

The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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

Vol XXXII, No 10

October 2016

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Renewing Your Subscription or Membership Online

We heard from many of our members that they would prefer to renew membership and donate online. We have now created that option. Go to the PSARA website, www.PSARA.org, and click on Membership & Renewal. You can renew, donate to the 501c3, give gift memberships, and make monthly sustaining contributions.

If the date on your mailing label is in red, it is time for renewal. Renewing online when you see the date in red saves PSARA the cost of mailing reminder letters, although PayPal does take a small cut of what is contributed online.

You can also receive this newsletter online if you call or email and let us know that is your preference. The online version of the newsletter comes in living color! If you prefer hard copy, we are happy to keep mailing it to you.

Reserve the Date

The PSARA Legislative Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 29, from 1 – 3 p.m. at the offices of UFCW 21, 5030 First Avenue South, Seattle 98134. There will be exciting speakers, analysis of the election outcome, and the opportunity to discuss the PSARA Legislative Agenda for 2017. Please mark your calendars, and we will have more information in the November newsletter.



PSARA Endorses Sound Transit 3 (ST3)

By Karen Richter

After decades of ballot defeats, voters in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties finally approved a long-range mass transit plan in 1996. The plan created a regional transit agency, Sound Transit, to implement it. Three lines of service were created: Link Light Rail, Sounder Commuter Rail, and Regional Bus, which built the backbone of the region's mass transit plan.

In 2008 Sound Transit 2 passed, adding additional miles of service, transit stations, and park and ride lots, while continuing to provide good-paying design and construction jobs for the region plus apprenticeship programs that helped many workers ride out the Great Recession. Workers continue to work those good-paying jobs today as ST2 nears completion.

In November 2016, ST3 will be on the ballot. Known as Regional Proposition 1, voters will be asked to approve the \$53.8 billion plan to accommodate our region's growing population boom through a 116 mile light rail system and additional express bus and commuter rail service connecting communities around Puget Sound.

The PSARA Executive Board discussed the Environmental Committee's recommendation to endorse ST3 at its August meeting, after hearing an overview of the plan by King County Council Member Claudia Balducci. It considered the elements of this complex plan, focusing on issues such as greenhouse gas emission reductions/air quality improvements, the creation of tens of thousands of additional good-paying jobs, and a training program for young apprentices providing good skills for the future. They discussed the creation of affordable housing and transit-oriented design near new transit stations and the significant connections for workers to jobs that the light rail system will provide between the University of Washington, downtown, central and south King County, Ballard, and West Seattle, and into Pierce and Snohomish counties.

They discussed the taxes needed to pay for ST3, which include property, car tab, and sales. Other revenue will come from federal grants, bonds, and other sources, costing the average household about \$17 per month or \$200 per year. The Environmental Committee's recommendation included language to work with Sound Transit to use more progressive funding sources for future ballot measures.

It was noted that the Puget Sound Region is still behind many cities in North America in building a strong multimodal public transit system, but ST3 goes a long way to address our shortcomings and will provide a valuable asset to citizens of Puget Sound for generations to come. These investments are reminiscent of the investments our parents and grandparents made for their children during the Depression. ST3 goes a long way to make up for the years of false starts our region has experienced.

Overall, the Board found that the benefits of ST3 outweigh the cost.

Now it is time for all of us to help pass this initiative. If you are interested in getting more information or volunteering to help pass ST3 go to <http://soundtransit3.org>

Karen Richter serves on PSARA's Environmental Committee and also volunteers with the Retiree Advocate mailing team.



The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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Action at University District ZoomCare

By *Tammy Morales*

Health care, retiree, and labor activists in Seattle and Portland are planning coordinated actions on October 18 to pressure Portland-based ZoomCare to stop cherry-picking who gets health care.

As readers of *The Advocate* know, the ZoomCare model is based on avoiding care for the poor, the sick, and the elderly. By refusing to accept Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans' Tricare, they serve only the young and healthy who can pay. This reduces ZoomCare's costs to provide care while it increases profits for the shareholders at Endeavour Capital, their primary investor.

Protests against Zoom's practices began in January, have spread from city to city, and have grown in energy and intensity. The pressure is working. After sister rallies in Seattle's Fremont and Portland's Hawthorne neighborhoods on July 11, ZoomCare staff distributed a letter attempting to justify their business model. In Portland, where ZoomCare is headquartered and has 23 clinics, one regular attendee at the rallies has been ZoomCare CEO David Sanders himself, who has come to the rallies in a noticeably agitated state, desperately trying to defend his company's policy of exclusion to anyone who will listen.

Sanders' public letter compares ZoomCare to Apple, Amazon, and Uber, companies that "changed modern life" by "disrupting" the market. Sanders believes their "innovation" -- creating an app-based retail health system to have patients schedule online -- offers "digital self-service." It's not clear what self-serve health care is. But we all know why ZoomCare has this policy. Because it puts more money into the pockets of their investors at Endeavour Capital.

Zoom's market "disruption" apparently includes hiding from regulators and dodging responsibilities. Oregon workplace safety regulators issued citations and penalties late last year for the failure of Zoom's dental clinic to give staff appropriate training for dealing with blood-borne pathogens. In keeping with Zoom's penchant for secrecy, clinic managers refused to allow OSHA inspectors entry without a warrant! Then, over the summer, Zoom was reportedly the only insurer in Oregon to refuse to honor the copays and deductibles of former enrollees in Oregon's Health Co-op, and ultimately complied only after insurance regulators issued a formal order. In a further sign that their model is failing, ZoomCare insurance just announced they are exiting the Oregon Obamacare exchange, and they have dropped their application to provide insurance in Washington State.

Join us at noon on October 18 to let ZoomCare know that their disruption hurts our community. In Seattle, advocates from PSARA, Seattle Labor Chorus, UFCW 21, Washington CAN!, and others will be at the University District clinic at 4540 University Way NE.

For those who may be in Portland on October 18, please join Portland Jobs with Justice, UFCW 555, and allied organizations at the ZoomCare clinic on NW 23rd in Portland to take a stand in support of health care for all and corporate accountability.

Tammy Morales is a PSARA member and a UFCW 21 organizer.



Picket line at our last ZoomCare action in Fremont. (Photo: Garet Munger)

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www.psara.org
or visit PSARA on Facebook

PSARA Keeps Moving Forward

By Robby Stern

Elections

PSARA's endorsements on the initiatives and funding proposals on the November ballot are in this issue of the newsletter. We offer these recommendations to you with the knowledge that our members are very informed and will make their individual decisions based on their own careful analysis. At the same time, the PSARA Executive Board did not take any of these endorsements lightly. After discussion in the Government Relations Committee and Environmental Committee, recommendations were made to the Executive Board, who then discussed and voted on the recommendations. Members are always welcome to participate in these meetings.

In the instance of the Carbon WA measure, I-732, we knew that PSARA members had helped with signature gathering. We decided to hold a debate/discussion at our June membership meeting, publicized the event, and took an advisory vote of members present and voting. The Executive Board voted to follow the recommendation of the vote at the membership meeting.

With the ST3 funding proposal, we invited Council Member Claudia Balducci to the August Executive Board meeting to discuss the content of ST3. We invited our membership to the meeting and then held a vote after inviting discussion by all the members who were present.

I have received expressions of concern/opposition from a few members regarding the positions we have taken on I-732 and ST3. I have genuine respect for the members who have spoken with me. At the same time, as an organization we want to exercise the power that flows from our membership.

We may not always unanimously agree on every issue, but we make an effort to achieve outcomes as democratically as possible and then do what we can to exert our influence on the critical policy issues facing our communities.

Surprise at the MLKing County Council

On Wednesday, September 21, the MLKing County Council "Committee of the Whole" met and listened to a presentation on why the Council should support the Motion initiated by Council Member (CM) Larry Gossett favoring expansion of Social Security and Medicare. Because we had the votes, we anticipated that the Committee would vote to refer the Motion to the formal County Council meeting on October 3.

Unfortunately, there was no vote. Representatives from our coalition had met with all the CMs or their staff who were interested in meeting with us. Some CMs indicated that they were already on board with the motion and that there was no real reason to meet. The County Council is a partisan body. We made a special effort to reach out to the three Republican CMs. We met with a staff person for CM Von Reichbauer and also met in person with CM Dunn and CM Lambert.

The Chair of the Council "Committee of the Whole" is CM Kathy Lambert. We had an excellent meeting with her led by Pam Crone, PSARA's lobbyist, who had worked with CM Lambert when she was in the state legislature. At our meeting, CM Lambert indicated she was in favor of the Motion. She did not say, and we did not think to ask, if the Motion would receive a vote by the Committee on the day of the hearing.

There was a good crowd of members and allies in attendance at the hearing on the 21st, and there was disappointment that there was no vote. All of us, including the prime sponsor, were surprised. We now have some idea as to why the Motion did not come up for a vote, and we are hoping that CM Lambert will schedule a vote by the Committee soon. We will not know the schedule for the voting before this issue of the Retiree Advocate goes to the printer. There is a large majority of the Council who support the Motion, so we believe it will pass when it comes before the Council. We will communicate with our members about what they can do to help as the process/scheduling becomes clearer.



New Developments with PSARA

Mike Andrew, the editor of *The Retiree Advocate*, has been hired by PSARA as an organizer. Mike will continue his work as the editor of *The Retiree Advocate* for the PSARA Education Fund. He is an experienced and well respected organizer (along with his wonderful skills as a journalist and researcher), and we are very fortunate to have him working for PSARA and the PSARA Education Fund. Besides being a writer for Seattle Gay News, he is the Secretary Treasurer of Pride at Work and a member of the National Writers Union. Mike's organizing will assist in expanding our work. The strength of our organization is the willingness of our members to volunteer to carry on the work of educating, organizing, and advocating. Mike's presence will amplify our volunteer efforts.

Twitter as a means of social justice activism has eluded my 72-year-old brain and skills. But with the help of Mike, Marc Krasnowsky, and Reed Wacker, we now have a Twitter account. Our new Twitter handle is @PSARAactivists. We just started, so if you tweet (I can't believe I am writing this!) please follow @PSARA-activists.

If you haven't looked at Meetings & Events on the back page, take a look. Our work is expanding. If you are looking for something (else) meaningful and helpful to do, think about becoming a member of a PSARA committee or volunteering to help with mailing the newsletter.

The Fight for Workers' Rights

By Tom Lux, Treasurer of PSARA and President of the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association

It is time to honor those who died fighting for our rights – our right of free speech, our right to be heard as workers, our right to respect and dignity in work and life. Five union workers were killed outright and a half dozen others were never found. But this wasn't Columbia or Mexico or El Salvador where union organizers fear for their lives. These workers were killed by "upstanding citizens" right here in the Pacific Northwest. The date was November 5, 1916, just one hundred years ago.

What happened? When the Shingle Weavers Union in Everett went on strike to regain wages that they had lost, members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), also known as "Wobblies," came to support them. The Wobblies were also known as great soap box orators. There was no internet then, so they used street corners to speak of working people fighting for their rights and joining the One Big Union. For this the business elite had them arrested, only to have another Wobbly take his or her place. The city jails would often overflow during these "Free Speech" fights in such places as Spokane, Everett, Yakima, and Centralia. At one point 200 upstanding citizens and officers of Everett ran them out of town through a merciless gauntlet of swinging sawed-off cue sticks, axe handles and other clubs. Those who still could walk 25 miles back to Seattle.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT
COMMEMORATE the EVERETT MASSACRE
PROGRAM, ENTERTAINMENT, REFRESHMENTS
Saturday, November 12, 2016
MILLTOWN SAILING ASSOCIATION
410 14TH STREET, EVERETT
NOON – 2:30 pm

www.PNLHA.org; email: PNLHA2@gmail.



IWW members had enough of the terrorism of the business leaders and sheriff in Everett. Early Sunday morning, November 5, 1916, some 400 Wobblies had gathered in Seattle. About 250 loaded onto the Verona, the rest catching a smaller steamer, the Calista, and sailed from Seattle to fight for their right to free speech and to support the striking shingle workers in Everett. As they were landing, they sang, "Hold the Fort for we are coming, Union hearts be strong..."

The business leaders in Everett, fearful of the IWW's revolutionary rhetoric, had the sheriff and some 200 "deputized" and armed men confront the union men at the docks. Undeterred by the hundreds of guns pointed at them, they prepared to disembark.

"Who is your leader," shouted Sheriff Donald McRae.

"We are all leaders here," came the reply.

McRae pulled his gun. The gangplank

was almost in place. "You can't land here!" McRae shouted.

"The hell we can't!"

A shot rang out from somewhere. Then another. Then the battle was on, and all chaos erupted. After the shooting stopped, five men from the IWW lay dead, as did two deputies. Many more were wounded. Once the members of the IWW returned to Seattle, they were arrested and charged with murder. Seventy-four Wobblies were jailed for five months. But once Thomas Tracy was acquitted, the charges against the other 73 were dropped.

We commemorate the lives of these brave unionists and their struggle for free speech, and we acknowledge that we are still struggling to be heard as workers. This is clear in the face of decisions like Citizens United and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which enhance the power of large corporations while diminishing the ability of average citizens to be heard in our democracy.



September 21: The King County Council Committee of the Whole did not vote on the resolution to expand Social Security and Medicare, although we expect a vote in the near future. At left, PSARA members and allies attend the Council meeting. At right, EOI's Marilyn Watkins, PSARA's Robby Stern, and Xochitl Maykovich of Washington CAN! testify before the Council.



The Battle at Standing Rock, Part I

By Dina Burstein, with photos by Gareth Munger

On September 9, three federal agencies made an amazing announcement.

The Department of Army, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior acted to reconsider earlier decisions allowing the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) to cross under the Missouri River at Lake Oahe in North Dakota. They halted pipeline construction on Army Corps land under and bordering Lake Oahe, asked that construction on the pipeline within 20 miles east and west of the Lake be voluntarily halted, and they called for national reform to ensure “meaningful tribal input” on infrastructure projects.

This announcement came minutes after a federal district judge refused to issue an injunction stopping pipeline construction at that location. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe had sued for this injunction on the basis that the Army Corps of Engineers had not adequately consulted with the Tribe, as the National Historic Preservation Act and other laws require.



The \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline would run underground for 1,134 miles from the Bakken Oil fields in northwest North Dakota, crossing North and South Dakota and Iowa and ending in Illinois. From there, the company plans to move 450,000 barrels per day by train and pipeline. With the boom in oil output resulting from fracking

techniques in North Dakota, oil companies are enthusiastic about construction of pipelines to bring crude oil to the coasts for refining or shipping to lucrative markets overseas.

Currently, North Dakota ships 650,000 barrels a day by rail, which is more expensive for the oil companies than shipping by pipeline. Derailments of oil-carrying trains are becoming almost commonplace, according to Earth Justice, with poor federal standards for tank strength leading to oil spills, explosions, and evacuations when they do derail.

Oil pipelines have fewer accidents, but they do have disastrous leaks; according to the Center for Biological Diversity, 200 barrels a day have been spilled in pipeline accidents since 1986.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has protested DAPL construction since April of this year. The pipeline would cross treaty lands and ancestral burial grounds and cross under the Missouri River a mile north of their reservation at Lake Oahe. The Missouri River provides drinking water for millions of Americans and irrigation water for thousands of acres of farming and ranching lands, according to Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault.

This would not be the first time the Sioux Nation's land was taken with no regard for tribal interests. In 1958, the Army Corps of Engineers seized Sioux land by eminent domain, damming the



PSARA stands with Standing Rock, September 16.

Missouri River, drowning their riverfront forests, fruit orchards, and fertile farmland to create Lake Oahe, which provides hydroelectric power to North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Montana. No time was allowed to harvest crops, wood, and herbs before the land was flooded.

Tribal leaders argue that any pipeline leak into the river would cause immediate and irreparable harm to this vital water source and a threat to their very existence. They also point out that the pipeline was originally planned to cross the Missouri River north of Bismarck, the state capital, but the route was changed because of opposition by powerful groups in the capitol.

The Standing Rock Sioux filed a lawsuit in July, 2016, challenging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting the pipeline in violation of federal laws which require meaningful consultation with the Tribe.

The lawsuit could be expected to take a year or more to resolve. Since the pipeline was already under construction and might be finished by the time

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Meet the Deplorables

Trump campaign becomes a nest of white supremacists and anti-gay bigots

By Mike Andrew

White supremacists loved Donald Trump's August 31 speech on immigration.

Ex-Klan Wizard David Duke was "ecstatic" over the speech, he said, so much so that he live-tweeted every anti-immigrant remark Trump made.

Jared Taylor, editor of the white nationalist publication *American Renaissance*, said it was a "hell of a speech. Almost perfect."

Richard Spencer, president of the white nationalist think tank National Policy Institute, proclaimed "Trump is back!"

The same day, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) issued a new report charging that the Trump campaign has become a nest of racist, anti-gay bigots.

The prestigious civil rights organization – which won national fame for the lawsuit that bankrupted the Aryan Nations – revealed that key members of Trump's team are affiliated with a secretive right-wing group called the Council for National Policy (CNP).

"The CNP is an intensely secretive and shadowy group of what *The New York Times* once described as 'the most powerful conservatives in the country,'" SPLC reports.

"It is so tight-lipped that it tells people not to admit their membership or even name the group. Revealing when or where the group meets, or what it discusses, is also forbidden. The organization, which can only be joined by invitation and at a cost of thousands of dollars, strives mightily to keep its membership rolls secret."

According to SPLC, Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway and campaign CEO Steve Bannon are both members of CNP.

Other CNP members include:

- Neo-Confederate Michael Peroutka, who for years was on the board of the white supremacist League of the South;
- Jerome Corsi, a strident Obama "birther" and the propaganda hit man responsible for the "Swift Boating" of John Kerry;

- Joseph Farah, who runs the ultra-right conspiracy theory website WorldNetDaily;
- Mat Staver, the Liberty Counsel leader who has worked to re-criminalize gay sex;
- Philip Zodhaites, another anti-gay activist who is charged with helping a self-described ex-Lesbian kidnap her daughter from her former partner.

These real bigots coexist in CNP with what SPLC describes as "a smattering of wealthy financiers, Congressional operatives, right-wing consultants and Tea Party operatives."

In a May 2014 report, quoted in their most recent statement, SPLC charges that CNP "provides an important venue in which relatively mainstream conservatives meet and very possibly are influenced by real extremists, people who regularly defame LGBT people with utter falsehoods, describe Latino immigrants as a dangerous group of rapists and disease-carriers, engage in the kind of wild-eyed conspiracy theorizing for which the John Birch Society is famous, and even suggest that certain people should be stoned to death in line with Old Testament law."

SPLC admits it does not know how Conway and Bannon may have been affected by their extremist CNP colleagues, but they already carry plenty of right-wing baggage.

Before being hired to run the Trump campaign, Conway managed a PAC supporting Ted Cruz. The PAC was funded by hedge fund billionaire Robert Mercer, who later converted to a pro-Trump stance and apparently brought his protégé Conway into the Trump orbit.

Bannon has always been associated with the extreme right. When he took over the Breitbart News operation, he converted it from a kooky right-wing blog to an even kookier Alt-Right mouthpiece that specializes in nationalist, racist, anti-gay, and anti-Semitic stories.



"People judge you by the company you keep," my grandma always said.

"At a time of extreme political polarization in our society," SPLC warns, "in the middle of an ugly presidential contest which has featured an almost unsurpassed record of ethnic, racial and sexual insults and lies, Americans deserve to know who their ostensible leaders are mixing with as we collectively decide our country's future."

While Trump is attracting infamous racists, his highest-profile Latino supporters are fleeing his campaign in droves. Jacob Monty, a member of Trump's National Hispanic Advisory Council, has resigned, as has Ramiro Pena. And Alfonso Aguilar said in an interview that he is "inclined" to pull his support.

Pena, an evangelical pastor, said Trump's August 31 speech likely cost him the election and said he would have to reconsider being part of what he labelled a "scam."

Aguilar set aside his early qualms about Trump's anti-Latino rhetoric and wrote a letter of support for the GOP candidate signed by himself and other prominent Latino conservatives. Since then, he has repeatedly defended Trump in media appearances.

"It's so disappointing because we feel we took a chance, a very risky chance," Aguilar said. "We decided to make a big U-turn to see if we could make him change. We thought we were moving in the right direction ... we're disappointed. We feel misled."

PSARA Executive Board Ballot Recommendations

November 8, 2016, General Elections

STATE-WIDE BALLOT MEASURES

Initiative 1433: Concerns Labor Standards - PSARA endorsed

This measure would increase the state minimum wage to \$11.00 in 2017, \$11.50 in 2018, \$12.00 in 2019, and \$13.50 in 2020, require employers to provide paid sick leave, and adopt related laws.

Initiative 1464: Concerns campaign finance laws and lobbyists – PSARA endorsed

This measure would create a campaign-finance system; allow residents to direct state funds to candidates; repeal the non-resident sales-tax exemption; restrict lobbying employment by certain former public employees; and add enforcement requirements.

Initiative 1491: Extreme Risk Protection Orders - PSARA endorsed

This measure would allow police, family, or household members to obtain court orders temporarily preventing firearms access by persons exhibiting mental illness, violent or other behavior indicating they may harm themselves or others.

Initiative 1501: Concerns Seniors and Vulnerable Individual Protection - PSARA endorsed

This measure would increase the penalties for criminal identity theft and civil consumer fraud targeted at seniors or vulnerable individuals; and exempt certain information of vulnerable individuals and in-home caregivers from public disclosure.

Initiative 732: Carbon emission tax - PSARA opposed

This measure would impose a carbon emission tax on certain fossil fuels and fossil-fuel-generated electricity, reduce the sales tax by one percentage point and increase a low-income exemption, and reduce certain manufacturing taxes.

Initiative 735: Proposed amendment to the federal Constitution - PSARA endorsed

This measure would urge the Washington state congressional delegation to propose a federal constitutional amendment that constitutional rights belong only to individuals, not corporations, and constitutionally-protected free speech excludes the spending of money.

REGIONAL BALLOT MEASURES

Proposition 1: Puget Sound Regional Transit Expansion - PSARA endorsed

This measure concerns expansion of mass transit in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. This measure would expand light-rail, commuter-rail, and bus rapid transit service to connect population and growth centers, and authorize Sound Transit to levy or impose: an additional 0.5% sales and use tax; a property tax, a motor-vehicle excise tax; and use existing taxes.

SEATTLE BALLOT MEASURES

Initiative 124: Health & Safety Standards to Protect Hotel Employees - PSARA endorsed

If passed, this initiative would require certain sized hotel-employers to further protect employees against assault, sexual harassment, and injury by retaining lists of accused guests among other measures; improve access to healthcare; limit workloads; and provide limited job security for employees upon hotel ownership transfer.

Book Review: *Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy*, by Joseph Stiglitz

By Michael Righi

I must miss teaching Economics after retiring a few years ago! Well, certainly not grading papers or the committee meetings, but I am always reading relevant economics books and articles. By “relevant” I mean writing that explains what is happening to our livelihoods and the environment. But I steer away from dense economic writing and mainly read popularly written books meant for a broad audience. I thought *Advocate*-readers might be interested in hearing thoughts on books I might select – either to help guide your own reading, or to hear a short summary.

So, here goes. (Let the *Advocate* know if you want this immediately stopped, or I might do it again in a few months.) I chose a short 200-page paperback by Joseph Stiglitz to start: *Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy*. Because they sure do need rewriting!

Stiglitz won the Nobel Prize in 2001. He has written several economics books and received all kinds of awards. But I am a fan because he has been a forceful critic of what he calls “free-market fundamentalism,” and he has slammed the International Monetary Fund and the European Union for austerity policies – cutting back on social spending during economic collapses.

He has also critiqued the Obama administration for saving bankers during the financial crisis rather than home-

owners and poor and working folks. And he wrote a book, *The Three Trillion Dollar War*, to try to come up with a full accounting of the costs of the Iraq War. The man gets around; he is influential.

Don’t rush out and buy the book though (you can, but hear me out first). What do you think of when you think of economics writing? Yes, that’s right. And this book is even worse since this seems to be written by committee; it is co-written by the Roosevelt Institute.

Which is fine, since we definitely need a New New Deal. One thing the book does provide is a long list of policies to counter what Stiglitz clearly outlines as the accelerating inequality of our economy. Which makes the book a good reference source, since his rewriting of the rules is comprehensive and grounded in current economic research, not just what he would like to see done.

The greater value of *Rewriting the Rules*, for me, though, is the reminder to focus a little deeper than on the low wages, weak benefits, and retirement insecurity many of us experience. Beneath that are “the rules”: a tax system that rewards speculation and punishes labor; a regulatory system that does nothing to limit monopoly power and corporate abuses; trade agreements that export jobs and U.S.-style inequality to the rest of the world; labor regulations that weaken unions and workers’

voices; and fiscal and monetary policies that stop way short of generating enough jobs or decent pay.

As I said, Stiglitz is nothing if not comprehensive. And a bit wonky. His argument is that we need to focus on these somewhat less obvious institutions so that even greater inequality does not get baked into the system for our grandkids. What I find a little disconcerting is that his list makes only a very small mention of the environment and climate crisis and its inequalities. (Although, you can fit that into his analysis on your own as you read.)

Overall, I liked being reminded of the underlying structure of the economy while we fight for a higher minimum wage, sick pay, and improving the Social Security system (scrapping the cap, etc.). We can’t stop with higher wages (and we won’t). We have to reform and replace institutions and restore power to unions and communities.

Stiglitz’s book raises the question of economic systems for us to think about. He is clearly arguing for a rebalanced capitalism. Which is fine, but we can also use our imaginations beyond capitalism to envision how we would like our grandkids (and everyone else’s grandkids) to be living and working in 2050.

Michael Righi is a PSARA member and a retired economics professor.



Hundreds sang Happy 90th Birthday to PSARA Executive Board member Gene Lux at EOI’s annual dinner on September 22.

Gene (left) expresses his surprise to PSARA President Robby Stern.

For more than a decade, Gene served in the Washington State Legislature representing the 35th District and then the 11th District. He also served two brief stints in the State Senate, appointed to fill vacant seats.

Gene will be retiring from the PSARA Executive Board at the end of 2016.

Photo courtesy of John Burbank, EOI Executive Director and a PSARA member.

Eternal Vigilance

By Bob Shimabukuro

In November of 1997 Henry Miyatake, the man who developed the Japanese American redress plan, was still not satisfied seven years after the first redress checks were passed out. In a conversation/interview with Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charles Z. Smith, Henry expressed his disappointment that he couldn't see that any of the events which had transpired during and after the campaign for redress would prevent a reoccurrence of the incarceration of any group of people without due process. So he asked Justice Charles Z. Smith whether or not that was a correct assessment.

Justice Smith answered rather bluntly, "The President has unlimited authority to issue an Executive Order to do anything. The President has to suspend due process. There has to be a determination that there is a military necessity or it is being done in the interests of national security. Then the President can take extraordinary actions which are not controlled by Congress. So if you get the wrong President, and if the President decides that everybody born in Moscow, Idaho, should be put in a concentration camp, the President could do it."

After a brief pause, Justice Smith continued, "What can we do? We sit back and keep our eyes and ears open and I think of Thomas Jefferson's expression, 'Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.' How we remain vigilant is to put our politicians to task. We need to get more involved in the political process, [pay attention to] people running for significant offices like President of the U.S., attend political rallies, ask the questions, get commitments. I wish I can say that the temper of the times is such that these things would never happen again, but I know otherwise. You never can anticipate the nature of human beings, whether they are Presidents of the United States, or members of Congress, mayors, or members of city council. You cannot anticipate what they will want to do in the future. From a legal standpoint, the President can do it."

After a lengthy discussion, Justice Smith summarized, "Can it happen again? Yes. Should it happen again? No."

The family of Retired Justice Charles Z. Smith released a statement, about his death ("peacefully in his home on Sunday, August 28, 2016," at the age of 89) and

listed his accomplishments, including many for which he was the "first person of color": Seattle Municipal Court Judge, King County Superior Court Judge, and Washington State Supreme Court Justice.

He also served as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County, Special Assistant to then Attorney General of the United States Robert Kennedy, and Associate Dean/Professor of Law at the University of Washington Law School.

"Throughout his career Justice Smith was actively engaged in local, national and international programs and organizations related to education, human rights, family and children, religion, health, prison reform, military justice, and racial, ethnic, and cultural awareness. He received numerous awards in recognition of his public service"

Yes, he was all that, and much, much more. Especially to Henry Miyatake, the man with the redress plan, and Shosuke Sasaki, the writer of the plan, and thus, to us too, the community. Both of them spent many hours with Justice Smith, getting help in drafting the legal underpinnings for redress.

In addition, Justice Smith also had a radio/TV show while he was the Assistant Dean at the UW Law School and would, from time to time, talk about redress for Japanese Americans who were placed in concentration camps. He was a 20+ year member of the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and helped with the redress campaign whenever he could, including working with the mock hearings prior to the Commission on Wartime Internment and Relocation of Civilians (CWIRC) Hearings.

Justice Smith was also a great orator. Clear, crisp, and often speaking without any notes. I remember a speech he gave when he was honored with the Seattle JACL Don Kazama Award. He told the history of the Seattle Chapter of the JACL from its early years to after the campaign for redress successfully ended. "Without any notes," emcee Lori Matsukawa pointed out.

I was mesmerized.

After 9/11/2001 all of us learned that Miyatake and Justice Smith were right. Some of those imprisoned since then have been incarcerated (and tortured)



Justice Charles Z. Smith (1927-2016)

for more than three times the duration of incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II.

In his conversations with Henry, Justice Smith said that the CWIRC Hearings were very important to him personally. It was "an expiation of submerged anger; people shared for the first time experiences they had chosen not to talk about even with their own families." He said he learned a lot about the community from those hearings.

Those hearings presented a reality other than the government's false version of what happened. To me, Justice Smith's reminder about vigilance means that we cannot allow more false narratives about people -- especially the kinds of false stories that demean people's histories and cultures in ways that make them seem less human. These types of stories and stereotypes lead to mass incarcerations, killings without justice, and genocide.

In Bob's perfect world, everyone would have clean air (always first on my list), clean water, healthy food, and a safe home. Everyone. There's no way I can see that happening with the current global economic system. Changes need to be made worldwide. Still, I'm very optimistic that the younger generations (well, at least younger than mine) of people of color are really learning the Fo' Real stuff and that awareness will awaken many more people.

A lot has happened already. Learning the Real stuff, that is.

Thanks for showing us the way, RIP Charles Z. Smith. Let's Catch a Breath, Then Keep Moving.

Voter Outreach for Raise Up Washington

The campaign needs our help to make sure every voter in Washington knows to vote YES! on Initiative 1433.

A number of PSARA members worked hard gathering signatures for Initiative 1433. The initiative will raise the minimum wage to \$13.50 over four years and make paid sick leave available to all workers. Now Raise Up Washington is asking volunteers to get the word out to voters by phone banking and going out in teams to neighborhoods.

When: Mondays - Thursdays, 5-8 pm
Where: Raise Up Washington Seattle office, 5030 First Avenue S, Seattle WA 98134

Contact Kate at 206-914-0794 or email kate@raiseupwa.com to sign up.

In addition to weekly phone banking (Mondays through Thursdays), there are three weekends in which Seattle volunteers will organize to canvass outside of the city. Right now plans are to canvass on October 15, October 29, and November 5.

If you live outside Seattle, one of these offices might be closer:

Bothell: Contact Jon Grant, jon@raiseupwa.com (206) 353-9740
18422 103rd Ave NE, Bothell, WA 98011

Bellevue: Contact Yashmi Malik, yashmi@raiseupwa.com (425) 365-2991
15935 8th St, Suite B200, Bellevue, WA 98008



Federal Way: Contact Josh Johnson josh@raiseupwa.com (206) 290-7976
32700 Pacific Highway S, Suite 4, Federal Way, WA 98003

Tacoma: Contact Raishawn Peebles rai@raiseupwa.com (206) 579-7095
513 S 9th St, Tacoma, WA 98402

How Will Candidates Address the Age Wave?

By Molly Holmes

PSARA members are invited to hear legislators and candidates explain how they plan to address the Age Wave in two October forums.

October 4, 10 a.m.
New Auburn Community Center
910 Ninth St. SE, Auburn, WA
Covers 5th, 30th, 31st, 33rd & 47th Legislative Districts

October 10, 1:30 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148 Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA
Covers 1st, 5th, 41st, 45th & 48th Legislative Districts

Each forum will focus on Washington State's aging readiness. Legislators and candidates will discuss how our state

can take the lead to create age-friendly communities, strengthen long-term support, promote economic security in retirement, and increase protections against abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The Age Wave is a massive shift in the aging demographic—by 2035, adults aged 60 or over will comprise 25 percent of the population, and the population aged over 85 is expected to double. This shift will stretch our community long-term support programs, place increased pressure on paid and unpaid family caregivers, and highlight the need for many of our aging workers to find a way to pay for retirement and long-term care.

These events are free to the public. Seating is limited and you are encour-



Molly Holmes

aged to RSVP in advance by calling Gigi Meinig at 206-684-0652 or emailing her at gigi.meinig@seattle.gov

Molly Holmes is the Chair of the King County Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council and a PSARA member.

The Battle at Standing Rock

Continued from Page 5

the lawsuit was finished, the Tribe filed an injunction to immediately stop the pipeline from being routed under the Missouri.

This is the injunction which was denied on September 9, 2016. A week later, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a short-term injunction stopping all DAPL construction 20 miles in each direction from Lake Oahe until a final decision is made by the court.

The court case raises key issues of tribal sovereignty and water rights in the time of climate change.

According to the Joint Statement from the Departments of Justice, Interior, and Army released September 9, "This case has highlighted the need for a serious discussion on whether there should be nationwide reform with respect to considering tribes' views on these types of infrastructure projects. Therefore, this fall, we invite tribes to formal government-to-government consultations on two questions: 1) within the existing statutory framework, what should the federal government do to better ensure meaningful tribal input into infrastructure-related reviews and decisions and the protection of tribal lands, resources, and treaty rights; and 2) should new legislation be proposed to Congress to alter that statutory framework and promote these goals."

Aura Bogado, a journalist who covers environmental racism, wrote in September, "Too many people tend to think of tribal sovereignty as something that's allocated, which can be given or taken away depending on the circumstance. But it's not. The Standing Rock Sioux Nation's tribal sovereignty, which essentially precedes colonization, is permanent, and it's recognized (as opposed to granted) by the federal government."

Dina Burstein is a member of PSARA's Environmental Committee and one of The Retiree Advocate's dedicated proof-readers.

Part II of this story will appear in the November Advocate.

TPP: The Undead

By Gillian Locascio

The TPP should be dead. Labor unions, environmental organizations, social justice advocates -- all oppose it. Responding to popular pressure, no presidential candidate supports it. But President Obama says he knows what is good for us, so he is bending every effort to round up votes in order to introduce the Trans-Pacific Partnership in the lame duck session of Congress after the election. That way, soon-to-be corporate lobbyists (retiring or defeated congress reps) can vote the TPP in over the wishes of the large majority.

Some Republicans are threatening not to vote for the TPP unless it is changed -- for example, by increasing patent protections so that pharmaceutical companies can charge even higher prices for medicines. Obama has already caved to some changes that loosen regulations on financial speculation. These are not the changes we need. Right now we need the TPP defeated, not "modified." Then we can start afresh to demand trade agreements that prioritize the environment, public health, and worker rights rather than the investments of corporations.

Establishment politicians insist we should ratify any and every bad trade agreement because we depend on trade. That makes no sense. Those of us opposed to the TPP support just and sustainable trade. But the TPP is intended to enhance corporate power at our expense.

Washington State is a battleground. Several Democratic Congress people (Larsen, DelBene, Heck, and Kilmer) are key uncommitted votes (thank you, Jim McDermott and Adam Smith). If you are in their districts, they need to hear from you. And if a TPP-ratification bill is introduced after the election, we all have to respond -- with phone calls, letters, vigils, demonstrations -- to voice our displeasure.

*Gillian Locascio is Executive Director of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition and a PSARA member. **Pledge to take action to prevent Congress from passing TPP in its "lame duck" session: <http://tinyurl.com/StopTPPWA-LameDuckPledge>***

You Couldn't Make This Stuff Up...

"[Donald Trump] is utterly immoral...a bully...a pathological liar...a narcissist on a level I don't think this country has ever seen," and I'm endorsing him for President.

Ted Cruz

To Renew or Donate

PSARA Education Fund
2800 1st Avenue, Room 262, Seattle WA 98121
Donations are tax deductible

- 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

PSARA Education Committee: 10 a.m. – noon, Tuesday, October 4, PSARA Office, 2800 First Ave., Rm. 234, Seattle, 98121. All welcome as we discuss our work to expand outreach with the PSARA workshop, "Making Retirement Security Real for All Generations."

International District/Chinatown Branch of the Seattle Public Library: Community Discussion on Voting and Civic Engagement: 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 4, 713 Eighth Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98104. PSARA, in cooperation with the Seattle Chinatown/International District PDA, will discuss how to exercise the right to vote and what questions you might have about voting.

West Seattle Hot Topics for Seniors & Senior Wannabes: Noon – 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave. SW, Seattle, 98126 (35th & Henderson). Topic: Living Well Towards the End of Life with Rebecca Crichton, Executive Director of the Northwest Center for Creative Aging.

PSARA Environmental Committee: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Thursday, October 6, Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome to a committee filled with interesting members.

PSARA Government Relations Committee: 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Thursday, October 6, Seattle Labor Temple, Room 226, 2800 First Ave. All welcome as we plan for our legislative conference for the 2017 legislative session.

Green Lake Discussion Group: Noon - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, October 13, Green Lake Branch, Seattle Public Library, 7364 E Green Lake Dr. N, Seattle, 98115. Brown bag lunch. Topic: What makes a 'Good Book Group'? All are welcome. For further information contact Susan at sjlevy.01@gmail.com

Demonstrate Against ZoomCare: Noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, October 18, University District clinic, 4540 University Way NE, Seattle. Let ZoomCare know their business model hurts our community. Story on Page 2.

PSARA Diversity Committee Meeting: 11 a.m. – noon, Thursday, October 20, Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. Discussion of the organizing project in South King County.

PSARA Executive Board Meeting: 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, October 20, Seattle office Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

West Seattle Hot Topics for Seniors & Senior Wannabes: Noon – 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 2, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave. SW, Seattle, 98126 (35th & Henderson). Topic: Elections! What will this November's elections mean for our city, state, and country? Will our daily lives be different? How is our society changing, and what role do politics, and our votes, play? Brown bag lunch.

PSARA Environmental Committee: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Thursday, November 3, Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle.

PSARA Government Relations Committee: 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Thursday, November 3, Seattle Labor Temple, Room 226, 2800 First Ave. Final planning for PSARA Legislative Conference.

Shoreline Public Library Workshop: Making Retirement Security Real for Everyone: Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m., 345 NE 175th Street, Shoreline WA 98155. PSARA will lead this workshop where attendees explore the myth of a bankrupt Social Security System, and learn ways we can ensure a financially secure Social Security & Medicare system for another 60 years.

