

The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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“Uniting Generations for a Secure Future”

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**Two Profiles
in Courage**
Page 9

Zoom in Fremont

By Steve Marquardt

Get ready for another PSARA-led action against Zoom+ (aka Zoom-Care) on July 11 in Seattle's Fremont neighborhood. At noon that day our growing coalition will rally at the Zoom+ clinic at 624 N 34th St., Seattle, to demand again that this for-profit chain embrace “healthcare for all” and accept patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare. For the second time, the Seattle Zoom+ action will be mirrored by a rally in Zoom's hometown of Portland on the same day, sponsored by Portland Jobs with Justice.

At the last Zoom+ action, in April, Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA), UFCW 21, and other Seattle-area allies brought 60 people out to protest at the Ballard neighborhood's Zoom+ clinic. It was the third in a series of rallies demanding that Zoom+ and its private equity backer, Endeavour Capital, open clinic doors to all patients. Members of Unite Here Local 8, Washington Community Action Network, SEIU 1199NW, the Inland Boatmen's Union, Physicians for a National Health Program, and Healthcare for All Washington leafleted, sang with the Seattle Labor Chorus Flying Squad, and picketed for close to an hour, then heard from community members. Speakers shared their own health care stories and highlighted Zoom+'s prioritization of profits over patients.

Union members again linked the Zoom+ actions to important area labor struggles. Endeavour Capital, Zoom's backer, owns New Seasons Market, the low-road, anti-union grocery chain that pressures its workers to buy Zoom+

Continued on Page 11

Initiative 1501: Protecting Seniors from Consumer Fraud

This past April the Social Security Administration (SSA) sent out an alert warning Americans of yet another scam targeting seniors, the scammers posing as a company that helps people apply for Social Security benefits. The thieves call unsuspecting seniors offering help, convince seniors to disclose their Social Security number and bank account information, and then make off like bandits with their savings and benefits.

It's a familiar story for many: Washington has one of the highest rates of reported identity theft in the nation, according to the Federal Trade Commission, and more than half the state's consumer fraud victims are over the age of 50, according to AARP.

Criminal targeting of seniors and vulnerable populations generally has become a serious problem, particularly in the Internet Age. Studies by the Consumer Law Center reveal that fraudulent telemarketers direct between 56 and 80 percent of their calls at older Americans, leading to an estimated \$2.9 billion being stolen from older adults each year. Washington State's Office of the Attorney General notes that a convicted identity thief in our state admitted that 80 percent of her victims were seniors because their credit is often better, and that retirement communities were full of easy targets.

But advocates in Washington are attempting to put a stop to such crimes with Initiative 1501. I-1501 would ensure that private citizens' information stays private on the front end and creates higher penalties for identity theft and consumer fraud on the back end. Specifically, it makes identity theft targeting seniors and other vulnerable people identity theft in the first degree, a class B felony. Currently identity theft is only a class B felony if it involves amounts over \$1,500. Secondly, it makes consumer fraud that targets a senior or a vulnerable individual subject to civil penalties of three times the amount of actual damages. This elevates penalties to match what is available under the Consumer Protection Act and will discourage fraud targeting vulnerable residents. Lastly, I-1501 prevents the State from releasing personal information about vulnerable residents or their in-home caregivers.

PSARA has endorsed and will be supporting I-1501 in the general election this fall. We applaud the sponsors of this initiative for bringing the issue of targeting seniors to the forefront this election season.



The Retiree ADVOCATE

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Catherine Pottinger Receives LELO's Domingo, Viernes, Jefferson Award



PSARA member Catherine Pottinger receives the 2016 Domingo, Viernes, Jefferson Award from Silme Domingo's oldest daughter, Ligaya, at LELO's Annual Event, June 18, at the Filipino Community Center.

The DVJ award was created in memory of LELO (Legacy of Equality, Leadership, and Organizing) cofounders Silme Domingo, Gene Viernes, and Milton Jefferson. The award honors their lifelong work to better their communities and improve conditions for all working people worldwide. It is awarded to individuals or organizations whose work reflects the lives and spirits of these working class heroes.

Pottinger was brief in her comments: "I never imagined that I would be receiving this, so I want to thank LELO and all the others who I have worked with." She added that the three organizations that "have enabled me to do the work are PSARA, Transit Riders Union, and the Seattle Chapter of Veterans for Peace."

(Photo: Dante Garcia)

Mauricio Ayon Joins the PSARA Executive Board



Mauricio Ayon, the Political Director at WA Community Action Network, has become the newest member of the PSARA Executive Board. Mauricio co-chairs the Washington State Racial Equity Team, which opposes policies and programs that will negatively impact communities of color. He is also a steering committee member of the Communities of Color for Climate Justice and a steering committee member of the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy. Mauricio has over 15 years of experience in multi-racial organizing, serving as a community leader for advocacy on environmental, educational, and labor issues and lobbying for access to health care for immigrants and refugees. He is also a co-founder of Para los Niños, which organizes educational opportunities for par-

ents and children in South King County and coordinates access to education for Latinos in the Highline School District.

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Remembering Orlando and Growing Our Movement

By Robby Stern

A Response to Orlando

At the Seattle City Council meeting on June 13 I planned to give the following public comment. I ran out of time (we were each allocated one minute) so below are my full comments:

On behalf of the membership of Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action, I want to express our support and solidarity with the LGBTQ community and our determination to stand with people of good will in the fight for dignity and respect for all people, including our commitment to fight Initiative 1515 here in Washington should it make it onto the 2016 ballot.

On the night of the attack it was Latino night at the Pulse nightclub and community gathering place in Orlando. PSARA's support and solidarity extends to the Latino community, which was assaulted and devastated by this massacre.

We are "calling on all angels" to help bring comfort and healing to the victims of this insanity, including their families and friends and all people whose hearts are broken by this horrendous act of violence. We commit to being part of the effort to achieve rational gun control in our nation and to fight the hatred that this unspeakable act represents.

Our Movement Grows

After individual meetings by advocates with seven of the nine Seattle City Council members to discuss the growing crisis of retirement security, on June 13 the Seattle City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for expansion of Social Security and Medicare. The Council agreed to communicate their support for expansion to Washington's Congressional delegation and to include support for protection and expansion of Social Security and Medicare in the City's 2016-2017 Federal Legislative Agenda.



PSARA and other organizations stand with Councilmember Gonzalez to celebrate passage of the Retirement Security Resolution, June 13. (Photo: Garet Munger)

Fifty to 75 people, representing a number of organizations (but heavily weighted with PSARA members!) attended the Council meeting to express their support for the resolution. During the public comment period, a number of leaders and representatives from labor organizations spoke, including the Martin Luther King County Labor Council, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 21, Machinists District Lodge 751, United Auto Workers from the UW representing teaching and research assistants, and Service Employee Union 775 representing home care workers.

Also speaking in support of the resolution was Faith Action Network, the Church Council of Greater Seattle, Physicians for a National Health Program, NOW, Washington Community Action Network, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, Health Care for All Washington, and the Seattle-King County Advisory Council on Aging and Disabilities. Additionally, many individuals spoke in favor of the resolution. It was an astonishing reflection of the work we have all been doing to build a movement in our region and our state.

Next we will bring the resolution to the Martin Luther King County Council,

where we will have the opportunity to discuss it with a partisan body composed of six Democrats and three Republicans. As we move this process along, we will again be asking PSARA members to help us in emphasizing the necessity to take action on the emerging retirement security crisis.

The effort to expand Social Security and Medicare is at the center of the national stage. As a result of the determined effort of Senator Sanders, President Obama and Secretary Clinton are now calling for expansion of Social Security (not Medicare yet!). Senator Sanders has also lifted up the call for expansion of Medicare, and I believe we will be hearing more about this issue soon.

For more than a decade, in our region and even nationally, PSARA has played a significant role in popularizing this issue. In 2010, PSARA brought a resolution to the Alliance for Retired Americans national convention in Las Vegas, calling for that organization, with which PSARA was affiliated at the time, to go on record supporting "Scrapping the Cap." The national lead-

Continued on Page 11

Organizing Against Discrimination in the Alaska Salmon Canneries and the 1992 Civil Rights Act

By Nemesio Domingo

In the fall of 1972, nearly a dozen young Asian American workers from the Alaska salmon canneries met in the office of the United Construction Workers Association (UCWA). The UCWA was an African American workers' group that had just recently won a landmark Title VII class action suit that began the integration of the Seattle-King County construction industry. Silme Domingo and Michael Woo convened this meeting after organizing these Asian American workers while visiting several Alaskan canneries. The purpose of this meeting was to organize a Title VII class action litigation to integrate the cannery work force, integrate the housing and eating facilities in the canneries, and seek compensatory damages.

In the spring of 1973, the young Asian American cannery workers formed the Alaska Cannery Workers Association and began organizing a Title VII case. Three class action cases were filed in early 1974. The cases had the same legal underpinning and factual analysis. Two of the cases were adjudicated in 1981. They resulted in orders to integrate the cannery jobs and living facilities, as well as the largest compensatory damages in Western Federal District Court of Washington at that time.

The Supreme Court reviewed the third case, *Atonio v. Wards Cove Packing Co.*, in 1989. However, in 1990 the Supreme Court not only ruled against the cannery workers in *Atonio*, but also ruled against five other civil rights cases. These Supreme Court rulings created a congressional firestorm, because these rulings virtually eviscerated the historical 1964 Civil Rights Act. In the case of *Atonio*, the Supreme Court made it practically impossible for workers to sustain a class action discrimination case under Title VII. In 1991 both houses of Congress passed a civil rights act that would overturn the Supreme Court. However, the first President George Bush vetoed the bill claiming

that this legislation was a minority quota bill. The 1991 bill made no reference to quotas.

The following year both houses again passed the 1992 Civil Rights Act, which was identical to the legislation that was vetoed the previous year. However, the Senate made the 1992 Civil Rights Act veto proof by securing the support of the two Alaskan Republican senators. The price of support by these senators was the exclusion of 1,000 cannery workers of Atonio from the provisions of the Civil Rights Act. The salvaging of the 1964 Act was borne on the back of minority cannery workers in Alaska.

Cannery Union Reform and the Ferdinand Marcos Dictatorship

Running parallel to the Title VII litigation and organizing was also a union reform movement led by the Alaska Cannery Workers Association (ACWA). In 1980 Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, leaders in ACWA and class members of the Title VII litigations, were elected Secretary and Dispatcher of Local 37 of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. Several other union reformers were also elected to the executive board. Local 37 represented the cannery workers who worked in the canneries that were named in the Title VII litigations. The goal was to end corruption and bribery inside Local 37.

One of the organizing focuses of the union reformists was giving support and solidarity to the workers of the Philippines who were under attack by the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. The majority of the membership of Local 37 were Filipinos.



Silme Domingo (left) and Gene Viernes (right)

In May 1981, Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes were gunned down and murdered in the Local 37 union office in Pioneer Square. Four members of a local Filipino gang were convicted of aggravated first-degree murder and given life sentences without parole in the deaths of Silme and Gene. In 1991 former Local 37 union president Tony Baruso – a supporter of the Marcos regime – was also found guilty of aggravated first degree murder and given a life sentence without parole.

Immediately after the deaths of Silme and Gene, family and friends formed the Committee of Justice for Domingo and Viernes (CJDV), which eventually linked the murders to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife, Imelda Marcos. In 1989 a federal civil jury found Ferdinand Marcos and his wife guilty of ordering the murder of Silme and Gene in retaliation for their anti-Marcos organizing.

The spirits of Silme and Gene live on in a resurrected Title VII, an invigorated and progressive Local 37, and the fall of the Marcos dictatorship, in part because of exposed atrocities in the Philippines and abroad.

Nemesio Domingo is the brother of Silme, Cindy, and Lynn Domingo, Chairperson of LELO, and a PSARA member.

Tribute to Another Centenarian Uncle: Zen Tokuda 1914-2016

By Bob Shimabukuro

Zen Tokuda: "What you doing now, Bob?"

Bob: "Some woodworking, making furniture. Some writing, editing. Some community organizing."

"Oh yeah? What dat, community organizing?"

"Sort of like labor organizing. But instead, get folks to work together for family, relatives, friends, village, you know, community, like kenjinkai."

"Oh, like organizing workers, only not workers."

"Yeah."

"So, you, like what, leadah?"

"No, more like teachah."

"Oh dat's good. Because sometimes labor leadahs, you gotta watch 'em. Dey just as bad as bosses. Steal from workers too."

"Yeah, sometimes teachahs no good too. Gotta watch out."

"Gotta watch out from odda side too?"

"What odda side?"

"Well, I wen' hang around with some of da Hawaii Seven folks. Then stopped hangin' around. They went jail, you know."

"Yeah, I know. Good thing you stop hanging around then, yah?"

And we laughed. And then I said, "Yeah, sometimes, we have to watch out from odda side too."

"Then you bettah watch out good, OK?"

"Yeah, Uncle. No worry."

Zen Uncle was a pipefitter. Had some good stories. Lively sense of humor. And very creative. When I was 13-14 years old, he showed me his very old car patched together with parts from other things. He had replaced his broken radiator with a refrigerator unit that he attached to the engine.

I also remember going into "the big house" when I was much younger, where none of the kids were supposed to go, but being very curious about



why we couldn't go there, I once snuck in and saw a bathroom that was really strange. There were pipes attached to the walls in all kinds of configurations, but they were not attached to any water intake, so I could not understand what they were for. Some were towel holders, I reasoned, but why were there vertical bars? The terrible part of this was I couldn't ask anybody what these were because I wasn't supposed to have gone there.

Well, I'll stop here. This is beginning to sound like a Smarter Balanced Test story I once read about a girl who went into her grandmother's bedroom and "borrowed a baseball" signed by Babe Ruth and played with it. It was followed by questions about what the little girl should have done or learned about other people's property.

Maybe you all could help me finish this story and we'll send the questions to Arne Duncan. See if he could pass the test. He's never answered any of the other questions I've asked.

It's been a heavy weekend for me, linking me to my life about 40 years ago, and now hearing that Uncle had died Sunday (Father's Day), and even when you know someone's going to die soon, it still hurts when he does.

Thank you Zen Uncle (and Kiyoko Auntie too), for all your stories, and all the help you've given our family.

Bob Shimabukuro is a member of PSARA's Executive Board and Associate Editor of the Retiree Advocate.

"Being tortured has been the best experience in my life."

Part V of an interview with David Ayala, Field Organizer with the Pramila Jayapal for Congress campaign

By Peter Constantini, reprinted from *Foreign Policy in Focus*

After the 15 days of torture, they finally brought Ayala to the public jail. "It was very nice when I came to jail. There was a bunch of union members." He estimates he spent a month and a half there and was one of the first released.

His release occurred because of a legal mistake. The day before going to court, interrogators were supposed to type up the accusations against the defendant into a document. Then a picture would be taken of the accused signing it. The coerced confession would be presented to the judge in court.

When Ayala's turn came, they dressed him up and brought him into the room to sign. But the document wasn't ready.

"And the guy who wanted to take the picture was afraid that if it was late, he would be killed," Ayala says. So the photographer got permission to take the picture of Ayala signing what was actually a blank page.

Afterwards, though, they forgot that he hadn't signed the actual document. "So when I got to the court, the woman read the charges and asked, 'Do you agree with those charges?'

"So I say, 'Have I signed the document?'

"Of course you signed the document," she replied. "Everybody signs the document."

Ayala persisted. "Have I signed the document?"

The woman looked at the blank piece of paper with a signature. "No, you haven't."

Ayala grinned ruefully. "So there was no proof against me."

Even after that break, his attorney had to go all the way up to the Salvadoran attorney general to finally resolve his case.

Organizing El Norte

From his job in the pension institute Ayala had saved enough money to

rapidly get a Mexican visa and a flight to Tijuana. When he got there, a coyote was waiting to help him get across the border to the United States.

Evening, he recalls, brought "an incredible moment, seeing thousands of people just waiting for the sun to go away and then moving in" toward the fence while helicopters hovered overhead.

"I come from a war," he thought at the time. "I'm a survivor. I have some skills here. But I was the first one arrested that night. In the first wave. The first one they brought to the corralón," or holding pen. "I was so ashamed of myself"

The U.S. authorities sent him back to Mexico. But a friend in the U.S. paid to connect him with a Mexican group that put him in a safe house.

He made it across on his next try. His group walked across the border through a sewer a few blocks from the main highway crossing. Then they brought him to another house in Los Angeles guarded by "a guy with an AK-47."

When Ayala arrived in the United States, he found a Reagan administration that was virulently, if less violently, antilabor.

So before long, the indefatigable Salvadoran was back organizing again in his new home.

He's worked in Seattle and Portland, Oregon, with Latino day laborers and immigrant rights groups. The Service Employees International Union hired him for campaigns with low-wage workers. For the past year, he's been organizing airport service workers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport for a low-wage labor organization, Working Washington.

Many of the workers he's involved with also come from Central America and Mexico. For one job as union organizer, in fact, he was hired by SEIU Local 6 President Sergio Salinas — another



David Ayala

Salvadoran who'd been an organizer before he was forced into exile in the United States.

Patterns

Every now and then, Ayala sees dark patterns familiar from his days in El Salvador.

He recalls seeing reports from Abu Ghraib, the U.S. military prison in Iraq. "Same, same, same playbook," he says. "Long hours blindfolded standing in front of a wall. Hearing people being beat up, being without shoes, feeling you're stepping on bodies, stepping on blood and feces."

And in stateside cities like Baltimore, he says, "You can clearly see the same low-intensity war principles that were applied to us now applied to American society."

Ayala also drew some lessons for organizing from his experiences in El Salvador. "One of the things is: Trust your guts, trust your instincts. Build it, build it, build it. I have been facing death several times. And you just have your body, your thoughts, your manners, your body language."

Watching the maturing leadership of the workers he's been organizing, Ayala sees what they called *contextura* in El

Continued on Page 10

Democracy at Work

By Dina Burstein

A room at the Greenwood Senior Center filled with about 100 people chatting, reporting, discussing, and eating. Passionate, generally principled discussion by speakers and members about whether to support the Carbon WA Initiative. Exciting reports from many active committees... It was the June, 2016, PSARA membership meeting!

The meeting began with a moment of silence to commemorate and honor the victims of the Orlando massacre, followed by a statement of solidarity with our LGBTQ sisters and brothers and the Latino community that was particularly hard hit, since it was Latino night at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. PSARA will demonstrate our solidarity at the Seattle Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26.

In the longest section of the meeting, Yoram Bauman spoke in favor of the CarbonWA Initiative, I-732, and Jeff Johnson spoke against. Bauman, an environmental economist and driving force behind the Initiative, argued that it acts on the moral obligation many of us feel to do something about climate change and would enact the greatest improvement in the equity of the WA state tax system since the 1977 ballot measure eliminating the state sales tax on purchases of food. It would impose a tax of \$25 per ton of carbon, lower the sales tax 1 percent, fund an income tax rebate to low income working families (approved under Governor Gregoire but not previously funded), and eliminate the B&O tax on manufacturing. He argued that this policy either would have no effect on or cause only a small loss of state tax revenue, and argued that it would not increase the size of government.

Jeff Johnson, president of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and co-chair of the Blue-Green Alliance and the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, recognized many Washingtonians' strong desire to take action against climate change. But, he argued, I-732 is



WSLC President Jeff Johnson (left) and Yoram Bauman of CarbonWA (right) debate the merits of I-732 at PSARA's Summer Membership Meeting.

(Photo: Garet Munger)

the wrong course of action. It fails to invest in clean energy, infrastructure and mass transportation, does not impose a cap on carbon use, does not provide funding for workers and industries which will be affected by the transition to clean energy, or funding for vulnerable communities who already suffer the worst effects of climate change. He pointed out that an analysis by the WA State Office of Financial Management stated that I-732 will create a \$900,000 deficit for the state, further exacerbating the funding crisis for necessary services, education, etc. It relies on the marketplace to solve the climate crisis -- the same marketplace that created the problem in the first place. He said that no labor organizations, environmental organizations, or organizations representing communities of color support I-732. The Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy plans to conduct a campaign of state-wide education and listening, culminating in an initiative on climate change and jobs in 2018.

PSARA members addressed questions to the speakers, raising issues such as: Does I-732 make clean energy technologies such as heat pumps cheaper? Why should the B&O tax be eliminated for petroleum refineries, which already benefit from tax breaks?

How will I-732 help communities of color become more capable of sustaining climate change? Why can't we consider I-732 an incremental step in the right direction?

Bobby Righi made a motion from the PSARA Environmental Committee that the PSARA general membership meeting recommend to the PSARA Executive Board that PSARA oppose I-732.

Members spoke for and against. Comments included: It is good to lower the sales tax, we should support I-732. Lowering the sales tax without replacing lost revenue with a progressive tax will leave us unable to fund education and social services and will not benefit low-income people for whom it is intended. I-732 does not address the needs described in our position paper; if passed, it will make it harder for us to make the advances we need. The Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy does have a good policy proposal, which we should enact in the near future. The perfect is the enemy of the good; we should pass I-732. We should not fiddle while the state burns; we must do something; pass I-732. I-732 does not help us "unite fgenerations for a secure future," as our t-shirt calls on us

Continued on Page 10

Initiative 124: Seattle Protects Women

By Eunice How

On June 22, UNITE HERE Local 8 filed just shy of 32,000 signatures in support of placing Initiative 124 -- Seattle Protects Women -- on the ballot. The proposed law would protect Seattle's hotel housekeepers from sexual harassment and inhumane workloads and improve access to affordable family medical care and basic job security for employees of large hotels.

"Guests harass me and my coworkers all the time," said downtown hotel employee Ermalyn Magtuba. Magtuba has worked in Seattle hotels for 16 years, including as a housekeeper, server, and room service server. "They'll answer the door naked or in their underwear. It makes me uncomfortable and embarrassed. I don't know of other jobs where women have to put up with the kinds of things that go on in hotels."

Over 80 percent of hotel housekeepers in Seattle are women, and a majority are also immigrants and people of color. Sexual harassment is rampant in the hospitality industry and is particularly threatening for women who work alone in guest rooms.

"No woman should feel unsafe at work, whether due to harassment and violence or dangerous workloads," said campaign spokesperson Abby Lawlor.

"By placing this measure on the ballot and passing it into law, voters will send a strong message that Seattle protects women."

The initiative would provide in-room workers with panic buttons and set forth a standardized response procedure for hotel management to better address reported acts of harassment or assault by guests. I-124 also limits the square footage that hotel housekeepers are required to clean in a given shift. Housekeepers suffer higher rates of on-the-job injury than coal miners because of the strenuous and repetitive nature of their work.

"I've worked as a housekeeper for 33 years," said Thoy Kim, another downtown hotel employee. "My body is constantly tired. I always feel pain in my shoulders and arms from making the beds."

I-124 also addresses long-term health outcomes for hotel workers and their families by expanding access to health care for workers and their families. Under the proposed law, large hotel employers would have the choice of providing affordable quality health insurance or additional compensation towards health care coverage.

The initiative is backed by Local 8, the union representing workers at

downtown Seattle hotels, including the Westin, the Edgewater, the Hilton, and the Arctic Club.

"Seattle is poised to make a \$1.5 billion public investment in the hotel industry through the publicly funded expansion of the Washington State Convention Center. Initiative 124 will ensure that this investment goes towards creating safe and harassment-free working environments, expanding access to quality health care coverage, and reducing work disruptions," said Local 8 President Erik Van Rossum.

After certification of the signatures by King County Elections, I-124 will go before the Seattle City Council to be adopted or placed on the ballot. A rally in support of council action on hotel worker health and safety is scheduled for July 21.

Eunice How is an organizer with UNITE HERE Local 8 and a member of PSARA.



Eunice How

PSARA joins WFSE 1488 and SEIU 925 in a June 3 rally at Harborview Hospital prior to contract negotiations with the University of Washington, which operates Harborview. Among the issues are fair pay, job retention, and a safe level of staffing for both workers and patients.



Two Profiles in Courage

By Mark McDermott

Forty-four years ago I was a poor recent college graduate and anti-war activist. I moved from Chicago to Seattle to work on my brother Jim's campaign for governor. He was opposed to the Vietnam War, and he was fighting for universal health care, mass transit, and a more just world. He ran hard but lost. For the next 44 years, Jim and I continued to fight for economic, racial and social justice, peace, and much more. Brother Jim chose the path of serving in elected office; my path was as a lifelong labor and community activist and appointed official for three governors and four Seattle mayors.

In 1988, Jim was elected to Congress. I worked as his labor liaison as he won the endorsement of virtually all of organized labor. Twenty-eight years later he announced his retirement. We have come to expect Jim's strong voice of conscience in the House. We have continued to elect him to Congress by huge percentages because we know he is a strong, courageous fighter willing to battle long odds and stay strong despite relentless unjust attacks.

Three fights in my brother Jim's life epitomize the value of having a person of deep principle in office.

1. Jim took on Newt Gingrich at the height of his power and was instrumental in Gingrich's resignation as House Speaker.

2. Jim worked closely with Pramila Jayapal in launching Hate Free Zone (later OneAmerica) after the 9/11 attacks, as they championed a people's movement to defend our immigrant brothers and sisters who were under unjust racist, anti-Muslim, and immigrant-bashing attacks and threats.

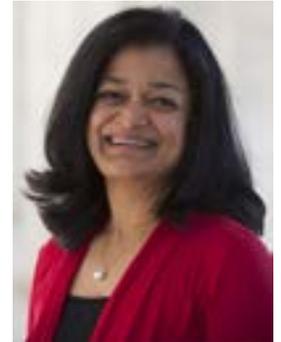
3. In 2002, Jim stood almost alone and dared to tell the world that George W. Bush was misleading the American people about the situation in Iraq. He became "Baghdad Jim." Months later, Jim and Pramila would share the stage at one of the largest demonstrations in Seattle history, opposing the Iraq War. We were not able to stop that war,

but brother Jim and Pramila Jayapal were our champions in that fight

Pramila Jayapal is another wonderful example of a courageous leader. Jim and Pramila worked together on a number of issues. She comes from the fire of movements, a person who has fought for some of the most complex issues of our time. When the mosque near Northgate was targeted by hate crimes and when Muslim women were attacked in Seattle for wearing the hijab, Pramila led the fight to protect them. When the immigrant grocers in the Rainier Valley were unjustly accused of being supporters of terrorism, brother Jim, Pramila Jayapal, and Hate Free Zone stood with them. Months later, the grocers were fully exonerated. Pramila also led the successful class action lawsuit against the Bush administration's planned mass deportation of thousands of Somali men, preventing those deportations of thousands across the country.

Pramila's work did not end there. She went on to build from scratch the largest immigrant advocacy organization in the state at a time when immigration reform was still not part of the progressive movement's consciousness. By bringing together labor, faith, diverse immigrant and civil rights communities and elected officials and using tactics from policy advocacy and negotiation to voter registration to civil disobedience, Pramila built something that simply did not exist before—and has since paved the way for numerous victories for our entire city, region, state, and country.

With Donald Trump as the presumptive Republican nominee for President, the attacks post-9/11 on civil liberties of Arabs, Muslims, and South Asians hardly seem far away. Pramila and Jim together stood up against those attacks then, when President Bush said "Either you are with us...or you are with the



Congressman Jim McDermott (left) and State Senator Pramila Jayapal (right)

terrorists"—words that struck fear into many who would disagree with Bush's policies and the roundups of Muslims and Arab Americans. In opposing these policies publicly, Jim had the protection of being a member of Congress. Pramila, a recently naturalized citizen, did not. She showed us what courage looks like when somebody is needed to step forward and lead strongly for our ideals.

While the details of what happened are important—both in my brother's courageous efforts as well as Pramila's—it is really the quality of leadership that my brother Jim and Pramila share that I most want to emphasize.

With Donald Trump calling for a wall, mass deportations, punishing women, and so much more, we have Pramila and Jim as strong, tough, and proven fighters. And, while Trump and so many voices he has awakened call for exclusion, Pramila and Jim's life have been about inclusion—bringing voices to the table and to our democracy that have never been there before.

I hope we all will thank my brother Jim and Pramila for their years of strong, courageous leadership. Jim is retiring from Congress, and Pramila, who is from a younger generation, will continue to lead in whatever capacity may present itself. We are very lucky to have both of these courageous leaders in our community.

Mark McDermott is a PSARA Executive Board member and co-chairs PSARA's Education Committee.

"Being tortured has been the best experience in my life."

Continued from Page 6

Salvador. "It's like creating a different skin, a stronger skin. I think it was Che Guevara who said that we have to be strong for justice, but at the same time we have to be more tender with the people around us.

"For me," he asserts, "organizing isn't brainwashing people. It's about helping them to discover and understand the power that we have when we work together for a common goal. I think that this whole experience is going to bring us to conceive new techniques and new ways to bring workers to justice."

Ayala is grateful for what he's learned in the States. "I never expected to live in this country, to knock on doors campaigning for a president of this country. But I thank this country very much. In El Salvador, the frame of reference was small and local. Here in the United States, the perspective is much broader — it's the whole world. So I've learned more about other aspects of the struggle here."

But his heart is still with those who were lost in El Salvador. "My respect for those who are no longer living is a big positive for me. They gave their lives, with so much love and commitment, so that others could have a better life. I show my respect for them by continuing the work that they began."

Has Ayala ever wished for revenge against his torturers? "I believe there's so much more power in forgiving than in revenge. But I did have the opportunity once."

Five or six years after he got legal status in the U. S., an immigration official called Ayala at home. "You were tortured by the Treasury Police," he recalls them saying. "Well, look, we have a pair of former Treasury Police here who are applying for asylum. And we believe they may be the ones who tortured you."

"I said to them, 'Thanks for the information, thanks for the call. But I've already forgiven them.' Life takes care of revenge."

Peter Constantini and David Ayala are both PSARA members.

Democracy at Work

Continued from Page 7

to do. We need to improve our regressive tax system, but I-732 is not the solution. There is a lot of work to be done, the money is there, but it's in the wrong hands; let's get it in the right hands -- I-732 does not accomplish this.

Robby Stern reviewed key points from PSARA's position paper on environmental justice and full employment:

1) PSARA will fight to ensure there is a just transition for those workers whose jobs are replaced by a new energy economy,

2) PSARA demands robust programs to respond to the threat of climate disaster and the destruction of lives and hope created by extreme income inequality, and

3) We need smart electrical grids carrying renewable energy. We need jobs to build mass transit, and we need energy-efficient affordable housing along those transit lines. We also need major investments in the old infrastructure to cope with the coming storms. He asked the members to use PSARA's position paper and the principles articulated in the position paper as a screen in deciding whether to recommend a vote for or against I-732.

In a voice vote, the motion to recommend opposition to I-732 passed overwhelmingly but not unanimously.

Robby Stern reported that this week the Seattle City Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting the elimination of the income cap on Social Security to pay for the expansion of Social Security and Medicare benefits, including dental, vision, and hearing to be funded by raising the Medicare payroll tax and making it possible for younger people to purchase Medicare. PSARA and the Social Security Works Washington Coalition will now bring the resolution to the Martin Luther King County Council and then to other local and regional governments in Washington State.

There were committee reports, and members were invited to become a part of PSARA's active committee structure. PSARA members were informed of upcoming activities that PSARA was either sponsoring or supporting.

Members elected Jessica Bonebright to be PSARA's Membership Vice President and also elected new Executive Board members, Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney and Mauricio Ayon.

Finally, PSARA member Mike Ruby made a motion that PSARA support reinstating the assault weapons ban and that we inform our Congressional delegation and Governor Inslee of PSARA's position on this critical issue. The motion passed unanimously!

Dina Burstein is a member of PSARA's Environmental Committee.



Lou Truskoff confers with David Yao as Joan Truskoff looks on. (Photo: Gareth Munger)

Remembering Orlando and Growing Our Movement

Continued from Page 3

ership of the Alliance was not yet ready to take that stand, and the motion was tabled to be brought to their ARA Executive Board where it died a quiet death. Thankfully, in subsequent years, the Alliance came out in favor of scrapping the cap and expanding Social Security. (Not Medicare yet.)

John Burbank, the Executive Director of the Seattle-based Economic Opportunity Institute, sits on the Board of the national coalition, Social Security Works, in Washington D.C. John began pushing several years ago for that national coalition to go on the offensive rather than constantly having to defend Social Security from attacks. With John's prodding and the incredibly capable leadership of the Chair of Social Security Works, Nancy Altman, and her staff, this offensive strategy has taken root. National leaders like Nancy are carrying the struggle forward on the national stage.

Nancy Altman gave powerful testimony before the 2016 Democratic National Platform Committee supported by many national organizations who are members of Social Security Works. According to the *New York Times*, it is anticipated that the expansion of Social Security will be part of the national Democratic platform. The fate of a position to expand Medicare is unknown at this time.

PSARA will continue to aggressively advocate for expansion of Social Security and Medicare. We are building a movement, and we want the commitment of our 2 U.S. Senators and our 10 U. S. Representatives to support expansion of Social Security and Medicare.

Thank you to all of you who are helping in this effort!! Simply being a PSARA member and donating to the PSARA Education Fund furthers our cause. Your activism makes an even greater difference. All of us and our children, grandchildren, and generations to follow will benefit from what we are doing.

Zoom in Fremont

Continued from Page 1

insurance and proposes new stores near the Ballard and Capitol Hill Zoom+ clinics. Unite Here Local 8 members point to the links between the long struggle of Space Needle workers and the large investment of the Wright family – the Space Needle's owner – in the Endeavour Capital fund that backs Zoom+.

On the same day as the Ballard action, Portland Jobs with Justice, UFCW 555 and other health care advocates took the Zoom+ awareness campaign to Zoom's home city of Portland. Rally organizers were determined to make Endeavour Capital's Stephen Babson – the money man behind Zoom+ – understand that Portland won't tolerate their unethical health care business practices.

Both April actions caught media attention. KGW in Portland covered the rally there, and KIRO 7 featured the Ballard rally on the five o'clock news, including UFCW 21 member and Central Co-op shop steward Daniel Cobb's testimonial: "Cherry picking' the young and healthy while refusing care to the poor and elderly is bad business for everyone." If the honking cars were any indication, Ballard agreed that health care is a human right.

Join us at noon on July 11 at Zoom+ Fremont, 624 N 34th St., Seattle. Or if you're in Portland that day, join Jobs with Justice at Zoom+ Hawthorne: 3325 SE Hawthorne, Portland.

Steve Marquardt is an organizer for UFCW 21 and a member of PSARA.

Renewing Your Subscription/Membership Online

After hearing from many of our members that they would prefer to renew membership and donate online, we have finally created that option. You can 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. This method could save 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 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.

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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

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Meetings and Events

PSARA Environmental Committee: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Thursday, July 7, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S., Seattle. How should PSARA respond to the oil train spill? All welcome to this active and exciting committee.

PSARA Government Relations Committee: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Thursday, July 7, Seattle Labor Temple, Room 226, 2800 First Ave. All welcome as we finalize PSARA position papers on mass transit and continue work on affordable housing and homelessness issues.

Protest Zoom Care: Noon - 1 p.m., Monday, July 11, 624 N. 34th St., Seattle (Fremont neighborhood). Zoom Care, an Oregon for-profit clinic network, plans to expand to 16 clinics in King County. They refuse to accept Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare patients. Their business model is to serve younger and healthier people, putting more pressure on non-profit providers. Join us for this one-hour protest.

Green Lake Discussion Group: Noon to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 14, The Bridge at Village Cove, 6850 Woodlawn Ave. N., Suite, B, Seattle. Brown bag lunch. Topic: *Women in Feudal Society*. Librarian Maryte Racys and Professor Violeta Kelertas talk and read from their forthcoming book, translated from Racys' Lithuanian great-grandmother's autobiography. All are welcome. For further information contact Susan at sjlevy.01@gmail.com

PSARA Diversity Committee Meeting: 11 a.m. - noon, Thursday, July 21, Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Ave. S., Seattle. Discussion of organizing project in South King County.

PSARA Executive Board Meeting: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m., Thursday, July 21, Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Ave. S., Seattle. All are welcome.

Muhammed Ali (1942-2016)



1967: Ali speaks to reporters after refusing induction into the U.S. Army.

"I would like to be remembered as a man who won the heavyweight title three times, who was humorous, and who treated everyone right. As a man who never looked down on those who looked up to him, and who helped as many people as he could. As a man who stood up for his beliefs no matter what. As a man who tried to unite all humankind through faith and love. And if all that's too much, then I guess I'd settle for being remembered only as a great boxer who became a leader and a champion of his people. And I wouldn't even mind if folks forgot how pretty I was."
Muhammed Ali

