

SONOMA COUNTY

# peace press

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County  
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*in this issue*

- ▶ Get Involved for Social Justice
- ▶ Rapid Response Network
- ▶ Iran... Our Next War?
- ▶ Gone to Parts Unknown
- ▶ Where There is a Way

*much more inside...*



*2 minutes to midnight  
on the doomsday atomic clock!*

*Mushroom cloud from the atomic bombing  
of Nagasaki, Japan on August 9, 1945*

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,  
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### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRODUCTION CREW

Terra Freedman, Larry Harper, Earl Herr, Attila Nagy, and an awesome battalion of collaters, distributors, and others far too great to name.

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# Ways to Get Involved for Social Justice

*Shekeyna Black*

*“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”*

– Franklin D. Roosevelt, Second Inaugural Address, Jan. 20, 1937

Have your arms gotten tired from carrying protest signs and are your legs worn-out from participating in marches? If so, thank you for your dedication and diligence in fighting the powers that be! Now you can mix and mingle with like-minded people at two free, fun and informative events.

The first one is the 21st Annual Petaluma Progressive Festival, which takes place on Sunday, Aug. 21, 12 noon to 5:30 pm at Walnut Park in downtown Petaluma. The event features the popular musical political satire of the San Francisco Mime Troupe, author of the new book *Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*, Daniel Ellsberg, and live world music of LoCura. See flyer insert for more information, visit facebook/progressivefestival.

The second event is the Peace & Justice Center’s 3rd Annual Concert in the Hub, which takes place on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 12:30 to 6 pm. The entertainment line-up includes Midnight Sun, Dream Farmers, FunkNRoll, The Hubbub Club, DJ Loisaida and DJ Broken Record. Various activists groups and non-profit organizations will be participating with informational booths. Contact the Peace &

Justice Center if your group is interested in participating. Email us at [peacentr@sonic.net](mailto:peacentr@sonic.net) or calling 707-575-8902.

We appreciate the Cotati City Council and the Cotati Chamber of Commerce for their support of this family friendly community event. A great big thank you to all of the musicians who are donating their time and talent.

You may have heard about the Rise for Climate Jobs & Justice event taking place in San Francisco, Sept. 8. Check out [ca.riseforclimate.org](http://ca.riseforclimate.org) for more information about the march that is being held prior to the Global Action Climate Summit in San Francisco, Sept. 10-14. This year’s Concert in the Hub will be in solidarity with the folks participating in the event in San Francisco.

Additionally, you are encouraged to attend the free Nuclear Remembrance Day on Aug. 5 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm at Helen Putnam Plaza in downtown Petaluma, presented by Sonoma County Peace Crane Project. Visit [socopeacecrane.org](http://socopeacecrane.org).

The Peace & Justice Center is one of many cosponsors for the March for Nuclear Abolition & Global Survival at Livermore Lab in Berkeley on Aug. 6 at 8:00 am. Visit [trivalleycares.org/new/March-forNuclearAbolition.html](http://trivalleycares.org/new/March-forNuclearAbolition.html).

Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/PJCSonoma](https://facebook.com/PJCSonoma) and sign up for our weekly email calendar on our website at [pjcsoco.org/sign-up](http://pjcsoco.org/sign-up) to stay informed about peace and social justice events happening in Sonoma County. 🙌

## Rapid Response Network Hotline In Effect

*Vicki Smith*

While our federal government stoops to new lows in criminalizing and punishing migrants and asylum seekers especially at our border to the south, the North Bay Rapid Response Network continues to organize a strong hotline network here in Sonoma, Napa & Solano Counties.

In the two months after the shocking election of Nov. 2016, many organizations and committed individuals across Sonoma County came together to join with already functioning Bay Area Rapid Response hotlines to form the North Bay Rapid Response Network. Napa County soon joined us in the Spring of 2017. On the 1-year anniversary of the current administration’s election, Nov. 8, 2017, despite the vast wildfire disasters, the NBRRN officially launched. In the spring of 2018, Solano County also joined our network.

The Rapid Response Network hotline provides a way for people to respond to fear and anxiety in our communities as a result of the increase in Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, raids and other attacks on immigrants. The network provides a 24 hour hotline for immigrants facing a raid by federal immigration agents, we dispatch trained legal observers to the raid location, pro-

vide legal defense to affected communities and offer accompaniment to victims and families following a raid. Our mission is to mobilize an emergency response network, serve as witnesses to immigration enforcement actions, uphold the rights of immigrants and provide services to affected North Bay residents.

Our hotline network is composed of bi-lingual dispatchers who will stay on the phone with anyone facing an immigration enforcement action at their home, workplace, on the street or anywhere. Hotline dispatchers answer calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The NBRRN hotline is for emergency calls about an active raid, but dispatchers end up answering many questions and making referrals for frightened community members. When the hotline is called and legal observers verify a raid, dispatchers notify lawyers and begin the process of legal aid. We currently have nearly 30 dispatchers and we need more.

As well, legal observation teams who are

MigraWatch-trained observers respond directly to the site of an ongoing ICE raid. Observers bear witness to immigration enforcement actions and provide data for the network and the victim’s legal defense. We have trained more than 600 legal observers.

*The Rapid Response Network hotline provides a way for people to respond to fear and anxiety in our communities as a result of the increase in Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, raids and other attacks on immigrants.*

Our accompaniment teams make a long-term commitment to be present for the individual victim or family victims left behind and remain involved with these people sometimes for months. These teams work and support individuals and families with connections to social services, food banks, appointments, housing, legal support, accompaniment to court hearings, translation and more.

*Rapid Response...page 8*

# Santa Rosa Renters Need a Floor and a Ceiling Now

*Martin J. Bennett*

The County's affordable housing crisis that was challenging prior to the Tubbs fire, is now on the verge of catastrophe. The county and all cities must adopt new emergency measures and a multi-pronged approach to avert the displacement of low and moderate-income renters.

A 2017 report by the California Housing Partnership Corporation (CHPC) outlines the scope of the crisis. Between 2000-2015 inflation-adjusted median rent in the county increased by 16% while median renter income declined by 6%. Then, according to the web site Zillow, median rents jumped by 36% after the October 2017 fires. The CHPC report also indicates that since 2008, federal and state funding for affordable housing in the county dropped by a whopping 87%.

Governor Brown and the legislature approved a package of bills last year to increase funding for affordable housing, including a \$4 billion bond measure that the voters will consider in the November general election. Santa Rosa may also place a housing bond measure on the ballot. However, even if both bond measures are approved, construction will take several years.

The county's housing and displacement crisis requires immediate action and is compounded by the high cost of living in coastal California and the explosion of low-wage employment. According to the California Budget and Policy Project, in Sonoma County in 2017 a living wage for two parents working full-time with two children should be no less than \$23 an hour to cover all basic expenses without relying on public assistance.

Yet 54% of the jobs created in the county between 2012-2022, mainly service sector jobs, will pay less than a livable wage, according to the California Employment Development Department.

In 2016 the Brookings Institute reported that housing costs in metro regions across the nation rose much faster than incomes for low- and moderate-income families. These regions are where most of the country's population growth is occurring and, not surprisingly, the proportion of renters to homeowners is also climbing. The affordable housing crisis is rooted in soaring inequality, stagnant and falling wages, and an insufficient supply of subsidized affordable housing.

Two emergency measures the City of Santa Rosa and other jurisdictions can adopt now to address the underlying causes of the crisis and minimize displacement are rent control and a

\$15 citywide minimum wage.

The Santa Rosa City Council approved rent control and just-cause eviction protections in the fall of 2016, but the California Apartment Association placed this legislation on the June 2017 ballot, and in a low turnout primary, rent control was narrowly repealed by 4 points despite the fact that proponents were outspent by a 5-1 margin. However, rent control advocates have gathered signatures to place a measure on the ballot this fall that will limit rent increases to the annual rise of the Consumer Price Index with a cap of 5%.

Santa Rosa voters will likely make the city the 19th local jurisdiction in the state to adopt binding rent control and just-cause eviction protections. A recent report by Urban Habitat, based on in-depth analyses of three cities with rent control, including Santa Monica, Berkeley and Richmond, demonstrates that rent control provides more affordable rents and stability for tenants, while not deterring construction of new housing, lowering property values nor requiring appropriations from the general fund to effectively enforce.

To raise incomes and the wage floor, Santa

Rosa can implement a citywide \$15 an hour minimum wage that would phase in by 2020 and mandate six paid sick days, impacting 37,000 workers in the city. Currently the state minimum wage is \$11.00 an hour for large employers and will gradually increase to \$15 an hour by 2023 for all employers. Twenty-four California cities and one county have approved minimum wage laws higher than the state.

According to the UC Berkeley Labor Center, 96% of the workers who receive a raise when the minimum is boosted are adults over 20, and more than half are women and Latinos. On average, these low-wage workers provide more than half of their family income. When phased in to \$15 an hour, the average annual earnings of affected workers will increase by 24% or about \$3,700.

It is not by accident that eleven California cities have both citywide minimum wage higher than the state's and rent control laws – the City of Santa Rosa should follow. Tenants need both a floor and a ceiling, because the rent can't wait. 🍌

*Martin J. Bennett is Instructor Emeritus of History at Santa Rosa Junior College and co-chair of North Bay Jobs with Justice.*

## A Rent Crisis Close to Home

*Thea Hartman*

I have spent most of the past two months knocking on doors collecting signatures to put rent control for Santa Rosa on the ballot in November. That effort could positively impact the rent I myself will pay in the future, the rents paid by my friends and neighbors in the senior housing complex where I live, and the rents paid by renters throughout Santa Rosa. But I also had another motive. I wanted to find out how the two recent rent increases here in 2017 and 2018 affected members of our community and I wanted to share the idea of organizing ourselves into an informal Tenants Association.

I moved into Vintage Park in Santa Rosa in 2011. I paid a higher rent at first but after losing part of my income I became eligible for the lowest rent bracket. The rents have been adjusted almost every year according to a formula which is kept arcane by management and continues to be poorly understood by tenants. It is based on the median income for the area. Usually, the rent goes up only a few dollars and once it went down by one dollar, causing a few chuckles. Then in 2017 our rents went up 7%. On April 20 of this year, we were given notice our rents would go up again, this time by 10%. That day,

there was a buzz as people compared notes. Some people were saying they would not be able to make it. Others said they could manage this increase but could not withstand another.

That day, I sat in my living room feeling torn. With a group of like-minded residents, I was involved in actions resisting the Trump agenda. We had been focused on helping another district in California to oust their Republican Congressman, Tom McClintock. But I had a long-term goal of forming a Tenants Association where I live. It seemed obvious that the time for that effort had come.

10% may not seem like too much of a raise, but if your income is very limited it makes a big difference. A good number of us receive less than \$1,000 per month in Social Security. Our rent is now more than half our income. As we approached the date that our rent would go up, talk in the clubhouse turned to how people intended to adjust their monthly costs. We were not giving up a daily latte or a trip to the spa. Those fell by the wayside long ago. People here were talking about fewer trips to the doctor, skipping some medicines, cutting back on groceries, keeping the air

*Rent Crisis...see page 10*

# Iran... Our Next War?

*Jes Richardson*

I went to Iran in 2007 with Global Exchange and in 2010 with Fellowship of Reconciliation. In 2007 the US was sending aircraft carriers to the coast of Iran and it looked like we were about to start another war. I didn't believe the justifications the media were giving us, so I decided to go there and check it out for myself.

This is what I discovered: First of all, the Iranians I met love Americans. They don't like our government, but they really like us. I found this hard to believe for a number of reasons. In 1953 our CIA orchestrated a coup to overthrow their democratically-elected government. We then installed the Shah, who was a brutal dictator. We supported Iraq in the Iran/Iraq War with intelligence and military support. At the end of the war the US shot down a commercial Iranian plane and all 290 passengers and crew were killed. Our government never apologized.

A few things you might find interesting: The people of Iran are Persian and Shia and more tolerant than the Sunni Arab countries surrounding it. 70% of the population is under 30 years



*Jes Richardson in Iran, 2010, with Fellowship of Reconciliation delegation and Iranian friends.*

*Iran has not attacked another country in over 200 years... has the largest Jewish population in the Middle East outside of Israel. Jews practice their faith in synagogues found throughout the country and have a representative in Parliament. Iran does not have a nuclear weapon... and has not threatened to bomb its neighbors.*

old. Iran has not attacked another country in over 200 years. Iran has the largest Jewish population (25,000) in the Middle East outside of Israel. Jews practice their faith in synagogues found throughout the country and also have a representative in Parliament. Iran does not have a nuclear weapon, has never tested a nuclear device, has never produced weapons-grade uranium and has not threatened to bomb its neighbors. If they did, the 45 pro-western military bases surrounding their country would obliterate them.

This article would not be complete without mentioning Hezbollah's political party. There is a wide difference between American and Arab perception of Hezbollah. Several Western countries see it as a terrorist organization, whereas most of the Muslim world see it as a national resistance movement defending Lebanon. I suggest you do some research and decide for yourself.

A majority of Americans support the Peace Accord with Iran. Republicans, Netanyahu, neo-cons and arms dealers do not. They want to keep Iran isolated and demonized. Ultimately they want to overthrow the current government and replace it with a regime more favorable to the west.

Many Iranians I met were not happy with their government and wanted a change, but they emphasized that this change needs to come from the inside. They are a very proud people and they are tired of being pushed around by larger powers, especially the United States, but they are also tired of living in fear of their own government. As I see it, it's just a matter of time before the people rise up and replace this repressive regime. Women, in particular, are in the forefront of this movement for change.

President Trump's decision to violate and withdraw from Obama's anti-nuclear deal sets the stage for a war that could make the Afghan and Iraqi conflicts look like a cake walk. Secretary of Defense James Mattis has said the deal was working and Trump's decision to pull out could actually increase the chances of Iran deciding to acquire a nuclear weapon, along with a very real possibility that extreme hawks like "Bomb Iran" Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will use the withdrawal as a first step to justifying a war.

Behind the scenes is a growing alliance between the Saudis, Netanyahu and Trump, with a vision to dominate the Middle East. Their cry for democracy is nothing more than a sham. The goal of the neo-cons and multi-rich is the same as it was in Iraq and Syria... the acquisition of oil. While they get their oil contracts, we get ISIS, broken countries and mass migrations.

War with Iran will undoubtedly have the same results and more. Urban populations in Iran are some of the most modern and open-minded in the middle east. Do we really want to make enemies of these people? And then there's Russia and a possible proxy war... all this for oil profits and a deadly sense of world order by a very small group of madmen.

We need to stop any Trump administration efforts to prepare for a war against Iran and let them know there will be dire political consequences if they decide to do so. ☸

*Jes Richardson has been an activist for most of his adult life. He currently enjoys driving around in the Gandhimobile, keeping the name of Gandhi alive and putting a smile on people's faces. See his website: [bridgeofhearts.org](http://bridgeofhearts.org)*

# Report from Occupied Palestine

*Linda Sartor, Edited by Rebel Fagin*

The following was excerpted from e-mails Linda sent while on her mission this summer in the illegally occupied West Bank of Palestine and the Gaza Strip.

Bulldozers have descended upon Khan al Ahmar, preparing for the demolition of this small Bedouin village in the West Bank that is home to 181 Palestinians. Today, July 4, activists – including Peace Team members from Meta Peace Team – are on hand to witness the arrest of nonviolent Palestinian demonstrators. Israel is looking to forcibly relocate the village in order to make way for the expansion of settlements that are recognized as illegal under international law.

We stayed in a small Palestinian Bedouin community that has a settlement right on the other side of the fence. Our home there is this giant open tent overlooking the Jordan Valley. Our host, Hammad, is a 24-year-old University student.

While sitting in the tent, I listened to the Bedouin men speak. In 1948, secret Zionist armies had given Hammad's ancestors three choices: 1) join the Zionist military forces, 2) leave their land with no other consequences, or 3) stay and be killed. Hammad's grandfather sold 100 camels to buy this land and he put his original tent right here in the exact location of the tent which is our home now. In the early 80s the settlements began to establish themselves and life here has been a struggle ever since. This little community has already experienced over 30 demolition (some repeated in the same home site) over the years since 2007 and only two structures which were built prior to 1994 with no changes have no demolition orders at this point.

Most of the families now live in metal shacks rebuilt on cement foundations which might still be demolished at any time. House demolitions usually occur in the middle of the night and are very frightening, especially to children. One mother choked up in tears as she described the traumatic stress her 3-year-old daughter developed when soldiers came to demolish their house. She would not go out of the house for 6 months. She would only watch TV and when her mother turned off the TV, the daughter would just go to sleep. She received counseling and seems to be doing okay now but the mother is concerned what will happen if/when her daughter experiences another demolition.

One reason our presence is helpful here is to witness in case there is demolition, and also the settlers are often nastier and less predictable

than the soldiers. Their behavior changes when internationals are here.

Settlers attending Friday night services at the synagogue pass through Palestinian areas, so the army is posted along the way for their "protection." We often went there to observe the interactions between the Israeli army and settlers and the Palestinians. All was quiet while settlers and Palestinians walked peacefully past each other that night.

Bandela, a small village in the Jordan Valley, put in a well in 1967. In 1971-72, the water company put in three more wells. Today, July 13, Israelis came to demolish and remove the last two water pipes through which Bandela was carrying their agricultural water.

Settlers are a bigger threat to the Palestinian people than the soldiers. In the night three days ago (Friday) settlers set two cars on fire inside the wall of a Palestinian home in a village we visited. The Palestinian family member

who brought us there translated the message left on the wall the night of the burning: "Take care (meaning 'watch out'), we will come again." Quite a few people have already moved out of their homes here due to the settlers and soldiers activities. This morning at breakfast the father said strongly that he and his family will not move away no matter what happens. They will stay and die here if they have to.

We're back in Ramallah and we intend to join a demonstration tomorrow at the fence separating Gaza from Israel. The main goal is to let the Palestinians demonstrating inside the fence for their Right of Return know that there are still people on the outside supporting them.

In case you've heard what's happening in Gaza, I wanted to let you know that we're all okay and we are also pleased about the action we took at the Gaza fence this evening. We managed to get a large Palestinian flag and banner saying "Liberate the Gaza Ghetto" close enough to the fence and high enough that the

protesters on the other side could see it. We know they saw it because we could see them wave. The soldiers were befuddled regarding what to do about us, so though they tried to stop us, once we established ourselves up there, they actually walked away from the flag and banner for a while.

I'm glad organizations like the Peace Team, International Solidarity Movement, Christian Peacemaker Team and others provide this constant presence. While I was observing this evening, I was thinking about how important it is for internationals to continue to provide a presence here and how difficult it is for some



PHOTO: LINDA SARTOR

**Israelis came to demolish the last two water pipes through which Bandela was carrying their agricultural water – their food and livelihood.**

to enter the country just for this reason. The Palestinians are resilient people and they are taking a strong stand in the face of the long term and constant oppression with which they have been faced since 1949. They refuse to leave their homeland despite the harassment they get and have gotten for many generations from the Israeli settlers and military. We international activists from the US can provide two means of support: first by standing with the Palestinians providing this protective presence as we are doing now and second by reporting back and reaching as many US citizens as possible to try to change hearts and minds and to refuse to allow our government to financially support the atrocities committed by Israel with our tax money. Please consider to whom you might forward these messages any way you can.

For further information consider the following: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=r76hZM-ddzy](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r76hZM-ddzy), [onpfpalastine.blogspot.com](http://onpfpalastine.blogspot.com), [ISM.org](http://ISM.org), [North-CoastCoalitionforPalestine](http://North-CoastCoalitionforPalestine) on Facebook. 🌿

# Invisible Violence Pervades Our Species

**Margaret Koren**

*Gandhi said: "Poverty is the worst form of violence."*

Violence is when a person does harm to another. Examples are bullying, hitting, maiming, stabbing, shooting and killing. This is called direct violence and it also includes riots, vandalism, terrorism, arson, bombing, assassination, genocide and war. However, there is another form of violence that is said to be invisible. It is structural violence, which has existed for centuries.

To this day we continue to live in a privileged and patriarchal society, where accepted, and often legitimized violent norms are embedded in our history and culture. We live in a society that injures and harms individuals because of economic, cultural and political structures that create divisions in our population. We have the 'powerful' and the 'weak,' the 'superior' and the 'inferior,' the wealthy and the poor. There exists racial injustice, misogyny, gender intolerance and differences in belief systems, separating people on several levels. In her 2016 article in Science Direct, "Violent Causes and Cures," Dr. Brandy X. Lee wrote, "Due to social and economic structures in place today... the death rate (from structural violence) is 10-20 million people a year; ten times the death rates from

suicides, homicides and warfare combined."

Johan Galtung coined the term "structural violence" in his 1969 article, "Violence, Peace and Peace Research," in which he said that it is, "an avoidable impairment of fundamental needs embedded in political and economic organizations of our social world." Ideas and laws have enabled political, economic, religious and social conditions to prevent the masses from meeting their basic needs. We live in a time when unnatural rates of death and disability are caused by discrimination, denigration, shame, and stress, resulting from having lower status – says James Gilligan in his book, *Violence: Reflection of a National Epidemic*. The underprivileged at the bottom rungs of society are denied their ability to achieve a good quality of life. They are limited by social structures, be they economic, political, educational, religious, and cultural and even the laws of the land. Today we have countless institutions and corporations that continue to have authority over their subjects and employees, which will only increase without unions to represent workers.

Rather than being called social injustice and oppression, it is called structural violence and it kills just the same. It kills and causes harm when people are denied access to healthcare, education, water, food and justice in the courts.

It is "avoidable" because it has been created by human decisions and so it can be corrected through changes in policy and education to undo the injustice. This injustice is embedded in our current unfair and violent culture where the poor, Native, South American, African American, women, LBGTX community, the recent undocumented, legal immigrants and people with different belief systems remain victims.

Centuries have passed since the celebrated victors of war imposed their culture on their captives: the Conquistadors in the Americas, the Christians in Spain and Mexico, and the British enslavement of the so-called inferior races of the African continent, of the people of India, of the Aborigines of Australia, and of the Irish in the 1900s. The victors raped and pillaged, they outlawed the customs, religions, languages and belief systems of the vanquished – as also with the Chinese control of Tibet in 1959. North Americans committed a socially accepted practice of religious and political violence and genocide against native Indian tribes in the 1900s. The Irish enslaved poor pregnant women and girls – a socially accepted practice hidden among religious doctrines of the time. Similarly, the burning of witches – wise and outspoken women – is widely recorded in recent European and American history.

There has been no recovery from this. New science is telling us that such violence is recorded in our cellular memory. Sadly, today the USA and other countries that are part of NATO continue to use unspeakable violent interventions, legitimizing violence in the name of spreading democracy. Structural violence remains mostly an unspoken cultural aberration in our so-called enlightened world. We live in the 21st Century in which growing numbers of people are still waiting and working for a change in policies and cultural thinking; they are waiting for truth, forgiveness, reconciliation and reparations.

Please help us undo our violent past before it is too late, because violence impacts us all. Culturally legitimized and embedded structural violence is now being directed on our planet. We need to create a culture of peace to begin the healing. We can begin this work with creation of a California State entity for peace-building and violence prevention with the passage of HR1111 for a Department of Peacebuilding.

*"We have an all systems breakdown in our society which requires an all systems approach to build bridges and repair the damage."* – Marianne Williamson 🙏

Margaret Koren is a volunteer of the California Department of Peacebuilding Campaign. You can email her at [maggik3@sonic.net](mailto:maggik3@sonic.net).

## A Voice in the Wilderness on KBBF

**Rebel Fagin**

On September 3, Labor Day, at 4 pm, *Speaking of Palestine* will debut on the nation's first bilingual public radio station, KBBF, 89.1 FM. The North Coast Coalition for Palestine (NCCP) will host the show. We at NCCP are honored to be welcomed as members of the KBBF family. *Speaking of Palestine* will feature news and views concerning Palestine/Israel from facts that respect the Palestinian people. Although not unique, *Speaking of Palestine* is one of a handful of shows that does this.

US corporate media presents all issues concerning Palestine/Israel from a normative and overwhelmingly pro-Israel perspective. This is the result of over fifty years of deliberate framing by pro-Israeli forces. Challenging these views risks being branded anti-Semitic or a self-hating Jew. This is a death knell for corporate broadcasters and publishers. For a democracy to function it is necessary for its citizens to be well informed. This is why a show like *Speaking of Palestine* is so important.

*Speaking of Palestine* will air from 4 to 5 pm on the first Monday of every month. Some

of the initial shows will focus on the personal stories of the show's hosts, the basics of the occupation of Palestine, the US role in Israel and the occupation, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, the Boycott Divestments and Sanctions Movement, Students for Justice in Palestine, the history of the "peace process" including the status of Jerusalem, Zionism and non-Zionist Jews, Bedouins, Gaza and the West Bank. Guest speakers are being invited to join in the discussions. Regular segments are planned on Palestine in the news, myth busting, culture and cuisine. In the future we hope to present recordings from conferences and protests, live music and feeds from sources such as the Electronic Intifada.

The North Coast Coalition for Palestine meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Peace & Justice Center, 467 Sebastopol Avenue in Santa Rosa. New members are always welcome. Learn more at [nccpal.org](http://nccpal.org) or on our Facebook page. Please listen to our show *Speaking of Palestine* from 4 to 5 pm on the first Monday of the month at listener-sponsored KBBF, 89.1 FM. 🙏

# A Case for Detoxifying the EPA

## Occupy Sonoma County

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), tasked with keeping our air, land and water clean, is itself in a dangerous, toxic condition. It has powerful enemies including the US President, who would like to see the agency abolished, as well as the past and current EPA Administrator (Pruitt and Wheeler), both climate change deniers. Pruitt was a former state attorney general who sued the EPA 17 times to block public health protections. Congress has added to the toxicity with a new House bill aimed at killing off the EPA by the end of this year. While environmentalists are fighting back against all attempts to weaken and destroy the EPA, some pro-environment progressives are unconcerned. They see a flawed agency with spotty environmental cleanup and environmental justice credentials. While the EPA is imperfect, there are many reasons that progressives should not allow the baby to be tossed out with the swamp water.

The EPA is a capstone of the modern environmental movement that grew during the 1960s. The movement became influential as the public became increasingly aware that modern ecological disasters were human-caused, were becoming more frequent and were likely to make the earth uninhabitable unless addressed. EPA action has prevented many of these past catastrophes from reoccurring: the 1930s Dust Bowl that displaced 2.5 million people and made millions of acres unusable; a series of deadly smog events in New York City that culminated in 1966 with 168 deaths and thousands sickened; a pollution-fueled fire in the Cuyahoga River in Ohio that made headlines in 1969, but had actually occurred frequently over decades; and California's largest oil spill along the Santa Barbara coast in 1969 that contaminated 400 square miles of coastline and became the inspiration for the first Earth Day in 1970.

In 1962, *Silent Spring*, an environmental science book, became a best-seller and gave the environmental movement a boost. In it, author Rachel Carson chronicled examples of the devastation inflicted on the natural world from the indiscriminate use of DDT and other pesticides. Public outcry over her findings prompted a federal investigation that substantiated her claims and strengthened her credibility as an environmental spokesperson. Carson found issues with the agencies who were tasked to study and regulate pesticides. The FDA was under-resourced to study the problem, and the USDA had conflicts of interest regulating pesticides since their primary concern was farm policy, not

human impact on nature. It was not until 1970 that our nation established the EPA as its first powerful government agency that was focused solely on the protection of life and nature.

The actual stated mission of the EPA is to "protect human health and the environment." While the statement is simple and laudable, the task is immense and formidable. Climate change, the most urgent environmental issue of our time, finds the United States ranked globally as the second highest emitter of greenhouse gases. Halting the rise of greenhouse gases will require monumental changes to US industry and infrastructure. The EPA is the only agency

in place with the capability and regulatory power to handle this task and there is no time left to create a new one.

While capitalist's love the fable of the "self-made" individual who needs nothing but their bootstraps to become successful, progressives know that their success is leveraged on the hard work of those who came before them to address the concerns of their time. The US Environmental Protection Agency is our legacy from the environmental movement. Let's all support the environmental groups that are working to release it from the grip of its enemies and renew it for ourselves and future generations. 🌱

## LETTER TO THE PEACE PRESS Immigration in America in 2018

Over 11,000 Hispanic children have been torn away from their parents and are being held captive in cages at border crossings in Texas and in other overcrowded "shelters." Trump and his supporters are running concentration camps for children. These are prisons. This is child abuse. Trump and his supporters have reached the hellish depths of cruelty. These acts are hateful, despotic, depraved, disgusting, perverted, contemptible, tyrannical and morally criminal. They have lost every shred of their humanity. They have no compassion or caring for their fellow human beings.

These heinous, obscene practices must be stopped now. They must not be allowed. We must reunite these innocents with their families and help them find a place in this world. This will be what makes us human – by being humane.

This also applies to all the innocent children and families who are caught in all the other wars around the world that the US is part of.

The universal solution to these problems is to change this system. It is this system of exclusion. It causes crime, disease, poverty and all the other ills and problems that we all face every day. I imagine a new, inclusive system that would give every person a monthly stipend to cover all their basic human needs. This would be the remedy we need. This is the key.

We are all brothers and sisters of all "colors." Thinking of ourselves as nations is passé. We are a global society.

Zanzara Dancer and Seann Zales, co-coordinators of the free dinners project at First and Church Street in Guerneville, on the second and last Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. 🌱



# County Pays Millions for Law Enforcement Corruption

*Frank Saiz*

On June 11, 2018 Sonoma County agreed to pay \$1.7 million to settle a lawsuit filed by former Sonoma County Jail inmates who said they endured physical assaults and verbal abuse by correctional deputies on May 28, 2015. The civil rights lawsuit was filed in October 2015 in US District Court in San Francisco. Several correctional officers received promotions after the lawsuit was filed.

*It is hard to believe that these stories are not horror tales, but are factual truth of law enforcement abuse and corruption in Sonoma County today.*

Sonoma County paid \$1.25 million on January 12, 2016 to settle an excessive force lawsuit from a man who was tased 23 times while in custody of law enforcement.

Another payout of \$1.75 million was paid by Sonoma County to the family of Jeremiah Chass, a 16 year old boy with mental distress who was shot and killed by two sheriff's deputies in the driveway of his family's Sebastopol area home in 2007.

The family of Glenn Swindell of Larkfield sued the Sheriff's office after Swindell committed suicide during a 12-hour siege by the SWAT team, which prompted him to take his life. Sonoma County has agreed to pay a

record-setting \$1.9 million to the family. These are not isolated incidents but a pattern of abuse by law enforcement that once was found in the Gulags of Russia.

All the cases have been heard in Federal Court and all allege civil rights violations by deputies. In none of these examples is there a mention of the litigation costs that Sonoma County has paid out to their hired legal guns for their defense. A Personal Records Act (PRA) request was made to Sonoma County Human Resource Liability Department at different times for this information.

One PRA request was for all litigation and settlement costs from 2000-2014 to handle Sonoma County Sheriff Department (SCSD) abuses. Sonoma County averaged \$1 million per year for settlements and litigation payouts for that period. In another PRA, information was requested on whether Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has ever done a performance review on the Sheriff and his Departments. Sonoma County Human Resource Department's response was that no performance review of the Sheriff has ever been requested by the BOS.

The latest chapter of law enforcement abuse and Sonoma County corruption concerns the murder of 13-year old Andy Lopez by Sheriff Deputy Gelhaus on October 22, 2013. We as a community and as taxpayers do not know what

are the litigation costs to Sonoma County to defend itself. One tally places the present legal bill around \$4 million and climbing. Now with the SCOTUS decision to reject the plea from Sonoma County to drop Andy Lopez lawsuit, Sonoma County's legal options are exhausted. It will either have to settle with the family of Andy Lopez in an ongoing federal civil-rights lawsuit, or participate in a trial to determine if Deputy Gelhaus should be granted qualified immunity for his role in the murder of Andy Lopez. Sonoma County has already promoted Gelhaus to Sergeant with an accompanying pay raise in August 2016.

It is hard to believe that these stories are not horror tales, but are factual truth of law enforcement abuse and corruption in Sonoma County today. Not so long ago we didn't think about it, but now everyone can freely see and shout our voices that we don't like what is happening in Sonoma County today.

I must remind you that the most important years in the lives of people living in Sonoma County are not the last 25 years but the next. With the passing of time, the share of those with direct knowledge of law enforcement abuse and negligent Board of Supervisors is smaller than ever before. Now it's the responsibility of citizens to ensure that they do not forget. With the passage of time people inevitably change the past. We have a mission to remember and remind ourselves what happened and why, and to recount the serious crimes that Sonoma County has visited upon its own people. 🙏

## Meanwhile, the County Cut Funding to Commission on Human Rights and Commission on the Status of Women

*Elaine B. Holtz*

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (BOS) is cutting staff funding for the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women at a time when women's productive rights are in jeopardy and there is an effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. *The purpose of the Commission on the Status of Women is to promote equal rights and opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls, and to address issues of discrimination and prejudice that negatively affect women in Sonoma County.*

In addition, the BOS is cutting the staff funding for the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights (CHR) as the United States has pulled out of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Both of these Commissions are a venue for Santa Rosa and all of Sonoma County, for people to have a place to voice their concerns. *The primary purpose of the Commission on Human Rights is to promote better human relations among all people in Sonoma County through education, advocacy, and by initiating action that fosters the recognition of, and appreciation for, the*

*diversity of our community.* Both are needed more than ever. With a women majority on the BOS it is difficult to understand why this is happening.

In cutting county staff support, the BOS is degrading both commissions, thus creating a potential to fail. I suggest that folks call your supervisor and encourage them to find the funding to support these two commissions.

[sonomacounty.ca.gov/Commission-on-the-Status-of-Women/](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Commission-on-the-Status-of-Women/) [sonomacounty.ca.gov/Commission-on-Human-Rights/](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Commission-on-Human-Rights/) 🙏

# Allies Safety Network Accompaniers Ready to Assist

*Vicki Smith*

In January of 2017, a group of activists gathered at the Peace & Justice Center to discuss starting a hotline to support immigrants facing harassment. We called ourselves Friends Safety Network. We soon learned that many people in Sonoma County were meeting to consider such a hotline. We changed our name to Allies Safety Network (ASN) and joined with the efforts of other groups brought together by North Bay Organizing Project to form the North Bay Rapid Response Network (RRN) hotline of Sonoma and Napa (and now Solano) Counties.

After the Trump election, this hotline model was used up and down the West Coast as well as across the US. The RRN hotline model was formed by DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) individuals, other community immigrant activists and immigration support groups around the country. It is intended to monitor immigration enforcement activities under the Trump administration and provide support to detained immigrants and the larger immigrant community.

In late 2017 Allies Safety Network stepped in to do continual monthly training meetings for people who are doing or want to do “accompaniment” support work in conjunction with the hotline and also with immigrant individuals and families who did not make their needs known through the hotline. Accompaniment is the support work needed by individuals and families who are being threatened by immigration enforcement, e.g., they have lost their Temporary Protective Status\* and work permits or have been detained or deported. They or their families need support at courts or for basic survival needs. For families who are divided by being detained, accompaniers will gather resources needed by the family members left behind after a detention or a deportation, including legal referral, advocacy, court attendance, rides, connection to community services and more.

Allies Safety Network has had regular monthly meetings since August 2017 at the Peace & Justice Center on one Saturday morning each month for accompaniers to talk about what they are doing in their communities for accompaniment work and what support or training they need. Presenters and topics for our trainings have included:

- Ronit Rubinoff, Legal Aid of Sonoma County on Immigrant Family Preparedness and Guardianship
- Alexa Riner, Allies Safety Network, on the Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Team

(NEAT) model

- Rick Coshnear, VIDAS (Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy Services), on legal processes immigrants face
- Doris Reyes, Sonoma Valley La Luz, on Employers Rights & Responsibilities in the Workplace under CA AB450
- Claudia Robbins, Sonoma Valley Action Coalition, on the Faith in Action model of accompaniment to immigration court hearings
- Emilia Carbajal, Graton Labor Center, on Social Media and Immigrant Deportation Defense
- Gina Brooks, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, on how to accompany with respect for the immigrant family, and “person-centered” accompaniment
- Henry Kaku, Sonoma County Japanese-American Citizens League Oral History Project, on WW2 Japanese Internment
- Stephen Zollman, Sebastopol Family Law Attorney, former San Francisco Public Defender, on assisting immigrants at the border, building asylum claims, immigration & family law, accompanying defendants to court and LGBTQI/HIV asylum

In August, Allies Safety Network will host Alejandra Torres, Catholic Charities Education Coordinator, who will address our monthly training meeting and clarify the Catholic Charities services available for immigrants. Catholic Charities is the largest nonprofit immigration service in Northern

California and helps the entire community with food assistance (emergency/immediate assistance signing up for CalFresh), shelter and housing, supportive services such as employment, managing finances, repairing credit, mental health and stability services and senior services. Join us for this event on Saturday, August 11 from 10 am to 12 noon at the Peace & Justice Center, 467 Sebastopol Avenue in Santa Rosa. Attend our regular training meetings at the

*Allies Safety Network has had regular monthly meetings since August 2017 ... for accompaniers to talk about what they are doing in their communities for accompaniment work and what support or training they need.*

Peace & Justice Center on the 2nd Saturday of the month, usually from 10 am to 12 noon.

\*Temporary Protected Status (TPS) has been rescinded for immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras and Sudan by the Trump Administration. TPS holders from Yemen, Somalia, Syria and South Sudan also face uncertain futures and some are included in the travel ban. TPS immigrants in the US include approximately 400,000 people who will now be designated as undocumented. Many of these people are asylum seekers and have been in the US for up to 27 years after being granted TPS because they faced natural disasters or human rights abuses and violence in their home countries, and which many still face if they return. 🌱

## **Rapid Response** ... from page 1

There are Legal Observer trainings at 2000 Humboldt Street in Santa Rosa on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please come to one of these trainings as a first step to be a dispatcher, a legal observer and/or to learn more about the hotline. Contact Susan Shaw, Co-Director North Bay Organizing Project at 707-481-2970 for more information.

## **North Bay Rapid Response Network Stats**

*Calls As of May 31, 2018:*

Total Hotline Calls: 1,436

Total Reported Incidents: 44

Total Number of NBRRN Volunteers:

Legal Observers: 600+

Accompaniment volunteers: 161

Dispatchers: 26 active

*Summary:* There have been 1,436 calls fielded by the dispatching team, with 44 total incidents of reported ICE activity as of May 31, 2018. Over 60% of NBRRN calls and reported incidents occurred in February and March. These were due to a wave of ICE arrests that targeted Napa County. During the week of February 26, 2018, ICE detained 232 people throughout Northern California. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/NorthBayRapidResponse/](https://www.facebook.com/NorthBayRapidResponse/) or [Northbayop.org/rapidresponse/](https://www.northbayop.org/rapidresponse/). Our 24-hour hotline number is 707-800-4544. 🌱

# Where There is a Way, There is a Will, and Other Climate Solutions!

*Veronica "Roni" Jacobi*

I am really excited to bring a message of hope and progress. When people see a way to help, they develop the will and determination to act and keep taking action until positive results abound. I know we have major challenges in the world today, but there is evidence that as the result of current major problems, more people are waking up, getting active and creating solutions. I know we can get discouraged at times, but gratitude really works and there is so much to be grateful for.

Emily Johnson, who shut down a tar sands pipeline valve, said "I feel incredibly privileged to be alive in this moment, when so much is still so beautiful, and there's still a chance to save it."

Margaret Klein Solomon, founder of The Climate Mobilization, says, "Did you know you have a calling? An epic calling. A heroic calling. Probably more grand than anything you had let yourself imagine, outside of dreams and glimpses. You are supposed to save the world. That's why you are here. Alive in this time of great consequence. We – humanity – are putting together a team to cancel the apocalypse; to protect humanity and the natural world from catastrophic collapse." "You might not realize it, but you are on the roster. Your jersey is sitting in your locker. We will need to figure out your position, and get you into (emotional) shape – but we will work all of that out. The first step is to show up to practice. We are waiting for you." The engineer in me, as well as the lover of life, adores that practical rallying call.

A Climate Change Major Disaster Declaration could also be a big step for getting additional Federal and State funds so we can get ahead of wildfire preparedness and other needed resiliency, climate protection/adaptation and social justice work. Let's create the California we want and the future we and our young people need! 🙌

*Veronica "Roni" Jacobi is a candidate for CA State Senate, District 2, and a former Santa Rosa Councilwoman. Visit [www.OurGreenChallenge.org](http://www.OurGreenChallenge.org) or phone 707-575-5594.*

## RISE UP! N.O.W.

**Garden Party and Summer Social with the fabulous Haute Flash Trio, Django Reinhardt-inspired women's band, Saturday, Aug. 11, 1 to 4 pm, Howarth Park Gazebo, 630 Summerfield Road, Santa Rosa.**

Come picnic at the park! The National Organization for Women (NOW) garden party will feature the fabulous Haute Flash Trio, tables (contact us if you have ideas or would like to set something up for coalition groups), energy and inspiration for the election, getting the Equal Rights Amendment finally passed after three generations of work, fun, songs and we're bringing ice cream. It's free but donations will be gratefully accepted. Bring your clever signs and pussy hats.

NOW is the time for women to connect and get the vote out, get active, get women's and girls' rights on the agenda of businesses, schools and politics – local, national and global. The Howarth Park Gazebo site has picnic tables, first come first served. There's also a grassy knoll if you want to spread a blanket. Enjoy the music and get to know your fellow women's rights advocates. We'll have ice cream and some refreshments. Bring your own place setting as this is a ZERO WASTE event! Use public transit or carpool.

Background/History: As the grassroots arm of the women's movement, the National Organization for Women is dedicated to its multi-issue and multi-strategy approach to women's rights and is the largest organization of feminist grassroots activists in the United States. NOW has hundreds of chapters and hundreds of thousands of members and activists in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Since its founding in 1966, NOW's purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political and economic life.

**Contact us at [info@nowsonoma.org](mailto:info@nowsonoma.org) or visit [nowsonoma.org](http://nowsonoma.org).**



# Gone to Parts Unknown

*e.g. singer*

In June, Anthony Bourdain joined the ongoing list of well-known people (and too many others, young and old, known only to their families and friends), who have chosen to end their lives by suicide. Anthony Bourdain was raised in the United States and traveled with his family to France during his youthful summers. His father was French. There he acquired his culinary tastes for European and other international cuisine.

After dropping out of Vassar College, he began his apprenticeships in the kitchens of various restaurants and graduated from the Culinary Institute of America. He put his experiences into words with his book, *Kitchen Confidential*. It was a surprise success, adding his name to the who's who of celebrity chefs. Along the way, drugs became a part of his life, which he candidly acknowledged (heroin addiction and recovery).

His looks, personality and temperament were perfectly suited for television. He could have easily been a male model – his tall, lanky

physique, strong facial features and silver hair stood out. But it was his curious nature, sensitivity and self-deprecating humor that drew people to him like a magnet and revealed themselves on camera.

Anthony Bourdain was an imperfect angel, as are we all. His writings, social media events and television programs attest to that. He saw himself as a storyteller, a seeker, who excelled at using food as an educational entry point to the peoples and cultures in his travels. He cajoled us to look beyond the stereotypes we derived from our insular existence in the United States. And we were happy to tag along for the ride! He did not often emphasize the political issues of the specific countries he visited, but he knew that food was about emotion, interconnectedness, inclusiveness and community. He saw food as a political act – from the availability of ingredients, to how it was prepared, to the manner in which it was consumed and by whom. He saw it simply as something that unites us in our humanity and across borders.

Suicide, whether it be by an impulsive act, brought on by relational, social/economic conditions, a wounded psyche or a “well thought-out” plan; is the final decision. It is when the mind takes up permanent residence in despair and hopelessness.

We are a wealthy nation, beyond all our expectations, but we are not a particularly happy one. The general populace should be the beneficiaries of a more equitable slice of the economy, but they are not. Social media and the internet espouse alleviation of isolation and

*We are a wealthy nation, beyond all our expectations, but we are not a particularly happy one.*

loneliness, which are major factors in depression and suicide, but it does not. And where our nation's healthcare system should bring better future outcomes for its people, it does not!

With mass shootings and a nationwide opioid epidemic making front page news daily, it would be nice to think that already proven solutions would be more easily implemented. But, it is clear that our government continues to be complicit in using debate (rather than action) to procrastinate in addressing these pressing issues. In fact, funding for medical and mental health services continues to be cut under present administration directives.

It is important to understand the reasons for an over 25% increase in our nation's suicide rate between 1999 and 2016. Where other westernized nations are seeing a dramatic decrease in suicide and mental health issues are being addressed earlier in life, our nation's mental health issues – suicide, depression and anxiety – are starting to impact more people, at a younger age and in greater numbers. The continued stigma placed on mental illness in our society is an anachronistic response that needs to be retired post haste! Yet it is endemic; this competitive “spirit” in our political and socioeconomic system.

To survive and stay on top, we pay the ultimate price: the daily grinding down of our true spirit. We are conditioned to never feel smart enough, fast enough, rich enough, attractive and famous enough, tough enough, etc., both in others' eyes or in our own. And to those gentle and fragile souls caught up in a culture still based on “rugged individualism” that defines our self-worth, the lack of community resources due to an underfunded mental health system is sometimes too little, too late. We can and must do better! 🙌

## A Rent Crisis... from page 2

conditioning turned off on hot days.

Our housing complex was built in 1998. It is owned and managed by the same corporation that built it. This corporation owns several low-income housing complexes in Santa Rosa and thousands throughout California. They are funded through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). 90% of the low-income housing being built in the United States are LIHTCs. There are 33 LIHTC apartment complexes in Santa Rosa alone. Most of these house senior and disabled people.

The regulations pertaining to LIHTC properties are different from those covering HUD buildings. The formula for determining rent is different and LIHTC contracts eventually expire. HUD regulations are part of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The rules governing LIHTC properties are found in the Tax Code. In fact, the Republican tax bill that was passed last winter was going to eliminate LIHTC credits totally, on the spot, but the version passed by the Senate reinstated them. Millions of seniors, disabled people and low-income families across the country would have lost their housing this past January if the tax credit had been deleted from the tax code. There is still a likelihood that something of this nature will happen a little at a time, as LIHTC contracts run out and are not renewed.

We at Vintage Park are at the tip of an ice-

berg. There are 119 households in this complex and approximately 2,437 households among the 33 LIHTC complexes in Santa Rosa. All of them will see a rise in rent based upon a formula that offers below-market rent according to percentages of median income for the area. Rents are keyed to 30%, 40%, 50% or 60% of Area Median Income. Instead of paying rent at 30% of our own income, as HUD tenants do, we pay 30% of an imaginary figure belonging to a theoretical person living on a given percentage of the local average income.

The Area Median Income for Santa Rosa was \$73,496.00 in 2016. For those of us in the lowest LIHTC bracket, rents are based on an income of \$1,837.00 per month, but the average Social Security check is \$1,372.00 per month.

Almost everyone I approached in Vintage Park signed the rent control petition. Many of them want to join a Tenants Association. I hope that our response to this situation can be a positive example for others who face unmanageable raises in rent within low-income housing. There surely will be others. Rent control can help us stay in our homes. If both Santa Rosa rent control and the repeal of Costa-Hawkins, a state bill that exempts buildings built after 1997 from rent control, pass in November, we at Vintage Park will be protected from another big rent increase that many of us could not survive. 🙌

# Nuclear Remembrance Day Event, Aug. 5

*Phyllis Tajii*

The Peace Crane Project of the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County will hold Nuclear Remembrance Day on Sunday, August 5, in downtown Petaluma's Helen Putnam Plaza from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

Activities and entertainment will include a shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute) performance by Elliot Kallen, taiko performance by Ten Ten Taiko (a women's taiko group), Hiroshima Mayors for Peace poster exhibit, a Geiger counter demonstration by Fukushima Response, demonstration folding of a 6 foot x 6 foot paper into an origami crane and presentation of awards to winning student poster contest entries. Visitors are invited to participate in a Japanese Tea Ceremony led

by Sachiko Knappman, make origami cranes to take home and write a wish for peace on a Japanese Ema (wooden prayer plaque). Peace Crane notecards and origami crane ornaments will be available for sale.

The Peace Crane Project is committed to creating a world free of nuclear weapons, where people can learn to live together in harmony and peace. We have recently been partnering with Fukushima Response to raise awareness about the health and environmental impact of nuclear power plants.

Over the years the Peace Crane Project has organized Nuclear Remembrance Day events (formerly known as Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance Day) and installed and maintain Peace Poles in Sonoma County. The poles carry messages that say "May Peace Prevail

On Earth" in several different languages and can be found in Santa Rosa's downtown Old Courthouse Square, the Peace Park in Ragle Park, Sebastopol, and the Petaluma Arts Center/Smart Train depot. The Peace Crane's current long-term project is to import seeds from the second generation of a tree that survived the Hiroshima bombing in 1945, with the goal of creating a memorial for all nuclear bomb victims by planting a seed of hope from Japan and nurturing it into a symbol of peace.

You can find more information about Nuclear Remembrance Day and the Peace Crane Project at [socopeacecrane.org](http://socopeacecrane.org) and [fukushimaresponse.org](http://fukushimaresponse.org). ☸

*Phyllis Tajii is a member of the Peace Crane Project, the Japanese American Citizens League, and the Petaluma Community Relations Council.*

*The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists advanced the Doomsday Atomic Clock a notch closer to the end of humanity, moving it ahead to two minutes to "midnight."*

## March for Nuclear Abolition & Global Survival, Aug. 6

Join us at Livermore Lab, Aug. 6, 2018 to commemorate the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan at the site where new nuclear weapons are being developed for use today. Mark your calendar today for this major Rally, March and Nonviolent Direct Action on Monday, August 6, 2018, 8 am.

We will gather at Livermore Lab to stop the creation of novel, "more usable" nuclear warheads that the Trump Administration proposed in its Nuclear Posture Review and fiscal 2019 budget, both released earlier this year. We will join millions of peace advocates around the country and the world on this memorable day to say "never again" to the use of nuclear weapons and to call for their global abolition.

The rally's keynote speaker will be Daniel Ellsberg, perhaps best known as the whistleblower who released "The Pentagon Papers" to hasten an end to the war in Vietnam. He had

worked as an analyst at RAND Corporation and a consultant to the Defense Department, specializing in problems of command and control of nuclear weapons, war plans and crisis decision-making. Ellsberg recently released his critically acclaimed memoirs, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*.

Reverend Nobuaki Hanaoka will be a guest speaker. He was an infant when the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. His mother and sister died from illnesses linked to radiation poisoning and his brother died at age 39 from premature aging associated with fallout from the bomb. Hanaoka is a retired minister in the United Methodist church, who came to the US following seminary training in Japan. He has settled in the Bay Area where he speaks, writes and teaches on topics of peace and human rights.

Professor Christine Hong will also be a guest speaker. She is an assistant professor at UC Santa Cruz specializing in transnational Asian-American, Korean diaspora and critical Pacific Rim studies. Hong is co-editor of the Critical Asian Studies special edition on North Korean Human Rights. She is a member of the National Campaign to End the Korean War, the Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea and the Working Group on Peace and Demilitarization in Asia and the Pacific.

For more information, go to: <http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/MarchforNuclearAbolition.html>. Visit us on Facebook at August 6, 2018 Action at Livermore Lab 8 AM. Check out the two-sided flyer available on the website and on Facebook for more event information, including about the Peace Camp, vanpool rides that can be arranged from the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station and much more. ☸

# Beware the United Snakes

*Barry Barnett Snakey*

**B**eware. Beware the United Ssnakes of Amerika. The power. The super power. The world's only super-power.

Power corrupts. And the devious, powerful snakes used all their influence convincing wannabe little snakes to fall in line, single file. Power desires more power.

Power and wealth: the two envied, fought-over, grasped tightly-as-a-vise vices of the rich and powerful.

Now (US)America is a global empire in all but name. Its many appendages stretch everywhere, inducing nations to go against their own self-interests, the welfare of their people, the protection of the Earth. The snakes of war hiss and rattle sabers of war, extending promised glory to the young and untold wealth to those shot with arrows of cupidity – the makers of ungodly, horrifying weapons of war, the mission of marauding Mars.

Beware the subsidized and standardized crass media propaganda. Filter all that flows before your eyes and mind. Watch for the wizard wrenching gears and levers behind the flowered curtain. Send your canine emissaries to sniff and catch clandestine serpents by the legs they have grown and expose them for what they are.

Who will be the next Hitler? Kim Jong-un? Ayatollah Khamenei? Vlad Putin?

Who is the new Hitler?... Heil to the Thief! Donald Con Trump.

Recognize the slimy serpents. Go with our ever-latent spirit and unified godlike humanity, linked arm in arm across the globe with the blessing of the worldwide web to organize, humanize, care, share and bare our souls to vanquish all the interfering fascist serpents!

Note: no insult meant to snakes. 🙌

# Islands

*Rebel Fagin*

Woke up on my island  
Went down to the shore  
Dove into the water  
Headin' for the ocean floor

All islands join at the base  
All islands join at the base

Left the base of my island  
Walked across the ocean floor  
Climbed up the hillside  
Of the island next door

All islands join at the base  
All islands join at the base

Each island is a cause  
Thinking it's the only one  
The ocean is the movement  
Shining proudly in the sun  
The islands that are successful,  
That make the strongest case,  
Are the ones who realize  
We're all joined at the base

I know that my island  
Is no better than the one next door  
I see my neighbor waving  
Think I'll swim over to her shore

All islands join at the base  
All islands join at the base

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District 2 - David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org  
District 3 - Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org  
District 4 - James.Gore@sonoma-county.org  
District 5 - Linda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org

#### State Senator Mike McGuire

50 D St., Ste. 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 576-2771, Fax: (707) 576-2773  
senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov

#### State Senator Mark Leno

State Capitol, Rm. 4061  
Sacramento, CA 95814 Tel. (916) 651-4003  
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San Rafael, CA 94903, (415) 479-6612  
San Francisco (415) 479-1146

#### Assemblymember Marc Levine

Petaluma City Hall, Petaluma  
11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952  
Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-2735  
Rattigan State Building, Santa Rosa  
50 D Street, Suite 301, Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-2735

#### Assemblymember Jim Wood

50 D Street, Suite 450, Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 576-2526, Fax: (707) 576-2297  
California Assembly Website: assembly.ca.gov

#### U.S. Representative Jared Huffman

1630 Longworth Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-5161, 202-225-5163 (Fax)  
Nearest local office:

999 Fifth Ave., #290, San Raphael 94901  
415-258-9657, 415-258-9913 (Fax)

#### U.S. Representative Mike Thompson

231 Cannon Bldg., Washington D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-3311, Napa (707) 226-9898  
Fax: (202) 225-4335, Santa Rosa (707) 542-7182  
Fax (707) 542-2745

m.thompson@mail.house.gov

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Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3553, S.F. (415) 403-0100  
Relay Fax: 202-224-0454

harris.senate.gov/content/contact-senator

#### U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

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Fax: (202) 228-3954  
feinstein@senate.gov

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State Capitol, Sacramento, Ste. 1173, CA 95814  
(916) 445-2841, Fax: (916) 445-4633  
governor@governor.ca.gov

#### Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom

State Capitol, Rm. 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-8994, Fax: (916) 323-4998

#### 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)

#### Congressional Switchboard

(202) 224-3121

#### President D. J. Trump

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500  
(202) 456-1111, Fax: (202) 456-2461  
president@whitehouse.gov

## Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

ALL PHONE AREA CODES ARE (707)  
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

**350 Sonoma County** – Engaging our community in the work of 350.org to solve the climate crisis. 350sonomacounty.org

**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

**CAC (Community Action Coalition)** – facebook.com/actioncoalitionofsonomacounty/

**Comité VIDA** – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, cirsc@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

**GMO Free Sonoma County** – Working to protect farms and families from transgenic (GMO) contamination. gmofreesonomacounty.com

**Green Party of Sonoma County** – sonomagreenparty.org

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

**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**

**It Won't Happen Here** – Petitions cities and the County of Sonoma County to protect the community from discriminatory orders and laws. itwon'thappenhere.org.

**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 nonviolence 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

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. 953-2011

**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.com/pages/North-Bay-Jobs-With-Justice/922338944459410 Ph: 707-346-1187

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

**North Coast Coalition for Palestine** – Brings greater aware-

ness 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. 707-765-0196, Linda@peaceroots.org

**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. 707-874-2695, 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: (707) 595-0320 or SonomaCountyCAN@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 Valley Peace & Justice** – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. audreyvh@sbcglobal.net

**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. 576-6676

**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 any changes to this list.**

# SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AT THE PJC

<b>Sun</b>	1st ♦ Democratic Socialists of America, 1–4 PM
<b>Mon</b>	2nd & 4th ♦ North Coast Coalition for Palestine, 3:30–5 PM 3rd ♦ Occupy Sonoma County Earth Action, 7–9 PM 5th ♦ Sonoma County Climate Action Network, 7–9 PM
<b>Tues</b>	1st, 2nd, 3rd ♦ Community Action Coalition, 6–8 PM
<b>Wed</b>	1st ♦ Raging Grannies, 4:30–6 PM 3rd ♦ 350 Sonoma, 7–9 PM
<b>Thur</b>	1st ♦ Peace & Justice Center Board, 5:30–8 PM
<b>Sat</b>	2nd ♦ Solidarity with Standing Rock, 2–6 PM

To receive the full PJC weekly email calendar, call 575-8902

If we missed you or if your times change, please contact us.  
All times subject to change between publications.

## Add Your Voice to the Vision of the Peace & Justice Center



Let us know what issues the PJC can assist with, and how you can help the Center

Contact us if you would you like to use your skills to help the Center advance, by:

- ♦ Serving on the Board
- ♦ Joining the Peace Press Collective
- ♦ Helping to maintain and expand our social media
- ♦ Assisting at Center Events
- ♦ Helping with grant writing
- ♦ Fundraising or Donating to the Center
- ♦ Sponsoring our bi-monthly Peace Press Newsletter

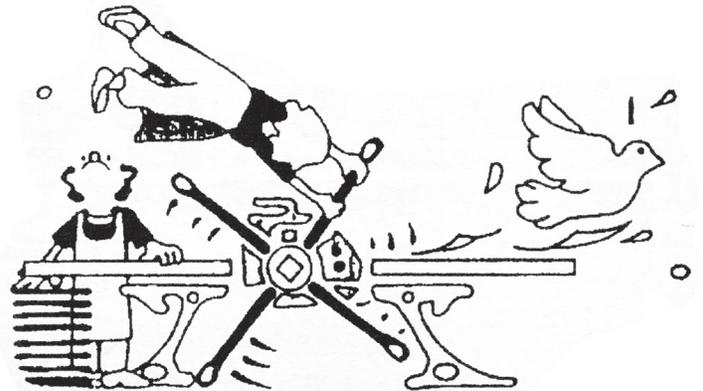
Please call 575-8902 or visit [PJCso.org](http://PJCso.org)

## PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

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## JOIN THE PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

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Return by mail or fax to Peace & Justice Center. Thank you for your membership! Visit [pjconoma.org](http://pjconoma.org) for activities and hours.