

Handful of Salt

Volume XXXIV, Number 2

June-July-August 2015

PJALS Turns 40, With A Purpose

By Tim Connor

Where did the time go? This coming year will mark PJALS's 40th year—hosting, organizing and generally radiating good works from Spokane.

To mark this remarkable milestone—of a transformative social change organization growing from a seedling to a mature oak in one of the nation's most conservative regions—PJALS staff and volunteers are already headed in at least two directions.

The first is to compile and organize the photographs, articles, and event memorabilia that chronicle the organization's rich history and personalities. The second is to make the most meaning and use of the anniversary as a springboard to the future, especially to recruit new PJALS activists and supporters.

To be sure, Spokane still has its social and political roots in Gilded Age economics and militarism. But it is becoming a more diverse, tolerant and worldly city as a result of the work that PJALS has initiated and supported over the years. The 40th Anniversary will be an opportunity to chronicle, celebrate and set new courses for change.

If you have stories, photos, and/or memorabilia from PJALS history, or if you'd like to join the Anniversary Team, please contact Suzy at shalberstadt@pjals.org. For announcements about celebrations of our 40th, watch this space.

Greetings and salutations from the Young Activist Leaders Program!

By Jamie McDaniel

We have been working our hardest to prepare ourselves to be the greatest possible leaders of tomorrow. Last month we worked on reaching out to the community by means of public speaking and building a community power map. A community power map is an extremely important tool to utilize because it one of the most effective ways to analyze who holds the power and how we can sway them to see things are way.

For the month of May, we practiced the art of self-care- which as we all know if often overlooked in our line of work. My personal favorite aspect of this workshop was creating a "word box" in which we put many words that hold significant meaning to us so that in times of trouble, we can draw on one of our words to empower us.

The turnout for YALP has been excellent the past few months and many of us are gearing up and getting ready to attend our

(Continued on page 7)

Highlights In This Issue	Page
Rusty Nelson on Peace and War	3
Smart Justice updates: good news!	4
Reflections from Interns	4, 6
Spring Flowers! Activity Report	5

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 quarterly 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: Louise Chadez, Cly Evans, Jessica Jahn, Adrian Murillo, Taylor Weech (Secretary), Deb Svoboda (Chair), Ray Thorne

Staff: Liz Moore, Director; Shar Lichty, Organizer, Suzy Vennard Halberstadt, Office Manager

Interns: Victoria Huckabee, Teresa Kinder, Jamie McDaniel, EWU School of Social Work; Suzy Vennard Halberstadt, EWU Women's & Gender Studies

Volunteers: Aaron Robert Kathman, Adrian Murillo, Alfredo Llamedo, Alyssa Henderson, Amanda Hunt, Anna Vamvakias, Brad Thompson, Brenda Frye, Bryan Burke, Bryce Peterson, Carol Bryan, Cassandra Guerrero, Celia Freidman, Charlene Shepard, Chris Nerison, Christy Anderson Crosen, Cindy Fine, Cindy Nover, Cyn Johnson, Dale Raugust, Dave Mcrae, Deb Conklin, Diamond Whitaker, Dom Felix, Eric Robison, Greg Jacobson, Hanna Kim, Jacina Carla Scamahorn, Jason Bennetch, Jennifer Calvert, Kelly Rae Matthews, Lorri Hanson, Lynn Sexton, Mark Hamlin, Mary Weathers, Maurina Ladich, Max Roberts, Mike Nuess, Nick CastroLang, Phil Svoboda, Ray Thorne, Ron LeBrun, Rory Rux, Rose Wardian, Suzanne Schreiner, Suzy Vennard, Tara Williamson, Than Hannan, Tom Schmidt, Valerie Waley, William Nover, Yegyu Lee

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

Volunteers Make It Happen

Contact Shar at 838-7870 or slichty@pjals.org to share your time and talents.

WANTED: Bookkeeping Assistant, Bookkeeper, Treasurer, or CPA

We're seeking new members of our financial team! We need volunteers to work with and eventually replace our current interim Treasurer and bookkeeper, Mike Nuess. Duties include tracking income and expenses in Quickbooks, issuing checks to vendors, semi-monthly payroll, reconciling bank statements, filing various reports and information with the state, completing annual IRS reporting, and reporting monthly to the PJALS Steering Committee.

Become a Handful Contributor.

We welcome your articles, subject to editing for space and appropriateness of content.

Contact slichty@pjals.org

Steering Committee Nominations are now open!

The PJALS Steering Committee is our governing board. Steering Committee members serve for 3 years to set forth the vision of our work, approve and oversee programs, raise funds. For more information and a nomination form, contact Liz Moore at lmoore@pjals.org.

WANTED: Volunteer Coordinator

Recruits volunteers via email/telephone; tracks volunteer hours in database. Plans for volunteer needs for events of various sizes and schedules accordingly. Must possess excellent verbal & written communication skills & have knowledge of Word/Excel and Google Docs; knowledge of Salesforce preferred. 10+ hours a month. Training provided!



*Rusty Nelson on
Peace and War*

Fear, Itself and Other Dangers

Earlier in my lifetime, Americans had an affinity for memorable statements of their elected leaders. In spite of philosophical, political, and religious differences, we could be inspired by catch phrases, warnings, and imperatives like Kennedy's, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Eisenhower's great popularity was no match for the spiraling power of the military-industrial complex, but we certainly remember his warning, today.

In the 21st Century, the messenger may have brilliant rhetoric and universal insight and still fall flat with a jaded and cynical public. Obama has electrified his fan base with his words and delivery, over and over, but he can't find resonance with critics who are hung up on one or two issues that make him the enemy. We'll go back decades, at least, for a presidential quote or go with a contemporary outsider.

It's not surprising that Franklin Roosevelt, with four terms, is remembered for more presidential zingers than anyone else. FDR was an orator in the golden radio years, and he seems to have struck a chord, as the U.S. entered World War II, with his declaration that, "The only thing we have to fear is fear, itself." It's a legendary line, and most of us have taken it for granted as a wise slogan from a president determined that his country, his people will not tremble in the face of powerful enemies, hardship and sacrifice. I invite you to be a little cynical about the famous sentence.

Roosevelt wanted to fully engage American forces in the war almost as much as

Churchill did, and the British prime minister loved war, even more than Roosevelt loved the U.S. Navy, a big chunk of which he sacrificed to Japanese air power in order to ensure war would be well-received by the American public. He didn't fear fear. He feared a lack of commitment. He feared Americans of the 1940s could not fully hate Germany, Kaiser Bill had been too easy, and many Americans were of German stock. Germans were too like Americans, but the Japanese were different, devious, and ripe for demonizing. Fear, itself, not war and all of its miseries and insatiable appetites.

And so, we were brave, obedient, aggressive and militaristic. We who survived were declared victorious without fearing what our victory had cost and would continue to cost. I think it cost us any good judgment we might have had about fear. Ask a police officer what he or she fears. Ask your family, your neighbors, your senators. Ask yourself. Do you believe the answers?

This whole discussion is distorted by the bizarre language of our culture. Have you ever considered putting the 'fear of God' into a 'God-fearing person?' In a closet in your house, is there t-shirt or a skateboard that declares, "No Fear?" Does your spirituality have room for, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom?" As a child, I was baffled by the word fear, because I was being raised to be unafraid and yet fear God, who was portrayed as a loving father and, simultaneously, a jealous and vengeful arch-sociopath. That childish word problem would be cute to recall, except I know there are thousands of adults who have yet to process the semantics.

We should fear the fears that make people want to kill Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Mohamed Morsy, and allowed Oklahoma to torture Clayton Lockett to death, but we should be terrified by the U.S. thinking, policies and

(Continued on page 10)

Smart Justice Spokane Updates -- Smart Hiring and community member voices!

By Liz Moore

In March, the Board of Spokane County Commissioners added two community members to the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council (SRLJC), a change long advocated by Smart Justice Spokane to bring the voices of those impacted by the system to the decision-making body.

Recruitment for these positions will begin soon -- if you are interested or would like to encourage others to apply, please contact me and I'll make sure you hear more!

The SRLJC also adopted its mission statement: *"to create and sustain a cost-effective regional criminal justice system that builds a healthy and strong community by fostering the best possible outcomes for the community, including reducing recidivism and increasing system collaboration."* Adopted goals include: *"Include community members, particularly those who are impacted by the system, in the reform efforts through meaningful participation on the SRLJC and its Subcommittees;"* and *"Evaluate and address*



racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system and have a commitment in all departments to achieve racial equity."

These goals are important commitments to real change coming!

In April, Spokane City Council voted unanimously to support the City's new **hiring policy, which gives applicants with criminal records a**

fair opportunity to be considered for City employment. The Council asked the City to work with the Human Rights Commission to publicize the new hiring policy across the community, and 2) track city hiring data and report on the policy's impact.

Congratulations and thanks to all the folks who courageously shared their own powerful real-life stories of the collateral consequences of convictions and incarceration. And thanks to all who emailed, called, and came to show support! As partners in Smart Justice Spokane, we've known from the beginning: nothing stops the cycle of crime like a living wage job!

Our community works best when everyone in our community can work!

"Seeing Our Plans Turn To Action" Practicum Reflection by Victoria Huckabee



Interning at PJALS has been an amazing experience for me and I have learned about so many different areas of community organizing and macro level social work. I am grateful for every experience I had at PJALS from participating in police accountability meetings and activities to planning the Mothers and Families for Smart Justice group, and even making hundreds of

event reminder phone calls. Interning at PJALS has taught me community organizing, leadership skills, and formed my professional identity. I feel confident and satisfied in the work I have done and in the work I will continue to do with the skills I learned at PJALS.

Looking back on the year I remember how little I knew about community organizing at the first event I was a part of, which was the Smart Justice Community Symposium. I remember feeling a little useless and somewhat in the way because I had so many

(Continued on page 10)

Spring Flowers!

Here's what you've been part of making happen just in the last 3 months:

- * "My Name is Rachel Corrie" a powerful production at GU with a full house & Craig & Cindy Corrie!

- * Mothers & Families for Smart Justice founding meeting!

- * Activist in Residence - the last of four workshops at

EWU, with a total of over 500

student contacts and many great conversations with young folks passionate about social justice.

- * "Arms of Compassion"

around the NAACP

- * International Women's Day symposium outreach

- * "Stand Against Racism" rally

- * Chris Hedges exhorted the packed house at The Bing on the "moral imperative of revolt!"

- * Smart Justice Spokane quarterly meeting with Center for Social Inclusion's President Glenn Harris

- * "Race: The Power of An Illusion" workshop with 100 folks, then the Train the Trainer with 42 amazing facilitators (*pictured above*)

- * "Rise Up Singing" Opening Reception of



our Action Conference, sponsored by Veterans for Peace

- * Our 6th annual Peace & Economic Justice Action Conference featuring Judith LeBlanc's "Fry Bread Theory of Social Justice" and super fantastic workshops!

- * PJALS delegation in "No H8 Spokane" Unity March

- * Police Accountability Coalition meeting with Police Ombudsman Commissioner

Adrian Dominguez

- * Earth Day outreach

- * Peacekeeper training with organizers of May 1 Immigration March from M.E.Ch.A. de EWU

- * PJALS delegation in May 1 Immigration March with M.E.Ch.A.

de EWU leading!

- * Young Activist Leaders workshops on "Organizing Our Selves & Our Work,"

"Events that Kick A**," "Public Speaking,"

"Community Power Mapping," and "Self-Care: Body, Mind, and Contemplation."

- * "Inside the Activist Studio: A Conversation with Winona LaDuke and Liz Moore" at EWU

- * Welcomed St. George's 2nd Grade class and helped them tour our block and learn about how our work relates to our community

- * "Bread and Roses" Benefit Auction success!

THANK YOU! Your involvement and support makes a difference!



On Tax Day: "Invest in People --Not the Pentagon!"

When we spend more than half of our federal budget on the Pentagon, it doesn't make us more secure. Let's stop pouring money into defense contracting, and look for comprehensive solutions that address the root causes of conflict. Our security requires investment in education, good jobs, infrastructure, nutrition, health care, affordable housing and other services that provide economic security and a brighter future for all children.

“A Sense of Needing to Contribute” **Practicum Reflection by Teresa Kinder**



Interning at PJALS has provided me with a unique opportunity to learn mezzo and macro level social work practice. I learned what advancing social change really means and what working for a better tomorrow looks like. Students in my social work cohort question whether they are really making a difference. At PJALS I have

never questioned if my work is making a difference. Being an intern has shown me my own faults and areas for improvement but also how to make a difference in the community.

At the start of the year I started at another internship. I remember hearing fellow interns Jamie and Victoria talk about all the work they were doing at PJALS and feeling a sense of needing to contribute to this work.

Starting my internship at PJALS, one of the first things I was a part of was a

(Continued on page 7)

“My Journey as a Warrior of Social Justice”

Practicum Reflection by Jamie McDaniel

As my year as an intern here at PJALS



comes to a close, I have truly begun to notice the impact my time here has made on me as a person and how much of this practice I have soaked up like a little social-justice sponge.

An example of this is in my final policy class at school, now my fellow students seek me out and want to work with me on projects or ask my advice on assignments and perspectives. It is extremely empowering to know that people can turn to me for help and assistance on issues that are not taught enough in our Bachelor's of Social Work program. I have enjoyed being able to share what I have learned here with everyone around me and it has truly been a unique and enlightening experience.

My fondest memories at PJALS are mostly made up of our rallies and protests. It's the time where we put all the taxing office work into action, taking to the streets with a purpose. I can remember my first protest for Condoleezza Rice's visit Spokane and how nervous and excited I was to finally get to be

part of something great and bigger than myself. There are not any words to describe how it felt to shout chants into the bullhorn for the very first time.

Another one of my favorite experiences that PJALS has given me was the ability to attend lobby with Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group, Safe and Just Alternatives, and Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation. I had the opportunity to experience state politics and policy change first-hand by speaking with my legislators and offering valid arguments and insights to the use of the death penalty in Washington state. This opportunity also gave me the chance to rebound ideas and perspectives with some very educated and experienced individuals, and if you know how much of a political nerd I am then you'll know how much that time and conversation meant to me.

Although I struggled with my internship at times, there is really no word to express how much having the opportunity to work and study at PJALS has impacted my life, it's something you'll to watch and see as I continue my journey as a warrior of social justice.

Teresa's Reflection, continued from page 6

demonstration about the Department of Justice report on torture tactics employed by the Bush administration and developed at Fairchild Air Force Base. This small demonstration was my first look into the injustices perpetrated in our country and one action we can take to counter injustice.

Working on the Peace and Economic Justice Action Conference this year taught me a different skill set from demonstrations. I learned the amount of work that is put into holding a daylong conference, from finding workshops to organizing volunteers for the event. Organization became key in getting anything done as well as follow up. The skills gained helping organize the conference will help me organize events in the future.

I have been involved in this year's Young Activist Leader's Program and enjoyed every moment of it. There are not a lot of times you get a bunch of young leaders together and have a leadership program tailored to them. Countless times before I have had the sense that anyone wanting change in the system has to be older than myself. The YALP group has taught many lessons as well as providing fundamental insight into how to be an organizer.

Interning at PJALS has been a better experience than I could have asked for. I worked on campaigns and issues ranging from economic justice to smart justice and everything in between. I understand now why so many past interns continue working with PJALS; leaving will be an impossible challenge. PJALS is a unique experience in Spokane working with different populations and creating real change in our local communities.

Young Activist Leaders, cont from page 1

Young Activist Leaders Program graduation on June 16th. Let's hear from some of our graduates:



Discussing self care

Bri Gardiner would like all of our supporters to know, "YALP has been an amazing opportunity for me. It has not only connected me with other

young activists but it has taught me how to make a difference!"

Victoria Huckabee would like to emphasize that, "YALP offers a very unique opportunity for young activists to get connected with the community and learn important skills for coalition building and community action."

Christopher Warren Moreland says, "YALP is a program for the political and social misfits that oppose systematic oppression. PJALS offers a series of classes that empower youth to stand up for justice."

Kacy Kräcke added, "I think YALP is very useful when it comes to being a successful organizer. Everyone in this program knows the importance of what justice needs to be done in society."

Last but not least, Trung Nguyen wants everyone to keep in mind that, "YALP gives the younger generation the chance to truly make a difference in the community. YALP proves that young people want to do more than sit around. We want to make a lasting, positive effect."

I couldn't agree more and would like to emphasize our gratitude to all of our sponsors and supporters!

Inside the Activist Studio with Winona LaDuke

by Liz Moore

I loved talking with Winona LaDuke at Inside the Activist Studio at EWU at the end of April. I had heard her speak at EWU when she was campaigning for Vice President as Ralph Nader's running mate. As the saying goes, I don't remember what she said, but I do remember how she made me feel:



Inside the Activists' Studio:
A Conversation with Winona LaDuke
and Liz Moore

excited, hopeful, like change was possible and regular people could make it happen. As soon as I met Winona, I began to feel calm and looked forward to talking with her more. She's very warm and down to earth, not ego-oriented.

For me, Inside the Activist Studio capped off my second year as the Activist in Residence at EWU, a new program based in the Women's and Gender Studies program. Just this year, over 600 EWU students were exposed to PJALS and social justice work; about 150 attended my panels and workshops on mass incarceration and criminal justice reform, and 200 joined our email list. Several will participate in our internships and Young Activist Leaders program, and of course some connections will last a long time and flower later. It is a position with a lot of freedom, and I've really enjoyed building relationships with some faculty and learning more about the campus culture. It was a huge treat to end my time in that role by talking with Winona LaDuke.

Winona spoke about how cool she thinks it is that she and her sister are farming with a horse and plow, with six test plots of corn grown with different mixes of fish guts as

fertilizer. "I'm trying to get petroleum out of my food supply," she said. She says a neighboring tribe ends up with tons of fish guts as waste every day, and wouldn't it be satisfying if those fish guts were a product that brought them income while fertilizing Winona's corn?

Her Master's degree is in Community Economic Development. Her White Earth Land Recovery Project's goal, according to Wikipedia, is to buy back land within the reservation that had been bought by non-Natives and to create enterprises that provide work to Anishinaabe. By 2000, the foundation had bought 1200 acres, which it held in a conservation trust for eventual cession to the tribe. The non-profit is also working to reforest the lands and a revive cultivation of wild rice, long a traditional food. It markets that and other traditional products, including hominy, jam, buffalo sausage and other products. It has started an Ojibwe language program, a herd of buffalo, and a wind-energy project.

I asked her how she balances or navigates these forward-building projects with the need to fight off corporate or government policies or actions. She responded that she'd rather be plowing, but the Enbridge energy company is trying to build an oil pipeline across her reservation, so she has to go fight them. But nothing is an individual effort--while she is at meetings and fighting the company, her sister is home plowing.

After the talk was over, we talked more about the criminal justice reform organizing PJALS is doing here with Smart Justice Spokane. She shared some recent family experience and her own discovery that a the inmates of a nearby jail are 75% Native.

I will post a link to the video of Inside the Activist Studio on our website and hope you'll join the conversation in the comments!

Do We Really Recognize Racism?

By Marianne Torres

We all know what racism is, don't we? And that anti-racism work is a primary PJALS value. We recognize it when we see it. Isn't it obvious on its face?

Well, not always....

We must not lose sight of the importance of eliminating racism in our own country, and stand in solidarity with the Black, Native American and Latino communities. At the same time, it's critical that we recognize the racism we support so heavily with our tax dollars and that is the cause of unbearable agony beyond our borders. This critical support works both ways: when protestors in Ferguson were being tear gassed, Palestinians in the West Bank were sending them tips on how to deal with the tear gas. You can see in the documentary "*al-Helm*" what happened amongst a group of African Americans when they experienced the racism of the brutal Israeli military occupation. Opposing racism one place doesn't diminish the importance of opposing it in another, but rather strengthens the mutual struggle.

A look at the term "racism" is in order first, as neither Palestinians nor Jews are a "race" but the actions used against Palestinians in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank function exactly as racism and must be addressed as such.

If you know Jim Crow, you know the plight of Palestinians inside Israel and in the West Bank and Gaza. Municipal zoning laws in American towns in the South prevented sales to blacks outside designated areas. In November 2010 the chief rabbi of the town of Safed issued a ruling forbidding Jews from renting property to Palestinians.

Like earlier victims of Western colonialism such as African Americans and Native Americans, Palestinians were ripped

from their homes and forced to live in, or flee to, foreign lands. They're forced to pay for the demolition of their own homes, and their school funding in Israel is one third that of Jewish schools.

Today, there are approximately 1.6 million Palestinian citizens of Israel, 20% of the total Israeli population. Though Palestinian citizens of Israel can vote, they face a web of institutionalized discrimination and exclusion that is familiar to Black American citizens, and not just in the South.

Israel has moved swiftly on a "Judaization" campaign (Israel's own term), destroying homes of Palestinian Israeli citizens for the sole reason that they are not Jewish, in the Negev, Jerusalem, Nazareth, the Galilee, including entire villages. In the hundreds of Palestinian homes from which the owners are evicted, Jewish families are moved in before the day is done. The Palestinians are rarely compensated for the loss of their homes and possessions.

In 2012 and 2013, five PJALS members (Myrta Ladich, Jennifer Calvert, Taylor Weech, Ev Brookbank, and I) visited with families in Jerusalem who had been forcefully evicted from their home, which was immediately taken over by a Jewish family. On two occasions as we sat with them, the people who took their homes walked arrogantly and hatefully past, spitting epithets at them.

More than 50 Israeli laws discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel directly or indirectly, based solely on their ethnicity, as was once the case in South Africa and in the US. Many of us believe it's time we stood together and said "No more – not here, and not there!"

Let's begin by calling it the racism that it is.

Fear, Itself, continued from page 3

circumstances that stimulated the condemnation of each of these men, now appearing in American media headlines.

Meanwhile, fear is just one element driving humanity's self-destruction, one of the things that we need to fear, and another fear that must be addressed. And, if you think fear is the only thing, I find that really frightening.

Be afraid. Fear the courage of those who hate us. Fear the arrogance that creates more courageous people who hate and fear the people and/or the government of the U.S. Fear the brutality that American fear uses to deny its own existence. Fear what happens when a fearful military giant cannot use courage when brute force and perfidy are at its fingertips. Fear the polarism gives cops confidence that the world consists only of good guys and bad guys. Fear the despair that keeps those condemned to be bad guys from believing in their goodness. Fear the assumption that you will be secure if you leave decision-making to someone who has more advantages and resources than you.

Take courage. Use your fear to become aware of everyone around you, the common needs, aspirations, sorrows and joys. Use this awareness to build community, encourage the fearful, and struggle for justice, and you will

notice you no longer fear individuals, loss of material objects, or the passage of time.

On a personal note: With your support, I have been able to write without fear in this space for more than two decades. Writing engaged news articles and social justice commentary was a vocation for me, and I have yet to run out of material or enthusiasm.

However, since long before I was drawn to social justice, I've had an itch to write fiction and poetry. Suddenly, Spokane Veterans for Peace has provided an outlet for its writers with the publication of ***Vet Lit: How We Remember War***. I have three pieces in it and was able to help Hollis Higgins and Mikel Stevenson compile and prepare the manuscript for Gray Dog Press.

We dedicated the book to our WWII vets turned peacemakers, Mike Ladich and Buell Hollister.

If you know us, it's because we're PJALS people, and we hope you'll help us sell our books, not just to get our investment back, but to make sure our voice is heard over so much military propaganda and all the posing, praising and promising that passes for support for veterans. Thank you for being a reader. I hope you'll want to contact any VFP member for VET LIT, a local venture in putting veterans' voices into print.

- RN

Victoria's Reflection, cont from page 4

questions and wasn't really sure what I was doing. As the year progressed and I felt more confident in my abilities I began to own my projects and take pride in my work. When I compare my symposium experience to our most recent event, which was the auction, I am really able to see how much I changed and grew over the course of my internship. The auction was a very different experience for me than the symposium was. At the auction, I felt

confident in the work I was doing, took charge of my projects, and stepped up to help out wherever I was needed. I also noticed a difference due to the relationships I built with members and volunteers and it feels great to be a valuable member of the team.

Of all the different projects I was a part of at PJALS the one that I am most proud of and connected to is the Mothers and Families for Smart Justice support group. I am passionate

(Continued on page 11)

War is God's Way of Teaching Geography

by Dana Visalli

I recently flew from Seattle to Seoul, South Korea and thence to Hanoi, to join a two-week tour of Vietnam with Veterans for Peace (VFP). The tour is led by American veterans of the Vietnam War who now live in that country, working to in some way atone for the damage done there during that war.

The Vietnamese are a sweet, friendly, even kindly people, and it is impressive to recall how the western countries have treated them. The French colonized Vietnam in the 1860s and enslaved the Vietnamese people, forcing them to work for the enrichment of France. We have toured the prison that the French built for resisters, which included a guillotine for those who failed to grasp the god-given right of the French to rule over them. When the French tried to regain their 'Indochina' colony (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia) after WW II, the U.S. supported them (we paid most of the cost of the 'First Indochina War'), then we invaded and brutalized the Vietnamese for 20 years after the French were defeated (the 'Second Indochina War,' 1955-1975).

As my plane crossed over the Japanese city of Tokyo on the way into Seoul, I realized that I was retracing a geography that I was familiar with largely from America's wars. The United States firebombed Tokyo on March 10 1945, dropping 2000 tons of incendiary bombs on the wood and paper houses of that city, incinerating 16 square miles and killing an estimated 120,000 citizens in the worst single firestorm in history.

...

Editor's Note: Dana's complete piece is in our blog: www.pjals.org/2015/05/war-gods-teaching-geography/

.....
 • Please check out our "Blogful of Salt"
 • for web-exclusive coverage of
 • activities including the Rachel Corrie
 • play, Chris Hedges, the Drone Quilt
 • display, the Bread & Roses Benefit
 • Auction, and the Peace & Economic
 • Justice Action Conference.
 •

www.pjals.org/blog

Mothers and Families for Smart Justice

By Victoria Huckabee

Do you have an incarcerated loved one?

Join the Mothers and Families for Smart Justice group! We are a group of people who either have an incarcerated loved one or have been affected by the prison system in some way and feel passionate about making positive changes to support people who are dealing with incarceration.

We meet monthly to support one another, provide community education, and advocate for policy change. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Parish Center at St. Aloysius church located on the Gonzaga campus at 330 E. Boone Ave. Spokane, WA 99202. If you want more information please call Colleen at 509-230-7123. All are welcome!

Victoria's Reflection, cont from page 10

about supporting others who are experiencing the incarceration of their family member or loved one, and I was excited to get to help plan and organize the group and develop our goals and mission. Now the group has begun to form, we are meeting monthly, and I am happy to start seeing all our hard work pay off and our plans turn to action. Unfortunately my internship is ending, and I am sad to move on, but I will always be a part of PJALS.

Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane
35 W Main, Suite 120M
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 838-7870



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Spokane, WA
 Permit No. 263

PJALS Summer Leadership Workshop:
Invest in People, Not the Pentagon!
Trainer: Mike Prokosh, Peace Action

Saturday, June 20, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
 Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Fort Wright Drive
See flier inside for full information. RSVP by June 15 to slichty@pjals.org or 838-7870

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 _____

Living Lightly (low income) \$20/year

Phone/email _____















