

SONOMA COUNTY

# peace press

Publication of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County  
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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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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.

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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.**

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Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

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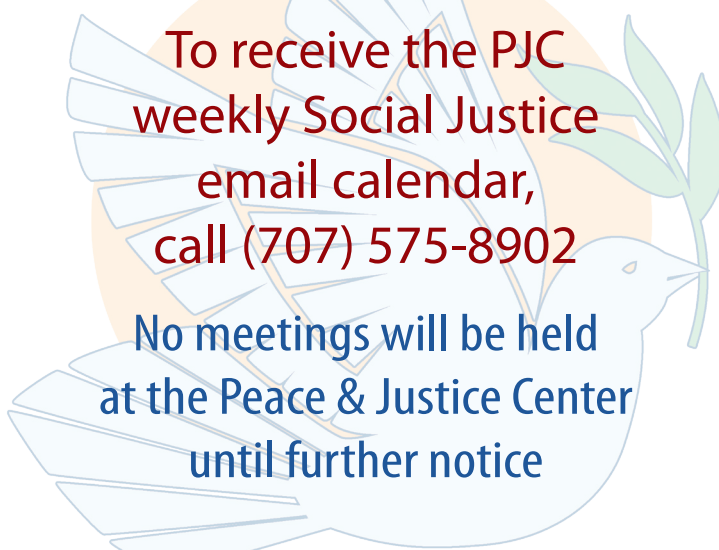
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To receive the PJC  
weekly Social Justice  
email calendar,  
call (707) 575-8902

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







# PJC Re-Opening & Awards Nominations

*Shekeyna Black*

*“Preservation of one’s own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures.” – Cesar Chavez*

**T**he 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 Jorgensen’s helped establish an ‘intentional community’ just outside of Santa Rosa called Monan’s Rill in 1973. It has been a model community of its type for many years.”

Source: [www.theunion.com/news/obituaries/obituary-of-mary-jorgensen/](http://www.theunion.com/news/obituaries/obituary-of-mary-jorgensen/)  
**Unsung Hero Award** - *A person from Sonoma County who works diligently for peace and social justice, but stays in the background, out of the limelight.*

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

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

Nominations can be submitted online via [www.pjcsoco.org/nominations-for-annual-awards](http://www.pjcsoco.org/nominations-for-annual-awards). Or send an email to [peacentr@sonic.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 1776) 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 insur-

ance 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](mailto: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

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-



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

ering the age to 60. Huffman can be reached at (202) 225-5161 or <https://huffman.house.gov/contact/email-me>; Thompson at (202) 225-3311 or <https://mikethompsonforms.house.gov/contact>.

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>.

*Maria Behan is a freelance writer and co-chair of the Healthcare for All Working Group. To learn more, request a presentation on healthcare reform, or join your Sonoma County neighbors working for single-payer at the local, state, and federal level, email [HealthcareForAllSonoma@gmail.com](mailto:HealthcareForAllSonoma@gmail.com).*



# 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 vot-

*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.*

ers 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 appealing 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, LG-BTQ 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

*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.*

Betty McCollum’s (D-Minnesota) bill 2590, which would prohibit Israel from using US taxpayer dollars on the military detention, abuse, and ill-treatment of Palestinian children. It would also prohibit Israel from using our military aid to support the seizure and destruction of Palestinian property and homes, in violation of international law. The bill is called “The Defending the Rights of Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act.”

**If you would like to see Barbara Lee take a stand in support Palestine, you can call her office in Washington, D.C. at (202) 225-2621 or her Oakland office at (510) 763-0370. Tell the aide who answers that you want Barbara Lee to co-sponsor McCollum’s bill 2590.** 🙌



THE ISRAELI PARTITION WALL – PHOTOGRAPH BY OLIVIER FITOUSSI / FLASH90 / REDUX



# The Settlers

*Rebel Fagin*

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, comes 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.

"We came here because it's easier to buy here. It's so easy to live here."

Regardless of the reason for living there, all settlers share a common belief in Zionism. A belief that they are superior to the people whose lands they have taken. These settlements are not frontier towns. Rather they are suburban developments that rival most Eu-

ropean suburbs. They have swimming pools, malls, hospitals, and universities. Segregated roads connect these settlements to each other and to cities within Israel.

Israel plans on building 800 new settlements. Former settler leader and now Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett plans to "strengthen the settlements throughout the land of Israel."

Many settlers terrorize Palestinians by attacking school children on their way to school, shooting into their classrooms, burning fields and destroying olive trees, vandalizing Palestinian homes, polluting village wells and threatening villagers. Settlers carry rifles or side arms. Palestinians may not. Israeli troops protect the settlers and only occasionally dissuade them from

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

In Ramallah, Saeed Alyan Awad and his wife were attacked on March 10th by ten Israeli settlers from the illegal Mitzpe Yair settlement while they were on their way to their fields. The settlers cracked his skull and broke his jaw with iron pipes. Settlers then beat his wife and attacked the car where the children inside screamed with fear.

"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



*Prominent international human rights organizations have called Israel's Jews-only illegal settlements, as well as segregated roads and other infrastructure, a form of apartheid. Photo: The West Bank settlement of Givat Zeev. (From Common Dreams, licensed under Creative Commons. Free to republish (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0))*

ropean suburbs. They have swimming pools, malls, hospitals, and universities. Segregated roads connect these settlements to each other and to cities within Israel.

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attacking Palestinians. Settlements and settlers are protected by Israeli laws, troops, armed militias and the Apartheid Wall. 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."

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 the Israeli Defense Force. Once the settlers were secured, the IDF gave the family medical aid. There were no arrests.

On November 23, 73 people in Khirbet Humsah in the Jordan Valley had their homes destroyed when Israel declared the area as a "firing zone". Settlers near Ramallah grazed their livestock on Palestinian crops and attacked protesting farmers while Israeli troops looked on. Nearby, settlers poisoned all 80 of a Palestinian family's olive trees. In Wadi al-Hasin near Hebron, settlers,

*The Settlers...see page 8*



# Hempcrete House in Sebastopol



PHOTO: WILL KAZAKOFF

## Linda Delair

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



Interior looking out to back yard. Photo: Linda Delair.

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 Galval-

ume. 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](http://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 massive bombing of the zoo, killing 80 animals.

To Israel’s credit, it is the first nation in the world to ban the sale of fur. The state of California is also banning fur, to go into effect 1/1/23. You can sign a fur ban petition at <https://support.peta.org/page/3398/action/1?locale=en-US> (Cana-



Overcrowding of turkeys at a factory farm in North Carolina.

da Goose fur and down).

Horse racing is a cruel occupation. Horses are forced to sprint long distances far too often, and never get to live out their natural lifespan. On 8/19/18 I wrote a letter to the editor of the “Upbeat” Times (never published) criticizing this gambling “sport,” which you can read at [Patreon.com/Barry-Barnett-UpbeatTimesLetterToTheEditor](https://patreon.com/Barry-Barnett-UpbeatTimesLetterToTheEditor).

Bull fighting is even worse, with bulls taunted, tortured and butchered to a cheering crowd of spectators. Other animals are set to racing or fighting around the world, including dogs and roosters (cocks).

Going vegan and using non-dairy products (many delicious, nutritious ones) is an option for those who realize the plight of commercial dairy cows. They are artificially inseminated (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 CO<sub>2</sub>, 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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](https://counterpunch.org/archives), [bohemian.com/archives](https://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](https://patreon.com/barrybarnett).

# Truth Wins Out II

*e.g. singer, Santa Rosa*

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 their insidious attempts to spy on their opponents. (Sound familiar?). Richard Nixon

resigned the office rather than face a sure impeachment conviction, in what was called the Watergate Scandal.

And now we have additional historical dramas being played out, with ongoing and timely investigations by journalists. These are showing details of a president and his cronies politicizing the Department of Justice – making false claims, and encouraging followers to disregard and protest the certified election results, while in office – and continuing post-election to message his followers with rants to still try to tilt the balance towards a specific political philosophy – reflected in one man’s autocratic view of how government should operate: to win at any cost, no matter the price – the ends justifying the means.

The Fourth Estate, as it is commonly referred to, represents the press and news media. They have certainly taken their hits over the decades, but in the past five years have never been so vilified, so harshly treated and disrespected – 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.

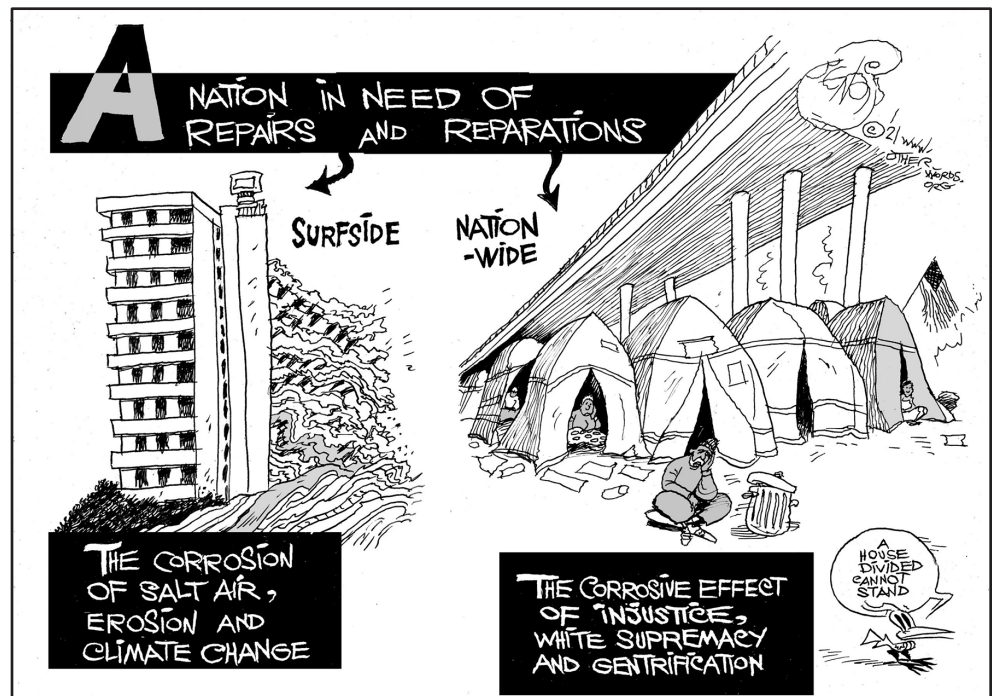
Said UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarrie, “Halt and reverse such decisions” as they are “a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.”

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 Pal-*

*estine*, 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>.


Sources: *reuters.com* 11/19/19, *bloomberg.com* 1/30/20, *Wall Street Journal* 11/10/19, *Amnesty.org* 2020, *Aljazeera* 3/18/21, 4/14/21, 5/3/21, *news.un.org* 1/19/21, *Jerusalem Post* 6/14/21, *hrw.org* 4/27/21. 🙌





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# 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*

## ENGAGE YOUR GOVT.

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

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

### Assemblymember Marc Levine

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 Rattigan State Building, Santa Rosa  
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 California Assembly Website: assembly.ca.gov

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 governor@governor.ca.gov

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

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 a spectator sport!*

# 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Indivisible Goups** – All the groups are on Facebook.

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

**Indivisible Sebastopol:** indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

**Indivisible Healdsburg**

**Indivisible Windsor**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Petaluma Blacks for Community Development** – facebook.com/pb4cd

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sonoma County Coastal Hills:** gardens@mcn.org

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

**Sonoma County Resistance** via change.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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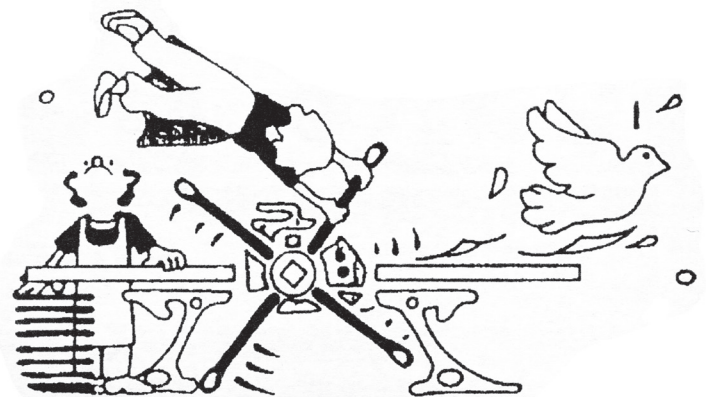
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