

THE JACKSON FOUNDATION

Tackling tough problems. Fostering effective leadership.

A publication of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation

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Learning about the roots of Senator Jackson's legacy in human rights

Anna Marie Laurence, Senator Jackson's daughter and Foundation Secretary, and Craig Gannett, Foundation President, recently spoke at a **Holocaust Center for Humanity** event on [*How the Holocaust Shaped Senator Jackson's Human Rights Work*](#).

We appreciated the opportunity to partner on this discussion with Ilana Cone Kennedy, the Center's Director of Education and member of the inaugural class of Jackson Leadership Fellows. In her introduction, Ilana explained that Senator Jackson witnessed the aftermath at Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany shortly after its liberation in 1945. "What he saw there haunted him and influenced the rest of his long political career."

In her remarks, Anna Marie shared Senator Jackson's biography, personal remembrances, and photos of items that Senator Jackson received at Buchenwald during his visit. Anna Marie and her brother, the late Peter Jackson, donated these items to the Holocaust Center "as reminders that these horrors and atrocities that happened in Buchenwald and throughout Germany and Poland under Hitler's rule were real and must never be forgotten."

Craig then described the arc between the Senator's visit to the camp, the passage of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, and how that legislation eventually led to the Global Magnitsky Act. When the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, it included rights such as the freedom to leave one's country. In 1972, the Kremlin attempted to suppress the number of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel. Believing strongly that emigration provided a path to avoid religious and racial oppression, Senator Jackson and Congressman Charles Vanik responded with an amendment that based most-favored-nation status for countries with a nonmarket economy on their citizens' right to emigrate. The resulting Jackson-Vanik Amendment allowed over a million Jews to leave the Soviet Union and Russia.



Anna Marie Laurence speaking from Senator Jackson's library in the family's home in Everett.



Anna Marie Laurence, Craig Gannett, and Senator Henry M. Jackson.

In 2012, President Barak Obama's reset policy towards Russia retired the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in order to allow Russia into the World Trade Organization. Yet still wanting to keep Russia's human rights violations in check, Congress passed the Magnitsky Act and later the Global Magnitsky Act. These laws allow the United States to sanction human rights abusers and corrupt government officials anywhere in the world by denying U.S. visas and freezing U.S.-based financial assets. Over the past several years, these have proven to be effective tools.

The Foundation proudly continues to support human rights advocacy, building on Senator Jackson's legacy. ■



Despite these unprecedented times, we are surrounded by people striving to make a difference, inspired by Senator Jackson's values and example.

The Jackson Leadership Fellows are frontrunners in their fields, seeking to develop values-based leadership with their peers. This year's cohort is no exception: an inspiring group of young leaders working towards the common good. We are thrilled to have them join our community.

And I am encouraged by their example. In this newsletter, we note the recent event with the Holocaust Center for Humanity. Ilana Cone Kennedy, Director of Education at the Center and a 2016 Fellow, presented this opportunity to highlight Senator Jackson's legacy and the Foundation's human rights work. We heard about the Senator's experience of the Holocaust, and his resulting effort to protect Soviet Jews' right to emigrate. In addition, we learned from Ilana how Holocaust education can change lives today. We are proud to collaborate with her in this work.

The Foundation's community is grounded in passion and commitment, and this provides me tremendous hope for the future.

Katy Terry
Executive Director

Fellows on the Move

Shin Yu Pai has accepted a position as assistant director of the Master of Fine Arts in Writing & Publishing Program at Vermont College of Fine Arts. She will work remotely from Seattle. **Marc Berger** and **Michele Frix** were named in Puget Sound Business Journal's 2020 list of "40 Under 40" leaders. **Laura Stewart** has organized *The Africa Oxbridge Dialogues*, a collaboration between African and African Diaspora students of Cambridge University and the University of Oxford. **Monica Guzman** has signed a book deal for a guide to staying curious during our divided times. Three Jackson Fellows have been helping to lead the development of King County's 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan: **Jamie Stroble** led the Sustainable and Resilient Frontline Communities Section; **Carrie Lee** led the transportation focus area of the Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Section; and **Becka Johnson Poppe** provided budget

leadership and coordination for the implementation of the County Strategic Climate Action Plan. **Kristine Reeves**, who represented Federal Way in the Washington State House of Representatives from 2017 to 2019, will serve as the Biden/Harris campaign's senior advisor in the state. **Sarah Reyneveld** is running in November's election for the Washington House of Representatives to represent District 36-Position 2. **Jeremy Wood**, leading a nationwide legal team, is representing the New York State Caucus of legislators of color who prevailed when law enforcement unions sought to block a state statute granting public access to police disciplinary records. The victory Jeremy's team helped secure greatly expands police transparency to communities of color and the families of those slain by officers, and has received coverage in the New York Times and similar outlets. ■

Transitions

After more than 20 years guiding the Foundation's financial reporting and management, Tammy Helgeson has decided to balance her workload and transition out of the Foundation. As our consulting fiscal manager, Tammy has been instrumental to the Foundation's excellent financial management and reporting. Her careful work and guidance have ensured that the Foundation received stellar annual audit results. We have appreciated Tammy's sense of humor, along with her calm and collegial presence. She will be missed.

With Tammy's help finding a successor, we are pleased to welcome Leah Scott to the Foundation. Leah brings a strong background in nonprofit finance, auditing, and investment finance. She has been quickly getting up to speed and is ready to help the Foundation move forward into an exciting new era.

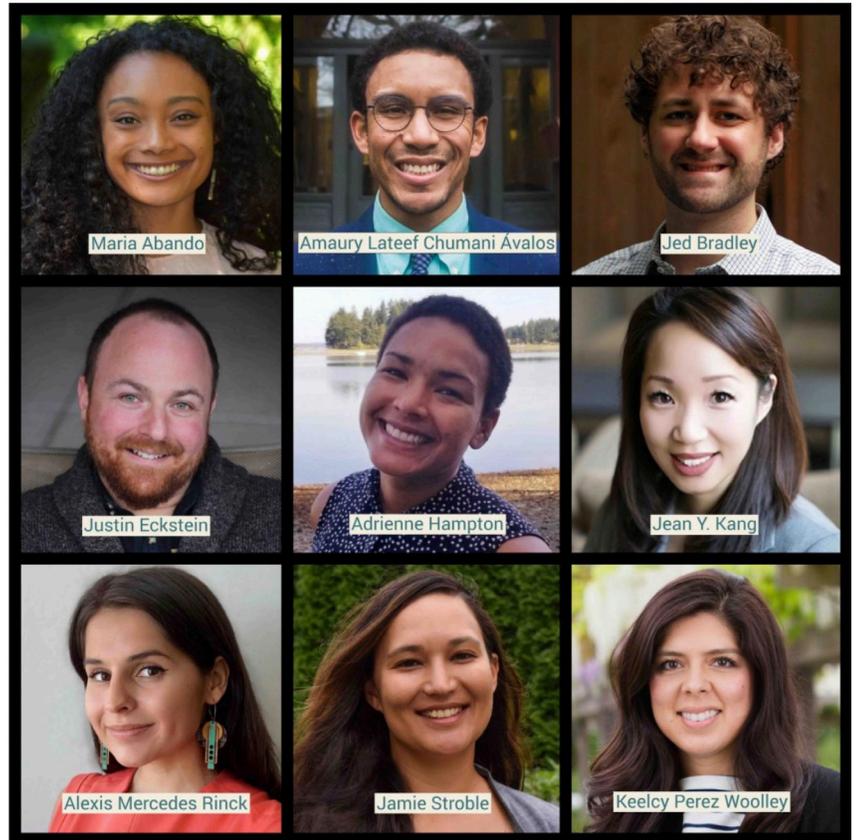
Thank you Tammy, and welcome Leah! ■

Introducing the 2021 Jackson Leadership Fellows

We are excited to announce our sixth class of the Jackson Leadership Fellows Program—an initiative at the heart of the Foundation’s work. The Foundation developed this values-based leadership program to share the principles modeled by Senator Jackson with a younger audience. By investing in the development of the next generation of civic leaders, this program builds skills, awareness, and a nuanced perspective among Fellows to tackle challenges in the fields of the environment, human rights, international affairs, and public service. The Fellows share an enthusiastic and community-oriented outlook that invigorates us all.

The 2021 class is diverse in many ways, with Fellows drawn from government, nonprofits, academia, and business. We believe this variety of viewpoints will help generate new ideas and innovative ways to solve problems. Their tremendous commitment—coupled with a desire to give back to the community—has already made these individuals stand out, and we look forward to learning together.

This nine person cohort joins a growing cadre of Fellows in the Jackson Network – 44 have completed the program – to continue their professional development and community building. They are active and committed to supporting the Senator’s legacy and the Foundation’s work, with a particular focus on the Jackson Leadership Fellows Program.



We know you will be eager to hear about the new cohort and how they will contribute to our region—and beyond—in the years ahead. Please visit our website (hmjackson.org) to discover more about these outstanding leaders. ■



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