

The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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

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April 2019

**US War Against
Venezuela**
By Cindy Domingo

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GiveBIG Challenge

By Robby Stern

The goal for the GiveBIG campaign in 2019 is to raise \$20,000, the annual cost of creating and distributing *The Retiree Advocate*. We also hope to raise additional funds to make significant progress in covering the costs of the educational work of the PSARA Education Fund (approximately \$24,000 in 2019).

To further this goal, the executive board members of the PSARA Education Fund and the PSARA Board have pledged to collectively donate \$12,500 for GiveBIG Day. The thirty-four members of the two Executive Boards are challenging the 1,350 PSARA members to match their pledge.

The two Boards are committed to the long-term financial viability of the PSARA Education Fund. The *Advocate* is a unique publication that frequently provides information not found in other progressive communication outlets. To quote our late editor, Will Parry, “It is the best non-award-winning newsletter in the country.”

The Education Fund also sponsors community education on a variety of issues in an expanding area of western and central Washington. These presentations build support for policies that positively impact the ability of seniors and future seniors to live with dignity, respect, and financial security.

If 250 members donated \$50 or more during GiveBig, the challenge from PSARA’s leaders would be matched. We together would take an important step in the effort to achieve the revenue needed for the work of the PSARA Education Fund in 2019.



We challenge you...to GiveBIG! (Photo: Garet Munger)

Special Performance by the Seattle Labor Chorus Saturday, April 13

Great news! On Saturday, April 13, more than 20 members of the Seattle Labor Chorus will reenact their play as part of the 100-year celebration of the Seattle General Strike. The play was first performed at the Museum of History and Industry in February, 2019, to much acclaim.

The play was created by playwright Ed Mast and the Seattle Labor Chorus in collaboration with the UW Labor Archives of Washington and historian James Gregory. It depicts the six days that Seattle stood still as thousands of workers walked off the job. Making headlines around the world, the 1919 General Strike inspired others in the labor movement both nationally and internationally.

Experience this historic moment featuring the voices of workers, politicians, and live music on April 13 at the Washington State Labor Council, 321 S. Jackson Street Seattle. The live performance begins at 2:00 p.m., followed by a Q&A.

Many of you are familiar with the Chorus and know how inspiring they are. The chorus sings in support of working people at strikes, rallies, protests, and union halls; at annual meetings; at benefits for good causes; for book launches; at memorials; and at the Northwest Folklife Festival. The Chorus features great songs of labor, peace, and justice as well as some old standards.

Many of the Chorus members are PSARA members who are donating their time and talent as part of PSARA’s Give Big 2019 Fundraising Campaign. We greatly appreciate their generosity. Your pledge or donation will also be greatly appreciated. We will provide wine, beer, and snacks.

Please RSVP to organizer@PSARA.org for reservations or contact Karen Richter at fundraising@psara.org for further information.

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The Retiree ADVOCATE

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www.psara.org
or visit PSARA on Facebook

We Remember Phyllis Baker

Phyllis Baker, beloved PSARA member and *Advocate* proofreader, passed away in March after experiencing recurring health problems. Phyllis began proofreading when Will Perry became editor more than 20 years ago. She remained a proofreader through the publication of the March 2019 edition. In addition to being the final arbiter of our commas and semi-colons, Phyllis was a musician and a published poet. In her memory, we reprint one of her poems here.

LEAVING IN HIGH MORNING

I made the bed
and folded up all hope
as neatly as the blankets,
pushed my fears into bags
and fed them to the car.

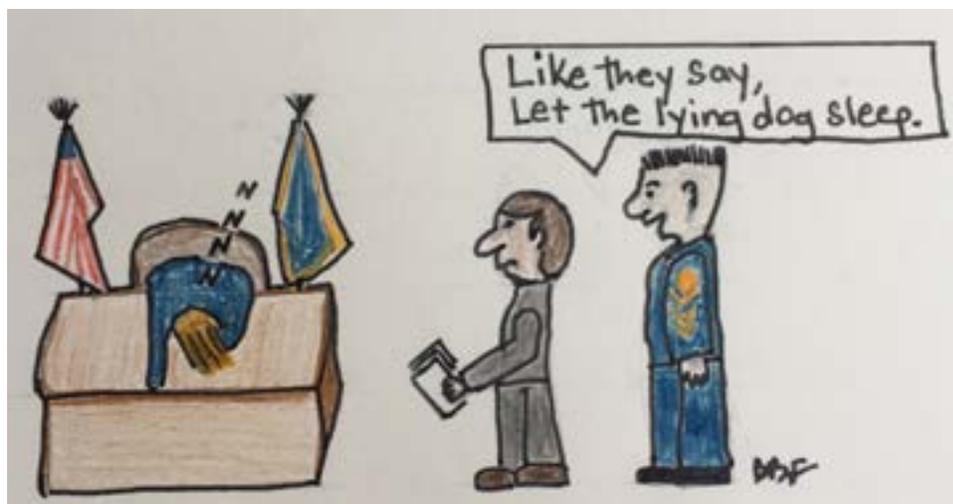
In the cold and hunger
I forgot to straighten
the life I left.



*Phyllis at PSARA's December 2017
membership meeting.
(Photo: Garet Munger)*

Barbed Wire

By Barbara Flye



The Green New Deal: It's The Least We Can Do!

By Bobby Righi

This past month, youth all over the world walked out of school to demand action on climate. In November, two weeks after the midterm elections, 200 young activists occupied Nancy Pelosi's office, and they came with a plan: The Green New Deal. It has been taken up by the new Representative from Queens, New York, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and by Senator Ed Markey from Massachusetts.

This Green New Deal is a resolution, not yet a law, but it proposes sweeping environmental policy changes and broad social reforms to achieve a more just society. The resolution asks people to think big and go against decades of harangues about "small government." We cannot fight climate change without disrupting the status quo.

What is the "status quo"?

We are spewing carbon dioxide, methane, and other gasses into the atmosphere in increasing amounts. We are told by the world's scientists that we need to end all human-caused emissions by 2050 or face disasters not seen before: oceans too warm to support life, droughts and storms which cut food production, heat waves killing hundreds of thousands, wildfires that will annually burn twice as much forest area in the western U.S. as before, and rising seawater that threatens all the world's coastal areas – farmlands, cities, ports.

We are also in a crisis of inequality where life expectancy is going down and clean air, water, healthy food, health care, housing, and education are becoming available only to the well-off. Hourly wages are stagnating despite increased worker productivity. Workers are experiencing a decline in bargaining power. We have the greatest income inequality since the 1920's. The top one percent of earners got 91 percent of income gains after the recession in 2008. We have a large racial wealth divide that has been caused by govern-

ment policies: – today, an average white family has 20 times more wealth than an average Black family.

"Those who have done the least to promote climate change are paying the most" - Bill McKibben

Around the world, millions of refugees are on the move escaping war, drought, and famine. The devastating effects of climate change, and economic inequality fall mostly on those already hurt by a system that routinely takes from the poor and gives to the rich: indigenous communities, communities of color, migrants, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, women, the homeless and youth. We were just given a brutal lesson in this divide as the biggest cyclone ever in the southern hemisphere tore into southern Africa, wiping out whole cities in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The death toll is climbing and will probably top several thousands.

Why is this happening? Who benefits from inequality? Who benefits from the destruction of the climate? And, who pays the costs of this destruction and the cost of inequality? Over the past 50 years or so, the tax structure, government services, and de-regulation have been recalibrated to sweep more and more wealth up to the top one percent. The rest of us have paid the costs of poor schools, bad health care, bad air, bad transportation choices, more and more unhealthy food, and stagnant wages. People both here and around the world who have done the least to cause the climate crisis are paying the highest prices of all – their lives. You only have to look at the raging storms in Mozambique and in Alabama to see that this is true.

The very wealthy invest in money speculation and financial schemes; they do not invest in manufacturing or infrastructure. The very wealthy have a

hard time using their incredible wealth, so they buy apartments for hundreds of millions of dollars in big cities that they live in for a few weeks of the year. Ultra luxury lifestyles are touted in the media and the less wealthy hope to be able to also live this extravagant life. It works on down the economic chain to promote hyper-consumerism. It wastes resources that could be used to better the lives of millions, and it seeks to keep us distracted.

During the past 50 years, corporations have become bigger and bigger monopolies and have almost exclusive access to government coffers and lawmakers to create laws to increase profits. We fight wars for their profits, we remove mountaintops for their profits, we build pipelines across sacred lands and precious aquifers for their profits. We make more and more land unlivable for their profits. We have given up good education for our children for their profits. The lungs of children are filled with noxious fumes for their profits. Whole cities drink water full of lead for their profits. It is hard to think of an area of our lives that is not now up for privatization and profit. But we get told over and over to be afraid of "them" who are causing our problems – immigrants, people of color, women, youth.

To fight climate change, we have to start talking to each other about all of this and work to build a deep democracy. We cannot fix these crises without taking power into our hands. We need locally controlled utilities, we need clean transportation, we need housing and good schools and hospitals accessible to all. We need to have a strong say about how resources are used and what our labor builds. What do we think about nature and the earth around us? How does what we do now affect the lives of our children and generations

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PSARA Takes Over the State House for Senior Lobby Day

Photos by Garet Munger



The PSARA gang on the Speaker's dais with House Speaker and PSARA member Frank Chopp.



At left, PSARA Co-President Jessica Bonebright speaks to Senior Lobby participants about Social Security and Medicare.

Below, PSARA members take notes at a briefing.



PSARA VPs Karen Richter and Bobby Righi strategize.



Workshops for Activists

By Bob Shimabukuro

At a John A. Powell workshop for activists working toward a fair and inclusive society:

YWG (Young White Guy): Mind if I sit here?

JdB, an older White woman: No, go right ahead.

BS2 (to himself): Oh oh!

YWG: Come to these often?

JdB: Been to a few. What about you?

YWG: More than a few. I love to help solve problems. The way folks torture themselves, when solutions are simple.

BS2 (to himself): Oh no! Another shit-head!

Looking at BS2, YWG: Yeah, I know what you're thinking. Another white guy thinking he can solve our society, equity problems by talking crap. Well, we could if you listen to us more. Let us talk.

JdB: You should listen to yourself some-time.

YWG: I do. I love hearing myself talk.

He was beginning to irritate JdB too. She picked up the clipboard that was on the table,

JdB: Here, take this clipboard (she slid it to him), You can be the note taker. That's what I used to do. It kept me from talking all the time.

YWG (With a little pout): why would I do that? I said, I love to hear myself talk.

He was silent for a while, then picked up his bag and went looking for another table to hassle.

BS2 (again to himself): Thank you JdB, I wanted to pound the clipboard over his head.

Just a little later, a young woman of color (YWOC) sat down and picked up the clipboard.

BS2: Oh, are you the notetaker for this table?

YWOC: Yes.

BS2 turning to JdB: You weren't our notetaker?

JdB: No, I saw the clipboard. I saw you were getting angrier the whole time. Thought I needed to do something before you exploded.

BS2: Thanks Judy.

* * *

The Race and Gender Equity Committee (RaGE) has embarked on a journey to learn what PSARA members (in this case, members of the Committee) feel or think about what our organization should be doing.

In the last meeting, PSARA RaGE members were asked to read and discuss the following three questions.

A. For PSARA members, what does an inclusive, culturally responsive PSARA look and behave like?

B. For PSARA members of color, what does an inclusive, culturally responsive PSARA look and behave like?

C. What can PSARA do, internally and externally, to confront systemic and institutionalized racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, ageism that grant unearned privileges?

The committee was divided into two groups: People of Color (POC) and

White People (WP). Each group had a notetaker. Notetakers reported out to the combined RaGE group and later to the PSARA executive board.

* * *

While I was involved more in the logistics of how these conversations would take place, I did gather some thoughts of my own listening to what was being said:

1) We focused a lot on who we would like to include in our organization, and very little on who we would like to exclude.

2) Why do we want a bigger organization?

Most of the time that I've been at these kinds of discussions, people express themselves as pro-diversity, we-have-to-get-along-with-other-people-work-together kind of people. Which they are. But ask who they would like to exclude and the reason for excluding them, they would be hard-pressed to do, at least on a group basis.

The story above really did happen. This Young White Guy was trying to get our goat at this workshop. Making a big joke out of some of the stereotypes POC and older women have about Young White Guys (Older White Guys too) who "like to hear themselves talk." PSARA needs to talk about Exclusion.

* * *

And also for another day, PSARA needs to talk about expansion.

Thanks to Judy, a PSARA member, I think she remembers the incident; Vanetta Molson-Turner, Aganita Varkentine, and Andrea Sawczuk, for being notetakers and reporters, and Committee co-chair Frankie Irigon who spoke for the committee to the Executive Board.



CONGRESSWOMAN PRAMILA JAYAPAL'S

MEDICARE FOR ALL SPEAK OUT



-  **SATURDAY, APRIL 6 | 10:30 AM- 12:00 PM**
-  **THE SUMMIT ON PIKE | 420 E PIKE ST, SEATTLE**
-  **BUSES 10, 11, 43, 47, 49 | \$7 PARKING AT SP+ LOT**

Join Congresswoman Jayapal in the fight to improve and expand Medicare to all Americans.

Share your health care story, learn more about HR 1384, the Medicare for All Act of 2019, and take action to implement universal, single-payer health care.

CONTACT: info@pramilaforcongress.com



Seattle's Number One for Medicare for All

By David Loud

On March 4, after taking public comments from PSARA, Seattle-King County NAACP, Health Care for All WA, Alliance for a Healthy WA and others, the Seattle City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 31867 "supporting the passage of the Medicare for All Act of 2019." This is the new Medicare for All bill (HR 1384) introduced by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal with 106 co-sponsors on February 27.

The resolution was introduced by Councilmember Lorena Gonzalez. On March 12, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan signed the resolution, making Seattle the first city in the nation to endorse the new Medicare for All bill.

Following is David Loud's testimony to the Seattle City Council at their March 12 hearing:

Dear Seattle City Council members, Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action is excited to urge your adoption of this resolution in support of Congresswoman Jayapal's new Medicare for All Act of 2019. We thank Councilmember Gonzalez for introducing this thorough statement of problems and the solutions proposed in the bill.

For over 100 years our country has aspired to the goal of universal health care. Fifty-four years ago we took a giant step forward with Medicare and Medicaid. Nine years ago we took another giant step with the Affordable Care Act. And yet more than 28 million people in our country remain uninsured, including over 400,000 Washingtonians. Even greater numbers are insured but unable to afford the care they need.

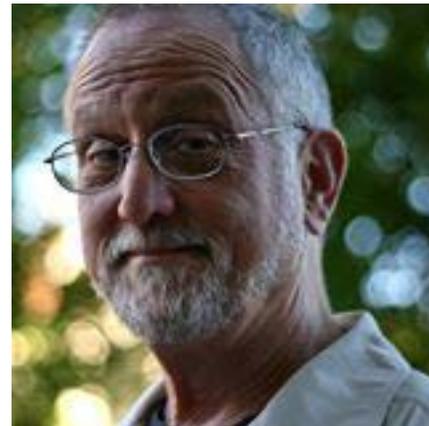
The Medicare for All Act, HR 1384, is a magnificent piece of legislation. It would bring our country into the modern era by recognizing health care as a human right and establishing a universal national plan to meet the needs of all of our people. This is the only way to

tackle the cost of health care effectively and make it affordable and sustainable.

For those of us already on Medicare, this bill would greatly improve our benefits by covering dental, vision, hearing, and long term care, and by eliminating premiums, deductibles, and co-pays.

The medical-industrial complex and its political allies are powerful foes. We need a mighty popular movement to win Medicare for All, even if we elect a healthcare-friendly federal government in 2020. Some states – including our own – may be ready to take this step before we can win it at the national level. We need to work for health care as a right both here and in DC.

Thank you for your support for this important step towards health care justice.



David Loud is PSARA's representative to the Health Care is a Human Right coalition. He is currently staffing the coalition as a volunteer.

"Pathway to Universal Health Care System" bill passes WA Senate

By David Loud

On March 13 the WA Senate voted 28-21 to pass SB 5822, "Pathway to Establish a Universal Health Care System for the Residents of WA State." This bill proclaims that "health care is a human right." It would create a workgroup of all health care stakeholders "to study and make recommendations to the legislature on how to create, implement, maintain and fund a universal health care system that may include publicly funded, publicly administered, and publicly and privately delivered health care that is sustainable and affordable to all Washington residents." The workgroup recommendations would be due in November 2020, after the elections. The bill anticipates that in the near future (think 2021) we may have a federal government that will want to support achieving universal health care, rather than taking away what we have won over many years.

In order for the Pathway bill to get to the Governor's desk to be signed into law, it will first have to pass out of the House Health Care & Wellness Committee. Then it will have to be passed on the House floor by April 17. A hearing in the Health committee has been scheduled for March 26, and "executive action" in the committee (voted up or down) is scheduled for March 27. By the time you read this, we will know if the bill is still alive.

If the Pathway bill becomes law, the next phase will involve making sure that the workgroup it creates will be truly representative of all stakeholders, including advocates of a universal public plan. PSARA and Health Care Is a Human Right WA will be part of that effort. Stay tuned!

Chateau Apartments Tenant Renee Gordon: Time to Put People Before Profits!

It's a story that's become all too familiar for working class residents of Seattle's Central District. A notice from the landlord telling them their homes will be demolished to make way for more profitable developments.

In this case, 21 units at the Chateau Apartments at 19th and Fir -- many of them now rented under Section 8 contracts for low-income tenants -- are due to be replaced by 78 "efficiency" units that will be rented at market rate. None of the current residents could afford to move into the new units, even though they will be much smaller than their current apartments.

Chateau residents are not taking this lying down, however. They are organizing with help from their City Councilmember, Kshama Sawant.

Among their demands are sufficient money to resettle, and a guarantee that they can resettle in the same neighborhood where many of them have lived for decades.

Below, we reprint the remarks of one of the Chateau residents, Renee Gordon, at a March 7 press conference.

I would like to thank Kshama for letting us know what was going on, because we had no idea they were even going to demolish the building. We did get a notice saying that they were going to get rid of section 8, but you know I said well we'll just pay the difference, 'cause we don't want to move. My name is Renee. I take care of my aunt, Mother Gordon. She took care of me since I was three months old, so I relocated back to Seattle four years ago to take care of her. Mother Gordon is 88 years old. She has lived at the Chateau for 30 years now and the Chateau is her home. She is upset and hurt to think that she's going to be kicked out of her home because Cadence Real Estate wants to



March 7: Renee Gordon speaks at a press conference in front of Good Neighbor Grocery, one block from the Chateau Apartments. Photo courtesy of City Councilmember Kshama Sawant's office

tear it down and build new small units.

Our family came from Arkansas in the forties and settled in this area. This is the only area we were allowed to live in. My cousin JJ lives upstairs in an apartment. We like having him nearby. We feel safe knowing he is close by.

Mother Gordon has seen her friends pass away and their children sell their property for pennies on the dollar. She has seen the neighborhood change so much. Whenever I take her out she says "I don't recognize this neighborhood anymore, it's changed so much" and I tell her it's okay, but it's still changing and I never thought the change would come to our doorstep.

Mother Gordon wants to stay in her home. Her church, God's Pentecostal Temple, is located just three blocks away at 16th and Fir. It's been there since the 1930s. She got saved there when she was 16 years old. Her doctor, Mary Quiroz, is just up the street on 19th at Country Doctor. We shop at the

local stores – Trader Joe's, Central Co-op, Grocery Outlet, and PCC. It's convenient to get to the stores, and the clerks know us and they even give us a hug. It feels good to know that they know us and we know them.

The senior citizen center is up the street on Jackson. That's where she can go sometimes to get a hot lunch and see some of her remaining friends. Why does she have to leave? Why do we have to be uprooted from our communities? She's very hurt, and I'm hurt too.

Cadence Executives Chris Garvin, John Garvin, Barrett Johnson – please put people before profits. It shows here that your company has a \$185 million portfolio. Surely you can afford it.

How would you feel if someone did this to the people you love and care about? Remember Saint Mark 8:36: "For what shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul."

It's time for soul-searching.

The US War Against Venezuela

By Cindy Domingo

After almost two months of intense warfare measures, the Venezuelan democratic forces, with the support of the international peace and anti-war movements, have been successful for the moment in staving off the Trump backed coup in Venezuela. However, the overt war for oil in Venezuela is far from over, and the US intends to continue its strategy of regime change by making Venezuela's economy "scream," through the strengthening of US sanctions and intensifying pressure on India and other nations to stop buying Venezuelan oil. The withdrawal of the last US diplomatic representatives in the country has many concerned that this is a precursor for a direct US military intervention.

For most people in the US, it is difficult to determine what the reality of life for the Venezuelan people is. Two different narratives exist about Venezuela. One that western corporate media and the Trump administration promotes of a Venezuelan society that is wrought with violence and is in the midst of a humanitarian crisis of great proportions caused by a failed socialist system. The other narrative is of a Venezuelan society, under the democratically elected late President Hugo Chavez and now Nicolas Maduro, that worked to redistribute the wealth of the country to benefit the poor and working class people of Venezuela.

Beginning with the election of Chavez in 1998, the Bolivarian revolution (named after Simon Bolivar who led the liberation of Latin America from Spain) began to use oil profits to fund social programs to alleviate poverty and provide health care, education, job training, and food to the most marginalized populations in Venezuela. The formation of Bolivarian Circles, similar to workers councils or community councils, also empowered common Venezuelans to take power in their own communities.

Under Chavez, poverty in Venezuela was cut by more than a third and extreme poverty by 57 percent. In a recent article by Gregory Shupak of FAIR, the national progressive media group, he states, "In June 2013, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) included Venezuela in a group of 18 nations that had cut their number of hungry people by half in the preceding 20 years, 14 of which were governed by Chavismo: The FAO said that Venezuela reduced the number of people suffering from malnutrition from 13.5 percent of the population in 1990-92 to less than 5 percent of the population in 2010-12; the FAO credited government-run supermarket networks and nutrition programs created by Chavez."

In October 2005, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared Venezuela an "illiteracy-free territory." This successful effort was patterned after Cuba's one-year literacy campaign launched in 1960 using the "Yo, Si Puedo" method. Shupak further states that in the 2018 report of the UN's Human Development Index report, "Venezuela outranks the majority of the states in the 14-country Lima group currently trying to overthrow its government, including Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and Santa Lucia." Other social programs have provided over 2 million housing units to those who are in need of better housing and free musical education to over 1 million young people.

Professor Dr. Alfred M. de Zayas, UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, traveled to Venezuela in late 2018 to conduct an independent study on how the Bolivarian revolution had implemented human rights - especially in the economic, social, and cultural domain. De Zayas found a model that was an alternative to capitalism that had major achievements ignored by the mainstream media and



*Caracas, Venezuela: people marching with portraits of Hugo Chavez.
(Photo: TNT Magazine)*

a "crisis that is really about manipulated shortages and scarcities created by the private sector for political purposes and to create havoc in Venezuelan society."

The narrative of the Trump administration and the US media has two goals -- to lay the basis for regime change and to control Venezuela's oil reserves, the largest in any one country in the world. Trump's National Security Advisor, John Bolton, has made no secret about the economic benefits to US oil companies if these companies could invest in and control Venezuelan oil capabilities. But there is another reason that Venezuela is so important. The Trump administration has linked Venezuela with Cuba and Nicaragua, the "troika of tyranny" as Bolton calls it - seeking to overthrow these countries and strengthen the neoliberal hold of Central and Latin America and the Caribbean.

We in the US have an important role in stopping this war against Venezuela. Currently, there is HR 1004, which prevents the President from using funds to take any military actions related to Venezuela without approval of Congress. This is in alignment with the War Powers Act that Congress just used to win a victory around Yemen. Now is the time to press for peaceful negotiations and the lifting of sanctions. The Venezuelan people must be able to determine their own destiny without interference from the US.

You're a Nationalist? Who is Part of Your Nation?

By Mike Andrew

“You know, they have a word, it sort of became old-fashioned. It’s called a nationalist,” Donald Trump said last November.

“And I say, ‘Really? We’re not supposed to use that word?’ You know what I am? I’m a nationalist. OK? I’m a nationalist.”

Calling yourself a nationalist begs the question, “Who, exactly, is part of your nation?”

And for Trump and his backers, the answer seems clear. White Christians. White Christians only. Others need not apply.

In fact, a study published early this year in the *Sociology of Religion* journal found that support for Donald Trump is driven almost exclusively by “white Christian nationalism.”

“The more someone believed the United States is — and should be — a Christian nation, the more likely they were to vote for Trump,” study authors Andrew L. Whitehead, Joseph O. Baker, and Samuel L. Perry wrote in a *Washington Post* article explaining their research.

The study used data from the prestigious Baylor Religion Survey taken in phone interviews in spring 2017. Some 1,501 American adults were surveyed.

“This data set is unique in its size, time of collection and the measures it contains,” the authors maintain.

To measure Christian nationalism, they combined responses to six separate questions asking respondents to agree or disagree with these statements:

“The federal government should declare the United States a Christian nation.”

“The federal government should advocate Christian values.”

“The federal government should enforce strict separation of church and state.” (This one is “reverse coded,” meaning agreement would be contra-indicative of Christian nationalism.)

“The federal government should allow the display of religious symbols in public spaces.”

“The success of the United States is part of God’s plan.”

“The federal government should allow prayer in public schools.”

The researchers also examined many other common explanations of support for Trump, including economic dissatisfaction; an index of attitudes on gender; political measures including party affiliation and political ideology; and sociodemographic predictors including age, gender, race, education, income, marital status, and residential context.

In all cases, the study found, the higher respondents scored on the scale of Christian nationalism, the more likely they were to vote for Trump, even after controlling for all the other possible influences.

A Democrat at the higher end of the index was three times more likely to vote for Trump than a Democrat at the lower end of the Christian nationalist scale. For independents, the probability of voting for Trump increased moving across the range of the Christian nationalism scale. Likewise, Republicans scoring low in Christian nationalism were significantly less likely to vote for Trump than those scoring high on the index.

The study also found that Americans’ religious beliefs, behaviors, and affiliation did not directly influence voting for Trump. In fact, once Christian nationalism was accounted for, other religious factors had no direct effect on how likely someone was to vote for Trump. These measures of religion mattered only if they made someone more likely to see the United States as a Christian nation.

A separate study reported in the *Christian Post* found that alone of all the religious groups represented in the United States, white evangelical

protestants see immigrants as a “threat” to American values and see the country’s increasing racial diversity as a bad thing.

The Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) released its ninth annual American Values Survey in November. The research shows that white evangelical Protestants are at odds with all other identified religious groups on many questions relating to immigration, race, the #MeToo movement, and President Donald Trump.

For example, white evangelical Christians typically excuse Trump’s promotion of white supremacist views and groups.

Large majorities of black Protestants (75 percent), religiously unaffiliated Americans (69 percent), Hispanic Catholics (68 percent), non-Christians (64 percent), and Hispanic Protestants (63 percent) say that Trump has encouraged white supremacists.

By contrast, less than half of white mainline Protestants (43 percent) and white Catholics (43 percent) and only 26 percent of white evangelical Protestants share this view.

There are also large differences between racial and ethnic groups on this issue. Large majorities of black (72 percent) and Hispanic (68 percent) Americans, compared to less than half (45 percent) of white Americans believe that Trump’s conduct has encouraged white supremacist groups.

Among white Americans, only those with a four-year college degree are likely to say that Trump’s decisions and behavior as president have encouraged white supremacist groups (58 percent vs. 38 percent).

PRRI also found that although most Americans oppose a hypothetical law to ban refugees around the world from being able to come to the United States, about half of white evangelicals (51 percent) would support such a law.

GiveBIG Challenge

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GiveBIG Day is May 8. Early online giving for GiveBig Day starts on April 23. Donations can be made from April 23 through May 8 by going to <https://www.givebig2019.org/psara-education-fund>.

Or you can go to givebig2019.org and enter PSARA Education Fund. Once on that page, you can donate beginning April 23. All online donations will be processed on May 8, and donors will receive a receipt confirming the donation.

For members who prefer not to donate online, you can send a check to the PSARA Education Fund any time between now and May 8. Write in the memo line, GiveBig, so we know it is in response to the challenge. Mail your check to the PSARA Education Fund, 321 16th Ave. S., Seattle, 98144. Choosing this option saves the PSARA Education Fund a small percentage processing fee for each online donation.

The PSARA Education Fund and PSARA continue to sponsor numerous forums on "Making Retirement Security Real for Everyone." These workshops demonstrate the need to expand Social Security and Medicare, and by acting together we can achieve this goal. Our work is recognized by national advocates for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid as being unique and persuasive both with people attending the presentations and with policy makers.

We held forums about the growing challenges of long-term care and the potential benefits of the Long-Term Care Trust Act. Both PSARA, through its advocacy, and the Education Fund, through its educational work, are playing a significant role in the anticipated passage of the state-based Long-Term Care Trust Act.

The Education Fund has sponsored several Herstory Project presentations telling stories about the lives of senior lesbians. And the PSARA Climate and

Environmental Justice Committee is in the process of developing a Climate Change/Climate Justice presentation and workshop which the PSARA Education Fund will promote.

Educating federal policy makers on the need for Medicare to cover more comprehensive long-term care services along with dental, vision, and hearing is another key area of work. This year we will be mounting a campaign to educate the public on Rep. Jayapal's Medicare for All legislation that includes comprehensive benefits that are not currently covered by Medicare.

We want to thank you for generously contributing in past years. The PSARA Education Fund contributes significantly to the struggle for a decent, humane, and economically just community for all people. To continue all this work requires more funding than we can raise through membership dues. Please help us by contributing online or by check during the days leading up to GiveBIG Day and on May 8, GiveBIG Day.

Robby Stern is President of the PSARA Education Fund.

Green New Deal

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that come after us?
The Green New Deal Goals:

- To secure for all people: clean air and water, climate resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment.
- To invest in the infrastructure and industry of the U.S. and sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century.
- To promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of frontline and vulnerable communities.
- To create millions of good, high-wage jobs.

The resolution proposes many ways to reach these goals including a national job guarantee, 100 percent clean energy for electricity, support for family farms, upgrading the energy grid, retrofitting all buildings to make them energy efficient, and upgrading and electrifying the transportation system. We will have more articles about the proposed plans.

But carrying out these plans and winning these goals is up to all of us. We need to join together, talk to each other, and create our own future together.

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

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, April 3, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave SW, Seattle, (35th & Henderson). Topic: *Seattle Reads: The Best We Could Do*. Brown bag lunch.

PSARA Climate and Environmental Justice Committee: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, April 4, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Government Relations Committee: Noon – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 4, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. All are welcome.

PSARA Fundraising Committee: 11:00 a.m. - Noon, Monday, April 8, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. All are welcome.

PSARA Education Committee: 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Southend Committee: 1 p.m., Thursday, April 11, Burien Library, 400 SW 152nd Street, Burien. All are welcome as we plan PSARA events in South King County.

Seattle Labor Chorus Special Performance: *Seattle General Strike*: Saturday, April 13, 2:00 p.m., Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. This is a fundraiser for PSARA. Donations will be gratefully accepted, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

PSARA Race and Gender Equity Committee: 11 a.m.–Noon, Thursday, April 18, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16 Avenue S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Executive Board: 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, April 18, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

