

Handful of Salt

Volume XXXV, Number 6

November-December 2011



Director's Report from Liz Moore

The 99%

Who is the 99%?
It is us.

I used to be one of the 50 million people in the US who can't see a doctor when they're sick. Now, I'm one of 50 million people who owe more on their mortgages than their homes are now worth.

Are you, or your family or friends, one of the 24 million who can't find a full-time job? One of the 47 million who need government help to feed themselves? Are you, like many of the folks who've posted powerful stories on wearethe99percent.tumblr.com, weighed down by tens of thousands of dollars of student loans? I've been in those spots, too.

Or are you someone who knows you are one catastrophe away from any one of these categories? *Or are you one of the 99% of people in this country who believes that this is not right?*

Occupy Wall Street has advanced this sense of unity, this sense of common cause and common interest, and with it a powerful inclusive economic justice vision. Rachel Maddow has reported key signs that indicate

the protests' growth to a national movement that has impacted public discourse. One example: the phrase "corporate greed" was mentioned in the news 164 times between August 10 and September 10. In the month since Occupy Wall Street started: 1,801 mentions of corporate greed.

And that counts—because naming reality is important. How many times have we felt the power of saying, "war is not the answer"—not because it was met with applause but because it is true? And the same goes for saying: corporate rule is hurting us, our country, and our world.

Occupy Wall Street, at this writing, continues to galvanize—and more impressively, to *sustain*—protests across the country including in Spokane, Boise, Helena, Portland, Coeur d'Alene, Seattle, and more. In this mass mobilization, people are taking to the street who have NEVER gone to a rally before. New activists are experimenting with consensus decision-making and working together for a shared cause.

I imagine that specific demands will eventually emerge—but there's no need to rush that, because the cause is already clear: we have to unite a broad and sustained movement to stop corporate rule, to curb corporate power in our economy and our political system, and we have to do it together. *Go to www.occupytogether.org for links and info. Support Occupy Spokane at Riverside & Monroe.*

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

35 W. Main, Ste 120M, Spokane, WA 99201 • 509-838-7870 • www.pjals.org

The Handful of Salt is published six times a year by the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. Its name comes from Mohandas Gandhi's salt tax protest in India, a successful, nonviolent, grassroots action that created significant social change against overwhelming resource advantages.

Steering Committee: David Brookbank, Megan Cuilla, Linda Greene, Mark Hamlin, Linda Krogh, Rebecca Lamb, Roseanne Lasater, Mike Nuess, Erica Scott, Ken Isserlis (Steering Committee Advisor)

Staff: Liz Moore, Director; Shar Lichty, Organizer; Alyssa Henderson, Amanda Hunt, and Regina Steele, EWU Interns; Carmen Fregulia, Gonzaga University Intern

Volunteers: Brock Baker, Gjonnette Cruz, Janet Fowler, Sheila Fox, Suzy Halberstadt, Garrett Havens, Greg Lahti, Richard Lasater, Teresa McCann, Jordan Miller, Margaret Mount, Mary Naber, Rusty Nelson, Nancy Nelson, Chris Nerison, Michael Poulin, Dale Raugust, Tom Schmidt, Nancy Street, Jeremy Street, Victoria Thorpe, Marianne Torres, Tom Webb, Joyce Weir, Greg Youmans, Bob Zeller

Contact PJALS: 509-838-7870, www.pjals.org, pjals@pjals.org

Volunteers Make It Happen

Contact Shar or Liz at 838-7870 to share your time and talents.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sun Nov 13: help with set-up and clean-up at the annual PJALS membership meeting, Unitarian Universalist Church 2pm-6pm

Nov 25, 26 and 27: help with tabling at the Fair Trade Festival, Community Building 35 W. Main

Tues Dec 13: help with set-up and clean-up at PJALS Holiday Open House, Community Building Lobby 5pm-9pm

November: volunteers needed to help with membership renewal mailings and calls. Dates TBA.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!

Thank you for your support of PJALS!

Our Wish List

- ◇ External Hard Drive for computers for back-up and storage. About \$100
- ◇ Canopy, 10' x 10', About \$250.
- ◇ Printing our Next issue of the Handful, \$450; Mailing our next issue \$100.
- ◇ PJALS' expenses for one month, \$6,000
- ◇ Case of Copy Paper, \$48
- ◇ Office chairs and desktop computers less than two years old.
- ◇ Markers and poster board
- ◇ Co-sponsor a Young Activist Leader \$500

Become a Handful Contributor! We welcome your articles, subject to editing for space and appropriateness of content. Contact slichty@pjals.org



Rusty Nelson on Peace and War

The death penalty in the US looks a lot like it did in 1986. In fact it looks so similar that, for the 87th time, I'm tempted to throw up my hands and give up any hope that

capital punishment will be abolished in my lifetime. But, while the recent execution of Troy Davis in Georgia underscores grim similarities, it also gives us some reasons to work harder than ever.

It was amazing to have Juan Melendez in Spokane right after such a high-profile state killing, and I hope you were able to hear him speak. Unsure about Juan's dates on Florida's famous death row, I had to ask him about Willie Jasper Darden, seldom mentioned these days as one of the likely-innocent men tortured and killed to make it safe for states to continue to kill their own citizens.

Willie was killed in 1987. It was painful for Juan to hear the name. He said, "He was a good friend, a mentor to all of us." We exchanged memories about Willie: his trial in which the prosecutor told the jury he wished he had a shotgun so he could *blow that nigger's head off*; the defense witnesses who were never called to testify; his five times on death watch where a window made the electric chair his constant companion; calls for clemency from Pope John Paul II, Jimmy Carter, and Mother Teresa; correspondence from all over the globe, often answered in calligraphy on lined, notebook paper. Willie was our friend and our inspiration for a quarter century of tilting against executions while most civilized countries were shoving lethal punishment as far as possible into the dark past.

Juan had an even closer friend on the row

named Jesse Tafero. After Tafero was set on fire during his electrocution, I put his picture on the front of an issue of *The Handful of Salt*. Years later, Sonny Jacobs came to Spokane to talk about her exoneration and release from Florida's row. She and her husband, Jesse Tafero, had been charged with the same crime. Their innocence was acknowledged after Jesse had already been burned to death.

Juan says it took a miracle for him to get out of prison alive, although he was innocent and had an alibi. He's right. The dice are loaded against poor people charged with murder, and the Supreme Court says innocence is no reason for it to interfere.

It's my belief that Troy Davis was innocent, but Georgia will not be punished for his murder (Florida offered Juan and Sonny no apologies as they were finally ushered out of the death house). In fact, Troy's family was charged for the expense of taking his body to Atlanta for an autopsy before they could take him to Savannah for burial. If the autopsy bothers you, consider the physical exam he was given before the execution. And that is not the *Cruel and Unusual* part. For 20 years, he was constantly reminded that he was going to be killed while he held out hope that the courts would acknowledge the crimes of the police and prosecution in pressuring witnesses to perjure themselves. Perhaps a judge would demand to speak with the witness whom others fingered as the person who actually killed the off-duty policeman. Perhaps the pardons and parole board would keep its promise not to execute while there were still huge doubts that his trial had been fair. Once, he had a last minute stay. The night he died,



(Continued on page 4)

(Rusty, continued from page 3)

he was given a last second reprieve by the U.S. Supreme Court, extending his life for three more hours of uncertainty before an untried cocktail of poisons was pumped into his arm.

Innocent people executed in the U.S? Yes, I can give you names and incidents, but don't take my word for it. Sr. Helen Prejean follows two cases of wrongful executions in her second book, The Death of Innocents. The second half of the book, by the way, is a wonderful way to get up to speed on the issue of capital punishment in the United States.

Perhaps you'll want to get involved with the PJALS death penalty project. It can be rewarding, but there have been some very bad moments. Good news is rare, and sometimes it is fleeting, as well. And our group has more at stake than ever. Three of our colleagues have close family members on three different death rows.

Washington has played it safe on innocence, but we haven't quite figured out what wrongful executions are. We tend to send the volunteers, the suicidal prisoners, to the front of the line, but we've had to take some condemned men off death row because they were improperly charged in the haste of a prosecutor to get a notch on his belt. Unfortunately, when a fairly progressive state, like Washington, kills a prisoner, it offers encouragement to more rabid states, and it gives cover to error, misconduct and murderous deception in jurisdictions with pipelines to death rows. Harris County, Texas is one such jurisdiction, but you may not have heard much about Chatham County (Savannah), Georgia, the home of Troy Davis. Since re-instatement of capital punishment, five condemned Georgia prisoners have been exonerated and released. Two of those were from Chatham County. Another man from

Savannah was executed three years ago after 34 years under sentence of death on testimony as flimsy as that against Troy Davis.

The execution of Troy Davis was a travesty, but it was nothing new. Every execution is wrong and represents a failure in our systems of courts and law enforcement. But our country is hardly ripe for reform as we crow about our successes abroad with the summary executions of Osama bin Laden, and now Al-Awaki, a U.S. citizen. Torture and summary executions have been around for centuries, but the U.S. has, until recently, been very modest about taking credit for this kind of homicide.

Davis' execution was a public mistake. Our Spokane vigil at Salem Lutheran Church was small, but hope and determination mitigated our grief. Democracy Now and MSNBC were in Jackson, Georgia to let a part of the world see the bizarre spectacle created by a state shouting "justice!" while pushing aside truth and mercy. We in the abolition movement are hopeful that Americans will continue to be squeamish, if not outraged, each time a life is taken in one of our antiseptic death chambers. We will continue to oppose each state killing.

If you are not yet ready to scrap the whole, anachronistic system of killing healthy, incarcerated human beings, join me in taking a small step toward civilization. Contact your state and U.S. legislators and ask them to introduce and support bills that would make it illegal to execute innocent people and hold jurisdictions and prosecutors accountable for gratuitous death sentences.

It's time for our state and our country to stop the killing.

The Death Penalty Abolition Group meets Wednesdays, November 2 and 16 and December 7 and 21, at 35 W. Main.

Hello PJALS!

Shar Lichty, Organizer

Although many of you already know me from my time with PJALS over the past two years, first as a BASW practicum student and then as a VISTA Volunteer, I wanted to say hello as I begin the new leg of my journey with PJALS as an Organizer. I moved to E. Washington 16 years ago from So. California. At times I wonder what I am doing in such a conservative area. My involvement with PJALS provides the hope I need to stay here near my children, grandchildren and friends and doing the work I love.

I first learned about PJALS during my time at SCC as president of the Student Awareness League which was formed and inspired by the work of PJALS. During that time, I met Rusty and Nancy as we co-hosted Sister Helen Prejean and attended my first anti-war rally at Franklin Park. This was the beginning of my work for social justice and human rights on a professional level.

When I learned I would have the opportunity to do my practicum at PJALS it seemed to be partly driven by fate; I was meant to be here. The ability to make a living actively working on issues I value is a gift.



Breaking Arab and Muslim Stereotypes

By Regina Steele, intern

My first event I attended as a new intern with PJALS was on Sept 10. PJALS volunteers worked hard to make “Breaking Arab and Muslim Stereotypes” an interactive, multi-media event that did indeed educate the public. The event included videos on Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism, and sources

We're so delighted to have doubled our staff! That's right... we went from one to two when Shar Lichty officially joined the staff team as an Organizer. Welcome Shar!

PJALS is a unique organization working on issues under the broad umbrella of peace, economic justice and human rights and recognizing the interconnection among them. This creates a perfect match between my values and the mission of PJALS. As my sister often says, I am “living the dream.”

During the past two years, I have had endless opportunities to be further educated on issues I am passionate about, gain valuable professional skills as an organizer, play a small role in campaigns for change, and form relationships with individuals from other progressive organizations. The amazing folks of PJALS form what I consider my large, wonderful family of choice, and that is priceless.

I get to look forward to going to work—not because everything I do as an organizer is exciting and glamorous. Some days the work is tedious and it is always busy, but the best part of my job is the interactions I have with PJALS members and supporters on a daily basis. If I haven't met you yet, I hope our paths will cross in a committee meeting or at a PJALS event as I continue to live the dream, working at PJALS.

of stereotypes of Arabs and Muslims as well as displays on historical contributions of Arab and Muslims and the history of head scarf in many religions and cultures. This event focused on issues such as how anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia have been used to manipulate national policies on war, foreign policies, immigration, and other issues. I plan to bring this event to EWU to educate and increase understanding of the Middle East.

Community rights, not corporate rights -
Vote **YES** on **Spokane's Prop 1!**

From the Wall Street bailout, to *Citizens United*, to the attacks on collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin, Idaho, and other states – we don't need to look far to see how entrenched corporate interests have become.

Proposition 1, for the first time, will put the interests of workers, our neighborhoods, and the Spokane River over and above those entrenched corporate interests.

What's become all too clear in our efforts to fight for democracy, social justice, and sustainability, is that our state and federal government are not going to "save" us.

Whether it's the U.S. Supreme Court deciding to give corporations the right to spend unlimited amounts of money on elections with the *Citizens United* case, or Congress bailing out the very banks that are forcing millions of Americans out of their homes – corporations simply wield too much power.

Communities across the country have decided to stop waiting for the state or federal government to save them. Instead, they've decided that they need to save themselves. They're beginning to adopt new structures of law – like Proposition 1 – which recognize and secure rights of workers, neighborhoods, and nature over corporate rights. And they're joining together to build a true grassroots peoples' movement to end corporate rights and powers.

We support Spokane's Proposition 1 because it is built upon the values of justice, democracy, equity, and sustainability – values that are at the core of our own work. And we know that we cannot achieve these without addressing corporate rights and powers.

Proposition 1 would amend the Spokane Home Rule Charter to recognize –

- The right of neighborhood residents to make critical decisions about significant new devel-

opment projects;

- The right of the community to a healthy Spokane River and aquifer;
- The right of workers

to constitutional protections in the workplace and the right to collectively bargain; and

- The rights of the community over corporate rights, eliminating corporate "personhood" and other legal protections from corporations who violate the community's rights.

It is time that the people of Spokane stood up to the corporate powerbrokers that run this city, who want to maintain the status quo despite the best interests of neighborhoods, workers, and the environment.

Join us in voting **YES on Proposition 1** – for the community's rights, not corporate rights.

Proposition 1 is endorsed by the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS), Center for Justice, One World Spokane, Veterans for Peace, Spokane Regional Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Community Building Foundation, Progressive Democrats of America - 5th Congressional District, Ganesh Himal, Spokane Holistic Chamber of Commerce, NE Washington/N. Idaho Building and Construction Trades Council, Neighborhood Alliance of Spokane County, Audubon Society – Spokane Chapter, UFCW Local 1439, and Washington State Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 44.

For PJALS' Steering Committee statement, please visit www.pjals.org/Prop1



Showdown at Suncadia

By Amanda Hunt, intern

On September 21, I attended the Showdown in Suncadia, in beautiful and remote Cle Elum, WA. Suncadia is a luxurious mountain resort in the majestic Cascade Mountains. This event was organized by Washington Community Action Network, and joined by many organizations from across the state. Shar Lichty, Brock Baker, myself, and 5 members of the Youth Sustainability Council left Spokane at 5:30AM. This was an action in direct response to Governor Gregoire's "private" address to the Association of Washington Business. Besides our governor, Phyllis Campbell, the Northwest Regional Chairperson for Chase Bank was also addressing the group. Unfortunately for the corporate fat cats, who were supposed to be enjoying activities such as wine tasting and golfing, Suncadia was not secluded enough. Hundreds of protestors from all over the state interrupted their quiet little retreat.

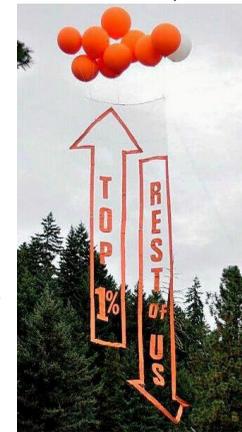
Upon arrival, we were quickly informed that the resort had been placed on lockdown due to early morning actions conducted by an inside group. This group made wake up calls to rooms with messages like "Wake up! We are in a recession," and put Wanted fliers, with Phyllis Campbell's picture, under the doors of sleeping guests. There were groups with letters on their t-shirts spelling out "cut tax loopholes" and at the entrance, giant arrows held up by balloons pointed up for the top 1% and the down for the rest. Everyone participating was very



energetic and excited. The state patrols stood back and watched as hundreds gathered and chanted, waiting with anticipation for the governor's arrival.

The main goal of this event was to interrupt the business agenda and to invite the Governor to our people's summit at camp Koinonia, so she could hear OUR agenda. The people's agenda included quality healthcare, quality education, quality jobs here and now, racial equality, and closing corporate tax loopholes. We delivered a petition and an invitation to attend the "people's summit," but she sent her staff person instead. One group of protesters was able to get into the resort and chanted around the time of the governors speech.

Although the governor did not attend our people's summit, this event was successful in meeting our goal: to state our priorities (the people's priorities and agenda), to be heard, and interrupt their meeting with the business leaders. According to Mariah McKay with Washington CAN!, "It was not business as usual." There were local actions taken in numerous cities throughout the state also, including the one here in Spokane at the downtown Chase bank. For me, it was very motivating to be amongst activists from all over the state and to experience the creativity Washington CAN! provided.



Change doesn't happen from staying silent

By Alyssa Henderson, intern

For every person, there is a story meant to be told. And for some people, that story has the power to transform a life. On September 26, I had the honor of meeting a man whose story impacted my life in a very meaningful way. I walked away with a new conviction and a fire burning under me. After hearing Juan Melendez's speech at Gonzaga School of Law, I finally knew exactly where I stood on the issue of the death penalty: completely and utterly opposed to it.

Juan Melendez, convicted of murder in September of 1983, spent seventeen years, eight months, and one day on Florida's death row for a crime he did not commit. There was no physical evidence that ever linked Juan to the crime scene—only two questionable testimonies from witnesses. He was found guilty and sentenced to death in a matter of days. Juan could not speak English and was not offered an interpreter. He was essentially helpless to the prosecution's attack and was unaware of the corruption that was going on with his defense attorney. He was shackled and told that his new home was going to be a jail cell. What followed was a torturous and agonizing taste of the supreme injustice of our "justice" system.

Juan's journey touched me to the core. As he told his story to the audience (it was a full house with many students, advocates, and community members present), I glanced around and saw the look of disgust on people's faces. I saw others brushing away tears, as was my mother who was sitting next to me. I found it hard to keep my own composure when Juan spoke of his friend dying from a stroke in the jail yard at the hands of the jail's medical staff, who didn't

seem to care that a death row inmate was taking their last breath. This man, this human being, died in Juan's arms that day.

I found myself not only appalled at what I was hearing, but I was becoming angry. Juan was innocent. It later came out that his defense attorney and prosecuting attorney had withheld a taped confession of the real killer and Juan was exonerated in 2002. He could have been put to death at any moment, all the while, it was known who was truly guilty. How many other people does this happen to? How many other innocents have been killed and now it's too late? They will never have their chance. Juan was lucky because he had his. But many others won't.

As long as we have the death penalty, these types of things will still be occurring. Our society is committing pre-meditated murder. It's time to wake up. These are *people* we are talking about, human lives that we are destroying. This is not justice—it's hypocritical thinking. Why do we murder someone when we just told them that we abhor the crime committed? We are becoming killing machines and this will keep feeding the cycle of violence—we think we are safer by putting people to death but statistics show we aren't. There *are* other options!

Juan's words transformed me from within and I don't say this lightly. I am now a proud advocate of abolishing the death penalty and if Juan can be that courageous to stand up for what he believes in, then so can I. So can we. Change doesn't happen from staying silent. We must speak out and we must keep fighting.



Work Not War: Bring Our Billion\$ Home

Shar Lichty, Organizer

On Saturday, October 8 PJALS held what has sadly become a yearly event, a march against US war and occupation to commemorate the 10th anniversary of US war in Afghanistan, now the longest war in US history. As part of our Bring Our Billion\$ Home campaign this year's theme was "Work Not War."



We kicked off the event with a community speak-out, hearing from veterans and community members on the human and economic costs of war. Speakers included Rusty Nelson and Mike Edwards from Veterans for Peace, service providers David Brookbank and Reese McMullin-Holford and Pastor Liv Larson-Andrews from Salem Lutheran Church. The speak-out was followed by a march through the Garland District in a show of support for our local, small



businesses.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have cost more than 10,000 Afghan lives, at least 125,000 Iraqi lives, more than 9 million civilian refugees and displace people, more than 6000 American lives and more than 552,000 veterans disabled, according to CostsofWar.org. One third of veterans return from Iraq and Afghanistan with identified mental illness. During the past two years, more soldiers have died from suicide than in

the field. These human costs of war are unacceptable.

At a national level, the two wars have cost US taxpayers \$1,250,000,000,000. Eastern Washington's 5th Congressional District's portion is \$2.1 billion. As our state legislators return for a special session to make another round of budget cuts to the tune of \$2 billion, Washington State has lost \$28.6 billion to what Martin Luther King called the demonic destructive suction tube of war. These economic costs to our communities result in cuts to lifeline services for struggling families causing further human costs, all of which are unacceptable.

Our nation's economic crisis must be addressed by adopting new priorities and bringing billions of war dollars home to create

(Continued on page 11)

Welcome to our great new interns, Amanda, Alyssa, and Regina!

Amanda Hunt is a senior at EWU and is majoring in Social Work with a background in business management. Amanda first got her taste at community organizing when she signed up to do a Peacekeeper training last spring as Eastern students were holding their “Cuts Have Consequences” protest. “I liked what PJALS was about. I knew that I wanted to gain more experience in mezzo and macro level social work. I was also very interested in many of the causes they stood for, such as economic justice and Palestinian and Israel human rights.”

Amanda sees community activism as important because she believes it promotes social change. She wants to gain more skills so that she can be more effective in organizing and after she graduates in June and hopes to still volunteer with PJALS as she works towards her MA in Public Administration.

Amanda brings many strengths to this organization, such as her passion for helping others and her leadership skills. This last summer, Amanda became a volunteer with PJALS and helped with several events which included the auction and roof-top party. As Shar said, “she can run the heck out of a kitchen!”

In 2-3 years, Amanda said she hopes will be doing something she loves and believes in, such as community organizing. “I want to make a difference in other people’s lives and be able to help them. This is what would matter most.”

By Alyssa Henderson, intern



Alyssa Henderson, from Spokane, strongly believes in the value of human life and has a passion for human rights. When Alyssa heard Liz and Shar speak on campus about PJALS she was immediately inspired by the concept of nonviolent actions to help improve the world we live in. Alyssa knew right away that PJALS would provide her with excellent opportunities to give back to her community. Growing up in a low-income area of Spokane, Alyssa was exposed to the vicious cycle

of poverty at an early age. From her direct experiences, Alyssa is motivated to fight for economic justice. Last spring, she went to the state capital for the Children's Alliance Lobby Day with the Social Work program from EWU. This event opened her eyes to macro field work in the form of advocacy. Through this event she experienced an authentic sense of solidarity and power as she marched with hundreds of people for the same cause.

With the time and energy Alyssa spends at PJALS, Alyssa plans to raise her voice and advocate for issues close to her heart, such as the abolition of the unjust and irrational death penalty. She lives by Gandhi’s words, “An eye for an eye makes the world go blind.”

After graduation Alyssa plans to take a year off of school while continuing to volunteer with PJALS in order to gain more work experience. Ultimately she wishes to work in the field of macro-level social work. She also intends to earn her Masters in Social Work at a later date.

By Regina Steele, intern

Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane
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Join the conversation with fellow justice-lovers!

2011 Membership Meeting

Sunday, November 13, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

At the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W Fort Wright Drive, Spokane WA 99224

RSVP to 838-7870 or slichty@pjals.org

Please support PJALS!

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane depends upon gifts and dues from members to continue to work for peace and justice, locally and globally. We welcome anyone who favors free exchange of ideas and nonviolent action to war or to inaction and ignorance. PJALS, 35 W Main, Suite 120M, Spokane, WA 99201.

You determine your own level of support and participation. Members also determine issues and projects that get the most attention and effort. PJALS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

Call 838-7870 to discuss the by-the-month options, or visit www.pjals.org and click "Contribute" in upper right corner.

Other membership options:

Name(s) _____

Essential/Vintage members \$60/year

Address _____

Retro members \$40/year

Phone/email _____

Precious Scholars \$20/year

Welcome Regina!

Regina Steele was born in California and grew up in rough, low-income neighborhoods, surrounded by violence, drugs, etc. Regina's family moved to Ritzville, WA, while she was in high school. Regina currently lives in Cheney, and is a student at EWU, majoring in Social Work with certification in Drug and Alcohol Studies.



Regina came to PJALS because she has always had an interest in Middle Eastern affairs. When researching PJALS, Regina liked the work being done in the Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee, especially the clean water project. She also liked the similarities to the Dalai Lama's work with promoting non-violence, and was impressed with the compassion the organization demonstrates. These are all things she values in herself.

Regina doesn't trust the news because it is subject to interpretation and is biased. She prefers to research things herself, and believes that truth influences one's values.

Regina wants to gain experience working in macro-level social work, create change, help people, and hopes to become a more rounded community organizer. She wants to become a strong advocate for issues, such as breaking down stereotypes and overcoming racism in our own community.
By Amanda Hunt, intern

(Work Not War, continued from page 9)
a strong, sustainable economy. As our state and local communities are facing stark revenue crises and responding with cuts that hurt the most vulnerable families in our communities, the need is as great as ever to end these wars, bring the troops back to their families and give them the care they need, cut wasteful Pentagon spending, and re-direct funds to invest in job creation, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and other lifeline programs which support struggling families and quicken economic recovery for all of us.

These human and economic costs have influenced public opinion with two thirds wanting an end to the wars—67% in two years or less. This shift in public support was evident during this year's event with far more honks and thumbs of support than angry shouts and fingers. I dream of the day when the public voice has become loud enough on this issue that we no longer have a need to organize an annual anti-war event yet I realize I will likely not live long enough to see our country at peace in the world. I will continue to play an active role in our campaign, a tiny yet important piece of the movement that is building across the country to shift priorities in spending to Money for People, Not for War.

Our Bring Our Billion\$ Home campaign is endorsed by over 750 individuals and 14 organizations. We're part of a national group called the New Priorities Network, which calls for four things: create living wage jobs; save services and education; end the wars and cut the Pentagon budget; and close tax loopholes on big corporations and the uber-wealthy.

If you have not yet endorsed this campaign, visit www.pjals.org/billions. If you are part of an organization that may be interested in endorsing, please contact me at slichty@pjals.org or 509-838-7870.

