



MARCH 2015

Interfaith *CONNECTION*

OUR NEW IW NEWSLETTER

You may have noticed that our traditional monthly newsletter has recently been on hiatus. We have paused to consider and implement various changes in our communication methods. Everyone has needed to adapt to rapid changes in technology, media, postal rates and the culture of communicating and interacting. Interfaith Works is no exception.

With this edition of *Interfaith Connection*, we reluctantly bid adieu to four decades of our printed (and, in the old days, mimeographed!), mailed paper newsletter. We are switching to entirely electronic content, available to email subscribers and directly on our web site.

If you are not yet on our email subscription list, you can subscribe by visiting this webpage:

[http://oly-wa.us/Interfaith/
Subscribe.php](http://oly-wa.us/Interfaith/Subscribe.php)

Interfaith *CONNECTION*

Community Conversations *Interfaith dialogue on issues important to our community and the world*

COMING OF AGE:

YOUTH, RELIGION & IDENTITY

IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Sunday, March 29

2pm - 3:30pm at

Harned Hall 110

Saint Martin's University

5000 Abbey Way SE, Lacey

For map and directions, visit our website

PROGRAM

- Interfaith panel
- Small group talks
- Large group reflection

*Light
refreshments
following*



www.interfaith-works.org (360) 357-7224

Faith traditions mark the passage from youth to adulthood in many ways. Today, young people face complex challenges as they navigate their religious and family identities. Some explore spirituality in highly personal ways, many feel doubt or indifference, or experience discrimination. We will hear perspectives from an interfaith (Christian-Muslim-Jewish) panel, followed by the opportunity for deeper small group discussions. Join the Conversation on March 29!



STEP UP FOR CROP HUNGER WALK

THURSTON COUNTY'S ORIGINAL WALK-RUN FUNDRAISER
35 YEARS • 1981–2015

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide, volunteer events to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

We need **YOUR** help to make our 35th Annual walk a success! Thurston County's CROP Hunger Walk is a 5 or 10K walk around Capitol Lake on the first Sunday in May — that's May 3rd at 1:30pm from the steps of the Legislative Building on the Capital Campus.

Step up and organize your community, congregation, friends, co-workers or neighbors to do good and walk together. Visit our Walk website today to join or set up a team page online. To learn more, and arrange to pick up packets and outreach materials (including promotional t-shirts and caps) just call Interfaith Works at 357-7224.

Thurston County
CROP Hunger Walk
10K around Capitol Lake
with 5K option

1:30 pm
Sunday, May 3, 2015

www.crophungerwalk.org/olympiawa

I want to START a team!	I want to JOIN a team!	Just sign me up!
Looking for an activity for your group or congregation? Start now! Easily create a team webpage and customize it with special messages and photos, then track your progress.	If your group or congregation has created a team webpage, you can join quickly online. There's power in numbers!	Would you like to walk as an individual or family? It's easy to create a personal fundraising webpage then share it with friends and family.

Our Local Organizations
 First Baptist Church Sunday Dinner Feeding Ministry
 GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty)
 Senior Nutrition Program, Senior Services for South Sound
 Olympia Community Kitchen
 St. Benedict's Community Dinner Program
 St. Vincent DePaul Society Food Voucher Program
 Thurston County Food Bank

CROP Hunger Walk Facts

- 1.3 billion people live in poverty
- 29% of U.S. children are hungry
- 25% of funds help local programs
- Our walk raised \$35,369 in 2014

Sponsored by Interfaith Works

For more information, call Interfaith Works at 357-7224

Authors Needed for Monthly *Olympian* Column

Beginning in the 1970s, *Pastor's Perspective*, a weekly column in *The Olympian*, served as an important ecumenical and interfaith forum for our community for decades. More recently titled simply "Perspective," the column offered the wider Thurston County community an inclusive religious perspective on specific topics and deeper spiritual insights. Often these topics related to important issues of the day, such as health care reform, youth concerns, economic development, environmental issues, and so on. The columns also addressed matters of faith in a variety of traditions, as well as interfaith activities and spiritual issues.

At the request of Interfaith Works, *The Olympian* is considering reviving the Perspective column, which has been in hiatus for a year. **Selena Kilmoyer** has volunteered to head up this project. We need to develop a schedule of authors and articles, which would appear on a monthly (rather than weekly) basis.

This is a great opportunity for those among us who have something to share with the wider community. Columns are no more than 500 words, must be respectful of all faith traditions and all people, and should be of interest to people outside your tradition. While each author chooses the topic they wish to cover, *Perspective* is not meant as a forum for preaching or proselytizing. Articles may be edited by either Interfaith Works staff and/or *The Olympian*.

We need to get six columns written and submitted to *The Olympian* before we can the column started up again. If you or a member of your community would like to write a *Perspective* column, please contact Naki Stevens, Interfaith Program Coordinator, at naki@interfaith-works.org.



INTERFAITH EARTH DAY FOCUS: BEES!

IW member congregation St. Benedict Episcopal Church is leading a



new effort to help save and restore honey bees and other pollinators from the ill effects of toxic pesticides. Interfaith Works is collaborating with St. Benedict's initiative to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in our county by advancing a "Bee-Kind" campaign to

encourage people to stop use of pesticide and plant products that poison and kill bees and other pollinators.

Neonicotinoid toxic chemicals are a significant culprit and have been in wide use since the 1990's on farm crops, ornamental landscape plants, and trees. Neonicotinoids get into a plant's vascular system and make the entire plant, including pollen and nectar, toxic to insects such as honey bees and hummingbirds. These toxic chemicals also persist in the soil, where they can be absorbed by previously untreated plants.

Research has shown that the loss of bee populations and the collapse of bee colonies are linked to neonicotinoids. The resolution banning the use of these chemicals that was recently adopted (December 2014) by the Thurston County Commissioners notes that "...since 2006 there has been a significant increase in the collapse of bee colonies and declining populations of bees in Washington State and the nation."

Earth Day/Week provides people of faith an opportunity to express and act on their spiritual and practical concern for the health of our planet.

Look for our Interfaith Works table on bees and pollinators and pesticides on Washington St downtown during Arts Walk and Procession of the Species, April 25-26. We will have information on neonicotinoids and what concerned people in Thurston County can do to help eliminate their use on local farm crops and on landscaping and gardening plants.

Look for our Interfaith Works table focusing on bees, pollinators & pesticides on Washington St. downtown during Arts Walk and Procession of the Species, April 25-26

Introducing...

NAKI STEVENS

Interfaith Program Coordinator

As a recent addition to the staff of Interfaith Works, I appreciate the chance to introduce myself to you. The Program Coordinator position is a brand new role and allows IW to expand its programs in the area of interfaith dialogue and action.

I am a Quaker and have been active in Olympia Friends Meeting for more than 20 years. My work life for 30 years has focused on environmental protection and restoration, with nearly all my effort going into saving Puget Sound, beginning in 1985 as a planner for the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority.

I came to both the Friends and environmental activism in 1970, when I had been laboring in the peace movement to stop the war in Vietnam and when the very first Earth Day launched (or re-launched) the environmental movement in this country. I was living at the time in a commune in Philadelphia, where young men, many of them Quaker, were resisting the draft and going to jail instead of to war. Peacemaking became a real calling for me at a very young age, and Earth Day helped me understand that humans also needed to make peace with Mother Earth, stop polluting and destroying, and start coming together around positive solutions for changing our spiritual and material orientation toward one another and toward the planet.

So while I am brand new to the field of interfaith dialogue and action, I am drawn

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INTERFAITH WORKS OVERNIGHT SHELTER NEEDS & WISH LIST

Thanks to all our congregations, neighbors and friends for the support they have offered to the **Interfaith Works Overnight Emergency Shelter** over the winter months. Since November, we've provided thousands of warm & safe bed-nights to guests and created a supportive, welcoming shelter environment. The shelter operates year-round and we continue to depend on assistance and donations to be successful. Please consider signing up for a volunteer shift or donating items on our wish list (and making a financial contribution to support the shelter as well!) This is a community project that cannot succeed without you.

OUR # 1 RESOURCE: VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteer teams are needed to serve in a support role at the shelter during evening hours, 5-10 p.m. nightly. Ideally volunteers will commit to a weekly, bi-monthly or monthly shift ongoing. Congregations, Faith Communities, Clubs and Community Organizations are encouraged to sign up for a two week shift and recruit 2-3 volunteers to serve each evening in a support role under direction of our staff. We will provide training and orientation to each team.

Visit the Volunteer page of our shelter website:

<http://www.iwshelter.org/volunteer.html>

You can check the online calendar and sign up for an open spot by submitting a simple volunteer form *Our volunteer calendar is updated on a regular basis.* The Interfaith Works Emergency Overnight Shelter is located at the First Christian Church in downtown Olympia, [701 Franklin St SE, Olympia, WA 98501](http://www.iwshelter.org).

Our volunteers primarily support our staff, assist with guests needs, cleaning, organizing and being available to meet our guests and get to know them. We also need volunteers to help transport our laundry on Friday/Saturday mornings and Tuesday/Wednesday mornings, weekly.

SHELTER WISH LIST

The shelter provides basic necessities to guests. Over the course of a year, the purchase costs for these items adds up to a lot. Every donated item helps our budget and saves us a trip to the store!

Bedding

- Light-medium blankets (*machine washable*)

Personal Hygiene & Toiletry Items

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Razors (*for men and women*)
- Deodorant (*for men and women*)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothbrushes, floss, dental hygiene
- Pocket or small combs

Snacks

- Coffee (*regular and decaf*) and creamer
- Herbal tea
- Cases of cup-noodles
- Hot chocolate mix

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We are grateful to the following donors who have in recent months made memorial gifts to IW:

In Memory of Mrs. Edith Estelle Gilliam

Jeff & Heather Smith
Ivy Gilliam
Larry & Kathy Gilliam

In Memory of Lee Johnson

Gil and Phyllis Carbone
Barbara McLean
Leland Blankenship
Karl Johnson and Helen Spalding
Robert & Jan Robinson
Rev. Chris Johnson Foster

A Fond Farewell...

As 2014 came to a close, we bid goodbye to our long-time Office Manager, **Yvonne Wilhelmsen**, who has relocated to eastern Washington.

Yvonne joined the IW staff in 2009. As our organization expanded, she ably took on an increasing range of responsibilities. She was always dedicated to the vision and goals of Interfaith Works, and selflessly put her energies into the work at hand, even beyond the hours she was paid.

It will be very difficult to fill Yvonne's shoes, but we all wish her the very best.

Warm Welcome to New Clergy

The Rev. Peter Perry

First United Methodist Church of Olympia

The Rev. Amy Hessel

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

The Rev. Emily Melcher (Interim Minister)

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Reverend Robert Brzezinski

Center for Spiritual Living

Shelter Wish List, continued from page 4

Equipment

- Electric floor fans with safe wiring & in good working order
- Dehumidifiers

Supplies

- Sharpie markers
- Rubber bands
- Masking Tape

Naki Stevens, continued from page 4

to it from the very beginnings of my spiritual journey. I am so grateful for the chance to give my time and heart to support Interfaith Works. I am excited to get to know you, and in that spirit, here's a little bit more about me.....I live in Olympia in an old (100 years) cottage on the shores of Puget Sound.....I have a dog named Chloe, who keeps me walking and laughing.....I love to hike, bike, kayak, read, play bridge and scrabble, camp in my VW camper with friends.....sing with the Olympia Peace choir.....watch birds with my Audubon (and other) friends. I am on the board of directors of Friendly Water for the World, a non-profit created by Olympia Friends Meeting that trains people in Africa and India to build low-tech bio-sand water filters that are saving many lives with clean drinking water. I also serve on the board of The Whale Trail, a Seattle-based non-profit working to save our Southern Resident Orcas and other marine mammals by developing land-based whale-watching opportunities in Washington, Oregon, and California. I have been clerking Olympia Friends Meeting since 2012. (Our Meeting has no clergy, so everyone has the opportunity to offer ministry; the clerk is responsible for managing the business decisions needed to keep the Meeting thriving.)

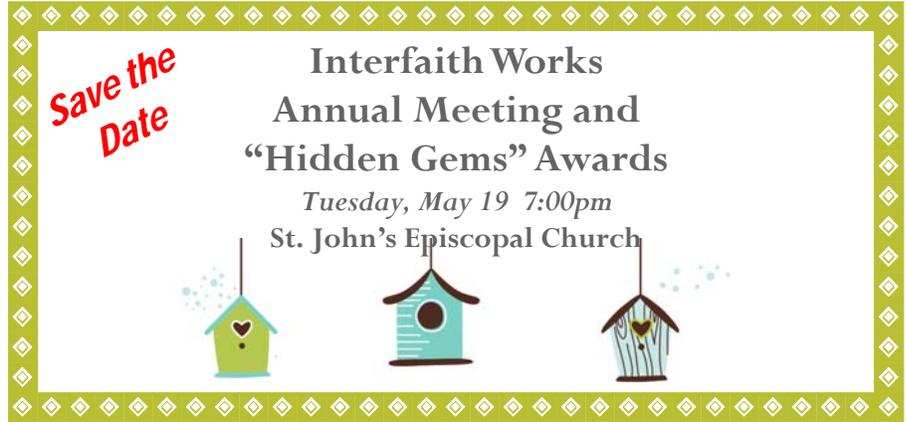
I look forward to working closely with the IW Board, the Program Council, and many IW supporters to implement programs in 2015 that bring us together around important local and global issues. I will be helping out with Crop Walk, Earth Day, the 911 commemoration, and other long-standing IW programs. I look to you for help to with those efforts and to expand IW's reach in 2015. Together, we can create new programs that help people heal themselves, each other, and the Earth.



PO Box 1221
Olympia WA 98507

www.interfaith-works.org

March 2015



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

March 27 Friday 12:00 Noon- 1:00 pm	"Persistent Resistance: Women as Change Agents in Mesoamerica" Talk by long-time Salvadoran Peace Justice and Environmental Activist Jose "Chencho" Alas -- a friend of slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. A soup and bread lunch in Harned Hall 110, St Martin's University, 5000 Abbey Way SE, Lacey
March 28 Saturday 7:00-8:30 pm	"Restoring Hope, Empowerment, Community and the Earth – Mesoamerica Peace Movement" . Long Time Salvadoran Peace Justice and Environmental Activist, Jose "Chencho" Alas, Director of Mesoamerica Peace Project (Guatemala to Panama) will speak at Traditions Café, 5th and Water Street in downtown Olympia.
March 28 Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm	"Exploring the Depths of Loss and Grief" Explore loss and grief from various perspectives, leading towards deeper self-awareness, increased attentiveness toward others who are grieving, and greater skillfulness in helping those dealing with loss and grief. Cost: \$60. The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, Lacey 98516 438-2595; prioryprograms@gmail.com www.stplacid.org
March 29 Sunday 2:00 -3:30 pm	"Coming of Age: Youth, Religion & Identity in Challenging Times," an interfaith Community Conversation sponsored by Interfaith Works. A diverse panel and small group discussions will explore the diverse & complex challenges young people face in their religious, family and community life. Harned Hall 110, St Martin's University, 5000 Abbey Way SE, Lacey. For map and driving directions, visit www.interfaith-works.org or call 360-357-7224
Thursday April 2 3:00pm thru Sunday April 5 Noon	Journey to Easter: Triduum Retreat Travel the road to Calvary with Jesus. Let the silence of the Triduum retreat help you be fully present to this holy time. Special meal on Holy Thursday with Benedictine Sisters. Celebrate new life with 9:00 a.m. Eucharist on Easter Sunday followed by a simple breakfast with the Sisters and Mass participants. Spiritual Direction is available on Thursday before 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$190-\$225. The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, Lacey 98516 438-2595; prioryprograms@gmail.com www.stplacid.org
April 10 Friday 7:30 pm	"Stories of the Environment" . A Playback Theater performance with the Heartsparkle Players, where audience members tell their stories and watch them enacted on the spot. Cost: \$7-12 Sliding Scale (no one turned away). Traditions Café, 300 - 5th Ave SW, Olympia 98501. Info: 943-6772; http://www.heartsparkle.org
April 11 Saturday 9:00 - 3:00 pm	Prayer Beads. Using our hands in prayer adds two sensory cues: We can see and feel our prayers as well as hear the words. We will explore rosaries from the Catholic tradition and prayer ropes of the Eastern Orthodox Church. We will concentrate on Anglican prayer beads. Patterns, resources, and tips for creating handmade beads will be presented. Cost: \$50. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; prioryprograms@gmail.com ; www.stplacid.org .
April 18 Saturday 9:00 - 3:00 pm	Welcoming Prayer. The Welcoming Prayer is an active prayer for everyday life. It addresses values clustered around energy deeply invested in security/survival; affection/esteem; and power/control. Acting out of our unconscious desires fossilized in these "energy centers" can lead us away from our intention to be faithful and away from God. The Welcoming Prayer can help to dismantle these obstacles so that we may live more faithfully. It is intended to be used in daily life to complement Centering Prayer or other contemplative practice. Cost: \$50. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; prioryprograms@gmail.com ; www.stplacid.org .