

NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE -- VIDEO/DISCUSSION SERIES

SIX SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL

A six-part video/discussion series will explore how nonviolence has been used effectively against a variety of brutal dictatorships and other oppressive situations – with increasing success in recent history. The series will be held at the Olympia Timberland Library, 8th & Adams, from 2 to 4 p.m. on six Sundays during February, March and April. Admission is free.

“A Force More Powerful” is a set of six 30-minute video documentaries and a well-researched book detailing these and other case studies in which active nonviolence was used powerfully and effectively to achieve freedom, social and economic justice, and human rights.

Each two-hour session will focus on one of these six case studies. Participants will watch the video. Then volunteers will briefly present additional information based on the relevant chapter of the book or optional readings. Everyone will have a full hour to discuss the particular case study, insights into nonviolence’s power and practicality, and implications for our current situation.

“It’s exciting and inspiring to see how people have used nonviolence so actively and effectively in so many places around the world,” noted Alice Zillah, an organizer of the series. Glen Anderson, the other organizer, said, “Sometimes people wonder whether nonviolence can be effective against brutal dictators, and the good news is YES it can!”

SIX SUNDAYS FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 P.M. AT OLYMPIA LIBRARY

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| FEB 12 | <u>Gandhi Wins Freedom for India:</u> After Gandhi had experimented with <i>satyagraha</i> in South Africa, he and his followers spread it throughout India. Smart political strategizing, grassroots organizing, nonviolent refusal to cooperate with British rule, civil disobedience and boycotts empowered the Indian people and loosened the oppressors’ grip on power. Decades of nonviolent struggle produced independence in 1947. |
| MARCH 5 | <u>Danish Resistance to Nazis in World War II:</u> The German military invaded Denmark in 1940. Danish leaders adopted a clever strategy of “resistance disguised as collaboration.” The Danes undermined German domination by negotiating, delaying, and obstructing Nazi demands. These and other underground resistance efforts reduced damage to Denmark as a nation and rescued almost all of Denmark’s Jews. |
| MARCH 12 | <u>Resistance to Racism in Nashville:</u> In the early 1960s African American college students in Nashville, Tennessee, and elsewhere used Gandhian nonviolence in a disciplined and strictly nonviolent way to end segregation at downtown lunch counters. People throughout the South used this model to empower themselves and win many parallel campaigns in the Civil Rights Movement. |
| MARCH 26 | <u>Poland’s Solidarity Labor Movement Wins Freedom:</u> In 1980 striking workers in Poland demanded independent unions. Using their leverage to negotiate unprecedented rights in a system where there was no power apart from the communist party, they created a union, Solidarity. A 1981 government crackdown drove them underground, but through nonviolent organizing they emerged in 1989 as Poland’s governing political party. |
| APRIL 2 | <u>South Africa’s Racist Apartheid System Succumbs to Mass Nonviolent Action:</u> For decades the brutal system of legally enforced racial discrimination kept Blacks powerless. In 1985 Mkhuseleli Jack, a young black South African, led a nonviolent mass movement including consumer boycotts that awakened whites to black grievances and weakened white business support for apartheid. Nonviolent resistance played a major role in ending apartheid and creating democracy for all. |
| APRIL 9 | <u>Chile’s Dictator General Pinochet Is Toppled Nonviolently:</u> Nonviolent protest persisted even in the face of severe repression and forced the brutal dictator, General Pinochet, to call an election. Nonviolent organizing continued and prevented Pinochet from stealing the election. Massive people power toppled him in 1988. |

TWO SPONSORS

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) has worked nonviolently since 1976 on a variety of peace and social justice issues, and is the local affiliate of a broadly interfaith, international pacifist organization founded in 1914. See www.forusa.org

Info: Glen Anderson, 360-491-9093 info@olyfor.org, www.olyfor.org

The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) is an increasingly active grassroots group that organizes an impressive number and variety of rallies, forums, and other activities to promote social and economic justice and peace.

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