

The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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

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November 2016

**Solidarity With
Standing Rock**

Pages 4 and 8

PSARA Elections

By Bobby Righi

It is time to elect PSARA Executive Board members! The election will be held at the Winter Membership Meeting on December 15. Step Right Up and Run for the Board!

Executive Board members meet once a month to make decisions about PSARA's activities and recommend positions on legislative issues and political actions. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Ave. S.

If you serve on the PSARA Executive Board, you are asked to be active in some of PSARA's activities. You can write for the *Advocate*, attend discussions and political actions, or serve on one of the PSARA committees: Government Relations, Education, Diversity, or Environmental.

If you would like to run for an Executive Board position, please call me, Bobby Righi, at the office, (206) 448-9646, or write an email to adminvp@psara.org

Bobby Righi is PSARA's Administrative VP and serves as the Chair of PSARA's 2016 Election Committee.

Iwould hope that we learned something about how to deal with dissent and protest — that having an inclusive process where you open the doors is a lot better than sending in the police. What was not learned, however, is the lesson that prevention and getting ahead of our problems is uppermost."

Tom Hayden (1939-2016)

PSARA Legislative Conference: November 29

By Chuck Richards

At our 2016 Legislative Conference, PSARA members will hear about and discuss what we can likely expect in the 2017 legislative session as a result of the 2016 elections. We will also discuss the PSARA 2017 legislative agenda. The 2016 Legislative Conference is being held on Tuesday, November 29, from 1–3 p.m. at UFCW Local 21, 5030 First Ave. South. Ample parking is available.

State Senator David Frockt, ranking member of the Senate Health Care Committee (46th LD), and PSARA lobbyist Pam Crone will join us to provide their views on the impact of the election results on the 2017 session and PSARA's proposed legislative agenda.

Top issues for PSARA are likely to include:

1. Support for greater transparency and accountability in the budget process, including the elimination of tax exemptions that do not serve a public purpose.
2. Allocation of significant resources to provide a much larger stock of low-income housing. There is a growing population of seniors who will solely rely, or in great part rely, on Social Security as their source of income, as well as many Washington residents who are unable to afford adequate housing because of the preponderance of low-wage jobs and the erosion of defined benefit pensions.
3. Support for all legislation that furthers the cause of universal health care coverage. PSARA believes that comprehensive affordable health care is a fundamental human right and will
4. Support for legislation that furthers the cause of retirement security for all generations, including a proposal for a supplemental income program for Social Security recipients.

During the coming session lawmakers will be struggling to find revenue sufficient to fund basic education needs of Washington's children as well as restore cuts to social programs made in past sessions since the Great Recession began in 2008.

After we hear from our speakers, we will discuss the content of our legislative agenda for the 2017 legislative session. Then we will break into table discussions by legislative districts to discuss the best ways to bring our issues to legislators before the session begins on January 9th.



State Senator David Frockt

Chuck Richards is Co-chair of PSARA's Government Relations Committee.

The Retiree ADVOCATE

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Visit our website for up to date information or to renew:
www.psara.org
or visit PSARA on Facebook

Join with other PSARA members to read and discuss “A Vision for Black Lives, Policy Demands for Power, Freedom, and Justice”

A collective of more than 50 organizations representing thousands of Black people from across the country has come together to articulate a common vision and agenda.

The program is extensive and covers areas that overlap with PSARA's work. We will read and discuss the platform in three sessions. The first session will be on Saturday, January 14, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Washington State Labor Council at 321 16th Ave. S. We will begin by viewing "13th," a documentary by director Ava DuVernay. The film is titled after the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlawed slavery.

The Vision for Black Lives is online at <https://policy.m4bl.org/> You can also search using Vision for Black Lives. To start, we will discuss the "Platform" and the "End the War on Black People" sections of the program.

Please let Bobby Righi know if you are interested by writing to adminvp@psara.org, or by leaving a message on the office phone: 206-448-9646. We will meet on two or three other Saturday afternoons to continue our discussions.

Renewing Your Subscription/Membership Online

Many of our members say they would prefer to renew membership and donate online. We have created that option. Go to the PSARA website, www.PSARA.org, and click on Membership and Renewal. You can renew, donate to the 5019(c)3, give gift memberships, and make monthly sustaining contributions.

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

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



October 17: King County Council members stand with PSARA, Washington CAN!, and community allies after the Council passed a resolution to strengthen and expand Social Security and Medicare. The vote was six to one, with Kathy Lambert voting No. Reagan Dunn and Pete Von Reichbauer chose to absent themselves from the vote. (Photo: Garet Munger)

Never to Forget

By Robby Stern

On October 12, many Jews commemorated Yom Kippur. (The holiday is not a celebration. It is a time for deep personal reflection, and we fast to inspire us to focus on reflection, not food.)

One of the services during the day is the Yizkor service, where we remember those who have died and the memories of their lives. Will Parry came into my mind as an inspiring mentor to me and many other people.

The other people who were uppermost for me were my Mother and Father, who were Holocaust survivors (along with my older brother who is still alive and turning 80 next year). During the service I volunteered to tell the story of my parents' experience with fascism.

My Father was taken to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp in 1938, leaving my Mother with my infant brother, Ralph. Dad was forced into slave labor. While the Nazis had not yet implemented the final solution, Dad witnessed a number of inmates getting machine gunned down while running to the barbed wire fence surrounding the camp rather than live another day.

My Mom was a strong, determined, and resourceful woman, and she was able to secure a visa from the U.S. Consulate for Mom, Dad, and Ralph and also for another family. Armed with the visas, which she brought to the immigration officials of the Nazi government, she was able to secure my father's release for purposes of leaving Germany to go to the U.S.

My Dad came out of the camp a skeleton of his former self. I was told that my Mom had gotten to know a friendly German policeman when she took daily walks with my infant brother on the sidewalk outside their apartment. The policeman knew of my Father's release for purposes of immigration. There was a period of weeks prior to their scheduled departure. The policeman warned my Mom that on the next evening, the Nazi thugs would be attacking and arresting every Jewish man they could find. He strongly recommended to her that she get my Dad out of town because the

Nazis had required Jews to be registered and knew where Mom and Dad and my brother Ralph lived.

Mom had to make one of the most difficult decisions of her life. She decided to take my Dad from Essen to Cologne and walk the streets all night as young lovers. She left my brother with a Gentile baby sitter. The Nazis did break into their apartment and stole a bunch of stuff, but both my parents, my brother, and the babysitter came away physically unharmed. The date was November 9, 1938, Kristallnacht, The Night of the Broken Glass.

My parents returned on November 10, got my brother and a few possessions, and hid out in a warehouse where they had stored some of their furniture until they got on the boat to the U.S.

The other person I was remembering on Yom Kippur was my Grandmother Minna. She was murdered in Auschwitz. When my parents came to the U.S., my Father tried to save enough money through his very low-paying job to be able to pay off the Cuban government so his mother could get a visa and leave Germany. My parents were very poor. My Father did not speak English well, and they simply were unable to save the necessary funds. We do not know the exact date my Grandmother died, so we commemorate the anniversary of her death on Yom Kippur and light a candle in her memory. She was much beloved. She was a poor peasant woman whose husband, my Dad's father, died young from diabetes. She fed the kids (my Dad was her only birth-child but my Grandfather Julius, a widower, had brought to the marriage five kids from a previous marriage) from a large garden and never turned away anyone who came to her home in need of food.

My Dad never recovered from his experiences in the concentration camp, the death of his mother, and his inability to make enough money in time to save his mother's life.

I write about this now because of what is going on in this country with the Trump campaign. Forces are being unleashed that I believe will haunt us for decades to



come. The demonizing of immigrants and people of color, the open antisemitism of many Trump supporters, and the incredible attack on women all smack of fascist thinking.

There are very good reasons for people to be pissed off. Neoliberal policies, corporatist trade agreements, the overbearing influence of the corporate elite all play into the frustrations that give rise to the Trump supporters. The endemic institutional and personal racism and nativism are fertile ground for the development of the Trump movement.

It is scary to me. At the same time, I realize we will have to figure out some ways to reach out to at least some of the Trump supporters. We also must get our government to break its ties with the corporate class and start acting in a way that helps the vast majority of the people and not the elite few. We have to vigorously defend those who are under attack and promote a different vision of our country and our world.

During the sermon by Dan Brown, a lay leader at our Yom Kippur service, he stated these relevant words:

"Now this challenge is daunting. But let us recall the saying attributed to Rabbi Tarfon: 'It is not your responsibility to finish the work. But neither are you free to desist from it.'" And let us remember the conclusion of Rabbi Hillel's famous aphorism: 'If not now, when?'"

The Battle at Standing Rock, Part II

By Dina Burstein

Editor's Note: Part I of this article was featured in the October Advocate. This is the second and final part.

Will the “serious discussions” planned for this fall lead to respect for tribal sovereignty in future negotiations?

In his rejection of the request for injunction on September 9, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg wrote that the federal government does not have a regulatory role over this domestic oil pipeline, since “99 percent of its route crosses private land.”

The only regulatory role for the federal government in such a case “concerns construction activities in federally regulated waters at hundreds of discrete places along the pipeline route. For DAPL, accordingly, it permits these activities under a general permit known as ‘Nationwide Permit 12.’”

Permit 12 is a fast-track federal authorization process used by the Army Corps of Engineers to approve DAPL, TransCanada’s southern leg of the Keystone XL, and many others. Fast-track approval of pipeline projects using Permit 12 is supported by fossil fuel industry associations and corporations.

Environmental groups argue that, “simply put, the Congress did not intend the NWP program (Permit 12) to be used to streamline major infrastructure projects like the Gulf Coast Pipeline...and the DAPL. We strongly opposed the reissuance of NWP 12.”

According to Dallas Goldtooth of the Indigenous Environmental Network, “Oil companies have been using this antiquated fast-track permit process that was not designed to properly address the issues of mega-projects such as the DAPL. Meanwhile, tribal rights to consultation have been trampled, and Big Oil is allowed to put our waters, air, and land at immense risk.” President Obama’s White House Council on Environmental Quality issued a non-binding memo in August calling for climate



PSARA members standing in solidarity with Standing Rock, September 16. (Photo: Garet Munger)

change to be considered when federal agency decisions are made on infrastructure projects.

Will the Army Corps of Engineers be willing to change the permitting process to take climate change and cultural issues into consideration?

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe expressed their joy at the September 9 announcement that the federal agencies had halted pipeline construction near Lake Oahe.

“Our hearts are full. This is an historic day,” said tribal chairman David Archambault. “Today, three federal agencies announced the significant decision to respect tribal sovereignty and stop construction of the DAPL on Army Corps land...Native peoples have suffered generations of broken promises, and today the federal government said that national reform is needed to better ensure that tribes have a voice on infrastructure projects like this pipeline.”

The Sacred Stone prayer encampment began in April, but the conditions leading to the conflict have been building for decades, or possibly centuries.

The actual land beneath the pipeline was allotted to Sioux people in 1868, then taken away 11 years later. The North Dakota legislature passed a strict voter ID law in 2013 requiring voters to have state- or Tribe-issued ID, which must have a street address. But most tribal members do not have street addresses. So the Sioux have been disenfranchised as well. Among the people of Standing Rock, poverty, incarceration rates for males, and unemployment are among the highest in the U.S.

In North Dakota, as in other states rich in natural resources, indigenous land has borne the brunt of contamination from mining and transport of gas, oil, coal, etc.

According to journalist Jenni Monet, tribal member of the Pueblo of Laguna, non-native North Dakotans take “an overwhelmingly conservative view of the protests—a combination of annoyance and anxiety—that illustrates the historic and cultural divisions on the Northern Plains.”

Continued on Page 11

We're creating the framework for effective climate policy in Washington State.

A Letter on Climate Justice

Dear Friends,

We are at a crisis point. We see it, feel it and breathe it each day.

Just this past summer, wildfire emergencies were declared in 20 counties; in 2014, we suffered the Carlton Complex wildfire, the largest in state history. In 2015, drought caused \$1 billion in state crop losses. Meanwhile, ocean acidification is wreaking havoc with fish and shellfish populations.

We have a responsibility to our children and future generations to act—and to get climate policy right.

A coalition of leaders—representing communities of color, health nonprofits, labor groups, businesses, faith groups, family organizations, conservation advocates and more—is refining a policy that will stand for the long haul in Washington and serve as an example for other states to follow.

We believe successful climate policy must

- reduce emissions quickly and decisively;
- attract broad support;
- put a fee on emissions and reinvest that revenue in clean energy; and
- reinvest those revenues in communities that are most directly affected by climate change, air pollution and carbon fees.

Clean energy investments bring the best return to residents in the form of good-paying jobs in a growing industry. They ensure our transition away from fossil fuels is fair to families and businesses. And they're imperative for Washington to meet emissions targets: to reduce emissions quickly, we must not only decrease our use of fossil fuels but rapidly increase our use of clean energy, including solar and wind.

It's critical that we get climate policy in Washington right the first time. All climate policies are not equal. History shows that "pass it now, fix it later" proposals are difficult to repair. Policies that claim to be "revenue neutral" threaten our state budget—which we know is already stressed.

A broad coalition is forming to build the resources and support needed to win a campaign to limit and price carbon pollution. And while putting a price on carbon pollution is important, we also need to accelerate many other solutions now in order to meet the challenge of climate change.

To that end, members of our coalition are also working hard on other critical solutions like passing local transit measures in Seattle and Spokane, expanding energy efficiency retrofits in buildings, and increasing investments in clean energy technologies and climate resilience projects in the state budget.

Washington can—and must—lead on climate action. Let's get it right with policy that reduces emissions and reinvests in the clean energy that will make our state safer, healthier and more prosperous.

A broad coalition can achieve such policy—and sustain it over time. We are committed to doing so and hope you will join us in this transformational work.

Sincerely,

Carrie Nyssen

American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific

Tony Lee

Asian Pacific Islander Coalition

Stephanie Celt

BlueGreen Alliance, Washington State

Paola Maranan

Children's Alliance

Michael Ramos

Church Council of Greater Seattle

Gregg Small

Climate Solutions

Rosalinda Guillen

Community to Community Development

Cheri Cornell

CoolMom.org

LeeAnne Beres

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light

Estela Ortega

El Centro del la Raza

Aiko Schaefer

Front & Centered

Jill Mangaliman

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Hilltop Urban Gardens, Tacoma

Peter Bloch Garcia

Latino Community Fund

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OneAmerica

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Pacific Northwest Conference of The United

Church of Christ

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Seattle Audubon Society

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Shefali Ranganathan

Transportation Choices Coalition

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Union of Concerned Scientists

Brenna Davis

Washington Businesses for Climate Action

Mauricio Ayón

Washington CAN!

Shannon Murphy

Washington Conservation Voters

Becky Kelley

Washington Environmental Council

Sarah Clifthorne

Washington Federation of State Employees

Dr. Bruce Amundson

WA Physicians for Social Responsibility

Jeffrey G. Johnson

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

PSARA WINTER MEMBERSHIP
MEETING and POTLUCK
Please Join Us

When: Thursday, December 15–Noon to 3 p.m.

Where: Greenwood Community Senior Center, 525 N. 85th St.,
Seattle.* (Bus 5 to Greenwood Ave. N. and N. 85th St., Bus 45 directly to
Greenwood Senior Center, or Bus E to Aurora Ave and N. 85th St.)

Noon – Potluck Lunch and Socializing

1:00 p.m. – Presentation by David Loud: “Health Care – Getting to
Universal”

*David has worked for 46 years in health care in Seattle. He worked at the VA
Hospital, Pac Med Center, with SEIU 1199NW, and with Congressman Jim
McDermott’s office as a health care liaison. He represents PSARA in the Health
Care is a Human Right WA Coalition, which is working to achieve universal health
care in Washington.*

1:30 p.m. – PSARA Elections! Business meeting.

Please RSVP and let us know if you will bring a main dish, fruit, salad, dessert, or
soft drink to share. Let us know the food item you can bring by leaving a message
on the office phone: 206-448-9646 or email Bobby Righi at adminvp@psara.org

Please also bring a food or financial donation for the King County Labor Agency
Food Bank.

*Call the office or e-mail adminvp@psara.org if you need a ride or can offer
a ride.



2016 PSARA Legislative Conference

**Tuesday, November 29
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

**UFCW Local 21
5030 First Ave. South • Seattle WA**

**METRO Route #121 on 1st Ave. S.
METRO Route #23 on 4th Ave. S.**

*Learn about the impact of the Nov. 8th election
on the 2017 Legislative Session.*

Speakers:

State Senator David Frockt
(46th LD, ranking member of the Senate Health Care Committee)

Pam Crone, PSARA Lobbyist

Discuss our 2017 Legislative Agenda

***Gather with PSARA members from your legislative district
and plan for advocating with your legislators
on behalf of PSARA's legislative agenda.***

To help us plan materials for the conference,
please RSVP to PSARA at 206-448-9646 or to govrelations@psara.org

Witness to Standing Rock

By Bob Barnes

Standing Rock North Dakota, 9/28/16: Cresting a hill just east of the Cannonball River, we see below a panorama filled with tipis, campers, tents, horse corrals and flags -- so many flags, close to 200, representing tribes and indigenous nations from around the world -- lining the main entrance to the Standing Rock camp on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. This is the epicenter of the fight to protect water and earth from the Dakota Access Pipeline, known as the "black snake."

My friend Jerry Beardsley and I arrived that evening with a van full of cold-weather gear and cash to support the water protectors as they ready the camp for winter. The camp is a bustle of activity with tipis and waginogans (a wigwam type structure) being put together, solar panels and composting toilets being set up, and the ongoing activities of keeping a couple thousand people fed and clothed and their medical needs met. The camp resonated with the sights, sounds, conversations, and music of a people filled with purpose.

Most everyone pitches in to keep the camp going, including children. It was pointed out several times by elders that

the kids were contributing more than some of the adults, whether it was in the kitchen, delivering firewood, keeping the camp clean, or washing the family laundry in a five-gallon bucket with a plunger.

In conversations around camp, we learned the origins of some tribal names and how they had been altered by various colonizers. We were schooled in the use of what we thought was a long trailer for hauling irrigation pipes was in fact a custom built trailer used to haul tipi poles. We learned firsthand about indigenous remedies for, as a random example, intestinal blockage. The medical tent was well provisioned and staffed by doctors and other medical professionals.

We learned a practical lesson in elderhood. Elders are first in line at meals. No amount of encouraging the hard-working children to break in front of us worked. They knew that they wouldn't get fed until the elders had gotten their food. And the food! It was consistently awesome. Even though visitors are encouraged to bring their own meals, that food often ends up in the camp kitchen. Two Northwest salmon filets we brought, properly cut and breaded, provided a main course one evening.

On our first full day at camp, Jerry, a retired mas-

sage therapist, went about setting up a massage table at the medical station. He was a sought-after water protector, working long hours each day at his massage station. I decided to catch up with a caravan from the camp in search of pipeline work. I had promised my family I wouldn't get arrested, and since there were no plans to commit civil disobedience that day, I figured there would be no problem.

Shortly after linking up with the convoy, we stopped alongside a county road and about a hundred of us, accompanied by riders on horseback, walked to where the pipeline was being laid. People prayed, sang, and drummed for about 20 minutes. Then we returned to our vehicles. As we started to leave, two military-style

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Cutting the hemp tielines used to build the waginogans.



Bob by the medical tent at Standing Rock.

Slowly Killing Social Security: Death by a Thousand Cuts

By Nancy Altman, Founding Co-director, Social Security Works

A surreptitious but deadly attack against your Social Security is underway. To recognize the stealth war, it is essential to understand that the funds deducted for Social Security from workers' paychecks do not just pay for monthly benefits. Those funds also pay every penny of Social Security's administrative costs.

Just like the benefits themselves, these administrative expenses are fully funded. Social Security has no borrowing authority. Indeed, Social Security has a \$2.8 trillion accumulated surplus. In 2015 alone, it ran a surplus of \$23 billion. There is plenty of money for administration.

Congress does not appropriate a penny for those administrative costs. What it does is limit how much of that huge surplus and incoming revenue can be used by the Social Security Administration ("SSA") for administration of the program in any given year. For years, Congress has been limiting drastically how much SSA can spend of Social Security's surplus on administration.

Just since 2010, Congress has required that SSA spend 10 percent less than what it was spending before. Ten percent less, even though, in order to simply maintain services at their current level, SSA needs to spend an additional \$300 million a year just to cover the increase in its fixed costs such as the cost of rent, electricity, and phones. During that same period, the number of Social Security beneficiaries increased by 12 percent. And with 10,000 baby boomers, on average, retiring every single day, SSA's workload will keep growing.

Throughout its history, Social Security has had a well-deserved reputation for exemplary customer service. But no organization, private or public, can see its workload continually increase and its budget continually decrease, without a deterioration of customer service.



Nancy Altman

And that is what has happened. It is not uncommon for people to die while waiting to begin receiving their earned Social Security Disability benefits. Much less serious but also wrong is the inconvenience Americans experience every day, having to waste hours and hours simply to be able to talk to an employee of SSA. All of this inconvenience and hardship is totally unnecessary and easily avoidable.

The hardworking SSA employees are not to blame. The blame rests squarely on Congress, which refuses to let Social Security spend its surplus on increased services -- or, for that matter, even on maintenance of its services. Since 2011, SSA has been forced to close 64 field offices, along with 533 -- almost all -- of its mobile offices. The agency employs 25,000 fewer employees, resulting in shortened hours and long lines at the field offices that remain open.

Social Security's disability, survivor, and retirement benefits are a neces-

sity for most Americans. Two-thirds of retirees rely on Social Security for half or more of their income. A full one-third rely on those benefits for virtually all of their income. The reliance by people with disabilities is even greater. And these benefits are all earned. Congress should be allowing SSA to spend a few tenths of a percent more of its surplus to ensure that hard-working Americans receive the world-class service they have paid for.

So why is Congress limiting how much Social Security can spend of its own money at a time when its workload is exploding? The only logical answer is ideology. Social Security is among our nation's most successful and popular government programs. That success and popularity makes Social Security the largest obstacle to those embracing a radical anti-government agenda.

False claims by Social Security's opponents that Social Security is unaffordable have succeeded in weakening the confidence of the American people in the program's future, but the false claims have not, at least so far, resulted in actual cuts. But perhaps closed offices, long wait times, and overworked employees might weaken the public's support enough to allow the program to be dismantled.

The 2016 Democratic Party Platform calls for Social Security's benefits to be expanded, not cut. It also calls for increased funding for SSA's administration. In sharp contrast, the Republican Platform calls for cutting and privatizing Social Security. And it is the Republicans who have forced the limitation on SSA's budget.

Those who have a stake in Social Security -- that's all of us -- should send a clear message to every candidate running for federal office: Expand, don't cut, our earned Social Security benefits. And expand, don't cut, the Social Security services we have also earned and purchased.

New Seasons, Old Story

Join us for a picket at New Seasons Market, Thursday, November 10

By Mike Andrew

Join UFCW 21 and co-sponsor PSARA on November 10, and let New Seasons Market know they aren't welcome in our community.

A non-union chain like New Seasons undermines the standards union grocery workers have fought for, like affordable health care and good retirement benefits.

Join us! November 10, 9 a.m. – noon, at New Seasons Market, 2755 77th Ave SE, Mercer Island.

New Seasons Market is a Portland-based outfit that operates 18 stores in Oregon and Northern California.

In 2009, the private equity firm Endeavour Capital bought majority ownership in New Seasons, and the company began rapid expansion in Oregon and southern Washington, in addition to acquiring the eight-store New Leaf grocery chain in Northern California.

Now they want to break into the Puget Sound market. *Advocate* readers will remember they were angling for a spot on Sound Transit property next to the Broadway Light Rail Station.

Does Endeavour Capital ring a bell? They're also the corporate owners of ZoomCare, and they're applying their race-to-the-bottom business model to the grocery business too.

Over the last five years, Oregon state inspections have found 419 violations of the state food code in New Seasons stores and another 20 violations in its central kitchen, including rat and fly infestations and dangerous food temperature control practices. Complaints in the Oregon state records include instances in which customers said they became ill with diarrhea and cramping after eating foods prepared by New Seasons.

That's not all. Over the last five years, OSHA has charged New Seasons Market with five times as many health and safety violations as local, union operations like Metropolitan Market, Central Co-op, and PCC combined.

New Seasons claims they offer health care and other employee benefits, but one of the two health plans employees are offered is Endeavour-owned Zoom Health -- in effect, employee health care insurance from the company store.

According to employees, New Seasons' other health plan costs workers 75 percent to 100 percent more than the health benefits offered to workers represented by UFCW 555 in Oregon.

Although New Seasons tries to project a progressive image, one of the two managing directors of Endeavour Capital who sits on the New Seasons board -- Stephen Babson -- is infamous for his activities as a fundraiser and contributor to Republican candidates.

Babson hosted a \$12,500-a-plate dinner for Right to Rise, the main PAC supporting Jeb Bush's candidacy for President. He hosted similar fundraisers in support of the Romney campaign in 2012 and has personally contributed over \$125,000 to Republican candidates for federal office and their associated PACs and party committees since 2005.

Why not buy local? The Puget Sound region is rich with locally-owned, small-format, grocery stores emphasizing natural and organic foods. Metropolitan Market, PCC, and Central Co-op are all high job standard Seattle-based stores that reflect our values.

New Seasons? No thanks.



Taking on Endeavour Capital's other operation -- for-profit health care chain ZoomCare. On October 18, PSARA joined Washington CAN!, several unions, and community members to picket ZoomCare on The Ave.

The Labor Chorus Flying Squad added their own special note to the picket line. "Hit the road, ZoomCare, and don't you come back no more..." they sang.

ZoomCare represents the kind of corporate "health care" envisioned by venture capital firms. They don't accept Medicare, they don't accept Medicaid, they don't even accept Tricare, which provides coverage for active-duty military families. All ZoomCare wants is to cherry-pick young and healthy clients, leaving the people who need coverage the most out in the cold.

Witness to Standing Rock

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vehicles and a fleet of police vehicles appeared on the horizon in front of us, while another fleet charged through the field behind us. We were kettled. People were tackled and thrown to the ground; others were pulled out of their vehicles, all at gunpoint. Twenty-one of us were seemingly randomly arrested for criminal trespass, and the others were let go.

This seemed a blatant attempt to intimidate people. It is happening with increased frequency. The camp is surrounded by a military force made up of multiple police agencies from around the region. The blockade north of the main highway to the camp, staffed with National Guard forces, complete with concrete barriers, barbed wire, and automatic weapons, could have been outside Mosul in Iraq. Complete with irony: As we were leaving, a car full of nuns heading to the camp was stopped, and the nuns were being questioned by the troops.

These tactics are clearly not working. Support grows stronger by the day. Standing Rock, literally, is on the front line in the battle to keep our planet habitable for humans. Folks there are not backing down. They are preparing to withstand the brutal Dakota winter and whatever force the State plans on inflicting. We need to stand with them.

Update: At press time tensions have heated up. Several hundred people have now been arrested; a no-fly zone has been imposed over the area applying only to drones the protectors have deployed to chronicle events; people have been hit with "non-lethal" ballistics; the militarized police force has grown; and support keeps pouring in.

Bob Barnes is a member of PSARA's Environmental Committee. He is a long-time activist who also provides union sound crews for many of the large progressive rallies and events throughout our region.

The Battle at Standing Rock

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On September 3, one day after the Tribe announced the discovery of native burial sites and sacred artifacts at the pipeline site, workers bulldozed the site. Protestors were attacked by pepper spray and dogs, vividly illustrating the contempt in which they are held by the conservative North Dakota government.

The Standing Rock Sioux are standing up against companies that have very powerful and wealthy backers. Dakota Access, LLC, is a joint venture of Phillips 66, Energy Transfer Partners, Sunoco Logistics, Enbridge, and Marathon Oil. A total of \$10.25 billion in financing for the construction comes from Citibank, Wells Fargo, and 15 other banks, which rely on being able to drill, frack, and transport oil through the pipeline for decades. Energy Transfer Partners plan to transport the Bakken oil by pipeline all the way to the Gulf Coast, where there are refineries and export infrastructure.

And yet, despite the powerful forces arrayed against the Sioux, something beautiful and powerful is being built at Standing Rock. Members of many tribes have come to join the movement, including members of the Crow Nation, who have supported coal mining and have disagreed with other tribes.

In the words of encampment visitor and *YES!* Executive Editor Sarah van Gelder, "The purposefulness here overcomes everything -- the determination that this time the damage will be stopped. This time, before the water is poisoned or another sacred site is bulldozed, the protectors will step in... Here, with a purpose that threads through generations, work, celebration, and activism are a seamless whole."

The stakes could not be higher. The Copenhagen Climate Conference of 2009 set an agreement that global carbon emissions must be cut in order to hold the increase in global temperature to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, which by now seems like a utopian goal. In the words of Bill McKibben, "We have five times as much oil and coal and gas on the books as climate scientists think is safe to burn."

We must keep those reserves in the ground. The encampment at Standing Rock represents a real-life battle between the environment and tribal sovereignty on the one hand, and capitalism on the other.

Dina Burstein is on the PSARA Environmental Committee and is also a proofreader for the Retiree Advocate.

To Renew or Donate

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

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

Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____

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Meetings and Events

PSARA Education Committee: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Tuesday, November 1, PSARA office, 2800 First Ave., Rm. 234, Seattle, 98121. All welcome as we discuss our work to expand outreach with the PSARA workshop, "Making Retirement Security Real for All Generations."

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

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

PSARA Government Relations Committee: 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Thursday, November 3, Seattle Labor Temple, Room 226, 2800 First Ave. We will finalize plans for our legislative conference for the 2017 legislative session and propose a 2017 legislative agenda.

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

Green Lake Discussion Group: Noon - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, November 10, Green Lake Branch, Seattle Public Library, 7364 E. Green Lake Dr. N., Seattle,

98115. Brown bag lunch. Topic: "We have a new President!" We'll discuss the election and share our thoughts and concerns for the future. For further information contact Susan at sjlevy.01@gmail.com

PSARA Diversity Committee Meeting: 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., Thursday, November 17, Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 First Ave, PSARA office, Rm.234, Seattle. Discussion of organizing project in South King County and Executive Board elections.

PSARA Executive Board Meeting: 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, November 17, Seattle Labor Temple, Rm. 208, 2800 First Ave, Seattle. **All are welcome.**

PSARA Legislative Conference: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 29, Joe Crump Hall, UFCW 21, 5030 First Ave., Seattle, 98134. Elections over! It is time to learn what to expect and formulate PSARA's 2017 Legislative Agenda. See story on Page 1 and flyer on Page 7.

