

# The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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

Vol XXXIV, No 9

September 2019

Nancy Altman's  
Testimony on the  
Social Security 2100 Act  
Page 6

## Join With PSARA for the September 20 International Climate Strike!

By Bobby Righi

On September 20, at the request of the young people who have been staging school strikes around the world, we're walking out of our workplaces and homes to spend the day demanding action on the climate crisis, the greatest existential threat that all of us face. We have been asked to spend the day in protest against new pipelines, or the banks that fund them, against the oil companies and the politicians that spread their lies.

PSARA will hold an action that focuses on climate justice and demands passage of the Green New Deal.

We will have a lively event and make our point that climate change is already killing people now. Brown and black communities are bearing the worst of the crisis and are dying from heat, bad air, wildfires, floods, storms, and diseases.

We will demand action and dramatize that old people and the very young will die prematurely in ever-greater numbers from the effects of climate change unless strong action is taken now. We will begin and end with song and dance! Join us!

**Wear your PSARA t-shirts and join us on September 20. Time: 11 a.m. Location: To Be Announced in a PSARA e-mail and at the PSARA Birthday BBQ on September 14, or call 206-261-8110 and leave a message.**

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



*The PSARA crew in 2016.*

## Go Birding with PSARA, Tuesday, September 24, 2019

By Karen Richter

Here's your chance to go birding with PSARA and take advantage of the beginning of the fall birding season. We are headed to the Billy Frank Jr. National Wildlife Refuge in the beautiful Nisqually Delta. Check the website for more information about the refuge: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/billy\\_frank\\_jr\\_nisqually](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/billy_frank_jr_nisqually). Our leaders will be PSARA Membership Vice President Karen Richter, and her friend, Noelle Congdon, birding expert, naturalist, and PSARA member.

Beginners are especially welcome as we look for migrant birds, tree frogs, and other residents of the refuge. Plan to be walking slowly and standing outside. The trails at Nisqually are accessible. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

We plan to carpool from Karen's house in West Seattle at 9:00 a.m., returning before dinner. Or we can meet you at the refuge at 10:00 a.m. Bring your binocs if you have them (extras will be available), a lunch, and a donation/check made out to PSARA. Email Karen at [kerichter100@gmail.com](mailto:kerichter100@gmail.com) or call her at 206-679-3295 for more details.

## The Retiree ADVOCATE

Published monthly by the PSARA Education Fund, 321  
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[www.psara.org](http://www.psara.org)  
or visit PSARA on Facebook

## Thanks to Chuck Richards!



Chuck in action at a 2016 picket at ZoomCare. (Photo: Garet Munger)

Long-time PSARA Executive Board member and former GRC Chair Chuck Richards has stepped down from the Board.

Chuck was the intrepid Co-Chair of PSARA's Government Relations Committee and the organizer of many a lobbying expedition to Olympia.

Although he's resigned from the Board, Chuck promises not to be a total stranger. "I'll try to attend events posted in the *Advocate*," he promised in his resignation letter.

We wish Chuck and his husband, Mike, well in whatever they do next. Thank you, Chuck, for your many contributions to PSARA.

***"The first note that I want to tell children across the country is that no matter what the president says, this country belongs to you. And it belongs to everyone."***

**Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**



# PSARA Members Need Grocery Store Workers and Grocery Store Workers Need PSARA

By Kristen Beifus

Thirty thousand grocery store workers across Puget Sound have been in contract negotiations since March, and we are coordinating efforts with tens of thousands of other grocery workers throughout the Western US. This is a powerful, every-three-year opportunity for unionized workers to sit across from their employers, tell their truth, and advocate for what they need. Every day grocery workers and workers across our region face the growing impossibility that their wages will enable them to cover their basic costs of living: housing, food, medical care (even with good health insurance) and transportation. In contrast their work is making those at the top richer. In one day alone, the CEO of their employer makes more than they make in an entire year.

Grocery Bargaining Team members Sam Dancy and Amy Dayley Angel (Kroger/ QFC) explain further "The good news is that, as union workers, we have the right to sit down with our employer's representatives and negotiate the terms of our workplaces — around pay and benefits and working conditions.

Over the past decade we have made improvements. For example, through tough negotiations, we have been able to maintain a high-quality, low-cost health plan without any increases in our monthly premiums. And when we could not succeed in negotiating changes we needed, such as a big increase in wages for the lowest-paid workers and paid sick days for all, our union helped lead the passage of a statewide initiative that won those changes through the ballot box. That new law has helped over a million workers across Washington State live better."

We all know what is happening. The cost of housing and necessities has driven people out of our communities and farther from our workplaces. Meanwhile employers are pushing workers to be always available and pushing for us to work harder with fewer staff to get more done in less time.

Union negotiations are critical resistance against a tide that is eroding the standards and values in our neighborhoods. Necessary improvements to staffing, training, and scheduling enable workers to be better equipped to do our jobs more safely, and serve our customers better.

We all deserve a good job so we can take care of ourselves and our families and have the time to live our lives. PSARA members know this so well and have taken action with grocery store workers every step of the way. You attended our



kick off across the region back in the spring. You leafletted and canvassed with us throughout Western Washington, and many of you continue to bring your "I heart Grocery Worker" totes into the stores. For some images, please see <https://www.uncw21.org/news/2019/5/31/taking-it-to-the-streets>. You also were leaders in community delegations during our most recent informational pickets. You presented our Grocery List of needs to managers and gave workers stickers proclaiming "This Community Has Your Back."

PSARA members need Grocery Store Workers and Grocery Store Workers need PSARA. It is this web of support in our communities that will enable workers to get what we need at the bargaining table, which benefits the wider community. Thank you PSARAns for your solidarity, and we look forward to celebrating a victory for workers when we conclude our negotiations, however long it takes.

*Kristen Beifus is a Community Organizer with UFCW 21 and a member of PSARA's Executive Board.*



# August 3: Expand Social Security! Medicare for All!

Photos by Garet Munger



Featured speakers John "Bowser" Bauman, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, Alex Lawson of Social Security Works.



On August 3, PSARA joined with more than 25 other organizations to celebrate the birthdays of Social Security and Medicare, the most successful and popular social programs in US history.

The program was introduced by our own Karen Richter (top left), and included Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) President Larry Brown (middle left), and WSLC Secretary-Treasurer April Sims (lower left).

Rep. Pramilia Jayapal, a champion of Medicare for All, was one of our featured speakers, along with Alex Lawson, Executive Director of Social Security Works, and John "Bowser" Bauman, formerly of Sha Na Na and now President of the Social Security Works PAC.

Other participants who spoke eloquently included Xochitl Maykovic, Political Director of Washington CAN!; Seattle City Council member Teresa Mosqueda; and State Senator Joe Nguyen.

Inspiring music was provided by the Seattle Labor Chorus and Bowser Bauman.

## The Barbed Wire

By Barbara Flye



# Fo' Real: Culture Shock

By Bob Shimabukuro

## **The Weight**

*I pulled into Nazareth, was feeling  
about half past dead  
I just need some place where I can lay  
my head  
Hey mister can you tell me where a man  
might find a bed?  
He just grinned, shook my hand, "No"  
was all he said.  
Take a load off Fanny  
Take a load for free  
Take a load off Fanny  
And...And...And you put the load right on  
me.  
—The Band*

"Got anything for me to do that will get me a meal and a place to stay?" he asked.

"Don't know. Ask him," I answered as I pointed to Doug.

"Maybe," Doug answered.

## **Work in Progress**

We were all in the St. John's area of Portland, Oregon. Working at St. John Furniture Trust (SJFT). Doug P. and me. About 20 miles away from my home just outside Oregon City. An acquaintance from Lake Oswego (a very well-to-do community) was working with us. Doug had asked me if I knew any welders.

I had replied, "I know this artist about my age who's from LO who asked me if I knew anyone looking for a welder."

SJFT was one of the first jobs I had after graduating from Reed College. Portland culture was still a mystery, a foreign culture to me. I'd grown up in Manoa Valley, at a time when we often had very little to eat at dinner, a family of nine. Lots of cabbage soup, I recall. And fruit in season. And there were times without water, shut off because we couldn't pay the bills.

So here we were. Working on Doug's project putting together a bunch of pews for a church, when I heard a man softly talk/sing,

*I pulled into Nazareth, was feeling about  
half past dead  
I just need some place where I can lay  
my head  
Hey mister can you tell me where a man  
might find a bed?  
He just grinned, shook my hand, "No"  
was all he said.*

*Take a load off Fanny  
Take a load for free  
Take a load off Fanny  
And...And...And you put the load right on  
me.*

I watched as a guy (a 20th Century version of a singer/spoken word artist—SWA) slightly older than me making it up a small incline. He stopped when he saw me.

SWA: Know anyone I could work for to pick up enough for a meal and a shower?

BS: Well, maybe.

I sent him to Doug. Doug found something for him to do. And a few minutes later, Doug's wife, Joyce, drove up (they lived about 5-10 minutes away) with a few sandwiches and a set of clean clothes for him.

SWA: "Thank you," was all he said. And then he went back to work.

## **Pauhana (after work time)**

BS: I live about 20 miles from here. A little past Oregon City. Takes me about ½ to ¾ hour to get home. I share the house with three others. None of them are around for a few days. Not much in it to sleep on, but there's a lot of floor space. You want to come with me?

SWA: Just nods his head, picks up his belongings and jumps in my little Datsun truck.

Throughout the ride back home, SWA was silent except for his periodic bursts of "The Weight." When I turned into a quarter-half mile driveway, he quietly spoke out the words, "Take a load off Fanny/Take a load for free/Take



Bob Shimabukuro

a load off Fanny/And...And...And you put the load right on me."

It was kind of scary, eerie, joyous, exhilarating, funny at the same time.

## **Inside the House**

He steps in, looks around. Pretty much what I had told him earlier.

SWA: This your house?

BS: I live here. I don't own it.

SWA: This is a mansion!

BS: Well, as I said earlier, there's a lot of floor space.

SWA: Yeah, okay.

He walked to an open corner and claimed it with his bag.

I would have made that choice too. Feel protected.

I showed him the bathroom, I think it had a shower rig over a bathtub.

SWA: "Wow," he whispered.

BS: Well, I'll go cook us some dinner. You can wash up.

And that was the last of the conversation in the house. We ate without talking to each other. He talked to himself mostly. He also sang some of the words of "The Weight."

*Continued on Page 10*

# Excerpts From Testimony by Nancy Altman on the Social Security 2100 Act Before the House Ways and Means Committee, July 25, 2019

## **T**he Importance of the Social Security 2100 Act

Social Security is most Americans' largest asset. Though the exact value varies with age and other important factors, Americans' Social Security disability insurance, life insurance and joint and survivor retirement annuities have present values worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. In addition to those extremely valuable cash benefits, Social Security is intended to provide, as its name suggests, a sense of security, peace of mind. That intangible benefit of security has been lost or at least diminished because too many Americans have been convinced, erroneously, that no benefits will be paid in the future. Indeed, many Americans believe that Congress has diverted their Social Security contributions to an improper purpose.

Restoring Social Security to actuarial balance throughout the 21st Century and beyond, as the Social Security 2100 Act does, is an important step to restoring that intangible benefit of security. For those who have understandably but erroneously been convinced that Congress has stolen their contributions, the Social Security 2100 Act, if enacted, would also help restore their confidence in Congress. It is imperative to recognize that as important as restoring Social Security to long range actuarial balance is, it is merely a means to the goal of providing America's working families with greater economic security. Importantly, the Social Security 2100 Act restores balance without cutting benefits.

## **W**hy It Is So Important That the Social Security 2100 Act Contains No Benefit Cuts

Social Security's benefits are modest by virtually any measure. In absolute terms, the average Social Security benefit in June 2019 was \$1,351.51, or \$16,218.12 on an annualized basis. That is below the 2019 official federal poverty level for a two-person household, and substantially below the amount needed to satisfy the Elder Economic Security Standard Index, a sophisticated measure of the income necessary to meet bare necessities.

## **W**hy It Is So Important That the Social Security 2100 Act Updates and Expands Social Security's Benefits

When President Franklin Roosevelt signed Social Security into law, he called it "a cornerstone" on which to build. Yet the last time Congress enacted increases was 1972. Since then, Congress has cut Social Security benefits substantially, and some reductions are still being phased in. Indeed, in 2050, Social Security retirement benefits will be 24 percent lower than they would have been if those cuts had not been enacted.

In the four decades since Congress last enacted benefit increases, wages have stagnated and traditional employer-sponsored defined benefit pension plans have been largely terminated. In 1980, 38 percent of private-sector workers participated in defined benefit plans; in 2018, only 13 percent did. Many employers have replaced traditional defined benefit plans with 401(k) plans, but those have proven inadequate for all but the very wealthiest.

As a consequence of these factors, the nation is facing a retirement income crisis. Too many workers fear they will never be able to retire without drastic reductions in their standard of living. Indeed, numerous polls and surveys over recent years reveal that not having enough money in retirement leads the list of Americans' top financial concerns. Expert analyses make clear that Americans' concerns about retirement are well founded. The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College reports that one out of two working-age households will be unable to maintain their standards of living in retirement even if they work until age 65, take out a reverse mortgage on their homes, and annuitize all of their other assets. Moreover, the number of "at risk" working-age households increases to over 60 percent when health care costs are taken into account.

Prior to Social Security, Americans routinely moved in with their adult children. Those adult children were forced to divide their resources between their own children and their aging parents. Social Security made economically-indepen-

dent old age a reality, allowing families to focus more of their resources on their children.

Unfortunately, the retirement income crisis and its causes are likely to require adult children to take resources away from their children in order to help support aged parents. Increasing Social Security's modest benefits, enacting a more accurate cost of living measure, and updating the so-called special minimum benefit, as the Social Security 2100 Act does, are solutions to the looming retirement income crisis facing America's retired workers and the increasing economic pressure on working families.

Another challenge confronting the nation is rising income and wealth inequality. Not only is this unfair, it is deeply destabilizing. President Barack Obama called it "the defining challenge of our time." Expanding Social Security's modest benefits for current and future beneficiaries while requiring the wealthiest to pay more, as the Social Security 2100 Act does, will help to slow or even reverse this dangerous development.

Moreover, expanding Social Security helps to ameliorate racial disparities in wealth and incomes. People of color have lower incomes, less secure employment, and fewer savings, on average, than European-Americans. Social Security replaces a higher proportion of earnings of workers with lower wages and more intermittent employment. Moreover, because Social Security's disability and life insurance benefits are derived from the same benefit formula as retirement benefits, the Social Security 2100 Act improves those benefits as well.

As discussed above, these are benefits disproportionately claimed by families of color. Expanding Social Security's disability and survivor, as well as retirement, benefits, while requiring the wealthiest to pay more, as the Social Security 2100 Act does, will help to reduce the nation's racial wealth gap.

*Nancy Altman is President of Social Security Works and Chair of the Strengthen Social Security Coalition.*



**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**



# Volunteers

By Michael Shilley

Joe was a good looking, well-built guy about 40 years old. He was seated at my table with five others. I was hoping they would tell their stories, of why they had come to our first-ever Listening Meeting. This was 2010, two years after the Big Recession started. Thirty-three percent of our Plumbers and Pipefitters in Seattle's Local 32 were out of work. Joe had been unemployed for over a year. There was just no work, and benefits were drying up.

Joe was ex-Army, divorced, and had his two teenagers living with him. The bank was threatening to foreclose on his house, and he could not obtain credible information from his phone calls. The bank would pass him from one person to another and he was mad and frustrated.

Joe left the Army after 20 years as a mechanic. He joined our union under the VIP program (Veterans in Piping) a national union program to encourage veterans to bring their skills into our ranks. Nationwide it had been very popular, enabling many veterans to find good paying jobs with wonderful benefits and pensions. Joe told us that being out of work so long, he just could not keep up with all the bills.

As we went around the 20 tables in the room, these tough construction workers were reluctant to tell their stories of hardship. They seemed to think it was their fault -- they were out of work and out of luck. So it was now a test for our volunteers, with the training we had received, to bring out the stories held deep inside their gut and find some answers.

This was our first effort holding a Listening Meeting. We had attended several training sessions and a weeklong retreat, hearing and learning how a community organizer can effect change for the "common good." The training was held by the Organization of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF). Their experience goes back to the 1930's and the slaughterhouses of Chicago. It was

there that Saul Alinsky recruited the faith leaders around the area to pressure the slaughterhouse owners for decent wages and working conditions. When several local organizations also joined, the effort was a success, and Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council and IAF were founded. Saul Alinsky became the first community organizer. The Council went on to deliver a recreation center, tackle childhood diseases and their prevention, and pressure Armour Meat Packing to finally sit down with the union for negotiations.

Back at our table we all felt Joe's pain and anxiety. This helped the others to open up and tell their stories. Some had never saved for a rainy day. Others were old hands at being out of work, as is expected in our industry. But even their budgets were being strained by this prolonged recession.

After everyone had spoken, the question was asked, "What would you like to see happen now?" BOY! The flood gates opened, as they did at the other tables in the room. One of our volunteers took the floor and asked the question, "Where do we go from here?" On the wall was a 15-foot-long white board, and by evening's end it was full of proposals and ideas. Asking our participants to return in two weeks, we copied all the ideas onto a pad. A week later our committee pared down the list to sound proposals. Now we would develop a plan of action.

At the follow-up meeting, with at least two-thirds of our members back, we formed committees: New Small Businesses, a Newsletter, and a Notice Board to promote small jobs, with the additional skills our out-of-work members possessed, and a fund to help those in desperate need. In the days following, we would make phone calls to all those out of work, asking for their story and conveying information on our programs.

We marched through downtown Seattle and spoke to the crowd at



Saul Alinsky

(Photo: Duane Howell, Denver Post)

Westlake, telling of our new organization, Sound Alliance, and what we were expecting from our government. After weeks of lobbying, we were able to wrest Federal and State funds, passing bill SB 5649 in Olympia. This would lead to a new non-profit called Sustainable Works, retrofitting older homes and businesses throughout Puget Sound making them more energy efficient. Patty Murray kicked off our first project. It was a great day. We had twisted a lot of arms, told many stories, attended many meetings, met many politicians, but we could not save Joe's house. We then held an Action Meeting inviting politicians, business leaders, and the bankers. All but the bankers turned up to hear our personal stories. But the word was out, leading to hearings in Olympia before the Finance Committee where Joe and several others testified. Political pressure was applied, leading to bankers sending two top mortgage officials to deal more fairly with West Coast homeowners.

Saul Alinsky is no longer with us, but his traditions will never die. Barack Obama was a Chicago Community Organizer and, like Hillary Clinton, held Saul as his hero. Conservative talk pundits are quick to denounce Saul, calling him everything from Communist to Satan worshipper. How can a man and the legacy he left, working for the "common good," be all that bad?

Michael Shilley is a retired member of United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32 and a member of PSARA.

# Never Again: Long Hot Summer for Migrants

By Dina Burstein

Migrants in the US (let's call them what they are: displaced people) have suffered terribly at the hands of our federal government during the summer of 2019. Across the country, displaced people and their allies have resisted this 2019 version of the forced incarceration of Japanese people and the concentration camps in Europe during WWII. Here is a taste of the summer of "Never Again!"

## Persecution of Displaced People and Their Allies

In May, a volunteer named Ana Adlerstein accompanied an asylum applicant to a legal point of entry on the Arizona-Mexican border. They carried a letter from their US lawyer explaining that the migrant was seeking asylum in the US. They were both immediately arrested as an illegal alien and a human smuggler. For the whole story: <https://theintercept.com/2019/05/09/asylum-border-humanitarian-aid/> (*The Intercept*, 7-9-19).

In late July in Kansas City, a mother and father were driving their children to the doctor when ICE approached the car. The man, who faced deportation for misdemeanor traffic violations, exercised his constitutional right to stay in his car. As his wife filmed, ICE broke the window and dragged him out of the car. Read more at *Rolling Stone*, "This is what an ICE arrest looks like" 7-25-19.

## Arrests at County Courthouses Right Here in Washington State

Early in 2019, Vanessa and her husband went to county court in Ephrata, WA, near Moses Lake, to do some routine municipal business. To Vanessa's horror, ICE roughly threw her husband to the snowy ground, then arrested him as they left the courthouse. He was bonded out of the NW Detention Center months later, with the support of many allies. PSARA members were in the courtroom in Tacoma.

In June, a father of a 16-year-old and a 10-year-old was beaten and taken away in an unmarked vehicle as he left the county courthouse in Olympia. His attackers did not wear uniforms and their car was unmarked. They turned out to be ICE employees. He was taken to the NW Detention Center and incarcerated. <https://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article232346022.html> *The Olympian*, "ICE Arrest at Thurston County Courthouse" 7-6-19.

## Departing Refugees

Many of our Cambodian, Lao, and Somali refugee neighbors were welcomed as children to the US in the 1980s and 90s, lived lives of poverty, then had contact with the criminal justice system as teenagers. Now they have served their time in prison and are in their thirties, working, with children, and ICE is trying to deport them. In June, PSARA members attended the clemency hearing in Olympia for Sok, a Khmer (Cambodian) man from Federal Way. Clemency was recommended for Sok that day, and for the two other Khmer applicants. He has been pardoned by Governor Inslee and is now seeking to clear his record in the immigration system. Here is a portrait of another courageous Khmer man posted by The Seattle Clemency Project, a legal team which petitions for clemency for "reformed and extraordinary" individuals still in prison as well as immigrants like Sok who have served their time but are threatened with deportation: <http://www.seattleclemencyproject.org/sophy>, on the website of The Seattle Clemency Project.

## ICE Raids Unionized Workplaces

Immigration experts in Washington State predict there will be an increase this year in large-scale raids at public places like worksites. Shockingly, such raids have already occurred in these counties in Washington State: King,



Dina Burstein

Pacific, Skagit, Whatcom, Franklin, Okanogan, Spokane, Walla Walla, and Chelan. In 2018 alone, ICE delivered more than 5,200 I-9 audit notices to businesses across the US. (For more, read *US Immigration and Customs Enforcement News Releases*, 7-24-19.) The recent detention of 680 workers in Mississippi (Read more at *USA Today*, "Let Them Go" 8-8-19.) may be a terrifying sign of what is to come here. The detained workers were members of UFCW who had recently won a \$3.75 million lawsuit against the owner for sexual harassment (Read more at Think Progress, *ICE Raids Followed a Massive Sexual Harassment Settlement*, 8-8-19.) This follows a disturbing pattern of previous ICE raids at workplaces soon after union members stood up for improved work conditions.

**Across the US, displaced people and their allies are fighting back. There is room for you in this amazing movement.**

*Fighting back against ICE workplace raids:* As part of the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN), the Labor Immigration Organizing

*Continued on Page 11*

## Fo' Real: Culture Shock

Continued from Page 5

### Back at SJFT

The next morning he woke up before me. Had his clean clothes on, and carried his dirty clothes, his work clothes. I realized he was not going to work that day.

It was another quiet ride back to the shop. This time he just stared out the window.

When we reached the SJFT Shop, we found Doug, Joyce, and the welder from Lake Oswego waiting for us. SWA jumped out of the Datsun, dropped off his "work clothes," gave me a quick nod of his head, and trudged toward Portland town.

Doug and Joyce looked at me as if I could answer their questions about SWA.

I just shrugged my shoulders and was about to say, "He just grinned, shook my hand, 'No' was all he said," when I noticed that WFLO was rifling through SWA's pants pockets. Then I hear, "Aha, \$40 of food stamps" and saw him pocket the stamps.

He saw me watching him and muttered, "What? He left it here. It would have gone to waste."

No way a rich white boy from Lake Oswego should be stealing from families in need.

Let's catch a breath, then keep moving!

More later....

*Bob Shimabukuro is Associate Editor of the Retiree Advocate and Co-Chair of PSARA Race and Gender Equity (RaGE) Committee.*

## Author Reading and Book Signing with PSARA Member Tim Wheeler Saturday, October 12, 2 p.m., 321 16th Avenue S, Seattle

By Karen Richter

On Saturday, October 12, at 2 p.m., author Tim Wheeler will be featured in a fundraiser for PSARA. Tim is a Sequim resident and a long-time PSARA member. Since 1966, he has been a news reporter and editor for the *Worker*, *Daily World*, and now the online *People's World*.

Tim will read excerpts from his book *News from Rain Shadow Country*, a collection of stories about his life and the people he covered as a reporter. He writes about coming of age on the farm, resisting the Cold War repression directed at his parents during the Red Scare, and the vicious attacks by the House Un-American Activities Committee. There is even a story about Will Parry's 90th birthday party, sponsored by PSARA, on page 169.

Tim was and is a member of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA). He spent his life fighting for union rights, racial and gender equity, world peace, and environmental justice. Please see Robby Stern's book review on page 4 of the January 2019 issue of *The Advocate* for more information.

PSARA members are invited to come and bring family, friends, and neighbors. Tim will bring copies of his book, which he will sign. He will also play his autoharp and looks forward to leading us in singing some familiar songs. We will provide light refreshments.

Please contact Karen Richter at [fundraising@psara.org](mailto:fundraising@psara.org) for information about this event and Mike Andrew at [organizer@psara.org](mailto:organizer@psara.org) to make reservations.

## Trump Tariffs Balk Bible Bangers

By Mike Andrew

One of the unintended consequences of Donald Trump's trade war with China is – drum roll, please – panic among Christian booksellers.

Quartz, the global economics website, reports that "Fear is rippling through the Christian bookseller industry in the US. Publishers say that, if Donald Trump's proposed tariffs of 25% or 'much higher' on an additional \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods kicks into effect."

Printed materials are included in the extensive list of Chinese goods that would be hit with the latest duties. And that would include Bible producers, according to testimony submitted by HarperCollins Christian Publishing ahead of the seven-day Congressional hearing on the tariffs that lasted June 17-24.

In fact, Bible sellers will be especially hard-hit by the tariffs because almost all US Bibles are printed in – drum roll again – Communist China.

"Due to the unique paper, printing, and binding needs of Bible production there are simply no US vendors that could produce any significant portion of the volume needed to meet the demands of the US market," wrote Mark Schoenwald, president and CEO of the company.

One of the interesting little details of global trade.

# Never Again: Long Hot Summer for Migrants

Continued from Page 9

Round Table partners with immigration activists and union members to defend workplaces against the anticipated public raids. They have developed a poster illustrating how workers can respond to ICE worksite audits and raids. I urge PSARA members to share it in your workplaces and in businesses you use. You can find it on the WAISN website: *Protocol of Response to ICE Worksite Audits & Raids* in English and Spanish.

We are proud that April Sims, Secretary Treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), spoke about this at the August WSLC Convention. She said, "As Americans, we should confront any violation of our fundamental rights. As unionists, we must recognize that the violation of immigrants' rights is directly linked to the erosion of the rights of working people." And we are proud that the WSLC unanimously passed the Resolution #14 on Immigration and the Labor Movement.

*WAISN Hotline, organizing the State of Washington to keep its communities safe:* The state-wide Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) operates a hotline for ICE sightings, ICE at the door emergencies, advice, and requests for accompaniment. Please put this hotline number into your contacts: 1-844-724-3737. You can find more tools for keeping our communities safe from ICE on the WAISN website or at Know Your Power resources.

Seattle religious congregations are creating safe spaces to house displaced people for two hours to two days in case of a workplace raid or a home raid by ICE. Contact me at [dinaburstein@gmail.com](mailto:dinaburstein@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer for this effort in SE Seattle.

*Accompaniment:* Under the umbrella of WAISN, many organizations are banding together to train and dispatch volunteers to accompany displaced people to appointments for biometrics or ankle bracelet monitoring at the USCIS building in Tukwila, for bond hear-

ings in Tacoma, for asylum hearings in downtown Seattle, clemency hearings in Olympia, intake appointments at NW Immigrant Rights Project, and various services for unaccompanied migrant youth. Long-promised trainings to become an accompaniment volunteer will occur in October. Please contact me at [dinaburstein@gmail.com](mailto:dinaburstein@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

*The WAISN Fair Fight Bond Fund:* The fund raises money to bond people out of the NW Detention Center. When people are released, they are 20 times more likely to win their legal case. There is more information about the Bond Fund on its website: <https://fairfight-bondfund.org/>

*Sanctuary:* Two Seattle churches have provided long-term sanctuary for people facing imminent deportation.

One of these, Jaime Rubio Sulificio and his family, live in sanctuary at St Mark's Episcopal. Read about him in *Real Change* 4-3-19, or at <https://www.realchangenews.org/2019/04/03/seattle-cathedral-provides-sanctuary-man-facing-deportation>

Another, Jose Robles, courageously left sanctuary a few weeks ago to face US Citizenship and Immigration Services, and was immediately arrested by ICE. He remains in the NW Detention Center. You can support Jose and his family in these ways:

Sign the petition for Jose to be bonded out of detention and his U-Visa determination expedited, found at [www.sanctuarydowntownseattle.com](http://www.sanctuarydowntownseattle.com).

Financial help to cover the extensive legal expenses here: <https://www.gofundme.com/jose-robles-legal-support-fund?member=2074404>

Write a letter with words of encouragement to:

*Jose Alberto Robles-Martinez-6160  
Northwest Detention Center  
1623 East J Street, Suite 2  
Tacoma WA 98421-1615*

Thank you! I think this justice movement is the most effective way we have to fight for justice for displaced people. Thank you for all you do.

*Dina Burstein is a member of PSARA and helps lead the Central/SE Seattle Interfaith Immigrant Rights Network.*

## 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, September 4, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave. SW, Seattle, (35th & Henderson). Topic: Importance of Creativity – How can we improve? Brown bag lunch.

**PSARA Climate and Environmental Justice Committee:** 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, September 5, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**PSARA Government Relations Committee:** Noon – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, September 5, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. All are welcome.

**PSARA Fundraising Committee:** 11:00 a.m. - Noon, Monday, September 9, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S. All are welcome.

**PSARA Education Committee:** 2 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**PSARA Southend Committee:** 1 p.m., Thursday, September 12, White Center Library, 1409 SW 107th St., Seattle. Topic: Presentation on Climate Change by PSARA's Climate and Environmental Justice Committee.

**PSARA Birthday BBQ:** 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday, September 14, Beaumont Room, 2821 2nd Ave, Seattle. *NOTE: There is limited free parking available but you MUST arrive between 11:00 a.m. and Noon AND RSVP to organizer@psara.org or call 206 261-8110 by Noon on September 12.*

**PSARA Race and Gender Equity Committee:** 11 a.m.–Noon, Thursday, September 19, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**PSARA Executive Board:** 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, September 19, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**International Climate Strike:** 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 20, Place TBA. See Page 1 for details.

**Birding With PSARA:** Meet in West Seattle at 9:00 a.m., or at Billy Frank Jr. National Wildlife Refuge at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 24. See Page 1 for details.

**SAVE THE DATE: Washington State Senior Lobby Conference:** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Thursday, October 24, Hotel Murano, 1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma. Cost: \$60. Register at [waseniorlobby.org](http://waseniorlobby.org)