

The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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

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August 2019

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Ever for Federal
Workers
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Expand Social Security! Medicare for All!

Join Us on Saturday, August 3, 12:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park, 2200 MLK Way S

Join us on August 3 as we take the fight for Medicare for All and stronger Social Security out to the people. We'll gather at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park, 2200 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S in Seattle at 12:30 p.m.

Social Security and Medicare remain two of the most successful and trusted federal programs, bringing good health and peace of mind to generations of Americans.

They can -- and must -- continue to do that in the future. And Medicare can be expanded to afford quality medical care to all Americans.

The 2020 presidential election gives us an opportunity to raise these issues with candidates and with the public. Help us do that.

This event is organized by Social Security Works, with sponsorship by more than 35 other organizations, including PSARA, Washington CAN!, the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), and many individual unions and community groups.

The rally will be emceed by our own Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and April Sims, Secretary-Treasurer of the WSLC. WSLC President Larry Brown will be one of our featured speakers.

Other voices will include Nancy Altman and Alex Lawson of Social Security Works, Seattle City Council member Teresa Mosqueda, and Washington CAN! organizing director Xochitl Maykovich.

We have invited all the presidential candidates who've endorsed the idea of Medicare for All and strengthening Social Security, so -- who knows? -- you might be in for a surprise.



Don't Miss PSARA's 35th Birthday Barbeque

Saturday, September 14, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

2821 2nd Ave, Seattle, Beaumont Room

Please come and celebrate 35 years of community activism at a birthday barbeque for PSARA. We'll supply burgers and hotdogs to grill (including vegetarian). Members are asked to bring a side dish, fruit, or drink. Join us for great company, an array of live music, good food, and stunning views of Puget Sound.

PSARA members Lou Truskoff, Peter Costantini, and Mark Aalfs will be there to help us sing happy birthday to PSARA and lead us in some songs. And PSARA members Marc Smason and Laura Oviedo will play Latin music from around the western hemisphere—including son, bossa, rhumba, and bolero—using guitar, voice, trombone and percussion.

Come and enjoy the music, relax with old and new friends, and celebrate PSARA's past, present, and future. Feel free to bring photographs, memories, and guests.

See the flyer on Page 6 for more details.

The Retiree ADVOCATE

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www.psara.org
or visit PSARA on Facebook

We Remember Gene Lux



*Gene shares a laugh with Will Parry
(Photo: Garet Munger)*

Gene Lux, long-time member of PSARA's Executive Board, died suddenly and peacefully on June 21.

Gene was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on August 16, 1926. His father, Harry, named him in honor of the family's hero, Gene Debs, socialist, union organizer, and political activist.

During his long life, Gene certainly lived up to his name.

At the age of 13, Gene drove his mother, Anna, who was sick with tuberculosis, across the country to join his father, who was organizing with the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World, or Wobblies), a revolutionary labor union.

At the beginning of World War II, Gene lied about his age to join the Merchant Marines and was assigned as a ship cook, although he'd never cooked before.

After the war, Gene joined the emerging civil rights movement. He also ran for office and represented the 35th and 11th Legislative Districts as a member of the Washington House of Representatives from 1973 until 1988. Gene was also appointed to two tenures in the Washington State Senate.

As an elected official, Gene worked relentlessly for working people whose needs were disregarded by the elites.

Gene served on numerous boards, including Group Health Cooperative, People's Memorial Association, Washington State Funeral and Cemetery Board, and Southeast Seattle Senior Center. Gene served seven four-year terms as Commissioner of King County Fire District 20 until he retired at 92.

Fortunately, PSARA was able to honor Gene for his many contributions at our December 2016 membership meeting when he stepped down from our Board. He was honored by the Washington Trial Lawyers as Legislator of the Year with the Louis D. Brandeis Award. And the Southeast Seattle Senior Center has named a room in his honor.

Gene is survived by his spouse, Marilyn; his children, Diane Little, David Hornbeck, Karen Bertram, Linda Nelson, and Susan Lux; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and many, many friends.

Sunrise and Extinction Rebellion

By Michael Shilley

On June 20, at our bi-annual membership meeting, we were delighted to hear from Harry Katz, one of the Seattle leaders of the Sunrise Movement. Their young membership of over 500 has proven very effective. The topic of his talk, The Green New Deal, was well received by our PSARA members and many signed up to be on their mailing list. Talking to Harry after his inspiring presentation, he told me about their planned future actions, like speaking in school classrooms with a convincing message that could bring more young activists into their ranks.

The month of May I spent in England, where the London-based Extinction Rebellion (ER) was very active, with many demonstrations, ending with the British Government declaring a Climate and Environmental Emergency.

The ER demonstrations held in London were pretty militant. After weeks of being on the streets chanting "Our future is chained to your action," 12 teenagers locked themselves to the Parliament railings. Cyclists swarmed through the streets of London and buzzed through Parliament Square, occupying Oxford Circus, the center of London's shopping district. Pedestrians joined in as they chanted outside the huge BBC building, then descended on the Tate Gallery to perform a die-in reminiscent of a bee colony collapse. Later they moved on to shut down the financial sector, London's Stock Exchange.

The British Conservative Party was told not to oppose the climate motion as it was brought to the floor, and it passed with a formal vote. Sadly though, there were never any funds allocated. Although ER will never be a political party, several members have been elected to the European Parliament.

Once back home, I heard Noam Chomsky, the 91-year-old Professor Emeritus at MIT and world renowned political activist, as he spoke to a

packed Old South Church in Boston on the State of Our State. Enthusing over The Green New Deal and calling out the Sunrise Movement's sit-in at the offices of Congress, he was so encouraged by the aggressive tactics of our younger generation, and the number of new, young, progressive politicians elected in the midterms. We should all be encouraged by the huge response. This should serve as a boost to our organizing efforts going forward.

A worldwide Climate Emergency Strike is being planned for September 20. Nothing short of a massive effort on this day, in this country, will be sufficient to move this administration. Hopefully by the time you read this, the Democratic Party will have allowed a Climate Debate for the candidates vying for the presidential nomination, something they have resisted up until this time. One has to wonder who is behind the dumbing down of voices trying to be heard.

As a member of a union that counts on the fossil fuel industry for much of their work I was heartened to read in *The Stand* that the United Steel Workers were proud to stand with the Sierra Club and back Solidarity for Climate Action. These and other visions will have to be thought through and developed if we are to get all unions on board.

Nationally, groups like the BlueGreen Alliance and the Labor Network for Sustainability continue to both educate union members (and those not fortunate enough to be represented) about imminent changes ahead and to advocate for the next generation of technologies, renewable energy, and jobs for all workers to share in prosperity for a livable future.

Michael Shilley is a retired member of United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32 and a member of PSARA's Climate and Environmental Justice Committee.



Michael Shilley

Locally, the Sunrise Movement is planning to educate and encourage youth and community allies to take direct social and political actions during the month of September. If you are interested in joining PSARA climate and environmental activists, we are planning to support local actions and events during the month of September in solidarity with Sunrise and community allies. We may also be planning another event to be led by PSARA members during the month of September.

Contact Mike Andrew, organizer@psara.org, to be added to the list for updates and sign-ups for upcoming actions and events.

Worst Week Ever for Federal Workers and their Unions

By Steve Kofahl

It started on Friday, July 12, when the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), on behalf of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), posted notice for public comment that they intend to apply the Janus decision, with regard to union dues deductions, to the 1.2 million Federal workforce. Mick Mulvaney, the OPM Director, is also the President's Chief of Staff.

On Monday we had a slight reprieve. Democratic Congressional leaders sent a strongly-worded letter to new 6-year term Social Security Administration Commissioner Andrew Saul, asking him NOT to sign-off on implementation of a 7-year contract being forced upon the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), and to return to the bargaining table. I'm sure that won't happen, but at least some in Congress see what's going on, and don't like it.

On Tuesday, a 3-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed last year's District Court decision that found that 3 anti-employee/anti-Union Trump Executive Orders were mostly illegal. The decision was not based on the merits, but instead claimed that the union litigants should have first gone to the FLRA. That jurisdictional determination will be appealed, but the fact is that, without a General Counsel, the FLRA cannot issue an Unfair Labor Practice complaint, and the post has been left vacant for several years!

Also on Tuesday, Trump's choice to head the FLRA as General Counsel, Catherine Bird, promised to play fair and uphold the law during her Senate confirmation hearing. The Unions say that she will do just the opposite. Bird was a Management member of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) contract team that "bargained" for just 3 days before referring the dispute to the Trump-appointed Federal Service Impasses Panel for resolution. The Panel, part of the FLRA, mostly rules in Management's favor, of

course, and they did. She refused to answer questions from National Treasury Employees Union negotiators, or engage in any meaningful discussion, and showed no knowledge of, or respect for, federal labor law. Then, though she is not a Veteran's Affairs (VA) official, she showed up at the bargaining table across from the American Federation of Government Employees during AFGE/VA contract negotiations. She reportedly advised the VA "negotiators" to follow her DHHS approach, and not to engage in any real negotiations.

On Thursday, the President nominated the anti-union Eugene Scalia as Secretary of Labor.

Employee and union rights and benefits have already been stripped at many agencies through contract "bargaining," with illegal Executive Order provisions forced on the unions and the employees they represent. It has been reported that 5 of every 6 DHHS employees is thinking about leaving the Agency, in large part because work-at-home opportunities have been slashed. In our upside-down world, what's good for workers and the environment must be bad. Hopefully there won't be an exodus across government, or the pub-



Steve Kofahl in happier times

lic will be far less well-served for years to come.

Steve Kofahl is the retired president of AFGE 3937, the union that represents Social Security Administration workers, and a member of PSARA's Executive Board.

Go Birding with PSARA

Want to go birdwatching? Our past fundraising trips were so successful we are offering it again. Join us as we go back to the Billy Frank Jr. National Wildlife Refuge in the beautiful Nisqually Delta (https://www.fws.gov/refuge/billy_frank_jr_nisqually/) on Tuesday September 24th.

Our leaders will be PSARA VP, Karen Richter, and her friend, birding expert and naturalist Noelle Congdon.

Beginners are especially welcome as we look for all the wonderful warblers and other Fall migrants! The trail is handicapped accessible and is about three miles. Plan to be standing and walking most of the trip, so wear your sturdy walking shoes. We will stop a lot to look at Nisqually's wildlife. Tree frogs should be especially plentiful.

We plan to carpool from Karen's house in West Seattle at 9 a.m., returning before dinner. Or we can meet you there about 10 a.m. Bring your binocs if you have them (extras will be available), a lunch and a donation to PSARA. Email Karen at kerichter100@gmail.com or call her at 206-679-3295 for more details.

The Green New Deal: How We Gonna Pay For It?

By Michael Righi

You are at a barbeque with family or friends (hopefully with clear skies, no wildfire smoke). You are explaining the need for a Green New Deal (GND), given the severity of the climate crisis. We've got maybe 12 years to get off fossil fuels, build out a renewable energy infrastructure, provide jobs and health care for all as part of a just transition, with particular care for marginalized communities who have been most affected by pollution and climate change.

They know the climate crisis is real. Many realize there are deep linkages between the crisis and inequality. But the inevitable question arises – “where do we get the money?”

Right-wingers whine that a GND would “destroy the economy” (it would do exactly the opposite). They claim that it would cost \$93 trillion over 10 years (which is ridiculous – that would be almost half of our total output, or GDP. GND supporter/analysts say we need 2% to 5% of GDP, not 50%).

But it is a genuine concern of families who know their budgets are stretched. So what's your response? The answers are actually pretty straightforward, so let's get to it.

Just Borrow (or Create) It

The government just needs to do what it always does, spend the needed money. This time, not \$5 trillion on wars in Iraq or Afghanistan, but whatever is needed to rescue our planet.

But where does it “get the money”? From taxes on you and me? No, not necessary – it sells Treasury Bonds; it borrows. There are huge amounts of money sloshing around our financial system, not going to actual productive investment (corporations buying back their own stock, for example), that could be mobilized to spend for the GND.

Doesn't this increase government debt and deficits? Sure, but what is

wrong with that? We borrow to finance buying a home or an education. Why not when we have a planet-wide crisis to fix? Republicans, who want to strangle government, will throw out scary numbers, but really, the US government can borrow at currently very low interest rates, and budget deficits are running about 4% of GDP. They were over 20% during WWII, another global crisis.

And our kids don't need to “pay it back” with future taxes. An innovative, job-creating economy will make that debt insignificant. Besides, what we are doing now is leaving a huge, soon irreparable, climate debt to future generations. Are we really worried about government debt when the future of the planet is at stake?

Another way to think about this is to realize what the Federal Reserve Bank does. It creates money. It has been doing this with abandon since the 2008 financial crisis (“quantitative easing,” it's called). That has bailed out the big banks and allowed them to play in financial markets once again.

A Green New Deal could require the Fed to fund regional or local green banks that would lend that money to community-selected projects.

Republicans claim any new money just causes price inflation. That is typical anti-government nonsense. Inflation happens when we run into limits on labor or capital equipment. But the GND would build the capital: factories to produce the wind turbines, and high-speed rail. And, despite our low unemployment rate, there are still millions of workers who have dropped out of the labor market due to the overall anemic economy. Inflation would actually be a sign of better times.

Spending and Tax Priorities

As Reverend William Barber and young people from the Sunrise Move-



Michael Righi

ment have pointed out, the government spends \$716 billion annually on the military. Some of that could fund clean energy, transportation, and schools and jobs in poor communities.

Our tax system also reflects our priorities; right now it reflects corporate priorities. In 2017, Republicans passed a \$2 trillion tax cut for corporations and wealthy individuals, and most of that corporate windfall went to buying back their own stock, to the benefit of wealthy owners.

Ethically, the principle should be that polluters pay taxes for the damage they do. Instead, what we have is a raft of subsidies for fossil fuel corporations. So fossil fuel producers and users should pay. That would mean a high and increasing carbon tax, for one. But politically, we know the difficulty of that.

Let's emphasize again: we do not need tax revenue to “pay for” the GND. But taxes should be used to break up concentrations of wealth and to change corporate behavior.

Continued on Page 11



**Join us for
PSARA's 35th
birthday BBQ!**

**We'll supply burgers and hotdogs -- veggie ones too!
You bring sides, fruit, drinks.**

**There will be music of course,
and a chance to catch up with
old friends and make new ones.**

Saturday, September 14

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Beaumont Room, 2821 2nd Avenue,
Seattle**



**Celebrate the Birthdays of
Social Security & Medicare
Expand Social Security! Medicare for All!**



Saturday, August 3

12:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park

2200 MLK Way S, Seattle

Featured Speakers:

Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Larry Brown, President, Washington State Labor Council (WSLC)

April Sims, WSLC Secretary-Treasurer

Seattle City Council Member Teresa Mosqueda

Nancy Altman, President, Social Security Works (SSW)

Alex Lawson, SSW Executive Director

Xochitl Maykovich, Organizing Director, Washington CAN!

**We have invited presidential candidates Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders,
and Elizabeth Warren.**

Dementia

By Bob Shimabukuro

On dementia:
I must have dementia because I can't remember the word for what I have.

Facebook reply to Bruce, who had been Sam's husband:

Thanks for the piece about Tony Ich, you, and Sam. "I must have dementia because it took me so long to figure out I was going to be 74 even though we just noted that Sam would have been 75, and I knew I was 13 months younger than he."

I know something's wrong when it's taken me about 40 minutes to write the above. It's hilarious and scary at the same time.

And I've given up on the Mariners. They can hit homers, but sometimes they look like Little Leaguers in the field. When you get cheered for 11-12 pitch outs, you know you're in trouble.

Happy Birthday Sam. You're the lucky one. You don't have to watch the Mariners.

Assessment:

The preliminary assessment of dementia on Sam's birthday was confirmed a week later.

Bummer.

Advice:

Had lunch with a close friend. Aldo has dealt with a lot in his life: Work out. Get strong. Spend a lot of time in the gym. That really helps.

Cousin Irene: What's the plan of action?
Me: Get strong enough to spend a few days in Shuri and Gushikawa.
Irene: Good plan.

RaGE (Race and Gender Equity Committee) work:

Was thinking about stepping down from the RaGE committee. Talked it over with the rest of the committee at

our monthly meeting. Decided it was okay to stay.

With all the stuff that was going on personally, I wasn't able to focus on what I had to do with RaGE. Was supposed to set up a viewing of a movie by Kaiya Yonamine for RaGE members to see and comment on. Maybe then schedule a showing at a more reasonable time for PSARA members and others we could invite. Michael (Andrew) volunteered to send out the web address for people to watch.

Dreaming my life away:

Dr. (A few years ago): It looks like you've got "adult onset attention deficit."

BS: Adult onset? I've had this ever since I can remember. Was sick a lot; stayed home often. Forced myself to concentrate in school, but when at home, I would "dream my life away," like the Everly Brothers.

About the time after Sam and I graduated college, AD/HD was a term that was being tossed around for kids (and adults too). Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Had a name for it. Thought that Sam and I were linked. Sam was hyperactive, I was AD. Later, thought that was stupid. Now I'm thinking that again.

On our future:

My dad always said to us (his children) that it was important that we leave the world a better place than it was before we were born. I've felt a greater responsibility, given what my mom had told me just out of college: that dad thought that I could be a great social reformer. I've thought a lot about that for a long time. But then I just pushed it aside, as silly wishful thinking for a guy who really felt like a failure because he couldn't be THE family provider, which he strongly believed he should have been.



"I must have dementia because I could not remember my grandson's name. His name is Mako, I remembered after he told me. How embarrassing."

Bob Shimabukuro

I've got a deadline to reach, but there will be more on this later.

Kendal: Sometimes I think that in the end there will be a great battle between the two organisms that have outlasted everything on this planet: the herpes virus and the cockroach. They just keep on going. Which do you think would win?

Bob: Neither. It would be an organism that develops from both. That's what I think. Of course, I don't know anything about genetics and how organisms mutate.

While she thought that over, I realized that the real battle would be between the sun and the winner. And the sun would win that battle.

Take a deep breath, then keep on moving.

Bob Shimabukuro is Associate Editor of the Retiree Advocate and Co-Chair of PSARA's Race and Gender Equity Committee.

One Picture is Worth 1,000 Words

The Dark Side of the Tourist Economy

By Mike Andrew

In this case, the picture shows a taverna in Athens, with a sign in English and a Japanese subtitle.

What it illustrates is the dominant place that the tourist industry has in the Greek economy.

Tourism generates over a quarter of Greece's gross domestic product, according to data from the Institute of the Greek Tourism Confederation (INSETE), and that portion is growing year after year.

According to the latest figures available, more than half of Greece's economic expansion in the last year – at least one percentage point out of the 1.9 points – came from tourism.

According to the Greek newspaper *Kathimerini*, the numbers show "tourism's quasi-monopolistic status in the country's growth."

The impact of tourism on the Greek economy is all the more noticeable because other economy sectors have historically lagged behind. Greece has not developed any other important industrial sector, with the possible exception of shipping, which accounts for about 7 percent of GDP.

At peak season last year, the tourist industry employed 16.7 percent of all Greek workers. When the indirect impact of tourism is factored in, including professions such as transport, its share in national employment ranged between 36.7 and 44.2 percent, making it the main factor in the reduction of unemployment, particularly for young people, according to INSETE.

The tourism sector also made a sizable contribution in terms of investment activity, amounting to 5 billion euros in 2018, with 90 percent of the tourist sector's revenues coming from outside Greece.

"What's wrong with that?" you might ask.

After all, Greece is in economic trouble. The unemployment rate at the height of the country's economic crisis



(Photo: Kathimerini)

was in the neighborhood of 30 percent, and around 60 percent for workers under 30. More investment and more jobs would be good. Right?

Well, something is better than nothing, but this particular something is only barely better, and it forecasts even more trouble down the road. Here's why...

Greece still has a far higher unemployment rate than the European Union as a whole. According to Eurostat figures, Greece showed a jobless rate of 18.5 percent in February – down from 18.6 percent in January – as against 6.4 percent in the EU. Spain, another tourist economy, is a distant second with 13.8 percent unemployment.

While the growth of the tourism sector contributed to lowering the unemployment rate, the jobs created are not living wage jobs. Many are part-time and/or seasonal, and have no associated pensions or other benefits.

For older workers in the tourism industry, this means severe economic stress in retirement, aggravated by the fact that the Greek government was compelled to cut state pensions as part of the EU-imposed austerity program.

For younger workers – especially those with college degrees – it means that it's far more attractive to emigrate to northern Europe, Australia, or the US than it is to stay at home and try to find work in Greece.

Even more perilous in the long-term is the fact that a country whose economy is dependent on tourism is extremely vulnerable to global economic trends.

That's a fancy way of saying that if you have money to spend, you might think of doing two weeks in Mykonos. If you don't, you might go to Ocean Shores instead, or just stay home and repaint the bathroom.

In fact, part of Greece's economic problem was that the recession of 2008 was global. People in the US and Europe, who might otherwise have travelled to Greece and spent money there, stayed home. The tourist money dried up. Hotels, shops, and restaurants closed. Their workers went on unemployment (slashed, by the way, at the behest of the European Central Bank).

This problem is not unique to Greece. The dark side of the tourist industry is an under-reported but very real aspect of globalization.

Sorry, Straight People...

By Mike Andrew

June was Pride Month, and cities all across the country flew the rainbow flag to mark the occasion.

One city that did not, though, was Dublin, California -- a small city of 61,000 people east of San Francisco.

Not that the Dublin City Council didn't think of it. In fact, an out gay Council member, Shawn Kumagai, proposed flying the rainbow flag for Pride, and all his colleagues supported the idea.

Then it happened. Straight people came to the City Council to protest. The rainbow flag is unfair because it doesn't represent straight people, they said. LGBTQ and all the other letters don't include an "S" for "straight."

Sorry, straight people, I always thought that was the point. We have Pride celebrations -- including all the accoutrements like the rainbow flag -- exactly to say that we're not you, and we're very happy not being you.

Not that there's anything wrong with being straight. Nobody's perfect. But you don't have to be straight and obnoxious on top of it.

Frankly, it's obnoxious for straight people to feel aggrieved when they're not the center of the universe. Isn't it enough that straightness is the cultural norm?

Many years ago, when I was still working as a fish cutter, there was a young straight couple waiting for their salmon to be filleted. While they waited, they kissed each other. I turned to a straight fellow-worker and said, "I don't mind being around straight people, but I hate it when they flaunt their sexuality like that."

Even then, 30 years ago, he was woke enough to get the joke. Many straight people, encountering an affectionate same-sex couple would say "Hey, be gay if you want to, just don't rub my face in it," and think they were being perfectly "liberal."

Somehow, it's an issue for LGBTQ+ people to do things that straight people do every day, and don't even think about because it's so "normal."

In some ways, LGBTQ+ folks are like immigrants. We're forced to be bilingual. We have to speak Queer to fit in with our own community, and we also have to speak Straight to function in the larger society -- where Straight is the dominant language.

Some of us speak Straight fluently. But some of us speak Straight with a heavy Queer accent, just like my grandma spoke English with a heavy Greek accent.

My grandma learned just enough English to live in the US, and no more. She didn't really need to learn much more because there were plenty of Greek storekeepers, cab drivers, and whatnot that helped her get by with a very limited knowledge of English. She was comfortable with them in a way she could never be comfortable around native English speakers.

In the same way, many LGBTQ+ people are comfortable around other people whose native language is Queer, in a way we'd never be comfortable around straight people. That's why having specifically LGBTQ+ spaces, festivals, institutions, symbols, and so on is so important to us.

This year, like in past years, many straight PSARA members joined our LGBTQ+ members in the Seattle Pride Parade. Everybody had a good time, and I was happy about that.

Most of us are happy that our straight friends want to visit queer spaces and feel comfortable doing that, but we'd like to be the ones to invite you in. We don't want you to push your way in just because you feel entitled to go wherever the hell you want to go.

I'm white, so I can't presume to speak for communities of color, but I suspect they meet the same assumptions of privilege when they encounter even well-meaning white people.

The Barbed Wire

By Barbara Flye



The Green New Deal

Continued from Page 5

A GLOBAL Green New Deal

Here's another conservative canard – it's China's fault. Yes, China now is responsible for 25% of total CO2e ("e" means equivalent, adding in the impact of methane and other gasses). The US is at 16%. But cumulatively, over time, the US has emitted close to 30%, China 12%. Per capita, the US pollutes 20 tons of CO2e per year, China 7.5 tons (the world average is 6.2).

Putting the main burden of eliminating climate pollution on China and other middle/low income countries is another form of colonialism, especially when a part of their pollution comes from producing for the US market. But it is true that a Green New Deal needs to be global. The Paris Agreement set up a climate adaptation fund that would transfer funds and technology from high-income countries to low-income.

How to finance that? Let's bring in another fact: The wealthiest 1% in the US are responsible for 318 tons of CO2e per year -- 50 times the global average! The global "upper middle class," 10% of the world's population, emit fully half, 50%, of the world's emissions. Who should pay?

We cannot wait for countries to agree to a global progressive carbon tax (a tax based on how far above global average emissions an income class emits). We have to move faster than that. But it is certainly worth keeping in mind that, once again, these huge inequalities matter.

MEOW

The climate crisis requires an immediate and proportionate response. "Paying for it" is not an issue, and not a problem.

The GND is our **Moral Equivalent Of War**.

Michael Righi is a retired economist and a member of PSARA.

I'm Retired

By Todd Smith, AFM Local 4

What day is it?
I don't know

They're all the same, anyway
Every one is Saturday
Sleep in everyday
I'm retired.

I'll do what I want to
Wear what I want to
Say I don't care when I want to
Got it made, in the shade, dues been paid
I'm retired.

Don't give a damn what you think
Don't give a damn if you raise a stink
Don't give a damn what you say
I've made my getaway
From that workaday rat race
Goodbye to that old workplace
So don't you dare get in my face
I'm retired.

But now,
I've got time
For that union picket line
For that workday demonstration
Doing voter registration
Shouting righteous indignation

I'm gonna be there on the double
Making necessary trouble.

Making calls, writing flyers
Spreading truth, exposing liars
Handing out leaflets, and speaking
Up at that public meeting
Letters to my legislators
With my fellow agitators
Posting on social media
Research on Wikipedia
Calling up that politician
Getting signatures on that petition.

That's right,

I'm still inspired
Never too tired
Totally wired
Can't be fired
Nowhere near expired.

Damn right,

I'm retired.

Submitted by Tom Lux, PSARA's Treasurer.

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

PSARA Climate and Environmental Justice Committee: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, August 1, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave S, Seattle. All are welcome.

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

Celebrate the Birthday of Social Security and Medicare: 12:30 p.m., Saturday, August 3, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park, 2200 MLK Way S, Seattle. See Pages 1 and 7 for details.

West Seattle Hot Topics for Seniors & Senior Wannabes: Noon – 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 7, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave SW, Seattle, (35th & Henderson). Topic: How can news media and journalism be improved? Brown bag lunch.

PSARA Southend Committee: 1 p.m., Thursday, August 8, White Center Library, 1409 SW 107th St, Seattle. Topic: Washington State Dementia Action Collaborative. Featured Speaker: Bob Le Roy, retired director of the Washington State Alzheimer's Association.

PSARA Fundraising Committee: 11:00 a.m. - Noon, Monday, August 12, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Education Committee: 2 p.m., Tuesday, August 13, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Race and Gender Equity Committee: 11 a.m.–Noon, Thursday, August 15, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16 Ave. S. Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Executive Board: 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, August 15, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

PSARA Birthday BBQ: 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday, September 14, Beaumont Room, 2821 2nd Ave, Seattle. See Pages 1 and 6 for details.

Birding With PSARA: Leave West Seattle at 9 a.m., Tuesday, September 24, Billy Frank National Wildlife Refuge, Nisqually Delta. See Page 4 for details.

Important New Video

"Our Island's Treasure," by PSARA member Kaiya Yonamine, chronicles the resistance to expansion of a US naval base on Okinawa.

<https://vimeo.com/340517922>
