

Handful of Salt

Volume XXXVV, Number 2

June-July-August 2016

Doing Democracy – a conscious practice of social justice organizing



By Liz Moore,
PJALS Director

Will you
join me on
Thursday July 7 to
discuss the book
***Doing
Democracy: The***

***MAP Model for Organizing Social
Movements*** please? This is a book by Bill
Moyer with JoAnn McAllister, Mary Lou
Finley, and Steven Soifer. I'm finding this
book fascinating and so useful! And I relish
the prospect of discussing these ideas and how

**“Doing Democracy” book discussion
Thursday July 7, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Community Building, 35 W. Main
1 loaner copy available at PJALS!**

we can apply them in our work together.

In my
experience, activists
and organizers often

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Affiliate of **Fellowship of Reconciliation & Showing Up for Racial Justice**

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Rally in Support of ACLU's Lawsuit Against Mitchell and Jessen



By Maddie Tappa,
PJALS intern

On April 22nd, members
of PJALS and Veterans
for Peace stood outside
in the wind and rain in
protest of a common
enemy of humanity:
torture. In the 1990's,
psychologists James

Mitchell and Bruce Jessen designed an
experimental torture plan that was then used
on prisoners at the time. Victims of the
method along with ACLU have filed a lawsuit
against the two for their crimes. We stood in
front of the federal building for two hours in

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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 (Vice Chair), Cly Evans (Chair), Dom Felix, Jessica Jahn, Adrian Murillo (on leave), Taylor Weech, Deb Svoboda, Ray Thorne (Secretary)

Staff: Teresa Kinder, Office Manager; Andrew Lack, AARP SCSEP Administrative Assistant; Shar Lichty, Organizer; Adrian Murillo, AARP SCSEP Communications Coordinator; Liz Moore, Director

Interns & Practicum Students: Tyler Aguilar, Daniel Geiter, Cassandra Guerrero, Monce Rodriguez, Jessica Silva, Maddie Tappa

Volunteers, March 2016-May 2016: Brian Telleria, Chris Berg, Chris Nerison, Christy Anderson, Cyn Johnson, David Brookbank, Elaine Tyrie, Elizabeth Murphy, Greg Youmans, Jan Treecraft, Jasmine Old Shoes, Jason Bennetch, Jennifer Calvert, Joshua Washington, Justin Mauger, Ken Isserlis, Lawrie Provost, Lynn Sexton, Mark Hamlin, Mary Naber, Pauline Druffel, Rachael Ashworth, Sarah B., Teresa Nevins, Tom Charles, Tom Schmidt, Valerie Waley, Willie Weech, Yvonne Swan

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

Volunteers Make It Happen!

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

Our priority areas for 2016-17

As determined by our member priority survey responses and our Steering Committee!

1. **A Just Society:** Smart Justice and Police Accountability
2. **Peace:** Truth in Recruitment, Consciousness-Raising about Militarism, and Mobilizing against War!
3. **Human Rights Community Organizing:** Building collective power with targeted communities.
4. **Ending the Death Penalty in Washington** as our top legislative priority.

Exposing & transforming systems of violence & oppression to create beloved community.

Become a Handful Contributor.

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



Rusty Nelson on Peace and War

Beyond Memorial Day

This is not for Memorial Day, but it's being written over Memorial Day weekend, a time I'm at odds with many neighbors, extended family members, fellow veterans and fellow people of faith. In spite of solidarity in our anti-war community, I feel hostile and oppressed when the dominant culture prattles on about "ultimate sacrifice" and other fabricated concepts used to enhance the fantasy that the Pentagon is the author and finisher of our freedom, that every flag-draped corpse represents the best America has to offer, that dying in a murderous effort against another culture is a sacred gift to humanity.

This year I'm remembering how long it can take to change the way we think about an enemy (inherited or manufactured), our security, or the survival of posterity. American patriotism has been reinforced by short wars and abundant glory for relatively few U.S. casualties. Now mired in a second long war, our country must learn to see military victory, glory, and propaganda as what they are: Lies. Oxymorons. Aberrations. Distractions.

Full disclosure: I added aberrations to my list because it's a fine acronym. I'll want to write about L.O.A.D. in the future. Meanwhile, don't wait for my permission to use it in your own observations.

Without further distractions, let's seize the subject of distractions, focusing briefly upon two items from which we are constantly distracted by anxious calls to arms. Climate change and health care are treated quite differently by the spin meisters of the status

quo, but both are key elements in contemporary culture wars. No advocate for climate change or against health care will find a popular platform, but prominent spokespersons may be found for undermining the science that shows climate change to be a human-caused hazard to our planet, or for limiting health care for significant portions of the U.S. population.

Exempting mainstream media, for the moment, from its own L.O.A.D., proponents of social justice should consider two recent topics of guest opinion pieces in the Spokesman Review.

First, there was the Baumgartner and Ozzie show. A state senator and the sheriff had a column to tell us everything big corporations want us to know about the Millennium Terminal, coal and oil rail traffic through Spokane, and the jobs that will magically fall off the trains with a few benevolent grains of coal. A rising tide raises your ship, if not all ships, and if the water is unfit for drinking, we can buy some from the world's richest family or the predatory Swiss corporation increasing its interests in the Northwest. Air good enough for millionaires is good enough for you. The sheriff will take care of you if anything bad happens, but what could go wrong? Your elected representatives know what's best for you and your family, so don't be silly and worry about little things like spoiled air, a ruined Spokane River, increased trans-Pacific pollution, or climate change. Air and water can trickle down to the masses as our corporate masters see fit. The economy (THE Economy, not your economy) trumps ecology, and you'll have your pie in the sky, bye and buy.

In fairness (and balance?), the SR followed with a May 29th commentary by Dr. Ethan Angell, submitting that "Coal trains put
(Continued on page 8)

Being a Part of this Selfless



Fight for Justice

By Ruben Tyler Aguilar IV

When I began my internship at PJALS back in February I

remember how ambitious and eager I was to create change and create new ways of doing things. I was excited to see what we could do and how we could create a new communications strategy. This was all before I had even started to really get to know and understand the organization well. At this time as I reflect on my overall time at the organization this one aspect that I will take away and know that I have grown from. I realize how foolish that approach may have been, and I am grateful for the invaluable experience that I have gained from it. Among many of the new skills that I have gained in my time here at PJALS is how to work and communicate effectively in a diverse team environment.

Reflecting on the technical skills I learned, this internship has afforded me some very practical skills. The duties of this internship were in no way concrete and I did not mind that one bit. I was able to gain experience and learn in all different types of work. For example, I now am able to use the program Word press and how to manipulate basic website coding. As we often joke about, my legacy will be the surprisingly monumental task of finding a way



I Can Make A Difference

By Cassandra Guerrero, PJALS intern



As my year as an intern student here at PJALS comes to a close, I have come to notice how my time here has impacted my life on how I view the world and how I have learned and developed skills on how to become a social change agent and community organizer.

I had the opportunity of learning social work at the mezzo and macro levels and have valued every experience within them. I worked on policy issues such as the Fair Chance Hiring Act and helped with the beginning stages for the Immigration Initiative that will be on the November 2017 ballot. Working on these two issues gave me confidence and hope for a better future even when it seems that moving to the next steps will take time, I know that eventually it will get there! I know that PJALS has given me a voice to make a difference and I have never

(Continued on page 5)

to change the photos on the websites front page.

As well as the experience gained of working in a team environment, I am proud to have been a part of such a caring and necessary social justice organization in Spokane. The work that this organization does is beyond admirable, it is unequivocally moving not just for myself but for the community at large. This organization unknowingly inspires a movement within the community that is larger than itself and as I reflect on my time here at PJALS I will miss more than anything else being a part of this selfless fight for justice. I appreciate the time I had here and will miss the PJALS family that I

I Can Make A Difference, cont from page 4

question because I do believe that I have made a difference in all the work that I have done.

My best memory at PJALS would definitely be putting the Action Conference all together. Even though this was a time consuming event, all that mattered was when it all came together and I could take a step back and admire all that I have done to make it a success not only for PJALS but for everyone that attended. I even had the chance to be a participant in the event and attend workshops that I felt passionate about which I loved because it gave me a better insight on topics where I could advocate for and become more involved as an activist.

Another one of my favorite experiences at PJALS was when I attended the rally for, "Remembering 13 Years of War in Iraq". This rally has really stuck with me ever since it happened because it brought to light how more than half of my life, the U.S. military has spent fighting in wars and this is not how it should be. Another powerful moment that occurred in the event was the releasing of 13 dove shaped balloons which represented the 13 years of U.S. occupation followed by a number of how many lives were lost, it was a very eye opening moment for me to hear those numbers being read aloud. The U.S. military is teaching younger generations that fighting in wars is a normal way of life, which in fact it is not. We need to look to better and more peaceful solutions for solidarity overseas.

All in all I am very sad that my year at PJALS is coming to an end but everything that I have learned here will resonate with me in my everyday life. I do have a voice and it will be heard! I will forever be grateful that I got to experience and grow with such an awesome staff. PJALS engages everyday people to build a just and nonviolent world and now I can say that I have participated in doing so but this is

Creating Awareness

By Jessica Silva, PJALS intern



Through the last nine months the Peace and Justice Action Committee, "PJAC" has made an effort to provide awareness among high school students about the cons of joining the military, while providing alternatives to consider

before enlisting. On May 12, 2016 "Truth in Recruitment" went out to John R. Rogers High School as a last effort to provide awareness before summer break. The three interns Cassandra, Monce, and Jessica handed out 30 fliers and had a few short conversations with intrigued high schoolers. The fliers consisted of providing information to high school students regarding "10 things to consider before enlisting." As an intern at PJALS it was an eye opener to see that most of the students would ignore our presence and avoid grabbing a flier; yet, those 30 students who did grab a flier seemed to be reading the paper as they walked to their destination.

The last nine months working on "Truth in Recruitment" has made me reflect on how society has assimilated to military presence and they do not question the military presence inside the schools. I believe that PJAC should continue to create awareness not only in high school students but also with parents. Parents should be able to know that military recruiters are waiting for their son/daughter to turn 18 years old in order to convince them to sign the enlistment contract. It's time that our schools give equal access to both military recruiters and non-war organizations or completely deny their access to both.

I Had so Much Fun



By Monce Rodriguez

Summer is just around the corner and the time here at PJALS went by so quick. I remember the first day at PJALS as an intern I didn't know what to expect. I was just excited about the thing we were working on, but I had no clue how to start. What I worked on in my time at PJALS was with the Young Activist Leaders Program (YALP), Truth in Recruitment and with the Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition (SPARC).

YALP was the foundation in giving me the skills of organizing and activism. With YALP I learned many skills that will be useful in my near future as a leader. One of the workshops that I loved was learning about oppression and privilege, as well as the Activist in Residence workshops we attended with Sandy Williams. They both talked about the same things, just taught us in different ways.

It was nice to have other young folks who care about justice and peace. To have a place we can all come together and share our ideas was nice. We had workshops on running meetings, getting media attention, how to organize events, military, how to be an ally. This helped Jessica and me with our Truth in Recruitment project and to learn how to organize events and meetings.

With the Truth in Recruitment project we focused on Rogers High School students who

(Continued on page 9)



Our crack with gener made for our "Brea



PJALS staff and members joined striking Machinists at

Remembering 13 Years of War in Iraq

By Maddie Tappa, PJALS intern

This March marked the 13th year of war, occupation, death, and fear in Iraq. On March 31 we held a rally to commemorate this unfortunate anniversary, with the theme being, “resistance of the heart against business as usual.”

As a 21-year-old college student, this theme resonates especially strongly for me. Over half of my life has been spent fighting this war. In fact, I can hardly remember a time when America hasn’t been in war – and that is not how it should be. Our young people should grow up knowing peace and understanding, instead of assuming that war and violence is just “business as usual.”

It was a sobering occasion as we listened to speeches calling for action and powerful poems against violence, sang a song of dissent, and let up a dove-shaped balloon for every year of war. As we watched each of the 13 balloons float up into the sky, the number of deaths each year was read aloud.

The mood of the event can best be summarized with the lyrics of the song that we chanted together: ***“We’re gonna rise with the tides of freedom. Truth is the rock that will break our chains. We will stop the powers of***



rackerjack team of interns, volunteers, and staff along generous item donors, guests, and community sponsors for a fun and successful evening on Friday May 20 at “Bread & Roses” Benefit Dinner and Auction. Thanks!



ts at Triumph to demand an end to



"Beyond Memorial Day" cont fr p 3

health at risk." The piece was apparently written to express concerns most of us have about being injured in the death throes of the coal industry and the export frenzy that threatens a large part of the earth, not to refute assertions of big business presented a week earlier. Only apologists for Big Energy could fault Dr. Angell's tone or statements, and he was neither shrill nor smug in his writing, neither mocking the absurdity of "clean coal" nor suggesting criminal charges to stall the corporate theft of our healthy environment.

Medical credentials seem to be helpful in obtaining access to media on controversial issues, although I confess I've written for that space. On May 28th, the SR published an opinion piece by our friend Cris Currie about the path to universal health care in the U.S. Cris identified himself simply as a registered nurse, while many of us know him also as an outdoors enthusiast, environmental advocate, pioneer mediator, writer, and traveler. In these capacities, he might not have been allowed to point out the corporate abuses of a health care system that dotes upon the privileged and excludes the most vulnerable. Our elected officials, Democrats and Republicans alike, are determined to keep the interests of insurance companies front and center in any discussion about health care access and costs.

These issues have for years been subject to legislative ridicule, denunciation, and L.O.A.D. The dire situations could be well mitigated by long-overdue attitude shifts on military spending, but there are buffers in place to specifically prevent the simplest budget solutions, and citizens will have to become more involved for progress to be made. The top barrier to just solutions is common to the even larger problem of perpetual war. As our Veterans for Peace

weekend guest Elliott Adams pointed out several times, the one thing we can say about every American war of the past century is that a few people made a lot of money.

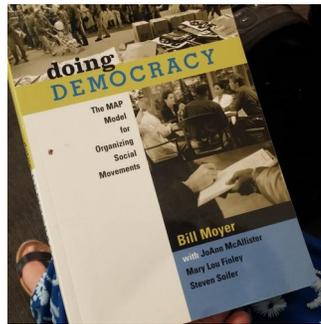
A very few people making an awful lot of money can hold universal health care at bay for decades. We have our hands full trying to grasp almost-reasonable costs of minimal health insurance coverage or trying to maintain the compromise called Obamacare.

A very few people making an awful lot of money can keep coal and oil trains running through Spokane until we all go up in smoke. Baumgartner and Knezovich imply our economy depends upon the poor fossil fuel magnates continuing to make a lot of money until they're all protected by bankruptcy and China completes its transition to renewable energy.

Until politicians and plutocrats agree to help heal our planet, life-affirming citizens are going to have to take their keys away, or at least withhold their licenses. Railroads and health care companies must find a way to serve people instead of corporations or be stopped in their tracks. All of us need a nurturing environment more than earth-killing service jobs. We all need health care. No one needs health insurance, except within a contrivance that ensures the prosperity of big business.

I, for one, can't hold my breath until robber barons grant me the health care and the pure air and water to which they feel entitled. The press has been alerted, whether or not it decides to rise to the occasion. The railroads have been notified through citizen action in Everett and Anacortes. Spokane officials are showing interest in stopping the flow of coal dust, extra diesel fumes, and explosive Bakken crude along our river. Direct Action Spokane is considering urgent actions to forestall an imminent catastrophe.

If we do nothing we lose, and we lose big. If we do something, many others will do something, perhaps bigger and better. Maybe we'll get a leash on climate change, inspire



Doing Democracy, continued from page 1

lack a shared sense of how to interpret and make sense of the actions of decision-makers, opposition, the general public, and even – especially – each other. In “Doing Democracy,” based on decades of experience, the authors present a “Movement Action Plan” theory to describe and understand the patterns of activist roles and apparent ups and downs of social movements, so that we as practitioners can plan and carry out more effective social action together.

Most importantly, “Doing Democracy” lays out easy-to-apply concepts of the “grand strategy” of social movements, which is participatory democracy: engaging ordinary citizens and raising expectations that “people can and should be involved in the decision-making process in all aspects of public life.” Reading this book is increasing my ability to explain and engage people in this rarely understood “grand strategy.”

The Movement Action Plan identifies four roles activists play (in effective and ineffective ways!) and eight stages of social movement evolution. This allows us to organize our thinking and make a bit more sense of the world by identifying what stage we’re in – and then we can create stage-appropriate strategies to advance to the next stage – and we can identify and celebrate success as we advance, without wrongly concluding we’re done or that we haven’t won anything yet at all.

The four activist roles of Citizen, Rebel, Reformer, and Change Agent are each key for social movements to succeed; yet each role can also be played ineffectively and even destructively. Playing these roles ineffectively

(Continued on page 11)

So Much Fun, continued from page 6

are the main target of recruiters. Our Truth in Recruitment team gave these students points to consider before enlisting.

SPARC gave me the opportunity to see how our criminal justice system works and all

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Facebook.com/groups/peacejusticeaction/

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Support PJALS From The Comfort Of Your Home!

Host a house party for your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and raise funds for our ongoing commitment to peace and justice at the same time. We’ll show you how!

We’ll provide you with a tried and true house party kit and further support. Our intrepid director Liz Moore will be the featured speaker and you can decide the ambience (theme, music?). Contact Adrian at amurillo@pjals.org for more details.

Remember: *grassroots money protects us from being at the mercy of*

Fair Chance Hiring Community Forum

By Maddie Tappa, PJALS intern

Our community forum on Fair Chance Hiring on March 9 educates the Spokane community on ways to include previously incarcerated people in our society. It was encouraging to see the large turnout of business owners and community members alike at the event, to gather with the Spokane community, to stand in solidarity with our fellow citizens, and to begin the conversation on fair hiring. We heard from members of I Did the Time who shared their personal stories of poverty, arrest, recovery, change, and discrimination. It was an emotional look into the reality of this issue. You can see pictures at [Instagram.com/PeaceJusticeAction](https://www.instagram.com/PeaceJusticeAction).

Without Fair Chance Hiring, no matter how qualified a person may be, their application is often thrown out on the first glance if they have a criminal record. Not only is this a waste of employee potential of an entire populace, but it is also a drain on city resources. Over ¼ of our Spokane population has a conviction record, and research shows that the rate of recidivism is much higher for ex-offenders when they cannot get a job after getting out of prison. That's why PJALS and other local organizations are calling for a city ordinance to require private businesses to ban the box from their applications.

We need to allow previously incarcerated people the opportunity to follow institutional means of success so not to force them into a relapse of criminal offense. Spokane has a long way to go to create a working reintegration process for ex-



We Need Your Help to Pass Fair Hiring Ordinance

As a part of our work as a member of Smart Justice Spokane we have been working with Councilmembers and business leaders to pass a City Ordinance that would implement Fair Chance Hiring, aka Ban the Box, practices for all employers within the city limits.

We need your help to get us there. Do you own a business? Do you know business owners who would support this? You can sign on to our statement of support at pjals.org/fairhiring or contact Shar at slichty@pjals.org to add your business.

Here is our statement of support:

As a business leader, organization, or employer, I support Fair Chance Hiring as a policy for Spokane.

We must increase the available pool of qualified workers for our fast changing local economy by insuring that people with arrest and conviction records have a fair opportunity to be considered for employment.

A city-wide policy is the best way to accomplish this so that all employers are treated equally and taxpayers don't have to bear the burden caused by employers who are not using up-to-date hiring practices.

When people can work hard for their families in a job where they are the most qualified applicant, they will be less reliant on public benefits and will contribute to our tax base.

Through a city-wide policy, we can create a THRIVING

“Doing Democracy” cont from page 9

moves us to engage in tactics in isolation from strategy, generating negative attitudes and energy and leaving us feeling unempowered and hopeless. Ultimately, ineffective activism often parrots the same dominator paradigm we’re organizing to transform.

In contrast, acting effectively as activists is all about enacting our participatory democracy and peace and justice paradigm AS we organize. Effectiveness means coordinating strategy and tactics, acting from our faith in people, and generating positive attitudes and energy that promote a realistic and transformational vision and social change, allowing us to feel credibly hopeful and genuinely empowered.

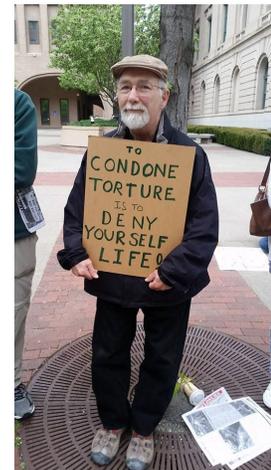
As we mature as activists and organizers, we can intelligently choose what role we will play based not only on our own preferences but on what role will be most effective in the movement moment we’re in. And, being conscious of these four roles and how they can be played out better prepares us to respectfully challenge each other to act most effectively when we may slide into ineffective or negative actions or statements.

Social change is not brought about through random activities or a “do whatever you feel” ethos. As “Doing Democracy” asserts, “activists need to continue experimenting with participatory democracy,



Mitchell & Jessen, cont from page 1

anxious anticipation for the results of Mitchell and Jessen’s motion to dismiss the case. Thankfully the motion was denied, we found out later. We gathered to show our support of the lawsuit and to declare that we were all in agreement that torture should never be allowed. Our signs donned the words, “torture hurts us all,” “to condone torture is to deny yourself life,” “Who killed Gul Rahman?” and the like. Gathering with a group to showcase our stance against violence produced a strong sense of solidarity. Even



more

than



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PJALS Summer Potluck & Volunteer Appreciation Social

Thursday, July 21, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

On the Saranac Roof Top (if rain: Community Building Lobby)

*Join wonderful like-minded PJALS members to celebrate summer, our 40th anniversary,
and marvelous PJALS volunteers! New folks welcome!*

PJALS needs you!

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane is everyday people building a just and nonviolent world. We depend 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, community-building, and nonviolent action to war, inaction, or 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.

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