

POWER and Artswalk!

The POWER Gallery is an Olympia Artswalk stop this year, #114 in the catalogue. Come by and visit. Along with other art by our members, POWER Mother's Day cards, we will also be selling Sock Monkeys for Social Justice!

POWER

Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights

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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.

On Friday evening, we will be tabling at this event:

Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project

Social Justice Bloc Party April 24-25

Arts Walk in Downtown Olympia

At the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural: State Ave. NE and Capitol

Friday, April 24: 5-10 p.m.

Saturday, April 25: noon-8 p.m.

Celebrate social justice with visual art, music, theatre, poetry, food, and community organizations building strong movements for collective liberation.

Enjoy the work of **Malachi Muncy, the Just Seeds Artist Collective, Assembly of Revolutionary Artists of Oaxaca, the Old Growth Poetry Collective, Lennée Reid, Artesian Rumble Arkestra, Citizen's Band, Theatre of the Oppressed, and acrobats!** There will be an open mic and Combat Papermaking demonstrations.

Learn about and connect with the area's social justice organizations!

Want to give a little extra? Volunteer with the mural during Arts Walk and beyond. Contact Sarah at sastockholm@gmail.com for more ways you can get involved in this local project.

SCHEDULE

Friday April 24, 5-10 p.m.

5-7 Social Justice Tabling including the Rachel Corrie Foundation, POWER, Coffee Strong, Stonewall Youth, the Black Student Union, Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, Center for Community Based Learning & Action, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Students for Justice in Palestine, Books to Prisoners and more!

5:30- 6:30 Combat Paper Making

Demo with Malachi Muncy

6:40 Artesian Rumble Arkestra

7:00 Roots & Leaves of Solidarity: Interactive Theatre of the Oppressed Performance

People's History Performance:

Freedom Isn't Free

8:30 Old Growth Poetry Collective Reading

9-10 Lennee Reid Poetry & People's Mic

Saturday April 25, Noon-8 p.m.

1-2 Combat Paper Making

Demo with Malachi Muncy

Community event with route through downtown Olympia:

4:30-6 Procession of the Species

6:30 Citizen's Band

For information:

CONNECT ON [FACEBOOK](#).

ORSMP Contact: Sarah Stockholm at sastockholm@gmail.com

Rachel Corrie Foundation: (360) 754-3998 or info@rachelcorriefoundation.org

and on Saturday:

Spring Arts Walk Saturday with Oly CLAW

Arts Walk weekend we open an hour early at 2:45pm!

Saturday of Arts Walk, April 25th

Come down, check out some art, and meet the gals of Oly CLAW!

OlyCLAW is a lady-owned and team-operated organization dedicated to philanthropic endeavors through theatrical lady arm wrestling, predominantly supporting Olympia women and related causes

50% of sales from 3pm-7pm will benefit this wonderful organization.

Oly CLAW will be having a benefit match up for P.O.W.E.R on May 24th at the Brotherhood. Check them out here: <https://www.facebook.com/olyclaw> for more information and where to buy tickets to the event.

Below:

1. WA Senator Patty Murray to introduce Raise the Wage Act!
2. Central Park West Olympia events.
3. Poverty measurements in Great Britain.
4. High Cost of Low Wages
5. If you are in or near Portland go and see POWER member's art exhibit!

I've added POWER's name. Go ahead and sign it as an individual!

From our Friends at National Employment Law Project (NELP):

Friends – next week, likely on April 30th, Senator Patty Murray (WA) and Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA) will introduce the Raise the Wage Act. This bill will raise the federal minimum wage to \$12 by 2020, will gradually eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers, and will index the minimum wage to median wages, so as wages grow for the workforce overall, they will also grow for the lowest-wage workers in this country.

This is a bold and aggressive approach to raising the federal minimum wage which is fueled by the success of the Fight for \$15 being waged throughout the country. The Raise the Wage Act would more-than restore the historical high value of the minimum wage, when adjusted for inflation. It would also provide tipped workers with the kind of fair and regular wages that will allow them to support themselves and their families much better than they are able to under the current system, where so many only get a \$2.13 wage from their employer. This sub-minimum wage has been frozen at this paltry rate since 1991 and it is high time that the rate is not only increased, but finally equalized with all minimum wage workers.

The National Employment Law Project (NELP) and the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) want to make sure there is a LONG list of national, state and local organizations endorsing this bill when it is introduced next week and we hope that you will add your name to the list. The full text of the letter is below. **You may add your name to the list of supporting organizations by**

clicking this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OSokkWRuoDnoPDYv3ne8zvgO9fs2H5cN_4NxYK4C9AA/viewform

and filling out the short form indicating your organization's support.

Please also forward this email far and wide – to all your mailing lists, to any suitable list-servs to which you belong, or through your membership networks. Remember, we want national, state and local organizations to sign on.

The deadline for adding your organizational endorsement is Tuesday, April 28, at 8 pm ET. Please don't waste any time in signaling your support for this important bill.

Many thanks!

The undersigned organizations enthusiastically support the Raise the Wage Act, as introduced by Senator Patty Murray (WA) and Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA).

If enacted, this legislation would:

- Raise the federal minimum wage to \$12 by 2020;
- Gradually eliminate the tipped-industry loophole, which has allowed employers of tipped workers to pay a subminimum wage of only \$2.13 per hour to tipped staff since 1991; and
- Finally index the minimum wage so as to maintain its value to low-wage workers and provide stability and predictability for employers.

At a time when wage stagnation and income inequality pose serious threats to our families and our economy, the Raise the Wage Act would begin to reverse that cycle and raise pay broadly across the bottom of the workforce. By raising the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020, it will restore the minimum wage to roughly half of the average wage—which is where the federal minimum wage stood 40-50 years ago when the nation enjoyed strong growth and low unemployment.

According to data from the Economic Policy Institute, the Raise the Wage Act will deliver long-overdue raises to a large segment of the workforce: more than 1 in 4 workers. That workforce is composed not of teens, but almost entirely adults—nearly 90 percent. The average age of workers who would get a raise is 36, nearly half have some years of college education, and 20 percent hold associate's degrees or higher. More than 27 percent are working parents with children, and half have family incomes of less than \$40,000 per year.

These are the frontline workers who make America run. Yet they are struggling as our economy enjoys strong growth but remains tilted towards low-paying jobs. The time for the Raise the Wage Act is long overdue, and we cannot delay in working toward its passage. We call on Congress to enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible, and for President Obama to sign it when it comes to his desk.

The West Olympia Farmer Market is getting ready for their brand new year at the West Central Park. 15 local farmers and fresh food vendors will be set up under the white tents at WCP starting on May 12 and then each and every Tuesday from 4-7. Come and show some support for the folks who are contributing to ensure your food independence and ability to buy only the freshest, most locally grown produce around. Come out on Tuesday, May 12th at 4 pm for their grand opening!

Calling all pets! The Grainery will be holding an Animal Nutrition Awareness event on Saturday, June 20th from 12-4. As well as a few animal adoption and charity organizations in the line-up, there will be lots of pet give aways and an puppy ice cream social! Bring your leashed furry canine or feline friend and have fun at the Park on Saturday, June 20th, from noon to 4.

Let us know if you'd like to hold your event at the Park. The Park Board of Trustees would love to hear your ideas! Contact us at wcp@aparkforus.com

And as always, please remember, this Park is a 501c3, Charity and thrives on your donations of time and money. The Park volunteers are grateful for your past help and it is truly what has sustained the project all along. Both your donations, your visits and your uses for the space help to keep the West Central Park vibrant in our community.

Commentary for *Spotlight*--What It Means to Be Poor

In the latest commentary for *Spotlight*, contributors **Stewart Lansley** and **Joanna Mack**, co-authors of the new book *Breadline Britain: The Rise of Mass Poverty*, argue that redefining poverty based on societal values may be an important first step in addressing poverty. The consensual method of poverty measurement, pioneered by the authors in Britain in 1983, relies on polling the public to determine which of a long list of items and social activities they consider to be minimum necessities. Adults who lack three or more of these necessities and children who lack two or more are considered to be in poverty. The authors argue that this approach is the nearest we have to a publicly endorsed, democratic definition of poverty that is free of value judgments and has broad support. They contend that poverty measurement in the United States is seriously outdated and that adopting this method would clarify our understanding of poverty in this country.

The High Public Cost of Low Wages

Low wages cost American taxpayers more than \$150 billion each year in public support for working families, according to a new report from the U.C. Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. The *High Public Cost of Low Wages* finds that wage growth from 2003 to 2013 was either flat or negative for the bottom 70 percent of the wage distribution. This wage stagnation has forced an increasing number of low-income working families to turn to public support, shifting the costs of low-wage work to federal and state taxpayers, according to the authors. The report finds that

56 percent of combined state and federal spending on public assistance goes to working families.

March 30-May 2

Bethany Hays

Cumulus Congestus

North View Gallery

Portland Community College, Sylvania

Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 AM-4 PM and Sat, 11 AM-4 PM

Cumulus Congestus is an exhibition of large-scale watercolor paintings and installation work by Portland artist, Bethany Hays. Hays draws on the politics of motherhood, feminism, and art history in her search for common ground between her roles as a parent and an artist. Hays paints piles of laundry that could never exist naturally and tracks the evolving landscape of objects on her kitchen table over an extended period of time. By focusing on laundry and messiness in her artwork Hays aims to challenge our cultural norms and let slip the boundary between private and public realms. After all, the exploration of the world and scholarly studies are only possible when one's basic human needs are met, making the mundane and worldly endeavors inseparable.