

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,
an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).
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Deadline for Aug/Sept issue: July 17, 2022

Email articles in MSWord to 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. Include ways readers can engage with the movement for peace and social justice.

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

Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

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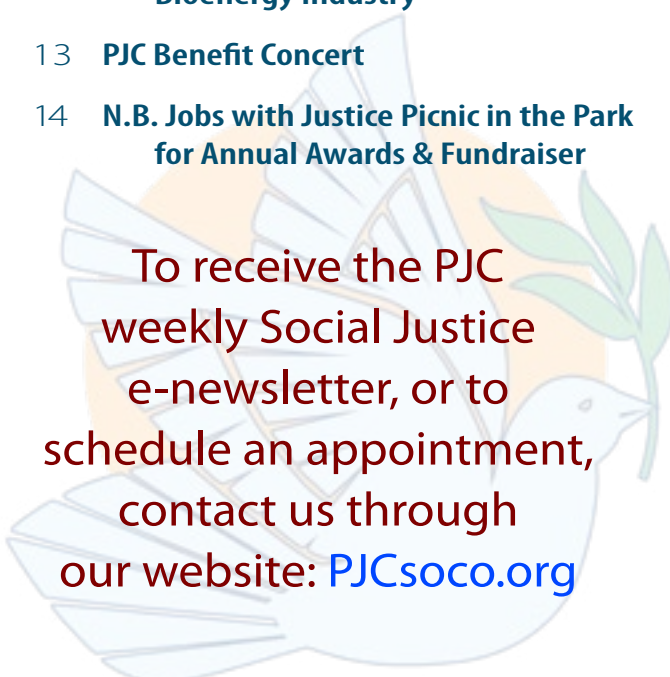
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To receive the PJC weekly Social Justice e-newsletter, or to schedule an appointment, contact us through our website: PJCso.co.org

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GETTING CENTERED

Raising the Roof...

Shekeyna Black

The Peace & Justice Center remains committed to our Mission: *to inform, support and energize the Sonoma County community to create peace and social justice through active nonviolence.* We received a California Business COVID-19 Relief Grant that provided the funding to hire for a new position. Welcome MaDonna Feather Cruz [Lakota/Pomo] to the PJC as the Administrative Assistant & DEI Advocate. DEI stands for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. On that note, I have decided to stay on as the Executive Director for the time being.

The Peace & Justice Center will be hosting a Free Concert at Moonlight Brewing Company in Santa Rosa on Saturday, June 18 from 3:00-8:30 pm featuring talented musicians, Lindalou & Michael and Friends along with Doug Blumer & Bohemian Highway. We invite you to join us at this fun event to enjoy the company of others in person. Comet Corn generously donated their delicious popcorn; which, will be available for sale as a fundraiser for the PJC. We decided a 'get-together' was in order after being isolated by the pandemic. This Benefit Concert is a Fundraiser and a Friend-raiser for the Peace & Justice Center. Tickets are not required; however, you can RSVP and make a Donation via the Eventbrite Link. Music is Healing. The Social Justice Movement has always had a Musical element. (see poster on page 12. Go to [Eventbrite](#) to reserve your ticket and/or make a donation. Additionally, the Peace &

Justice Center is facilitating a Go-Fund-Me fundraiser for a friend in need. The details and donation tab are available at [gofund.me](#).

Save-The-Date for the "Raise the Roof" Festival benefitting the Peace & Justice Center's fundraising efforts for a new roof for our aging building. Headlining the Festival is MOMBOTOMBO SF featuring members of Santana and Malo. Local favorites include Midnight Sun, The THUGZ and Un AmOur Band, Ben Roots with the Kyle Martin Band with special appearance by the Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The "Raise the Roof" Festival is happening on Saturday, August 13 at the Monte Rio Amphitheatre.

Friendly Reminder: The Sonoma County Peace Press is published six times per year and has not been available in print form since the beginning of the pandemic. We continue to publish and archive the Peace Press on our website. We count on you to share the Peace Press with others. Sign up to receive the PJC's e-newsletter via our [website](#), and also visit us at our [Facebook page](#). We ask that you please make a generous donation during our 2022 Spring Appeal drive. Your donation helps support our nonprofit organization so that we may continue to do our vital work striving for equity and justice for all. A convenient Donate tab is on our website where [donations](#) can be made online via the secure link. Donation checks can be mailed to the **Peace & Justice Center, 467 Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.** Thank you for your heartfelt support! 🙏

Introducing MaDonna Feather Cruz

MaDonna is the Administrative Assistant & DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) advocate for the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County.

MaDonna Feather Cruz was born in Ukiah, California to Denise Knight-Feather and Walter Feather, and is the oldest of five children. She is an enrolled member of the Round Valley Indian Reservation, in Covelo, CA, and Lakota Sioux on her father's side. Her Lakota name is Wichapi-Luta-Win, which translates to English as 'Many Stars Woman.' MaDonna currently lives in Santa Rosa with her husband of 32 years and together they have two children.

Named after her aunt MaDonna Thunder Hawk, MaDonna has dedicated her life to the Native community because of those who came before her. The activist lifestyle was always role-modeled for her, from travelling with her grandmother, Norma Knight, throughout the country to many Native American conferences, meetings, and trainings, to her uncle, Russell Means, was also influential in the American Indian Movement. Even her aunt, MaDonna Thunder Hawk who is now in her 80s, is still advocating for the Native community. 🙏



Alcatraz: MaDonna at the Indigenous Peoples Sunrise Cearemony



Family: MaDonna, son little Ricky, daughter Reynalda, husband Rick



Abortion on Demand

Susan Collier Lamont

In the spring of 1968, during my sophomore year in college, I got pregnant. My boyfriend and I had been to a James Brown concert on campus. We weren't big drinkers and we didn't do any drugs. We just got carried away. You know what I mean.

*"When I hold you in my arms
I know that I can't do no wrong
And when I hold you in my arms
My love can't do me no harm....
Wow, I feel good, I knew that I would"*

Well, only for a few hours.

Neither one of us wanted a child at that point. But we lived in a country that had made abortion illegal and in a state that did not allow birth control for people who were not married – a heavily Catholic state that imposed its religious beliefs on others. Not unlike the current Supreme Court.

Lucky break #1 was that we had loving and supportive parents. My mother and I even discussed our main pregnancy craving – egg salad on whole wheat bread. Many years later, my daughters would have the same craving!

Lucky break #2 was the business conference my father had to attend in Japan and bringing along a spouse was part of the deal. I went instead and had a safe abortion in a Japanese clinic. The whole thing didn't cost much and it was safe and legal. I shared a room with an older woman also from the United States, with a story quite different from mine.

A year and a half later, my boyfriend and I got married and we were still not ready to have children. Ten years later we had our first daughter. Five years after that we had our second. I adore them, as I do my grandchildren, but I was not ready for children any earlier.

My story is an easy one. I wasn't thrown out of the house. I didn't have to risk my life in a back room. My pregnancy was not life threatening. My pregnancy was not the result of a rape.

So, why do I tell such an easy story? Because it should not require

tear-jerking circumstances for abortion to be legal. No woman should have to explain to anyone why she wants to terminate her pregnancy.

Every time we talk of the hardship cases, we undermine our right to abortion. Every time we talk of hardship cases, we open up the space for restrictions. No abortions except when the life of the mother is at risk? No! No restrictions.

And the discussion of late term abortions is a red herring. The number of women seeking an abortion in the last trimester, just for the heck of it, is close to nil. Every late term abortion is a tale of grief, but they should never be used to undermine the abortion stories that are not.

And those tales of grief should never be used to imply that we all feel grief. Many of us do not. Instead of grief, we feel relief – truly, nothing but relief. It has become politically correct for every woman to tell her tale of hesitation, sadness, guilt and regret. Those feelings are experienced by some women, but there should be no required emotions. Again, this plays into the hands of those who believe that abortion should be illegal. It implies that there is something "wrong" with abortion. There is not.

So, this is where we should stand – on a red line that says no one can tell a woman that she must have a "good" reason for an abortion and no one can tell a woman what she must feel about having an abortion. As the chant goes, "My body! My choice!"

Which brings me to the question, where is everyone? Where are all the people who turned out for the Women's March – the biggest single day of protest in U.S. history? I doubt that even 500 people have protested in a county with a population approaching half a million. As of this writing, there have been fewer than ten protests in Sonoma County, with the largest being under 200. That one, in Courthouse Square and attended predominantly by young people, was, however, suitably angry.

But looking around the country, it appears that *Roe v. Wade* will die with a whimper. Our daughters and granddaughters will not forgive us. 🌸

Will Athena House Be Saved?

Elaine B. Holtz and Deborah McKay

It is appalling that the California Human Development Corporation is eliminating a model program, Athena House, which has helped thousands of women turn around their lives. Think of how many women and children have been helped in the past 30 years.

CHDC states that they are the only location of CHDC that is operating this kind of program. Does that mean it should end? No, it means it is a model program which should be replicated throughout our state in many other communities. We have a rampant problem in our communities of drugs and alcohol abuse, which is destroying lives and families. Is this the time to terminate a program with a proven record of success in assisting women to address their addiction and to reclaim their lives? No.

We, as a community of women, need to come together to save this program. We need to share why and how it has been able to help thousands of women and children. We need to recognize it as a vital and necessary service to our community.

All the local women's organizations need to join our voices

together to demand that this vital service to our community be restored, funded, and supported to continue this essential work.

The impacted children of our community will thank us, all the women struggling with reclaiming their sobriety will thank us, as will their grandchildren and families. We cannot sit by silently and let Athena House slip away.

We need our elected officials both local and state to find new funding for this important program for women. It is so amazing that we can find billions to support wars but domestically we have a habit of letting programs such as these just fade away, never thinking of the consequences.

On Monday June 13 at 6:00 pm the National Organization for Women will be holding a Zoom session to gather the women in our community to stand up and speak out against the elimination of this program. We want our elected officials to do their job and work diligently to find funding for this organization. Go to their Facebook [Sonoma County NOW Chapter](#), for Zoom information. By our silence we give our consent. 🌸



SDA (Someone Dies Again) is a tragicomic drama that asks the uncomfortable question: How do we know when we could have stopped the inevitable?

The origins of S D A go back to 2014, after a visit to Budapest, when a friendship was struck between internationally acclaimed Director, Árpád Schilling and the Imaginists, Brent Lindsay and Amy Pinto. Through multiple exchanges, and against the backdrop of Ferguson and the relentless course of mass shootings in the United States, a question emerged. What is the meaning of the gun in American life? Beyond (or beneath) its role in carrying out violence and enforcing oppressive systems, what is its force in shaping American identity, possibility, imagination? These questions percolated in an artistic conversation that has lasted eight years. S D A is a result of that conversation.

“Of all the inspirations and ideas that we talked about, the investigation into our gun culture was really what resounded for all of us.” Pinto concludes, “because it would be difficult. It would be a real risk to take on.”

There’s hardly a topic that can cause more consternation and spark more discussion than that of guns and gun violence in the United States. Two events colored Schilling’s 2015 visit to the US particularly: the Baltimore riots in the aftermath of the Freddie Gray killing, and the still-fresh grief in Santa Rosa from the 2013 killing of Andy Lopez – the thirteen year-old boy shot to death by Sonoma County deputy, Erick Gelhaus.

The Imaginists creation process, frequently seeks to address the urgent issues and themes of the day. No matter what work they’re creating, and with whom, an innate curiosity and a desire to push the parameters of the possible inform each experimental approach. To imagine, and reimagine, the shape of the theatrical. But above all, to use humor as a grounding device and entry point into each piece.

The humor, more than anything else, convinced Árpád that a col-

laboration with The Imaginists was right – bonding as friends as much as theatre professionals.

Árpád Schilling began staging productions at the age of 20 and set up Krétakör (Chalk Circle) Theatre in 1995, the same year in which he started his directing studies at the Academy of Theatre and Film Art in Budapest.

After rejecting several offers to join institutional theatres, along with cultural manager Máté Gáspár he turned Krétakör Theatre into a permanent theatre company. He later restructured his creative team, moving from a repertory system to project-based work and dropped ‘theatre’ from their name, retaining just the word Krétakör.

“Theatre creates movement, it makes you angry, it provokes and asks unpleasant questions, while promoting freedom.” – Árpád Schilling

He then embarked on large-scale artistic experimentation, focusing on education, social development and talent management. Since 2006 he’s been leading workshops and courses in several European theatre academies and universities, working as artistic director on several cultural and educational programs both in Hungary and abroad (Paris, Prague, Munich), moving his projects into schools, small communes and outlying communities in difficulty.

Árpád has won numerous awards. His foundation, Krétakör was awarded with the ECF Princess Magriet Award for Culture for its artistic and social work in 2016.

S D A plays at the Imaginists Theatre, 461 Sebastopol Ave., Santa Rosa, June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11. Gen. adm. [Tickets available HERE.](#) Please choose a ticket price level at which you feel comfortable supporting the production. There is NO late seating to this show. 🍷



UPDATE: So.Co. Commission on Human Rights

Katrina Phillips and Kathleen Finigan

Despite the upsets, upheavals, overturning of laws and desperate outrage across the county and the nation, the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has been rolling with the punches – we always get back up for the next round.

At our May 24 meeting, CHR hosted Clean Committee member Jim Duffy to explain AB 481 and discuss the militarization of Sonoma police forces. Since the 2020 George Floyd protests during which peaceful protestors suffered significant injuries from military weapons already on hand, both county and municipal law enforcement agencies have been pushing harder for even greater stockpiles of such military grade weapons. CHR is already on record as steadfastly opposing such acquisitions.

After weeks of bloody injuries, head wounds, a blown up jaw and testicle, one would think the Sonoma law enforcement would not ask for more military weapons, but that is exactly what former SRPD Police Chief Ray Navarro did. In fact, he requested weapons that were being used in the Middle East wars for “Crowd Control”, i.e. L Rads (Long Range Acoustic Devices, which deaf-

en targets). Requesting more military weapons for crowd control after being photographed “taking the knee” with protestors truly spelled out a contradictory stance and fostered even more distrust of Sonoma County law enforcement, especially among our BI-POC communities.

On June 28, we will be honoring the life of former Police Chief of Healdsburg and candidate for Sheriff Kevin Burke. Please join us as Kevin’s fellow officers and others in his life speak about the wonderful man and leader that Kevin was, and how we can honor his legacy. We’ll also feature Susan Farren, who will speak about First Responder Resiliency and PTSD healing.

The Commission meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm. More information can be found at sonomacountychr.org and on our Facebook page: Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights. The public is cordially invited to attend.

References: Law enforcement and state agencies: military equipment: funding, acquisition, and use. [AB-481](#)

[Human Rights Violations](#) in Santa Rosa California Policing the Black Lives Matter Protests. 🗣️

52nd Annual Juneteenth Festival Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion

*Nancy Rogers,
President Board of Directors*

This year’s Juneteenth celebration will be honoring Sonoma County community activist, Vince Harper with a special march from Gillard Park to Martin Luther King, Jr. Park led by the Hub-Bub brass ensemble.

Harper was a Sonoma State University alumnus, awarded with an SSU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1999, and was most known throughout the community for his work with local underprivileged youth and for almost three decades, Harper worked with Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County (CAP),

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation – which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had minor impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger’s regiment, the forces were finally

strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Special Activities at the event includes: Live Entertainment, Food, Basketball Games, Arts and Crafts, Dominoes, Kids Activities, Health, and Fitness presentations, Spoken word, Zumba and more.

Entertainment by: Safe Harbor sponsored bands, “Remain in Light,” and “Phat Luv,” Drumming and the Gospel Hour.

Scholarship Presentation by Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (EOT), specifically designed to provide support to local youth programs, mentoring and scholarships for high school and college students. They will be providing three scholarships for students of Sonoma County.

Also included will be historical artifacts along with a variety of vendors and live music.

Sponsors: Safe Harbor; City of Santa Rosa; Red Rose Catering; Sonoma County Supervisors; Nuestra Comunidad; Women’s Spaces Radio Show; North Bay Black Chamber of Commerce; Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow Foundation; NAACP Santa Rosa/Sonoma Co.; Sonoma County Black Coalition; Petaluma Blacks for Community Development; 100 Black Men of Sonoma County; MLK Birthday Celebration Committee.

Saturday, June 18, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm at Martin Luther King Park, 1671 Hendley St., Santa Rosa. FREE family event.

For more info: 707-623-2701 🗣️

Words Matter

Susan Collier Lamont

Words matter. How they are conveyed matters even more. Understanding what people say to us and what we read is one of the ways in which we navigate our world. In our personal lives, we grow up learning to negotiate the world of words. We work to pick up the cues that tone of voice gives us. We are devastated when someone lies to us and sometimes blame ourselves for not picking up the hints.

This is all fundamental in our personal lives, but it is also important when we navigate the news, whether in print or live on our screens. During the Occupy movement, I took a series of classes with Dave Ransom, a longtime journalist for union publications, on how to read or listen to the news to understand a news outlet's biases and the ways in which its owners and editors work to bring you to their point of view. This is particularly important because these owners are always wealthy, sometimes incredibly so, and their interests almost never coincide with ours.

While I always look for these manipulations of opinion in what are supposed to be news stories, I've been doing it a lot more lately. The reporting on the war in Ukraine and the Sheriff's race in Sonoma County have brought this manipulation into sharp focus.

The war in Ukraine is often labeled a "genocide." It is not. And, if it were, there is no appropriate word for the war in Iraq. George Bush unleashed more fire power on Bagdad on the first day than Russia unleashed on an entire country in the first month by Defense Department admission.

We are told continuously of "war crimes." War crimes are committed against civilians by both sides in all wars. In fact, beginning with World War II, many more civilians than combatants are killed in all wars. This is just one reason why we are peace activists – because we know the brutality of war, all war. If Putin is a "war criminal," what is Bush or, for that matter, all our presidents, every one of which has overseen the invasion of a country?

We are told that Russia is an "oligarchy." In fact, *Forbes Magazine* reported that the top three oligarchs in the United States are worth more than the top one hundred oligarchs in Russia. Russia is controlled by its oligarchs. The United States is owned by its oligarchs. And both are oligarchies, though your news outlet will never tell you that. The "news" is owned by oligarchs.

Locally, the ownership of most of the local newspapers by Sonoma Media, a conglomerate of wealthy and powerful men* (some of whom qualify as corporate criminals), has resulted in propagandized local news. Every day I read the *Press Democrat* to find out what I'm sup-

posed to believe about a local candidate or local issue and then I try to warn people about the spin.

In the current race for Sheriff, the *Press Democrat* has made its endorsement for Sheriff. Fair enough. But it's in the "news" articles and the ways in which letters to the editor are printed that words are subtly used to influence your opinions of candidates.

The *Press Democrat* gives each letter a headline (not chosen by the writer of the letter). Recently, two letters were published on the same day – one for Eddie Engram, the PD's choice for Sheriff, and one for Carl Tennenbaum. The writer of the letter about Tennenbaum calls him the "only credible candidate." The paper titled the letter *Only 'Credible' Candidate*. The quotes around credible are used to imply that this might not be true. The writer of the letter about Engram refers to him as having a "compassionate...way of getting things done." The PD titled the letter *A Compassionate Leader*, using no quotes around compassionate because they want you to think this is without question.

In an article in which all three candidates were mentioned, Tennenbaum is referred to as an "insurgent." He is actually the only candidate without ties to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. He is often called an "outsider," but the use of "insurgent" takes it to a completely different level. Most people encounter this word in a newspaper or broadcast when the party referenced is trying to violently overthrow a government. And the *Press Democrat* hopes that the reader will subconsciously make that connection.

I could sit down with today's newspaper and find dozens of examples. If I were your teacher, that's what I'd be asking you to do. It's time-consuming, it's fun, in a perverse sort of way, and it's infuriating. Have at it!

*Look for an article about the *Press Democrat* ownership in a future edition of the *Peace Press*. ❄️



The Truth About the Ukraine Crisis, part 2

Barry Barnett

NATO can't commit war crimes. War crimes are committed by other people, not by NATO." Peter Olson, NATO lead attorney 2011-14.

While Russia's invasion was premature and perhaps could have waited on more negotiation (though the US and NATO – dominated by the Empire – were refusing any concessions at all meetings during winter 2021/22), Russia's sovereignty and security have been continually threatened – ever since the final dissolution of the USSR on 12/16/91, and really, ever since the Bolshevik Revolution. The US was not even willing to take Ukrainian membership in NATO off the table – while styling Ukraine as a de facto member.

With a 1900 km/1180 mi. border with Ukraine, Russia naturally demanded, in Dec. 2021, that Ukraine not be a staging ground for batteries of conventional and nuclear missiles within 5-6 minutes' striking time of Russian cities. Russia was facing a true national security threat, with its only other way out being military action. Knowing all this, the hawks in Washington chose to say no to Ukrainian neutrality, shoving an increasingly armed Ukraine down Russia's throat from Dec. 2021 to Feb. 2022.

War could have been prevented by prior treaty agreements, by a pan-European (or Eurasian) security arrangement that included the Russian Federation – instead of one solidly and increasingly against it. A balance of power needs to be negotiated in a practical framework, respecting the sovereignty and security of all nations equally. (Of course, the US superpower doesn't want a balance of power.)

And every kilogram of drone, bullet and bomb is another weight dragging down both Ukraine and the US Empire – the latter already in decline.

Emulation of history would be beneficial.

In 1648, the "Peace of Westphalia" helped bring both the Eighty Years War and the Thirty Years War to an end – the latter conflict being perhaps the most destructive up to that time, with up to 8 million deaths, and some regions experiencing population declines of over 50%! "Balance of power," while not perfectly achieved, was the aim of that series of treaties.

In 1814-15, the European powers, finally victorious over France and its allies after twelve years of Napoleonic Wars, convened the "Congress of Vienna," to create a balance of European powers, with the intention of preventing future wars.

Obviously, such negotiations didn't end wars, but at least national representatives sat down together and tried to create a power balance – to supersede the French superpower that was running (afoul) on the energy of what was initially a people's revolution.

Likewise, any settlement between Russia and Ukraine and its supporters involves a host of parties, each with its own aims, fears, and demands. If censorship can be replaced with compromise, peace has a chance.

A break in the censorship occurred on 3/11/22 when Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) questioned Victoria Nuland about alleged chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine. Surprisingly, the Under Secretary of State responded by admitting that Ukraine has "biological research facilities... that Russian forces are seeking to take control of." They

did take control, and it turns out that the US has established 26 (!) biological "research labs" just in Ukraine alone, the number also corroborated by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, which claims the US has 336 such labs under its control in 30 countries. These labs have led to accidental disease and death in their populations – see my *Peace Press* article, *Global Warning*, page 9, June 2019.

Adam Schiff said, "The United States aids Ukraine and her people so that we can fight Russia over there and we won't have to fight Russia here." Absurd as this statement is, he admitted the US is in a perilous proxy war with the world's other nuclear superpower.

What is not absurd is the paradox of a popularly elected Jewish Ukrainian president negotiating with openly Nazi elements – who then threatened Pres. Volodymyr Zelensky with his life if he supported Russian elements in his nation – even as the Azov Battalion and others were bombing pro-Russian separatist positions for eight long years, from Euromaidan in 2014, up to and including the Russian invasion on 2/24/22.

War could have been prevented by prior treaty agreements, by a pan-European (or Eurasian) security arrangement that included the Russian Federation – instead of one solidly and increasingly against it.

This terrible European war continues unabated (though commanding far more media attention than wars on other continents – with a possible ray of hope for the ceasefire in Yemen, finally.) However, comments by US Pres. Biden advocating regime change in Russia are counterproductive toward a ceasefire in Ukraine. Also, the US needs to sit down with Russia and China, at least, and remake the antinuclear missile treaties it unilaterally canceled in 2002 and 2018 – actions causing much fear and anxiety for all Russians. Plus nuclear weapons are now illegal according to international law.

Perhaps those entities raking in billions on the deaths of supposedly heroic foreigners do not want this war to end anytime soon. I condemn all wars and call for an immediate ceasefire with security guarantees for Russia – in a treaty structure that balances the needs of all European nations.

Sources: Vijay Prashad interview by Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzales: *War in Ukraine*, Democracy Now! 4/15/22; *Ukraine War Exposes US Hypocrisy, Double Standards and Racism*, Rania Khalek with Ali Abunimah, Breakthrough News 3/1/22; *Ukraine: Questions for the US Antiwar Movement w/Abby Martin & Brian Becker*, Empire Files 2/26/22. 🌿

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, health professional, musician and teacher, writing from the left coast of the US Empire. You can read him on CounterPunch.org; boheman.com; and his website with ~100 articles, poetry, political fantasy stories, and much humor/satire, all free of charge to read, on Patreon.com.



Therese Mughannam

When Palestine was divided by the United Nations in 1947 and Israel declared itself a state shortly after, the division line went right through Jerusalem, which made the place where I was born in West Jerusalem, the Israeli side. Then like over half the indigenous Palestinian population which was expelled and displaced from their homes in 1947-49, my family fled the chaos of war and massacres and ended up in Jordan. I was an infant when this happened. When I was ten and half years old, my family came to live in America.

I had always wanted to see the place where I was born, but every time I would go back home to visit, I would be too afraid to venture to West Jerusalem where the Russian Compound is, or the Moskobiye, which is what it is called in Arabic. Built in the 1860's this Compound housed Russian pilgrims who came to Jerusalem to pray and see the holy sites. The place has a beautiful onion steepled church, a hostel, common buildings, and a hospital for the pilgrims. I was born in that hospital.

At some point I found out that the compound, minus the church, had been used for quite some time as an Israeli court, police station and an infamous prison where Palestinians are interrogated and tortured.

Once when I was on a Sabeel witness trip, I asked our Palestinian bus driver in Jerusalem, if he thought I could safely walk over to the Moskobiye to check it out. After all it was only about a 20-minute walk from where we were staying in East Jerusalem. I was surprised when his young nephew, a boy who looked about 12 and was riding in the front of the bus with his uncle, told me that he would take me there. But I immediately said: "Oh, no thanks," mostly not wanting to risk his safety. But he insisted. So I asked him in my best Arabic: "Adaish 'umrak inta?" (How old are you?) "Kamista'ch"(fifteen), he answered, "and I go there all the time", he added.

I didn't know what to believe, but he kept insisting. So I told him: "You get your parents' permission and let me know."

"No problem", he said, "my parents would be fine with it." His uncle, the bus driver, quietly agreed.

"Ok then" I said, "meet me at the hotel at 7 tomorrow morning."

At 7 the next morning he was waiting for me in the hotel lobby. He had on nice clean clothes, his hair was combed back and greased in style. So we set out.

I first apologized for my imperfect Arabic and continued: "You said you go there all the time", I began, "Do you really? Why?"

"To see if I can catch a glimpse of my brother", he said.

"Your brother is in prison?"

"Yes", he responded. "Why?" I asked.

"Israeli soldiers came to our neighborhood in their big tanks and messed up cars parked in our narrow streets. Some of the boys threw stones at their tanks, and they managed to catch a few of us. My brother was one of them. They took him to prison and my parents don't have the \$800 to get him out."

"How long will he stay there?"

"Who knows? That's why my mother sends me often to go look to see if he might be in the yard."

"Aren't you afraid?"

"A little, but they haven't caught me yet."

It then dawned on me that this boy may not have been lying when he said he was fifteen. Lack of enough food and proper nutrition in a poor family may also have been the problem.

Soon we reached to about a few yards away from the place, near the church, when I lost my nerve. I was afraid, mostly for the young guy with me. I stood there for a minute and pretended to be interested in the Russian church, which is outside the Compound, in case somebody was watching us. I felt sure that somebody was. The church was closed, but I managed to get a couple of photos of it. Then we quickly turned back. I didn't give him a choice.

A couple of years later, I went on another Sabeel witness trip and was accompanied by my son and his wife. This time I was determined to get into the Moskobiye. So one free morning we set off from our hotel in East Jerusalem into the western part. We were four people: my son, who looks very Palestinian, his American wife, and a woman friend also American. We started out from the Mount of Olives, walked down the Kedron Valley, past the Garden of Gethsamani, then up and around the west walls of the Old City and into West Jerusalem. The closer we got to the place, the more nervous we became. But I was determined.

When we reached the Russian church, my son said: "Mother that's enough, let's turn back." But I was determined. I continued walking, now a few feet ahead of them, found my courage and went up to the glass window at the entrance. I asked if we could go in for a few minutes because I wanted to see the place where I was born. The young woman soldier on the other side of the window was very gruff and began to speak to me in Hebrew. I smiled and said I didn't understand Hebrew. She motioned for me to leave, shooing me away with her hand. But I didn't budge.

She called another person who knew a few more words in English. I told him too that I wanted to go in and see the place where I was born. He smirked and asked me if I knew what this place was now. I said yes, I knew, but I still wanted to see it. He said I couldn't go in for security reasons. I told him he could search all of us. He smirked again and told me to leave. I told him I was an American citizen, showed him my passport, and repeated that I was born here and I wanted to see where I was born. Then realizing that I was getting nowhere with him, I asked to speak to his supervisor. He sneered this time and went away.

Another military type person now appeared at the window and I had to repeat my request. I lied and said I probably would never be back here again and what harm was there for him to allow me to see the place where I was born and to show it to my son. He looked at

The Place Where I Was Born...see page 8

Israel is an Apartheid State

Rebel Fagin

Since Amnesty International released its report, “Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians”, the world has exploded. This report had been preceded by similar reports from B’Tselem and Human Rights Watch. Some countries deny the claim of apartheid and denounce Amnesty International. Others look at the evidence and say ‘hell, yeah.’ What does it mean to be an apartheid state?

Apartheid is an Africana word meaning “separateness”. It was the formalization of a practice that had been going on for years in South Africa. It was resisted since its inception. Apartheid was a series of laws designed to favor the white minority of South Africa, roughly 9% of the population, and enable them to dominate the country until the early 1990’s when the people of South Africa, boosted by an international Boycott of South African goods, brought it crashing down and South Africa became a democracy.

Apartheid is not defined by history. It is defined by law.

On July 17, 1998, the Rome Statute of the United Nations created the permanent International Criminal Court. The Rome Statute is the International Criminal Court’s founding treaty and supported by over 120 countries. Under International Law, “the term ‘the crime of apartheid’, which shall include similar policies and practices of racial segregation and discrimination as practiced in southern Africa, shall apply to the following inhumane acts committed for the purpose of establishing or maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them.”

In 2002, Article II of the Apartheid Convention, a meeting authorized by the International Criminal Court of the United Nations, went on to list specific acts that constitute the crime of apartheid. These acts include: inhumane acts ranging from torture and murder to repressive legislation, the denial to a member or members of a racial group or groups of the right to life and liberty of person, the deliberate imposition of living conditions calculated to cause their physical destruction in whole or in part, any measure designed to separate the population based on racial lines, creating ethnic ghettos, banning mixed marriages, land theft, exploitation of labor including forced labor, any legislative measure calculated to prevent a racial group or groups from participating in social, economic or political life and the deliberate creation of conditions to prevent the full development of such groups; specifically the right to work, to form unions, have an education, the right of return, freedom of movement, of expression, of association and peaceful assembly, and the persecution of those who speak out against these conditions.

Here are some of the ways Israel practices apartheid. Israel tortures children they arrest and place under military detention. [Learn more here](#). They murder Palestinians of all ages, including journalists like Shireen Abu Akleh this May. [More about this here](#). Israel uses administrative detention which means they can detain people without charges for as long as they wish. Gaza has been unlivable for at least two years. If you are Palestinian, where you are born determines where you live. If you are born in the occupied territories, you must stay there for life. You can always leave but you will not be allowed back in, for there is no right of return for the Palestinians. Countless checkpoints prevent Palestinians from moving around in their own areas. Israel

has segregated roads. Israelis and Palestinians have different colored license plates on their cars so security knows who belongs where. These are just a few of the ways that Israel practices apartheid.

The evidence is clear that Israel is an apartheid state. The question for you is, do you want to support it? One way to say no is through what you choose to buy. [Learn about this avenue of resistance](#). There are many other ways to work against the occupation. You can always join a team going there and see for yourself. [MECAforpeace](#) and [metapeaceteam](#) are two groups that go there.

The evidence is clear that Israel is an apartheid state. The question for you is, do you want to support it?

Study, join with others and organize and who knows, maybe some day either Israel will be a democracy with equal rights for all, or the Palestinians will have a viable homeland of their own once again. You and I can help make this happen.

Learn more by listening to [Speaking of Palestine](#) on KBBF, Mondays at 4. 🌿

The Place Where I Was Born... from page 7

me like I was a crazy woman, which I think I was at that point, as I refused to take a no. He turned to some other people behind him and they all started arguing in Hebrew. I could hear behind me whispers of pleading: “Mother, enough, let’s go!” I’m sure my son was justifiably concerned that all of us might end up behind bars in the place where I was born.

Finally the arguing behind the window stopped. The military guy came back to the window and said to me in perfect American English: “OK, five minutes, in the courtyard only – and no photos!”

“Thank you,” I said. And they opened the security door for us and we went through.

Inside there was a vast courtyard surrounded by several modest buildings, which didn’t look like a prison or a place where young men are tortured for throwing stones. There were tall shade trees all around, areas where bushes and flowers were in bloom. There were rifled soldiers and what looked like Israeli men in civilian clothes coming and going who gave us the eye as they passed us, which we ignored. In a corner of the yard there was a couple, clearly a Palestinian woman dressed in a thobe (long dress) and hijab and a tall skinny man with a weathered face. Between them was a young man, maybe 16 years old, who I assumed was their son. They were all deep in conversation, their faces very sad.

I spotted a stone bench under a tree and I motioned for us to go there and sit for a moment, which is what we did in silence.

Sitting on that cold stone bench in silence, time seemed to stand still for me. Then I felt a prayer rise up in my heart. I prayed for the safety of the prisoners, the rifled soldiers, the families, all of them, in the place where I was born.

Soon a soldier came to tell us our time was up. So we quietly got up and left. 🌿

Just Visit Western Sahara

Linda Sartor

The Biden Administration condemns Russia's invasion of sovereign Ukraine yet condones Morocco's annexation of the Western Sahara. I am on the Steering Committee for the Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) project in Western Sahara.

Acting in solidarity with human rights activists in the Western Sahara, four internationals travelled to Boujdour to provide UCP. Two are still present as guests in the family home of Sultana Khaya who is prominent in the movement for Saharawi independence and the end of violence against Saharawi women.

Until March 16 when the four arrived at their house, the Khaya family had endured 482 days of de-facto house arrest during which Moroccan forces regularly invaded the home. They beat and raped the Khaya sisters in front of their 84-year old mother, poisoned

Saharawis," Khaya says.

On March 16, 2022, our international team of unarmed civilian protectors were able to enter the Khaya home, bringing a reprieve of the siege and the rapes. The community has been able to bring in some furnishings and the house has been somewhat cleaned up from damage caused by the Moroccan forces. Khaya and her sister have now had frequent visitors who came in celebration. For the first time in 482 days, they were able to sleep without the fear of waking up to beatings and rape.

Nonetheless, the arbitrary detention and human rights abuses continue in the community. Moroccan plain clothes agents and police officers are visible every hour of every day patrolling the street in front of the house and surveilling the windows and entry door.

Saharawi visitors to the house have been harassed and subjected to violence. For example, on March 17, Moroccan security forces abducted 14-year old Lilah Mohammed Habibi and his friend as they walked home after visiting the Khaya house. The forces took the boys to the police station where Lilah was interrogated, yelled at, and violently struck on his arms and hands. He was ordered never to go to the Khaya house again. During another of the harassments, a woman who had visited the Khaya home was told that as soon as the internationals are gone, she will experience the same treatment as the Khaya family has.

The UCP team members support the Khaya family's list of demands which include: permanently stop the rapes in and the siege of the Khaya home; and allow an independent, non-partisan, international human rights organization to enter the Khaya home to investigate and report what has happened for the public record.

With guidance from our Saharawi friends, we are adopting an additional strategy to encourage more international presence in Western Sahara, so there are more of us witnessing what's going on there and as a deterrence to the abuse. By the time this article goes to print, you will probably be able to visit our new Facebook page: [Just Visit Western Sahara](#) to see current reports about the project and suggestions for what you can do to make a difference. 🌱

Morocco has occupied the Western Sahara since 1975, even though the United Nations considers it one of the world's last non-self-governing territories.

their water supply, injected them with unknown substances, and destroyed and removed furnishings, etc. in the house.

Morocco has occupied the Western Sahara since 1975, even though the United Nations considers it one of the world's last non-self-governing territories. In 1988, the UN called for a referendum in which the people of Western Sahara would choose between independence and integration with Morocco, but the referendum has still not transpired.

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and other reputable investigative groups have documented Moroccan repression of nonviolent protests for self-determination, beatings, torture, unlawful imprisonment, and severe restrictions on freedom of movement in this last non-self-governing territory in Africa. Morocco furthermore prevents visitors, including journalists and human rights activists, from entering Western Sahara.

Sultana Khaya, president of the Sahrawi League for the Defense of Human Rights and the Protection of Western Sahara's Natural Resources said, "I am not the first Saharawi woman to be raped by the occupiers. I am simply the first woman to speak publicly about it. I have to expose the reality of the occupation. And I need to pave the way for the next generation of Saharawi women."

Khaya is appealing to the Biden administration, as Biden himself has championed human and women's rights. He is the author of the domestic law Violence Against Women Act. Yet, by continuing former president Trump's illegal recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara, which is in violation of the United States constitution and international law, he is condoning ongoing human rights violations and sexual abuse of women by the Moroccan forces. "The US position on Western Sahara is legitimizing the illegal occupation and further attacks on





Occupy Sonoma County is participating in Plastic Free July, and we urge everyone to join the challenge at [PlasticFreeJuly](https://PlasticFreeJuly.org) where participants are counted

and receive information on how to reduce plastic consumption.

Scientists estimate that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. Single use plastic bottles, bags, and those takeout containers used once and then discarded are made with a material that is designed to last forever. Adopting reusable shopping bags, regularly utilizing reusable coffee cups and water bottles, refusing plastic utensils, and avoiding prepackaged fruits and vegetables can make a difference. These habits avoid putting plastic in the landfill, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and protect the oceans.

Participation can range from choosing to refuse a handful of items for a single day, refusing all plastic for the entire month, or anything in between. One simple action is to say no to plastic straws! We ask that everyone make a habit of saying, "No straw, please" when ordering a beverage at a bar or restaurant. Plastic straws are often given automatically and are a serious threat to the environment. We ask that clubs and restaurants switch to paper straws or consider switching to glass or stainless steel straws.

Every bit of plastic ever made still exists. Plastics break into smaller and smaller pieces that do not decompose- becoming permanent pollution which is toxic to fish, wildlife and the environment. Recycling is not the solution to this problem. Plastic that is recycled is typically downcycled into weaker products such as single-use bags that must be landfilled.

For more information, subscribe to our weekly newsletter that includes information about plastic problems and solutions in every issue. Download our checklist and information on how to join our campaign. You can also talk with us in person by coming to our next Earth Action Campaign meeting. Check our [website](#) for details.

See 'My Challenge Choices (Getting Started)'... next page

Stop Building New Gas Stations, Now!

Jenny Blaker & Woody Hastings, Co-coordinators

A request to readers: Can you ask your representative on the County Board of Supervisors, before July 12, to support a prohibition, or meaningful restrictions, on permitting or constructing new gasoline stations in Sonoma County? But first, let me back up and explain the context.

If you're in a hole, stop digging, right? When you're in the midst of a climate crisis, stop adding fuel to the fire by building gas stations – the new ones are built to last for 40 years! This is the thinking behind the Coalition Opposing New Gas Stations (CONGAS), which began in response to a proposal for a new gas station at Hwy 116/Stony Point Road, two miles west of Cotati, in February 2019. The proposal was subsequently withdrawn in the face of fierce opposition. Four individual gas station proposals were withdrawn before CONGAS requested that the County pass an ordinance prohibiting new gas stations. Vehicles produce most of the greenhouse gas emissions in Sonoma County.

Peace Press readers are familiar with the connection between oil and war. This is also an environmental justice issue. Every gas pump leaves a wake of destruction behind it, from the drilling, pumping, transportation by vehicle or pipeline, processing and refining to the gas pump, disproportionately impacting indigenous and frontline communities. Leaks and spills pollute air, oceans, surface and groundwater, impacting human health and wildlife.

An ordinance prohibiting new gas stations would align with County and State policy. The County passed a Climate Emergency Resolution in September 2019. In September 2020, Gov. Newsom passed an Executive Order announcing that all new passenger vehicles sold in California must be zero-emission by 2035. In September, 2021, the Regional Climate Protection Authority, comprised of representatives of the County and each of its nine cities, unanimously agreed to support the County of Sonoma and its cities in passing ordinances to prohibit, or restrict, new gas stations in their municipalities. There is an abundance of gas stations in the cities, but in some smaller rural communities residents have to drive a long way for gas, the reason to support meaningful restrictions

rather than an outright ban in the County.

The City of Petaluma made international news when it was first in the nation to adopt an ordinance prohibiting new gas stations (thanks to the group No Gas Here, and their struggle against Safeway). Rohnert Park and Sebastopol have passed their own ordinances, and Cotati, Windsor, and Santa Rosa are working on it. Calistoga and American Canyon in Napa County have passed ordinances, and interest is spreading to other cities and counties nationwide. The County of Sonoma is still lagging.

CONGAS supports the development of safe, accessible, connected, infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists; and safe, affordable, accessible, connected, clean-powered public transportation, as well as electric charging infrastructure in places where people already live, work, and spend time. Electric vehicles alone are not the answer, but they may be part of a clean, sustainable solution over the long-term, as part of a comprehensive overhaul of the current system that relies on most people getting most places by private fossil-fueled vehicles. As prices of electric cars continue to fall over the next few decades, gas stations will eventually become obsolete.

In April 2022, CONGAS submitted to the Board of Supervisors a letter signed by 25 organizations and over 70 Individuals, asking them not to roll the gas station issue into the General Plan update (a lengthy process to revise this blueprint for countywide planning for the next 20 years), but to move ahead with it separately, now. The next opportunity to bring this to the Supervisors is expected to be on July 12 when they will be reviewing their priorities. There are many more desperate and challenging issues facing the county, from homelessness to fires to coronavirus, but once a no-new-gas ordinance is passed, this will free up staff time and resources to work on other more creative and positive climate-related issues.

Action: Please check with [CONGAS](#) for updates or email contact.congas@gmail.com and consider contacting County Supervisors to ask them to restrict the permitting and construction of new gas stations in the County. 🙏

Jenny Blaker and Woody Hastings, are Co-ordinators of the Coalition Opposing New Gas Stations (CONGAS).

Occupy Sonoma County / Plastic Free July

Plastic Free Challenge Action Picker



My Challenge Choices (Getting started) **PLASTIC FREE JULY**

⊘ WHAT TO AVOID

☑ HOW TO AVOID IT

☑ YES, I'LL DO THIS

Plastic ending up in landfill and polluting the oceans	Avoid all plastic packaging, including so-called "compostable plastic".	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepackaged fruits and vegetables	Buy loose in your own bags or paper bags. Ask for loose produce at the same price as prepackaged. Refill containers at the farmer's market. Join a CSA.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic shopping bags	Bring your own bags to the store or choose paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic microbeads in personal care and cleaning products	Go to BeatTheMicrobead.org or ewg.org/skindeep to find products that are safe for you and the ocean. Tell manufacturers you are not buying their polluting products.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic bottled cleaning, laundry, and personal care products	Refill bottles or choose cardboard box packaging. Vinegar is easy to make. Get the large box of baking soda for multipurpose cleaning & bathing. Use coconut oil, bar shampoo & soap. Make your own (DIY).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bagged dried goods	Buy nuts, grains, cookies, pasta...in the bulk section. Use your own bags or containers. Buy baked goods at the bakery counter or make homemade.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepackaged meat or fish	Shop at the butcher or fish counter for paper-wrapped cuts.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic drinking straws, including so-called "compostable" or plant-based straws	Say, "no straw, please" with your order. Use paper or reusable straws. Plastic composting requires specialized equipment unavailable in most cities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Takeout coffee cups, containers, and disposable utensils	Bring your own refillable cups, utensils, and containers or dine-in. Refuse styrofoam & plastic. Urge your municipality to ban these containers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic water bottles	Fill a reusable bottle at the tap or choose glass bottles. Filter at home.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic soft drink and beverage bottles	Choose glass or cans and put in the recycling bin.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disposable pens, lighters, etc.	Choose long-lasting wood or metal refillable pens and refillable metal lighters.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disposable diapers & sanitary products	A cloth diaper service is cheaper than buying disposables. Replace tampons & pads with reusables: LunaPads, DivaCup, or a menstrual sea sponge.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic toys for kids	Plastic toys are 90% of the market and are not recyclable. Buy toys made of wood, cotton, metal, and natural rubber.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single-use zip/cable ties & plastic commemorative swag at events	Choose reusable, releasable cable ties. Say, 'no thanks' to cheap trinkets destined for the landfill.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic trash bags and can liners	Line the can with newspaper to help keep it clean with a paper bag to dispose of the trash.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic bags for pet poo	Use a poop scooper and compost it in a covered bucket layered with leaves to fertilize non-edible plants.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic milk and beverage jugs	Choose waxed cardboard or glass bottles. Make your own non-dairy milk. Blend 1 cup of nuts, oats, flax, hemp, etc. in a quart of water (or less) and strain.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic food wrap for leftovers and sandwiches	Use reusable containers with lids, waxed paper, or beeswax wraps.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic microparticles lining the oceans	Choose natural fiber clothing instead of synthetics that are washing out of your home into the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Littering cigarette butts, balloons, and glitter	Dispose of these non-recyclable, non-compostable items in the trash to keep them out of the ocean. Consider unfiltered cigarettes & alternatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ignoring other people's litter	Plastic litter is killing our wildlife. Pick up whatever litter you see. Join fun ocean and waterway clean-up crews.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apathy and despair	Write letters to open-minded companies about their packaging. What are you doing to make a difference?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Avoid landfill waste

Reduce your eco footprint



Protecting Forests from the Bioenergy Industry

Jenny Blaker

We hear a lot these days about “vegetation management” and “forest treatments” in the fight against devastating wildfires, but we need to beware of greenwashing and disaster capitalism – the tendency to profit from disaster. Billions of dollars are being poured into “thinning” and “vegetation management” (all too often euphemisms for logging) from federal, state and local governments, under the guise of protecting communities from fire. Meanwhile dangerous state legislation (e.g. [AB2878](#), [SB1109](#)) is proposed that will supercharge the production of biomass for energy (called “bioenergy”) from our life-sustaining forests. Bioenergy is being touted as clean, renewable and carbon-neutral, which is far from the truth.

Fire is a natural process that has shaped the American west for millennia. Many plant species depend on fire for their survival and reproduction. Fire has become an enormous threat to humans because we have built homes in areas that naturally burn. Thinning, logging, and other vegetation management projects do not stop wildland fires. They often [increase the speed and intensity of wildfires](#), opening up new areas for winds to blow through and opportunities for flammable vegetation to take hold. We need to [focus on making homes less vulnerable](#) rather than degrading and destroying forests in the name of public safety. Forests are part of our life support system. Dr. Bill Moomaw, chief IPCC scientist, and many others, have stated that the best way to fight the climate crisis is by [protecting existing forest ecosystems](#), not by logging them.

Most of the fires that have been destructive to homes and communities in recent years are wind-driven, caused by flying embers. [Research based on over 2,000 case studies](#) shows that protecting homes and communities from fire by home hardening and the maintenance of defensible space within 100 feet of structures is more effective than thinning and logging in forests distant from homes. Economic analyses show that [home hardening and defensible space work would produce more and better jobs](#) than large-scale, mechanized vegetation management that uses expensive equipment.

Scientific analysis shows that logging is now “the single largest driver of carbon emissions from US forests, six times greater than from fires, land-use change, insects, drought, and wind damage combined.” Over 7 million tons of wood pellets are shipped from the southeast USA to Europe annually as fuel for power plants – although [Europe is just beginning to rethink this policy](#). California forests are being targeted for “treatment”, which can include logging, mastication, herbicides, and grazing, at the rate of 1 million acres per year.

Bioenergy, turning trees into electricity, wood pellets, or even into liquid fuels for aviation, is touted as the solution to the forest “waste” created by expanded logging. However, bioenergy produc-

es more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy than coal. [It is not clean, renewable, or carbon neutral](#). Bioenergy is highly polluting, often disproportionately impacting frontline communities. Even if a new tree is planted to replace one that is cut down, it takes decades or even centuries to grow to the same size, time we do not have to fight the climate crisis. It is not carbon neutral, because carbon is released when the tree is cut down, and again when it is burned, and its ability to store carbon is destroyed.

In addition to exacerbating wildfires, logging forests with heavy equipment and machinery compacts soil, causing erosion, siltation into creeks, damaging watersheds and impacting the capacity of the forest soil to store carbon and water. It destroys wildlife habitat including for endangered species. Wildlife cannot hunt or nest or den in the clearcuts. We must not forget that as well as



An area of clearcut forest in the Tar-Pamlico River basin in northeastern North Carolina.
DOGWOOD ALLIANCE

the climate crisis, we are in the midst of the [sixth extinction crisis](#) and that every species and ecosystem lost contributes to the great unraveling.

Many so-called “nature-based solutions” are clever greenwashing, as they usually involve removing trees first, as a prerequisite for the “restoration” planting that will take place afterwards, often with government subsidies. Mature trees store far more carbon than saplings, so when trees are removed, their ability to sequester and store carbon is destroyed, and it will take decades or years before the replacement saplings grow to the same size and can store as much.

The solution is to protect existing forests, not to profit from deforestation – and not to use them as “feedstock” for the bioenergy industry! 🌲

Jenny Blaker was Outreach Coordinator of Cotati Creek Critters habitat restoration project, an active member of Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock, is Co-coordinator of the Coalition Opposing New Gas Stations and is active in efforts to protect forests.



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

Benefit Concert with



*Lindalou & Michael
featuring
Ted Dutcher &
Susan Ballinger*

*Doug Blumer
&
Bohemian
Highway*



Saturday, June 18, 3-8:30PM

**Moonlight Brewing Company
3350 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa**



FREE admission - Donations Welcome in any amount whether or not you can attend the concert.

[Get tickets at Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Picnic in the Park for Annual Awards & Fundraiser

Max Bell Alper, Executive Director

North Bay Jobs with Justice is excited to announce that our fundraiser this year will be a Community Picnic and Awards Ceremony featuring a taco bar, jumphouse, and live music!

You and your family are invited! Taco bar with meat and veggie options! Kids participate and eat for free! Join us in building community resiliency and solidarity!!

North Bay Jobs with Justice is a growing 32-member coalition of labor and community organizations dedicated to protecting the rights of working people and to supporting community struggles that build a more just society. For nearly a decade, we have been a leader in the fight for economic, racial, and climate justice.

In this past year, with your support, we have accomplished so much:

- Stood in solidarity with teachers to win strong contracts, including walking the picket lines in Rohnert Park and Cotati in one the largest and longest local teachers' strikes in many years
- Organized community support that helped the North Bay Building Trades Council win a strong Project Labor Agreement (PLA) at the Santa Rosa School District
- Co-sponsored multiple marches for national immigration reform, including a 12-mile "caminata" of essential immigrant and Indigenous workers last fall from Santa Rosa to Healdsburg Plaza

- Built a strong team of worker leaders who are learning to organize and have built a network of over 1,000 farmworkers who are engaged in our fight for safety and respect on the front lines of wildfires
- Pushed for Healthcare for All by educating more member organizations and holding our statewide elected leaders accountable
- Received powerful media attention locally, nationally, and internationally highlighting the fights of working families

This year we are honored to recognize the powerful leadership of some of the strongest and most committed organizers in our area:

COMMUNITY RISING AWARD: Latinx Student Congress

North Bay Organizing Project's Latinx Student Congress organizes Latinx based social justice clubs on 12 Sonoma County high school and college campuses. The clubs meet weekly on their campus and identify problems they seek to change. Monthly they all come together to learn and develop their leadership via trainings, mentorship and issue campaigns. We are inspired by the ways in which young people are stepping up to push forward our movement for justice.

WORKERS RISING AWARD: Workers at Amy's Kitchen and Teamsters Local 665

Worker leaders are calling on CEO Andy Berliner to meet with them and their advocates, Teamsters Local 665. They want to discuss a) how to put an end to needless injuries and the implementation of safeguards so that these workers have guarantees that these workplace issues don't happen again and b) allowing the unionization process to play out without the interference of management or outside anti-union consultants.

LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY: Bonnie Petty

Bonnie has been a key leader throughout the whole history of NBjwJ, even before the organization, or its predecessor, the Living Wage Coalition, was created. For 20 years, she was a part of all of the organization's major victories; including the county living wage, city minimum wages, and countless Workers Rights Board hearings. Bonnie awarded so many great leaders in our community at previous ceremonies over the years, and as she recently retired, we are thrilled to award her this year for all of her dedication and work for the movement.

Thank you for joining us in this work. We look forward to celebrating with you our Community Picnic and Awards Ceremony on **SUNDAY JULY 31st, 3:00-6:00 pm**, Southwest Community Park, 1698 Hearn Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Purchase tickets at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). For information on sponsorship: Email northbayjwj@gmail.com or call (510) 504-8225 📞



**Water rates are going up!
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50 D St., Ste. 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

(707) 576-2771, Fax: (707) 576-2773

Senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov**Assemblymember Marc Levine**

Petaluma City Hall, Petaluma

11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-2735

Rattigan State Building, Santa Rosa

50 D Street, Suite 301, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-273

Assemblymember Jim Wood

50 D Street, Suite 450, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

(707) 576-2526, Fax: (707) 576-2297

California Assembly Website: assembly.ca.gov**U.S. Representative Jared Huffman**

1630 Longworth Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20515

202-225-5161, 202-225-5163 (Fax)

Nearest local office:

999 Fifth Ave., #290, San Raphael 94901

415-258-9657, 415-258-9913 (Fax)

U.S. Representative Mike Thompson

231 Cannon Bldg., Washington D.C. 20515

(202) 225-3311, Napa (707) 226-9898

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Fax (707) 542-2745

m.thompson@mail.house.gov**U.S. Senator Alejandro Padilla**

112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-3553, S.F. (415) 403-0100

Relay Fax: 202-224-0454

padilla.senate.gov/content/contact-senator**U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein**

331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-3841, S.F. (415) 393-0707

Fax: (202) 228-3954

feinstein@senate.gov**California Gov. Gavin Newsom**

State Capitol, Sacramento, Ste. 1173, CA 95814

(916) 445-2841, Fax: (916) 445-4633

governor@governor.ca.gov**Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis**

State Capital, Rm. 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814

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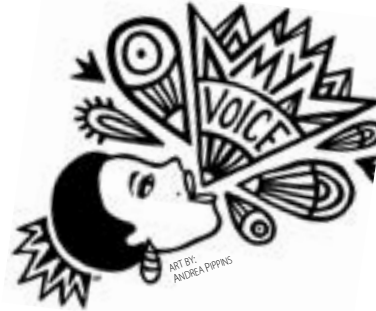
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(202) 456-1111, Fax: (202) 456-2461

president@whitehouse.gov**Sonoma County Social Justice Groups**ALL PHONE AREA CODES ARE (707)
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE**350 Sonoma County** – Engaging our community in the work of 350.org to solve the climate crisis. 350sonomacounty.org**ACLU Sonoma Co.**, working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. Meets each second Monday. Contact patriciamorandi@sbcglobal.net, or davhen@sonic.net.**Allies Safety Network** – compiling a phone chain/helpline to build a safety network for those at risk of harassment to provide a supportive presence in situations of hateful threats. Join the Network Call List: 583-9168**Alternatives to Violence** – Presents experiential workshops in personal growth in the community and prisons. 545-1798**Comité VIDA** – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, circsc@yahoo.com,**Daily Acts** – Offers sustainable solutions rooted in the power of inspired daily actions. 789-9664, dailyacts.org**Fukushima Response** – works to inform about the Fukushima melt downs, monitor the consequences, advocate for the shut down of Diablo Canyon. fukushimaresponse.org. 823-9203**Green Party of Sonoma County** – sonomagreenparty.org**Green Sangha** – Spiritually engaged environmental action. info@greensangha.org**HPEACE** – Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. hpeaceonomacounty.wordpress.com**Healdsburg Peace Project** – Peace and social justice action group, Healdsburg. 431-1129, healdsburgpeaceproject.org**Hate Free Petaluma** Progressive organization.www.facebook.com/hatefreepetaluma/**Homeless Action** – Advocating for people without shelter. 795-2890**Indivisible Goups** – All the groups are on Facebook.**Indivisible Sonoma County:** indivisiblesoco.com**Indivisible Petaluma:** indivisiblepetaluma@gmail.com, or follow on Twitter at @IndivisibleLuma**Indivisible Sebastopol:** indivisible.wsc@gmail.com**Indivisible Healdsburg****Indivisible Windsor****LezResist!** was formed to be a visible and unified Lesbian presence in support of each other, and to stand in solidarity with the many communities, causes, and policies under attack by the current U.S. administration. Info @ LezResist@gmail.com.**Listening for a Change** – Programs support listening and oral history to create a caring community. 578-5420, listeningforachange.org**MEChA de Sonoma** – Student group that focuses on issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community. info@mechadesonoma.org**Metta Center for Nonviolence** – Works to promote non-violence worldwide and to build a nonviolent culture. 774-6299**MOVES-Minimizing Occurrences of Violence in Everyday Society** – Stresses nonviolence as the answer to society's violence. 524-1900**NAACP - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. 978-1327**National Women's History Project** – coordinates observances of Women's History month around the country. 636-2888, nwhp@aol.com**North Bay Jobs with Justice** – organized for better conditions and a living wage for workers. Email: northbayjobswithjustice@gmail.com, Website: northbayjobswithjustice.org, www.facebook.com/nbjwj Ph: 346-1187**North Bay Organizing Project** – a regional community organization. www.facebook.com/NorthBayOrganizingProject 318-2818**North Coast Coalition for Palestine** – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 575-8902. www.nccpal.org or find us on Facebook.**NOW of Sonoma County** – local chapter of the National Organization for Women. 545-5036**Occupy Sonoma County** – Embraces the egalitarian, deep democracy principles of the Occupy Movement with a regional strategy for effectively organizing county-widesocial 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](https://www.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. Mickey@projectcensored.org, projectcensored.org.**Racial Justice Allies** – Developing anti-racist practices among white social justice activists. 795-2890 racialjusticeallies@gmail.com, www.racialjusticeallies.org**Sonoma County Black Forum:** Our mission is to lead, serve, and thrive, by promoting positive community and youth engagement events. Monthly meetings. sonomacountyblackforum@gmail.com**Sonoma County Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP).** In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925. sngold@juno.com. www.pnhpca.org.**Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCo CAN!)** Groups and individuals working address and reverse climate change. Meet in months with a 5th Monday, 7-9 PM at the PJC. Info: 595-0320 or 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. soconvtc@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](https://www.facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL). 792-4422.**Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice** – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. audreyvh@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.sunrisesoco.org and [facebook.com/SunriseSoCo](https://www.facebook.com/SunriseSoCo)**SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice, Sonoma County)** – [facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty](https://www.facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty)**United Farm Workers** – 1700 Corby Ave., Santa Rosa 528-3039**United Nations Association** – Builds public understanding and support for the United Nations. Facebook**Veterans for Peace** – Organization of vets working together for peace and justice through nonviolence. 536-6002**Women in Black** – Women who stand in silent vigil to protest war and human rights abuses.**Women's Justice Center** – Advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse, particularly in the Latina community. 575-3150, justicewomen.com*Democracy is NOT
a spectator sport!**For additions or changes to this list,
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- ▶ Helping to maintain and expand our social media
- ▶ Assisting at Center Events
- ▶ Helping with grant writing
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- ▶ Sponsoring our bi-monthly *Peace Press* Newsletter

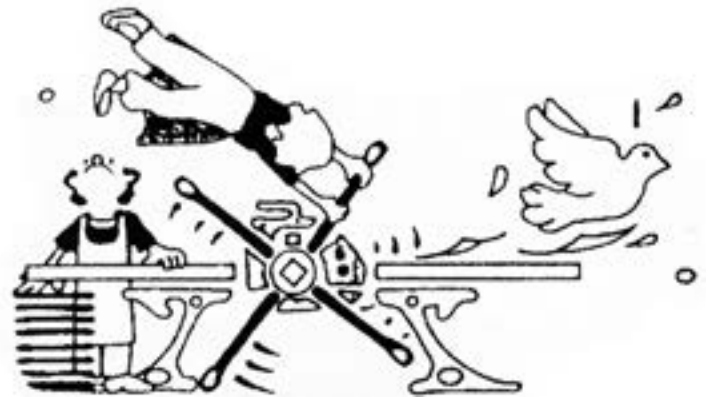
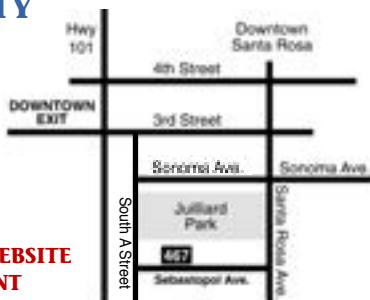
Please call **(707) 575-8902** or visit **PJCsoco.org**

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

467 Sebastopol Ave.
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(707) 575-8902

peacentr@sonic.net
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