

SONOMA COUNTY

Peace press

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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- Unpacking Homelessness
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- Mayday Car Caravan



*Water is life...
Don't waste it!*

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,
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SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline: May 12, 2021

Email articles in MSWord to peacentr@sonic.net

Word limit up to 700 words.

Shorter pieces under 400 words welcome about local activism and events.

Authors are encouraged to delineate fact from opinion and wherever possible to substantiate their facts with references.

Poems limited to 30 lines.

EDITING POLICY

The Editorial Collective selects articles that serve the movement for peace and justice in a positive way. Articles are edited for clarity, syntax, grammar, length and spelling. If needed, authors will be contacted to assist with editing.

Submissions must contain author's name, address, phone number, word count and a brief – one or two sentence bio. Decisions about editing fall within these guidelines and are the final judgment of the Peace Press editorial collective.

Articles are the opinion of the author unless otherwise noted.

CALENDAR ITEMS

Events on topics of social justice, environmental, and related items to be placed in the PJC weekly email calendar, can be sent to peacentr@sonic.net

Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

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**To receive the PJC
weekly email calendar,
call (707) 575-8902**

**No meetings will be held
at the Peace & Justice Center
until further notice**

Much Going On... Get Involved

Shekeyna Black

"Nothing changes the gender equation more significantly than women's economic freedom." – Gloria Steinem

The impact of the pandemic is still rearing its ugly head more than a year into the global crisis. The Peace & Justice Center remains closed for meetings and in-person events, and currently, the office hours continue to be suspended as we comply with CDC and Sonoma County Health Department mandates regarding COVID-19. If you call or send an email, we thank you for your patience while we do our best to reply to all messages.

On a happier note, the PJC will be hosting the Annual Peace & Justice Awards online on Saturday, November 13, 2021. See details below regarding nominating Sonoma County residents and/or organizations for the five Award categories.

The Equal Rights Amendment, which was initially proposed in 1972, has still not yet been ratified. **"The Equal Rights Amendment is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. It seeks to end the legal distinctions between men and women in terms of divorce, property, employment, and other matters,"** according to www.equalrightsamendment.org. Additionally, "The 117th US Congress convened in full for the first time on Thursday, January 21, 2021 and resolutions with bipartisan support were introduced to remove the time limit placed upon the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972." It is time for women to be seen as equal citizens in the eyes of the law!

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, **"April 2021 marks the official 20th anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month"** (www.nsvrc.org/saam/history). On a similar note, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that was put into law in 1994 expired in 2019. Globally, women are outraged and are rising up at the acts of violence perpetrated against them. The recent mass shooting in Atlanta took the lives of seven women just weeks after a 33 year-old woman was kidnapped and murdered by a policeman in England.

Important annual dates in April and May:

April 22 is Earth Day. Visit www.earthday.org for updates and events. Locally, the City of Santa Rosa is hosting online events in honor of Earth Day on Monday, April 19.

Visit srcity.org/2139/Earth-Day-OnStage for more information.

May 1st is International Workers' Day. There will be a car caravan starting in Roseland at the former Dollar Tree lot, 777 Sebastopol Road. Gathering 12 noon, route to be determined. It will be focused on Immigrant and Workers Rights, the detention centers holding asylum seekers, and the current immigration Bill in Congress.

We are seeking nominations from the community for the Annual Peace & Justice Awards in the following categories:

- Peace & Justice Activist of the Year Award
- Russ and Mary Jorgensen Courage of Commitment Award
- Unsung Hero Award

Community Organization Award

Youth Peace & Justice Activist Award

Description of Awards and Requirements for Nominations:

Peace & Justice Activist of the Year Award – *An individual with a passion for working for peace and social justice, who makes a significant contribution that makes a difference to the Sonoma County community and beyond.*

Russ & Mary Jorgensen Courage of Commitment Award – *A person from Sonoma County with a passion for working for peace and social justice, who performs acts of courage to make a difference, often at their own personal risk.*

According to The Union, "At the calling of Martin Luther King Jr., Mary and her husband, Russell Jorgensen, joined what became known as the 'Freedom Riders.' They were both arrested for desegregating a restaurant in Jackson, Mississippi, and served a week's sentence in the Jackson County jail. The Jorgensen's helped establish an 'intentional community' just outside of Santa Rosa called Monan's Rill in 1973. It has been a model community of its type for many years." (www.theunion.com/news/obituaries/obituary-of-mary-jorgensen/)

Unsung Hero Award – *A person from Sonoma County who works diligently for peace and social justice, but stays in the background, out of the limelight.*

Community Organization Award – *A local group whose activities have a significant beneficial effect on the well-being of the people of Sonoma County.*

Youth Peace & Justice Activist Award – *This award is granted to someone from Sonoma County, 13-22 years-old who has a passion for working locally for peace and social justice, and has made a significant contribution to making our community more just and peaceful.*

Nominations can be submitted online to peacentr@sonic.net. Please put "Nomination" in the subject line. You can also snail mail nominations to the PJC. Your nomination must include the following details in order to be considered:

- Your name, email address and phone number
- The nominee's name and contact information
- Your relationship to the nominee
- The specific Award for which you are nominating
- A brief biography of the nominee; any background information that describes the nominee
- Tell us what the nominee has done to promote peace and social justice and why you feel they should be recognized for their work

We are in our Spring Appeal Drive. Your donations, large or small, help support our nonprofit organization so that we may continue to do our vital work striving for equity and justice. A convenient Donate tab is on our website so that donations can be made online via the secure PayPal link at www.pjcsoco.org/donate.

Donation Checks can be mailed to:

Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County
467 Sebastopol Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401 📧

Stop the Police Sweeps!!

Cynthia Poten, Homeless Action! Member

The crises confronting Santa Rosa's unsheltered population continue. While the City of Santa Rosa and a dedicated array of non-profits, county agencies and individual advocates work diligently to secure temporary and permanent housing to stem this tide of human suffering, about 3,000 people still live under bridges, in parking lots and other waysides across the county.

Non-profit and individual advocates, including the Peace and Justice Center, Acts of Kindness Sonoma County, SAVS (Sexual Assault Victim Services) and Homeless Action! have been addressing the basic needs and problems associated with Santa Rosa's homeless camps. Their combined efforts target the immediate needs for food, clothing, water, human waste facilities, hand washing stations, face masks and trash containers.

Despite the success of these ongoing initiatives, the City of Santa Rosa continues to actively clear homeless camps for 'health and safety' and 'environmental' reasons. There have been three recent and large forced evacuations (police sweeps). At the time of the sweeps, some residents elected to go to a shelter but most migrated to other spaces and set up new camps. As usual, the challenges for homeless people became acute in the wake of each sweep, as many lost their possessions to the bulldozers and the dumpster.

At this time the Santa Rosa City Council is discussing Safe Parking sites for each of their seven electoral districts. Homeless people who use Safe Parking sites will not be given parking tickets. Instead, they will have bathrooms or porta potties, trash pick-up and the freedom to create a community of solidarity and support. This an easy fix for unsheltered people who live in their vehicles. Several churches across the county have allowed limited safe parking for several years with virtually no incidents or negative impacts.

Homeless Action! is asking everyone reading this to email or call members of the Santa Rosa City Council with a message

of support for Safe Parking across the city. Right now is the time to do so. Contact information is below.

While you're at it, ask your council member to sanction and help develop Managed Encampments.

The recent death by automobile of a women sitting beside her tent at the edge of a road in the Roseland area is but one exam-

times. Asking City Council Members to put an end to the sweeps is an act that honors this kinship and supports the most destitute among us. It acknowledges, as well, the suffering of fellow human beings who have no option but to live in the streets as best they can. As Jane Goodall has written, "Only if we understand will we care; only if we care will we help, only if we help shall all be saved." 🙏



Police sweeps of homeless camps, from the east coast to the west coast and cities between in the wealthiest country. Photo by Denver Homeless Out Loud.

ple of the safety issues camp residents face. Until appropriate shelter is secured for all of Santa Rosa's homeless people, it is more humane and more practical to allow and manage temporary camps. Santa Rosa set up a Managed Tent Camp at the Finley Center last summer and declared it a success. Not only did many homeless people use the site, but the police, city staff and health care workers gave it a thumbs up.

Please contact Santa Rosa City Council Members with a request to end the police sweeps of Santa Rosa's homeless encampments and implement the commonsense solutions of Safe Parking and Managed Camps. We believe it is in everyone's best interest to stop the routine shuffling of camp residents from neighborhood to neighborhood – stop the sweeps that leave the dispossessed worse off than ever.

We are all kindred souls living in difficult

City Council Contact Information

Email everyone with one email address: citycouncil@srcity.org – or, reach out to your district's representative:

Eddie Alvarez, Council District 1,

ealvarez@srcity.org

John Sawyer, Council District 2,

707-578-6006 jsawyer@srcity.org

Jack Tibbetts, Council District 3,

707-495-7438 hjtibbetts@srcity.org

Victoria Fleming Council District 4

707-543-3010 vfleming@srcity.org

Mayor Chris Rogers, Council District 5

707-543-3017 crogers@srcity.org

Tom Schwedhelm, Council District 6

707-543-3017 tschwedhelm@srcity.org

Vice Mayor Natalie Rogers,

Council District 7 nrogers@srcity.org

Map of Council Districts:

<https://srcity.org/2864/Find-My-Council-District>

Unpacking Homelessness: A Primer

Kathleen Finigan and Nick Goyhenetche

This is intended to demystify our unsheltered neighbors and to correct misunderstandings about what we can do to help them compassionately, quickly and inexpensively.

These are the facts that frame the rights and plight of the unsheltered:

- All people are entitled to freely enjoy public spaces that are safe and clean.
- Unsheltered people have a right to a place to rest, to sleep and to get the help they need to escape from homelessness. The right to a home is guaranteed by the International Declaration of Human Rights and was affirmed by the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights in 2018 and again in January 2021.
- Sonoma County has about 3,000 homeless and 1,000 emergency shelter spaces, leaving some 2,000 people with no choice other than to sleep in a public place every night.
- *Martin v. Boise*, affirmed by the US Supreme Court, allows for the constitutional right of people to sleep in public spaces when no shelter is available. And a Federal Order for Preliminary Injunction calls for the posting of written eviction notices, offering accommodations to all being evicted, appropriate accommodations for the needs of the disabled and storage of personal belongings.

Yet, on February 22, 2021, some 20 people camping near Joe Rodota trail were evicted. The Press Democrat reported that, "County officials did not respond Tuesday when asked what was being done to address the latest encampment or how many people had been offered or accepted services."

We must make it clear to authorities that accountability and transparency are not optional!

Stats from the 2020 Homeless Census and Survey:

- 88% of our homeless population lived in Sonoma County prior to homelessness
- 84% want to live in affordable Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- 70% can't afford rent here
- 46% are disabled and have chronic medical problems, including traumatic brain injury
- 40% have psychiatric and/or emotional illnesses

- 36% have substance abuse illnesses
- 29% have post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD)

Current policies have trapped the unsheltered in a revolving door of self-perpetuating misery. They are endlessly swept from camp to camp to camp. The psychological and physical health tolls on residents forced to live without basic hygiene are deep. Surrounding areas may be contaminated and the high cost of cleaning up camps that have not been provided toilets, hand washing stations and trash collection is a disgraceful waste of taxpayer dollars. Studies show that supportive housing runs about \$32,000 a year while a person living on the streets costs taxpayers around \$62,000.

Dear friends and neighbors: We are better than this!

Compare the current misery with the scene that advocate Nick Goyhenetche found at a self-run village in Sausalito: "This camp is a shining example of what we're trying to do in Santa Rosa.

It's super clean, there's a communal outdoor cooking area with loads of produce, the residents pooled their money to rent a porta-pottie. Babies running around, elderly folks, live music being played, morale was high. It was awesome to see these inspired, hopeful people taking a stand in the midst of insane affluence and all the ivory towers above in the hills."

In 2020, the County made some progress: Sixty pre-fab units, each 64 square foot, were put up at Los Guilicos Village at a cost of about \$8,300 a unit. Each includes a lockable door, windows, heat, a bed, a solar charging device and storage space. The village provides security, meals, toilets, hot showers, a navigation center, medical and other support services, a dog run and garden space for growing food. Infrastructure and operating costs are not included in the per unit price. Despite some initial objections from a small but vocal group, residents at nearby Oakmont Village have flocked to support their new neighbors and by all accounts, Los Guilicos residents have been good neighbors in return.

Last year, the County also purchased two hotels for PSH for \$14.1 million, with

a total of 75 rooms that can house 100 people. Repurposed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailers at the fairgrounds in Santa Rosa are housing 28 people. In January 2021, Santa Rosa approved the use of \$38 million in federal disaster relief funds for the construction of five projects that will accommodate 372 units for low income residents.

We celebrate the progress, but to end homelessness we need much, much more. Needless to say, the horrific losses from the 2017 Tubbs and subsequent fires have strained resources. But even with significant state and federal disaster funding, it's not unreasonable to say that PSH to accommodate our needs will not see the light of day for another ten or more years.

At this pace the outlook is grim, but resolving homelessness is not as complicated or expensive as many think.

At this pace the outlook is grim, but resolving homelessness is not as complicated or expensive as many think. We know that giant strides can be made in the next two years with innovative transitional housing options. Specifically, tiny home villages are changing the face of homelessness across the country. Until permanent housing is available we can employ efficient, low cost solutions to keep people and public spaces safe and healthy.

The recipe for success couldn't be simpler:

- Stability of place (tent and/or tiny home villages, safe parking for cars and RVs)
- Hygiene (toilets, hand-washing stations and regular trash collection)
- Wrap-around services (individual case management, medical and psychiatric treatment, behavioral health and substance abuse counseling, job retraining, etc.)

Evidence-based research shows that when these three essential components are in place, human rights are honored, people have better lives and our entire community benefits as a whole.

We can do this. Let's do it now! 🌱

Farmworker Advocates Examine Impacts of Crises on Immigrant Communities

Bonnie Petty and Omar Paz

Mexican-Indigenous leaders from the Mixteco, Chatino and Triqui communities proudly greeted an impassioned audience of community organizations, local and county electeds and state agency officials. Attendees sat in reverence of their *Bienvenida*, or welcoming in English, as it was delivered in their maternal tongues.

Omar Paz of North Bay Jobs with Justice (NBjwJ) opened the virtual event by explaining language justice principles and delivering a land acknowledgement. Some parts would be in English and some in Spanish. Multiple languages were accessible and English speakers also found themselves using the translation button on the screen.

Paz continued, “Though we’re not in person, it’s still important for us to recognize the lands upon which we are organizing and doing this work... We are opening this space with a land acknowledgement and welcoming messages from our folks at Movimiento Cultural de la Unión Indígena (MCUI) in their indigenous languages.” Sonoma County lands once were lands stewarded by the Wappo, Southern Pomo, Kashia and Coastal Miwok tribes. The focus on language accessibility and indigenous peoples set the tone for a first-ever deep dive into the effects of compounded crisis, particularly wildfires, on local indigenous farmworkers.

The March 2nd forum was organized by NBjwJ, University of California-Irvine and Movimiento Cultural de la Unión Indígena. The two-hour, invitation-only program analyzed disaster impacts and personal stories of farmworker hardships and concluded with solution-driven policy proposals.

Panelists included Professor Mike Mendez from UC Irvine along with Maria Salinas and Gervacio Peña Lopez from MCUI. While Mendez provided the statistic-driven narrative, it was Lopez and Salinas’ voices in their native languages (Mixteco and Chatino, respectively), that told the real story of Indigenous farmworkers in our county.

Professor Mendez’s presentation titled, “Disparate Impacts of Wildfire on Undocumented Migrants: Lessons on Inclusive Disaster and Climate Adaptation Planning,” laid bare the alarming facts and everyday realities of too many farmworkers.

“In California,” Mendez reports, “we are experiencing a major climate change crisis... Due to existing structural inequality, these impacts are disproportionately affecting low-income people of color. Now more than ever, it is crucial to understand how these events amplify existing inequalities and how to lessen the resulting harms.”

Professor Mendez rattled off dizzying statistics about the three devastating fires Sonoma County endured in recent years. Data on the impacts on low-income farmworkers, Spanish and Indigenous language speakers and immigrant families were practically absent, rendering their needs invisible and unmet in recovery efforts and policy-making.

In all the ways that immigrant families face inequities during “normal” times – such as language barriers, economic barriers, fear of immigration agents and reluctance to seek assistance – these injustices are further exacerbated during wildfires.


Maria Salinas shared the heartbreaking testimony of a mixed-status immigrant family of six enduring persistent hardship and uncertainty during the 2019 Kincadee fire. Both parents had lost their jobs as vineyard and domestic workers. Amidst the chaos of wildfires

and economic insecurity, the mother balanced providing for her four children with looming anxieties about the possible deportation of her undocumented husband.

“She was apprehensive about asking for help... because she was scared that [by doing so] her husband would be put in jeopardy... She approached us because she didn’t have food for her children.” Unlike wealthier victims of the fires, these families are unable to access insurance and federal aid packages.

70-plus participants from 55 local community organizations, city councils and state agencies discussed: Immigration Status & Disaster Aid, Language Justice, Transportation & Housing and Worker Health & Safety in pre-assigned breakout rooms. The impressive roster of community leaders shared deliberate, often firsthand insight.

Farmworker...see page 5


NORTH BAY JOBS WITH JUSTICE

WE ARE... PROUD, RESILIENT AND READY!

ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT & FUNDRAISER

IN-PLACE IN CAR AT SONOMA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
BROOKWOOD PARKING LOT, EAST SIDE OF FAIRGROUNDS

◆ THE AWARDEES ARE ◆

LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

GREG SARRIS AND TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE
FEDERATED INDIANS OF GRATON RANCHERIA

WORKERS RISING AWARD

NATIONAL UNION OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS
(NUHW)

COMMUNITY RISING AWARD

MOVIMIENTO CULTURAL DE LA UNIÓN INDÍGENA
(MCUI)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER TBA

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 5-7 PM

\$35 PER PERSON, INCLUDES BOXED DINNER
TICKETS & INFO: NORTHBAJJOBSWITHJUSTICE.ORG

A Time to Heal – An Appeal from New Local NAACP President

Segretta A. Woodard

Santa Rosa, CA: Longtime community member Segretta Woodard has been elected president of Santa Rosa/Sonoma County NAACP Unit 1074-B. Previously serving as Secretary for the unit, Ms. Woodard brings years of experience and advocacy for Sonoma County's Black community to the unit.

We have experienced a tumultuous year with the racial injustice of this country rearing its head, all while dealing with the social strife within our branch. Now is the time to come together to support each other and take this time to heal. Moving forward, I would like to ensure that all members understand our bylaws and meeting functions for a smooth transition. As president I will insure that we establish committees engaged in meaningful work, aligned with the national organization of the NAACP's mission to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equity

and equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination, and ensure the health and well-being of all persons, with special focus on African Americans.

Many of our members have expressed concerns about our community needs. So it will be my charge to work on the following issues with the members of the NAACP Santa Rosa-Sonoma County Branch: Affordable Housing, Veteran's Affairs, Youth Engagement and Legal Redress as top priorities, as well as Education, Health Care and Police Reform. Our unit has received several requests for help with regard to housing discrimination and evictions, and we know there is disproportionate representation of Black, Indigenous, and people of color within unsheltered and incarcerated popula-

tions, so there is much work ahead of us.

I am looking forward to strengthening and building a county wide coalition of community organizations focused on Black issues within Sonoma County. Though our numbers may be smaller than other Bay Area counties, we have the skills, passion and commitment to help elevate our community and make tangible change. I'm honored to have been elected and look forward to working with all of our partners county wide.

Unit 1074 will hold regular monthly meetings which are open to all. New members are welcomed and encouraged to join at this link <https://www.naacp.org/become-a-member/>

Segretta A. Woodard is President of the Santa Rosa-Sonoma County, NAACP Unit #1074-B, 707-978-1327, naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com

The Vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) [Est. 1909] is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.

Farmworker... from page 4

Discussion focused on the intersections of inequity with natural disaster, climate change and distinct cultural identities and their respective experiences under the label of "farmworker." Each contribution built concrete steps aimed at pushing county and city governance towards the cultural competency, language justice practices and resource parity owed to the most vulnerable within our community.

Professor Mendez laid out initial policy responses: more inclusive disaster planning, drawing on migrant and indigenous expertise for community response, resource management, and bolstered organizational capacity and resources. Two recent California bills were enacted focused mostly on providing vital emergency updates in languages besides English, but both are mere band-aids to a worsening crisis. These spaces, however, provide a guiding light driven by love for community, culture and dignity for all.

When the day comes that language justice is a given, when all people feel fully included in such spaces, when we finally recognize those who stewarded the land before us and those caring for the land today, then such forums won't be necessary.

AB 655 CLEAR Act Needs Support

D'mitra Smith

Shortly after the 2016 presidential election, I read an Intercept article about the 2006 FBI report warning of widespread infiltration of law enforcement by white supremacists.

As I watched the deeply racist rhetoric and attacks on civil rights during the previous administration, I saw what was coming and made a personal commitment to address this problem.

We know this is nothing new. This issue is a national emergency that must be addressed, as the January 6th insurrection proved, beyond a doubt.

I moved to Sonoma County from San Francisco in 2001. This county, the northernmost in the SF Bay Area, has long standing problems with racist police and sheriffs deputies that continue, even with an Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach, and the recently passed Measure P to strengthen it.

I was deeply concerned about racist elements within law enforcement becoming emboldened by the Trump administration's outright white supremacy. I knew that state-

wide legislation was necessary to protect Californians in all of our communities, and set a precedent for other states to follow. I am an abolitionist, but while this system is here, we must act now to stop this public safety and domestic terror emergency.

In 2017, following a statewide human rights conference, I approached Dr. William Armaline Ph.D, Director of the San Jose State University Human Rights Institute.

I asked him to partner with me to develop a legislative proposal to require screening for white supremacists within law enforcement, give grounds for termination and decertification within all law enforcement jurisdictions in the state of California. We named it the California Law Enforcement Accountability Reform (CLEAR) Act, to demand transparency around law enforcement having membership in hate groups and/or engaging in hate activities, and provide grounds to bar them from employment as peace officers in the state of California.

Thankfully, the SJSU Human Rights Institute is a leader in human rights work and legal scholarship, and listens to community

AB 655 CLEAR Act...see page 8

The Crossroads of Christian Zionism and White Nationalism

Therese Mughannam

Christian What? Christian Zionism! Not many people have linked these two words before. Yet Christian Zionism is an ideology that has been around since the Protestant Reformation in the 16th Century. Some Christians have always believed in a literal interpretation of the bible, but in 1909 they got their own annotated version of the King James Bible called the Scofield

Israel is only too willing to accommodate Christian Zionists and has allowed them to establish a center in Jerusalem.

Bible. This bible contains many footnotes, interpreting biblical texts in favor of a Jewish homeland in Palestine as a prerequisite for the Second Coming of Jesus.

British imperialists like Arthur Balfour of the infamous Balfour Declaration, were only too eager to accommodate this idea, which would also rid Europe of its Jews, so they hoped. Scholars agree that the commentary in the Scofield Bible, more than any other factor, has influenced generations of evangelical Christians to believe that God demands that they give unquestioning support to a Jewish homeland.

Why? Because Christian Zionists (CZ) believe that before the second coming of Jesus, which they think will happen in Jerusalem, all Jews must gather in Jerusalem. This will be preceded by global chaos and war. Then Jews (and Muslims) will convert to Christianity and those who do not will be sent to hell. The faithful believers will be lifted up in a rapture with Jesus and will live happily ever after. CZ believe this scenario to be the fulfillment of all the biblical prophecy. And therefore Israel, the modern state, plays a vital role in making that happen.

Of course, what I just described, for any open-minded human being, Christian or not, is the ultimate in anti-semitism, to say nothing of it being diametrically opposed to the teachings of Jesus. It is also a huge obstacle to any kind of a peace negotiation between the Palestinians and Israel. CZ

pour hundreds of millions of dollars yearly into Israel, which in the past, among other things, has financed tens of thousands of Jewish people from the Soviet Union and other places to go and live in Israel. In the more recent past and present, CZ financial aid to Israel accelerates the illegal Israeli settlement building in the West Bank and Palestinian East Jerusalem.

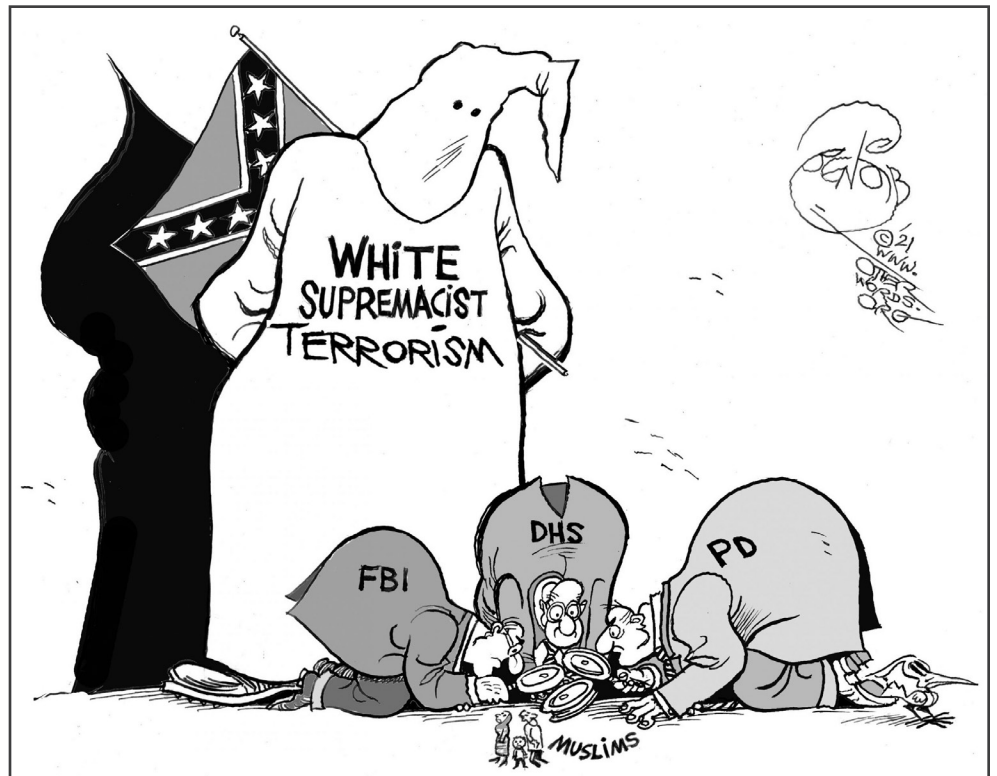
Israel is only too willing to accommodate Christian Zionists and has allowed them to establish a center in Jerusalem. Thousands of CZ go to Israel regularly and there are many accounts of CZ preachers, or “pilgrims” visiting the holy sites who have refused to meet and speak with their fellow Christian Palestinians. Why? Because Palestinians, Christian or Muslim, are not Jews. The CZ goal, like the recent self-proclaimed law of the state of Israel for Jews only, is to rid all of historical Palestine of its indigenous non-Jewish population.

That brings me to the Israeli flag-waving insurrectionists at the US capital on June 6th. What could these two groups possibly have in common? Well, first of all, more and more reports are coming out that many of the past

president’s supporters were CZ – as were his vice-president and secretary of state. John Hagee, leader of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), has millions of followers and was invited to say the benediction at the opening ceremonies when the US embassy was moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, an outrageous act infuriating many around the world, but that basically made contested and annexed Jerusalem the capital of Israel. Many questions remain which the Biden administration will have to deal with if it is to live up to its campaign promises and commitments to human rights around the world. Will the double standard in relation to Israel persist? Biden and most of his team have a history of staunch support for Israel.

As for the Israeli flag waving at the capital on January 6th, perhaps those who want to make America white again have found bosom buddies in those who want to make Israel pure and free of all non-Jews. Israel becomes the model of how to maintain white supremacy over its indigenous population. God help us all. We have much work to do. 🙏

Therese Mughannam is a human rights activist born in Jerusalem who has been telling the story of the Palestinian people from a personal perspective for many years.



What Will Become of Palestine/Israel?

Rebel Fagin

The situation in Palestine/Israel cannot continue. One cannot put a covered pot on the stove, turn up the heat and not expect it to boil over. There appear to be three solutions, other than Israel's mass genocide of every non-Jew in the region. I looked into this question from a fiscal perspective. The research sent me in directions other than what I had expected.

For the American taxpayer, the opportunity costs here include all the homes, schools, COVID treatments centers and other benefits we give up when we spend money on Israel's military. For the Palestinians it is the lost potential of their youth.

According to this study, the oppressive occupation could easily lead to violent resistance if not resolved justly. Violent resistance is expensive for all concerned. For

from American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) thanked the US Congress "for including significant pro-Israel provisions that will help Israel protect itself against continuing security threats."

Continuing security threats are a result of the occupation. Sandra Parker of Christians United for Israel (CUFI) said, "It is refreshing to see Congress set aside its partisan differences to advance their vital legislation."

It is clear that the US does not support a democratic one-state solution for Palestine/Israel. Netanyahu will not allow the right of return for overseas Palestinians nor halt Israel's ongoing efforts to attract more Jews to live in Israel. No, a democratic state would be a threat to the Jewish minority living in the region and is therefore off the table.

This leaves a sovereign two-state solution. Common wisdom says that Israel's illegal expansion into the West Bank – under the cover of the Peace Process – has made this impossible and yet the RAND study shows it to be the best fiscal decision for all concerned. A sovereign two-state solution would

increase Israel's GDP by 5% or \$123 billion over ten years. For the Palestinians, their GDP would increase by a stunning 49% or \$50 billion.

While a sovereign two-state solution seems impossible, the more impossible requirement for a democratic solution – that of Israel giving up its identity as a Jewish state – is such a heavy lift that a sovereign two-state solution may be the only possible solution short of the extermination or exiling of every living, breathing Palestinian by Israel. Peace, after all, is cheaper than war and the road to peace must be paved with justice.

Sources: RAND International, rand.org/2020report; Columbia Journal of International Affairs; Jewish News Syndicate, [JNS.org](https://www.jns.org). 🐦



A Palestinian protests Israel's plan to annex parts of the occupied West Bank, near Tulkarm, June 5, 2020. (Reuters)

I found a projection study by the RAND corporation forecasting costs from 2020-2024 for a one-state apartheid Israel and for a sovereign two-state solution. (This study did not explore the costs of a democratic one-state solution. We'll get into that later.) The RAND Corporation is a think tank whose research and analysis provides raw data that is often used by governments in policy making decisions.

The illegal occupation of the West Bank and the persecution of the people of Gaza cost the American taxpayers a sizable portion of the \$38 billion a year given to Israel in military aid. The costs cited in the RAND study include both direct costs and opportunity costs. Opportunity costs is a term used in economics. It means what you don't buy when you spend your money elsewhere.

Israel, violent resistance is projected to cost \$250 billion, or 10% of their GDP, over 10 years. The GDP is the gross domestic product, or everything a country produces for sale in a year. For the Palestinians it comes to \$46 billion or 46% of their GDP.

This year the US Congress passed the National Defense Allocation Act, which includes \$500 million in missile defense and \$200 million to replenish spent munitions for Israel. Netanyahu wants additional funds to help combat the International Criminal Court's charges and other expenses. The US Congress, including Bernie Sanders, all support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. Any state where one group of people has more rights than another is not a democracy but an apartheid state. An apartheid state is inherently undemocratic. A representative

A Movement to Force Government to Give Us What We Need: Withhold Your Taxes!

Barry Barnett

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have openly stated that they are not for free universal health care – also known as Medicare for All – or the desperately needed Green New Deal (even the watered down version from the original Green Party plan). Biden seems to be taking the environmental catastrophe seriously – except for fracking. Perhaps this is only because it is politically advantageous? He and his Cabinet of Caligari war-

Some labor quarters are currently talking about general strikes. This will combine powerfully with a tax revolt.

mongers: Anthony Blinken, Victoria Nuland, Samantha Power and Susan Rice are taking the exact retrograde tack on China, Russia, Iran, Syria, Ukraine, Georgia (Sakartvelo), travel and send money there.

We know the political histories of Biden and Harris. After the treachery of the a-DNC (anti-Democratic Nominating Cabal) against the moderate reformer Bernie Sanders (screwing him twice!), we the people have *no one* at the top tiers of government advocating for us.

Thus, we have to force them to give us what we need. There is no other way. The alternative is the continued precipitous decline of civil/human and non-human rights, democracy, the environment, augmented extreme wealth inequality, never-ending wars, deregulation, police violence and unaccountability, systemic racism, criticism of Israeli violence portrayed and legislated as anti-Semitism, massive surveillance and corporate tech censorship, along with abysmal and expensive health coverage.

The only way to nonviolently force the government to do our will – what is universally beneficial for all – is to withhold the money the government operates on. Besides our *de rigueur* demonstrating in the streets, legal and legislative battles and all the rest of our repertoire, we need tax revolt and work stoppage.

Tax day – May 17, 2021 – is upon us. I

and others, such as progressive journalist Robert Scheer, have been writing about tax resistance for years. Arnie Schwartz was a local war tax resister (see the Feb./March issue for a remembrance of Arnie) who supported redirecting ‘war’ taxes for peace programs. We need to organize and accelerate a movement for millions of Americans to bravely refuse paying federal income taxes for 2020. In numbers there is power. They cannot effectively arrest millions of people.

In fact, there are organizations that have been building community to organize tax resistance against the IRS, such as the War Resisters League, the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, the Quakers, the Mennonites, and others along with over 200,000 Americans. It is safer to join a tax

resisters group. Some organizations even have funds to pay or defray costs of assets seized by the Internal Revenue Service.

Support boycotts and divestment (I wrote about boycotting PG&E rate hikes in the Aug./Sept. issue). Likewise with work strikes. The wave of both approved and wildcat teacher strikes across the US was surprising and surprisingly effective, an inspiration to the entire nation, especially to

workers and the labor movement, which has been so eviscerated for decades. That spirit is alive and generating strikes nationwide in 2021. Some labor quarters are currently talking about general strikes. This will combine powerfully with a tax revolt.

We urgently need to come together as a people to agitate for universal health care, to out-organize the forces that insanely, short-sightedly value profit over a habitable planet, to reinvigorate our peace/anti-war movement and especially to end the specter of nuclear annihilation until we ban those unthinkable, worse than useless weapons forever. The international ban has now been ratified and is in force.

Co-authors of *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*, Maria Stephen and Erica Chenoweth concluded that every 20th and 21st century revolution that got active participation from at least 3.5% of the population succeeded, especially nonviolent ones, and nonviolent campaigns increasingly over time. We need to hit them where it counts, at their bottom line. We can do it if we organize. 🙌

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, holistic health professional and musician. Read his articles, satire, poetry and political fantasy stories free of charge on Twitter, CounterPunch and Patreon.com/BarryBarnett. Feedback welcome at barymuse123@gmail.com. (A version of this article was originally published on CounterPunch.org, archives 12/4/2020.)

AB 655 CLEAR Act... from page 5

concerns. The CLEAR Act team has been working hard since 2017, receiving essential guidance from prominent legal scholars like Dean Samuel V. Jones of UIC John Marshall Law School and Professor Vida Johnson of Georgetown University Law Center.

We lobbied many state representatives over the years to find a sponsor for the CLEAR Act. The SJSU Human Rights Institute was finally successful in finding a champion for this bill in Assembly member Ash Kalra, 27th District CA. Assembly member Kalra is also the Chair of the State Progressive Caucus.

I'd like to give special thanks to the staffers that helped move this forward.

I am thrilled to announce that AB 655 is now ready for your support. The CLEAR

Act has the power to unite all of our communities in California to take a stand against white supremacist police, hate groups and hate activities. If passed, this bill could inspire other states to enact similar bills.

AB 655 (Kalra), The CLEAR Act builds on generations of work to end racist police violence, and I am deeply honored to be a part of this legislative process.

Please share with other orgs who will support this bill. Let's make this happen, for our state and for the nation.

D'mitra Smith (she/her) is co-author of AB 655 CLEAR Act; Former Chair, Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights; Co-author, "Human Right Violations in Santa Rosa California – Policing the Black Lives Matter Protests" 2020 Report; Co-Founder; Save Your VI – Title VI Civil Rights Protections for Students; Co-Founder, Food for All-Comida para Todos

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Kindertransport

e.g.singer

Tindertransport is German for “children’s transport,” a rescue effort begun in 1939 in Great Britain. Specifically, it was to deliver 10,000 unaccompanied Jewish children out of Nazi Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia to safety. The British Parliament gave approval and funding almost immediately – only days after the infamous “Kristallnacht” incident, known as “The Night of Broken Glass,” that took place in 1938 against the Jewish population throughout Austria and Germany. The program relocated these children to foster homes, hostels, farms and schools throughout England. The majority of those children, although sadly traumatized by their relocation, survived through those war years – however most of their parents did not.

Now we as a nation are faced with a similar situation on our southern border. It is nothing new, but we have ignored the people and issues for decades. Our acceptance of their skills and labor – but without full inclusion into our society – is hypocritical and a stain on our country’s soul. A country such as ours, that is so wealthy and that prides itself on freedom and democracy, must acknowledge the very real wars being fought to our south that have forced those populations to travel north at great risk. To see parents tearfully hug their children at the border, then turn away not knowing when they will reunite is heartbreaking, but understandable. All parents want safety for their children. They are not any different from those Jewish parents who prayed for their own children’s safety, while trying to maintain faith that they would also reunite someday.

Sonoma County’s population is reported as being over 25% Hispanic. Some of that population emigrated from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and still have families they support. They are employed in all sectors of our economy. They are our professionals: MDs, RNs, CNA’s. They are lawyers, teachers and daycare providers. They work in the construction trades and in the vineyards, they are our landscapers and gardeners, they are our cooks and servers in the hospitality and food industries, they maintain and clean our homes and businesses. They are our neighbors, they are our friends, they are our family – they are woven into the community tapestry.

We are all only a few generations from our own immigrant ancestry. The Spanish slogan, “Todos Somos Inmigrantes” – We are all immigrants – rings true. Es La Verdad!

On the brink of war in 1939, England made a courageous decision that underscores what it means to act with compassion and in accordance with human values when, with the support of its citizenry, they opened their hearts and embraced those in harm’s way. Perhaps we need to look back to see what history can teach us, to view the actions that took place just over eighty years ago from an island surrounded by an ever rising tide of hatred that would inundate all of Europe for five long years and yet chose to reach out and hold those little lost hands.

The crime today is not that these children are being “abandoned” at the border. No, the sin is that we do not welcome them as our own!

e.g.singer is a Santa Rosa writer, photographer, psychotherapist, retired social worker and 50-year resident of Sonoma County.

ENGAGE YOUR GOVT.

Sonoma County Supervisors (707) 565-2241

District 1 - Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org
District 2 - David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org
District 3 - Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org
District 4 - James.Gore@sonoma-county.org
District 5 - Linda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org

State Senator Mike McGuire

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(707) 576-2771, Fax: (707) 576-2773
Senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov

Assemblymember Marc Levine

Petaluma City Hall, Petaluma
11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952
Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-2735
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Assemblymember Jim Wood

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California Assembly Website: assembly.ca.gov

U.S. Representative Jared Huffman

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Citizen Comment: (202) 456-1111

(A 1-minute call before 8 am costs 29 cents; caller's message is recorded for reference of public opinions)

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Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

ALL PHONE AREA CODES ARE (707)
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350 Sonoma County – Engaging our community in the work of 350.org to solve the climate crisis. 350sonomacounty.org

ACLU Sonoma Co., working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. Meets each second Monday. Contact patriciamorandi@sbcglobal.net, or davhen@sonic.net.

Allies Safety Network – compiling a phone chain/helpline to build a safety network for those at risk of harassment to provide a supportive presence in situations of hateful threats. Join the Network Call List: 583-9168

Alternatives to Violence – Presents experiential workshops in personal growth in the community and prisons. 545-1798

Comité VIDA – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, cirsco@yahoo.com,

Daily Acts – Offers sustainable solutions rooted in the power of inspired daily actions. 789-9664, dailyacts.org

Fukushima Response – works to inform about the Fukushima melt downs, monitor the consequences, advocate for the shut down of Diablo Canyon. fukushimaresponse.org. 823-9203

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreenparty.org

Green Sangha – Spiritually engaged environmental action. info@greensangha.org

HPEACE – Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. hpeacesonomacounty.wordpress.com

Healdsburg Peace Project – Peace and social justice action group, Healdsburg. 431-1129, healdsburgpeaceproject.org

Hate Free Petaluma Progressive organization. www.facebook.com/hatefreepetaluma/

Homeless Action – Advocating for people without shelter. 795-2890

Indivisible Goups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.com
Indivisible Petaluma: indivisiblepetaluma@gmail.com, or follow on Twitter at @IndivisibleLuma

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Windsor

LezResist! was formed to be a visible and unified Lesbian presence in support of each other, and to stand in solidarity with the many communities, causes, and policies under attack by the current U.S. administration. Info @ at LezResist@gmail.com.

Listening for a Change – Programs support listening and oral history to create a caring community. 578-5420, listeningforachange.org

MEChA de Sonoma – Student group that focuses on issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community. info@mechadesonoma.org

Metta Center for Nonviolence – Works to promote non-violence worldwide and to build a nonviolent culture. 774-6299

MOVES-Minimizing Occurrences of Violence in Everyday Society – Stresses nonviolence as the answer to society's violence. 524-1900

NAACP - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. 332-1573

National Women's History Project – coordinates observances of Women's History month around the country. 636-2888, nwhp@aol.com

North Bay Jobs with Justice – organized for better conditions and a living wage for workers. Email: northbayjobswithjustice@gmail.com, Website: northbayjobswithjustice.org, Facebook, North Bay Jobs With Justice Ph: 346-1187

North Bay Organizing Project – a regional faith and values based peoples' organization. 318-2818

North Coast Coalition for Palestine – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 575-8902. www.nccpal.org or find us on Facebook.

NOW of Sonoma County – local chapter of the National Organization for Women. 545-5036

Occupy Sonoma County – Embraces the egalitarian, deep democracy principles of the Occupy Movement with a regional strategy for effectively organizing county-wide social justice campaigns that are globally relevant. 877-6650, OccupySonomaCounty.org

Organizing for Action: Progressive organizing project. Contact Linda Hemenway: whatisworking@gmail.com or 707-843-6110 and Facebook

Peace Alliance – Mission is to campaign for a cabinet-level US Department of Peace. 838-8647, maggik3@sonic.net, thepeacealliance.org

Peace Roots Alliance – We seek to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world for future generations. 765-0196, Linda@peaceroots.org

Petaluma Blacks for Community Development – facebook.com/pb4cd

Petaluma Progressives – Grassroots, political education and action group. Producers of the Progressive Festival. 763-8134, info@progressivefestival.org

Praxis Peace Institute – Peace Education organization, 939-2973, praxispeace.org

Progressive Sonoma – Peaceful Resistance Network. An umbrella association to network Sonoma's local progressive action groups. peacefulresistance9.wixsite.com/progressivesonoma. Facebook at Peaceful Resistance Sonoma

Project Censored/Media Freedom Foundation – Publishes the top 25 most censored news stories each year. 874-2695, Peter@projectcensored.org, Mickey@projectcensored.org. projectcensored.org.

Racial Justice Allies – Developing anti-racist practices among white social justice activists. 795-2890 racialjusticeallies@gmail.com, www.racialjusticeallies.org

Sonoma County Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP). In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925. sngold@juno.com. www.pnhpca.org.

Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCo CAN!) Groups and individuals working address and reverse climate change. Meet in months with a 5th Monday, 7-9 PM at the PJC. Info: 595-0320 or SonomaCounty-CAN@gmail.com (email preferred).

Sonoma County Coastal Hills: gardens@mcn.org

Sonoma County Nonviolence Training Collective offers free trainings in methods and principles for progressive social change and peace. soconvtc@gmail.com.

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org

Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. SonomaSolidarity.org, Facebook: Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock. 792-4422.

Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. audreyvh@sbcglobal.net

Sonoma County Black Forum: Our mission is to lead, serve, and thrive, by promoting positive community and youth engagement events. Monthly meetings. sonomacounty-blackforum@gmail.com

SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice, Sonoma County) – facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty

United Farm Workers – 1700 Corby Ave., Santa Rosa 528-3039

United Nations Association – Builds public understanding and support for the United Nations. Facebook

Veterans for Peace – Organization of vets working together for peace and justice through nonviolence. 536-6002

Women in Black – Women who stand in silent vigil to protest war and human rights abuses.

Women's Justice Center – Advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse, particularly in the Latina community. 575-3150, justicewomen.com

*Please email zenekar@comcast.net
for additions or changes to this list.*

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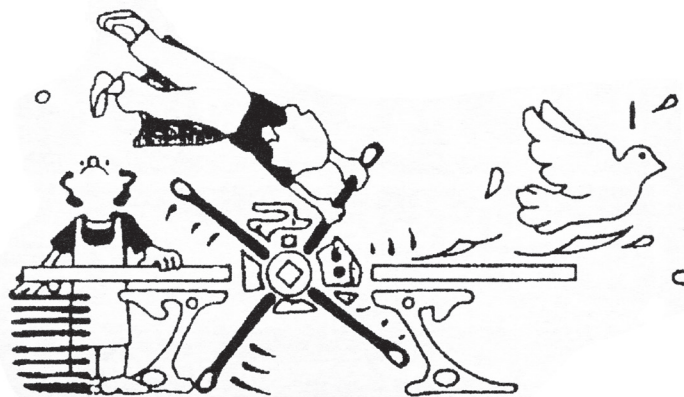
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