- We completed **34 years** of vigiling from 12 noon to 1 pm at Sylvester Park (Legion & Capitol Way) – every Wednesday since March 5, 1980.
- We completed **15½ years** of vigiling from 4:30 to 6 pm every Friday at Percival Landing, 4th & Water.
- A lively street band, the Artesian Rumble Arkestra, performs at our Friday vigils from 5 to 6 pm, supporting our vigils and delighting vigilers and passersby!
- We welcomed other organizations to join our vigils and featured special themes on some special dates.
- Many persons participated in our 38th annual Holiday Peace Vigil on Saturday December 21.

THE CLIMATE CRISIS:

- Our "Confronting the Climate Crisis" group works vigorously in many ways. We also conducted strategic planning to help us figure out how to focus our energies effectively.
- We mobilized many persons to oppose plans for transporting coal and oil through our region and exporting them to Asia. We mobilized many people to attend public hearings and submit comments through the governmental processes.
- We organized and sponsored a variety of public events that attracted good numbers of people.
- We persuaded Thurston County and the City of Olympia to commit themselves to divesting from fossil fuel investments and have spoken directly to the Washington State Investment Board, urging them to divest also.
- We have interacted with a variety of other governmental agencies and boards to urge them to protect the climate in specific ways. These include the Port of Olympia, which imports fracking proppants for North Dakota.
- We published climate information in each newsletter and on our website's "**Climate Crisis**" page.

AFGHANISTAN AND BEYOND:

- We strengthened our close working relationships with Afghan Peace Volunteers (aged early teens to early 20s) and vigorously promoted their heartfelt video messages for peace. (www.ourjourneytosmile.com)
- We continue helping local people to talk directly with young and adult peace supporters in Afghanistan and elsewhere through monthly "Days of Listening" phone and computer conversations. See www.globaldaysoflistening.org and www.thepeoplesjourney.org

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DEATH PENALTY:

- The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty persisted with monthly meetings where we educated ourselves and planned various outreach activities.
- We sponsored several speaking engagements, including three well-attended ones involving cases of innocence.
- We staffed information tables at Olympia's Pride Celebration, Tacoma's Ethnic Fest, and elsewhere.
- We organized film showings and discussions.
- We continue to offer our 6-session study group to faith communities and other local groups who want to study the various aspects of the death penalty. The host group may choose whether or not to include an interfaith aspect.
- We actively participated as an organizational member of the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and supported the Safe & Just Alternatives campaign of WCADP and the ACLU of Washington.

BRING OUR BILLION\$ HOME:

- The Olympia FOR devoted less effort to our BOBH campaign to cut military spending and use the savings to fund human needs, but we can mobilize if volunteers want to.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- The Olympia FOR displayed information about us in the showcase window just inside the front door of the Olympia Timberland Library throughout June 2013.
- We organized (and co-sponsored with other groups) several speaking engagements, films, workshops and special events on a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence.
- We continued our monthly book study group about nonviolent alternatives to war.
- We enjoyed our annual "Summer Social" to welcome new people and continuing members to meet each other and strengthen our friendships.
- We enjoyed a potluck picnic in August.
- We organized a public display of children's peace-related art for Fall and Spring Arts Walks in downtown Olympia.
- We staffed information tables and spoke to audiences at several local events.

ONGOING INFLUENCE AND SERVICE:

- We collaborated with a variety of local organizations to support their efforts and activities for peace, social and economic justice, human rights and nonviolence. We provided publicity, volunteers and financial support.
- The Olympia FOR is an affiliate member of Interfaith Works (www.Interfaith-Works.org).

- We actively participate in the Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net), www.tcpronet.org
- We responded to a great many requests from individuals and organizations and provided an abundance of information, referrals, consultation, services and support for their efforts for peace, social justice, and nonviolence.
- We actively participated in the Western Washington FOR's activities and contributed financial support to help WWFOR better serve us and the regional peace movement.
- Several Olympia FOR members took leadership in planning some of WWFOR's major events and activities.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH:

- We continually welcome new people to our mailing list and to our many activities.
- We accomplish a tremendous amount of good results because we are committed to our values, are well organized, cooperate well with others, and earn the larger community's respect and cooperation. Also, we work very hard!
- Our large, active Steering Committee meets regularly and provides wise and capable overall direction and decisions.
- Our Annual Gathering / Celebration / Election in May of each year encourages broad participation in strengthening the Olympia FOR and having a good time as peacemakers.
- We connected local folks with regional activities through the Western Washington FOR (www.wvfor.org) and other activities through the national FOR (www.forusa.org). A growing number of Olympia members participate in WWFOR activities.
- We are an all-volunteer organization that relies entirely on voluntary tax-deductible contributions.
- While carrying out many activities since May of last year, we also raised enough money to pay for these ambitious new activities.
- We even had fun raising money! Seattle folksinger Tom Rawson performed a highly enjoyable benefit concert.

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN WITH US
AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER!**

Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

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OUR FREE NEWSLETTER CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED.