

The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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

Vol XXXVI, No 4

April 2021

Immigration and Deportation
**One Happy Ending,
Too Many Stories**
By Dina Burstein
Page 4

GiveBIG Challenge 2021

Our goal for the GiveBIG campaign in 2021 is to raise \$28,000. The donations will cover costs of creating and distributing *The Retiree Advocate* and the development of new educational material and presentations in geographically expanded areas of Western Washington. We anticipate holding in-person programs at some point in the coming year which will add to the cost of the programs.

In support of our fundraising goal, the Board members of the PSARA Education Fund and PSARA have generously pledged to collectively donate \$19,000 for the GiveBIG days campaign. The 36 members of the two Executive Boards are challenging approximately 1,300 PSARA members to collectively donate at least an additional \$9,000. Exceeding that fundraising goal from our members would allow the Education Fund to financially support more programming.

The two Boards are committed to keeping the PSARA Education Fund financially viable. Year after year we are challenged to sustain an essentially volunteer community-based organization, continue to help build the progressive movement, and publish a monthly 12-page newsletter.

During the more than 35 years PSARA has existed, many wonderful and worthwhile community-based organizations have come and gone. One of the reasons for PSARA's longevity is *The Retiree Advocate*. It is a unique publication with many high quality and insightful articles. To quote our revered past editor and president Will Parry, "It



GiveBIG donations help us produce educational programs like this 2017 workshop in Port Townsend. (Photo: Garet Munger).

Concert with John O'Connor Saturday, May 1, 4:00 p.m.

We are delighted to announce that John O'Connor will perform in concert to benefit PSARA as part of the 2021 GiveBIG campaign. The concert will be broadcast on Zoom on May 1 at 4:00 p.m. And KBCS 91.3 DJ Mary Anne Moorman, "Auntmama," has expressed an interest in interviewing him on her show Sunday Folks prior to the concert. Date and time will be forthcoming.

Some background. John began his involvement in the labor movement right out of high school when he went to work in the factories of Waterloo, Iowa. An interest in folk music and Woody Guthrie led to a 30-year career as a folk singer and a cultural educator, performing in concerts, coffeehouses, schools and colleges, union education programs, and political action events.

In 1983, while living in Seattle, John sent a batch of his songs off to Flying Fish Records cold and – almost unheard of in the business – landed a contract to make an album of his powerful original songs.

"Songs For Our Times" came out in 1984 and was named one of the best albums of the year by the *Washington Post* and several folk publications and radio stations. He also recorded a CD produced in conjunction with Collector Records called "We Ain't Gonna Give It Back," which is regarded by many as one of the best collections of original songs on the American labor movement.

Continued on Page 10

Continued on Page 10

The Retiree ADVOCATE

Published monthly by the PSARA Education Fund, 321
16th Avenue S, Seattle, Washington, 98144. Phone
206-254-4910.

Officers of PSARA Education Fund:

President: **Robby Stern**,
psaraedfund@psara.org
Vice President: **Karen Richter**
Secretary: **Barbara Flye**
Treasurer: **Vanetta Molson**
Board member: **Pam Lux**
Advocate Editor: **Mike Andrew**
Photographer: **Garet Munger**

PSARA Directory:

President: **Pam Lux**, president@psara.org
Administrative Vice Presidents:
Maureen Bo & Jessica Bonebright,
adminvp@psara.org
Membership Vice President: **Karen Richter**,
membershipvp@psara.org
Outreach Vice Presidents: **Steve Bauck &
Vanetta Molson**, outreachvp@psara.org
Secretaries: **Susan Levy & Mike Warren**,
secretary@psara.org
Treasurer: **Tom Lux**, treasurer@psara.org
Race/Gender Equity Committee Chairs:
Frank Irigon, Vanetta Molson, racegender@psara.org
Education Committee Chair: **Linda Peterson**,
educationcommittee@psara.org
Climate & Environmental Justice Committee
Chairs: **Bob Barnes, Tom Lux, Bobby Righi**,
climateenviro@psara.org
Fundraising Committee Chair: **Karen Richter**,
fundraising@psara.org
Government Relations Committee Chair:
Tim Burns, govrelations@psara.org
Our web page: www.psara.org

Board Members: Kristen Beifus, Scott Chaplin, Carlos de la Torre, Lisa Dekker, Ruth Egger, Larry Gossett, Rhonda Gossett, Jim Grayson, Sam Hatzenbeler, Frank Irigon, Jeff Johnson, Steve Kofahl, Mindi Lee, David Loud, Mark McDermott, Xochitl Maykovich, Garry Owens, Linda Peterson, Ronnie Shure, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Robby Stern, Tim Wheeler, Katie Wilson.

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

Lament for Derek Hayden

By Tim Wheeler



Derek Hayden

I knew Derek Hayden well. He lived in a camper RV on our farm for a year or so. He was a computer whiz and set up a website for me and helped me whenever I was lost in cyberspace. He read writings by my father and was so impressed he set up a website that featured the writings of Donald Niven Wheeler. He was a caring, sympathetic person who identified strongly with poor and homeless people – like himself. He helped organize a plant nursery in Port Angeles that sold trees and flowers to raise money for homeless people. He moved to Seattle two or three years ago.

Last summer, he telephoned me out of the blue to tell me how well things were for him. He had found a comfortable, affordable apartment in Seattle, a minor miracle. He had found a job as a computer programmer and was earning a decent living.

He sounded completely upbeat and happy. And now he is dead.

Hayden, 44, died February 16 of multiple gunshot wounds fired by Seattle police officers as Hayden walked toward them shouting for them to kill him. The medical examiner's office said Monday his death was ruled a homicide.

A Port of Seattle police officer called city police around 9:20 p.m. saying a man with a knife had cut himself and appeared to be suicidal.

Perry Cooper, a spokesperson for the Port of Seattle police, said Port officers used a less-lethal 40mm device that shoots foam-tipped projectiles on the man before Seattle police arrived, but it was not effective.

When Seattle police arrived, they yelled at Hayden to stop walking while pointing a gun at him, officers' body-camera footage showed. Hayden, who was still carrying the knife, continued coming toward the officers while urging them to kill him.

A few seconds later, body-camera video shows officers firing at Hayden. He died at the scene.

The involved officers have been placed on administrative leave while an investigation takes place.

It shows that the police option of using deadly force is too often their first choice. And the fact that African Americans and other people of color are disproportionately the targets of this lethal force doesn't mean that white people are safe.

When the lives of Black people don't matter, often it is life in general that doesn't matter. Some cities are slashing funding for their police departments and using the money to hire social workers to respond to emergencies when mentally ill people find themselves in crisis. The plague of police shooting of often unarmed people is traceable to the militarization of our police. Instead of "peace officers" they are "war officers." They are patrolling "enemy occupied war zones."

I am mourning Derek. He was not a violent man, not a criminal. But like so many of us, he was hurting and suicidal. He needed help not bullets.

Tim Wheeler is a journalist and member of PSARA's Executive Board.

We Can and Must Demand Better Than “Normal”

By Seattle City Council Member Teresa Mosqueda

Brother Mike Andrew’s inquiry into the next steps we must take as a country on the heels of an explosive 2020 presidential election is more pertinent than ever. Writing this article, I reflect on the devastatingly divisive Trump rhetoric and the weaponization of bipartisan politics that cost the lives of over 500,000 Americans.

In the last four years, we faced a hostile administration hellbent on deporting refugees, rolling back the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community, and withholding federal aid at a moment of unprecedented need as a response to local fights for racial justice and united demands for police accountability. A widening of inequity, decreased government accountability, devastation to our public health systems, and catastrophic loss of life will be Donald Trump’s legacy.

Presumably, with a new president in office, immense change is in order. But Joe Biden has promised to “build back better” while simultaneously drawing on promises to return to normal — these two are mutually exclusive.

While some are enticed by this message of nostalgia and a call to “normalcy,” there are countless demographics where the “normal” Joe Biden invokes reproduces past themes of inequality and injustice that eventually led the way for the age of Trumpism. As we pick up the pieces following this divisive and destructive presidential administration, we have also collectively strengthened our standards for political leadership. We can and must demand better than “normal.”

In Seattle, we’ve dealt with crisis after crisis long before the first strain of coronavirus was recorded in our state. The magnitude of our crises from climate, housing, public health, and racial reckoning require next steps with a deep, steadfast foundation of equity. As the pandemic rages, we are realizing the gravity of crises in real time and

forecasting with great concern their long-term effects. We need leadership that will promise better than normal.

The childcare crisis exposes the intersection of workers’ rights, women’s rights, and family care. Statewide, there are nearly half a million kids who don’t have access to quality, licensed childcare. Lack of access to care and high cost of living — and now COVID — require workers, disproportionately women, to come home to care for their children and elders. But truth be told, no one should have to choose between offering quality care for their family and staying employed.

Coronavirus has exacerbated already problematic childcare access and affordability in Seattle. The available statistics don’t touch on the mental health impacts, racial disparities, impacts to childcare workers, household finances, or long-term economic impacts, and long-term equity impact. Nationally, over 40 percent of all childcare centers say they’ll close without public assistance. In Washington 14-24 percent of our childcare facilities have closed, some permanently, resulting in 550,000 children without childcare. Many childcare workers have found themselves out of work during the pandemic with a net loss of 169,500 childcare worker positions between January 2020 and January 2021.

Many have referred to this COVID-induced REcession as a “SHEcession” because women are much more likely to leave the workforce due to lack of affordable, accessible quality childcare. The need to oversee schooling and distanced learning requires a present caregiver. More and more parents — disproportionately women — have given caregiving their full attention due to previous childcare options closing or from pulling their kids out of traditional school due to fears of COVID. In January 2021, 275,000 women left the workforce compared to 71,000 men. Women



Teresa Mosqueda

of color (unsurprisingly) have been hit the hardest. According to a July 2020 report by the McKinsey Global Institute, doing nothing will cost \$1 trillion in global gross domestic product by 2030.

Childcare is also an industry disproportionately represented by women, people of color, immigrants, and refugees. Without childcare, our economy fails. But often childcare providers themselves are not sufficiently paid, while simultaneously far too many working parents are forced out of the labor market due to expensive childcare and family costs. We must include a pathway for women to return to and thrive in the workforce. We must invest in affordable childcare and job training for childcare providers, and stand up for worker protections, benefits, the injured worker safety net, and fight against retaliation and wage theft.

Our next steps must be uplifting women, childcare workers, and our kiddos, and close the pre-existing gaps. Affordable and accessible childcare is the great equalizer to creating greater equity and stability for working families in a post-COVID economy and post-2020 election America.

Teresa Mosqueda is an at-large member of the Seattle City Council and a member of PSARA.

One Happy Ending, Too Many Stories

By Dina Burstein

I want to tell you a story about my friend, Many Uch. He achieved something extraordinary and heroic a few weeks ago. Here is how his friend, local writer/activist Bunthay Cheam, described it:

"In 1997, Many Uch first walked into what was the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) building in the International District after being transferred directly from the Department of Corrections (DOC) custody after serving a three-year prison sentence. He faced an indefinite detention in an INS facility.

"A few weeks ago, on Friday, January 22, Uch walked out of the Department of Homeland Security building in Tukwila, Washington, to the applause of a dozen supporters and organizers. This time, with a Certificate of Citizenship in hand after being sworn-in as a naturalized citizen.

"This is one of the three achievements in my life that I'm proud of; Uch said upon his release."

Many (Mah-nee) was born in 1976 in Battambang, Cambodia, during the genocidal reign of Pol Pot. Under Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, almost one fifth of Cambodia's population died by execution, preventable disease, and mass starvation. Many's mother fled with the children to Thailand, where they lived in a refugee camp for four years. These overcrowded camps lacked basic necessities, such as food, water, and housing. Physical and sexual assault were commonplace, furthering the trauma inflicted on the Khmer people.

The family eventually came to the US in 1984 along with more than 100,000 other Khmer refugees during this time. Many grew up in King County Housing Authority's Park Lake Homes in White Center. Many's family were farmers back home. They came with nothing, except the trauma of all they had experienced in Cambodia and Thailand. They probably did not understand that as legal



Dina Burstein

permanent residents, they did not have the rights of US citizenship.

Many's family found themselves isolated in White Center in an environment of high poverty rates, lead and asbestos in their house, gangs in their neighborhood, and schools not equipped to support bright, young, English learner refugee kids like Many. He became a teenager at the height of the "tough on crime" era and the "war on drugs." In 1994, at age 18, he was arrested for driving the getaway car in a robbery. He pled guilty to robbery and served three years in prison. While he was in prison, Many taught himself immigration law in the prison library and mentored other Khmer and Asian American prisoners.

Let's pause for a moment and consider US policy enacted while Many was arrested and imprisoned:

- NAFTA was signed in 1994, ensuring free movement of capital and causing misery and poverty in the Americas. To prepare for the predictable displacement and migration of refugees from Central America to the US, the US began a massive expansion of the border wall, border patrol, and a deadly policy of deterrence.

- The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) and Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA) were enacted. These two laws dramatically changed the criminal legal system and radically altered the US immigration system by establishing mandatory detentions and automatic deportations for many criminal convictions, heavily expanding crimes considered deportable, and restricting judicial discretion for many immigration cases. The IIRIRA applied to Many's crime retroactively, making his guilty plea a deportable offense.

- The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, now known as the 1994 crime law, was largely written by Joe Biden. The law imposed tougher prison sentences at the federal level and encouraged states to do the same. It provided funds for states to build more prisons, aimed to fund 100,000 more cops, and backed grant programs that encouraged police officers to carry out more drug-related arrests. The prison-industrial complex, immigration detention included, grew explosively.

Once released from prison in 1997, Many was incarcerated in the former Immigration and Naturalization building in the International District. He was held there in indefinite detention; indefinite because Cambodia did not yet accept people deported from the United States. During the two years he was incarcerated by the INS, Many fought his detention and helped organize a hunger strike to raise awareness of those detained indefinitely in immigration custody. He also joined a Supreme Court case that eventually ruled that indefinite immigrant detention was unconstitutional, the landmark

Continued on Page 11



PSARA Position Paper on Reparations

Introduction:

*"By our unpaid labor and suffering, we have earned the right to the soil, many times over and over, and now we are determined to have it." -Anonymous, 1861. From an article by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Atlantic**

Overview:

Beginning in 1619, the first Africans were brought to what was to become the United States of America. Over the next 250 years, approximately four million Africans and their descendants were enslaved and their culture, language, rights as human beings, and ability to reap the benefits of their own labor were systematically and brutally denied.

There were 41.4 million African Americans in the United States as of July, 2017, which represents 12.7 percent of the total population. African Americans were the second largest minority population in the United States and the issue of reparations being owed to the African American descendants of slaves is finally a topic of serious discussion. For African Americans, the crimes did not end with the abolition of slavery. Lynchings, Jim Crow laws, systematic abuses including inequities in education and health care, mass incarceration, unfair housing practices, denial of employment opportunities, police brutality and murders, and more was and is the overwhelming experience of African Americans. The physical, emotional, and economic abuse has continued to the present through a combination of institutional racism and the infection of racism in the minds and hearts of so many Americans.

We need to fully bring to light, (1) the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African-Americans and society.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

PSARA supports a need for a new truthful understanding that exposes the damage that has been done over generations to the African American community. We need a new narrative of how we describe our history and our present. There must be financial reparations that will make clear that as a country we understand and accept the wrongs that have been done in our name. Financial reparations demonstrate we want to move forward with a different concept of who we are as a nation and what it is we want to become.

Gates To The Rescue

Shaping the Climate Agenda, Top Down

By Michael Righi

He is rich! He's a geek! He is a techno-optimist! And now he has written a book on the climate emergency! Bill Gates will save us! (The book is *How To Avoid a Climate Disaster*.) But he is clueless.

We are, indeed, hurtling toward what scientists in a recent, sober academic journal article called a "ghastly future." That article's message? Everything must change.

But, Gates' message? He says we have to get to net zero emissions by 2050 and a few new technologies will get us there. Here's a quote (p. 160): "We need innovation, and it will take decades for the green products I've been telling you about to reach a big enough scale to make a significant difference." He, like the oil giants, is gambling the future of the planet on the possibility that someone will come up with a magic pill to extract carbon out of the air. But we don't have that kind of time.

What really seems to motivate Gates, and what should concern us, is his desire to determine the direction of public policies around issues such as global health and poverty, education, vaccine development, and now climate change.

This means that, because of his and the Gates Foundation's growing influence, he will continue taking up oxygen and influencing policy. That's a big problem, and here are a couple (of many) instances of his malign influence.

A Whole Lot of Fertilizer

Agriculture is a huge contributor to climate change. Industrial agriculture, with its fossil-fuel-dependent mechanization, synthetic fertilizer, and pesticide use. Gates loves fertilizers – they are "magical" (even though, when applied, nitrogen fertilizers emit large amounts of nitrous oxide, an even more potent greenhouse gas).

There is no alternative, he says, and he is adamant about spreading this agriculture model to Africa. That

means transitioning African farmers to global markets and monocultures using genetically modified seeds and other inputs produced by global corporations.

And yet there really is an alternative – agroecology, or regenerative agriculture, being developed by small and medium farmers around the world and based on new scientific understanding. They use cutting-edge methods of sustainable fertilizers, crop rotations, natural pest control, and soil regeneration practices that build up soil life and actually capture carbon from the air.

Promoting soil health would increase crop diversity, lower costs for farmers, increase resilience, and sequester carbon. It needs the kind of government support that industrial agriculture gets, including from powerful foundations.

Gates is the largest owner of farmland in the US, 242,000 acres! If he wants to make a difference, he could give it to farmers who practice regenerative agriculture. Preferably Black farmers.

No Mention of Inequality or Environmental Justice

Gates goes on and on about technological innovation and how to get markets to give the right signals to entrepreneurs. But he has not made one mention of environmental justice issues or social movements. There is no way we solve the climate crisis without a broad social justice movement that guarantees jobs, reverses environmental harms done to affected communities, and invests in public transit and water and health systems.

And Gates' book has no mention of inequality. The richest one percent is responsible for 100 times more emissions than the poorest half of the world's population. Reducing that inequality is a question of survival for all of us.



Michael Righi

Gates gives no consideration to the possibility of using less. One of his heroes is the scientist Vaclav Smil. Gates says he eagerly waits for new books from Smil, a distinguished Canadian professor who writes about energy systems.

But here is Smil, in contrast to Gates and his breakthrough technologies, from a recent article in the *Guardian*: "Without a biosphere in good shape, there is no life on the planet.the amount of GDP is not going to improve your satisfaction with life.In some places we have to foster what economists call de-growth."

Continued capitalist growth will mean the destruction of planetary ecosystems so that the wealthy will continue to hold on to their privileges for another generation or two.

What we need to be discussing is how to reorient our societies. Transportation, health care, housing, education, everything that the COVID-19 outbreak has revealed to be so murderously broken, every aspect of our lives currently controlled by shareholder profit must be rethought and rebuilt.

There must be hundreds of ways of doing this; listening to Bill Gates is not one of them. We should be taxing wealth, not listening to the fantasies of billionaires.

Michael Righi is a retired economics professor and a member of the Advocate Editorial Board.

PSARA Signs On to Letter in Solidarity With Asian American Communities

Editor's note: PSARA has signed on to the following letter expressing solidarity with Asian American and immigrant communities who are now under violent attack.

Dear Community,

We are writing to express our deep love for and solidarity with our Asian American and immigrant communities especially during this time of increased xenophobia and want to affirm our commitment to you all always.

We are immensely concerned by the hate and targeting of our Asian American and immigrant communities in Seattle, Washington, specifically and the United States more broadly. Throughout US history many have been the targets of hate violence and discrimination for generations. During this time of great economic and social upheaval many are suffering.

There are those who seek to advance racist ideologies, policies and practices; who are taking advantage of fear and pain during this time of crisis. There is a distressing increase of acts of hate targeting Asian American communities. Asian American elders are afraid to be out in public and there is an increase of vandalism and break-ins of businesses in the Chinatown-International District.

As we stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter and the Defund Movements, we know that we must keep each other safe by showing up for one another with collective care and supports.

This means caring for and protecting our elders, developing community-based and -led public safety initiatives, being a firm and caring collective presence in neighborhoods where communities are being targeted, supporting our unhoused neighbors in accessing resources and affordable housing, and promoting services which provide mental health and addiction services.



PSARA Executive Board members Larry Gossett and Frank Irigon speak at a community rally in Hing Hay Park. (Photo: Rod Mar)

Additionally, we need our leaders to cease the use of anti-Asian terminology as it relates to COVID-19 and speak out against anti-Asian stigma that has incited hate violence against our Asian American and immigrant communities. We must provide resources and caring supports to those who are survivors of acts of hate to ensure that they have space to grieve, heal and restore their homes and/or businesses.

And lastly, we need a significant increase in language supports as many preventative and emergency response services are inaccessible to many of our Asian American elders.

In the face of hate it is our duty to love and protect each other. In order to overcome this pandemic of hate we must come together for our collective care and liberation. And as our great elder Assata Shakur said, "It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love and protect each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains."

In Love & Solidarity,

PSARA and other community organizations and leaders.

Help Pass Our Legislative Agenda

Please Call Your Legislators

In spite of the obvious difficulties in holding hearings and making laws over Zoom, the state legislature has made remarkable progress this session.

A number of bills PSARA cares about have been passed in their house of origin and moved on to the other chamber. We can't let up now. Let's continue to push for the legislation we need.

Please take a few minutes to call your legislators and ask them to support these key bills.

The Legislative Hotline number is 1-800-562-6000. You can leave a message for your Senators and House members. Even if you don't know their names, the operator will ask your address and determine who they are.

Another way to contact your legislators is to find their emails on this web page: app.leg.wa.gov/memberemail/

You don't have to call or email about every bill. Pick the ones that are especially meaningful to you. But please contact your elected representatives today. Be sure to let them know you're a member of PSARA.

Please contact your Senators about these bills:

5373 or the "Washington Strong Act" would impose a carbon pollution tax and use the money raised by it to fund a 10-year program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the resilience of natural resources to climate change. This needs to pass the Senate before it can move to the House.

1438 provides property tax relief for seniors and some disabled people, allowing medical expenses to be deducted from income in determining eligibility for relief programs.



1050 will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gasses. The Department of Ecology would make rules regulating new air conditioning and refrigeration units.

1099 adds the goal of climate change mitigation to the state's Growth Management Act. The Department of Commerce would publish guidelines for cities and counties and create a model for climate resiliency. The Department of Ecology would update its guidelines for shoreline areas to address the impact of rising sea levels.

1236 would protect renters by requiring just cause for eviction and penalizing unlawful lease provisions.

1323 allows self-employed people, employees of Native Tribes, and people who were disabled before the age of 18 to participate in the Long-Term care Trust Act.

1073 provides grant money for people who are unable to access their paid family and medical leave benefits due to COVID-19.

Please contact your Representatives about these bills:

5399 creates a universal health care commission which must report by November 1, 2024, on the prospects and methods for achieving universal health care in Washington State.

5377 or "Cascade Care 2.0" establishes a premium assistance and cost-sharing program for qualified health plans. It also creates requirements for health plans offered through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.

5141 or the "HEAL Act" would require several state agencies to complete environmental justice assessments when considering significant agency actions and to incorporate environmental justice principles into agency budget and fiscal processes. The agencies would also have to create and adopt a community engagement plan for interacting with vulnerable communities and populations in the evaluation of existing and new programs.

5172 would make agricultural employees eligible for overtime pay. See the article by Jeff Johnson on Page 9.

5188 would create a publicly-owned state bank to lend to state, local, and tribal government agencies.

You can track the progress of bills by going to app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/ and typing in the number of the bill you're interested in.

Thank you for helping us pass PSARA's legislative agenda.

Farm Workers Were Excluded From the New Deal.

The Legislature Can Fix That.

By Jeff Johnson, reprinted from the Bellingham Herald and The Stand

Eighty-five years ago, farmworkers and domestic workers were excluded from the New Deal legislation that provided a measure of economic security and a means for working people to accumulate some wealth while helping to pull our economy out of the Great Depression.

But what we didn't learn in school was that the New Deal didn't apply to all workers. President Franklin Roosevelt was clear about the Faustian bargain made with Southern Congressional leaders when he responded to why he did not support anti-lynching legislation:

"I've got to get legislation passed by Congress to save America. The Southerners by reason of the seniority rule in Congress are chairman or occupy strategic places on most of the Senate and House Committees.

"If I come out for the anti-lynching bill now, they will block every bill I ask Congress to pass to keep America from collapsing. I just can't take that risk."

In the 1930s, more than half of the Black population in America lived in the South, and they were disproportionately employed in agriculture and domestic work. As a result, farmworkers and domestic workers were exempted from minimum wage and overtime protections, unemployment benefits, collective bargaining rights, and Social Security benefits.

Using race-neutral language, structural racism was built into the New Deal statutes, which perpetuated exploitation and subordination of Black workers in the Jim Crow South.

While some of these exclusions have since been removed, farmworkers and domestic workers are still excluded from overtime protection and wages and the right to collectively bargain. In the absence of the right to overtime pay and the right to organize, farmworkers and domestic workers remain the most vulnerable and exploited workers in our society. As a class of workers, they are subject to substan-

dard wages, grinding poverty, harsh working conditions, exposure to dangerous pesticides and chemicals, little or no health insurance, no effective voice at the workplace, and the inability to accumulate wealth.

Over the past 30 years, farmworkers in Washington state have gradually won the rights to minimum wage coverage, unemployment benefits, child labor standards, workers' compensation, and some pesticide protections. But they are still without the right to overtime and collective bargaining.

In a Nov. 5, 2020, Washington State Supreme Court decision, farmworkers who work in dairies won the right to overtime pay for hours worked over 40 hours in a week. In a 5-4 decision the court found that the exemption from overtime granted to agriculture was in violation of our state constitution, which guarantees "a fundamental right for Washington workers to health and safety protections."

The court found that farmworkers by constitutional right should be paid overtime because they "work long hours in conditions dangerous to life and deleterious to their health." Based on similar reasoning, other overtime suits have been filed against non-dairy farming businesses.

Substitute Senate Bill 5172, if passed by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Inslee, would for all intents and purposes end expanding overtime litigation and correct an injustice that has stood for over 80 years.

SSB 5172 is a common-sense solution to a problem rooted in our country's racist past while creating a mechanism for agricultural employers to absorb the cost of compensating farmworkers for overtime work without jeopardizing their businesses.

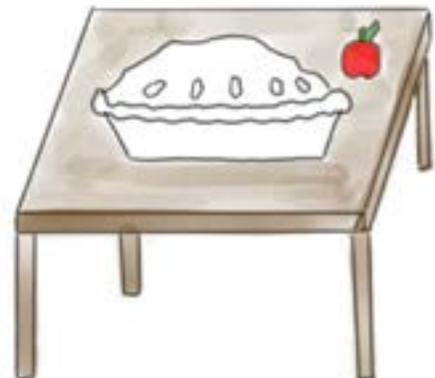
Continued on Page 10

The Barbed Wire

By Barbara Flye



Overtime Pay...
It's as American
as apple pie.



BBF

GiveBIG Challenge 2021

Continued from Page 1

is the best non-award-winning newsletter in the country.”

The Education Fund also funds community education on a variety of issues in an expanding area of Western Washington. These presentations educate and build support for federal, state, and local policies that positively impact the ability of seniors, future seniors, and our communities to live with dignity, respect, and financial security.

If 250 members, not including the Executive Boards, donated an average of \$50 during GiveBIG, we would exceed our fundraising goal. Together we would take an important step to finance the worthwhile work of the PSARA Education Fund.

GiveBIG days are May 4 and 5 this year. Early online giving for GiveBIG starts on April 20. Donations can be made from April 20 through May 5 by going to <https://www.givebigwa.org/psara-education-fund>. Alternatively you can go to <https://www.givebigwa.org/> and enter the PSARA Education Fund. Once on that page, you can donate beginning April 20.

For members who prefer not to donate online or want the Education Fund to receive the full amount of your donation, send a check to the PSARA Education Fund any time between now and May 5. Write in the memo line "GiveBIG" so we know it is in response to the challenge. Mail your check to the PSARA Education Fund, 321 16th Ave. S., Seattle, 98144. Choosing this option saves the PSARA Education Fund a small percentage processing fee for online donations.

Thank you for generously contributing in past years. To continue our work requires more revenue than we can raise through membership dues. Please help continue the newsletter and education work by contributing online or by check during the days leading up to GiveBIG days or on May 4 and 5, GiveBIG days.

Concert With John O'Connor

Continued from Page 1

In 1993, the first union for traveling musicians on the acoustic music circuit was chartered as a local of the American Federation of Musicians, due in large part to John's efforts and imagination. There are few on today's folk music scene who have not heard of the work of Local 1000, the North American Traveling Musicians Union. In 2009, the French singer Renaud adapted John's song "North by North" to the French language, calling it "Vagabonds" and recording it as the title track of his new CD. The song went to number one on the French charts.

Reviews of John O'Connor's music and recordings include Geoffrey Himes of the *Washington Post*, who said, "One of the best albums of the year [Songs for Our Times]." And John McCutcheon said "John is one of those rare songwriters that paints honest, non-romanticized pictures of people's lives. Like Woody Guthrie or Utah Phillips, he uses deceptively simple language to take us into the complex lives of workers in many parts of the world."

Thirty years later John is still stalwart in his focus of fighting for the working class and inspiring them with his music. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a great event.

Farmworkers Were Excluded From the New Deal

Continued from Page 9



FDR signing legislation

This bill recognizes the fundamental right of farmworkers to be paid overtime for hours worked over 40 hours a week prospectively and retrospectively for three years. It also provides agricultural employers with an affirmative defense against lawsuits if they adhere to the provisions of the bill. This will save the industry millions of dollars in legal and administrative fees and also cushions employers' bottom lines by allowing structured payments over time. The timing of the Washington State Supreme Court Decision *Martinez-Cuevas v. Deruter Brothers Dairy, Inc.* and SSB 5172 could not be more appropriate. Over the past year, the COVID-19

pandemic has made us all aware of just how "essential" farmworkers are to putting food on our tables to sustain our families while farmworkers personally risk illness and death as well as put their family members at a greater risk.

It is time to course correct Roosevelt's Faustian bargain. It is high time that we end the overtime pay exclusion for farmworkers in Washington state.

Jeff Johnson is a retired President of the Washington State Labor Council and a member of PSARA's Executive Board.

One Happy Ending, Too Many Stories

Continued from Page 4

case *Zadvydas v. Davis*. This Supreme Court decision made possible his release from INS detention in 2001.

Many was out, but not free. He had to check in with the Department of Homeland Security's ICE periodically, with the constant threat of deportation. He married and had two daughters. His story to this point, along with the story of two other Khmer men who were deported to Cambodia, was told in the beautiful PBS film *Sentenced Home*, available at <https://spl.kanopy.com/video/sentenced-home>.

He advocated for the rights of immigrants with criminal convictions, helping to form Formerly Incarcerated Group Healing Together (FIGHT), a restorative justice organization, and Khmer Anti-Deportation Advocacy Group (KhAAG). Many also argued for post-conviction relief for himself and others. He received a pardon from Gov Christine Gregoire in 2010, but this did not provide relief from the threat of deportation. Many and his legal team finally obtained an agreement with the prosecutor to a new sentence that did not include mandatory deportation. With this agreement, Many could apply for citizenship.

And Many is not alone. Since 1998, 2,000 Southeast Asian Americans have been deported from the United States. About 15,000 currently live with a final order of removal, and about 80 percent of those removal orders are based on past convictions. This is true even though many of them have served their time, have families, and have turned their lives around. Many of these individuals were refugees who have never lived in their countries of origin and no longer have any family ties to Cambodia, Laos, or Vietnam.

Other refugee groups in the US, including Somali refugees, have had the very same experience and have been deported or are now facing deportation for crimes committed as teenage legal permanent residents.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Cambodia has stopped accepting deported Khmer Americans. According to Sina Sam, a Khmer organizer with SEARAC (Southeast Asia Resource Action Center), "ICE and DHS moved to target our community members who are eligible for parole or finishing up their sentences. Once released from DOC (prison), many are directly transferred to ICE now." And the conditions in immigrant detention, always dangerous, have worsened under the pandemic. You can read a report on the horrific conditions

Democratic presidents since Clinton and Obama have told us that the US needs to deport "felons, not families," to keep our country safe and to promote respect for the law. I am sad to say that we are already hearing President Biden's comprehensive immigration reform proposals devolve into smaller efforts to protect certain "good immigrants" like DACA recipients. The story of Many, and many others like him, expose these policies as cruel, inhumane, and bad for our country. I am proud and delighted to celebrate Many

Since 1998, 2,000 Southeast Asian Americans have been deported from the United States. About 15,000 currently live with a final order of removal.

in the Tacoma NW Detention Center in a report from the UW Center for Human Rights.

In our Washington State legislature, I urge you to voice your support for HB 1090, Ban on Private Detention. This bill has a chance! Go to tinyurl.com/HB1090email for lots more information about it.

Uch's US citizenship. Mazel tov, Many, and welcome!

Thanks for background information: SE Asia Resource Action Center; Buntay Cheam, local activist and author published in *South Seattle Emerald* and elsewhere; theintercept.com/podcast/intercepted/; and German Lopez at www.vox.com/authors/german-lopez.
Dina Burstein is a member of PSARA.

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

For the health and safety of our members, all PSARA events will be virtual until further notice. For the Zoom links, email organizer@PSARA.org

PSARA Climate and Environmental Justice Committee: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, April 1.

PSARA Government Relations Committee: Noon – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 1.

PSARA Southend Committee: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 8.

PSARA Fundraising Committee: 11:00 a.m. - Noon, Monday, April 12.

PSARA Education Committee: 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 13.

PSARA Race and Gender Equity Committee: 11 a.m.– Noon, Thursday, April 15.

PSARA Executive Board: 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, April 15.

Concert With John O'Connor: 4:00 p.m., Saturday, May 1. See article on Page 1.

We look forward to seeing you online until it's safe to meet in person once again.

PSARA Happy Hour Friday, April 16, 3:00 p.m.

It is springtime, and there are some hopeful green shoots of helpful legislation appearing in D.C. and Olympia. Do we begin to see the end of the Covid pandemic? What will that mean, anyway?

It's time for another PSARA "Happy Hour"! We will use the following articles to help us think about our hopes for the future:

"What Do We Do Now?" by Cindy Domingo in the February Issue.

"Caste, a Book by Isabel Wilderson" by Larry Gossett in the February Issue.

"Let's Not Return to 'Normal'" by Rebeca Saldana in the March Issue.

If you're on PSARA's email list, watch for the zoom link. If you're not, email organizer@psara.org for the link.