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LOVE IT!

IMPROVE IT!

MEDICARE FOR ALL!

#MedicareForAll

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES
Deadline for Oct/Nov issue: September 13, 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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Shekeyna Black
“Preservation of one’s own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures.” – Cesar Chavez

The Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County will be officially re-opening! Join us for an outdoor “Mixer” on Tues., Sept. 14, 4:00 - 6:00 PM. We will be hosting this event in the PJC parking lot as an opportunity for activists and the community to network with one another. The PJC will be offering bottled water and other non-alcoholic beverages in containers to the attendees. Unfortunately, we will not be offering appetizers due to the ongoing issues with the COVID pandemic. Masks are preferred out of consideration for others. DJ Loisaida will be playing some uplifting music as an appreciation for the PJC members and guests.

We are accepting nominations through Aug. 31 for the Annual Peace & Justice Awards Celebration, online on Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021. PJC Members, as well as the general public, are encouraged to participate in the nominating process. You can nominate in as many categories as you like. Nominate Sonoma County residents and/or organizations for the following five Award 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 de-segregating a restaurant in Jackson, Miss., and served a week’s sentence in the Jackson County jail. The Jorgensens’ 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.”

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 via www.pjcsoco.org/nominations-for-annual-awards. Or send an email 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:

1. Your name, email address and phone number.
2. The nominee’s name and contact information.
3. Your relationship to the nominee.
4. The specific Award for which you are nominating.
5. A brief biography of the nominee. Any background information that describes the nominee.
6. 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 look forward to seeing you in person on September 14th at the “Mixer” and online on November 13th at the Annual Awards presentation. Due to the seriousness of the pandemic and the workload of the PJC business, we kindly ask that you make an appointment rather than dropping by the Center. Beginning September 14th, you can call (707)575-8902 or email peacentr@sonic.net to schedule an appointment. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.
Fifty-Six Years On –
It’s Time to Fulfill Medicare’s Mission

Maria Behan

It’s been more than five decades since the United States enacted legislation that saves and improves millions of lives each year: the Medicare program for seniors. As we mark that anniversary, leaders in both Washington, DC, and Sacramento are considering bills that would finish the work started 56 years ago.

The policy-makers behind Medicare considered it a first step toward a universal healthcare program that would cover all Americans. But due to a lack of political will in the face of intense lobbying from those who profit from the status quo, that promise hasn’t been fulfilled. After decades of unnecessary death, suffering, and bankruptcy— as well as a pandemic that has underscored the importance of public health and the folly of tying health coverage to employment—it’s beyond time for the United States to complete that mission.

Current proposed legislation—the Medicare for All Act of 2021 (HR 1976) at the federal level, and the CalCare bill (AB 1400) at the state level—would create single-payer, publicly funded insurance systems that guarantee quality care for all, without co-pays, deductibles, or out-of-pocket costs. People would no longer be denied care or forced to use an emergency room because they have no doctor or coverage, and no one would be pushed into poverty due to a health crisis.

If that sounds good to you, here are some ideas for making your voice heard in your community, the state capitol, and in Washington, DC:

Join the campaign to pass local resolutions that support federal and state single-payer initiatives. From Teaneck, N.J., to the city of Sonoma, municipal governments all over the country have passed resolutions expressing support for single-payer, Medicare for All systems. Their primary motivation is protecting residents’ lives and health, but there’s also a powerful fiscal rationale. The County of Sonoma spends nearly $87 million a year on health coverage for current and retired employees. Imagine what the county could do for its residents if that money wasn’t siphoned off by private insurance companies.

To learn more about local resolutions in support of single-payer, check out https://www.medicare4allresolutions.org. To join a campaign in your town—maybe by writing to your city council or sharing your healthcare story at an upcoming meeting—contact the Healthcare for All Working Group at HealthcareForAllSonoma@gmail.com.

Call on key California legislators to build a single-payer system to save lives and money.

Canada’s successful single-payer system started in the province of Saskatchewan before it was rolled out nationwide, and there’s no reason we can’t do the same here in California.

Gavin Newsom ran for governor on a platform of bringing single-payer healthcare to our state, and it’s time for him to keep that promise. Contact Governor Newsom and let him know you want him to live up to his campaign pledge, leading the way on single-payer and working with the federal government to release funds to build a state healthcare system. Call (916) 445-284 or send an email through this online portal: https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail.

Another key player in Sacramento is Jim Wood, who represents Assembly District 2 (which stretches from the middle of Santa Rosa to the Oregon border) and chairs the Assembly’s Health Committee. To urge Wood to use his influential role to promote single-payer, call his office at (916) 319-2002.

Press our federal representatives to redouble their efforts for Medicare for All. Sonoma County’s representatives in the House, Mike Thompson and Jared Huffman, both support the Medicare for All Act of 2021. Contact them to thank them—and to urge them to support the current push to expand Medicare, including covering dental, vision, and hearing care, as well as low-income seniors.

Press on key California legislators to build a single-payer system to save lives and money.

On the Senate side, Diane Feinstein could do with some convincing from her constituents to protect their lives, health, and finances by supporting a single-payer system. The number for her DC office is (202) 224-3841. Senator Alex Padilla is a Medicare for All supporter who can be reached at (202) 224-3553 or https://www.padilla.senate.gov. Call on key California legislators to build a single-payer system to save lives and money.

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Transparency, Accountability? Again, the Battle Wages On

Kathleen Finigan

In the midst of a contentious campaign for Measure P, a grassroots effort to enhance the authority of the Independent Office of Law Enforcement and Outreach (IOLERO), the Sheriff and the Deputy Sheriff’s Association (DSA) bitterly contested the new ordinance.

Sheriff Mark Essick filed a lawsuit to kick the ordinance off the ballot and the DSA filed another suit with the state’s quasi legal labor board known as PERB, claiming that their right to collective bargaining hadn’t been observed. During the campaign, the DSA put up huge billboards claiming that Measure P would “defund” the Sheriff’s Office, a blatant lie that failed to sway voters from their determination to see greater transparency and accountability from the Sheriff. Essick’s suit failed and the measure went on to a landslide victory with nearly two-thirds of the vote.

Essick is now embroiled in yet another ongoing lawsuit to prevent the release of investigative documents regarding his alleged threat to Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, who says that he threatened her life. Essick’s own attorney said that releasing those documents to the public could cause “irreparable damage” to Essick’s reputation and career, an unwitting declaration that Essick has indeed done or said something that’s very, very wrong.

In late June, a four-man PERB panel found in favor of the DSA. After a flurry of public anger and calls for the Board of Supervisors to appeal what is largely considered to be a misguided decision with numerous legal holes, the Supervisors agreed to file an appeal along with a promise to “meet and confer” with the DSA to see if differences can be settled. The County feels strongly that the PERB decision is clearly erroneous as a matter of law and contrary to the public’s interests,” said Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, chair of the Board of Supervisors.

Most observers agree that the possibility of appeasing the DSA is slim to impossible. It’s no secret that nationwide, police unions carry out massive public relations ploys in which their claims of support for greater transparency and accountability are always belied by their actions of doing everything possible to prevent such changes from ever becoming law. Since the murder of George Floyd by the police, the public has increasingly demanded that law enforcement open their records in cases involving excessive force, unlawful tactics, and rampant, unnecessary killing of black and indigenous people of color (BIPOC) citizens, including the shooting deaths of boys right here in Sonoma County. Now that the pressure is on, especially with the criminal conviction of George Floyd’s murderer, the unions are fighting even harder to keep their secrets from the public.

Jerry Threet, attorney and founding director of IOLERO, feels strongly that the PERB decision is fatally flawed. “PERB must operate squarely within the appellate court precedent on the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act,” he said, adding that while that law establishes collective bargaining rights for employees of the Sheriff’s Office, it is also “very clear that a government need not bargain with police employees over establishment or strengthening of civilian oversight of police, as that is a matter of exclusive management prerogative.”

The public has now had an opportunity to see Ron Rogers’ powerful documentary, “3 Seconds in October,” which brings forth new information about how the investigation of Erich Gelhaus, the deputy who shot 13-year-old Andy Lopez to death, was manipulated by both the Sheriff’s Office and the Santa Rosa Police Department, which was charged with carrying out that investigation. We now know that SRPD assured Gelhaus that he was being interviewed as “the victim” in the case, while Andy’s parents were taken to the Police Station and grilled about their boy in an effort to pin him as a gang member, which he was not. The family was then told that their boy was dead. How can we see this as anything other than orchestrated cruelty for which no apology has ever been made.

The film also requires us to take another look at DA Jill Ravitch, who had all of this information, including the fact that the boy was simply walking down the street with a toy gun pointed toward the ground yet was charged posthumously with “brandishing a replica weapon,” which is defined as a “rude, angry or threatening manner.”

Nonetheless, Ravitch declared that the fatal shooting was justified and refused to bring charges against Gelhaus. The county subsequently spent many millions of dollars fighting a civil case that the family filed, which was taken all the way to the US Supreme Court, which refused to hear their case. The family was finally awarded a settlement of $3 million. In the past few years, the county has been forced to pay out some $10 million dollars for several civil cases involving excessive force and misconduct.

Is there any wonder why the citizens of this county are demanding more transparency and accountability from law enforcement? And is there any doubt that we the people are mandated to close vigilance as this new drama plays out? As activists have played a seminal role in bringing about a measure of justice in this county in past years, it’s obvious that we the people must all play an active role in keeping the pressure on our city council members and county supervisors. And if they don’t listen, it will be the responsibility of we the people to vote them out of office.

NOTICE: from Ron Rogers, director of the Andy Lopez Documentary, “3 Seconds in October”

“We received official confirmation today that the Andy Lopez documentary will be aired nationally in the fall on PBS. I understand some stations will air the film on October 22 – the 8 year anniversary of Andy’s death. The doc will be distributed nationally by PBS and NETA.”
Barbara Lee, Israel/Palestine and the Sebastopol Peace Wall

Lois Perlman

The Sebastopol Living Peace Wall plans to inscribe pro-Israel Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) on its “peacemaker” wall despite objections by Palestinian activists.

Lee is one of four activists the group will honor at a ceremony September 11, 2021. But pro-Palestinian activists are opposing Representative Barbara Lee’s (D-CA) inclusion on the wall, saying she does not support justice for people in Palestine.

The activists, who come from both Sonoma and Mendocino counties, met with a director for the peace wall in July but he rejected their concerns, saying you can’t expect anyone to be 100 percent pure. The activists countered that they don’t require purity. They just wanted consistency. A person who is being honored as a peacemaker, they said, should not have a history of picking and choosing whose peace and whose justice they want to support.

Lee has served as representative for California’s thirteenth congressional district since 1988. The district includes the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont and San Leandro, and is considered a bastion of progressive politics.

While in Congress she has been a staunch supporter of many progressive issues, such as Medicare for All, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, reducing the military budget. But she is best known for her lone vote against giving then President George Bush carte blanche to wage war against Iraq following the 2002 bombing of the World Trade Center. In recognition of that vote her biography is titled “Renegade for Justice.”

But some say she has failed to be a renegade for justice in Palestine, siding instead with the mainstream of the Democratic Party, which has staunchly supported Israel with $146 billion (not adjusted for inflation) since World War II. The term they use for her is PEP, which means Progressive Except for Palestine. Instead they would like to see Lee join the newest crop of Black congressional leaders, like Cori Bush and Jamaal Bowman, who recognize that Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians is similar to the oppression of Black people in America. Grassroots Black and Indigenous activists, like Black Lives Matter, have supported Palestine human rights for years, and Lee says she supports Black Lives Matter.

“I’d like to think that we are giving her an opportunity to clarify her position on Palestine,” said Mary Moore, who will be among the four activists honored this year on the peace wall. “It is no longer the political suicide it was in 1988 to oppose Israel and stand for justice on a global scale. The growing solidarity movement for Palestine is long overdue and we invite her to join us in this struggle.”

In the past there has been a lot of pressure on Black and Latino congress members to support Israel. And when they failed to do so, they often found themselves on the losing end of an election when the pro-Israel lobby ran their hand-selected candidates in Democratic primaries in order to defeat the pro-Palestine incumbents. That’s what happened to Georgia’s first African/American congresswoman, Cynthia McKinney in 2002. But, now many members of Congress are openly supporting justice for Palestinians, and they are not taking a hit at the polls.

Since she was elected to Congress in 1988 Lee has held onto her seat, and risen in the Democratic Party ranks, by toeing the line on Israel. For example, at the 2016 Democratic National Convention Lee stood with the Bernie Sanders delegates on several issues, including a $15 minimum wage, climate change proposals, Medicare for All, and a fracking moratorium. But she refused to support those delegates’ attempt to bring a more balanced approach to the Palestine/Israel issue. They were asking for an end to Israel’s military occupation of the Palestinian territories, and its creation of illegal settlements within those territories, as well as a neutral stance toward the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. Twenty-seven states have adopted anti-BDS laws or policies, including California.

Currently Lee is declining to cosponsor Betty McCollum’s (D-Minnesota) bill, HR 2590, which would prohibit Israel from using US taxpayer dollars on the military detention, abuse, and ill-treatment of Palestinian children.

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It's a known fact that a country can hold stolen lands only if they occupy them. In the 19th Century US land agents went to Europe to find people to occupy frontier lands in the West. These lands were sold cheap and even given away under the Homestead Acts if people would occupy them for five years or more. This enabled the US to conquer the West. Israel, another settler-colonial nation, does the same thing.

Following the 6-Day War in 1967, legal boundaries were agreed upon between Israel and a future Palestinian state. Since then, Israeli civilians have illegally occupied the future Palestinian state. We call these people settlers. There are around 200 official settlements and another 100 or so unofficial ones. Settlements are located on strategic hillsides and where they can control water. Settlements are growing 4 times faster than the population of Israel.

An estimated 500,000 settlers live in the West Bank alongside 2.6 million Palestinians. Most Israelis approve of the official settlements but frown on the unofficial ones, many of which are deep within the West Bank. Israeli Defense Forces protect these settlers, even when they attack Palestinians. Many of the first settlers were religious zealots. In recent years many settlers have moved to the settlements for economic reasons. Government subsidies, including mortgage assistance, come to about $700 per settler per year. Apartments average about 30% less than in Israel. Taner Marshall and his family moved into a 5-room duplex in the settlement of Ariel in 2007.

The 4th Geneva Convention requires countries that occupy other lands to protect the civilians in the occupied lands. Israel scoffs at this law.

"In 2020, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) documented 771 incidents of settler violence causing injury to 133 Palestinians, damaging 9,646 trees and 184 vehicles, mostly in the areas of Hebron, Jerusalem, Nablus and Ramallah," the UN expert said. "They primarily target the livelihoods of rural Palestinians, vandalizing livestock, agricultural lands, trees and homes."

During the first three months of 2021, more than 210 settler violence acts were recorded, including one that resulted in a man's death.

"The assault on my family and me lasted about seven minutes," Awad told Al Jazeera. “My face was bleeding and I lost consciousness for a few minutes. I underwent an operation to re-attach my left jaw and heal the wounds on my face.”

Young Palestinian men nearby heard the screams and raced over. The attackers backed off and were escorted to safety by Israeli Defense Force. Once the settlers were secured, the IDF gave the family medical aid. There were no arrests.

The Settlers...see page 8
Hempcrete House in Sebastopol

In 2018, Steve Sheldon, architect and contractor and president of the US Green Building Council, Redwood Empire Chapter, began constructing a Hempcrete house for a client in Sebastopol, CA. He hired Greg Flavall, co-founder of Hemp Technologies, to teach a four-day, hands-on workshop to the contractor, crew, and paying attendees. According to Mr. Flavall, “Hempcrete provides the healthiest possible construction for safe indoor air quality environments. It is mold-, rot-, fire- and pest-resistant. It is a carbon negative, carbon sequestering building material that is durable, recyclable and can last hundreds of years.

Hempcrete regulates temperature and has a high vapor permeability, so it can absorb and release water, allowing it to respond to changing humidity levels and create a “breathable wall.” Hemp hurds or shives are the woody inner core of the hemp stalk, and are used for building, animal bedding, mulch, and more. In this case, hurds are chopped into half inch pieces and mixed with lime, water, and binder to speed up the drying time to make carbon negative, monolithic cast Hempcrete walls lighter than concrete. Hempcrete also stands up to earthquakes well.

Hempcrete is not load-bearing. It is a high acoustic and R value insulation infill between structural frame members. Much research is being done on reinforcing Hempcrete to reduce pressure on forests to produce structural framing. Half inch sanded black-magnesium oxide board was used as a drywall replacement on most of the interior walls as it breathes with Hempcrete.

Lime plaster was used to cover the ceiling and also walls inside and out. The earthen floor was made from soil and red clay dug up for the house foundation. The roof is Galvalume. Similar to galvanized steel, Galvalume is produced by a hot-dip process. Instead of 100% zinc, the metal alloy dip is 55% aluminum, 43.5% zinc and 1.5% silicon. The windows are by Marvin.

Steve Sheldon passed away in 2019 before his Hempcrete House was completed. He is missed.

Linda Delair is a LEED Accredited Professional, Certified Permaculturist, Green Building Consultant and Board Member of USGBC Redwood Empire Chapter. www.lindadelair.com
Animals Endure a Holocaust Every Day

Barry Barnett

Whether it is factory farming, slaughterhouses, animal experimentation (including even testing weapons on mice and other species), wars, sadism, neglect, or simply meat eating or insufficient laws protecting animals, these poor creatures – in the hundreds of billions – frequently experience a hell that is on a par with the Nazi murder regime, Native American genocide, African slave trade, Cambodian killing fields, Christian Crusades, Muslim invasions, Armenian and Greek genocides, and other human-on-human atrocities.

One example is how the Israeli tsava (army) is reported to have been treating non-human species about the same way they have been treating Palestinians in the colonized territories of Palestine ever since the Nakba (Arabic for “catastrophe”) around the time when the Israeli state was proclaimed on May 14, 1948 (Iyar 5, 5708), and an estimated 750,000 human inhabitants were forced to flee their homes.

The purpose is the Israeli project to expel all Palestinians, if possible, and seize and colonize their lands to create a Jewish majority state.

Many animals are killed indiscriminately, as in numerous extremely lopsided Gaza wars, such as the so-called Operations Protective Edge, Cast Lead, Summer Rains (of bombs), Autumn Clouds (of white phosphorus gas), Winter Heat (you get the picture) and other military attacks by Israel. Thousands of cows, chickens, sheep, donkeys and other farm animals have been killed by bombs and tanks as agricultural lands were overwhelmed in these repeated incursions. Many animals died of starvation when Gazans had to flee bombings or were trapped in their homes.

But similar to the history of Palestinian people attacked and arrested, animals have been deliberately targeted. Israeli soldiers have entered the Gaza Zoo more than once during wars (massacres), deliberately murdering lions, monkeys, camels, and other animals living there; there was at least one mass inhumation (no love), and after giving birth, the calf is taken away, and the mothers’ udders are connected to milking machines for 10-12 months. Then the process is repeated until profits decline and she is turned into hamburger or dog food.

Besides the appalling conditions for animals on factory farms, their methane gas has 87x more heat-trapping capacity than CO2, though it leaves the atmosphere faster, and use of fossil fuels in tractors and other vehicles causes an estimated annual planetary emission of 7.1 gigatonnes CO2 equivalent, 14.5% of anthropocentric greenhouse gas.

And the conditions in slaughterhouses are connected with communicable diseases.

While to their credit most “owners” (companions/stewards/caretakers) of dogs, cats, horses, birds, fish and other “pets” in the US and other developed nations are very considerate and even lavish care that many homeless people would envy, I have been appalled at the condition of dogs in such countries as Mexico and Brazil. Most of the ones I saw lived in the streets, foraging in packs (they are pack animals), and looking like they were emaciated and starving.

This is just a small sampling of the horrors that our sister mammals and birds – among others – suffer, as if they have no feelings. I hope that many more of our species can wake up and develop compassion as soon as possible – and legislate many far-reaching bans and protections.

Sources: Dear PETA, Israel’s Animal Rights Record is Anything but Praiseworthy, Zarefah Baroud, CounterPunch 6/18/21; Gaza-Israel Conflict, Wikipedia; Tell Canada Goose, “Ditch ALL Fur and Down,” PETA website, Update: 2/8/21; California becomes the first state to ban fur products, Harmeet Kaur, CNN (Corporate News Network) 10/13/19; Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO) - Key facts and findings - By the numbers: GHG emissions by livestock.

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, health professional, and musician. You can follow him on Twitter, counterpunch.org/archives, bohemian.com/archives, Daily Kos, Medium.com, and his website, with 80+ articles, humor, political fantasy stories, and poetry, all free of charge to read, at patreon.com/barrybarnett.
Truth Wins Out II

In 1971, fifty years ago, journalism had one of its finest hours, with the New York Times publishing excerpts to the American people about the then eight year old war in Vietnam. Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, a former US Marine Lieutenant and government military analyst, then employed by the Rand Corporation, released what would come to be known as the Pentagon Papers – documents revealing “our” government’s policies, failures and crimes of omission and commission in covering up the truth during this war. Dr. Ellsberg was charged under the Espionage Act of 1917, and a few months later those charges were dismissed. For some, it may still stand as a traitorous act, and for others an act of pure patriotism.

A few years later, journalism again was instrumental in informing the public of a conspiracy by a president of the United States and his cohorts to bribe and coverup over the decades, but in the past five years media. They have certainly taken their hits over the decades, but in the past five years they have never been so vilified, so harshly treated – even being denounced as an “enemy of the people”, by some. And although intimidation and the current atmosphere have at times been challenging, the journalists and their editorial boards have risen to the occasion. They have continued to ask the necessary and tough questions, to hold those in charge accountable, to speak truth to power, and to print and report their findings to the American people. For those who cherish and hold sacred our democracy, there can be no other responsible course of action!

One can only hope that the free press will continue to be “allowed” to do its job, and not be hamstrung by partisan politicians and judiciaries, and that when all the evidence is presented, that justice will be served... and the truth will win out.

As was spoken, in the movie, All the Presidents Men, by Ben Bradlee, editor of the Washington Post, before the Watergate Scandal story went to press, “You know… nothing is riding on this, except the, uh, the First Amendment to the Constitution.”

Let’s not forget that!


The Settlers ... from page 5

escorted by two soldiers, stoned homes, opened up with live fire and attacked a man in his yard with pepper spray and stones. IDF soldiers protected the settlers.

Dozens of settlers attacked the West Bank village of Jaloud following a Palestinian drive-by attack that wounded 3 settlers. Following the attack, 11 Palestinians were arrested. When Palestinians fight back Israelis often retaliate with “price tag” attacks on Palestinians. They attack innocent Palestinians as a form of group punishment. The violence is intended to “intimidate and terrorize Palestinians” and prevent them from accessing their land while pushing others to move.

Said UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, “Halt and reverse such decisions” as they are “a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.”

Settler occupation leads to land acquisition. When Madonna Thunderhawk addressed a conference of Palestinian activists in Santa Rosa a few years back, her advice was “never give up your land base. Without it, you have nothing.”

To learn more, listen to Speaking of Palestine, on KBBF, 89.1 FM from 4 to 5 on the first Monday of the month with an encore on the third Monday. You can hear previous shows by going to https://archive.org/search.php?query=Rebel2252&page=1.
Pelicans and Palestine

White pelicans descend in a wave upon the dune-created end pool of South Salmon Creek.

They rapidly settle in a wing-to-wing cluster, forming a near perfect circle.

Their beak-heavy heads rise and fall in a mystery of instinctive interaction, a song of communal survival.

Like the people of Gaza and the West Bank crowded densely together in clusters, though not of their making like the wild and the free, but imposed by decree and enforced at gunpoint, making of their plight, their daily love and striving, a human hymn to communal survival.

Gleaming in late day sun, the pelicans persist in their circling as they drift upstream, a slow silent, timeless dream, Being in motion.

When I move for a closer look, they take flight in a flurry of wings and head for the sea, a new line in the old song of communal survival.

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

ALCU Sonoma Co., working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. Meets each second Monday. Contact patriciamorandor@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: 583-9186

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

Comite VIDA – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, circi@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 meltdown, monitor the consequences, advocate for the shut down of Diablo Canyon. fukushimaresponse.org, d209-9203

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreenparty.org

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

HPEACE – Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. hpeace@sonomacounty.worpdpress.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 Groups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco@gmail.com

Indivisible Petaluma: indivisibletupaluma@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

MLSA of Santa Rosa – Student group that focuses on issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community. info@mechasdesonoma.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 – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. 332-1573

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

North Bay Jobs with Justice – organized for better conditions and a living wage for workers. Email: northbayjobs-wtijustice@gmail.com, Website: northbayjobsjustice.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. nncp@gmail.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, Lindaps@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.com

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. peacefullresistan<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@projectcen sor.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, snsgold@juno.com, www.pnhpcac.org.

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

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org


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

Sonoma County Peace 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.

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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. 575-3130, justicwomen.com

Democracy is NOT a spectator sport!
Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County

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