

Handful of Salt

Volume XXXVI, Number 1

January-February-March 2012



Director's Report by Liz Moore

“Save Lives, Save Jobs, Raise Revenue” is the rallying cry of Our Economic Future, a coalition of over 150 groups pushing

the Washington state legislature to close wasteful corporate special interest tax loopholes. As you'll see in these pages, PJALS members like you have been very busy raising our voices together to stop the devastating cuts to education and lifeline programs for struggling families. We co-sponsored the Spokane release of the important report “Facing Race: How Budget Cuts Are Increasing Racial Disparities,” (see p. 8), and a caravan of PJALS and WA CAN! activists traveled to Olympia to “Occupy the Capitol” (p. 7), culminating in marches in Spokane and Olympia. Our joint march here (with Occupy Spokane, unions, and other groups) included the delightful experience of 300 of us caroling in the atrium of Riverpark Square with re-written tunes including “I'm Dreaming of a Fair Budget” and “It's the Most Critical Time of the Year.” More to come on this urgent campaign! In the meantime, check out LivingGreedy.com for “the best deals on closing tax loopholes to fund essential state services, guaranteed.”

This last month saw the 10th anniversary of the opening of Guantanamo Bay, making it the longest-standing war prison in U.S. history, in spite of President Obama's pledge to close it within his first year in office. December also saw the passing of the National Defense Authorization Act, which not only authorizes \$662 billion in funding, among other things “for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad,” and “contains a sweeping provision that applies worldwide the Guantánamo principle of indefinite military detention without charge or trial, and makes indefinite military detention a permanent part of American law for the first time in this country's history,” says the ACLU.

In times such as these, I am so deeply grateful and proud to be among a community of people like you, PJALS members, who are unafraid to act upon our principles and who are willing to put our time and efforts together toward building a broad-based social justice movement with the power to hold corporate elites and imperialist warmakers accountable to our communities and our values. The only thing that can counter the power of organized money is organized people, and every time you give a donation, volunteer, or bring a friend to an event, you are helping to build it.

“The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is today.”

—African proverb

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.

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Volunteers Make It Happen

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

PEACE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE ACTION CONFERENCE

Friday-Saturday, February 17-18, 2012

at the Unitarian Universalist Church,
4340 W. Ft. Wright Drive

Save \$\$ with Early Bird Registration before
Saturday Feb 11—only \$25 for members!

REGISTER NOW at
www.pjals.org/2012conference

Don't miss film "Maria, Full of Hope,"
performances by local
spoken word and musical artists,
keynote speaker Steve Williams,
loads of great workshops,
and the chance to connect with
like-minded folks and
charge your activist batteries!

Wish List

- **Canopy for Outreach Events**, 10' by 10': about \$250
- **Copy Paper for Event Fliers and more:** case for \$48
- **Printer Ink:** \$45
- **Conference Sponsorship:** many levels, see www.pjals.org/2012conference
- **Office Angel** to help keep our supplies and materials organized and tidy: Priceless!
- **Volunteers** to help with Conference and Reception set-up on Friday Feb 17 and with Conference registration and other needs on Saturday Feb 18: Incalculable!

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

Here in our golden years, in our pastoral, rustic homestead, Nancy and I watch quite a few movies. It's sometimes a good way to escape reality and, sometimes a way to confront and examine reality, depending upon perspectives. As movie-watchers, we found ourselves viewing the whoop-de-do around the presentation of the Golden Globe Awards, holding out the hope that a "Hollywood Liberal" or two might make an inspiring statement about Martin Luther King or the Occupy movement, or denounce militarism or capital punishment or money-driven elections in the temporary, bully pulpit.

My moment arrived when Iranian director Asghar Farhadi went to the stage to accept the award for his film, "A Separation." One might think of this as a dramatic scene. The film was not unknown. It won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival. But how can an Iranian speak in the U.S. without carving a bull's eye on his forehead? What can be said without inflaming Americans anxious to attack Iran as soon as Israel demands it; without defaming the hyper-sensitive ayatollahs of the Islamic Republic, without reframing the plight of the ordinary Iranians portrayed in his film? And why must he receive the globe from the poster-girl for western decadence?

Farhadi, without shaking Madonna's hand, which would have been offensive to the powerful clerics in his government, rose to the occasion. Brushing aside a list of topics he might have wished to explore, he said, "I just prefer to say something about my people. I think they are a truly peace-loving people." I bow to his

courage, his wisdom, and his restraint. And I will see his film, someday, too.

Farhadi's simple statement is a gift to me. I've been fidgeting, fretting and ranting for over four years about our imminent and ridiculous war upon Iran. President Obama's assurances of non-military solutions sound much too familiar, and I don't trust the people he trusts to advise him about war and peace. Decision makers in Iran seem willing to make the same bets Saddam Hussein made, since he won more than he lost, even if he did lose the last one. And Israel is the only country allowed to dictate U.S. foreign policy.

Is it too late for us to hear that Iranians are a peace-loving people? Could any American be upset by the high profile rescue of Iranian fishermen from pirates in the Strait of Hormuz? Those of us over 50 years old may still carry baggage from the public relations triumphs of the Shah, his American queen, and his American apologists. Perhaps we were fooled a second time by the October Surprise, the delay of the release of American hostages until Reagan replaced Carter in the White House, one of the great accomplishments of a shadow government which continued to haunt our country through the G.W. Bush administration and retains great influence in our wartime mentality.

Spokane is fortunate to have someone like Shahrokh Nikfar to show us that the ordinary people of Iran are not the nuclear soldiers and the scary ayatollahs and bureaucrats featured in the urgent propaganda of the U.S. warlords. Now perhaps Farhadi can introduce more Americans to Iranians who honor their heritage of Persian culture and simply tolerate a fundamentalist Islamic government because it is so much better than the oppression of the Shah and the result of something of an Occupy Iran campaign which

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Safe & Just Alternatives: Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty

By Shar Lichty, Organizer



The death penalty is the issue that stirs up the most emotional responses for me. It is also the issue I have actively worked on the longest. So I am

very excited about current statewide efforts to abolish the death penalty in Washington State. This year brings a new and robust campaign called Safe and Just Alternatives. Along with it comes an experienced campaign manager staffed out of the ACLU-WA office. PJALS has recently endorsed the campaign. For more information on the campaign, visit www.sjawa.org.

While this year's goal remains bringing the bill to a vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee, there is also a longer-term goal: to achieve abolition in 2013. Bills for the House and Senate have been introduced: they are HB 2468 and SB 6823. The focus throughout the next year is education of the public and our legislators



while building capacity to move forward during next year's legislative session. This long-term focus on education and organizing gives me hope.

In addition to endorsing the campaign, PJALS is working locally and statewide. Our Inland Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group (INDPAG) was restarted this fall and

now meets on the first and third Wednesday each month at 5:30pm. We have divided into three working groups in the areas of education/outreach, events and legislation with the second meeting each month dedicated to working towards the group's goals. Some of us participate in regular conference calls with other organizers across the state to discuss the campaign.

A small delegation will be traveling to Olympia for a lobby day and to sit-in on the Senate Judiciary Hearing on Jan. 25th and represent Eastern Washington on this important issue. We are working to put together a film and poetry series this spring and increase local participation in the campaign. For more information on INDPAG, PJALS position on the death penalty, our facebook group and a link to the **campaign's action alert**, please visit <http://pjals.org/issues/death-penalty/>

Water is a Human Right

By Regina Steele, intern



Nearly one billion people suffer needlessly without access to safe water. Unfortunately, one out of every five deaths under the age of five worldwide is due to a water-related disease, according to The Water Project. In response to

this crisis, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane recently held a Bowling

for Water Fun~draiser to raise funds to provide clean drinking water to the children of Atfal Khan Younis kindergarten in Gaza. PJALS believes that access to clean water is a human right!

PJALS' Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee (PIHRC) goal is to raise \$4000 for the water filter to be installed, and we've raised a total of \$2,501 thus far. All proceeds for this project will be sent to the

(Continued on page 5)

Washington United for Marriage: Campaign for Marriage Equality

By Shar Lichty, Organizer

Will Washington be the next state to grant this civil right to same sex couples? I dare to dream the time is now.

PJALS has endorsed and is actively working with the campaign for marriage equality in Washington State, Washington United for Marriage.

Governor Gregoire made a public announcement in support of marriage equality for this legislative session introduced the bills, SB 6239 and HB 1963. Since then,

King County Council and Tacoma City Council have both passed resolutions in support of marriage equality as well as two Republican Senators publicly announcing their support.

The campaign kicked-off with a Community Meeting with powerful speeches from Pastor Todd Ekloff from the Unitarian



Universalist Church, City Councilmember Jon Snyder, and two loving, committed same-sex couples and included campaign information from Halei Watkins. For more information on the campaign, links to news coverage, and an action alert to contact your legislators visit <http://washingtonunitedformarriage.org/>.

This campaign will be in two phases, the first is to pass the bill during the legislative session and the second on voter education and turnout in November should the opposition put a challenge on the ballot. Please contact your legislators and urge them to support marriage equality and look for updates on how you can help with educating your friends and neighbors.

Other ways you can get involved now are by joining us on Jan 28th 1-4pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church for a training on how to share your story for marriage equality, and at the Love for All: March for Marriage Equality on Feb 13th we are organizing with Westminster UCC and other community leaders (save the date and keep an eye out for updated information). If you would like further information on any of these opportunities, please contact me at slichty@pjals.org or 509-838-7870.

Water is a Human Right, continued from page 4



Middle East Children's Alliance's Maia Project, for the children of Atfal Khan Younis kindergarten.

The Maia Project was initiated because of a school in Bureij Refugee camp in

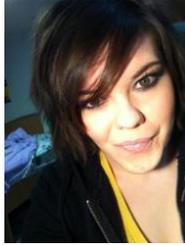
Gaza. The young boys were given the opportunity to choose one thing for their school. Sadly, out of anything these children

could have chosen, they chose clean drinking water.

Clean water is essential to overall health, a successful community and living a longer life. I strongly believe every human being should have the right to clean water!

Planning is still in the works for future fundraising events to help PJALS achieve the total amount of \$4000 for the children of Atfal Khan Younis kindergarten in Gaza. You can be part of this planning at the next Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee meetings, on February 14 and 18.

Young Activist report



By Molly Fitzpatrick, EWU Scary Feminists and Eagle Pride

The PJALS Young Activist Leadership Program has been an absolutely integral part this year in shaping me as an activist. Since I was sixteen activism has essentially been a “learn as you go” process for me, peppered with a few conferences and workshops here and there. I have pretty much always relied on the kindness and patience of experienced organizers to teach me their tricks and help me along. This program is basically a concentrated version of all of those tricks, and then multiplied by ten. I have learned so much and even if it ended right now I would have at least twice as many resources that I had when I started. I love that the workshops are discussion based and that I always go home with interesting handouts that I can take back to the organizations I’m involved in on campus. I’m learning practical things that I’m actually implementing to my every day life as an activist and it’s fantastic!

Liz and Shar do such incredible work and it’s amazing that we can have their expertise at our disposal. I’ve developed a much stronger sense of confidence in my organizing and activist ability since beginning the program. I have the courage and the practical ideas and solutions I need in order to strengthen the organizations I’m in (The Scary Feminists and Eagle Pride). This program has made me feel like I can make a genuine difference in my community and has helped me discover the strengths that I didn’t know I had. I’ve never felt bored during the meetings and I always leave feeling more empowered. This program has been sort of a recharge for my activist battery every month and I’m so thankful that it exists.

Young Activist report



By Jessica Jahn, SFCC Alliance

Only just recently have I embraced the lifestyle that is activism and feminism. I am so thankful for both. If I had not met Molly Fitzpatrick and in turn been introduced to the PJALS Young Activist Leadership Program, I fear I may still be living in blissful ignorance. Molly has helped open my eyes and PJALS has taught me things I never thought I would have the opportunity to learn! I know I’ve always had a rebellious and questioning attitude towards life, but I never had a purpose. Now I can say I have quite a few actually, all thanks to everything Liz and Shar have laid down for us. Honestly even if I hadn’t learned a single thing from all the meetings thus far, Liz and Shar still have an amazing slew of documents one can use to get something started, as well as how to execute it and all the steps between. They’re invaluable documents and I will be using them long after our Young Activist Leadership Program ends.

Walking into the Young Activist Leadership Program without any actual activism training/practice was kind of intense, but thankfully everyone embraced me with open arms. My favorite part of the PJALS experience has to be our discussions in the conference room. It’s a wonderful feeling to be in a room full of people all on the same page, ready to change the world. I am indebted to Liz and Shar for everything they have taught us, as well as all the experiences we’ve shared. They have also given me a much bolder feeling of confidence so I now feel I am prepared to organize my own events now and into the future.

Occupy the Capitol

By Amanda Hunt, intern



PJALS and Washington Community Action Network worked together to get 20 Spokane residents to Olympia to Occupy the Capitol at the end of November. We went to speak to our legislators and to encourage

legislators to take a “balanced approach” to the budget and to raise revenue by closing corporate tax loopholes.

We met with Senate Majority leader Lisa Brown and Representative Andy Billig, who were welcoming and excited we were there. We also met with 6th District Representative Kevin Parker. When asked to raise revenue and not cut programs, he asked us “Why are you doing this to yourselves? Why don’t you request to send the Department of Ecology to the voters instead?” I am personally concerned with the fact that he thinks we should spend less on environmental issues when there are many tax loopholes to close. We met with 6th district Senator Michael Baumgartner and delivered the “Facing Race” Racial Report Card to him. Members of the 4th district had quite the animated conversation with their representatives and Senator. Mariah McKay demonstrated how to speak directly and assertively to lawmakers.

We all wrote our personal stories ending in “I am the face of the 99%” to give to our legislators. Everyone received 99% balloons. The state troopers would not let the balloons in the capitol, so we tied them to the railing outside. During the rally, numerous speakers shared their personal stories. A doctor shared the story of his patient’s struggles, a child who suffered a massive seizure. This brought everyone to tears.

We marched into the capitol and

around the rotunda, chanting loudly. After a few minutes of making our presence known, we were interviewed by a journalist from the Spokesman Review, who wrote an excellent article about how we were there to ask our legislators to consider a balanced approach to



the budget and to raise revenue.

Next, we went to try and get into the Ways and Means Committee meeting. Several Occupiers were able to get into the meeting and interrupted. Two of the individuals were carried out by state troopers. Business as usual was interrupted.

We then concluded the day with singing modified Christmas carols around the Christmas tree in the Rotunda. The carols included “Tax the Rich” to the tune of “Let it Snow.”

The following morning we dressed up as the “1%!” This was a very creative and fun way to deliver our messages to our more conservative representatives. We delivered the “demands” of the 1%, which included keeping tax breaks for the rich like tax free plastic surgery, no sales tax on private jets, etc.

While the legislators have a tough job in balancing our state’s budget, we also have a difficult journey ahead of us. We need to continue to ask our legislators to close tax-loopholes and raise revenue, in order to save lifeline programs for struggling families in our communities.

Facing Race: How Budget Cuts Are Increasing Racial Disparities

Washington's communities of color and low-income communities have faced unequal pain in this recession. High levels of unemployment, home foreclosure, and racial inequities in health, education and criminal justice continue to devastate communities of color. By 2030, one in every three Washington residents will be a person of color.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed. Washington's budget decisions can either echo this, or make matters worse.

The report *Facing Race: How Budget Cuts Are Increasing Racial Disparities* highlights how the cuts made to the 2011-2013 biennial budget disproportionately affect communities of color in Washington State and worsen existing racial disparities. The full report, published by Washington Community Action Network with endorsers including PJALS, is available at: <http://washingtoncan.org/wordpress/reports/>.

Washington State gives away \$6.5 billion every year on tax breaks for special interests (see insert for examples). At a time when the demand for state services is increasing as a result of unemployment, the recession and the previous rounds of state budget cuts, cuts to lifeline programs for the most vulnerable families in our state are not a solution. Our Legislature needs to close corporate tax loopholes and bring in revenue in order to expand opportunities and reduce racial and economic disparities.

Key Findings: Health Care

* Cuts made to Basic Health and community clinics will make it harder for communities of color to receive affordable health care, which will lead to increased disparities in health. Basic Health enrollees are disproportionately people of color; Latinos represent 36% of

community health center patients though they only make up 9.3% of the state population.

* People of color also suffer greater health risks at birth. Cuts made to Maternity Support Services will jeopardize the health of 65,000 at-risk pregnant women and infants through the critical first year of life.

* 19,000 interpreter appointments are scheduled every month and over 80,000 Washington residents rely on these services.

The cuts to interpreter services will result in thousands of families being lost in translation.

Key Findings: Human & Social Services

* People of color are 58% more likely than whites to rely on home care services, and cuts made to Home Care resulted in an average 10% reduction in personal care hours. Cuts

* Time limits and cuts to TANF also disproportionately affect communities of color, as they are more likely to be low-income.

* With a 61.5% reduction in funding for the Housing Trust Fund, low-income families in need of housing support are more likely to become homeless.

Key Findings: Education

* Significant racial disparities exist within Washington State's education system.

According to the Education Trust and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, at the current pace it will take at least 45 years to close the gap between students of color and their white counterparts.

* Early Learning is shown to be crucial to future academic success, which is even more important for children of color, taking into account the statistic above. Changes to Working Connections Child Care resulted in 2,500 families being cut from the program, an increase in co-payments and the establishment of a waiting list for the program.

* \$214.7 million cut from Class Size Reduction will lead to swelling class sizes, making it

(Continued on page 9)

Students speak out for revenue at EWU legislative panel

By Alyssa Henderson, intern

In November, we new interns at PJALS successfully held a legislative panel on EWU's Cheney campus.



The panel was sponsored by PJAL-EWU (the new club on Eastern's campus that we kicked off in September) and the Associated Students of Eastern Washington University. Focusing primarily on proposed budget cuts to higher education, the panel allowed students and community members the opportunity to speak directly to their legislators, addressing their concerns. Representative Susan Fagan of the 9th District, Senator Majority Leader Lisa Brown of the 3rd district, Senator Michael Baumgartner of the 6th district, and Representative John Ahern also of the 6th district sent their policy advisors.

Expecting only a turn-out of around 40 people, we were delighted when nearly all seats were filled and 100 people had partaken. Students representing different colleges, faculty, and community members brought

forward their own personal stories of how budget cuts have personally affected them and those they know. Among the speakers was Dr. Ed Byrnes, director of the BASW program at EWU, and Taylor Malone, student of Eastern and also the coordinator of Next Up Spokane. Advisors were able to listen as MC Amanda Hunt introduced each speaker and helped guide the panel's transition from stories to audience testimony. There were differing views among the policy advisors in terms of how budget cuts should be addressed and solutions found and debate would at times get heated as the audience would challenge the dialogue some of the advisors would use, (such as the term "welfare queens"), and when people became adamant that not enough was being done to raise revenue. It was interesting to watch the political ping-pong go on as some of the more liberal advisors would speak against conservative ideals.

Inspiring people to speak up and speak out, our legislative panel was not only a success, but helped to give voice to the major budget crisis our state is currently facing.

PJAL-EWU is actively planning a week of action on campus during spring quarter 2012 that will introduce community organizing workshops and provide students with information on how to become activists in their communities.

Facing Race, continued from page 8

more difficult for students of color to get the support they need to succeed academically.

* Budget cuts totaling \$66.5 million to higher education financial aid programs will create cost barriers for students of color and low-income families.

\$7.5 million cut from Community and Technical Colleges will reduce access to libraries, financial aid counselors and student

advisors, resources that are key to the success of students of color in post-secondary schools.

Key Findings: Criminal Justice

* In Washington, juveniles of color face harsher sentencing outcomes and disparate treatment by probation officers than their white counterparts. Defendants of color are significantly less likely than white defendants to receive sentences that fall below the

(Continued on page 11)

Rusty on Peace and War, continued from page 3

Americans could not comprehend 35 years ago.

Yes, there is repression in Iran, but probably less than there was in Egypt a year ago. Yes, there are religious fundamentalists holding undue power, much as there might be in the U.S. if we choose a president like Rick Perry or Rick Santorum. But our favorite warmongers have a much stranger reason for wanting to go to war against Iran. They will probably have a nuclear weapon in 20 years!

That was a mighty powerful argument for blowing up Iraq. It was not an honest argument, but it was powerful. More people, even in the U.S., were saying, “don’t attack Iraq, Iraqis are not our enemies, this is just wrong,” but that’s not much of a case when Iraq had oil and a leader who was too easy to demonize. We weren’t told, “Iraqis are a lot

like we are, Baghdad is comparable to Chicago, Iraq leads the world in advanced education and the Middle East in women’s rights and religious tolerance.”

You know the nuclear weapon arguments: Pakistan has nukes; Israel has nukes; we have nukes, and why aren’t we afraid of what big military countries like that will do with more firepower than Iran could ever dream of having in a million years? After all our competition with Russia, don’t we know that one nuke is as bad or as good as a thousand? The nuclear arms race was just another facet of the campaign to make rich people richer and allow our friendly corporations to rule the world.

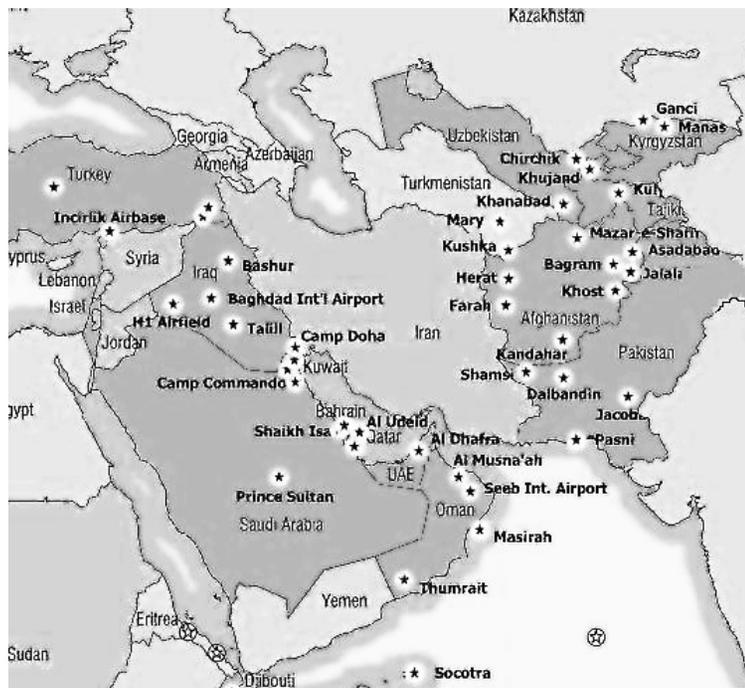
Before I submit to simplistic sloganeering, as if I were running for office, I need to say this: We must oppose this war, the current wars, the war against Iran, the war

against the poor. If the war is foisted upon us, we must continue to oppose it. A few of us are still learning that war is always our enemy, it is always a poor choice, a failure of imagination, a failure of human rights, even a failure to protect our country, way of life and loved ones.

Once we recognize that war is always our enemy, we can refuse to have people for our enemies. We can reject war.

Politicians are too busy raising money to ever convince us that war is obsolete, morally bankrupt, and utterly wrong. When the bulk of the people in our country learn these important facts, we’ll probably learn them from an altruistic film maker who believes her or his people are peace-loving.

(Continued on page 11)



Each star is a US base. But just to be clear, Iran is the one that is threatening us. — www.juancole.com

Rusty on Peace and War, continued from p. 10

I hope a war against the people of Iran is not a foregone conclusion, but we have plenty of bad precedents for bullying, blasting and bombing countries who identify with Islam, possess petroleum resources, and cultivate the animosity of Israel. It may soon be our responsibility to organize, speak and stand against U.S. aggression toward the diverse population of Iran.

In many ways, I think of PJALS as “my people.” As you struggle for justice and advocate for understanding and urge our leaders not to take the devil’s bait in Iran, I hope you won’t mind if I describe you as a truly peace-loving people.

****Join us at our next Peace and Justice Action Committee meeting to plan how we can resist this impending war: Thursday Feb 2, 5:30, 35 W. Main.**

Facing Race, continued from page 9

standard range. Among felony drug offenders, black defendants are 62 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison than white defendants. * \$127 million was cut from the Department of Corrections. Decreased funding for or elimination of programs behind bars and upon re-entry are likely to impact recidivism and life outcomes system.

Key Findings: Civil Rights & Citizenship

* Reductions to the Naturalization Program and the Washington New Americans Program (which help thousands of immigrants and refugees become U.S. citizens) will place additional barriers between thousands of immigrants and refugees who seek the rights and protections of U.S. citizenship

* Cuts made to Refugee Employment Services/LEP Pathways impacts the ability of thousands of people of color to participate fully in Washington’s society and economy.

Jobs, Not Jails!

Nationally, communities use rehabilitative programs for people in the criminal justice system 70% of the time and jail only 30% of the time. In Spokane County, it is just the opposite - we incarcerate 70% of the people and provide alternative programs to only 30%. Alternatives to incarceration can save taxpayer funds, create safer neighborhoods and end the cycle of revolving door jail sentences. Jail is far more expensive and less effective than alternative programs. So in order to create safer communities at an affordable price we need to shift away from outdated systems.

Alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders include substantial expansion of drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, and education and employment training programs that will reduce crime and preserve jail beds for persons who are a clear and present danger to our community. The expanded use of electronic home monitoring, work release, day reporting, and active community supervision are safe, more effective, and less expensive alternatives to excessive incarceration. These alternatives would benefit people of color, people with disabilities, and the mentally ill who are disproportionately impacted by our current criminal justice system. Most importantly, alternatives to incarceration can create lasting positive changes in the lives of people currently in the system and create a safer community for all.

Greater Spokane Progress, a network of which PJALS is a member, is forming a campaign committee to organize for alternatives to incarceration in Spokane County. For more information or to get involved, please contact Anne Martin, GSP Director, at anne@spokanepprogress.org or 624-5657.

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PEACE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE ACTION CONFERENCE

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Save \$\$ with Early Bird Registration before Saturday Feb 11—only \$25 for members!

REGISTER NOW at www.pjals.org/2012conference

Don't miss film "Maria, Full of Hope," keynote speaker Steve Williams, loads of great workshops,
and the chance to connect with like-minded folks and charge your activist batteries!

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©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

Precious Scholars \$20/year

Phone/email _____







