

→ Pre-register now. → Mark your calendars. → Tell your friends. → Carpool from your local area.



“Acting On Our Values to Overcome Fear”

Western Washington FOR
18th Annual Spring Assembly

Saturday April 16, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fautleroy UCC Church, 9140 California Avenue SW, West Seattle
→ See maps at www.fautleroyucc.org

Every year WWFOR brings grassroots folks together for a Spring Assembly to share ideas and strengthen the movements for social justice, nonviolence and peace. Our 2016 Spring Assembly on Saturday April 16 will stimulate grassroots participation.

This year's theme and activities: Fear is widespread in our society. Fear is a normal human emotion. But some politicians deliberately provoke fear of terrorism, Muslims, Mexicans, refugees, LGBT people, etc. Other people are legitimately afraid of nuclear weapons, climate disruption, economic collapse, etc. Some of us are afraid of taking bolder steps in working for peace and social justice.

Fear - even well-justified fear - can cause people to feel powerless and dissuade them from taking thoughtful and constructive action. At a time when thoughtful and humane boldness is needed, fear holds people back.

A good remedy is to ground ourselves in humane, compassionate values for peace, social justice, and nonviolence. For 100 years the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) has been supporting these values and urging people to act on them.

The Western Washington FOR's 18th Annual Spring Assembly on Saturday April 16 will help us do that. Instead of a keynote speaker, we'll begin the day in small groups briefly sharing our experiences acting upon our 2016 theme, “Acting on Our Values to Overcome Fear.” You may choose one of four theme-related workshops in the morning and one of four different ones in the afternoon. We'll enjoy a catered lunch and a brief performance by the Seattle Labor Chorus.

→ 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:

- Connect with old friends, and meet new friends
- Participate in exciting workshops (*See next 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!

Sponsor: Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation (206) 789-5565 wwfor@wwfor.org www.wwfor.org

Information: This is posted on www.wwfor.org Contact Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 glenanderson@integra.net

Pre-Register by April 7 if possible (see next page) because this helps us plan. But even if you don't pre-register, come anyway!

Donation: It costs WWFOR approximately \$15 per person to put on this Spring 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:
Make checks payable to WWFOR or pay at the door. (See “DONATION” above.) Amount enclosed: \$	
Carpool: () I could offer a ride for other persons. () I would like a ride.	
Do have any special needs?	

Mail this form and checks (payable to WWFOR) to: Glen Anderson, 5015 15th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503-2723
Questions? Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 glenanderson@integra.net

Your special bonus for inviting 3 or more persons who attend the Spring Assembly is a \$10 gift certificate for the national FOR's bookstore.

Arrive as early as 9:00 a.m. for social time and refreshments. The program will start promptly at 10:00. We'll end at 3:30.

Morning workshops run from 10:50 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

“The Role of Death In Life” – Deborah Jacobs, Executive Director for the Ernest Becker Foundation, and a longtime advocate for social justice. A discussion of cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker’s theories and the scientific experimentation that has proven them over the 40+ years since the publication of his Pulitzer Prize winning, *The Denial of Death*. With the study of Terror Management Theory (TMT), researchers have demonstrated the profound impact that subconscious death anxiety has on our individual and societal behaviors. To achieve a more peaceful and humane world, we must address death anxiety.

“Acting on Our Values to Overcome Fear” – Eva Bowen, retired teacher, advocate/activist for overcoming racism in education system and beyond. She will share personal stories about fear, racism, other biases, and working daily to overcome them in the educational system and our larger society. She will bring paper and pencils so participants will be able to take time to write for reflection and then discuss that reflection with someone sitting next to them. This workshop will include time for participants’ comments and questions.

“Marketing global nuclear disarmament: Shouldn’t it be easy?” Tim Russell, decades-long activist for nuclear disarmament, also college sociology instructor and small business owner. Nobody wants extinction, so shouldn't marketing nuclear disarmament be easy? The U.S. is escalating another nuclear arms race by spending \$350 billion in the next ten years for all new warheads and delivery systems for each leg of the nuclear triad. How can we stop this? Workshop participants will understand various stakeholders’ values and nuclear weapons. We’ll craft an appeal that will resonates with and motivates the American public.

“Intersectionality: Fear, Power and Courage” Several of WWFOR’s current Mike Yarrow Peace Fellows (Tibaria Alnouri, Edwin Carlos, Sofian Mahmoud, Sophie Morada, Sitara Nath, Komalpreet Sahota) will facilitate the morning workshop and a different combination will facilitate a somewhat different workshop in the afternoon. Join with the MYPFs in reflecting together in a shared space of respect and trust. Through thought-provoking activities, we hope to collectively grow aware of the roles privilege, power, and fear play in fueling our actions and intentions. The Peace Fellows will also be sharing how these forces have shaped their activism and social justice initiatives.

Afternoon workshops run from 1:40 to 3:10 p.m.

“The Necessity Defense: Breaking the law to enforce the law -Climate Change and Civil Disobedience” – Abby Brockway, defendant in January’s Delta 5 trial of persons who nonviolently blocked an oil train in Everett. Motivated to act by fear of things staying the same, The Delta 5 felt called to act when they saw no reasonable legal alternative that would match the scale of the proposed fossil fuel expansion projects creating a fossil fuel corridor along the west coast. This workshop will open up the conversation to discuss what is our duty as citizens and what prevents us from doing deeper work that we might feel called to do.

“The Root of War is Fear” – Weldon Nisly, retired Mennonite pastor, committed to just peacebuilding. Thomas Merton revealed this truth a half century ago in the midst of war. Yet people still let fear and war subvert their deepest values and the common good. Together we will explore the roots of fear that are the root of war and values that counter fear and war. I will include stories from being in Iraq in 2003, 2010, and 2014 with Christian Peacemaker Teams.

“Walking with Fear and Hope: Lessons from Nonviolent Communication, mindfulness, and cognitive processing therapy” – Zackery Driver (a former inmate now committed to nonviolence) and Brian Chang (a veteran with an MSW) are leaders in the Freedom Project, an affiliate of the national FOR that serves inmates and those recently released back into the community. Fear arises from evaluations we place upon persons, places, or ideas. Fundamentally, fear is simply information that can help us better understand ourselves. Unprocessed fear — fear that is left in isolation — harbors needless suffering. When we mindfully embrace and process our fears, we become fully integrated with our deepest selves and can become effective agents for social justice.

“Intersectionality: Fear, Power and Courage” Several of WWFOR’s current Mike Yarrow Peace Fellows (Tibaria Alnouri, Edwin Carlos, Sofian Mahmoud, Sophie Morada, Sitara Nath, Komalpreet Sahota) will facilitate the morning workshop and a different combination will facilitate a somewhat different workshop in the afternoon. Join with the MYPFs in reflecting together in a shared space of respect and trust. Through thought-provoking activities, we hope to collectively grow aware of the roles privilege, power, and fear play in fueling our actions and intentions. The Peace Fellows will also be sharing how these forces have shaped their activism and social justice initiatives.