



WESTERN WASHINGTON Fellowship of RECONCILIATION 2015 FALL RETREAT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2015

9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM AT GWINWOOD CONFERENCE CENTER IN LACEY

PRACTICAL DEMOCRACY: HOW CAN WE MAKE IT WORK FOR ALL OF US?

All across our nation, people are outraged that democracy is being stolen away from us:

- Our economy has been hijacked by the 1% -- and even the 1% of the 1% -- forcing the rest of us to suffer with lower incomes and austerity cutbacks in basic services.
- The public wants peace, but the military-industrial complex and “national-security state” launch endless wars.
- The public wants food that is safe and healthful, energy that is clean and renewable, and health care that is affordable and available, but instead giant corporations – and the politicians they fund and lobby – give us the opposite.
- This anti-democratic pattern repeats itself in all sectors: Fossil fuel companies worsen the climate crisis; the gun lobby prevents laws to reduce gun violence; real estate developers causes local governments to continue suburban sprawl, profit-making companies privatize schools and lay off teachers, giant corporations consolidate ownership of news media to become monopolies and lock out alternative voices, political parties pass laws and gerrymander districts to promote their own candidates and reduce minority voting, and the list goes on.
- Many of our federal, state and local governments are run by people who are grossly ignorant, mean-spirited and corrupt.

The American people deeply value the principle of democracy, but nationally and locally, rich and powerful entities have corrupted the government to serve their narrow interests instead of the broad public interest. Some of the anti-democratic behaviors above have antagonized – or prevented – voting to such an extent that the U.S. has the lowest voting turnout of any traditionally democratic nation.

But elections are only a little part of what democracy means. Practical democracy would empower ordinary people – not limited to those eligible to vote – to equip themselves with accurate information, and it would empower them to wield actual power all year around, not just on certain election days. It would do this not only for electing government officials, but also for making substantive decisions in all sectors (economics, energy, environment, media, policing, social justice issues, governmental accountability, etc.). Practical democracy would make the principle of democracy come to life in every aspect of our daily lives!

Big political parties and the extremely rich persons and businesses that fund them try to distract us from the real issues and narrow our focus to mere electioneering. We must broaden and deepen our vision to applying democracy’s principles in practical ways to help our people and our planet.

Please join with us on Saturday November 7 for the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation’s 2015 Fall Retreat. We will enjoy an inspiring and practical keynote by Mary Lou Finley, who has decades of experience with grassroots movements for social and political change.

Then you can choose from among four morning workshops and four more in the afternoon. These eight workshop topics are:

- How white folks can organize for racial justice
- How to organize now for single-payer health care
- How to use Saul Alinsky’s classic model of local organizing
- How to monitor local governments to hold them accountable
- How to build the Move to Amend movement to fix campaign financing
- How people can create their own progressive media (print, radio, TV, blogs)
- How to organize effective grassroots direct action against oil and coal abuses
- How to strategize for nonviolent grassroots movements for social and political change

Together, we’ll make progress toward practical democracy.

TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION. →

At 9:00 am the WWFOR Fall Retreat will welcome people with light refreshments and social time. We'll begin in earnest at 10:00 am and continue (with **your own brownbag lunch**) until 5:00 pm. We'll offer light refreshments continually throughout the day.

The Fall Retreat will occur at the Gwinwood Conference Center in Lacey. (See driving directions below.)

We suggest a \$15 donation to help cover costs. (See more information below.)

For information Glen Anderson, (360) 491-9093
glen@olympiafor.org

This flyer will be posted at both www.olympiafor.org and www.wwfor.org

Pre-registration helps us better plan the day, so if possible, **please pre-register by Wed. Nov. 4.** Even if you can't pre-register by Wed. Nov. 4, **please come anyway!**

To Pre-Register: Use the form below or print one from www.wwfor.org or www.olympiafor.org

Questions? Contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

Directions to the *Gwinwood Conference Center* (the old main lodge) in Lacey, near Olympia.

From the north: Take I-5 to Exit 109. Turn right onto Martin Way, left onto College Street, left onto Lacey Boulevard, right onto Ruddell Road, left on 25th Ave SE, right on Hicks Lake Road SE, left on 30th Ave SE, right into Gwinwood and see the old main lodge straight ahead. Parking is in front of the building and beyond it.

From the south: Take I-5 to Exit 108. Follow the long exit to College Street. Turn right onto College. Follow the rest of the above directions.

Cost: We keep costs low and try to just barely break even. We can cover our costs if we average \$15 per person. We give discounts to young and low-income people upon request. Persons who can afford to give more will help offset the cost for those who have less. One way to keep the cost low is to ask each person to **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH.** We provide coffee, tea, and light refreshments throughout the day.

THANK YOU!

Cut on this dotted line and send the bottom portion to Glen Anderson, 5015 15th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503-2723
YES! I/we will attend the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation's Fall Retreat on SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2015.

Name(s):		
Address:	City:	Zip:
Phone(s):	E-mail:	

- **Carpooling saves gas and builds community.** I need rides for ___ persons. I could provide rides for ___ persons.
- Your registration donation can help cover our costs: Please donate \$15 per person if you can afford it,
- Low income folks may pay less. Some people voluntarily contribute extra so low-income folks can attend.
- **Please make checks payable to "WWFOR" and earmark them "Fall Retreat."**
- I am enclosing this amount: \$ _____ If you will pay at the door, please check here: [___]
- **Please fill out this form and mail it to Glen Anderson, 5015 15th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503-2723.**