

July POWER Outage: Presentation of our Rural Outreach Project

Monday, July 7
at 5:30pm - 8:00pm

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Darby's Cafe
211 5th Ave SE, Olympia, Washington 98501

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Come to Darby's on 7/7 and hear about the Rural Outreach Project POWER staff has been working on for the past two months!

In April POWER was awarded a grant after submitting a proposal to the Thurston County HOME Consortium, funding two months of outreach in south rural county in the towns of Yelm, Rochester, Tenino, and Rainier.

During this outreach we talked with social service recipients and providers about access to services and what is needed in their community..

Our Rural County Assessment report is due to the Consortium on June 30th. We will be presenting our findings to them on June 14th. We are taking this opportunity to practice our presentation by sharing our research and report with the community.

The evening will start with a potluck at 5:30. Bring a dish if you can, and share dinner with us. Childcare will be provided by the Olympia Child Care Collective at the POWER office, 309 5th Avenue SE, next door to Rainy Day Records.

Questions? Need transportation reimbursement? Contact us at:

[360-352-9716](tel:360-352-9716) toll free [866-343-9716](tel:866-343-9716)

monica@mamapower.org

www.mamapower.org

Find us on **Facebook**.

POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

Mark your calendars for POWER's upcoming events:

Saturday, July 26th – POWER Sidewalk Sale and Square Dance! We want your junk!

August 4th – POWER Outage – Cookout and swimming!

August 23rd – POWER Secret Café!

Below:

1. Free couches!
2. CLS presentation (in Seattle and online) on Legal Financial Obligations.
3. Caring Economy Young Leaders Program!
4. Washington State Labor Council is hiring a Political Director.
5. Article – Washington immigrants more likely to live in poverty.
6. Epic Fail – new documentary on government privatization.

1. Hi POWER!

I have (as of now) two couches in good condition:

One larger brown one with soft fabric, sort of a wrap around variety with (I think) a removable arm chair (one arm) on one end. The other is more medium sized, nice faux leather, dark green.

Both are free to a person who needs them ;)

Feel free to call (360) 357-4152

Valerie

<p>2. Columbia Legal Services Presents:</p> <p>The Advocate's Lunchbox</p>		
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<p>Debtors' prisons are alive and well in Washington State, where formerly-incarcerated men and women are locked up simply because they cannot pay the court-ordered fines and fees that people owe related to their criminal convictions, known as Legal Financial Obligations, or LFOs. For many people living in poverty, these debts block them from successfully moving on with their lives.</p> <p>Join Columbia Legal Services for a free, public, panel discussion to engage with experts on the topic of LFOs and their repercussions.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>When</i></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY</p>		

<p>JULY 17, 2014</p> <p>From 2:30pm to 4:00pm</p>		
<p><i>Where</i></p>		
<p>FARESTART</p> <p>700 Virginia Street</p> <p>Seattle, WA 98101</p> <p><i>We will also stream this event LIVE</i></p> <p><i>via the web</i></p> <p><i>(details to follow)</i></p>		
<p><i>Moderator</i></p>		

<p>Washington State Supreme Court Justice, Mary Yu</p>		
<p><i>Panelists</i></p>		
<p>Nick Allen</p> <p>Institutions Project Attorney, Columbia Legal Services</p> <p>Nick began at Columbia Legal Services as an Equal Justice Works fellow, with a two-year project focused on addressing the legal barriers to legal financial obligations (LFOs) - the fees, fines and restitution imposed by the court as part of a criminal sentence. As a staff attorney, he continues to work on LFOs</p>		

as well as other issues, including juvenile life without parole in Washington State.

Dr. Alexis Harris

Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Washington

Dr. Harris received her degrees from the University of Washington (BA in sociology 1997), and the University of California, Los Angeles (MA 1999, PhD 2002). A primary aim of her work is to produce research that is theoretically informed and empirically rich, and that is of value in local, state, and national policy arenas. Dr. Harris has authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed research articles in the top general and specialty

journals, including the American Journal of Sociological, American Sociological Review, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography and Law and Society Review. She is currently revising her book manuscript that investigates the system of monetary sanctions imposed on people convicted of felonies across the United States.

Vanessa Hernandez Attorney, ACLU of Washington

Vanessa manages the Second Chances Project at ACLU of Washington and provides legal services and advocacy for people with criminal history. Her practice focuses on discrimination in employment and housing,

<p>fair credit reporting and background checks, and legal financial obligations. Ms. Hernandez is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Law, and prior to joining the ACLU she served as a law clerk to the honorable Betty Binns Fletcher with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Register:</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AERGbO1JgQiSkIrwuZVCa61y4TzgUIWDGhALtG_bEeg/viewform?edit_requester=true</p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....</p> <p>Columbia Legal Services advocates for people who face injustice and poverty. We seek to achieve social and economic justice for all, using policy reform, litigation, and innovative partnerships to reveal and end actions that harm the communities we serve.</p>		

3. CENTER FOR PARTNERSHIP STUDIES

Caring Economy Young Leaders Program

Starts July 1, 2014

Meets online Tuesdays 10am-12 noon Pacific

Five sessions: July 1, 8, 15, August 5, 12

Sliding scale \$0-\$345

“I feel like I gained a lot of confidence, and I’m more ready to question things that aren’t working rather than just accept them as a way of life.”

—Cassandra Bicakci, 2013 YLP Grad

Learn:

- Why so many women and men are struggling so hard just to get by and take care of their families
- How our current economic thinking is based on upside-down values
- What you can do about it!

Practice:

- Building your confidence as a speaker by making a presentation in your community
- Facilitating dialogue among your friends and neighbors about how different the world could be if we recognized the real value of care and care-giving work
- Being part of a dynamic global social change community

What makes our lives feel rich?

Our culture tells us it is when we have lots of material things—big cars, big houses, expensive clothes, etc. But when we really pay attention to our own lives, we realize that what brings us the most value is the quality of the connections we have with our friends, our family, and our communities (our social wealth) and the quality of our relationship to a healthy earth (our natural wealth).

So, what if we could create an economy – a caring economy - that focused on expanding real wealth for everyone, not just material wealth for a few?

In the Caring Economy Young Leaders program, we help you see the world in a new way, and give you all the tools you need to share a very practical vision of an economy that is sustainable and fair with the people in your school and community.

The Young Leaders Program is based on the work of internationally renowned author and activist Riane Eisler, President of the Center for Partnership Studies and author of *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economy*. The Young Leader's Program is just for people ages 16-25, but after completing the certificate program, participants join a global alumni community of nearly 200 people of all ages from 18 different countries who have become Certified Caring Economy Conversation Leaders through the Caring Economy Leadership Program.

How it works:

- Classes meet live, online in real time – all you need is a laptop with a strong internet connection
- In between classes you'll access all the class materials through the web, and chat with your classmates in an online discussion board

LearnMore: <http://www.caringeconomy.org/content/young-leaders-program>

Register: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5579506197969168641>

Contact Ann for more information: annamberg.cps@gmail.com

www.caringeconomy.org/co

4. WSLC seeks applicants for Political Director

(June 19, 2014) — The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO has an opening for the position of Political Director, who is tasked with helping the council develop and carry out its strategic political plan, staffing the Labor's Voice/Labor Neighbor table, working on both independent expenditure campaigns, as well as member education campaigns.

Those interested in applying must have at least five years of experience as a political director of a union or community-based organization that has run major political campaigns, experience with both the LAN and the VAN, and a good working knowledge of Washington's labor movement. The Political Director works closely with the WSLC's Field Director, policy and communications departments, and works at the direction of WSLC President Jeff Johnson.

As a member of the WSLC administrative staff, the Political Director is a member of OPEIU Local 8 and covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Wages are commensurate with experience.

Those interested in applying for this position should send a letter of intent with a description of what experiences qualifies the applicant for this position, along with a resume and three references. **All materials need to be received no later than the close of business on Friday, June 27.** Please send them to the WSLC, Attn: Jan Hays, 314 1st Ave. West, Seattle, WA, 98119, or [via email: jhays@wslc.org](mailto:jhays@wslc.org).

The WSLC, a state federation of the AFL-CIO, is the largest labor organization in the state, representing more than 600 union locals and organizations with approximately 400,000 rank-and-file members.

Short URL: <http://www.thestand.org/?p=32724>

5. Washington's immigrants more likely to live in poverty

June 17, 2014 | [Tatsuko Go Hollo](#)

Earlier this year the U.S. Census Bureau released a report about the more than 10 million non-citizen immigrants under age 35 residing in the United States. The data show more than half of these individuals came to the U.S. as children, and nearly 60% have lived in the U.S. for at least five years.

While Washington does not have the sizable immigrant populations of California and Texas, it is among the top 15 states with the highest numbers of immigrant residents. Today, immigrants make up a larger proportion of our workforce and our electorate than in decades past. In 1990, foreign-born residents made up 6.6% of the population. By 2011, that rate had doubled to 13.3%.

Washington's foreign-born residents are better educated than those across the U.S., but they are also more likely to live in poverty – with nearly 18% of the state's immigrant residents living in poverty, compared to 12% of U.S-born residents. This is likely related to the type of jobs held by immigrants in our state.

Although labor force participation rates for Washington's immigrants are on par with those across the country, there are some notable divisions in the data when we take a closer look. Washington's immigrants are both more likely to hold very low-wage jobs and very high-wage jobs. While this is a recent trend of Washington's non-farm jobs – growth concentrated in both low-wage and high-wage sectors – this bifurcation in occupations seems to be exacerbated for foreign-born workers.

Here, immigrants are much more likely to work in low-paying agriculture and high-paying technology jobs. Across the U.S., immigrants make up 50% of farm workers and 31% of computer software developers. In Washington, the share of immigrant workers in those occupations is 76% and 36%, respectively. Farm worker is the number one occupation for immigrants in Washington, which helps to explain the increased risk of poverty among our state's foreign-born. Case in point: in Yakima County, which has a migrant farm-worker population, nearly one in three immigrants lives below the federal poverty level.

So what does this mean for our economy? According to the Immigration Policy Center, immigrants add tens of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to Washington's economy. These residents make up more than 16% of our workforce and contribute \$1.5 billion in tax revenue to the state economy.

Yet, opportunities for upward mobility remain scarce for the state's immigrant residents. Policies that promote economic security for these workers would no doubt bring further tax revenues into our state and enhance health and well-being for all of our communities. Without a solid floor that ensures a secure standard of living, as well as abundant opportunities to climb the ladder, Washington's workers of color will continue to face both lower chances for upward mobility and higher chances for downward mobility.

6. Epic Fail – A short history of government privatization

June 10, 2014 | [Maggie Humphreys](#)

Privatization of government services [has plagued the 21st century](#) and it rarely goes well.

A new mini-documentary examines the dramatic and costly impacts of government privatization in Ontario – a large Canadian province that borders several US states. Not only has privatization of services like water treatment and infrastructure development dramatically raised costs for taxpayers, it's also led to disastrous and deadly breakdowns in [public safety](#).

In the US, ultra-right groups like the Koch Brothers are pushing to privatize everything from K12 education to Social Security. Just like in Canada, privatization [costs US taxpayers millions](#), worsens delivery of vital services and [drives down workplace wages and benefits across the economy](#).

A growing body of evidence and industry wage data suggest an alarming trend: outsourcing public services sets off a downward spiral in which reduced worker wages and benefits can hurt the local economy and overall stability of middle and working class communities. By paying family-supporting wages and providing important benefits such as health insurance and sick leave, governments historically created intentional “ladders of opportunity” to allow workers and their families to reach the middle class. Our partners in the labor and progressive movement are pushing back to keep public services where they belong: in the public sector.