

The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

The Monthly Publication of
PSARA EDUCATION FUND
“Uniting Generations for a Secure Future”

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December 2018

Initiative 1631 Wrap-Up
By Bobby Righi

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Don't Miss PSARA's 2018 Winter Potluck and Membership Meeting! Thursday, December 13

PSARA's December membership meeting promises to be as exciting and informative as ever. Won't you join us? It's Thursday, December 13, at UFCW 21's Joe Crump Hall, 5030 1st Avenue S, Seattle. We'll gather at noon for a potluck, and then go on to our business meeting.

Our featured speakers include Mary Nguyen, Executive Director of Washington CAN!, and Tim Harris, Founding Director of Real Change. Both are PSARA members.

We will also be honoring PSARA member Jeff Johnson, who is retiring after almost 40 years in the labor movement – the past eight of them serving as President of the Washington State Labor Council. You can read Jeff's analysis of the election on Page 3, and an interview with him, by Angie Bartels and Karen Richter, on Page 5.

One of our business items will be elections of officers and Executive Board members. If you want to run for an office or an Executive Board position, please contact the Elections Committee, chaired by PSARA's Outreach VP, Bob Swanson, at outreachvp@psara.org

At the meeting you'll also get an opportunity to help PSARA by bidding on some of the exciting items we'll offer at our silent auction starting at 11:30 a.m. Buy your holiday gifts, or just keep them for yourself (we won't tell anyone...).

If you have items to donate to the silent auction, email PSARA's fundraising committee at fundraising@psara.org

You'll also get a chance to win a stay at the Langley Motel on beautiful Whidbey Island in our first-time-ever PSARA raffle. Raffle tickets are only \$5, and buy you a chance to win a \$250 gift certificate for the motel. Please bring cash.

To reserve your place at this event, please RSVP to organizer@psara.org or call the PSARA office, 206-254-4910.



*Bob Shimabukuro shares a laugh with Frieda Takamura at last year's December membership meeting.
(Photo: Garet Munger)*

Help Our Work Thrive With An End-of-the-Year Donation

The PSARA Education Fund continues to grow and expand its influence. We have more readers now. Frequently we are complimented on the quality and content of the *Retiree Advocate*. A commitment to progressive values and dedication to do the work guide the editor, Mike Andrew, and a group of approximately 20 member-volunteers who write, produce, and mail this newsletter on a monthly basis.

The Education Fund is a volunteer-driven organization that has been effectively carrying out its mission. But our costs increased in 2018 and will increase in 2019. Your tax deductible end-of-the-year donation to the PSARA Education Fund will support this work.

Please make an end-of-the-year donation either by mailing a check or going to the website, www.psara.org and donating to the PSARA Education Fund.

The Education Fund sponsored a significant number of educational presentations in 2018 focused on the need to make retirement security attainable for everyone. Education about the history and present-day fight for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid helps build support for preserving and expanding these vital programs.

There were several screenings of the documentary CARE. The film was followed by a discussion about the finan-

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Rise Up and Resist With David Barsamian

By Scott Chaplin

Author and radio journalist David Barsamian will be speaking at the Langley United Methodist Church on Whidbey Island on December 9 at 3 p.m. This event is being co-sponsored by the Whidbey Island Progressives and PSARA.

When is enough enough? How do we move from passivity to resistance? One instance of people defying tyranny comes from Nazi Germany where opposition was highly dangerous. Seventy-five years ago, Hans and Sophie Scholl, and others at the University of Munich, said, Genug. Enough. They formed the White Rose movement and called on Germans to recognize their moral duty and overthrow the government. They disseminated critical information through flyers and graffiti. One such graffiti said, "Whatever comes out of Hitler's mouth is a lie." In 1943, Hans and Sophie Scholl were arrested and beheaded. Their resistance and courage are honored today. They took risks. Can we?

David Barsamian has been doing this for decades. Winner of the ACLU's Upton Sinclair Award for independent journalism and numerous other awards, David is founding director of Alternative Radio, a weekly one-hour program that can be heard locally on KSER, KUOW, and other public radio stations – over 200 worldwide.

For more information contact scottc1962@gmail.com

Scott Chaplin is a PSARA member.

Jeff Johnson Honored as "Roving Ambassador for Peace"

PSARA member Jeff Johnson will be awarded the World Peace Prize, "Roving Ambassador for Peace," in a 2019 ceremony here in Seattle. Jeff was selected for the honor by a 14-judge panel of international and interfaith leaders.

Jeff joins AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka in being so honored by the World Peace Prize Committee.

"Labor leaders are eminently qualified to be candidates for the World Peace Prize because those who spend their entire lives working for justice and solidarity for working men and women are indeed working for peace -- not only nationally but globally as well," the Peace Prize committee said in a statement.

Those words are certainly true for Jeff. On Page 5 you will find Part I of an interview with Jeff, by Angie Bartels and Karen Richter, in which he talks about his early life and how he came to be the labor leader we all know.



ERRATA: In last month's *Retiree Advocate* we misidentified IAM 751 as the "Boeing Machinists Union." They are, in fact, the Aerospace Machinists Union. Our apologies.

The 2018 Election: A First Impression

By Jeff Johnson

On the surface, the 2018 General Elections had a number of firsts as well as creating the means to place some checks and balances on the Trump administration. However, it is too early for the type of comprehensive analysis we need to help us organize for systemic progressive change.

An initial impression is that the elections were a first step in recovering some of America's lost dignity and respect. Lost, in no small measure, by President Trump's vitriolic hate speech, condemnation of the press and the judiciary, anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies, support for white supremacists, and encouraging his base to feel comfortable in their hate, anger, and bigotry.

According to just released FBI statistics for the first year of Trump's Presidency, hate crimes were up 17 percent, and anti-Semitic attacks have increased 27 percent. Many suspect that these statistics far undercount what is actually happening out there.

The soul of America is up for grabs. Whether and how we deal with systemic inequality, "Just Transition," Climate Change, racism, health care, and the commonwealth will determine whose voice and what set of values we will hold dear going forward.

Clearly, taking back the US House of Representatives allows democrats to stop the attacks on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, hold hearings on Medicare-For-All, mitigate some of the worst proposed budget cuts, and to investigate Trump and his administration.

However, the soul of America is still up for grabs. Whether and how we deal with systemic inequality, "Just Transition," Climate Change, racism, health care, and the commonwealth will determine whose voice and what set of values we will hold dear going forward.

By the numbers the Democrat side of the US House of Representatives is the most diverse and the most female in history. On January 3, 2019, 50 Democratic freshmen will take office, 40 of whom are women, including: the first Native American; two Muslim women; four lesbian and gay members; an immigrant born in Somalia and one from Ecuador; a pediatrician; a former CIA official; two Democratic Socialists; and three former military officers. The count to date – there are still some races too close to call – the Democrats have picked up 32 seats giving them a 227 to 199 majority. It is expected that the Democrats are likely to pick up another 8 seats after recounts.

In the US Senate, the Republicans have picked up 2 seats giving them a 51 to 47 majority with a run-off election taking place in Mississippi later this month and a manual recount in Florida. Democrat Kyrsten Sinema picked up Jeff Flake's seat in Arizona, and Democrat Jacky Rosen picked up Dean

Heller's seat in Nevada.

One caveat: many Democrats newly elected were endorsed by the New Democratic Coalition. The NDC is a centrist organization that in its own words are "pro economic-growth, pro innovation, and (for) fiscally responsible policies." Sounds to me like a reinvention of Bill Clinton's Democratic Leadership Council of the 1980's that swung democrats away from the more progressive policies of the 1960's and 1970's. The war over who the Democratic party is and what their core values are continues.



Jeff Johnson

Across the nation Democrats took seven Governor's seats from the Republicans, increasing to 23 the number of Democratic Governors; six state legislative chambers flipped to Democratic control; Republican state super majorities were broken in four states, and a number of progressive ballot measures were passed.

Minimum wage increases will happen in Arkansas and Missouri; Portland will fund environmental equity; Medicaid expansion passed in Idaho, Nebraska, and Utah; gerrymandering was outlawed in Michigan, Colorado, and Missouri; Florida returned voting rights to previously convicted felons; and other measures banning water privatization and providing significant funding to address homelessness passed in various cities and states. In Washington State, I-1631, the carbon fee measure providing investments in clean energy, equity, and "Just Transition" was defeated by \$31 million of oil industry money and lies.

In Washington State Democrats have picked up 6 seats in the House: Ramos and Callan in LD 5; Leavitt in LD 28; Shewmake in LD 42; Mead in LD 44; and Entenman in LD 47. Paul is leading by 191 votes in LD 10. Should Paul win, the Democrats will have a 57 to 41 majority in the House.

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Not So Random Thoughts

By Robby Stern

One Week After the Murders

The Shabbat service at our Kadima Community congregation one week after the attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh was both sad and inspiring. Attendance was three to four times larger than a normal Shabbat service. In a congregation composed in large part of young people, many of whom brought their children for Shabbat school, it felt like an act of determination and defiance - determination to be who we are and defiance of those who seek to intimidate and/or eradicate us.

There was also fear. Our Rabbi had us engage in some deep breathing to exhale the fear. During the service, I was having visions of what I would try to do if some Nazi terrorist burst through the doors with an automatic rifle. I hoped, as one of the oldest people in attendance, that I would rush at the gunman to give others the chance to escape. I certainly have less to lose in terms of life-expectancy although I would like to live more years. When my grandson was sitting on my lap, I thought how could I protect him?

Jewish history is filled with the individual and mass murders of Jews because they are Jews, including the experience of my family of origin and Dina's family of origin. Ironically, up until the election of Trump I had a feeling of relative safety at least as it related to my Jewish identity. That feeling is gone. Trump has unleashed the violent hounds of racist and antisemitic hell.

The Rabbi's mother was sitting in front of us at the service. During the portion of the service when we turn to our neighbor and talk a little she shared that she was in Florida when Trayvon Martin was murdered. She thought, at the time, this racist murder had been exposed and now things might change. She came to understand that she was really wrong. The killings of African Americans by racist police and white

nationalist have continued unabated.

After the services I thought of the movie, *Whose Streets*, about the murder of Michael Brown and the response of the Ferguson African American community. The community was determined to stop these murders and were defiant of the authorities that allowed the racist actions to continue. There was also an understanding of what could happen to the demonstrators "Hands Up Don't Shoot." Fear did not paralyze them. The Black Lives Matter movement was birthed after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the killing of Trayvon Martin and became nationally recognized as a result of the street demonstrations against the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in New York City.

The lack of safety and the constant trauma of violence and death has continued for the African American community in the US for four hundred years! Imagine knowing you and the people you love and your community are not safe from violence, death, torture, and family separation from generation to generation to generation. The tragedy and trauma of this lived experience is incalculable and inhumane. The determination and defiance to end this vicious cycle is brave and exemplary.

As a Jew, I will stand up for myself, my loved ones, and my community. "But if I am only for myself, what am I?" I will stand with the African American community, immigrants fleeing their homes because of intolerable conditions, and Palestinians seeking justice from displacement, violence, and repression. "And if not now, then when!"

PSARA Wins Washington Court of Appeals Decision

The Seattle Times submitted a public records request to the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) seeking the disclosure of the names



Robby Stern

and associated birthdates of individual home-care providers, many of whom are represented by SEIU 775.

PSARA was one of the plaintiffs along with SEIU 775 and three persons receiving services from long-term care providers in a suit against the Seattle Times and DSHS to stop the disclosure of this private information. Washington voters had passed I-1501, and the Seattle Times submitted their request for personal data after the initiative was passed but before its implementation date.

The trial court had ruled that the Seattle Times was entitled to the information. We are pleased that the Court of Appeals overturned the trial court decision. This is a victory for vulnerable adults and their caregivers. Providing the names and birth dates of caregivers, who often serve vulnerable clients in their own homes, would undermine the privacy of the caregivers and put the privacy of vulnerable people at risk.

Mourn Then Organize

The failure of 1631 to gain majority approval is painful. We hoped to deliver a victory for the future of our

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PSARA Oral History Project: An Interview with Jeff Johnson

By Angie Bartels and Karen Richter

PSARA's Oral History project is underway. Our latest interviewee is Jeff Johnson, President of the Washington State Labor Council and a long-time labor activist. His interview was conducted on August 15, 2018, and lasted about an hour and a half. The following are some highlights of the interview. You can hear it in its entirety by going to the University of Washington's Labor Archives.

You're retiring, Jeff. What will you do?

It's time in my opinion for white male leaders to step down and open it up and make room for younger female leaders and leaders of color. It's just time, it's past time. With Lynn Dodson and April Sims running I think we have what we need for the next step. I will be there supporting them in any way I can. I'll do volunteer work, and I'll tell you the truth. I've spent four years working with the Tribes, community groups, and others on climate justice. A group of seven of us co-wrote I-1631 with a lot of legal advice. When I announced my retirement in *The Stand* the Governor called me and asked me what I was doing. I said, I may be retiring, but I'm not going to stop working on this climate justice stuff.

I am very passionate about this stuff. I'm not disappearing. About 2012, I met Casey Goldman from Climate Solutions who is a long-time climate activist. We decided to rebuild the Blue Green Alliance.

As I learned more and more about the environmental crisis, I learned it's a racial crisis and an economic crisis. When the Paris Climate Conference came up, I petitioned to go. I finally got the OK, so I went for the second week. Every day I got briefed from all these international union leaders and civil society leaders. I learned so much that week it changed my life.

What knocked my socks off at the end of the week was something a



*Jeff speaking about I-1631 at PSARA's 2018 summer membership meeting.
(Photo: Garet Munger)*

young transit worker said. She got up and said if the planet were a bank we would have saved it already. I could feel the electricity flow through my body. It just summed up how capitalism works. There is plenty of money in the world to deal with climate change and inequality if there is the will to do it. I thought, I have to go back to my state with other labor and community leaders to push the edge of this as far and quickly as we can. We have to be smart and strategic and diplomatic. We have to get them to the table. And that's what I've been working on the past four years.

Where were you born?

I was born in 1951 in Long Island, New York. When I was 7 my father died at the workplace, leaving three kids under 10 with my Mom. She goes by TJ, Thelma Johnson, and is my hero. She will be 95 tomorrow. She was out of the work force for about 12 years and immediately went back to work at the local Chamber of Commerce and earned the grand sum of \$1.00 an hour, which was minimum wage in 1959. My Mom had a high school education, but she was street-smart. She was an innate organizer and met a young politician.

She became his campaign organizer. She parlayed his success into a job with the town, then the county, and then the state. Our family went from what would have been a disaster into a middle-class lifestyle. Because of city, county, and state bargaining, we were able to have a middle-class house, medications for my sister who has asthma, braces for my other sister, fix my broken bones, and all three of us were able to go to college. Back then, the Social Security program actually paid for higher education for dependents who had deceased parents. These payments helped us go to college. My Mom told me to always work hard because you never know what's going to happen, and to stand up for what's right.

Where did you go to high school and college?

We grew up in Oyster Bay in Nassau County (NY), an Italian and Irish village, and went to public high school there. I started working after school as an apprentice for a cabinetmaker for two years. I would probably be doing that today, but my Mom said, "Nope, you're going to college." My older sister went to Georgetown and I visited her there and said, "OK, that's where I want to go." I don't think my grades were good enough to get in, so I had an interview with an alumnus, and he discovered I had built the kitchen cabinets. He was impressed, and I think that did a lot to give me access to the University. During this time, the Vietnam War was at its peak, and for a 17-year-old coming from a rural town it was a real awakening. The Civil Rights movement, the Women's movement...all this excitement and turmoil. I participated in the mass movements against the war, getting tear gassed. It was the beginning of an education I don't think I

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My Adventure with Chase Bank and SPD

By Bob Barnes

Two weeks ago, I was charged with “pedestrian interference” and “obstructing a public officer.” Not for anything I’d just done, but for something that happened six months ago.

On May 7, there were actions targeting JPMorgan Chase – the huge investment broker/banking conglomerate – in 19 cities and 10 states around the country.

The actions were the latest round of a multi-year campaign to get JPMorgan Chase to stop funding extreme fossil fuel projects, such as coal terminals and tar sands pipelines.

In Downtown Seattle, a group of intrepid climate activists set up four tarpees (teepees made with a tarp covering) on Second Avenue in front of JPMorgan Chase’s Pacific Northwest Headquarters. Atop each tarpee sat an activist on a small platform. The structures were designed so that the setters could not easily be extracted from their positions.

This action was accompanied by a group of indigenous women and their non-indigenous women allies occupying the bank’s lobby, calling upon the Regional Manager, Phyllis Campbell, to come down and discuss Chase’s investments in pipelines that harm both people and the planet.

A round of negotiations between police representatives and the groups’ police liaison (me) resulted in what seemed to be an exit strategy. The activists would voluntarily clear the street by noon without any arrests.

The truck which transported the tarpees was called back, and the activists were preparing to disembark from their perches and disassemble the tarpees, when the police suddenly changed their mind.

The truck was ordered away. Two hook and ladder fire trucks and a greatly reinforced police presence arrived. The police ordered the street cleared. The activists reconsidered their decision to leave.

The resulting standoff lasted until almost 4:00 p.m., tangling downtown

traffic for most of the afternoon. Had the original negotiations moved forward, the street would have been cleared hours earlier.

By the end of the day, 15 activists were arrested, most charged with “pedestrian interference,” some with an additional charge of “obstructing a public officer.”

In an interesting turn of events, I was charged with the same two infractions, six months after the fact, even though I was not arrested at the action.

Meanwhile, JPMorgan Chase is set to unveil their very first climate change report early next year, in part as a direct response to public criticism of their failure to respond to the climate crisis.

Stay tuned for that report and our next court date, which is set for January 7, 2019.

Bob Barnes is a member of PSARA's Climate and Environmental Committee.



*SPD with tarpees
Photo courtesy of Bob Barnes*

End-of-the-Year Donation

Continued from Page 1

cial, physical, and emotional challenges of long-term care and what can be done to help meet these challenges. The Education Fund also sponsored several presentations of the Herstory program created and produced by the Old Lesbians Oral Herstory Project. This powerful presentation documents the individual struggles of old lesbian women to live their lives openly with dignity and respect.

Our challenges are enormous! President Trump and the Republican congress are attacking funding for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The Trump nominee for Commissioner of Social Security, Andrew Saul, had previous association with the Manhattan Institute that promotes privatization. Similar problems face Medicare and Medicaid as a result of leadership appointments. If successful, the attacks will fundamentally alter these vital programs or, at a minimum, weaken their effectiveness.

We are also dedicated to sponsoring educational programs to counter the hatred that is being unleashed by Trump and his allies. The Herstory program is just one example. Most recently, in October, we sponsored the Herstory program in Langley, Washington, with a local committee led by PSARA members. Approximately 200 people attended the presentation.

The PSARA Education Fund will continue to grow, educate, and advocate. We owe this not only to ourselves but also to our children, grandchildren, and generations to follow. In 2019, we will be asking our members to help us locate venues for all of our education work.

Thank you for your support!

Bob's World

By Bob Shimabukuro

In our November issue, we published Part I of Bob's column remembering his mother. This is Part II.

Haole House (Pukalani)

Mom: "People used to call our house 'haole house,' it was the first in the area. It meant that we had real plumbing (in the kitchen, bathroom, and furo), and electricity. And some extras: We also had a huge stainless steel tub to make tofu, and a still to make okolehao (ti leaf liquor)."

Manoa House Time (I was about 5-6)

Mom: "Don't ever go by those boards over there. It's dirty."

Me: "Okay."

Naturally, I was curious. I go look by da boards ovah deah. Then I wen hear somebody flush toilet. Wen peek undah dah boards. Was one ditch goin' fo' one big hole. Oh, no wondah she wen tell me stay away! Get one open cesspool ova' deah!

Pukalani Banker?

Mom: Jiisan had loaned out a lot of money to folks on good faith that they would pay it back when Uncle Paul graduated high school. However, that was never paid back. That money was for Uncle's college money. Jiichan was very angry, but what could he do? They didn't have the money. Uncle went to trade school instead. Electrician.

St Louis Heights Quickie Loans

A year after Dad w'en die, Toki and Roy w'en leave home, I was the only driver. So the car was mine. I had to drive folks around, though. Was rifling around da glove compartment when I see little pieces of paypah, say \$5 Paul, \$3 Paul, \$10 Paul, etc. Guess Uncle Paul was running a Quickie Loans to Mom & Dad. But I think Uncle Paul did get his



Bob's family, with Bob first row, far left.

money back. After Dad died, Tom w'en pay back Uncle Paul all Dad owed to Uncle Paul's. In fact, Tom paid back folks for all Dad owed. As Tom explained to everyone, in the culture, the oldest son gets everything the Dad has, including debts. Better to be a rich man's first son than a poor man's son.

Mom, the Teacher?

Jiisan had also noticed that Mom, his trilingual daughter, was doing well in school, getting awards in both English school and Japanese school. He offered to pay her way through Normal School, somewhat unheard of in that era (around 1935). Mom decided against Normal School. She was smitten with Dad.

About the same time Jiisan and some of the family decided to take a trip to Okinawa and asked Mom if she wanted to visit Okinawa, and again she refused, deciding to stay in Honolulu with Dad.

It's hard for me to think about the choice that Mom made. Mom and Jiisan were in some way far ahead in the culture game, but Dad, for being such a revolutionary, was a frustrated reactionary in the culture.

As Toki Nesan put it, "It hurts him every time I bring in a paycheck bigger

than his, well, every time I bring in a paycheck, period; or that mom has to work. It's a pride thing."

"It's not good for people to see that your wife has to work," Dad once told me.

Obviously, I've never thought that.

Sometimes I wonder what would have happened if Mom had, at the time, taken what her Dad had offered her.

Then I realized what a stupid thought that was. Answer: Well, I wouldn't be here typing this story out.

"Mom, when I was little, Dad used to lecture me about learning all kinds of stuff, politics, mathematics (especially geometry) remember that?"

"Yes."

"Why did he pester me like that?"

"He thought you would be a great social reformer."

"Oh yeah, I remember. ...Great?"

"Yes, Great. He wanted you to be a lawyer."

I burst out laughing. (Although at the time, I had been hanging out with some National Lawyers Guild folks.)

"And," she added seriously, "I think he thought you could carry out his dreams."

The Clean Air and Clean Energy 1631 – The Dinosaurs Won This Time But...

By Bobby Righi

Many of us in PSARA spent hours this past spring and summer gathering signatures on the petitions which would put Initiative 1631 on the ballot this November. Then, when it made the ballot, we joined with over 400 other organizations across the state and volunteered to knock on doors to explain why this initiative was so powerful for Washington's people and its economy. We made phone calls to voters around the state and met people young and old who joined us in all of this work. Many had never done anything like this before.

This work happened across the state – people went out to talk to their neighbors to remind them to vote and to explain why they should vote Yes for 1631. It has been inspiring to unite with tribal members, communities of color, churches, business, environmental groups, and many unions. The paid organizing staff for 1631 was a group of enthusiastic young people who traveled the state helping all the volunteers with materials and cheer. With the leadership of frontline communities and first nations, this campaign became a movement for justice.

In short, this campaign has been an optimistic bright spot and a joy to take part in.

But “money talks”: the effect of \$31 million dollars spent on non-stop ads on TV and piles of slick brochures delivered daily to mailboxes took a huge bite out of the initial support for the initiative. Canvassing for the measure, you could hear this media onslaught when people asked questions about cost and accountability. The “gusher” of money spent on the campaign by Big Oil bought a majority of No votes.

The loss of 1631 has driven home to me the realization that despite the long hours of work from more than 6,000 volunteers from diverse communities, if there is enough money to spend to spread enough lies often enough, people will finally believe the lies and vote against their own best interests.

In San Luis Obispo county, California, an anti-fracking initiative was defeated by \$4 million dollars of Big Oil money – in just one county targeted at about 80,000 voters!

KC Golden wrote an article for *Climate Solutions* summing up this situation where it appears that Big Oil holds all the cards, but KC gave me some hope, too, by pointing out their weaknesses.

He says that the vote was a sharp reminder that Oil still has the hole card in the political game – money. But he is unimpressed by their underlying power. They are isolated: 99 percent of the No campaign budget was from the petroleum industry. The business community no longer rallies around Big Oil as one of theirs. Clean energy is a much bigger driver of jobs and prosperity than fossil fuels, so the economic constituency for oil dependence here is dwindling.

Big Oil deceived a lot of voters with relentless appeals to economic fear and distrust of government. Their strategy is to block all the exits from fossil fuel dependence. But, as KC says, with every sale of an electric vehicle, every solar or wind power installation, every transit improvement, every new unit of affordable housing in cities, every decline in the cost of clean energy and efficient buildings... a better prospect becomes more irresistible. Finite and dirty fossil fuels can't compete with free, clean, ubiquitous sunshine forever.

Oil companies talk about addressing the carbon pollution problem, but they can't support a truly effective climate policy, because such a policy would by definition leave most of their carbon reserves – their biggest assets – unburned and worthless. So, as KC points out, they are trapped in their own spectacularly profitable carbon extracting, wealth-concentrating, climate-wrecking machine. I think that they are like dinosaurs caught in the tar pits – the members of the Big Oil oligarchy are becoming fossils themselves. Oil's



Bobby Righi hard at work
(Photo: Garet Munger)

spending against 1631 went up steeply after the IPCC's new report calling for emergency climate action. The industry has backed itself into a corner, as it answers growing climate urgency with ever-larger expenditures on political deception and intimidation. It's now clear that the world will have a viable oil industry or a decent future, but not both.

Working for 1631 with such a diverse coalition gave us a glimpse of what a decent future might look like, and it gave us hope for getting there. All of the connections we made, organizations and individuals that worked together, have made the climate justice movement stronger, and while we are sad and discouraged about this defeat, we are not stopping. Many climate champions have just been elected to state houses and to Congress, giving us another way to move forward. There are growing numbers willing to engage in civil disobedience against fossil fuels. Time is not on our side in struggling to stop climate change, but this urgency means we must, and will, pick ourselves up and keep pressing on.

Bobby Righi is PSARA's Membership Co-VP and a member of our Climate and Environmental Justice Committee.

We Remember David Ayala, Jackie Dupras, and Mildred Ollee

While we're sad to lose our friends and PSARA members David Ayala, Jackie Dupras, and Mildred Ollee, we draw strength from remembering their outstanding lives and achievements. They were regular folks, and yet they were extraordinary.

David Ayala came to the US as a refugee from political persecution in his native El Salvador. Readers of the *Advocate* saw the account of his experience as a revolutionary there in the article we serialized, "Being Tortured Has Been the Best Experience of My Life," by PSARA member Peter Costantini.

Once in the US, David did not abandon his principles. Instead, he became a labor organizer with SEIU, one of the organizers that launched the day-laborer project that became Casa Latina, one of the co-founders of El Comite in Seattle, a tireless organizer with OneAmerica, and later the field director for the campaign that sent Pramila Jayapal to Congress.

"We'll miss you, David," OneAmerica said in a statement on David's passing. "But we became better people by virtue of your investment in time and caring in each of us. And your legacy will continue in the movement, in the institutions you built, and in the people you pushed to become more than they ever thought they could be. Thank you, David!"

Jackie Dupras was a beloved member of the Seattle Labor Chorus and the 34th District Democrats.

PSARA member Steve Butts, also a 34th District Dem, recalls the "care and personal flair" with which Jackie edited their monthly newsletter. Jackie also designed custom buttons, each design artfully expressing a progressive theme targeting a current issue of the day. And each one union-printed.

"Through her own initiative she helped to make our organization better known to others residing in the 34th District," Steve Butts remembers.

Mildred Ollee was born in Alexandria, Louisiana, and got her Bachelor's degree in Education, English, and Social



David Ayala, Jackie Dupras, and Mildred Ollee

Science at Xavier University of Louisiana. This is where she met Henry Ollée, whom she married in 1957.

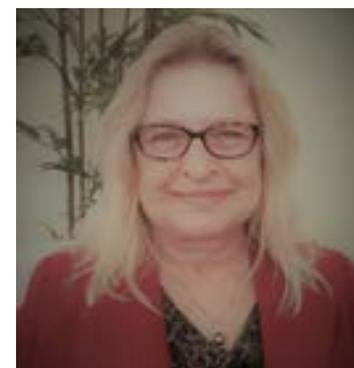
Mildred began her career in higher education as a faculty member at Walla Walla Community College. In 1970, she became a counselor at Seattle Central Community College and rose to the position of Vice President of Student Services, a job she held from 1987 to 1995. Mildred earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Seattle University in 1988. In 1995, she became The Executive Dean/CEO of Cascade Campus in the Portland Community College system. In 2003, she returned

to Seattle Central College as President.

Although she retired in 2010, retirement only gave her time to pursue other interests. In addition to serving on PSARA's Executive Board, Mildred was a member of The Links, the Boards of the Seattle Central Foundation, Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel, and the Federal Way Rotary, and served on the candidate nominating committee for the US Naval Academy. Most recently she was appointed to the Federal Way School Board and served as the Interim Director for the Northwest African American Museum.

Andrea Sawczuk Appointed to Washington State Dementia Action Collaborative

In September 2018, PSARA Executive Board member and Co-Chair of the PSARA Southend Committee Andrea Sawczuk was appointed to the Washington State Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC). The DAC is supported by WA State DSHS under the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALISA) and, through the hard work of volunteers combined with state funding, has created resources and tools for individuals, families, and providers that are designed to provide guidance and support. To meet this charge, the DAC has identified seven focus areas that are being addressed by five committees. Based on her expertise as a neuroscientist and dentist, Andrea has been appointed to the Medicine and Neuroscience Committee, which has been charged with executing those focus areas directed towards providing resources and tools to providers. Andrea is very excited about this opportunity and looks forward to embracing the charge – and challenges – of this committee.



Update: Henoko Bay Battle Continues

By Moe Yonamine

The elation on election day: September 30th:

WE DID IT, OKINAWA!!! Anti-base and anti-heliport candidate, Denny Tamaki, won the Okinawan Governor's seat September 30th.

The gubernatorial election, originally scheduled for late autumn, had been moved up after Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga died of cancer in August. The resistance for our land, our people, our ocean, and our sovereignty was heard loud and clear. Not even a record typhoon and islandwide blackouts could stop us. So proud of my people back home today. Uchinanchus and friends worldwide, it's time to organize for Henoko, because the Japanese central government announced that they will be taking legal action against Okinawa, in midst of this win to reverse Okinawa's refusal to allow the heliport base construction. Uchinaa, this is just the beginning!

A month later, November 1st:

A Statement by Diasporic Okinawans in Support of Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki

"On October 31, 2018, Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki reached out to Uchinanchu (ethnic Okinawans) in the diaspora and asked for our help. His call comes at a critical moment in Okinawan history. The next day, the Japanese government re-started construction of a new US military base at Henoko, after 23 years of popular opposition in Okinawa. ..."

Uchinanchus/Okinawans/Ryukyuan:
Please help sign this urgent petition as Governor Tamaki heads to the US this week fighting to stop the Henoko construction. This change.org petition is started and written by several long-time Uchinanchu friends who have been activists for Uchinaa for a long time. We need your help signing, sharing, and tagging other Uchinanchus so that it spreads quickly. Chibariyo! (Do Your Best)

Interview With Jeff Johnson

Continued from Page 5

would have gotten elsewhere. It was the beginning of a trajectory of where my life was going to go. I changed my major from political science to economics because I wanted to learn how things worked. I wanted to study political economics, and Georgetown was too politically conservative. I chose the New School in NYC. I went through and did everything to get my PhD, and I started writing a thesis. I was becoming more active. My first foray into the labor movement was as a volunteer for the Transit Union there. They were trying to oust a long-time existing white trade union leader with a rank and file African American who was very dynamic. So more and more I got involved in the labor movement and less and less interested in my dissertation. I finally admitted to myself I wasn't going to finish this thing. I'm having too much fun.

I heard of the Empire State College that had the Henry Van Arsdale Center. I taught there for about three and a half years and taught seminars with trade union leaders. My wife at the time and I wanted to raise a family. I wanted mountains, oceans so looked at both coasts. My wife was from Portland, so we rented a truck and drove cross country. We drove to Olympia, found an apartment, and then I began looking for a job up and down the I-5 corridor. I met with union leaders, applied to colleges, and then paid a courtesy call to Larry Kenney, President of the WSLC. During our conversation it turns out he used to read a journal I used to write for, a little leftist journal called *Economic Notes*. He offered me a research job comparing how the US ranks on various social indicators. After our third conversation I realized he was hiring me for a job as Research Director for the WSLC.

He introduced me to a part of my life that is now a fundamental core of it. He invited me to a meeting with Tomas Villanueva, the head of the Farm Workers Union. Tomas asked Larry for his help.

He was worried that Larry was going to stab the Farm Workers in the back like every other AFL-CIO leader did. Larry said "No, we are going to help." He turned to me and asked if I would like to work with Tomas. It began a glorious friendship. We worked on so many issues together, workers comp, minimum wage, pesticide protections, child labor. Within five years we covered farm workers under unemployment insurance, workers comp, we wrote child labor standards to keep kids out of the fields. This is about 1986-1993.

Governor Lowry had been elected in 1992 and Labor held a celebration. He came over to me and said from what I heard about you we are going to be good partners, but I can't work with your boss. You have to do something, be an intermediary. There was an Executive Member on the (WSLC) Board who I knew, and his aide was Robby Stern, whom I heard of but never met. Robby and I hit it off immediately, and I thought, here's a soul mate. We started talking and came up with a plan. Long story short, the Governor offered Larry a position on a three-member board – Washington State Tax Appeals. Larry had a CPA degree and would probably be the most qualified member of that board. He accepted, and Rick Bender was appointed in his place. A year later, Robby was hired as Rick's special assistant. This began a 15-year friendship where we were pretty much inseparable. Together we were able to work on progressive issues. Robby is my best friend since 1993.

Angie Bartels, Karen Richter, and Jeff Johnson are PSARA members. Angie has been a dedicated volunteer interviewer and members of PSARA's Fundraising Committee. Karen is PSARA's Membership Co-VP and Chair of the Fundraising Committee. Jeff Johnson is President of the Washington State Labor Council. He will retire at the end of 2018.

2018 Election

Continued from Page 3

On the Senate side, the Democrats have picked up 2 seats – Wilson in LD 30 and Das in LD 47. At this point the Democrats have a majority of 27 to 22 (this does not count Tim Sheldon).

In LD 26 democrat challenger Emily Randall is down by 134 votes to Republican Jan Angel and in LD 42 Democrat challenger Pinky Vargas is down by 72 votes to Republican Doug Ericksen.

Andy Billig (LD-3 Spokane) has been elected the new Majority Leader for the Democrats in the Senate.

Given the new Democratic majorities in both the House and the Senate there is the possibility of passing some much needed legislation around worker misclassification, reducing carbon emissions and climate change, long-term care, health care reform, rebuilding the social safety net, and funding state employee wages and benefits, community and technical college employees' salaries and benefits, and increased funding for labor education.

What passes depends on us holding legislators that we supported accountable to the issues they said they supported during the campaign. Whether we can further increase majorities in 2020 will depend on the values exhibited and the bills passed in the State House and Congress over the next two years.

The bigger job of reclaiming America's soul in part depends on developing candidates and support structures for labor and community voices to be heard. One part of that is training folks up. Please contact Cherika Carter, Field Mobilization Director for the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, if you are interested in participating in our Path to Power candidate training program in March 2019. Cherika can be reached at ccarter@wslc.org.

Jeff Johnson is President of the Washington State Labor Council and a member of PSARA.

Not So Random Thoughts

Continued from Page 4

children, grandchildren, and the generations to follow.

But there is a ray of hope in the enormous effort that was made to pass I-1631. In the face of a powerfully wealthy fossil fuel industry with no limits on what they were willing to spend or say, a mass movement has gained more activists and more adherents.

One of the leaders of the campaign said to me early in the initiative effort that the coalition that was being built was historic. Even if we lose 1631, tens of thousands of people will be activated in Washington and millions of residents will learn a lot more about climate change and climate justice. That has happened!

The fight for the survival of life as we know it is a long-term war against avarice and deceit. The campaign for 1631 is another battle in that war. Let's pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and keep advocating. The next battlefield will be the 2019 legislative session. PSARA will support legislation that promises progress in the effort to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. We support equity for those most negatively impacted by climate change. We are firmly committed to solutions that are not dictated by the corporate interests that are responsible for the tragedy that is unfolding.

Just This!

By Barbara Flye



Patient Name:

Donald Trump

Prescription:

**Anti-Inflammatory
Extra Strength**

Use:

Preserve the values on which
this country was created.

Signed: *Lady Liberty*, p.p. BBF

To Renew or Donate

PSARA Education Fund

321 16th Avenue S, Seattle WA 98144

- Basic contribution: \$20
- Limited income/living lightly: \$15 or whatever you can afford
- Supporting: \$50 New contributor
- Sponsoring: \$100 or more Renewing contributor

Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Meetings and Events

West Seattle Hot Topics for Seniors & Senior Wannabes:

Noon – 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 5, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave SW, Seattle, (35th & Henderson). Topic: *Income and Wealth Inequality*. Brown bag lunch.

PSARA Climate and Environmental Justice Committee:

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, December 6, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Government Relations Committee:

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, December 6, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. All are welcome.

PSARA Fundraising Committee:

10:30 a.m. - Noon, Monday, December 10, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. All are welcome.

PSARA Education Committee:

2 p.m., Tuesday, December 11, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Winter Potluck and Membership meeting:

Noon – 3 p.m., Thursday, December 13, UFCW 21 Joe Crump Hall, 5030 1st Avenue S, Seattle. See the article on Page 1 for details. All are welcome. RSVP to organizer@psara.org or call the PSARA office, 206-254-4910.

Save the Date! Senior Lobby Day,

February 26, in Olympia. Look for details in coming issues of the *Retiree Advocate*.

