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To receive the PJC weekly Social Justice e-newsletter, or to schedule an appointment, please contact us through our website: PJCsoco.org
Raise the Roof Festival
Fundraiser for a much needed new roof for the PJC

Shekeyna Black

The Raise The Roof Festival benefiting the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County takes place on Saturday, August 13 at the beautiful Monte Rio Amphitheater. The Peace & Justice Center building, located at 467 Sebastopol Avenue in Santa Rosa, needs a new roof. We have been able to postpone this necessary repair for as long as possible with contractors and roofers making patches to the roof every year.

Thus, the festival is appropriately named, Raise The Roof. Additionally, as a play-on-words, the old-fashioned phrase, ‘raise the roof’ means ‘to make a lot of noise by playing music, celebrating’. This special event is both a fundraiser and an opportunity for the community to gather together to enjoy a day-long festival of great music.

The headliner, MOMOTOMBO SF is comprised of former members of Latin Rock greats, Malo and Santana. Bandleader, Leo Rosales, says, “MOMOTOMBO SF is honored to be participating in the Raise The Roof Festival benefiting the Peace & Justice Center. It is important for us musicians to give back to the community of fans that have supported us throughout the years. We look forward to bringing the spirit of Latin Rock music and helping to make a difference in the Sonoma County community.” Notably, the Latin Rock band Malo celebrates 50 years in 2022.

Additionally, there are other great musical acts on the line-up for the Raise The Roof Festival; including Midnight Sun, THUGZ (Tribal Hippie Under Ground Zone), Un AmOur Band, Ben Roots and DJ Loisaida. The capacity at the outdoor venue is being limited so that people can spread out on the spacious lawn surrounded by the majestic Redwood Trees in a safe and comfortable way.

Thank you to the Sponsors of the festival; including Russian River Sisters of Perpetual indulgence, Green Mary, Moonlight Brewing, Solful, Redwood Cafe and Alpine Springs. Also, Taqueria Calendula Food Truck, will have delicious food available for purchase. Wine and Beer will be available for purchase. More vendors are being added.

We are aiming to have this festival as eco-friendly as possible. Please bring your refillable water bottles to fill with refreshing water provided by Alpine Springs. No outside alcohol allowed. Bring your folding chairs and/or blanket to spread out on the lawn and relax. Enjoy the natural setting of this outdoor venue surrounded by Redwood Trees.

We have hard-costs associated with this event that we need to cover in addition to raising the money to replace the roof. Thank you for your support. Did you know that in 2024, the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County will celebrate being a nonprofit organization serving the community for 40 years? Visit the links below for more details. The ticketing page has videos of the bands that are on the line-up. We hope to see you at this fun Summer Festival.

Tickets: $50 Advance & $60 Day-of-Show
Location: Monte Rio Amphitheater – 9925 Main St. Monte Rio, CA
Date/Time: Saturday, August 13, from 12 noon - 8:00 pm
TICKETS: eventbrite.com
WEBSITE: PJCsono.org/RaiseTheRoof
FACEBOOK: Event page

See event poster on page 11 of this issue.
made two significant changes to our elections. First, corporations are people. Second, money is speech. Now if free speech is an American’s right and money is speech, then the Federal government has no business suppressing the spending of massive amounts of money during an election. This gives wealthy corporations infinitely more influence than you or I.

In 2013, in the case of Shelby County v. Holder, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act by removing Federal oversight of elections conducted in states with a history of racial discrimination. Since then, every state with a history of racial discrimination has acted to limit the voting rights of targeted members of their state.

Under Trump, Brett Kavanaugh, Neil Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett, Federalist all, were placed on the Supreme Court. With six of the nine members of the Supreme Court being members of the Federalist Society, Roe was easy to shoot down. And they won’t stop with Roe. The six Federalist Society Justices did as they were told and are poised to do more damage, including destroying the legitimacy of the Court, unless exposed and stopped.

Adding more members to the Supreme Court won’t change this. It’ll just bring on more Federalist Society members. Both the First and Fourteenth Amendments protect freedom of association so banning candidates due to their membership in the Federalist Society won’t work. How do we stop these reactionary radicals? Would it help if all Americans knew of this and their representatives in Congress knew we knew and we were watching their vote? There must be something stronger we can do here, for the Federalist Society has no business appointing justices and must be stopped.

Sources: fedsoc.org, Britannica.com
The Fall of Roe Has Energized the Left: Will it Wake up the Democrats?

Nolan Higdon and Mickey Huff

Pressure from the left forced Biden to change his tone. Now activists must push the party further and harder.

On July 8, President Biden signed an executive order that directed the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to take steps to protect and expand access to medical abortion and contraception while ensuring that patients are eligible to obtain emergency care. In addition, the order seeks to push back against threats posed by surveillance in states outlawing abortion by directing federal agencies to take additional actions to protect patient privacy.

It’s important to understand that this order came in response to a too wee pressure campaign by leftists who were frustrated by the Democratic Party’s tepid response to the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, which overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling protecting abortion rights. Some progressive activists, as well as ordinary voters, threatened that they would not fund or vote for the Democratic Party and its candidates unless leaders took action.

The ways in which this pressure moved Biden from inaction to an executive order illustrate what activist scholars such as historian Howard Zinn long argued: You can’t be neutral on a moving train, and change only occurs through sustained protest and agitation from the citizenry. Indeed, Lawrence O’Donnell explained that when he worked for the Democratic Party, it typically ignored demands from the left because few progressives were actually willing to withhold their votes on Election Day, ultimately succumbing to the party’s ongoing “vote blue no matter who” propaganda campaign. As Biden’s recent executive order illustrates, those seeking to codify abortion rights need to agitate and annoy Democratic leadership to take aggressive action.

Case in point, even though the Dobbs decision was leaked weeks ahead of time, Biden apparently had no plan to protect abortion rights after it was finally announced. Meanwhile, Republicans had planned years in advance, passing so-called trigger laws that automatically outlawed abortion in states once Roe was overturned. The Democratic Party response was limited to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi reading a poem, Vice President Kamala Harris tweeting a picture of herself watching pro-choice protests, Democratic members of Congress singing “God Bless America” on the steps of the US Capitol, a vast fundraising campaign, and chiding the electorate for not “voting harder” for Democrats — the party that allowed this all to happen.

Through podcasts, op-eds, street demonstrations and more, progressives and leftists mobilized to pressure the Democratic Party to stop dithering on abortion rights and take substantive action, including removing the filibuster, packing the court or adding abortion clinics to federal lands in or near states that outlawed abortion. They rebuked the Democratic Party in general and Biden in particular for serving as enablers of the Republicans’ anti-abortion agenda. In response, Democratic Party apologists took to social media to deflect and blame Bernie Sanders supporters, Susan Sarandon and other so-called far-left types for taking down Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign, which they argued paved the way for Trump to appoint three Supreme Court justices who were integral to overturning Roe. Somewhat surprisingly, however, these self-righteous social media users were outflanked by dozens of other mainstream Democrats, who largely echoed the critiques from the left.

These included celebrities such as Debra Messing and “two dozen leading Democratic politicians and operatives, as well as several within the West Wing.” They complained that they were being asked to do more fundraising and voting, while the Democratic Party — which controls both the executive and legislative branches in Washington, at least nominally — dithered on abortion rights. Some even questioned whether Biden was capable of taking action. Some “mocked how the President stood in the foyer of the White House, squinting through his remarks from a teleprompter as demonstrators poured into the streets, making only vague promises of action because he and aides hadn’t decided on more.”

Those protesting from the left hoped to demonstrate that any fundraising campaigns or voter drives would be moot until they had somewhat more faith in Joe Biden as a change maker. This was certainly difficult to imagine, given that as a candidate in 2020, Biden promised wealthy donors that if he were elected, “Nothing would fundamentally change.” These critiques seemed to turn up the pressure on Biden and his party, however. In the wake of the Dobbs decision, Biden reportedly made a deal with Mitch McConnell to appoint an anti-abortion judge to the federal bench in Kentucky. But as pressure from progressives mounted, the president’s rhetoric became more aggressive as he expressed his willingness to remove the filibuster to codify abortion rights. Some critics have already contended that the executive order was too little and too late. Whether Biden has now been moved toward more serious action, only time will tell.

That shift in rhetoric has done little to quell the protests or bolster Biden’s poll numbers. Since his election, Americans’ confidence in the office of the presidency in general has dropped by 15 points, from 38% in 2021 to 23% in 2022 — two points lower than even the Supreme Court. Further, Biden’s approval rating — 36% on July 6 — was just two points above Trump’s dismal 34% when he left office. At the moment, some 64% of Democrats do not want Biden to run for a second term.

Elites never admit failure. The Democratic Party will conceal but never confront its massive failure to protect abortion rights from the far right and the GOP. As a possible or likely defeat awaits Biden’s party this fall in the midterms, Democrats will continue to...continues on page 6
believe in protest. I believe it is a powerful tool for change. Protest can be an announcement of intention – a clarion call alerting the world that we will not accept the status quo. Protest can be a source of vitality- spurring, sustaining, and amplifying the momentum of a movement. Protest can be a communion – a coming together of those committed to a cause, an opportunity to connect meaningfully with like minds and hearts.

I believe in protest. I do.

And… I know that protest is insufficient.

Once we have made our intentions known, we must act on those intentions. Between the moments we come together to gather momentum, we must direct that momentum. When we are no longer connecting within a shared space, we must maintain that connection through our shared work.

We cannot mistake the end of the rally for the end of our responsibility. We must continue to take action.

In the spirit of taking action on the issues of reproductive justice and abortion access, I share some resources below. While there are many organizations doing incredible work in this area, these are just a few that are helping me to become more informed, empathetic, and effective in my activism. Check them out online – I encourage you to explore the information and resources they offer, download their toolkits, follow them on social media, and/or share the links with friends and fellow activists.

I do believe in protest. I believe in rallies, marches, vigils, and fasts. I believe in shouting and in chanting. I believe in hands holding up signs of resistance, and in arms linked in solidarity.

We cannot mistake the end of the rally for the end of our responsibility. We must continue to take action.

But mostly… I believe in us. I believe in our collective capacity to both be brave and bold enough to protest in the name of change AND to be strong and patient enough to do the work that will bring that change about.

Abortion Access Front (AAF) – works to destigmatize abortion and protect reproductive rights through humor and outrage. Check out their Resources and Tools page to learn more about ways to take action, including calling out fake clinics, provide meaningful support to abortion providers through mutual aid, or writing postcards of gratitude to indie abortion clinics. AAF also offers links to more tools and resources for activism, education, advocacy, and abortion access.

Website: afront.org

ACCESS Reproductive Justice (ACCESS RJ) – is a California-based organization focused on removing the barriers to sexual and reproductive health. The organization runs a Practical Support Network of trained volunteers that provide direct assistance such as overnight housing, childcare, translation, and more. The bilingual ACCESS Healthline provides free and confidential information, referrals, advocacy, and peer counseling. ACCESS Reproductive Justice also engages in policy advocacy.

Website: accessrj.org

I Need An A – provides information about how and where to access in-clinic abortions and abortion pills. Enter any age, zip code, number of days since last period, and with a click, you will learn the legal status of abortion for someone of that age, living in that zip code, at that stage of pregnancy. You will also be shown a list of clinics that offer abortion care, starting with those nearest the zip code you’ve entered. Additionally, the site offers accurate and easy-to-understand answers to questions related to in-clinic abortions, abortion pills, abortion costs, funding support, and more.

Website: ineedana.com

National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) – offer answers to common questions about abortion funds. Whether you need the support of an abortion fund, or would like to donate to one, NNAF can help you find abortion funds locally, as well as across the nation. Their Heart-to-Heart Abortion Conversations toolkit offers powerful tools for reflection and connection on the topic of abortion.

Website: abortionfunds.org

SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective – created a Reproductive Justice framework that is available on their website and is foundational to the work of many leaders and organizations in the movement today. Their powerful work includes youth organizing, demanding an end to forced sterilizations, reproductive justice training, and more.

Website: sistersong.net

Kelly Matteri lives in Sonoma County with her two favorite people on Earth. She spends her time reading, drawing, gardening, and looking for her keys.
The Truth About the Ukraine Crisis, part 3

Barry Barnett

A
fter the US and the West refused to even consider any of Russia’s security concerns, the final threat that prompted Putin to initiate the “Special Military Operation” was Ukrainian Pres. Zelensky planning to rearm with nuclear weapons—pointed at Russia!

Another important point... How do you hide a war? The war in Eastern Ukraine was raging for eight years, with the Ukrainian military, including multiple neo-Nazi battalions, bombing predominantly Russian populations in the Donbas after the Euromaidan (“Euro Square”) uprising from Nov. 2013 to Feb. 2014. Putin just finally intervened on 2/24/22. But Wikipedia calls the overthrow of the democratically elected government and violent uprising the Revolution of Dignity.

How do you hide a war? By censoring all mention of US-instigated violence and regime change in the Western press. Throw in a little anti-Russian propaganda (or a lot), with the US continually increasing the pressure on Russia (and all nations independent of the Empire), until it’s the old provocation game—and Biden can declare, repeatedly, of Russia’s “unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.” And even “Putin’s inflation!”

All the while creating a subterfuge, hiding the Neocons’ (plenty in Biden’s government) insane desire to actually start a war against Russia (with China next?)!

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US, now the unipolar superpower, tore up the promised “peace dividend” and, like a colossus, strode across the globe at will. The American oligarchs (Ancient Greek oligarkhia, “rule of the few”) ignored Gorbachev’s glasnost and perestroika, indeed all promises of NATO containment. The US fixed Russia’s July 1991 presidential election for alcoholic, collaborating Boris Yeltsin, facilitating American capitalists, with Yeltsin and his fellow oligarchs, raping Russian resources.

In 2014, between 84 and 93% of inhabitants of Eastern and Southern Ukraine were native Russian speakers, with almost 60% in Central Ukraine. But soon after Euromaidan, the Russian language was banned from Ukrainian schools, and Russians were persecuted and attacked.

US Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland fomented the 2014 coup that ousted democratically elected Pres. Viktor Yanukovych, replacing him with US choices Petro Poroshenko for president and Arseniy Yatsenyuk for prime minister in a supposedly democratic election. Yanukovych had rejected the IMF (International Monetary Fund) proposal of economic “assistance” that included its trademark austerity and privatization. He, and the Verkhovna Rada (parliament), instead accepted Russia’s much better deal. This angered Western Ukraine’s pro-EU (European Union) supporters, and Ukraine’s Nazi militants, who then became official Nazi militias incorporated into the Ukrainian Army.

In the next election, a Jewish comedian, Volodymyr Zelensky, was voted in as president, putting a nice face on the fascist battalions—for a Jewish president couldn’t be hiding significant Nazi power in his nation, could he?

Openly fascist military organizations have threatened Zelensky’s life if he fails to cooperate with them. With the US heavily arming Ukraine’s military through several administrations, and the military attacking its own pro-Russian separatist forces (and civilians) in the East, the stage was set for Zelensky to be both a pawn and a hero.

Ukraine gave up its nuclear arsenal to Russia in the 1990s. And now Finland and Sweden are poised to join NATO—Finland draped across Russia’s border, Sweden snuggled up against Finland and their shared Baltic Bothnian Gulf. Russian Pres. Putin has stated he will not tolerate this.

Adding to this is the unthinkable—the prospect of nuclear war. Some regret giving up Ukraine’s nuclear weapons. After years of Donbas ethnic Russians suffering bombing, Putin moved to rescue them, and “demilitarize and denazify.” The spark that detonated his “special military operation”—a story virtually ignored in the Western press—was Zelensky’s statement that Ukraine could make its own nuclear weapons. The US-NATO military buildup inside Ukraine, right on Russia’s border, plus nearby war “games,” heated up a climate of nervous trepidation in Russia, and an entire global warming of war fears in the Western world.

Also, NATO member Lithuania has blocked transport of EU-sanctioned goods coming from Russia through Lithuanian territory to the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. This Russian city and oblast (province) of the same name is sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic seacoast, disconnected from mainland Russia, acquired from Germany in a WWII settlement—important as Russia’s only year round ice-free European port.

Putin has stated that Lithuania will suffer for this provocation, but at this time, 7/7/22, it is unknown what that entails. Russia has nuclear capable missiles as well as its Baltic fleet in Kaliningrad, and the Suwalki Gap in northeastern Poland is a choke point, a corridor between Russian Kaliningrad and ally Belarus—traveling through NATO and EU territory.

Putin has stated that he will use nuclear weapons if his country is existentially threatened.

The US and NATO are continually upping the threat; and as Russian forces advance in Ukraine, US leaders state there is no alternative: Russia must be defeated—along with massive propaganda that has Americans, and others, waged a campaign of unconditional support for Ukraine. And the US is committing $40 billion more in supplies to Ukraine, mostly weapons.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attended the G20 meeting of foreign ministers on 7/8/22 and said he is open to negotiations with the West over Ukraine. But US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, also present, refused to meet with his counterpart.

This is a stalemate threatening an unknown potential checkmate of possible Earth shaking proportions. How can this be peaceably resolved?

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US, now the unipolar superpower, tore up the promised “peace dividend” and, like a colossus, strode across the globe at will.
UPDATE: So.Co. Commission on Human Rights

Rights of Farm and Vineyard Workers

by Katrina Phillips

The Commission on Human Rights is actively involved in the rights of the Farm and Vineyard workers for protection throughout “Fire Season.” When the rest of areas are evacuated the workers are still out there in the vineyards being pelted with ash and embers, some losing their homes to fires while they work.

Farm workers came together to repeat a message to the Board of Supervisors on July 18, 2022, ahead of harvest for:

- Hazard Pay
- Disaster Insurance
- Language Justice

For those who do not understand what “Language Justice” means, please locate any essential app you use for Wildfire safety and see if they have Spanish Translation.

The percentage of Spanish speakers in Sonoma County is almost 40%. Also, 20% of agricultural workers in California speak Indigenous languages, not Spanish. Companies that send workers into an evacuation zone need to provide training in workers’ preferred languages, including Indigenous languages. Language justice is critical for basic safety.

We must do better with communication. Communication during an emergency situation is key to survival, for people, pets and livestock.

On August 30, County Staff will report back with further recommendations re. emergency response during fire evacuation. The Board of Supervisors will make a final decision then. The public is encouraged to show up for comment.

Please remember, Human Lives are more important than grapes. No one should risk their lives for grapes.

Why would we even have to point this out to anyone? Because no one ever thinks about the people in the fields. Ever.

Sound familiar? Like the times of slavery? “You just keep working! Don’t stop working or you will lose ANY benefits!!”

This is modern day slavery. Workers deserve Rights and Protection.


Katrina Phillips is Chairperson of the Sonoma Co. Commission on Human Rights.

The Fall of Roe Has Energized the Left...

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The Truth About Ukraine...

Sources: Ukrainian President Says They Will Get Nuclear Weapons, Brian Wang, Next Big Future 2/24/22; Euromaidan, Wikipedia; Suwalki Gap, Wikipedia; Russia Reacts to Sweden and Finland Nearing NATO Membership, Isabel Van Brug, Newsweek 7/5/22; Russian State TV Warns of Nuclear War, Isabel Van Brug, Newsweek 7/6/22; Why is Kaliningrad at the Center of a New Russia-NATO Faceoff?, Daniel S. Hamilton, Adrianna Pita, Brookings podcast transcript 6/23/22.

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, health professional and musician. You can read his writing on Counterpunch/archives/author’s name, Daily Kos, Twitter, and his website, with ~100 articles, poetry, political fantasy stories, and much political satire and humor, all free of charge to read, at patreon.com/barrybarnett
Ann Gray-Byrd had been a civil rights and social justice powerhouse in Santa Rosa for the past 70 years. Since moving to Santa Rosa in 1952 with her family, Ann helped to shape the political and social landscape in Santa Rosa through her work with various organizations over the years.

Ann served as the NAACP Local Chapter’s president on several occasions, first during the 1970s, then from 2000-2005 and then again from 2010-2015. Ann has been honored for her community service by the State of California Legislative Women of the Year in 2005 and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in 2015.

Ann also received the American Society of Public Administrators Outstanding Professional Woman in 1972; the National Council of Negro Women, Mary McLeod Bethune Community Service Award in 1980; the President’s Northern Area Conference NAACP Leadership Award in 1982; and the NAACP’s Legacy Award.

Please join in uplifting the family and close friends of the Gray-Byrd family in prayer.

Kirstyne Lange, President
NAACP Santa Rosa - Sonoma County Branch
Unit #1074-B

Santa Rosa - Sonoma County Branch

Good Reasons to Join the Local Branch of NAACP

Become a NAACP member – Get connected with the local Branch #1074b Santa Rosa-Sonoma County. The General Meetings are the 1st Monday of each month or on the Monday following a holiday.

Meetings often include in-depth presentations by community organizations such as The Office of Equity; Sonoma County Tenants Union; inRESPONSE Mental Health Support Team; Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights and others.

The Branch adheres to the National agenda while diligently addressing local racial hatred and discrimination inequities with impactful Community actions.

Current actions, drives, events, and programs reflect past-to-present efforts. As racial hatred continues to fuel (educational economic and social) inequalities, our members dogmatic persistence continues moving us forward making life better for all people.

Vision

Our vision is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.

Mission

Our mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

Contact us and send a message:

PO BOX 3964, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone: 707.536.1047
Email: naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com
Website: naacpsantarosasonomaco.org
Facebook: facebook.com/naacpsonoma
Instagram: instagram.com/naacpsonoma
Twitter: mobile.twitter.com/naacpsonoma

Lifting as we climb. Growing as we build. 🖤
Remarks to Press Democrat Town Hall

Kathleen Finigan, June 28, 2022

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to have this discussion here with you this evening. You may be aware that among the activist community I have largely been your champion and I celebrated along with you when you were awarded the Pulitzer — what a sweet moment!. I think there’s nothing finer in American journalism than a hometown newspaper that well covers local news.

You’ve asked us to attend this meeting in order to inform you of our interests in the way the Press Democrat tells stories. I might have suggested that you could have asked how you report the news. But in any case, you asked the question and I’m going to answer it: We want the truth.

Since the Pulitzer you’re fallen off track. We’re seeing terrific inconsistency in reporting even as you proclaim your commitment to equality and inclusiveness.

You’ve distorted and twisted your self-proclaimed duty to seek and tell the truth.

For example, in the recent past you published a bizarre political piece from Sheriff Mark Essick branding Jerry Threat as a racist, which he is not. Jerry was the first director of IOLERO and then the Chair of the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights, and has been widely acknowledged as an exemplary anti-racist and Black Lives Matter ally. That piece was succeeded by a subsequent PD editorial further excoriating Threat without basis. You refused to publish a balanced piece by Susan Lamont in Threat’s defense and, astonishingly, a statement from the NAACP supporting Threat completely was completely ignored.

Then the Dominic Foppoli scandal was smothered until the Chronicle exposed your perfidy and you were forced to report it. Next came the senseless character assassination of our fine Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase at the behest of Essick supporting anti-vaxxers/anti-maskers who were out to get her. The PD saw it fit to report on two old DUI charges against Mase even though they had no bearing on her job performance.

At that juncture, Rick Green interrupted my remarks in an effort to justify the publication. In what could be the most bizarre statement ever uttered by a newspaper executive editor, Mr. Green declared that in three or four years time, should Dr.Mase be found to have been driving under the influence again and causing an accident resulting in death or injury, the PD could be held responsible for not having revealed the earlier incidents. Say what? The PD policy is apparently based on a fabricated possibility of something that might happen in the future? As in the sky is falling down, Chicken Little? Or, better yet, news policy by divination?

Well, Glory Hallelujah!

Then came the blatant manipulation of the supervisor endorsement for Petaluma, after the citizens’ council endorsed progressive candidate Blake Hooper for the job. But the PD Editorial Board threw Hooper under the bus and decided to endorse David Rabbit instead. It seems that fat cat Steve Falk, Sonoma Media CEO, sits on the Editorial Board. Along with the other fat cats comprising the power elite of Sonoma County who own virtually all of the media in the county and belly up with the richest lobbyists, developers, corporation CEO’s and wealthy vineyard owners, it seems that the rich businessmen are calling the shots on what we read. So much for independent journalism!

And now we must address the shameless suppression of a newly released firsthand account of how the Palms Inn has disintegrated from an exemplary example of Prevention of Sexual Harrassment to what is now a drug ridden haven of prostitution and thievery, out of control mold and cockroaches and case management that’s failing its clients. How can it be that residents at the Palms are being found dead in their rooms weeks after they died? One gruesome scene was described by an eyewitness as a “blackened corpse melting down the wall into a gelatinous pool of blood and bodily fluids surrounded by maggots.”

So, Press Democrat, how do we want to see news reported in the Press Democrat?

We want the truth! 🙌

Watch video of the press conference exposing brutal conditions at the Palms Inn, that the Press Democrat chose not to attend. D. Kalani Raposa gives first hand account as resident of the Palms Inn. Kathleen Finigan of Homeless Action Media, organized and facilitated the press conference.
Building Power for Social Change

Staff of NBOP

Although the beauty and wealth of Sonoma County is marketed worldwide, this image masks the tremendous exploitation that lies just beneath the surface.

Many of us face high rents, unlivable wages, continued attacks on immigrant families and environmental exploitation. And we know that no matter how hard any of us work — without organizing for structural change — the conditions that keep us poor will continue.

But it doesn’t have to be this way.

The North Bay Organizing Project is a grassroots, multiracial, and multi-issue organization comprised of over twenty-two faith, environmental, labor, student, and community-based organizations in Sonoma County. Together, we unite people to build leadership and grassroots power for social, economic, racial and environmental justice.

As a vehicle for social transformation, we convene those closest to injustice to build power and identify solutions rooted in our lived experiences. At the core, we believe that the participation of our members is essential for the survival of democracy.

In this movement, we organize working people, faith leaders, environmentalists, students, 2SLBTQIA+ people and neighborhood organizations, toward structural change — whether that’s renter protections, policies centered on language justice, and the right to a just recovery for all after wildfires. Through the Latinx Student Congress, we nurture young people who are eager to lead their community but lack a venue to do so. By training leaders directly from our communities, we confront systems of oppression that continue to extract from working people.

We envision a world where all people live with dignity. And we know what it takes to build it. Will you join us?

We are actively growing our base. Are you ready to take action and make Sonoma County a more just place to live?

Join one of our task forces or initiatives:

• Climate Justice Task Force: Manny Morales
  mmorales@northbayop.org
• Deep Democracy: Kimi Barbosa
  kbarbosa@northbayop.org
• Immigrant Defense Task Force: Rocio Torres
  rtorres@northbayop.org
• Police Accountability Task Force: Kimi Barbosa
  kbarbosa@northbayop.org
• Latinx Student Congress: Manny Morales
  mmorales@northbayop.org
• Sonoma County Tenants Union:
  sctu707@gmail.com

Program Spotlight: Deep Democracy

Deep Democracy is the civic engagement arm of the North Bay Organizing Project. It’s the fundamental idea that we must forge deep relationships with our neighbors and community members, identify what is at stake for us, and make sure we can stand up for our collective liberation.

We’re regularly canvassing, we’re listening to our neighbors, we’re seeing what they’re struggling with, their joys to build the Sonoma County that we want to see. Specifically, we reach out to folks who have been historically removed from decision-making processes.

We know that disenfranchisement is a very intentional, systemic problem where folks of color, single mamas and trans nonbinary folks aren’t invited to the discussion. We say “civic engagement” because not everyone can vote. If you’re a parolee, if you have a felony or don’t have the correct documentation, you aren’t able to vote — but you are still able to participate civically.

Together, we want to reignite that flame in the community to participate civically for a better future for us all — not just for the wealthy.

With Sonoma County facing unprecedented hardships — rising housing costs, climate crisis, and the impacts of a global pandemic, it’s crucial more than ever that we organize for a future for all of us, not just for the wealthiest of us.

It takes a lot of courage to do this work, especially when we are burdened by all the things that life gives us. We’ve formed a group of people passionate about fighting for a better Sonoma County for all of us.

If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, please contact Kimi Barbosa at kbarbosa@northbayop.org.

Peace Press Collective Seeking Editors, Proof Readers and Writers

The Peace Press Collective produces the bi-monthly (every other month) publication of the Peace & Justice Center. The next issue will be out in October. Deadline for submission of articles is September 16. Articles are proofed and lightly edited for grammar, spelling. Then the finished Peace Press is to be proofed at the end of the month before publication. Please reply to zenekar2@gmail.com with PEACE PRESS in all caps on the subject line.

Oliver’s Community Card Supports the PJC (apply for card at PJCsonoco.org)

Hi PJC Peeps,

I just checked my Oliver’s Market community card donations which go to the Peace and Justice Center. They total $569.63. I shop at Olivers in Cotati at least once a week and I’m religious about showing my card even for small purchases. I often wondered if it was adding up to anything meaningful. This is probably the accumulation of several years. I know 5-6 hundred dollars isn’t a lot for your budget but it’s more than I could afford to give personally so it thrilled me to see it.

I just wanted you to know. I’ll be more diligent about asking my friends if they have an Oliver’s Community Card and if they will support the PJC with it.

Adrienne Lauby
Deeply personal, astutely political, *Fighting Times: Organizing on the Front Lines of the Class War* recounts the thirteen-year journey of Jonathan Melrod to harness working class militancy and jump start a revolution on the shop floor of the American Motors auto company in Wisconsin.

Melrod faces termination, dodges the FBI, outwits collaborators in the UAW, and becomes the central figure in a multi-year, surreptitiously funded and orchestrated lawsuit by American Motors against the rank-and-file shop newsletter *Fighting Times*, as he strives to build a class-conscious workers’ movement from the bottom up.

A radical to the core, Melrod was a key part of the campus insurrection at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He left campus for the factory in 1972, hired along with hundreds of other youthful job seekers onto the mind-numbing auto assembly line. *Fighting Times* paints a portrait of these rebellious and alienated young hires, many of whom were returning Black Vietnam vets returning from the war-torn jungles with little faith in the system and with little tolerance for authority.

Containing dozens of archival photographs, *Fighting Times* captures the journey of a militant anti-racist revolutionary who rose through the ranks of his UAW local without compromising his politics or his dedication to building a class-conscious workers’ movement.

The book will inspire and arm a new generations of labor militants and organizers with the skills and attitude to challenge the odds and fight the egregious abuses of the exploitative capitalist system.

**About the Author**

Born into the political and cultural quiescence of the 1950’s, Jon Melrod grew up in apartheid-like Washington D.C. Active in the student movement that opposed the Vietnam War and a supporter of Black liberation, Jon embraced the ideology that the working class held the power to radically transform society. He left the campus for the factory in 1972. For thirteen years he immersed himself in the day-to-day struggles of Milwaukee’s working class, both on the factory floor and in the political arena.

Despite FBI and Milwaukee Police “Red Squad” interference, Jon organized a militant rank-and-file caucus and rose through the union ranks to a top leadership position in UAW local 72. After a mass workforce cutback imposed by AMC’s joint venture partner French automaker Renault, he left to attend Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco in 1985. Graduating cum laude with a JD, he opened a law firm in San Francisco successfully representing hundreds of political refugees.

In 2004, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given only six months to a year to live. Determined to overcome the illness, he marshalled both western and alternative treatments and, despite the odds, survived the deadly disease. After 13-year-old Andy Lopez was gunned down by a Sonoma County deputy sheriff, he reupped his bar membership and jumped back into the struggle against police violence.

In 2019, he married Filipina actress and human rights activist Maria Isabel Lopez and became politically active in the movement to defend the ancestral lands of the persecuted indigenous peoples of the Philippine archipelago who are under attack by the army at the behest of foreign logging and mining interests. He has also become active in the human rights struggle defending imprisoned Filipino political prisoners.

**Accolades**

“An eloquent voice from the frontlines of the hard, bitter, exhilarating struggles for freedom and justice that have made the world a better place. An inspiring guide for carrying the crucial struggle forward.” — Noam Chomsky

“In Fighting Times, Jon Melrod shares his personal experiences in historical context about his human rights battles against social injustices. Jon was an early supporter of the Black Panther Party and the struggles for black liberation. As you will read, he became a target of the FBI after landing on the Bureau’s radar when he called the Chicago office to coordinate sales of The Black Panther community newspaper in Madison, WI. A must-read for all freedom-loving peoples.” — Emory Douglas, social justice artist and minister of culture for the Black Panther Party, 1967-1981

Author, Jon Melrod will speak at Copperfield’s Books in Sebastopol, October 6, at 7pm. To pre-order at a 20% discount enter code FIGHT20 at pmpress.org.
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BENEFITING THE PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

MOMOTOMBO SF (WITH FORMER MEMBERS OF MALO & SANTANA)
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SAT. AUGUST 13, 2022
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Volunteer on a Peace Team to the West Bank for 5 weeks

Meta Peace Team has been invited to place international peace teams in the West Bank by Palestinians who are committed to nonviolence, striving for justice and ending the occupation. Team members will be prepared through extensive training prior to departure; they are taught human rights monitoring and reporting, protective accompaniment, other creative tools of nonviolence, and the culture and history of Palestine/Israel. Living conditions might include staying in Palestinian homes or may be more basic.

Upcoming Teams

February 2023  Application Deadline September 21st 2022
May 2023  Application Deadline December 14th 2023
July 2023  Application Deadline February 14th 2023
October 2023  Application Deadline May 17th 2023

Suggested Donation:
Approximately $2750-$3300 plus airfare
Help with fundraising and partial scholarships available

Learn more at: 1-517-489-2607 or www.metapeaceteam.org/international-peace-teams
Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

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 pacificamaron@aclu.org, or daniela@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. fukushimeresponse.org, 823-9203
Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreens.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. hatefreepetaluma.org
Homeless Action – Advocating for people without shelter. 795-2890
Indivisible Groups – 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
LizResist! A visible unified Lesbian presence in support of each other, and stand in solidarity with the many communities, causes, and policies under attack by the US administration. Link: @ LizResistWomen. info
LGBTQ Connection, Napa & Sonoma Counties – Sonoma County, 714 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401, 707-582-0552, emerson@lgbtconnection.org
Listening for a Change – Programs support listening and oral history to create a caring community. 578-5430, listeningforachange.org
MECHA-SoNoma – Student group that focuses on issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community. info@mechadesonoma.org
NOW of Sonoma County – sonomacountyblackforum@gmail.com
Physicians for a National Health Program, Sonoma County (PNHP). In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925, ncpipa.org.
Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCo CANTI) Groups and individuals working address and reverse climate change. Meet in months with a 5th Monday, 7-9 PM at the PJC. Info: 955-0320 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. sonomacnty@gmail.com
Sonoma County Resistance via change.org
Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. SonomaSolidarity.org, facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL.
Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley, audreyvhn@sbcglobal.net
Sunrise Movement, Sonoma County Hub – Our hub believes in the power of mobilizing youth, taking direct and indirect action, building political power, civic engagement, and partnerships. More info: www.sunriseco.org and Facebook.com/SunriseSoCo
SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice, Sonoma County) – facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty
United Farm Workers – 1700 Corby Ave., Santa Rosa 528-0539
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. 536-0012
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

For additions or changes to this list, please email zenekar2@gmail.com with “PEACE PRESS” on Subject line.

All web links and email addresses in blue are interactive. A click will get you there.

Democracy is NOT a spectator sport!
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- Assisting at Center Events
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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

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Yes, I want to be a member of the Peace & Justice Center and receive one year of the Peace Press

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Annual Membership Dues, tax deductible (includes the bimonthly Peace Press mailed to your address for one year).

☐ $15 Low Income & Student Membership ☐ $35 Basic Membership ☐ $60 Family or Business Membership

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Return by mail or fax to Peace & Justice Center. Thank you for your membership! Visit PJCsoco.org for activities and hours.