

SONOMA COUNTY

# peace press

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## Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

**Sunday, January 16, 2022**

**ONLINE EVENT, 7-9 PM**

Details on pg 9

MLK Memorial in Washington DC



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Deadline for Feb/Mar issue: January 17, 2022

Email articles in MSWord to [peacentr@sonic.net](mailto:peacentr@sonic.net)

(put PEACE PRESS in all caps on subject line)

Word limit up to 700 words (negotiable).

Shorter pieces welcome about local actions and events.

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

We welcome poems but limited to approx. 30 lines.

### EDITING POLICY

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

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

**Articles are the opinion of the author unless otherwise noted.**

### CALENDAR ITEMS

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

Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

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Rebel Fagin, Terra Freedman, Earl Herr, Kathleen Finigan, Attila Nagy

**DESIGN** On The Wall Graphics

**FRONT COVER** by A.A.Nagy - MLK Memorial sculpture in Washington DC, in a collage with BLM protest and woman with sign during the 60s Civil Rights Movement.

**CARTOONS** Khalil Bendib, [studiobendib.com](http://studiobendib.com), [bendib.com](http://bendib.com), [otherwords.org](http://otherwords.org)

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weekly Social Justice  
e-newsletter, or to  
schedule an appointment,  
contact us through  
our website: [PjCsoco.org](http://PjCsoco.org)

# Another Spin Around the Sun

Joan Baez Reflects on Working Toward Peace:

*“Social change without music would be void of soul. Nonviolence without music, meditation, action, and a willingness to take risks probably doesn’t exist.”*

*Shekeyna Black*

We opted to have the Annual Awards presentation along with the silent auction online this year out of the utmost concern with regards to the ongoing pandemic. We hope you had a chance to see the video of the Award recipients dynamic speeches and the fabulous musicians. We premiered the video on November 13 for people who made a nominal donation via Eventbrite. **We have archived the Annual Awards presentation on our brand new YouTube channel** and we hope people will watch it for a bit of inspiration during these uncertain times. **Visit to see the presentations of the Annual Awards** to D’mitra Smith, the Peace & Justice Activist of the Year, Audrianna Jones who received the Russ and Mary Jorgensen Courage of Commitment Award, Mary Munat for the Unsung Hero Award, Graton Day Labor Center/ALMAS for the Community Organization Award and Sunrise Movement Sonoma County who received the Youth Peace & Justice Activists Award.

**Remembering Georgia Lee Moses who was born January 7, 1985.** The girl was found brutally murdered when she was only 12 years old. According to [georgialeemoses.com](http://georgialeemoses.com), “On August 22, 1997, a Caltrans worker attending to a broken guardrail off Highway 101 in Petaluma, California found the decomposing body of a young, African American woman just off the road. The woman was left nude.” Tragically, “Georgia’s body was held for nearly a year before being released for burial. It’s been more than two decades and her case still remains unsolved. A representative from the police department stated the case is currently listed as open.” The family moved away from Sonoma County and is fundraising

to have a proper burial for their beloved Georgia. Let us not forget this horrific unsolved murder and if you are able, consider donating to [Georgiea Moses gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com/georgia-moses).

**The Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County has been awarded a California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant.** The grant funds are designated to hire a part-time employee who will serve as an Administrative Assistant and DEI Advocate. DEI stands for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Here is a good resource to learn more about DEI standards: <https://dei.extension.org>. Currently, the job description is being developed and will be circulated to places that align with the Mission and Vision of the PJC.

Along those lines, the US has long been called the Melting Pot. “The melting pot theory has been used to describe societies that are formed by an assortment of immigrant cultures that eventually produce new hybrid social and cultural forms. The melting pot theory holds that, like metals melted together at great heat, the melting together of several cultures will produce a new compound, one that has great strength and other combined advantages.” 7(Source)

Additionally, “According to 2020 US Census data, the number of individuals who identify as multiracial jumped to 33.8 million last year, a 276% increase compared to 2010 figures.” (Source: Press Democrat 11/24/2021).

**Join us in welcoming newest Board Member, Cheryl King to the Peace & Justice Center.** She brings a wealth of experience and expertise and will help us navigate into the future. Dearest PJC Supporters, we wish you and yours the best as 2021 draws to an end and 2022 is upon us. **PJC Members will be receiving our end-of-year appeal letter in the mail.** Did you know that nearly one-third of annual giving to nonprofit organizations occurs in December? We count on individual donors, like you, to contribute financially so that we may continue with our work serving the community as we have done for 37 years. **Thank you for being a vital part of our nonprofit organization. You are appreciated.** 🌟

WE ARE HERE



### Cheryl King

On this December 10, 2021, it is worthwhile examining the implications of the extreme assault on women's rights in the US, particularly in the area of rights to bodily autonomy.

It wasn't always like this.

\*Historian Leslie Reagan, author of "When Abortion Was a Crime," writes, "In the 18th century and until about 1880, abortions were allowed under common law and widely practiced. They were illegal only after "quickening," the highly subjective term used to describe when pregnant women could feel the fetus moving.

"At conception and the earliest stage of pregnancy, before quickening, no one believed that a human life existed; not even the Catholic Church took this view," Reagan writes. "Rather, the popular ethic regarding abortion and common law were grounded in the female experience of their own bodies."

Abortions would become criminalized by 1880, except when necessary to save a woman's life, not at the urging of social or religious conservatives but under pressure from the medical establishment.

Back in 1857, when it was still a fledgling organization, the American Medical Association began a crusade to make abortion illegal. The impetus was manifold. Some of it came "out of regular physicians' desire to win professional power, control medical practice, and restrict their competitors," namely midwives and homeopaths.

But this was also a time, Reagan says, in which women were lobbying for entrance

into Harvard Medical School, in part so they could pursue work in obstetrics and gynecology.

The crusade proved to be a form of backlash against the shifting aspirations of women. It was "antifeminist at its core," Reagan wrote.

The AMA pushed for state laws to restrict abortions, and most did by 1880. Then the Comstock Law, passed by Congress in 1873, banned items including abortion drugs.

Since then, there have been significant gains in women's rights in terms of their right to determine what to do with their own bodies. But those gains have been offset by losses, and the current full court press by red states to deprive women of those rights is only the latest in a series of legislative maneuvers that are designed to deprive women of their human right to bodily autonomy.

This short history of legal victories and losses, in women's rights, should spur us on to greater investment in protecting the rights of women.

1918 – Margaret Sanger, two years after opening a birth control clinic in Brooklyn, wins her suit in New York to allow doctors to advise their married patients about birth control for health purposes. The clinic, along with others, becomes Planned Parenthood in 1942.

1965 – The Supreme Court establishes the right of married couples to use contraception.

1969 – California adopts the nation's first "no fault" divorce law, allowing divorce by mutual consent.

The Supreme Court upholds the right to use birth control by unmarried couples.

1973 – Landmark Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade* makes abortion legal. The Supreme Court in a separate ruling bans sex-segregated "help wanted" advertising.

1974 – The Supreme Court rules it is illegal to force pregnant women to take maternity leave on the assumption they are incapable of working in their physical condition.

1978 – The Pregnancy Discrimination Act bans employment discrimination against pregnant women.

1985 – EMILY's List is founded, its mission to elect Democratic, pro-abortion rights women to office.

1989 – The Supreme Court affirms the right of states to deny public funding for abortions and to prohibit public hospitals from performing abortions.

1992 – The Year of the Woman: In *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, the Supreme Court upholds *Roe v. Wade* but allows states to impose restrictions such as a waiting period and parental consent for minors seeking abortions.

1994 – The Violence Against Women Act funds services for victims of rape and domestic violence and allows women to seek civil rights remedies for gender-related crimes. Six years later, the Supreme Court invalidates those portions of the law permitting victims of rape, domestic violence, etc. to sue their attackers in federal court.

2005 – Congress passes the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, the first law to ban a specific abortion procedure. The Supreme Court upholds the ban the following year.

2016 – The Supreme Court strikes down onerous abortion clinic regulations that were forcing women's clinics to close.

2021 - The Supreme Court is now engaged in debating a Texas law which went into effect on Sept. 1. The law was drafted to evade review in federal court, a goal the state has so far achieved. The law, which bans most abortions after about six weeks and includes no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, has caused clinics in the state to turn away many women seeking the procedure.

\*Jessica Ravitz, "The surprising history of abortion in the United States", CNN, updated June 27, 2016. 🌱



We are grateful for all the individuals and businesses that generously donated to our online auction. Please patronize these businesses that support the Peace & Justice Center.

- Alice Waco
- Ann Austin Yoga
- The Astro
- Avalow Organic Nursery
- Avid Coffee
- Balletto Vineyards
- Barbra Friedman Cottage Massage
- Bliss Organic Day Spa
- Buena Vista Winery
- Café Salsa
- Café Frida Gallery
- California Luggage
- Clavey Paddleboards
- Comet Corn
- Community Market
- Donna P.
- Dutton-Goldfield Winery
- Frame of Mind
- Futhermore Wines
- Green Mary Zero Waste Event Services

- The Hubbub Club
- Kate Wolf Festival
- Kindred Fair Trade
- Laure Reichek
- Linda Speel
- Lindalou & Michael Ryge
- Mac Daddy Repairs
- Mara Friedman
- Marilyn Madrone
- Moonlight Brewing
- The Musers
- Nancy Lindquist
- Nicoline LeSeigneur
- Peacetown
- Petaluma Pie Company
- Ralph Harmon
- Ramey Wines
- Redwood Cafe
- Relaxing Ronda

- Rileystreet Art Supply
- Robin Latham
- Rosemary's Garden
- Ruth Mankin Yoga
- Sally Tomatoes
- Santa Rosa Symphony
- Sandy Kaplan
- Screamin' Mimi's
- Silk Moon
- 6th Street Playhouse
- Solful
- Sonoma Bach
- The Spinster Sisters
- Sprout's Farmers Market
- Starhawk
- Starr & Jeff Hergenrather
- The Toyworks
- Tilted Shed & Farm Trails Friends
- Trader Joe's

## Stigmatization of Homelessness

*Monica Toupin*

Homelessness in Sonoma County, has risen drastically since the 1980s. Despite the consistent message in the public arena that homelessness needs to be addressed, there have not been effective efforts or strategies conducive to overall change.

A lot of resources in Sonoma County include programs, outreach, and subsidized housing that has helped a lot over the years, however we still have some of the highest rates of homelessness per capita, despite being one of the highest grossing counties in California.

A lot of influential individuals on the front lines have been fighting for the most disadvantaged individuals in our communities across the country. The hard efforts by advocates and grassroots organizations that work alongside the homeless community face a lot of barriers from gentrification, redlining, inflation, and from political economic legislation that make it seemingly impossible to get ahead of this crisis.

The main barrier that homeless individuals face trumps all other barriers – stigma. The narratives that circulate in social spaces continue to place homeless as “outsiders” and can determine how efforts are organized in the community. Stigma of the HUD Voucher community, mental health, race, and non-violent criminal offenders has been fed to the public through the information or misinformation and the entertainment they consume, thus thwarting efforts to help those who are homeless back into the fabric of the community in which they live.

Sociologist Irving Goffman suggests that stigma should be recognized as “the language of relationships” and not as attributes of a person, and that the stigmatized “are not persons but rather perspectives.” Most homeless individuals do not exhibit characteristics of their stigma, rather they are



stigmatized because of their social status, age, gender, or race. The macro-level structures that have created and perpetuated the stigmatization of disenfranchised communities need to be addressed at the meso-level. Communities need to continue to provide the advocacy and voice that homeless individuals need in a coordinated effort to help battle stigmatization. 🌱

# The Lobby – USA

*Rebel Fagin*

The international Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions movement (BDS), has enjoyed great successes recently. These great successes have been followed, of course, by a great pushback.

In January 2017, Al Jazeera released a four-part series on pro-Israel groups undermining democracy in Britain, called *The Lobby*. One of the incidents we see in this film is Israeli operatives attempting to unseat the British Minister of Foreign and Com-

monwealth Affairs, Sir Alan Duncan, due to his stance on the settlements. These pro-Israel activists also levied unfounded and damaging charges of anti-Semitism towards anyone who questioned the legitimacy of the illegal settlements and other inconvenient facts. AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, spearheaded this effort with the goal of making the UK more like the USA in its unquestioning support of Israel.

In 2018 Electronic Intifada leaked a follow up 4-part documentary called *The Lobby – USA*. Qatar and Israel initially suppressed the film from general distribution but the folks at Electronic Intifada managed to get it out on YouTube. *The Lobby – USA* looks at the clandestine actions of the state of Israel working through front groups to stop BDS in the USA by any means possible.

The Lobby refers to many pro-Israel organizations. At the top of the heap is AIPAC, followed by the Israel on Campus Coalition, Chabad, Hillel, Stand with Us, TIPS (Israeli media spinners), The Israel Project, Canary Mission and others. Their focus is on colleges and universities. Israel knows it will lose the current generation of students if they don't act now. Israel's brutality towards the Palestinians makes them unpopular so what they do on campus, they do secretly, using local student front groups. They train, fund and encourage these students through student-friendly organizations. They make these students feel important as they gener-

ate reports on pro-Palestinian activities on campus. These reports are sent directly to Israel's Minister of Public Affairs, a group begun to stop BDS in the USA. Israel has two major problems in America. The younger generations of Jewish Americans do not automatically support Israel like many of their parents did. Some do, but it's not a given. Also, as Palestinians adhere to nonviolent protests and the Israeli's respond with disproportionate violence, world opinion shifts in favor of the victims. These are issues the Minister of Public Affairs must address. Israel can't deny what they do, so they trash the opposition instead. Their primary tool is social media. Pro-Israeli forces monitor social media looking for pro-Palestinian actions across the country. They say they can spot them in less than a minute. Swift actions follow. They use social media to besmirch individuals involved in BDS. First they slander them, then they use the echo chamber effect, repeating the story through various outlets, until people believe the accusations. Yes, this is the Big Lie technique, only updated for social media. One of their tactics is called *Canary Mission*. This is funded primarily by Adam

Milstein. This tool identifies students and faculty who engage in pro-Palestine actions ranging from protests to social media postings, all perfectly legal, then slanders them with the implication that this will destroy any future career prospects.

As college students are preparing to launch careers, this can be quite damaging. It silences some and makes examples of others. However, not all students fear the repercussions and this tactic is less successful than they initially thought it would be. The Lobby also uses linkage to discredit activists. For example, they have tried to equate local Students for Justice in Palestine with the Muslim Brotherhood, with false but damaging claims, especially when reinforced with media postings. TIPS spins reports for media postings so that they will demonize BDS activists and portray any friends of Israel as victims. They repeat phrases over and over until they are echoed by corporate media.

American corporate media is pressured by TIPS and others to reject pro-Palestinian reports and listen only to pro-Israeli reports. TIPS and their allies tell their own story while preventing all others from influencing the narrative. To control the story further, they try to control language, calling BDS a hate group over and over until folks believe it. The Israel Project's Global Language

*The Lobby – USA...see page 5*

*The bottom line here is that a foreign government is maligning American citizens to stop them from participating in Constitutionally protected activities.*



# Take Action! for Immigration Reform



## Contact Senators to overrule the Parliamentarian

The Senate Parliamentarian has ruled that including creating a pathway to citizenship in the Build Back Better Act violates the Byrd rule, which describes what types of legislation a reconciliation bill can contain. But the parliamentarian advises the Senate and the Presiding Officer can overrule her. That's exactly what Senate Democrats should do. (From Indivisible Sonoma County)

### Please call your Senators and say:

"I'm calling on you to include a pathway to citizenship for immigrants in the Build Back Better Act by having the Presiding Officer overrule the Senate Parliamentarian and find that the inclusion is within Senate rules. This will take strong coordination between Senate Democrats – which is what we sent you to Washington to do! Please get the job done!"

#### Senator Dianne Feinstein

DC phone: 202-224-3841

SF phone: 415-393-0707

#### Senator Alex Padilla

DC phone: 202-224-3553

See details of the strategy at: [National Immigration Law Center](#)

### Online Petition for Immigration Reform:

Go to the [online petition](#) created by Comité VIDA (Volunteer Immigrant Defense Action). Join Comité VIDA and community members in telling your senator (Sen. Feinstein, Sen. Padilla, and other senators) that it is now the time for a Comprehensive Immigration Reform - with a simple majority (51 votes).

Dear Senator, we demand that after 35 years of Congressional inaction you support immigrants by supporting:

1. Comprehensive immigration reform for all with pathway to citizenship now
2. Immigration Reform is too important and too urgent to be stopped by Senate rules - let's pass immigration reform with 51 votes
3. Minimally: Immigration Reform - House of Representatives version - as a minimum, it must go now through the Budget Reconciliation process (51 votes, if needed). We prefer an amendment that includes Permanent Residency.

Immigration Reform is long overdue. The signatories demand that Congress pass reform now with a simple majority of 51 votes. 🇺🇸

## The Lobby – USA ...from page 4

Dictionary, released in 2009, shows which phrases and words sell and which ones don't. Here's an example of how all this goes together. When UC Davis' Students for Justice in Palestine organized a vote drive to endorse BDS on campus, The Lobby went into action. Knowing they would lose the vote; pro-Israel forces devised a staged action that would draw attention to their cause. There was a public discussion of this issue at the student senate.

Following an anti-BDS speaker addressing the students, the pro-Israel students staged a walk out. They filmed it and deluged social media with their spin on the event along with their footage of it. Postings ran with headlines such as " Hamas and Shira law have taken over Davis." A Fox reporter said, "Pro-Israeli students were taunted by pro-Hamas students as an anti-Israel vote passed on campus." On the screen you see the words, "Running Rampant – UC Davis plagued by Anti-Semitic

feelings." That's not what happened. It is what was reported.

Nonetheless, the vote by the students in support of BDS passed by a significant margin. A few days later the Jewish fraternity house was tagged with swastikas. No one knows who did this. The corporate media implied that the pro-Palestine students did it, which makes no sense following an electoral victory. Could pro-Israeli forces have done this to play the victim card once again? We don't know. Following enormous pressure, the UC Regents overruled the student's vote. Bitter seeds were sowed by all this and that's a great deal of what The Lobby does.

Another part of The Lobby is The Israeli Project. These folks build fake Facebook pages crammed full of progressive issues with about 25% of their postings being pro-Israel/anti-Palestine. This way they hope to attract progressives with the 75% content then seduce them into supporting the 25%. Pink Washing and Green Washing are ex-

amples of how the Israeli Project tries to appeal to gay and environmental people in the USA. These campaigns include massive public relations campaigns designed to tell the west; "Look, we're progressive, just like you and those other people, they're not."

The bottom line here is that a foreign government is maligning American citizens to stop them from participating in Constitutionally protected activities.

All this is revealed in *The Lobby – USA*. If you are interested in what Israel has done in Britain to stop BDS, watch *The Lobby*. Both are available on YouTube. I'd see them soon before they are taken down for being effective.

You can learn more about this and other related topics by listening to *Speaking of Palestine*. Starting in January *Speaking of Palestine* will be heard every Monday from 4 to 5 pm on listener sponsored, KBBF, 89.1 FM.

Sources: *Electronic Intifada*, *Al Jazeera*, *RT TV*. 🇺🇸

# Latest US War Crimes Whistleblower Daniel Hale Jailed

*Barry Barnett*

“Please, your honor, forgive me for taking papers instead of human lives.”

But Daniel Hale was not forgiven.

On July 27, 2021, 33 year old former US Air Force and NSA (National Security Agency) intelligence analyst Daniel Hale was sentenced to 45 months in prison by US District Judge Liam O’Grady in the notorious Eastern District of Virginia, where whistleblowers are routinely convicted. His crime: exposing the extent of the US military’s surprise! murder-at-a-distance drone program.

Daniel Hale’s job was selecting supposed military targets and droning (bombing) them.

A turning point came for Hale after Aug. 21, 2012, when he fired a drone from Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan to a palm grove in SE Yemen, where the four Hellfire missiles killed Salim bin Ahmed Ali Jaber, a respected imam renowned for denouncing Al Qaeda’s influence in the Arabian Peninsula, and his cousin Walid bin Ali Jaber, a Yemeni police officer, along with three men that they were, ironically, trying to dissuade from terrorism. In 2013, after much protest in Yemen, Salim’s brother Fazil met with Hale at a panel in Washington, DC.

Hale and others on duty had cheered, watching the push-button carnage. At the

*The documents detailed a secret, unaccountable watch list for targeting and killing people around the world...*

panel, Fazil wept, and Daniel Hale was horrified, realizing what he had done.

Subsequently, in Feb. 2014, he leaked 17 classified documents to Jeremy Scahill at the Intercept, which formed the basis for a series of articles, the “Drone Papers,” published in Oct. 2015.

The documents detailed a secret, unaccountable watch list for targeting and killing people around the world – including US citizens – all considered “enemies killed in action.” During his watch, a whopping 90% of deaths were civilians – disputing the Obama regime’s assertion of surgical precision. The drone program was president

Obomber’s, I mean Obama’s, pet project, who weaponized it to hide any crimes or negative images of the US (Empire).

Also, Obama prosecuted more whistleblowers than all previous US presidents combined.

In short, the US military can select human targets and assassinate them, without a trial or even being charged, and not having to prove the targeted did anything wrong – very often murdering accidentally. Whoops!

US drone operations abroad, conducted both by the Pentagon (or Hexagon, including the Space Farce, I mean Space Force) and the CIA (Center for International Assassinations), have killed an estimated 9,000-17,000 people since 2004, including as many as 2,200 children, and multiple US citizens, including children.

According to Chris Hedges, the DA and prosecutors pressured Hale with the specter of 50 years imprisonment, inducing him to take a plea deal and plead guilty to leaking a trove of government documents exposing the inner workings of the drone assassination program, including the extremely high percentage of civilian, minor, and unintended deaths.

Daniel Hale is in good company. He was prosecuted under the 1917 Espionage Act. So were Daniel Ellsberg, Jon Kiriakou, Jeffrey Sterling, Thomas Drake, Chelsea Manning, Reality Winner, Henry Kyle (Keenan) Frese, Edward Snowden, Julian Assange. Under the Act, defendants are not allowed to explain their motivations or intent in court, nor provide evidence of the harm that the program leaked by the defendant causes. A cinch for conviction!

Hale, in court, paraphrased his ancestor Nathan Hale, a Revolutionary War spy who was hung by the British in 1776: “I regret that

I have but one life to give for my country.”

Daniel Hale now has PTSD, and is a political prisoner of conscience, a hero who quit and informed us when he realized he was inadvertently murdering children – for his government.

Drones also cause PTSD in Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.



*Daniel Hale with Medea Benjamin in front of the White house*

Daniel’s core support team has launched a GoFundMe to cover his prison expenses. You can write to Daniel: Daniel Everette Hale, 26069-075, USP Marion, PO Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959. You can petition President Biden to pardon Daniel Hale, as did Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN).

P.S. Daniel Ellsberg, who turned 90 April 7 (and was a very kind and supportive mentor to me), has again published classified papers, this time on the subject of his expertise – atomic weapons and (preventing) nuclear war. He is seeking to be prosecuted (again), hoping it will go to the US Supreme Court – and that the draconian Espionage Act will be declared unconstitutional. Bravo!

Sources: Daniel Hale Sentenced to 45 Months in Prison for Drone Leak, Ryan Devereaux, Murtaza Hussain, The Intercept 7/27/21; Wikipedia: Daniel Hale; Facing Years in Prison for Drone Leak, Daniel Hale Makes His Case Against US Assassination Program, Ryan Devereaux, The Intercept 7/24/21; Hedges: The Price of Conscience, Chris Hedges, Scheerpost undated/mid-2021; [couragetoresist.org/Drone](http://couragetoresist.org/Drone). whistleblower Daniel Hale needs your support, by [standwithdanielhale.org](http://standwithdanielhale.org) 6/22/21.

*Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, health professional, and musician. On Twitter, [counterpunch.org/archives/author's name](http://counterpunch.org/archives/author's%20name), and his website, [Patreon.com/BarryBarnett](http://Patreon.com/BarryBarnett). Feedback welcome at [barrymuse123@gmail.com](mailto:barrymuse123@gmail.com)*



# Compost Rocks!

*Rebel Fagin*

On January 1st California Senate Bill, SB 1383, will go into effect. It requires a 75% reduction of organic material disposal in landfills and about a 20% increase in edible food recovery by 2025. Organic material in landfills creates methane and adds considerably to climate change. Here's the components of the new law. 1) residents will place food scraps in their compost cart and not the garbage cans, 2) nearly all businesses will be required to have compost collection, 3) if your business generates a significant amount of edible food, you will donate it to a food pantry or similar organization. SB 1383 is a significant step in greenhouse gas reduction.

One of our largest greenhouse gas emitters is food waste. 90% of it goes into landfills. Meanwhile, 1 in 5 Americans suffers from food insecurity. This means they don't know where their next meal is coming from. Organic waste, food and yard waste, decomposes very slowly, releasing greenhouse gases the whole time. To compost organic waste, we need four things: oxygen, heat, moisture and sunlight. Food buried in a landfill gets plenty of heat but very little else. In the documentary *Wasted*, investigators showed a head of lettuce that had been in the landfill for 25 years by their estimate. 25 years of releasing methane without significant decomposition. We are smarter than this, we can do better than this, and some of us do.

Locally food is rescued from landfills for human consumption through Petaluma Bounty, Crop Mobsters, Sonoma Food Rescue, Food Runners and others. You can bring decent food to COTS in Petaluma. In Santa Rose; Catholic Charities, Sam Jones and the Gospel Mission often accept donations of food. There are other places as well, local food pantries for example. Learn your neighborhood and support those who help others. Homeless encampments often welcome food from allies. Make sure it is something that doesn't need ovens or much in the way of refrigeration. The point is to feed other people while reducing the

## How Compost Combats Climate Change

NO LANDFILL =  
LESS METHANE



HEALTHIER SOIL =  
MORE CARBON STORED & CAPTURED

climate change impact created by organic waste in the landfill.

If food is too decomposed for humans, feed animals. Many farmers welcome food scraps, especially hog farmers. They boil them at 100° to prepare the leftovers for their livestock. If food is too far gone for animals, we can use it for bioenergy and carbon farming.

There are two levels of commercial compost. Grade A is all food scraps. It is suitable for animals. Grade B compost includes food scraps, yard waste and paper. We can capture carbon and enrich our soil with Grade B compost.

There are over 2,000 Waste-to-Energy systems around the world. Although expensive to build, they are infinitely cheaper than fossil fuel plants or nuclear plants to build and operate. These closed systems use an anaerobic digester to convert organic waste to biomass fuel. The leftover mash can then be used for carbon farming. A single application of a ½ inch of compost on grazed, not virgin or plowed, land will increase soil capacity to 26,000 liters per hectare per

year for 30 years. Compost decomposition provides a slow release into the soil which improves soil moisture conditions, leading to an increase in plant growth. More plants leads to an increase in transfer of carbon dioxide through the plants into the soil, yielding additional soil carbon and water holding capacity. This isn't theoretical, it's happening now. Richard Hughes of Hughes Dairy developed a closed system to gather free-ranging cattle excrement, separate the solid waste from the liquid waste, use the solid waste as fertilizer then combine the liquid waste with water for his grazing land. Straus Family Creamery of Marin has developed a larger system for their larger operation. They use anaerobic digesters to convert manure to electricity, then use the electricity to run the ranch trucks. Stemple Creek Ranch is also practicing carbon farming.

Compost Rocks! Farmers have known this for years. It helps reduce our greenhouse gas footprint and is why I celebrate new laws such as SB 1383.

Sources: *Wasted* (film), *Drawdown* (book) by Paul Hawkins, *Recology* newsletter. 🌱

# ON CREATING A SOCIAL NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

*Ostin B. Moon, Jr.*

World peace? If you've had similar experiences to mine, you have probably heard people offer disclaimers such as "It'll never happen." "We can't have world peace until we kill all the bad guys." "Humans are violent by nature, that can't be helped." "We are powerless against the people at the top 10% of the economic food chain who get rich and richer from starting wars and selling military-grade weapons." "The 90% at the bottom of the food chain are just trying to make a living and don't have the time, education, or resources to work for world peace." "People today are divided by ethnic identities, and see all other ethnic identities as 'other,' ergo, 'not to be trusted.'" "Global climate change, extreme poverty, famine, and the disease pandemics need to be addressed now. World peace will have to wait."

*Externalities means that wars, no matter how honorable the participants think their motives are, can never solve any problems for 90% of the population. The motives for the top 10% are just greed.*

To counter some of those arguments, I am going to invoke two concepts I learned in Econ 1A; "Opportunity costs" and "Negative and positive externalities (spillovers)".

Opportunity costs means that whatever time, money, and resources that someone (not you) are wasting on silly, useless, or dangerous games and programs, are taking time, money, and resources away from efforts to create a more peaceful world.

Externalities means that wars, no matter how honorable the participants think their motives are, can never solve any problems for 90% of the population. The motives for the top 10% are just greed. So, what wars really accomplish, besides killing innocent people (collateral damage) is creating a population of soldiers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and a whole new generation of mentally and emotionally traumatized children.

As for the destruction of property, there are two negative spillovers at play here. One is the destruction of much needed schools and hospitals which would otherwise be creating positive spillovers. The other negative spillover is considered a positive spillover by those that cause wars; that infrastructures have to be constructed all over again. Benito Mussolini knew this when he invented Fascism (State Capitalism), with the ideal of perpetual war to create wealth for the Corporate State.

It is obvious that schools and hospitals have a positive effect on their neighborhoods. As do neighborhoods where people communicate in a social network for justice, trading new ideas and encouraging each other. Imagine a world map where the peaceful geo-political regions are expanding, and the violent regions are diminishing. It is a process.

If you are already engaged in one of the many good paths to social justice, you can add this to your other programs; they are not mutually exclusive. This social network for justice will not take up much time, and *it is a lot easier than some will have you believe*. Once you start it, it will expand exponentially.

Remember the old legend about the grains of wheat on a chess board? There are 64 squares. If you put just one grain on the first square, then put two on the second square, and keep doubling the amount for each consecutive square, by the 64th square you will have more wheat than you can carry in a large bag. Using emails, instead of grain, each person sending out more than just two, by six degrees of separation, will create a world-wide social network for justice in a very short time. *It is that easy*, and the minimum effort needed from each person will be the sending of the emails. After that, you and the other members of the Social Justice Net-



work will be communicating with each other about your efforts to combat climate change, poverty, famine, disease, and violence.

The Social Justice Social Network has a website to help coordinate your efforts. Send us an email, or snail mail, to let us know you are interested, or to ask for clarification of the ideas presented here. If you decide you want to participate, we will send you the link to our website. We also publish a free newsletter, *The Social Justice Activist*, which you will receive when you respond to this article. Please share with us and our readers your own ideas about any current social programs. If you already have your own website, let us know if you want to share links with us. That's how a real social network works.

If you don't already have your own website, we encourage you to build one. It is not as hard as it sounds, all you have to have is a little knowledge of HTML coding. We can help you with that if you so desire.

The whole point of a social network is to link all social justice programs and like-minded individuals globally, thus expanding the peaceful geo-political regions exponentially, and shrinking the violent ones.

For those of you who still think that the idea of world peace is absurd, try taking an Existentialist attitude – choose, of your own free will, to do it anyway; it is less absurd than any of the alternatives.

The [Social Justice Social Network](http://SocialJusticeSocialNetwork.org) contact, [buck@peacemoon.org](mailto:buck@peacemoon.org).

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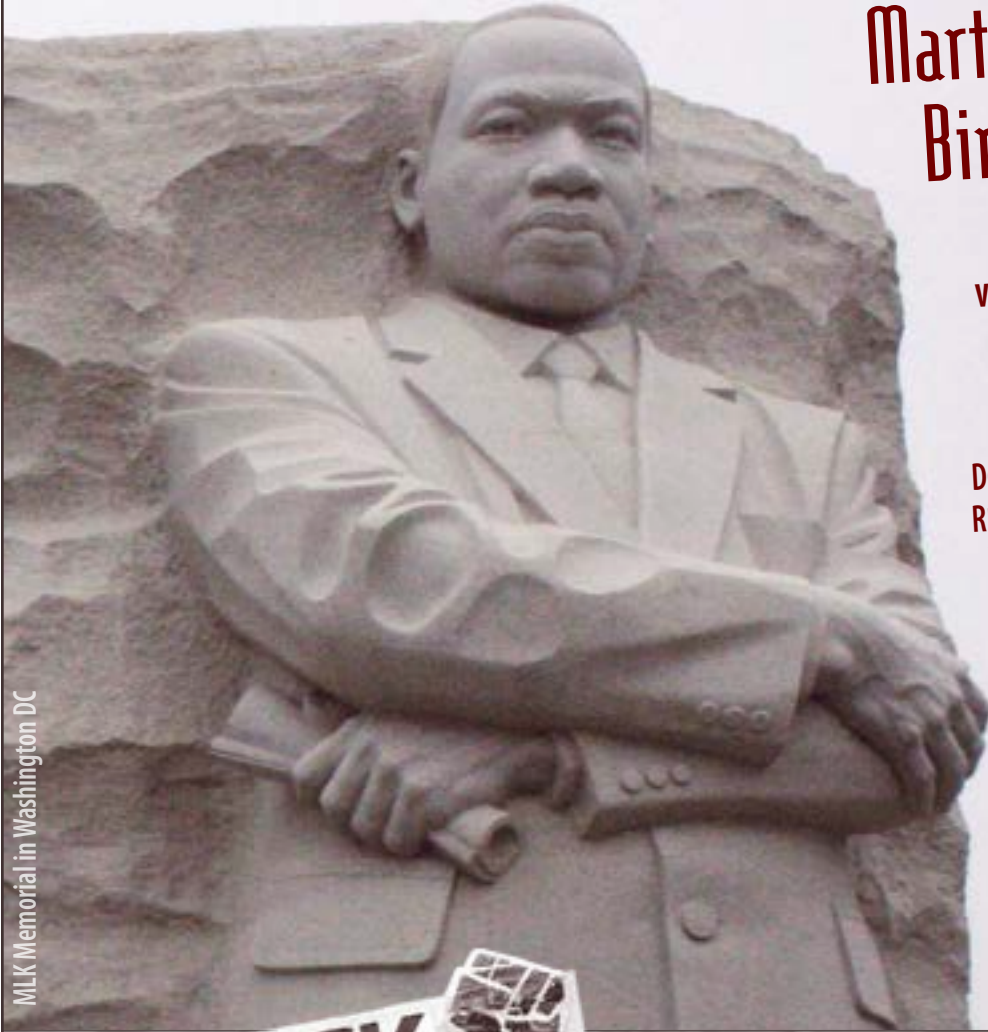
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## Weary Golden Days

I think back on those weary golden days under the sun  
And I have to smile  
I hold each moment in a locket under my skin  
To visit when I'm lonely

Do you remember?

The sky like an ocean above us, our feet treading on clouds  
Our wings riding the breath of history

Cricket song and heat waves throbbing in the air  
An idiot wind on the backs of our necks  
And some old poet swimming in my ear

Peaceful  
Powerful  
We were so alive

Do you remember  
How the muddy irrigation dripped into our bloodstreams  
And sloshed against  
The cages of our hearts?

Do you remember  
How the freeway howled in our throats  
And embers seared our lungs until  
We choked and cried and collapsed with laughter?

Do you remember  
The soft moments?  
The prayers whispered into hollow nights  
Or nights swollen with starlight and traffic  
Or nights humming like neon with visions of the revolution?

Do you remember  
The pulse of the stars spinning above  
The whipping spitting thrashing wind  
The gentle song of the river?

Do you remember  
That moment when we could feel infinity?  
How it rumbled through the pavement  
Stretching up to the sun?  
How it rumbled through our bodies  
Till we danced like fools in the morning light?

So many footsteps  
So many stories  
So much power when you live your truth  
When you let it burn, furious and raw, against the dark

by Lola Guthrie (Sunrise Movement activist)

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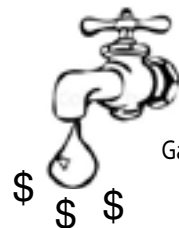


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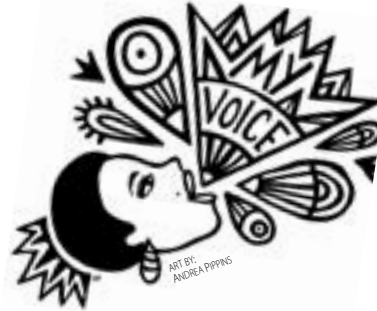
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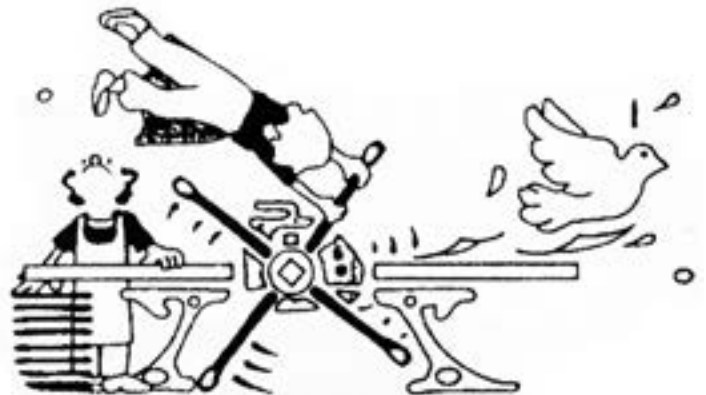
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