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***WWFOR** seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.*

“We Just Do the Best We Can”

by Ellen Finkelstein

I have been reminded by our collective loss about how much one person influences so many lives. Some touch us profoundly and we are [temporarily] unsure how to carry the work of justice forward.

Maya Angelou was an incredibly strong voice of resilience and hope for me. At a time when I needed to believe, “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” let me know that it is possible to survive and thrive. Her powerful voice and amazing history influenced me and generations of women (and men) to find my voice, to stand with those who are oppressed, to struggle for justice, to be an active change-maker, and to find joy.

Mike Yarrow told his granddaughter shortly before he died that “We just do the best we can.” Mike did magnificently; we should all aspire to do so well. He will be deeply missed by so many of us. I had the privilege to work with Mike in SNOW, to follow him as staff for WWFOR, and to continue to learn from and be challenged by him. As I work with Kaeley Pruitt-Hamm and Dante Garcia (former PATs) to continue one part of Mike’s legacy with this summer’s Peace Activist Trainee (PAT) program, I am reminded of his passion, his power to connect, to inspire, and to act – with his inimitable sense of humor and love of life [and Ruth!].

I am left thinking about all of us who work for peace and justice. How we might embrace the wisdom to “just do the best we can.” There are certainly enormous challenges and obstacles. But think of how we can support each other, do our part, and rejoice in all that we can – and do – accomplish. I recently heard “Change is inevitable but Justice is not. We have to work at it.”

Some of the things that give me energy and hope include the restorative justice pilot project in Seattle’s Central District; the incredible energy and leadership by young people of color to oppose a new Juvenile Detention Center; the creativity and exuberance of people working to oppose oil and coal trains and stop the Keystone Pipeline and celebrate the Earth; the Campaign Nonviolence that would “mainstream nonviolence” and offers us an opportunity September 21-27 to join with others; and the work by many to connect the dots among “silo” issues.

I was recently on the Gulf Coast of Florida and watched manatees swimming parallel to the beach as I walked with dear friends. A moment of beauty and joy and affirmation of why I do what I do. And why I believe that – together – we can still change the world.

Anarchism, Sabotage, and Direct Action

by Larry Kerschner

Anarchism, sabotage, and Direct Action are terms that are generally misunderstood. The standard media propaganda would have you picture a wild-eyed bomb thrower when you see these terms. Anarchism is actually based on the belief that it is not necessary to have a government, or any form of authority, in order for people to do the right thing and that the core elements of human nature include sentiments of solidarity, mutual support, sympathy, and concern for others. Those who don’t believe that a co-operative society is possible need to take a closer look at our current society. Most people co-operate in mutual aid on a daily basis.

Laws and regulations attempt to show a model of society which in our case happens to be a capitalist model. This society would not exist without the active and voluntary co-operation of the vast majority of citizens. If the citizens, in order to form a more perfect union, decide that the current model is not relevant and antithetical to our well-being, they can through non-cooperation, direct action, sabotage, tax refusal, and many other forms of freedom create a new social structure.

Anarchism does not mean nihilism. It means eliminating any current coercive structure – be it government, bureaucracy, racism, militarism, poverty, sexism, or homophobia – that prevents our benevolent natural social impulses to flower. The current relationship we have with the power structure is just a relationship. We can change our relationships any time we wish.

According to Noam Chomsky, “Anarchism, in my view, is an expression of the idea that the burden of proof is always on those who argue that authority and domination are necessary. They have to demonstrate, with powerful argument, that that conclusion is correct. If they cannot, then the institutions they defend should be considered illegitimate. How one should react to illegitimate authority depends on circumstances and conditions: there are no formulas.”

Sabotage is another term that carries dark, demonic, and nefarious overtones. Sabotage hinges partially on (Continued on Page 2)

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the distinction between property rights and human rights. It is a method that the 99% can use, in secret, to affect the plans, desires, and social destructiveness of the 1%.

While forms of sabotage have likely been around since the first master told the first slave what to do, the modern form was recognized by the General Federation of Labor of France in 1897 as a legitimate tool in the fight between bosses and workers. Although there are anecdotal stories about wooden shoes being thrown into machinery, sabotage primarily means the withdrawal of efficiency. This was a response to the industrial efficiency of the “scientific management” being promoted at the time as the way to squeeze the last drop of profit from the labor of the cogs in the machine.

Sabotage can mean destruction of property but it can also mean indirect destruction of profits by deliberate inefficiencies. Sabotage can be as simple as railroad clerks misplacing bills of lading and freight handlers putting the wrong destinations on rail cars. Sabotage can be “open mouth” when workers tell the truth about the products and services to potential consumers. Work slowdowns are a form of sabotage.

Sabotage can affect and possibly even stop a war. Desertion is a form of sabotage. By 1970 during the American War in Vietnam, the U.S. Army had 65,643 deserters, roughly the equivalent of four infantry divisions. In an article published in the *Armed Forces Journal*, Marine Colonel Robert D. Heintz Jr., a veteran combat commander with over 27 years’ experience in the Marines, wrote: “By every conceivable indicator, our army that remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non-commissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous.” On May 26, 1970, the USS Anderson was preparing to steam from San Diego to Vietnam. Someone dropped nuts, bolts, and chains down the main gear shaft. A major breakdown occurred, resulting in thousands of dollars’ worth of damage and a delay of several weeks. In June 1972 the USS Ranger was disabled by sabotage.

Direct action can be violent or non-violent. The term was first used by the Industrial Workers of the World in reference to a 1910 Chicago labor strike. From a pamphlet of the time, “The economic power of the capitalist class, used by that class for the oppression of labor ... in the nature of things cannot be radically changed, or even slightly amended for the benefit of the working people, except through the direct action of the working people themselves, economically, and politically united

as a class.” Forms of direct action that may be considered violent are property destruction, direct assaults, bombing, and other forms of destructive political actions. Non-violent direct action may include sit-ins, road blockades, boycotts, workers strikes, and many forms of civil disobedience. Like sabotage, direct action is meant to interfere with or obstruct the action or intent of some political, social, economic, or other form of social authority.

Envisioning a Sustainable WWFOR

by Brenda Collier, Facilitator, Transition Committee

How do we get there? At the February Area Committee meeting, we finally acknowledged that WWFOR cannot afford staff: The treasurer had nightmares of waking up one payday without money in the bank to meet payroll! So a “Transition Committee” was set up to make a plan. [We currently expect to pay our full-time Organizer (Ellen Finkelstein) through September and our part time Office-Manager (Sara Rinehart) through November.]

The future the Transition Committee envisions is for a streamlined WWFOR where much of the responsibility rests with chapters and individuals and where information can be easily be shared on the Internet, facilitating better communication between FOR members and chapters across the Western Washington region. This will facilitate WWFOR working on issues such as nonviolence and racial and economic justice – either in coalition or as a WWFOR project.

The future the Transition Committee envisions is a WWFOR where we continue to do all of the things we are currently doing, but obviously this cannot happen without significantly more volunteer help.

In an effort to gain more information, we sent out a couple of email surveys to find out what people would like from WWFOR and how people could help. From these surveys, we found out more about what our members want, received interesting ideas, and now have a list of potential volunteers, who we are in the process of contacting.

We have updated a list of tasks that staff created several years ago from which we are creating a list for volunteers.

- We will need people to carry out office tasks, like checking email and answering the phone
- We will need people to be on the Coordinating Committee that will replace the Area Committee
- We will need people to represent WWFOR in the peace and justice groups we work in coalition with

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- We will need people who want to take the lead on issue-based peace and justice projects in the name of WWFOR

If you would like to help us move into a new and volunteer future, if you would like to help us plan, or if any of these tasks appeal to you, please let me know (Brenda Collier, at 206-524-2505 or bmcblmc@earthlink.net) or call the WWFOR office.

Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture

by Tom Ewell

It is now well established that the U.S. government condoned and practiced torture during the Bush administration. Two reports have confirmed this fact. One report was researched and reported in 2013 by a bi-partisan team on behalf of the Constitution Project. *The New York Times* headline following the release of the report was "Indisputable Torture."

This report was highlighted at a June 3, 2014 event initiated by the Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture (WSRCAT), and co-sponsored by a number of other organizations [including WWFOR], as we welcomed Brigadier General David Irvine, who served as a member on the Constitution Project panel, and other guests and local experts to an evening program of information that provided a summary of the findings of the Constitution Project report and a course of action for us to follow. [You can watch the event, filmed by independent journalist Mike McCormick at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46mxVTnG7G8>]

A second report is perhaps even more damning because it was conducted over a period of several years by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) which is charged with the oversight of the CIA. The SSCI had access to documents and interviews not available to the Constitution Project. Although the SSCI report was completed and approved in December of 2012, the SSCI did not vote to make it public until early April of this year because objections by the CIA caused its delay. It is still not available to the general public because it is being redacted by the CIA, and with their editing it is hard to believe we will ever see the full extent of the actual report. But the SSCI report is still an extremely important document and needs to be released so that the American people can learn as much as we can about the use of torture that was condoned and committed by our own government.

According to leading media sources, the SSCI report confirms the shocking reality of the extent of CIA torture far beyond the horrific practices already revealed. In response to those seeking to justify or whitewash U.S. torture, the report will disprove the contention that torture kept America safe. It will show that

torture not only failed to gain valuable information but also damaged the reputation of the United States and strengthened America's enemies.

TORTURE IS WRONG. It is a core violation of human dignity and human values. It is a violation of the Golden Rule codified in all major religions and all democratic traditions reject it. Torture is also illegal in both national and international law. Along with slavery and genocide, torture ranks as a supreme crime. The right not to be tortured is absolute. There can be no exceptions. A government that tortures and gets away with it is exercising power beyond all moral and legal restraint. Torture is a systemic crime, condemned by all civilized governments, including our own. If government torture is not banished, rights mean nothing.

If torture is not wrong, nothing is wrong. The public release of the report will only be a crucial first step toward the ultimate goal of the permanent abolition of U.S. Torture. The best guarantee for permanently abolishing torture is to hold the perpetrators accountable. The rule of law means nothing without accountability. To date, not one high official who ordered torture or who facilitated or otherwise participated in its implementation has been held accountable.

In this matter, President Obama has not been helpful. The President must reverse his previous position and appoint a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute U.S. officials responsible for torture, and allow victims of U.S. torture to seek redress in the courts. But Americans cannot wait for our government to act. Powerful forces are at work to prevent criminal accountability. It is also clear that the proponents of torture will continue to provide distorted justifications for "dark side" practices. After attempting to keep torture secret, after distorting the law to make it appear that torture is legal, after destroying evidence, and after attempting to undermine and even intimidate the Senate investigators, the CIA, along with top officials of the Bush-Cheney administration, must be held to public account. This accounting depends on an actively engaged public.

When the SSCI report is actually released to the public, we need to make our views known to the media, our congregations, civic organizations, unions, universities, and workplaces. We need to demand that our congressional representatives and prominent state officials condemn torture and to work for its permanent abolition. Ultimately, it will be the American people's unequivocal rejection of torture that will provide the best guarantee that the U.S. never again resorts to this inhuman act.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! COME TO FOR REGIONAL SEABECK CONFERENCE: JULY 3-6: Call Registrar Joanie at 818-599-0257 or oforjoanie@aol.com.

WWFOR Membership & Chapter Support

by Glen Anderson

The Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation (WWFOR) believes in the power of grassroots organizing to promote peace, social justice, and nonviolence. When grassroots people come together in local groups (whether in local FOR chapters or other grassroots groups), we can accomplish a lot.

For the past 40 years WWFOR has had (off and on) a committee dedicated to reaching out to recruit new people into FOR, to strengthen existing chapters, and to start new chapters.

Now that WWFOR cannot afford to continue employing paid staff, it is much more important than ever that we build up our grassroots people-power.

WWFOR's Area Committee recently approved the recommendation from our Transition Committee (which is helping us transition to an all-volunteer organization) that we revive WWFOR's Membership and Chapter Support Committee. I'm chairing this revived committee.

Our Membership and Chapter Support Committee can help WWFOR:

- Reach out into our local communities throughout Western Washington
- Recruit new people to join FOR, our local chapters, and WWFOR
- Involve current and new members in the activities of our local chapters and WWFOR
- Strengthen the existing chapters in Western Washington
- Start new chapters throughout Western Washington

This is an ambitious vision, but we can rise to the challenge. I believe in the old saying that "many hands make light work." If enough of us volunteer to work with WWFOR's revived Membership and Chapter Support Committee, we can accomplish this.

Will you serve actively on this revived committee? I need:

- At least one (preferably two or more) members from each existing chapter
- Several persons from communities without FOR chapters
- Several additional persons who have insights or skills related to grassroots organizing, communications, and related aspects that will help us succeed

Please respond directly to me [Glen Anderson: 360-491-9093 or glen@olywa.net] with your:

- Name
- Mailing address
- Area code and phone number
- E-mail address
- Skills you can offer, strategies and ideas for how we might proceed, etc.

I agree with the late Howard Zinn's optimism about the power of grassroots organizing, even in hard times:

"To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places – and there are so many – where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction."

"And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory." – Howard Zinn

War Tax Resistance

by Tom Shea

"Our government can only continue fighting its wars if we cooperate – with our silence and by its citizens dutifully paying the 50% of our federal taxes which are allocated for wars and armaments." – David Hartsough, March 8, 2014

Julia "Butterfly" Hill diverted \$150,000 from her IRS taxes and gave it to dozens of works for human causes. "In my letter to the IRS I said I'm not refusing to pay my taxes, I'm actually paying them, but I'm paying them where they belong because you refuse to do so." Rev. Steve Kelly S.J. spent 15 months in the SeaTac U.S. Detention Center, most of it in solitary, as one of the five Disarm Now Ploughshares. Hill's fame and fortune came from her 783 days sitting on a 180 foot-high, 1500-year-old California Redwood to prevent a lumber company from cutting it down. Kelly was one of five members of the Disarm Now Ploughshares sentenced for their nonviolent occupation of the Kitsap Trident Nuclear Submarine Base. Billions of dollars go to build and support these nuclear subs and missiles as well as the plan for a new fleet of Trident submarines.

Kelly and Hill are two of over thirty people in the film "Death and Taxes" who tell why and how they (Continued on Page 5)

War Tax Resistance

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did war tax resistance. Laced with upbeat music and documentaries of tax protests from all over the country, this DVD is a quick study. “If you work for peace, stop paying for war” is the motto of National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWSTRCC), which produced “Death and Taxes” and makes it available for \$5.

War Tax Resistance starts with education about the IRS. Who pays and who gets? Projected Tax Review 2015: Individual income taxes account for 46%, Payroll withholding, 32%, Corporate taxes 12 %, Excise taxes 3% (www.nationalpriorities.org). For 2015 Budget, \$584 billion goes to Department of Defense and another \$202 billion to militaristic portions of other U.S. departments, e.g. Homeland Security, NASA, FBI, etc.

How do people resist war taxes? Some simply do not make enough money by choice or in fact to have to pay taxes. Others file their 1040 form and refuse to pay a token amount (e.g. \$5, \$10.40, or \$50). They may send a letter along with the filing form to make a personal statement of why they are resisting taxes for war. It’s important to send the letter separate from the IRS form so you can copy to friends and representatives. Marking the IRS form as a protest invites the IRS to charge you with a “frivolous” violation which can lead to a penalty.

The IRS deals with tax regulations. The Courts deal with sentencing. In its 32 years, NWSTRCC records only about thirty people going to jail for resisting war taxes since World War II. To learn more about the variety of ways to resist paying war taxes go to www.nwtrcc.org or call 800-269-7484.

Moral Authority in a Globalized World

by Stan Sorshel

I took part in a “fair trade” study session at a synagogue recently, looking at moral authority in the global economy. We considered four historical examples.

In Exodus, Moses leads the children of Israel out of Egypt, creating a new nation in the midst of established tribes and nations. After finding food and water, Moses received excellent advice from his father in-law, Jethro: appoint righteous men to be judges.

“... thou shalt provide, out of all the people, able men such as fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain, and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all seasons.”

This judicial system was a foundational institution of civil society, giving legitimacy and credibility to Moses’ leadership. The Old Testament served as a moral, social, and civil document. It determined how life would be organized for generations.

The study group discussed a second example of moral authority – the American Revolution. Our Constitution expressed moral values, which were extraordinary for their time. It established individual rights and freedoms, separation of powers, checks and balances, and a nominally classless society – no divinely inspired King and no aristocracy. These moral principles defined our Social Contract regarding government. Individual rights and democratic government offset the moral authority of the King and British aristocratic traditions. The Constitution established courts – a foundational institution of democratic society. The moral, social, and political values in the Constitution would determine how life was organized for centuries.

The third historical example was the East India Company, which administered British Imperial rule in India for about a century, overlapping with the time Americans were organizing our lives under the Constitution. This global corporation ran its own private court system, favoring colonialists. Corporate administration of global empire had very weak moral authority and suffered problems with legitimacy.

Ultimately, Mahatma Gandhi’s extraordinary moral authority challenged British Imperial rule in India. Life in India is no longer organized around corporate administration of Empire.

The study group considered a fourth example – our current experience with globalization, defined by NAFTA-style trade agreements. These trade deals are economic, political, social, and moral documents, extending well beyond tariffs. NAFTA-style agreements derive their shaky moral authority from free market orthodoxy. We hear about efficiency, utility, deregulation, privatization, and globalization. These are corporate values with notoriously weak appeal to human interests.

“Free trade” demonstrates one consistent value: make global businesses succeed. That priority drives social norms, political decisions, and economic outcomes regarding the environment, labor rights, human rights, public health, internet free speech, and financial regulations. Two huge new NAFTA-style trade agreements, known as TTP and TTIP, will effectively consolidate those norms at a global level. They would determine how life is to be organized in 2050.

An excellent question came up in the synagogue discussion, “Yeah, but that isn’t really happening, *(Continued on Page 6)*”

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is it? Corporate interests wouldn't really **DO** that, right?" The question contains a presumption of trust. We trust that interests of powerful global investors will serve a larger public good. We trust in a moral counterweight to corporate power and self-interest.

Let's consider that. I know many moral, caring, honorable business people. At the same time, most of us reject the idea that corporations are people. Corporations don't care, and they don't feel. They are shameless. They have no souls. The bigger they are, the more they exhibit qualities of a socio-path:

"... callous disregard for the feelings of other people, the incapacity to maintain human relationships, reckless disregard for the safety of others, deceitfulness (continual lying to deceive for profit), the incapacity to experience guilt, and the failure to conform to social norms and respect the law."

Markets are powerful and efficient, but markets fail – spectacularly – when power becomes unbalanced. Society must apply effective moral, social, and political counterbalances to prevent market failure. When those counterweights are weak, failure is inescapable. Consumers, taxpayers, workers, and communities pay the price. NAFTA-style trade agreements have two fatal shortcomings. First their "dispute settlement" system – their foundational institution of global behavior – is actually a private justice system designed from the ground up to benefit global corporations. Corporations and global investors are the only plaintiffs, and nations are the only defendants. Claims are settled in private tribunals, run by corporate lawyers with no public accountability. They make decisions based on corporate interests, as written into the trade agreements.

Jethro had good reason to seek judges "out of all the people, able men such as fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain." Jethro and Moses urgently needed legitimacy and political stability. Trade tribunals weaken democracy and undermine legitimacy. Second, by design, NAFTA-style trade deals consolidate corporate global governance without any offsetting democratic process. This is a system designed to amplify privilege and self-gratification among a global elite.

Where the Constitution has checks and balances, NAFTA-style trade agreements explicitly favor corporate power. Our lived experience of this is growing inequality, weakened social cohesion, declining economic security for the majority of workers, erosion of democracy, loss of legitimacy, and growing political instability. In our current muddled morality, many admire the 1% for their glittering wealth, envy those with a secure job and a pension, and disparage those with the least

bargaining power and fewest opportunities. This is not the way to counterbalance corporate power.

So, do we trust global corporations? No. They are losing public trust. The burden of proof now lies squarely on advocates for these new trade agreements. They must prove they are not on the wrong side of globalization. Perhaps developing countries have a point when they mistrust our free-market values and prefer their traditional values.

The America Revolution introduced an era where stable democracies displaced empire and aristocracy. Britain's empire gave way to its Commonwealth – a term that speaks to shared prosperity.

In the post-World War II period, we lived in the moral afterglow of "making the World safe for Democracy [again]." We reached a peak of shared prosperity, where work had dignity and workers earned a share of the gains they created. Our personal well-being was connected to the well-being of those in our community. **AND** business succeeded!

About 30 years ago, shared prosperity began to fade. Today it is a distant memory for too many workers stuck in low-wage or temporary jobs. Globalization, as we've managed it, has failed. We know the basic of balanced, accountable, legitimate, sustainable, democratic governance, with a strong moral footing. We can do globalization right.

Pacific Call Needs New Editor

by Larry Kerschner, Editor

In 1955 the FOR area newsletter was re-named "Northwest Area FOR Newsletter" but continued to be produced at the FOR Far West office in Berkeley, CA. It was intended to cover news of the area comprising the Puget Sound area, lower British Columbia, and the Inland Empire. In 1981 the newsletter of the Washington-British Columbia FOR was re-named again to the "Pacific Call." *Pacific* as in "pacifism" and *call* as in "spread the word and get involved." The newsletter at that time was edited by Bruce Kokopeli (Bruce Pruitt-Hamm). In September 1984 Lisa Hicks and Bill Anthis became co-editors of the Pacific Call. In September 1985 Brenda Burton became Editor of the Pacific Call. In January 1995 Thaddeus Spratlen was Editor of the Pacific Call. In September 1997 Tom Savage took over as Editor, & in January 2009 I became Editor.

I have enjoyed the past five years taking advantage of the position of Editor to pick and choose articles I found interesting. It is now time for a new Editor to come forward. I will edit the final edition in 2014 so we need another volunteer to pick up the reins before the end of the year. Anyone who would like to talk about taking over this position can contact me at larry@peacepoet.me.