



“Resisting Systemic Evil”

Western Washington FOR
16th Annual Spring Assembly
Saturday April 12, 2014
Pre-Registration Form

Fauntleroy UCC Church, 9140 California Avenue SW, West Seattle

The Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation (WWFOR) brings grassroots folks together every year for a Spring Assembly to share ideas and strengthen the movements for social justice, nonviolence and peace. Join us for our 2014 Spring Assembly on Saturday April 12.

“When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, militarism and economic exploitation are incapable of being conquered.” -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his “Beyond Vietnam” speech on April 4, 1967

Martin Luther King, Jr., an FOR member, never called any **individuals** evil, but he did recognize three **systemic** evils (racism, poverty and militarism). He also sharply criticized our economic system’s injustices to people. Nowadays b’ig business corporations also hurt our environment and climate, so if King were active now he might include this fourth systemic evil. Fortunately, people are nonviolently resisting these four systemic evils. WWFOR’s 2014 Spring Assembly focuses on how we can further build these movements of nonviolent resistance against systemic evil. Glen Anderson’s brief keynote on “Resisting Systemic Evil” will connect the dots and promote nonviolent solutions. Three workshops in the morning and three in the afternoon will focus well. Seattle’s Labor Chorus will delight and activate us after our catered lunch. **Join us for a great day!**

➔ Please bring announcements to post on our **Announcement Wall**.

➔ Please bring issue-based information, handouts, petitions, etc., to display and distribute on our **Information Tables**

You will enjoy a stimulating and positive day as you:

- Meet old and new friends
- Participate in exciting workshops (See the back of this page.)
- Gain and share knowledge and skills about issues and grassroots organizing
- Lift your spirits from the day’s social and informational energy
- Network with other activists to build stronger movements
- Browse information tables for handouts, petitions, etc.
- Post and read information on our Announcement Wall

We’ll even serve you lunch!

PRE-REGISTER: Please pre-register by April 4 if possible because this helps us plan.

DONATION: It costs WWFOR approximately \$15 per person to put on this Assembly. We welcome participants regardless of ability to pay, and hope those who can afford more will balance those who can afford less. Your registration donation includes a delicious catered lunch.

Print name(s):	Phone: ()
Address:	E-mail:
City:	ZIP:
Amount enclosed: \$ (See “DONATION“ above)	
Carpool: (___) I could offer a ride for ___ other persons. (___) I would like a ride.	
Phone us to discuss child care options. Other special needs?	

I could:

- (___) Set up tables and chairs at 8:30 a.m.
- (___) Help fix morning refreshments in the kitchen at 8:30 a.m.
- (___) Help keep coffee made and available throughout the day
- (___) Help set out the catered lunch
- (___) Clean up after lunch

Questions?

WWFOR (206) 789-5565 wwfor@wwfor.org

Mail this form to:

WWFOR, 225 N 70th St., Seattle WA 98103-5003

Thank you!

9:00 a.m.: Everyone is welcome to arrive. On-site registration begins for anyone who has not pre-registered.

Enjoy refreshments, social time, networking and information tables.

If you have announcements to post on the **Announcement Wall**, or literature or petitions for the **Information Tables**, please arrive at 9:00 a.m. or very soon after, so people will have plenty of time to read and consider them.

Please sign up for **MORNING and AFTERNOON workshops** on the **MORNING and AFTERNOON easels**.

10:00 a.m. We start promptly on time. WWFOR's Organizer, Ellen Finkelstein, welcomes us. Glen Anderson delivers a brief Keynote. 10:45 morning workshops. 12:15 catered lunch. 1:30 afternoon workshops. 3:10 closing circle.

3:20 p.m. We promise to end on time.

Workshops support this year's theme

MORNING 10:45 am to 12:15 pm

"How to Help Americans Psychologically Let Go of Attachment to the U.S. Empire" – Glen Anderson is a longtime organizer for peace and nonviolence, especially with FOR.

Americans unconsciously accept the "myth of redemptive violence" (the assumption that violence solves problems), "American exceptionalism," and the myth that the U.S. Empire saves the world. To change U.S. foreign policy, we must first overcome these psychological traps bogging us down in militarism. Peace activists are more enlightened than the general public, but even we are trapped by the psychological malady that we're too weak and powerless to achieve peace.

"How People Can Organize to End Poverty" – Eliseo Juarez and another organizer from Statewide Poverty Action Network (www.povertyaction.org)

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our nation's War on Poverty. While we have many victories to celebrate, we have even more challenges as economic violence has grown. In this interactive session we explore how Statewide Poverty Action Network works to end poverty through innovative campaigns designed to strike structures that uphold inequality and how we can build responsible policy for Washington.

"Criminal Justice, Violence, and Mass Incarceration" – Sam Merrill and Steven Aldrich from the Quaker-based advocacy group, Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy (www.fcwpp.org)

The rate of incarceration in the U.S. has undergone an unprecedented rise, with imprisonment borne disproportionately by left-behind segments of society, including many members of minority groups. In an interactive setting, we will look closely at the sources of mass incarceration and of violence due to homicide and suicide, and discuss what is being done and what we can do to address these problems.

AFTERNOON 1:30 to 3:00 pm

"Resisting Militarism" – Todd Boyle and Larry Kerschner are Vietnam veterans with long histories of working for peace.

The U.S. has lived with the myths created by militarism for at least the past 70 years. This workshop considers GI resistance, counter-recruitment, redemptive violence, the causes of wars (including who benefits), and how the education system fosters the myths of militarism and encourages military recruitment. Workshop members will discuss ways to especially resist militarism by supporting young people both before and after if they join the military.

"Community Rights – Letting the People Decide What's Best for Their Community" – John D. Pearce is a writer, facilitator, instructional designer, and Community Rights Advocate based in Olympia.

We live in the Corporate States of America. All three branches of the Federal government and many state governments answer only to multinational corporations and the richest of the rich. Asserting our Community Rights is the first step for "We the People" to take our country back. Join us to learn how a South Sound Community Rights Ordinance allows us to choose people over profits while protecting ourselves from corporate overreach.

"Money as Debt: A Primary Driver of War" – Robert Poteat studies the Federal Reserve and is active in FOR and Veterans for Peace.

Robert H. Hemphill, a manager in the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, said, "The banking problem is the most important subject intelligent persons can investigate and reflect upon." Our economic conditions and, particularly, dependence on war for employment are directly related to reliance on bank credit. Bank credit is debt that we use as money. War is the greatest builder of debt.