Notorious, anonymous graffiti artist Banksy has made art in Palestine several times tagging different areas of the West Bank and Gaza, and creating nine images on the apartheid wall (including this ‘Art Attack’).
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We’re Still Here for Peace and Justice

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Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

Donations for Houseless Neighbors

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
We’re Still Here for Peace and Justice

Shekeyna Black
“I’m telling the whole world. We’re human beings, just like everyone else. It’s our right to live a normal life. We also have a right to live a nonviolent life,” – Ahed Tamimi

In lieu of the regular Getting Centered column, I have opted to share the Spring Appeal Letter that was snail mailed to our Members. We appreciate each and every one of you for your continued support of the Peace & Justice Center.

Spring Appeal Letter:
The impact of the pandemic is still rearing its ugly head more than a year into the global crisis. The Peace & Justice Center remains closed for meetings and in-person events; and currently, the office hours continue to be suspended as we comply with CDC and Sonoma County Health Department mandates regarding COVID-19. If you call or send an email, we thank you for your patience while we do our best to reply to messages.

On a happier note, the PJC will be hosting the Annual Peace & Justice Awards online on Saturday, November 13, 2021. Please visit our website for details regarding nominating Sonoma County residents and/or organizations for the five Award categories.

Your donations, large or small, help support our nonprofit organization so that we may continue to do our vital work striving for equity and justice. A convenient Donate tab is on our website so that donations can be made online. Thank you for your heartfelt support!

I Ain’t Got No Home In This World Anymore

Will Shonbrun
They’re the American refugees, our homeless. Now you might be thinking, what do you mean our homeless? I didn’t make them homeless. They’re not my responsibility. And strictly speaking you’re right. But as a society of people that has chosen civilization, its laws and its accepted behaviors – and therefore we have shared responsibilities in its upkeep and maintenance – when we have people living on our streets (roughly 580,000 in our country), it’s clearly obvious something is amiss in our world. Too many of our people – mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters – can’t make it here and must drift from place to place… outcasts in their own land.

I’ve met some homeless people – talked with some and heard their stories – and as different as these stories were, the one thing they all had in common was that they’d fallen on hard times. A few had been professionals, some were well educated, and others just ordinary working people that dropped through a hole when life collapsed around them. There but for fortune could easily have been my fate, and I’d venture to guess many of you.

Yes, there are alcoholics, drug-users, free-loaders and ne’er-do-wells in the ranks of them homeless, as well as mentally disabled people. Nevertheless they are all of human flesh, feel pain, know sorrow and joy, and some knew love in their lives. All people deserve at minimum, sustenance, shelter and safe harbor. Those sick with addictions to deadly substances deserve care and treatment, as do the mentally afflicted. These fundamental needs, as so well made clear in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights penned many years ago, are the responsibility of a civilized society… our responsibility, all of us.

It’s curious that we care enough for the welfare of dogs and cats and provide shelter and care for them, as well we should. Besides providing clean shelter provisions for stray animals, they’re given food, medical care and large doses of love.

How is it that we do not feel as strongly about those among us with those same needs? Is it because we blame and fault them for their misfortune, and therefore the hell with them? No doubt that’s true of some of us, but those of us that know better, that understand our fortunes could easily have turned, it is not that hard to withhold judgment. Who among us never needed a helping hand at some time in life?

It’s estimated there are at least 3,000 people homeless in Sonoma County and a number of those are children. They’re not

I Ain’t Got No Home…see page 9
Rohnert Park elected 3 new leaders in 2020, all of whom pledged to support civilian oversight of the RP Public Safety Department.

On May 11 the Rohnert Park (RP) City Council finally took up a discussion of civilian oversight of its Public Safety Department. This is a discussion that the community has demanded and begged for over the course of more than two decades. That call for oversight goes back prior to the 2000 Report of the US Civil Rights Commission that called for RP to establish a civilian oversight committee. The community demand for this discussion was repeated over and over as instance after instance of officer misconduct came to light and as more lives were lost unnecessarily to police violence in RP. We will never forget the night when dozens of community members appeared before the council in 2019 to demand oversight following the $4M jury verdict in the brutal Branch Wroth killing by RP officers. The RP council sat in stone-faced silence as the community begged for a hearing on civilian oversight. No hearing was scheduled and there was no follow-up by any council member.

Rohnert Park elected 3 new leaders in 2020, all of whom pledged to support civilian oversight of the RP Public Safety Department. Vice Mayor Jackie Elward, a Black woman immigrant leader and Councilmember Willie Linares, a son of Guatemalan immigrant parents, joined with Mayor Gerard Guidice, a White local businessman, to promise change and responsiveness to RP community desires that had long been ignored. These refreshing commitments to discuss these persistent challenges garnered this trio the support they needed to overturn long entrenched incumbents and gain elected office. Those of us who had worked on police accountability issues in this county for years saw these welcome changes as the promise of a new day.

Unfortunately, it seems those hopes have been dashed by the reversal of the one White council member among the newly elected trio. Guidice, instead of fulfilling his promise to his Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) colleagues and the community to establish civilian oversight in RP, instead betrayed that promise last Tuesday. Guidice joined his two White establishment colleagues and refused to support Vice Mayor Elward’s modest motion to start the process of looking at civilian oversight models for RP. Mayor Guidice instead imperiously announced that he “was not ready” for a discussion that the community has demanded for more than two decades. Retreating to the comfort of White complicity and privilege, the new RP mayor signaled to the good ol’ boy network that he is just fine with business as usual – that continued deaths and payouts of taxpayer money are just fine with him.

Things significantly shifted in this country and in this county last summer, as a multi-racial, multi-generational coalition rose up to protest ongoing police violence and the persistent stain of White Supremacy. This is not a new conversation, but it has a new urgency in a time when we are both exiting from a Presidency characterized by core beliefs of White Supremacy and when the nation has been rocked by Black Lives Matter Protests.

No doubt there are many members of the RP community who are comfortable with the way things have been, with the RP Public Safety Department and its officers and how it has operated. And there are many others who are not. This department has a troubled history of mistakes and missteps, which RP council has seen in closed sessions to discuss settlements of lawsuits. We have seen these mistakes in press reporting of huge lawsuit settlements and officer shakedowns of legal marijuana growers on highways. The mistakes have been many for such a small department and of a very serious nature. There is much work to be done to regain the trust of the entire community. All members of the RP community deserve to feel safe, not just White community members.

This conversation is important and must continue along with the work to improve policing and police-community relationships in Rohnert Park. This process is not an attack on police officers or the City’s Public Safety department. The type of community engagement process proposed is a key support for effective community policing. True community policing depends on ongoing, authentic engagement that seeks to understand the perspective and desires of those who will be policed. And that means an ongoing dialogue with the community in a formal structure that facilitates that process.

This is where a civilian oversight entity comes in. A formal civilian oversight entity is key to making ongoing engagement with the community successful. And because our BIPOC community members so often experience the brunt of impacts from policing, it is crucial that any discussion of a civilian oversight entity center BIPOC voices. To put it simply, centering BIPOC voices makes it more likely policing will actually serve BIPOC needs. And when our most vulnerable community members...
How to Protect our Homes from Fire and Protect our Forests? Both Are At Risk

Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCoCAN!)

Sonoma County Supervisors recently approved $3.7 million for “vegetation management projects to reduce wildfire risk.”

Fire has been part of the California landscape for aeons. We will not stop fire. We need to protect homes and communities from fire, keep evacuation routes clear, and stop new building in fire-prone zones.

Jack Cohen, PhD, a Research Physical Scientist retired from the US Forest Service, showed conclusively and repeatedly with thousands of studies that the best way to protect homes from fire is by home hardening, and creating defensible space up to 100 feet around homes. Most of the wildfires that destroy homes are ignited by wind-driven embers landing on flammable materials close to homes, or blowing in through open vents. Home hardening can be as simple as clearing flammable objects from immediately around homes and covering vents with 1/16 inch wire mesh, to installing fire resistant roofs and sprinkler systems. Creating defensible space up to 100 feet from homes by removing dead vegetation and ladder fuels is also important.

There is little evidence that clearing vegetation in forests far from homes helps to protect homes and communities from fire; in fact it can make matters much worse by removing the vegetation that shades the forests, keeping them cool and moist, instead allowing exposed soil to dry out and wind-driven fires to race through, and making way for invasive weeds and grasses that are more flammable than the plants they replace. Logging did not save the town of Paradise from the Camp fire. Aerial photos show homes razed to the ground surrounded by trees barely touched by fire. “Vegetation management” and “fuel load reduction” sound so benign, but in reality these are code words for logging. Post-fire salvage logging destroys valuable habitat and removes some of the most fire-resistant trees. Thousands of acres in Sonoma County are being cut now, yet few know how widespread these removals are, as much of the cutting is unregulated or does not require permits.

Climate scientist Dr. Bill Moomaw argues that the best way to counter climate change is to sequester carbon in existing forests. Protecting forests is also one of the best ways to protect wildlife habitat and our watersheds. The heavy equipment used in vegetation removal compacts the soil, leading to erosion, which in turn runs off as sediment, clogging streams, rivers and wetlands.

Yet under the name of “vegetation management” or “fuel load reduction,” financial incentives lead to the cutting of the largest trees — and the price of lumber is at an all-time high.

The Supervisors recently held a Tree Ordinance workshop, recognizing the valuable role trees play in providing precious wildlife habitat, protecting our watersheds, and sequestering carbon. Yet thousands of acres of trees are being logged in the name of public safety and protection from fire, even forest health.

George Wuerthner, a retired forester, explains that there are two distinct ways of seeing forests. Foresters in general see trees as so many feet of board lumber — a resource to be extracted for our use. Fire ecologists see trees as more valuable in their natural state than when managed, and to them fire, dead wood, fungi, beetles, and all the things that foresters want to suppress, are essential parts of the ongoing natural processes that make up the interconnected living, breathing, systems we call forests.

At the state level, Governor Newsom approved a fire budget of $1.24 billion for wildfire and forest resilience funding, with $25 million just 2% of the total - for home hardening. Why isn’t more being spent to help homeowners, apartment complexes, mobile home parks, with proven methods of home hardening and creating defensible space? “In addition to being more effective, home-safety actions can produce more jobs and better-paying jobs than an equivalent amount of money spent subsidizing logging and other forest-altering activities” (Niemi 2018). $39 million is allocated for “science-based management” but more than twice as much, $76 million, for “forest sector economic stimulus”. Basically this monetizes the forests and incentivizes forest-based business.

Surely the first rule of operation should be to do no harm. Forests regulate temperature, store carbon above and below ground, create oxygen, create soil, purify our air and water, provide essential wildlife habitat, and so much more. We depend upon forests and destroy them at our peril. Let’s focus our resources on protecting human lives and property from fire by incentivizing home hardening and the creation of defensible space and protect existing forests and ensure that we do no harm. “Working From the Home Outward:

Protecting forests is also one of the best ways to protect wildlife habitat and our watersheds.

A New Direction for California Wildfire Policy” is an excellent resource explaining why and how we can protect both our homes and our forests. To sacrifice our forests to save our homes is a false solution which will only lead to disaster.

The Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCoCAN!) is a strong and active network of over 50 local climate activist groups, over 200 individuals, and hundreds of local group members working together to address and reverse climate change. We meet in months with a 5th Monday, 7-9 PM. Currently we meet on Zoom. Next meeting is on August 30. Join our listserv for lively discussion and information sharing. Let us know if your group would like to join the network. Network support is available for all local climate activism. Contact us at SonomaCountyCAN.org.
Can We Protect Nature by Giving it Rights?

Russian Riverkeeper

Rights of Nature is a growing international movement that recognizes natural systems not simply as resources for humans to use, but as living entities with rights of their own. It has the potential to transform American law and protect watersheds like the Russian River.

Traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples refined over thousands of years is at the heart of the Rights of Nature movement. The understanding that humans have a place in nature, and cannot own or destroy existing natural communities and ecosystems is a cornerstone of the movement’s vision for a sustainable future where natural entities have an independent and inalienable right to exist. This comes in conflict with early colonial development that gave superior legal and financial might to corporations over people and the natural world, where corporate “personhood” made way for the legal right to destroy living systems. Rights of Nature is an emerging strategy to rebalance growing corporate power and existing law biased toward exploiting rather than protecting.

The localization of environmental management and control is a key factor that defines how Rights of Nature might be realized in various regions. In the context of early adopters Ecuador and Bolivia, decades of resource extraction and economic monopolization for profit at the expense of indigenous peoples prompted the need to push back to preserve both the environment and people who depend on it. In the United States, roughly three dozen local communities have adopted Rights of Nature laws although processes for enforcement are still lacking and are typically seen on a case by case basis. For example, Tamaqua Borough, Pennsylvania, successfully banned waste corporations from dumping toxic sewage sludge.

Today, environmental laws like the Clean Water Act are influenced by corporate entities in the highest levels of government functioning. Although our laws are meant to protect our lands and waterways, continued compliance challenges and the legal notion of preemption make sustainable resolutions difficult. The contradictory stance of Rights of Nature within our legal system raises the question of whether a radical change and a complete systems overhaul would be necessary in order to make Rights of Nature possible across the board. As a starting point, the Universal Declaration of Rights for Rivers was developed by scientists and the Earth Law Center for groups to customize their own bill of rights based on local laws and culture. It draws from the victories for the rights of rivers worldwide and is being used as a template for legislative drafting.

The Russian River Bill of rights was written by Virginia Strom-Martin, former California Assembleyperson and Russian Riverkeeper Boardmember, and Tom Roth, Redwood Chapter Conservation Chair at Sierra Club and former Board of Director member. It was developed in 2008 in an effort to recognize our own responsibilities to our local treasure, and what it needs in order to continue existing and thriving. Is it time to revitalize these rights and build a new legal framework to ensure our River’s future? Russian Riverkeeper will be following local changes as the paradigm shifts for how we think about and manage living systems.

Learn more from experts: CEDLF, U https://russianriverkeeper.org info@russianriverkeeper.org
Occupy Sonoma County

Choice of diet is very personal and individual. We all have different needs and tastes. At Occupy Sonoma County we aim to create awareness about the impact of our choices for informed decisions. Eating a plant-based diet is one of many ways that each of us can reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. Animal agriculture is one of the highest sources of greenhouse gas.

Dairy milk has the biggest carbon footprint of all milks by far. When we take into consideration the impacts of different non-dairy milks, oat milk has the lowest footprint, is the cheapest and is the easiest to make. Other milks to consider are hemp milk, flax milk, soy milk, coconut milk and hazelnut milk.

Soy milk is high in protein and other nutrients and is a good choice for some people. The phytoestrogens can cause fertility problems in men. People who did not grow up eating soy products are often intolerant of it. Some women balance their hormones by drinking and eating soy.

Hazelnuts are one of the most overlooked choices for dairy alternatives, as well as a nut source of nutrients. Hazelnuts don’t require a lot of water and can be grown here in our area. If you are thinking about what foods to grow, consider growing hazelnuts. They can be used for milk, nuts, nut butter and many amazing treats when combined with chocolate.

Cashews are a go-to for many plant-based recipes and cheeses, but the way cashews are chemically processed when harvested makes them a less healthy choice. They make wonderful cream and sour cream (soak first, blend in equal parts of water and add either sweetener or lime).

Non-dairy milks are easy to make, are full of nutrition (a quart of commercial almond milk has less than one almond), and when you make your own you know exactly what went in it. Packaging is also an important consideration when reducing the carbon footprint of our food choices.

Oat milk is so cheap and easy to make. Don’t even consider buying it! Put one cup of oats in a blender, fill half-full with water, blend on high, fill the blender with more water and blend again. For cold beverages and for cooking, straining is optional. (Tip: If you use it for chowder, put the thickener – corn starch – in the blender with the oats.) If you want to use it for hot beverages, it will require straining through cloth or a very fine sieve.

For almond milk and also hemp, flax and other nuts, use this same recipe but it will need to be strained. With almond milk you can put the meal back in the blender and make a second batch. The first batch is like half-and-half and the second batch is like regular milk. Use the meal to make burgers (with onion, veggies or beans and seasonings), add to baking or grains. Most nuts should be soaked to make the nutrients more available.

Climate change is a serious concern that requires more than individual actions, but we can all do our part by reducing our carbon footprint. For more information about the greenhouse gas impact of animal agriculture, go to our campaign page at https://OccupySonomaCounty.org/MayMeatChallenge. Use our website contact form and join our Earth Action Campaign listserv to receive our weekly news-packed newsletter.
Rebel Fagin

There are many ways to support the people of Palestine in their struggle. Let’s look at some of them:

The International Solidarity Movement – the ISM – is a Palestinian-led movement that employs nonviolent direct action in resistance to the dispossession and occupation. Founded in 2001, they are there when houses are demolished, olive groves decimated and when people are attacked by settlers and soldiers. This international, volunteer movement is anti-oppressive and stands up to Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Zionism.

Keeping in line with the Palestinian Declaration of 2012, the ISM strongly objects to the false conflation of the settler-colonial philosophy of Zionism with the religion of Judaism. Resistance to the policies of the government of Israel is not anti-Semitism. Internationalists return home from their time in Palestine and tell their friends and family what they witnessed. This helps tear down the false narratives of violent Palestinians promoted by Zionist forces. People believe their friends. The struggle is less isolated.

When ISM volunteers are present, settler and soldier violence against unarmed Palestinians is reduced. ISM volunteers participate in demonstrations and bear witness to the destruction, frequently documenting events for presentation back home. If you want to learn more, support them or join them. Start by going to www.palsolidarity.org.

The Middle East Children’s Alliance – MECA – works to protect the rights and improve the lives of children in the Middle East. Headquartered in Berkeley, they support children and families in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq through direct aid, arranging financial support and arranging professional assistance to community organizations to provide clinics, water fountains for schools, kindergartens, libraries, counselling centers, playgrounds, sports teams, dance, music, art programs and university scholarships.

They also educate people around the world about the lives these children endure and how US foreign policy impacts the lives of the people living in the region. MECA trains people on fundraising techniques, hosting house parties and more. Starting from a lemonade stand, Omar (13) and Nayema (11) Sisemore raised nearly $4,000, enough to buy a water purification unit for a kindergarten in Gaza. You can learn more, donate or join them by going to www.mecaforpeace.org.

Another way to support the people of Palestine is by shopping at places that support them. Shop Palestine (www.shoppalestine.org) is one such place. They use fair trade principals with all their vendors. In support of MECA, Shop Palestine offers hand-woven rugs, glass, books, ceramics, jewelry, clothes, children’s items, body products and more.

Land of Canaan sells olive oil while Palestine Craftaid offers handcrafted olive wood sculptures, textiles and more. The Palestine Box is a mystery box. In the past these boxes have held homemade music, ceramics and Keffiyehs. The money raised through Palestine Box sales helps support the Northern California branch of the ISM.

The cornerstone of all this for me is the organic, extra virgin, fair trade Palestinian olive oil and za’atar (thyme, sesame, sumac, sea salt. http://www.palestineonlinestore.com/ features most everything I’ve listed before and DVDs, calendars, books, cards, posters, spices and more.

These are some of the groups that work for peace in Palestine. If you want to support them or join them, go to the web addresses listed above. You can learn more by listening to Speaking of Palestine on KBBF, 89.1 FM from 4-5 pm on the first Monday of the month, with an encore presentation on the third Monday. We can’t shop our way to justice, but we can help the people in struggle with what we choose to buy.
US Abrogation of Chevron’s Judgment for Ecuadorian Pollution; An Assange in America

**By Barry Barnett**

Chevron drilled for oil for 25 years in the Ecuadorian Amazon. They dumped 68 billion liters (166 gallons) of toxic wastewater into the rainforest, and spilled 75 million liters (17m gallons) of crude oil from leaks (“accidents”) in the trans-Ecuadorian pipeline. They left toxic waste in hundreds of open pits, polluting rivers, lakes, jungles and pathways. There was a glimmer of justice for the many Ecuadorians who suffered cancers, miscarriages, birth defects, childhood leukemia and other ailments as a result of these practices, which are illegal in Ecuador and the US, but that seems to be on hold in our “justice” system.

Actually, it was Toxico, I mean Texaco, that committed these crimes. In 2000, Texaco “merged” with (was gobbled up by) Chevron, who is the defendant in a series of landmark lawsuits.

Chevron is also responsible for cleaning up the mess, one of the worst environmental disasters on the planet. At the time, Texaco did all of this illegal dumping to save $3 a barrel of crude oil. Little has been cleaned up, and the oil wastes continue to poison the rainforest ecosystem and its inhabitants. An area 4400 sq. km. (1700 sq. mi.) of NE Ecuador was subsequently dubbed the “Amazon Chernobyl.” The discharges poisoned water for drinking, bathing and fishing. There was soil contamination and deforestation, and social, cultural and economic upheaval. At least 85% of the methane (“natural gas”) extracted was burned into the atmosphere. There have also been over 1400 oil spills in the area in the 21st century.

Some 30,000 indigenous residents and rural farmers began a lawsuit against Texaco in 1993. Finally, between 2011 and 2013, Ecuadorian courts found Chevron (worth $260b), now merged with Texaco, liable and ordered the corporation to pay $9.5 billion in compensation to the affected residents. The Ecuadorians also filed a lawsuit in Canada seeking seizure of Chevron’s assets to pay for the vast task of cleanup and remediation of the rainforest, which was upheld in a Canadian appellate court.

However, a ruling deeming the $9.5b verdict as unenforceable was issued by a US court in 2014, and upheld by appeal in 2016. In 2018, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, Netherlands ruled in favor of Chevron.

Yet, in 2019, US Judge Lewis A. Kaplan, a former tobacco company lawyer, would not permit a jury trial, and transferred the trial to a private law firm, Seward & Kisse, who has had several oil-and-gas clients, including... Chevron. Kaplan hand-picked a judge, his friend Loretta Preska, a member of the right wing Federalist society, among whose major donors is... Chevron. Prosecutor Rita Glavin has financial ties to... Chevron.

Donziger was ordered to turn over all client information, including his phone and computer. He considered this a breach of attorney-client privilege, and refused. So now he is under house arrest – for a misdemeanor! – with an abrasive ankle brace on him 24 hours a day for over 600 days now. He calls it the “black claw,” and, chafed and chafing, cannot even go outside his ankle bracelet on him 24 hours a day for over 600 days now. He calls it the “black claw,” and, chafed and chafing, cannot even go outside his upper west side NYC apartment where he lives with his wife and son.

His law license was revoked. He won his appeal March 2, but this failed to end his ankle torture. 68 Nobel laureates, Amnesty International, Amazon Watch, the National Lawyers Guild, and numerous celebrities, environmentalists, and human rights activists have called for release of this corporate political prisoner.

Six Congress members have demanded that Attorney General Merrick Garland investigate. You can sign a petition demanding Steven’s immediate release at amazonwatch.org/take-action/free-steven-donziger.

His contempt of court case opened in NYC on 5/10/21. The corrupt judge and prosecutor are acting very similarly to Judge Berater, I mean Beraitser, in the Old Bailey where Julian Assange is being tried.

This Kafkaesque trial goes on...

Sources: US Lawyer Steven Donziger Speaks From House Arrest in NYC, Democracy Now! 3/15/21; Free Steven Donziger!, Amazon Watch Petition; The Ongoing Persecution of Steven Donziger, James North, The Nation 3/30/21; Unusual Contempt Trial of Lawyer Who Took on Chevron Gets Underway, Josh Russell, Courthouse News 5/10/21; The Judicial Persecution of Steven Donziger, Eve Ottenberg, CounterPunch 4/9/21; Steven Donziger’s Instagram page; Steven Donziger’s Twitter page. 🦆

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, health professional, and musician living on the left coast of the US Empire. You can follow him on Twitter, CounterPunch archives, Daily Kos, and his website at Patreon.com/BarryBarnett, with 80+ articles, political satire and humor, political fantasy stories, and poetry, all free of charge to read. Feedback welcome at barrymuse123@gmail.com.

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**Political Climate Change for Big Oil**

- Storms & Controversy (Category 5)
- Drought on Fossil Fuel Sources
- Political Heat at All Time High
- Wild Fires of Discontent, Shareholder Revolts, Paving Lawsuits
- Denial of Change for Big Oil

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Preoccupied in Gaza, 2021
Dennis Bernstein

1. two places at once

To stay alive in Gaza, he says, You have to have a place to live, Separate from the place you hide.

2. silent watch

Speech is out of the question. She can tell you everything she needs to with her eyes: At noon they hone in on a sniper – and his shadow – watching us eat lunch through a telescopic lens.

3. stones

These days the dead are too angry to die. I see their hands reaching up out of fresh graves, grasping for stones: I buried my niece and marked her place with a circle of fine throwing stones – By dawn, they were all gone.

4. the brains of resistance

The soldier’s bullet blew the boy’s brain clean from his skull. The medic scooped it up and placed it on the stretcher next to boy’s still-warm corpse. It seemed to the medic that the boy’s brain was still gathering up stones – hurling his hardened poems at the tanks of occupation.
I Ain’t Got No Home In This World Anymore... from page 1

An epidemic of homelessness plagues the US. Will society realize a humane solution or continue to criminalize homelessness?

mads, living in make-shift camps or small groups, and consistently rousted by the police and so move from place to place. A homeless person cannot lay down on a bench, sleep in a park, or rest for any period of time in any public place. It is against the law in many states to be indigent; it’s called vagrancy. They are guilty of the crime of being poor. They have no place to go to the bathroom unless they find a public accommodation. Even to stop and rest is a crime. Consider for a moment how you would fare in those conditions.

In 1938 Woody Guthrie wrote:
I ain’t got no home, I’m just a roamin’ ‘round
Just a wandrin’ worker, I go from town to town.
And the police make it hard wherever I may go.
And I ain’t got no home in this world anymore

In 1986 Paul Simon wrote:
Homeless, homeless

Moonlight sleeping on a midnight lake
Strong wind, destroy our home
Many dead, tonight it could be you
See Homeless, Graceland: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb04PK_oTlM

Is it not time for us to correct this?

Will Shonbrun is a writer and human rights activist who lives in Sonoma. His latest book, which he labels autobiographical fiction, The Road to Find Out is available at Readers’ Books in Sonoma and can be viewed at www.willshonbrun.com.

Rohnert Park Says ‘No’ to Law Enforcement Oversight... from page 2

are safe, we all become safer.

Each community must decide for itself what form of civilian oversight will best suit its particular needs. For that reason, it is necessary that the Rohnert Park City Council establish an advisory body to study the different models of civilian oversight, take input from civilian oversight experts, gather input from community members and make a recommendation to the City Council on what oversight should look like for Rohnert Park. The National Organization for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) will be glad to help RP with this endeavor, if contacted. Other local oversight practitioners will be happy to help. The first step is to pass a resolution establishing the advisory body to study this issue and to staff and fund it for its work.

Everybody is now talking about how they support Black and Brown lives in this county and how we must use equity as a lens in making decisions. Equity demands that RP listen to the council voices who have lived experience with policing and with how it feels to live in RP. Equity demands that the White members of the RP City Council listen to the BIPOC leaders elected to the council and follow their leadership on this issue. Equity demands that the White mayor, who promised his BIPOC colleagues and the voters that he would support civilian oversight, actually fulfill his promise.

Please contact the Rohnert Park city council and let them know you support civilian oversight at https://www.rpacity.org/city_hall/city_council/meet_my_city_council or call 588-2226.

Jerry Threet is the Chair of the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights. D’mitra Smith is the former Chair of the Commission on Human Rights (titles for identification purposes only).
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 patriciamorandori@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

Comite 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 meltdown, monitor the consequences, advocate for the shut down of Diablo Canyon. fukushireponse.org.

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreens.org

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

HPEACE – Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. hpeaceconscionacy.org

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

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

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

Indivisible Goups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.com

Indivisible Petaluma: indivisibletupaluma@gmail.com, or follow on Twitter at @IndivisibleLuma

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Windsor

LeResist! 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 @LetResist@gmail.com.

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

MBA 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 – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. 332-1573

National Women's History Project – Coordinates obser vances of Women's History month around the country. 578-5420, nwhp@aol.com

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

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

North Coast Coalition for Palestine – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 575-8902. 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 – Developed 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, snghold@juno.com, www.pnphca.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. sonocntc@gmail.com.

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org


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

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

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 Center for Justice – Advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse, particularly in the Latina community. 575-3130, justicewomen.com

Please email zenekar@comcast.net for additions or changes to this list.
Due to hot weather we are now asking for additional donations in the drive

items most needed include:
• sunscreen
• sun hats
• tents
• water bottles

Drop off at the Peace & Justice Center Tuesdays, 3-5 PM

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

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

Contact us if you would you like to use your skills to help the Center advance by:
• Serving on the Board
• Joining the Peace Press Collective
• Helping to maintain and expand our social media
• Assisting at Center Events
• Helping with grant writing
• Fundraising or Donating to the Center
• Sponsoring our bi-monthly Peace Press Newsletter

Please call (707) 575-8902 or visit PJCsoco.org

Peace & Justice Center
of Sonoma County

467 Sebastopol Ave,
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 575-8902
peacentr@sonic.net
PJCsoco.org

TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO CURRENT PANDEMIC

Peace & Justice Center
of Sonoma County

467 Sebastopol Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401  •  (707) 575-8902  •  PJCsoco.org

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

Please check one: ☐ I am renewing my membership. ☐ I am a new member. How I learned about the Center:

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
☐ I would like to volunteer time or donate materials as follows:

Payment method: ☐ Check enclosed, payable to Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County
☐ Credit/Debit Card No. __________________________________________ 3-digit Code: _______ Expires: __/____/____ Signature: __________________________________________
Print name __________________________________________ Phone: __________________________
Address __________________________________________ Email: __________________________
City/State/Zip __________________________________________ (or call the PJC, 1-4 pm, weekdays)

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