

Washington Can Take the Lead! Join Us for a Forum on the Long-Term Care Trust Act January 8 in Port Townsend

Just like Washington made history when we were the first state to create a pension program for our public employees and made history when we were the first state to index the state minimum wage to the cost of living, in the 2019 Legislative session, Washingtonians will have another chance to make history by passing the Long-Term Care Trust Act (LTCTA).

The Trump administration is actually making the crisis in access to health care worse. Washington can step into the void by passing legislation that will help address the growing need for affordable long-term care.

A new public Long-Term Care Trust Fund would be established and funded through a monthly payroll fee of just over one-half of one percent – 58 cents for every hundred dollars in income. The legislation would provide eligible recipients \$100 a day for 365 days to help meet the cost of long term care. Advocates, working with a bipartisan group of legislative co-sponsors, are helping to create a Social Security type system for long-term care.

Most of us have family members or know someone that has needed long-term care services. Most families do not have private long-term care insurance due to the cost. Many families are unable to afford the cost of care without severe sacrifices, like emptying their savings in order to become eligible for Medicaid or providing the needed services as family members, often at great financial and physical sacrifice.

The LTCTA would give families the security of knowing that they or their

loved ones will be able to access financial help for the care they need when they need it.

On January 8, Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA) will present information on this groundbreaking legislation and what all of us can do to help make it the law of Washington. The event will be at:

Unity Center
3918 San Juan Ave.
Port Townsend
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Sponsored by Port Townsend
Indivisible Huddle

Presenters will include:

Kippi Waters, Founding Director, Peninsula Homecare Cooperative, and a PSARA member.

Ruth Egger, Retired Geriatric Social Worker, PSARA representative to the Washingtonians for a Responsible Future coalition, which leads the advocacy for the LTCTA.

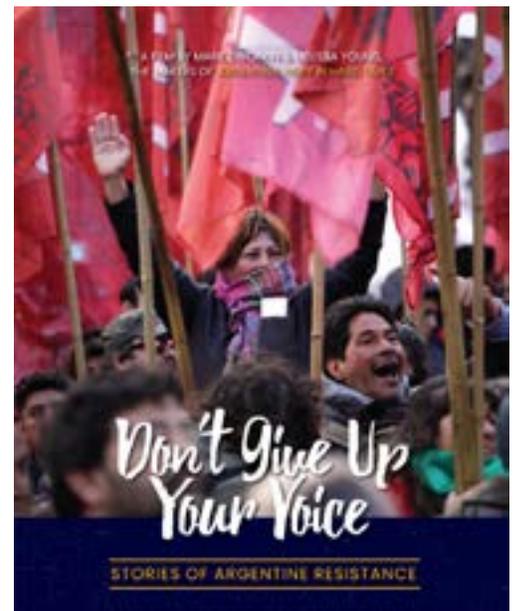
Karen Richter, Membership-Vice President, PSARA.

Don't Give Up Your Voice! A Film by PSARA Members **Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young**

By Karen Richter

PSARA is screening the film *Don't Give Up Your Voice* on February 3, from 2:00-3:30 at the Washington State Labor Council. The film is a 40-minute documentary about the 2015 election of Argentina's President Macri and his Trump-like policies and hostility to the unemployed. Many Argentinians were surprised that he won the election. People poured into the streets angry about the tone of the political campaign and the immediate policies he put into place. Macri and Trump are very much alike in how they campaigned and their anti-immigration and anti-worker policies.

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The Retiree ADVOCATE

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Whidbey Island PSARA Committee Forms

By Scott Chaplin

With the aim of taking local activism to a higher level, eight activists on Whidbey Island have formed a launching crew for a Whidbey Island PSARA committee. Currently there are 15 PSARA members on Whidbey Island and 16 more in the State's 10th Legislative District (of which Whidbey Island is by far the largest portion). The Whidbey Island Progressives (WhIP), with a membership of over 100, is assisting with this effort and is making it a high priority for their organization in 2019.

PSARA has hosted or co-sponsored several presentations on Whidbey Island with WhIP and other organizations over the past two years, including a presentation by author and radio journalist David Barsamian which was held on December 9, 2018. Barsamian, who makes his life's work bringing often-ignored voices to the public's attention, spoke about the importance of coming together with fellow activists and maintaining an optimism of the spirit in these troubling times. His talk could not have been more timely, as is his weekly radio show, Alternative Radio, which can be heard on over 200 radio stations (visit www.AlternativeRadio.org) including local stations KSER/KXIR (90.7/89.9 Sundays at 7 a.m.), KEXP (90.3 Sundays at 6 a.m., and KUOW (94.9 Wednesdays at 11 p.m.).

The Whidbey Island PSARA Committee will next meet on Thursday, January 17, for a potluck dinner meeting at 654 3rd Street in Langley. At that meeting the crew will be discussing details for a February 12 PSARA presentation on the Long-Term Care Trust Act to be held somewhere in Langley. We will be planning other activities for the Committee's 2019 schedule, including participation in Senior Lobby Day with PSARA, in Olympia on February 26. If you are interested in joining or if you know anyone on Whidbey Island or in the 10th Legislative District who you think might be interested in joining PSARA, please contact scottc1962@gmail.com.

Scott Chaplin is Chair of PSARA's new Whidbey Island Committee.

Join PSARA on MLK Day January 21, 2019

Garfield High School, 400 23rd Avenue, Seattle

Schedule of events:

Opportunity Fair 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Workshops 9:30 - 10:50 a.m.

Rally in Gymnasium 11 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

March 12:30 p.m. - 1:30pm

Look for the
PSARA banner.



*PSARA members listen intently to
speakers at last year's MLK Day rally.
Photo: Garet Munger*

Pass the Long-Term Care Trust Act of 2019

By Ruth Egger

In the 2018 legislative session, the Long-Term Care Act did not pass. But we have every indication that it can pass in 2019, as the differences that emerged late in the 2019 session have been resolved. PSARA is a member of the Washingtonians for a Responsible Future coalition, which is working with Washington legislators and other advocacy groups. They have improved the language and are working to line up the needed support to pass the LTCTA in the upcoming legislative session.

To refresh your memory:

Most families do not have private long term care insurance due to the cost and the limited benefits it allows. Many families are unable to afford the cost of care. Often caring for a family member involves severe sacrifices, like "spending down" in order to become eligible for Medicaid. All too often, family members provide the needed long-term care, often at great financial and physical sacrifice.

The Long-Term Care Trust Act would set up a new public Long-Term Care Trust Fund that allows people to spread the costs over time instead of facing expensive bills at the moment care is needed. Through a monthly payroll fee of approximately one-half of one percent – 58 cents for every hundred dollars in income, the long term care insurance would provide eligible people \$100 a day for 365 days. These days do not have to be concurrent, and the money could pay for long-term residential care, in-home care, a ramp, meals, transportation, and other supplies.

To qualify for the benefit, the person requiring care would have to need help with multiple activities of daily living, like bathing, dressing, administering medication, supervision, and getting in and out of bed. Individuals currently retired or out of the work force could not pay into the system and therefore would not be eligible for the benefit at this time, but there is talk about modifying the plan after it passes so that older adults could gain eligibility.

If we do nothing, our state's Medicaid spending is projected to skyrocket to \$4.1 billion dollars per year by 2040. By setting up the Long-Term Care Trust Fund, the legislation would prevent many people

from needing Medicaid to access necessary care. The Long-Term Care Trust Act is projected to save Washington taxpayers \$19 million in the first year of operation (2022), \$368 million in 2050, and have a net savings of over \$3.7 billion by 2052.

The Long-Term Care Trust Act would give families the security of knowing that they or their loved ones will be able to access the care they need when they need it most, without the added stress of how to pay for it.

PSARA MEMBERS – We will be asking you to please call your state legislators and ask them to support this bill. The legislation does not have bill numbers

as of now but will have bill numbers in January.

The coalition is looking for caregiving stories about situations in your own family or in your community that might have caused financial, physical, or emotional hardships. We will be asking people to testify in Olympia. If you have a story or would like to testify, contact Ruth at ruthegger@gmail.com

Ruth Egger is a retired Geriatric Social Worker and PSARA representative to Washingtonians for a Responsible Future, the coalition that leads advocacy for the LTCTA.

We Need Eviction Reform!

By Xochitl Maykovich

Thousands of evictions happen throughout the region, and while this eviction machine is unseen by the majority of the community, the results reverberate far outside the courthouse. While a month of unpaid rent might be an inconvenience for a landlord, an eviction can mean life or death for a tenant. Eviction is a leading cause of poverty and homelessness.

The eviction process in Washington is incredibly unforgiving. Tenants can be evicted for nonpayment of rent, regardless of how much they are behind or the reason they fell behind. If a tenant is late on rent, they have three days to pay, and if they don't, the landlord can pursue an eviction, which can take as little as three weeks.

The courts do not take the circumstances surrounding why a tenant fell behind when considering eviction. Even if the tenant fell behind due to hospitalization, a death in the family, or temporary job loss, the court generally only considers if the tenant is behind on her rent by \$10.00 from one owes thousands of dollars to their landlord. Further, tenants can be evicted for non-rent charges, minor lease violations, and other issues that should not result in the loss of someone's housing.

The evictions disproportionately impact marginalized communities. In a review of Seattle eviction filings in 2017, 51.7% of tenants in eviction filings were people of color; 31.2% were Black tenants, experiencing eviction at a rate 4.5 times what would be expected based on their demographics in Seattle. Almost 90.0% of eviction filings were for nonpayment of rent and of these, 52.3% were for one month or less in rent. Out of the court records that mentioned a tenant's age, the oldest evicted tenant in Seattle last year was 85-years-old.

Eviction has long-term negative consequences on families, communities, cities, and states. Tenants face steep financial costs resulting from eviction: the median court judgment in Seattle 2017 eviction cases was \$3,129.73, including rent owed, nonrent charges, and legal costs. Most tenants become homeless after eviction and the impact of eviction can last years.

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Not So Random Thoughts

By Robby Stern

News From Rain Shadow Country, by Sequim resident and PSARA member Tim Wheeler, is a lively, rewarding, and compelling read. Since 1966, Tim has been a news reporter and editor for the *Worker, Daily World*, and now writes for *People's World*. The book is a collection of Tim's articles that tell many fascinating stories about Tim's life and the people he covered as a reporter.

Tim is a good storyteller. His articles are about the lives and struggles of ordinary people. Tim was and is a member of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), and his life and perspective carry the commitment to racial, social, and economic justice that characterizes the lives of party members.

The first eight years of Tim's life were spent in the Washington, D.C., area where his father and mother were involved in the war effort to defeat fascism. During World War II his father served as a section chief in the research division of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). His Dad reported directly to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on various important issues related to successful prosecution of the war. His father was also an active member of United Public Workers, a union affiliated with the CIO. His mother worked at the Army Map Services. Tim tells stories about trying to visit his parents at work and other adventures he had as a little boy.

At the end of the war came the Red Scare witch-hunt. His parents were accused and lost their jobs. The family was forced to start over. "They were Cold War refugees fleeing the vicious attack unleashed by the House Un-American Activities Committee and by their local incarnation, the Canwell Committee."

Tim and family arrived in the Sequim area in 1948, where they had extended family, and started a dairy farm. The conditions were very difficult. Tim's father was frequently a target of the government repression of "left wingers." He was forced to travel to distant places to testify and be verbally abused while

Tim's mother and the kids worked hard trying to make the dairy farm financially viable while keeping the family together. This period was characterized by very hard work and financial struggles, combined with resisting government repression. Despite the terrible hardship, the family succeeded in creating a life filled with richness, adventures, and misadventures as a dairy farm family.

We learn what it was like for Tim to grow up in this rural community. In his youth at Sequim High School his talents as a writer/journalist, singer/musician, and youthful leader in his community were encouraged. He writes about his exposure to politics and how he came to embrace the political perspective of the CPUSA (Paul Robeson was a big influence in his young life). We learn about the many admirable people who made up the fabric of his life.

He received a scholarship to Amherst College, where in many ways he was like a duck out of water. But his writing and musical talents were encouraged there, and he formed friendships that greatly influenced him.

He left Amherst before graduating and took some time off. He took some courses at the University of Washington and became politically active on campus. It was also during his time at UW that he met the love of his life, Joyce, whom he married and with whom he lives on a farm in Clallam County today. He returned to Amherst and graduated in 1964. His college years were decisive in both his political development and in his decision to be a journalist.

Joyce and Tim remained on the East Coast, living mostly in Baltimore where Tim had a career as a writer for the CPUSA newspapers. He has spent more than 50 years as a journalist. Joyce was the primary breadwinner as a classroom teacher, and the book is lovingly dedicated to her.

Tim and Joyce moved back to the family farm in 2006 where they have been an integral, beloved, and respected part of the community in Clallam



County. Tim shares stories about their lives and activism in Clallam County since their return.

News From Rain Shadow Country documents the rich life Tim and Joyce created. It is a life imbued with the determination to "fight back for union rights, racial and gender equality, world peace, and environmental justice." Tim's articles are entertaining and insightful. Readers will recognize the names and probably know some of the people mentioned in Tim's stories. (There is a story about Will Parry's 90th birthday celebration sponsored by PSARA.)

News From Rain Shadow Country is a part of a history we may not know as told by a talented journalist. It is written with a spirit of both realism and optimism. The book demonstrates the unquenchable spirit that leads ordinary people to demand something better and work to make it happen.

On Sunday, March 31, at 2 p.m., Tim will be featured in a fundraiser for PSARA. Nick Licata has kindly agreed to be the host/interviewer. PSARA members are invited to come and bring family, friends, and neighbors. Tim will bring copies of his book that he will sign, and his autoharp. He looks forward to leading us in singing some familiar songs. The February and March issues of the *Advocate* will have additional information about this literary/cultural event.

PSARA Oral History Project: Interview With Jeff Johnson, Part II

By Angie Bartels and Karen Richter

Can you give us an example of what work you did to bring labor and communities together?

Some came out of the minimum wage initiatives. The 1998 initiative raised the wage to \$6.50/hour, and indexed it to the cost of living. We were the first state to do that, and it was attractive to a lot of community groups and communities of color, and that forged tighter relationships and allowed us to work on other issues together. The next big piece that drew us together with community was work around immigration reform. We started working with Hillary Stern from Casa Latina and got involved in the worker center movement. Robby and I agreed that at every (WSLC) convention we would have plenary sessions on immigration reform and invite community groups. Fortunately, the AFL-CIO got a conscience, and they, along with faith-based groups, did a nationwide set of hearings on immigration issues.

They bypassed the Northwest, so we held our own immigrant workers hearing. The courageousness of undocumented workers blew us away.

It was around immigrant rights that we drew even closer to the community. The national AFL-CIO in 2008 made an agreement with the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON), which most of the centers belong to, including Casa Latina. We sat down with Hillary and drew up an application for Casa Latina. We wanted them to be an affiliate with the state labor council. We heard nothing, so we applied again. We still didn't hear anything, so I called up the lawyer. He said we have a problem with IBEW, who thought day laborers were taking away work. I said they don't do electrical work. I said how do we solve the problem. He said go talk with every IBEW local and get their approval. Fortunately, I had friends in IBEW, and we worked it out and got approval. We are the first state in the country that has a worker center



Jeff Johnson

that is an affiliate of ours and actually sits on our Board. Labor's voice alone is not strong enough to make a difference. I'm not sure we were ever strong enough to make as big a difference as we should be able to, but we certainly aren't strong enough now. So community and labor's voices together are the only way to make the progressive change, moral and humane changes that our communities deserve.

Organized labor has suffered many blows over the years, particularly during the time you've been involved. For many that can be discouraging. What continues to give you the drive and the vision and the hope to continue your work?

It's really two things. I look at my kids and their friends, and I see such amazing potential. And I look at what we're facing with this current Administration and this sanction they've given to hatred and bigotry and this narrow way of thinking, of pumping every barrel of oil and cubic meter of gas out of the ground. And I say to myself, we have to double down on making progressive change so that these young people have real opportunities to make collective decisions for a better planet, a better community.

The other driving force is listening to these young people. I am amazed at the openness in which they address issues. For my generation it took longer to get to whether it's immigration rights, LGBTQ rights. They just get it. So I am very impressed with our young leadership.

How do you mentor people?

I am pretty pleased with the staff I've hired here. It's a staff of color for the most part. The way I mentor is to stay out of their way. We have meetings to discuss issues, but I want to hear what they think. So it's more encouraging them along rather than saying we have to do it this or that way. It's giving them the space, the freedom to be creative as well as make mistakes. We learn from making mistakes.

What advice would you give to all of us?

I think the advice my mother gave me is the advice I would give to anyone else. Stand up for what you think is right because if you do others will too. Be open to diversity of thought and people because your life will be richer. Work hard every day, have fun but work hard because you have no idea what tomorrow is going to bring.

Thank you, Jeff. We appreciate your inspiration and the incredible work you have done. The best of luck in your retirement.

Angie Bartels, Karen Richter, and Jeff Johnson are PSARA members. Angie is a dedicated volunteer interviewer and member of PSARA's Fundraising Committee. Karen is PSARA's Membership Co-VP and Chair of the Fundraising Committee. Jeff Johnson is retiring as President of the Washington State Labor Council in January, 2019.

Part I of this interview was published in the December, 2018, issue of the Retiree Advocate.

PSARA's Comment on DHS Proposed Public Charge Rule Change

By David Loud

On October 10, 2018, the Trump Administration published a new draft regulation in the Federal Register impacting people who are seeking to immigrate legally into the United States. Under the new proposed rule, the "public charge" definition is dramatically broadened to make it harder for immigrants following all legal requirements to enter the country and advance through the immigration process.

In opposition to this proposed rule change, scores of organizations formed the national Protecting Immigrant Families coalition with affiliated state coalitions. Learn more at www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org. As of the December 10 deadline for public comments, over 210,000 comments were filed - more than double the coalition's goal - including over 3,000 from Washington State.

We are reprinting here the comment submitted for PSARA by David Loud.

I am writing on behalf of Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA), a multi-generational organization dedicated to achieving retirement security for all generations to come.

We emphatically oppose the proposed "public charge" rule change. We believe this change would deter thousands of families from seeking life-saving supports which have been legal for decades.

We are a nation of immigrants, and this has given our country some of its greatest strengths. A number of PSARA members came here as immigrants and some, including my spouse, came as refugees.

Many immigrants depend on programs that would become unavailable to them with this rule change, including SNAP, Medicaid, housing support, and Medicare Part D Extra Help. Access to nutritious food, health care, and safe housing keeps children learning, parents working, and families healthy. The rule change would deter immigrant families, many of whose children are

US citizens, from seeking the help they need for their health and safety.

To make matters worse, the rule is long and easy to misunderstand. We already have evidence that some immigrants are unsure if the rule would apply to them. Some are already afraid to utilize programs that they may be legally eligible for and support with their own tax dollars! We know now that some immigrant families are already dis-enrolling from programs such as primary and preventive health care services and school lunches.

The fear generated by these rules would adversely impact entire communities and the infrastructure that serves all of us. The proposed rule would make poverty worse, because families will not seek the help they need. This would have profound and long-term consequences for vulnerable families in my community, and thus for our whole community.

As under existing law, making use of legal non-cash benefits should not be a factor in determining whether an

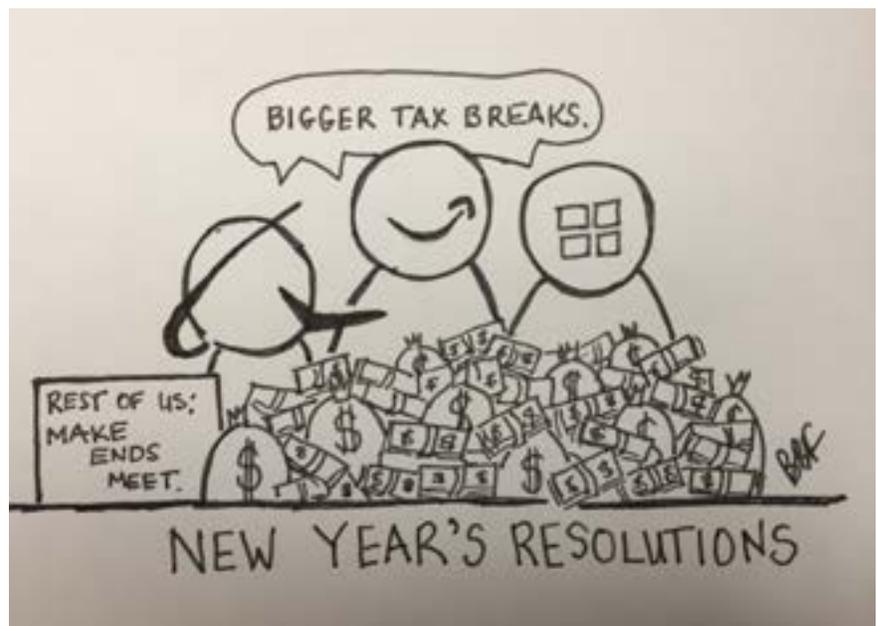
individual is likely to become a public charge. Immigrant families work hard for a secure future here. They contribute federal, state, and local tax dollars, and they strengthen our country's economy and culture in many ways. Immigrant families should not be forced to sacrifice their children's most basic needs in order to secure a place in America.

We urge the Department of Homeland Security to withdraw this proposed rule change and instead to propose policies that strengthen -- rather than undermine -- the ability of immigrants to support themselves and their families in the future. The Statue of Liberty is a much better symbol of our country's values than proposals that would begin to close the door on many newcomers to our great land.

David Loud is PSARA's representative to the Health Care is a Human Right coalition. He previously worked as a legislative aide to Congressman Jim McDermott and an organizer for the health care union SEIU 1199NW.

Just This!

By Barb Flye



STRIKE CALLED

**ALL UNIONS
TO GO OUT**

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SIXTY THOUSAND TO RESPOND TO CALL **NO CONSTRUCTIVE LEGISLATION YET**

The Seattle General Strike earned headlines across the nation and across oceans. In an extraordinary act of solidarity, members of more than one hundred unions had voted to stop work in support of shipyard workers who had already been on strike for two weeks.

To commemorate this historical event a years' worth of activities are planned by the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, Bridges Center for Labor Studies, Labor Archives, WSLC, King County Labor Council, Museum of History and Industry and many more groups. You can find all the events on the Solidarity Centennial Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/solidaritycentennial/>

Jan 16, UW Jim Gregory's book signing – "The Seattle General Strike Centennial Edition" – Third Place Books, Seward Park

Feb 2, MOHAI presents the film – "Labor Wars"

Feb 4, UW Jim Gregory's book signing – "The Seattle General Strike Centennial Edition" - University Book Store

Feb 6, MOHAI presents Historic Dramatic Recreation of the strike

Feb 7, MOHAI – "Witness to Revolution"

FEB 9, Pacific NW Labor History Association

SEATTLE GENERAL STRIKE BUS TOUR

Bus tour 9:30 – 12:30

Starting and ending at the Seattle Labor Temple

**Followed by a free soup kitchen and at 1:00 pm the
LABOR ARCHIVES Annual Event with entertainment**

PNLHA members Free

Non-members \$25 (Includes Membership & a 2020 PNLHA calendar)

"Nothing Moved but the Tide"

Fo' Real: Okinawan Long-Term Care Tough, but Defined by Duty

By Bob Shimabukuro, based on an article previously published in the International Examiner

"Why do you always work so hard, Tom?" Toki asked.
"Because I want to make sure none of the Shimabukuros will be as poor as we were when we were kids."

Tom NISAN

The Scene in Arlington in August after I arrived at Tom Nisan's house: Toki Nesan had given me instructions about how to help the home health care personnel without interfering with their protocols:

Tuesday morning:
"I'm going to the store, Tom. What do you want to eat?"
"I'd like some Ramen."

About an hour later, Zenwa texted me. We had separated in the store because he needed to get some stuff for himself.:
"Dad, where are you?"

"Oh, I forgot what I was looking for."
"Ramen, Dad."
"Thanks."
Fifteen minutes later, we're back at Tom's home. I prepared the Ramen quickly, but I'm greeted with, "WHERE THE F*** HAVE YOU BEEN? IT'S WAY PAST ONE O'CLOCK. TAKES YOU THAT LONG TO MAKE RAMEN?"

"Sorry, Tom. It takes me a lot longer to do things now."
Later, when I checked back with him:
"How was the Ramen?"
"Great, but too late."

Wednesday, Thursday, he requested Ramen for breakfast and lunch also. I also added some inarizushi, his all-time favorite food. He ate about six of them, but he was still fixated on Ramen.

Friday:
Caretaker Muni came upstairs and told me that he wants "Roman," "Reeman," or something like that for breakfast, that he hasn't eaten yet.

He's breathing heavily, as he tries to walk upstairs to the kitchen. He's become a Ramen junkie.

About midnight, I heard his plaintive, "Bob, Bob, Hello, Hello."

I get up and ask, "What do you want?"
"Can you make me a hamburger?"
"Uh,no. (Too much trouble for me.)
How about some Ramen?"
"Okay, that sounds good."
And later, "That was the best Ramen I've ever had."

Torn between laughing and crying, I did neither and answered, "Well, thanks for the compliment and for all that you've done for me," which brought about a smile as he fell asleep.

At least I had a chance to tell him thanks. The next week and a half with Tom was much of the same, but he was already sliding away. I thought he would die before the end of August, but he continued on until October 15.

Toki NESAN

December, 1988. My brother Sam handed me the phone, "Toki wants to talk to you." Just as Tom Nisan was expected to take care of the financial and external concerns of the family when Dad died, Toki Nesan was expected to help Mom take care of the younger members of the family -- in our case, a family of seven kids, stretching over 14 years. Boss of the internal concerns.

A Second Mom, so to speak.
"Why do I feel like he just wants to see me before he dies?" asked Toki.
"Because that IS the way he feels."
"So, if I wait until Christmas to come, he'll probably live until Christmas."
"No, you should look at it as, he wants to see you before he dies, but if you can't make it, that's okay with him. The question really is, 'How would you feel if you didn't come and he did die before Christmas?'"

Toki cancelled her Christmas reservation, came a week earlier than planned, and Sam died about 20 minutes after talking to Toki Nesan in person.

A Lonely Time With Mom

"What's going on now?" Toki asks.
"They're force feeding her. They say they have to. By law."

It's been tough for me. For over a month, mom has been unconscious and unable to take food and swallow it. It's been weeks since Toki had given me the "permission to pull the plug" on Mom. (There is no way I would do it without Toki's permission.) I take out a copy of Mom's wishes upon her death:

*To my children,
If anything happens to me and I pass away, please do not buy a coffin for me. Have my body cremated and hold the funeral services over my ashes. Make it as simple as possible with no flowers. Thank you very much for all you have done for me.
Momma
Yasuko Shimabukuro
October 27, 1966*

I don't remember the date, but a nurse friend who was married to Mom's doctor called her husband, who then relayed the message to the nursing home. I waited for her to cease breathing. But then I realized that Mom could have meant she didn't want any of her kids to see her die. Ten minutes after I got home, (2 a.m.) the phone rang. It was the nursing home, telling me Mom had died.

I cried.
It's hard to tell what message she was trying to convey. It was very similar to what dad had written four years earlier:

*Yasuko
In case of emergency, within few days pass away, in my funeral, use the coffin which costs not much more than \$50 worth (made with any board) no flowers, after one month is over, forget about me and do as you please. Don't mind any gossips, be practical for the sake of these kids/happiness.
Zenshu*

In my perfect, visionary world, there would be universal income, and that the NESAN of the world (I'm sure that people like them are in every culture) are paid a family living wage plus benefits, and most of all, get time off so they get some relief.

Review of *Winners Take All*, by Anand Giridharadas

Enabling Inequality

By Michael Righi

Bill Gates recommends books for us to read a couple times a year (see the *Seattle Times*). His last two lists (five each) include *21 Lessons For the 21st Century* and *Forgetfulness*. A common theme of the authors is that things are getting better globally over time – yes, there is still war and inequality, but things seem bad mainly because our outrage has grown.

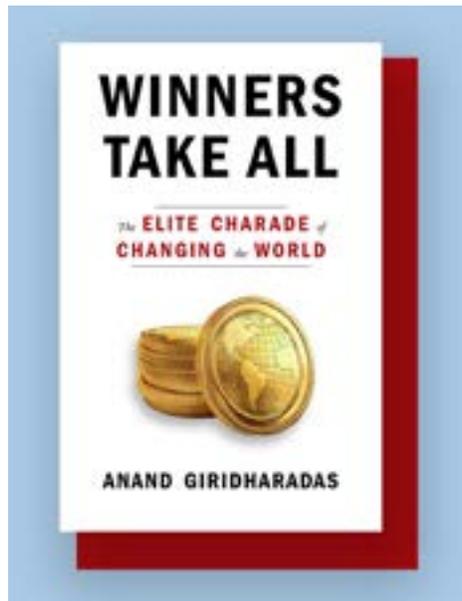
And our expectations are too high.

Anand Giridharadas, in his book *Winners Take All*, calls out this “criticism-shaming” as a great way for hedge funders, Silicon Valley types, and other winners to silence their critics. Gates tells us in his book notes that yes, there are problems, but that we all need to meditate, “get to know ourselves and how we contribute to our own suffering.”

What Giridharadas is doing in *Winners* is focusing on a particular type of wealthy individual or family – call them philanthrocapitalists (I know, it doesn’t roll easily off the tongue) – whose foundation or philanthropy aims to “do good.” So there is no mention of the Koch brothers or Sheldon Adelson or their ilk, who consciously use their fortunes to defend their privilege and continue devastating the planet. They are an easy target.

Winners is about the Aspen Institute, the Clinton Global Initiative, TED talks, the Ford Foundation, and all the “thought leaders” (the writers Gates recommends, for example) who circulate between them. According to these “thinkers,” the rich can “do well by doing good” or “become part of the solution.”

The Reagans and Thatchers of the world loathe government action. Clinton agreed. So what about poverty, food insecurity, climate change, disease? These wealthy philanthropists would commandeer the role of government and make changes the way they decided, in ways that did not threaten the power and wealth of the elite.



First, and most obviously, *Winners* asks, How did our elite become so wealthy? There is a section on the Sackler family, lauded philanthropists, who made their money pushing Oxycontin. And other wealthy do-gooders who made their money selling cigarettes or sugar-and-fat-laden foods. The book barely mentions our favorite locals, Bezos and Gates, two of the eight super wealthy who own as much as half the world’s population. All of them are avoiding taxes, abusing workers, contributing mightily to climate change, and avoiding the regulation that would impact their profits.

But, even more to Giridharadas’s point, some of these folks think they should be determining how to change the world. My example (not the book’s) would be the Gates Foundation funding charter schools. Or their “green revolution” in Africa, which involves pesticides, Monsanto seeds, and soil-destroying industrial agriculture. All bundled up as “climate-smart” agriculture, ignoring traditional knowledge and the local small farmers who are feeding the world. Gates has a better way, at least better for huge corporate agriculture.

Solutions, according to our plutocrats, need to be elite-led, market-friendly, and winners-safe. My favorite example from the book is an app (what else), funded by venture capitalists to “help workers,” that will solve the problem of pay variability, because workers are juggling jobs or have erratic schedules (another local connection – Starbucks). It’s called Even, and it will smooth out your pay for you – for \$260 a year!

Legally require advance and reliable scheduling? Prohibit cities and states from competing for corporate favor? Jailing bankers for tanking the global economy? Make polluters pay? All of that, and more, would require a strong and capable government that is not bought and paid for by the same elites who want to polish the edges of capitalism a bit so that the basic structure of our economic system remains unchallenged.

I worry that even those of us who are activists have lost a little faith in government capacity. *Winners* doesn’t solve that problem for us, that will have to happen in the streets and in legislatures with insurgent lawmakers backed up by the streets. The Green New Deal being introduced in the House by exciting new lawmakers, and supported by the youth-led Sunrise Movement, is a perfect example. It would require and encourage a major renewal of government at all levels.

What Giridharadas does do very well, with wide-ranging interviews from “social entrepreneurs” to foundation heads, is warn us that “win-win” solutions are woefully inadequate in a world of increasing inequality and weakening democracy. The oil companies and their owners cannot be allowed to win, as just one example. There are perpetrators of social injustice, they should be called out, and the bases of their wealth must be challenged.

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

We Need Eviction Reform!

Continued from Page 3

The impacts of eviction on seniors are amplified. Living on a fixed income makes it impossible for many seniors to pay this debt, increasing their likelihood of facing housing instability. In addition, the emotional and physical stress of eviction can worsen a tenants' health. Out of the eviction cases last year, six tenants died either during the process or soon thereafter. Four of those individuals died by suicide and one died of an accidental overdose the day after the sheriff evicted him. One individual died while receiving hospice care and during the eviction process, according to a court record. An analysis of the King County Medical Examiner's 2017 list of deaths of presumed homeless individuals showed nine people had an eviction filed against them in the three years prior to their death.

We can, and must reform the eviction process on the local and state level. Judges need more discretion to determine a just outcome for a tenant and a landlord in an eviction proceeding. Further, tenants must be protected from aggressive landlords who use minor lease violations to force tenants out of their apartments. It is time that reason and sanity be restored to the eviction process and that tenants who fall behind for reasons beyond their control are not unfairly punished for temporary unemployment, medical emergencies, or other one-time events.

Representative Nicole Macri (D-43) will be introducing legislation to reform the eviction process during the upcoming legislative session. Last year, the only other legislator to sponsor Representative Macri's eviction reform legislation was Representative Gerry Pollet (D-46). If you want to help ease our region's housing crisis, urge your state legislators to support eviction reform legislation.

Xochitl Maykovich is an organizer with Washington CAN! and a member of PSARA's Executive Board.

A Better Way to Counter the Corporate Bidding Wars – Facts

By Tom Lux

Are you as tired as I am of watching large, successful businesses pit cities against each other by creating bidding frenzies in the hope that the business will locate a new facility in their area? Amazon was only the latest to ring the bell to start a no-holds barred fight among 238 cities who were willing to spend millions and even billions on landing the tech giant rather than spend that money on the needs of their communities. Amazon will pocket more than \$2 billion in tax incentives from New York City and Virginia. Tax incentives can be inefficient and destructive. They are paid for by everyone else who doesn't get a tax break and often don't pencil out in promised benefits.

We are all-too-familiar with these corporate stunts in the Pacific Northwest. In 2001, Boeing ran a similar year-long campaign to decide where to relocate its corporate headquarters. Chicago "won." One Chicago newspaper ran the headline, "What is a Boeing?"

Boeing was not done. In 2013, it sharpened its extortionist-like tactics when it convinced our governor, the state senate, and several others that it was worth a **\$9 billion** tax incentive – the largest ever in this country – to produce the new 777X wings in Puget Sound. And that wasn't all! They insisted that the Machinist Union agree to a new contract that would eliminate their pension contributions by 2016. The workers voted that proposition down in November. But this wasn't over. A second vote was held at the end of the holiday break when many people were still out of town and communication between the union and members was very limited. Boeing won their takeaway contract by a razor-thin margin. Shortly after that, Boeing started to lay off thousands of workers, many of them engineers. The **\$9 billion** incentive was not tied to employment or any other measurable data. There was no accountability, and there still isn't.

The Choose Washington New Mid-Market Airplane (NMA) Council think they have a better way to short circuit these corporate tactics. Facts. The council is comprised of Washington business, labor, local and state government, and others in aerospace fields, and they commissioned an "Aerospace Competitive Economics Study" (ACES), which was released in June. The study analyzed the competitive advantages and disadvantages for aerospace manufacturing in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. ACES employs a ranking system to grade states across 41 metrics, grouped in eight categories, measuring factors relevant to aerospace production like cost structure, skilled labor availability, global trade connectivity, and tax climate.

It should not be a surprise to any of us here that Washington State scored far and away the best location in the country for aerospace manufacturing and design and should be the logical place for Boeing to build the new NMA plane. Maybe, in a perfect world, large corporate "citizens" would be accountable to the communities they reside in.

To read the Aerospace Competitive Economics Study, you can go to: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Final-ACES-Report.pdf>

Tom Lux is PSARA's Treasurer and Co-Chair of the Climate and Environmental Justice Committee. He is a retired member of IAM 751, the Aerospace Machinists Union.



Tom Lux

Don't Give Up Your Voice!

Continued from Page 1

Macri initiated immigration reform shortly after taking office that legitimized violence against minorities, similar to what the Trump regime has done to people of color, women, LGBTQ, and others. In Argentina, the Macri regime stigmatizes and justifies violence against those without jobs, saying they don't want to work.

The filmmakers interview Argentinians protesting the election and fighting against Macri, his hostile policies, and the violence they experience. The film covers the creative resistance strategies used including worker co-ops, street protests, street theater, and music, which offer lessons for all of us.

Seasoned documentary producers Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young have produced a broad range of films on social and environmental issues. Previous productions of Young and Dworkin have won prestigious awards from CINE, Houston; Media That Matters, Chicago; NW Film and Video; Women in Film/Seattle; Prix Leonardo; International Wildlife Festivals; and many others. These films are in broad circulation in academic and community settings and five have been broadcast nationally on PBS stations.

Join us and filmmakers Mark and Melissa for the screening and for what should be a very compelling discussion afterward. Light refreshments will be served. No admission will be charged, but donations will be gladly accepted for PSARA. Please contact Mike Andrew at organizer@psara.org to make a reservation or for additional information.

Karen Richter is PSARA's Membership Co-VP and Chair of the Fundraising Committee.

PSARA's Climate and Environmental Justice Committee Adapts to Changing Environment

By Bob Barnes

Always in the vanguard, the PSARA Climate and Environmental Justice Committee is trying out a new leadership structure: Tri-chairs. Given everyone's busy realities, sharing leadership duties with a bigger pool seemed an idea worth trying.

Kristen Beifus had to step down as co-chair due to increased work responsibilities, leaving Tom Lux as the sole remaining chair. Bobby Righi and Bob Barnes agreed to take on the other two slots.

At a time when climate crisis denial or minimization still infects significant portions of the population, including within the labor movement, the work of the Committee is more important than ever. We have been able to serve as a bridge between the broader environmental and labor movements. We also need to increase our educational outreach and activism within the labor community.

The importance of our work has been highlighted by the recent report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, NOAA's "Arctic Report Card," and the US government's own Fourth National Climate Assessment, all of which demonstrate that our timeline for maintaining a planet suitable for human life is extremely limited. We don't have the luxury of waiting for plans that will take decades to implement.

We're always looking for new (or old) blood. The next meeting is on January 3, 10 a.m. at the Washington State Labor Council office. Come join in this critical work. Meetings are informative and fun!



Bob Barnes, Tom Lux, Bobby Righi, Kristen Beifus
Photo: Garet Munger

To Renew or Donate

PSARA Education Fund

321 16th Avenue S, Seattle WA 98144

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

Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Meetings and Events

West Seattle Hot Topics for Seniors & Senior Wannabes: Noon – 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 2, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave SW, Seattle, (35th & Henderson). Topic: *The Letter from Birmingham Jail: How Martin Luther King's legacy informs our own legacies and resolutions.* Brown bag lunch.

PSARA Climate and Environmental Justice Committee: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, January 3, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Government Relations Committee: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, January 3, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. All are welcome.

PSARA Fundraising Committee: 10:30 a.m. – Noon, Monday, January 7, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. All are welcome.

PSARA Education Committee: 2 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Southend Committee: 1 p.m., Thursday, January 10, Burien Library, 400 SW 152nd Street, Burien. *PSARA's Education Committee will present our workshop on Making Retirement Security Real for Everyone.* All are welcome.

PSARA Race/Gender Equity Committee: 11 a.m. – Noon, Thursday, January 17, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16 Avenue S., Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Executive Board: 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, January 17, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

Help!

Did anyone who attended PSARA's December Potluck and Membership Meeting end up with a purple bowl and two serving spoons?

It's part of a matched set and is sorely missed.

If you find it, please bring it to the PSARA office, 321 16th Avenue S, Seattle, or email organizer@psara.org

Thanks!

