



MAY 2014

Interfaith CONNECTION

INTERFAITH WORKS'

40th Anniversary
1974-2014

Saturday, MAY 10

10 am—Noon

In 1974 a group of motivated visionary leaders from a dozen local faith communities formed a new organization – “Associated Ministries of Thurston County” (Interfaith Works) – hoping that their shared concerns and combined energies could be more effectively channeled for the good of the greater community.

For four decades, we have taken great pride in being a catalyst and incubator for new initiatives, a voice of compassion, and a model for partnership.

On May 10, we will celebrate our history and the many community projects and organizations we helped create and sustain. We will enliven and bless our current work. And we will envision a loving and sustainable future for Interfaith Works.

Save the Date now and plan on celebrating together with faith and community leaders and members.

Information and tickets, 357-7224;

www.interfaith-works.org

IN CELEBRATION OF OUR **40th** ANNIVERSARY

InterfaithWorks is hosting

Cornerstone Conversations

a series to learn about and reflect on issues important to our community, and the world.

April 23

JUSTICE: The increasing criminalization of poverty and how that affects the justice system.

LESLIE OWEN

Senior Attorney,
Northwest Justice Project

DARYL RODRIGUEZ

Director, Thurston Co.
Office of Assigned Counsel

4th Wednesdays from 6pm - 8pm at

Nova School

2020 - 22nd Ave SE, Olympia

PROGRAM

- Short presentation
- Small group talks
- Large group reflection

Light refreshments available

Sponsors: *Nova School Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel
Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County*



www.interfaith-works.org

(360) 357-7224

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THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

Danny Kadden, Executive Director and Meg Martin, People's House and Women's Shelter Program Manager

In March 29 we announced that the "Historic Steam Plant" building at 113 Thurston St. was no longer a site option for **The People's House**. We had spent a number of weeks evaluating the feasibility and engaged in community outreach and conversations about that site – which of course frequently touched on larger issues related to homelessness downtown and in our community generally. During this period we sought most of all to listen respectfully and attentively to local neighbors before considering any formal steps to lease property for our planned shelter services.

Meg Martin, People's House Program Manager, wrote in her blog at www.thepeopleshouseoly.org:

I would like to say thank you to all of the people that came out to share their thoughts, feelings, concerns and support throughout this process. It is so important that our community be engaged about such important issues that affect us all. I hope that people stay engaged. This issue is not going away even if the rain starts to.

So much of what we have heard regarding concerns with our program have to do with the current state of affairs. ... I hope that the community can come together to understand the urgency and necessity for this program not only for the benefit of the homeless, but for all of us.

We remain committed to keeping dialogue open about all aspects of the important issue of homelessness in our community.

We are currently evaluating our options for moving forward with The People's House, and will remain focused on securing a workable permanent site in the near future – in time for next winter and beyond.

WOMEN'S SHELTER

April is National Volunteer Month, and it couldn't be a better reminder of how indispensable are the hundreds of volunteers who have worked to keep the **Interfaith Works Women's Shelter** running over this winter (and for the last 22 consecutive winters!).

They were joined by many other dedicated volunteers from the broader community. From November through the end of April, we will have filled 362 overnight hosting shifts and over 200 greeter shifts. We are privileged to be part of such a compassionate and committed community.

Women's Shelter Numbers (November – April)

- Nights Open 181
- Overnight Volunteer Hosting Shifts 362
- Volunteer Greeter Shifts 200
- Bed-nights Used (Est.) 2475
- Occupancy Rate 76%*

* 25% increase in occupancy over previous winter

Our deepest thanks go to **First Christian Church** for opening their home to our shelter and all the shelter guests this winter. The guests especially have benefited from being able to stay in one location all season. It is so much more meaningful for the women when they feel ownership over their shelter -- something that homeless folks customarily feel little control over.

On Sunday morning April 27 some women from the shelter are going to thank the First Christian community at a special "Stewardship Sunday" service. It will be an opportunity to publicly express what it meant to them to be able to have shelter within such loving and welcoming walls.

Thurston County
CROP Hunger Walk
NEW! 10K around Capitol Lake
5K option (3.1 miles)
1:30 pm
Sunday, May 4, 2014
www.crophungerwalk.org/olympiawa

Our Mission

To advance the social inclusion and empowerment of the homeless community through innovative practices of sheltering, mental health and basic needs coordination.

Our Vision

To transform our entire community through the empowerment of our most vulnerable members.

▷ Who We Will Serve

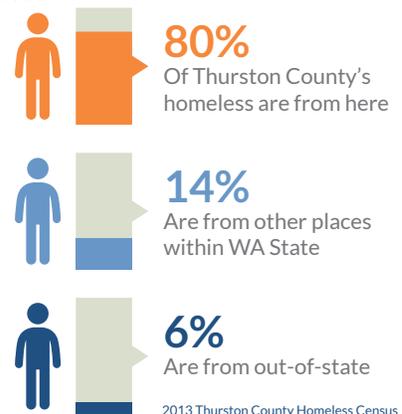
The People's House will serve chronically homeless adults.

- Chronically homeless individuals have experienced homelessness continuously for at least one year or have had four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. The majority of this population is not associated with violent behavior.
- This includes men, women, couples, the elderly, veterans, people with service animals, LGBTQ, women escaping domestic violence situations, people from marginalized populations that cannot access shelter elsewhere, and people living with substance abuse and mental health challenges.
- **We aim to serve those over the age of 24.** Community Youth Services has expanded their mission to serve youth up to 24 years of age. The People's House will be a necessary addition to the coordinated homeless service network. As we strengthen the network of homeless services in the Olympia area, we will see downtown improve.
- Consistent with every shelter program in Olympia, we will not house Level 2 and 3 sex offenders.

▷ Will The People's House Draw More Homeless People to Our Neighborhood/City?

Homeless people are no more likely than housed people to relocate.

- When homeless people do relocate, it is usually for the same reasons that housed people do: jobs and family.
- According to the 2013 Thurston County homeless census:
 - » 80% of Thurston County's homeless are from here.
 - » 14% are from other places within Washington State.
 - » 6% of Thurston County homeless are from out-of-state.
- This data is consistent over the past 6 years.
- The homeless in Thurston County are no more transient than the overall population.



▷ **Good Neighbor Policy**

All of our guests will be required to agree to a Good Neighbor Policy.

Below is the draft of our Good Neighbor Policy. It is adapted from the Downtown Emergency Service Center program in Seattle, WA. They have successfully managed shelters and housing programs of this type since 1979. We are very open to discussion with our immediate neighbors to edit this draft in order to meet the specific needs of the neighborhood.

In order to preserve neighborhood relations, all of our guests agree to abide by the good neighbor policy. The “neighborhood” will be defined as a reasonable area around the shelter. This policy states specifically:

- 1. No littering in the neighborhood.*
- 2. No loitering in the neighborhood.*
- 3. No yelling or fighting on the People’s House porches, or in the neighborhood.*
- 4. No panhandling in the neighborhood.*
- 5. No purchasing of drugs or drug paraphernalia in the neighborhood.*
- 6. No annoying, bothering, or disturbing of neighbors, businesses, or other people in the neighborhood.*

▷ **Bar Committee**

In the event that a guest violates our Good Neighbor Policy, they will be required to meet with the Bar Committee.

The Bar Committee will consist of senior staff, management and advisors. Certain offenses such as verbal or physical abuse, threats, drug dealing/using on site will earn an automatic suspension for a set period of time. The Bar Committee will decide the terms of suspension. All other perceived violations of the Good Neighbor Policy will require guests to meet with the Bar Committee about the allegation and decide upon the best course of action.

▷ **Stabilizing the Homeless Community is a Public Safety Strategy for All** **The People’s House model emphasizes the importance of getting people off the streets as a public safety strategy.**

Safety concerns within the downtown core and surrounding residential areas stem in part from an unmanaged homeless population.

On-site management of The People’s House will include:

- 24-hour trained, qualified staff on-site.
- Designated, monitored outdoor gathering space for guests in order to mitigate “spill out” onto the street.
- 24-hour direct phone line to on-site management when issues or concerns arise.
- In addition to our “Good Neighbor Policy” we will work with law enforcement to provide a safe, monitored place for people to go, who otherwise would remain in doorways and on sidewalks downtown.
- Moving people off public sidewalks and out of sleeping overnight in business doorways will be a major improvement for our downtown environment.

- Our ability to connect people with the large network of public services will result in a positive outcome for all.

▷ **Consolidation of Shelter Services**

For the past 22 years, area faith communities, most of them located in the downtown area, have sheltered adult men and women during our wet and cold winter months.

It is time to take the pressure off these amazing partners by providing unsheltered men and women with trained, qualified, paid staff who are able to meet needs that extend far beyond overnight stays in these communities' buildings. The People's House will be a fixed-site shelter for homeless adults. It will offer services to meet the basic needs of the street community and connect people to a coordinated network of vital social services.

▷ **Services-Enhanced Shelter Offers a Gateway to Services**

The People's House will prioritize meeting a person's basic needs by minimizing barriers to shelter entry and providing a much-needed gateway to services.

We will connect our guests to services including housing programs, drug and alcohol treatment, and mental health assistance.

▷ **Entry Point to Network of Services**

The People's House will provide up to 40 beds for day and night sheltering.

We will have shower and laundry facilities, mail, phone, and Internet access, and safe storage for personal items and low-impact kenneling of pets. A Certified Peer Counseling program administered by our partner, Capital Recovery Center, will administer our mental health support system. The People's House is committed to working with other organizations on getting folks into housing, including Rapid Rehousing, and providing the support they need as they work toward self-sufficiency. At the shelter, our guests will participate in grounds-keeping and other tasks as they develop pride and ownership in the work we are doing. We will have round the clock staff, designated monitored outdoor spaces and partnerships with law enforcement to ensure minimal impact to the businesses and activities in the surrounding area.

▷ **Experienced Professional Staff and Best Practices**

The People's House is a program of Interfaith Works, a non-profit organization made up of over 35 local faith communities.

Established in 1974, Interfaith Works has helped create or sponsored a significant number of vital community programs in Thurston County, including the Thurston County Food Bank, Dispute Resolution Center and the Family Court. The People's House will be led by social service professionals with years of experience in sheltering, transitional housing, street-based emergency outreach and mental health services. Our program model was created using national recommendations, best practices and consultation with similar shelter management throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Project partners include Capital Recovery Center, the City of Olympia and Thurston County.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

A listing of some of the activities and events of Interfaith Works members, and of general interest. IW does not necessarily endorse these events. More details and events at www.interfaith-works.org. Submit your event at www.interfaith-works.org/SubmitEvent.php

April 22 Tues 7 pm	 Interfaith Works Annual Meeting. We'll elect new officers and board members to carry us into our 40th year, and hear reports from our member communities and clergy. Light refreshments. Temple Beth Hatfiloh, 201 - 8th Ave SE, Olympia 98501. 357-7224; office@interfaith-works.org
April 23 Wed 6-8 pm	 Cornerstone Conversation Series 2) Justice: <i>The increasing criminalization of poverty and how that affects the justice system.</i> Speakers: Leslie Owen, NW Justice Project & Daryl Rodriguez, Thurston County. Light refreshments available. Nova School, 2020 - 22nd Ave SE, Olympia 98501. 357-7224; office@interfaith-works.org
April 26 Saturday 9 am - 3 pm	Embracing Our Own Mortality. Explore the sacred art of living and dying, through the wisdom of our ancestors and work around relationships, forgiveness, meaning and hope. Bring lunch. Cost: \$60. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; prioryprograms@gmail.com ; www.stplacid.org .
April 26 Saturday 10 am—3 pm	Citizenship Day—free legal assistance for people applying for U.S. Citizenship. Tacoma Community House, 1314 South L Street, Tacoma, 98405. For information the requirements and what to bring, call 1-866-926-3924 or visit http://www.wanewamericans.org . Clinics also held in Vancouver, Yakima and Mt. Vernon.
Apr 28-Jun 2 Mondays 7-9 pm	Spiritual Healing. Energy healing will practiced and explained. Self and group-healing methods. Please read Beng-ton's "The Energy Cure" prior to first session. \$10 class fee. Olympia Unitarian Universalist Cong. 2300 East End St NW, 98502. 786-6383; www.ouuc.org/pages/adultEd.html
May 3 Saturday 9:00 - 3:00 pm	Contemplation in Motion. Too many words? In this experiential workshop, let your contemplative practice become more embodied through movement, stillness, voice and stories. Cost: \$50. Bring lunch, water, comfortable clothing, journal. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; prioryprograms@gmail.com ; www.stplacid.org .
May 3 Saturday 9am-4pm	Columbus Park Community Fun Fair. Free Fishing kids 14 & under, Games & Activities, Vendors, Food. To register for fishing, call Bob at 754-8262. Free Hot Dog lunch for first 300 kids. Free Admission and Parking. Please, no pets. Columbus Park, 5700 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia 98512; 786-9460; http://columbuspark.net
May 4 Sunday 1:30 pm	 CROP Hunger Walk. Our 34th Annual walk around Capitol Lake to raise funds to help end hunger locally and around the world. Need a group project? Organize a team! Or, be a walker (5K or 10K options), or just contribute. Info: http://crophungerwalk.org/olympiawa or call Wayne Gruen, Chair, 352-9703
May 8, 15 Thursdays 7:00 pm	End of Life Choices. Compassion & Choices WA speaker discusses securing medical care and treatment choices in nursing homes, information, directives to physicians, durable power of attorney and more. \$10 class fee. Olympia Unitarian Universalist Cong. 2300 East End St NW, 98502. 786-6383; www.ouuc.org/pages/adultEd.html
May 9 Friday 7:00 pm	Heartsparkle Players Fundraiser Performance. Tonight's performance will be a fun evening full of surprises and stories as The Heartsparkle Players put on a benefit show to raise funds to continue their work of giving back to the community. Donation: \$10-50 suggested. Traditions Café, 300—5th Ave SW, Olympia 98501; 943-6772; www.heartsparkle.org
May 10 Saturday 10am-12 pm	 Interfaith Works' 40th Anniversary Celebration. Please join us for a delicious brunch and celebration of the many community projects, programs and organizations we have helped create and sustain during our 40 years. And help us envision the next 40 years! For tickets and info: office@interfaithworks.org ; 357-7224.
May 12, 17, 19 Mons & Sat 7-9pm (Sat ?)	Perspectives on Photography. Bring your own camera (phones & tablets welcome). Learn the tools available—camera, light, location— and the importance of time, weather, focal point and composition. \$10 class fee. Olympia Unitarian Universalist Cong. 2300 East End St NW, 98502. 786-6383; www.ouuc.org/pages/adultEd.html
May 17 Saturday 9:00 - 3:00 pm	Getting to the Core of Your Matter. Be guided through creative and experiential methods using Archetypes to access our Core selves. Cost: \$60. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; prioryprograms@gmail.com ; www.stplacid.org .
May 24 Saturday 9:00 - 3:00 pm	The Poetry of Rumi. "every being is a jar of delight". We will connect the poems of this Islamic mystic to spiritual practice with tools of reflection, embodiment and creative response. Cost: \$60. Bring lunch, water, comfortable clothing, journal. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; prioryprograms@gmail.com ; www.stplacid.org .
May 28 Wed 6-8 pm	 Cornerstone Conversation Series 3) Food and Hunger with Robert Coit, Executive Director, Thurston County Food Bank. Programs: short keynote, small group conversations, large group reflection. Light refreshments available. Nova School, 2020 - 22nd Ave SE, Olympia 98501. 357-7224; office@interfaith-works.org



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Or call the office at 360-357-7224



Walk on Sunday, May 4
Crophungerwalk.org/Olympiawa

In celebration of our 40th Anniversary, Interfaith Works is hosting **Cornerstone Conversations** a series to learn about and reflect on issues important to our community and the world

Wed, May 28
FOOD & HUNGER
with
Robert Coit,
Executive Director,
Thurston County
Food Bank
Nova School
2020 - 22nd Ave SE
6:00 pm—8:00 pm

PROGRAM

- Short presentation
- Small group talks
- Large group reflection

Seeking donations of Birdhouses for our 40th Anniversary Celebration on May 10.

Can be either decorative or functional.

Call Julia at 459-4001 or the Interfaith Works office at 357-7224 by May 8 to arrange for delivery or pick-up.



Join us in celebrating **40 Years of Love Action!**

Please join us for a celebration of our 40 year history and help us honor the many "Love Activists" who have helped make Interfaith Works a force for positive change in Thurston County.

Highlights

- A sumptuous French toast brunch created by Elyse's Catering
- Artistic birdhouses, available for sale, commemorating 23 years of continuous sheltering.

Save the Date!

Saturday, May 10, 2014
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

South Sound Manor
455 North Street SE
Tumwater, WA

Tickets: \$40/per person
Please pre-order by April 30th.



Interfaith-Works.org

Support Interfaith Works with a Paid Ad \$10 (sm) Deadline: 2nd Tuesday