in this issue

- Make a Difference – Vote!
  and Take the PJC Survey
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“If you don’t like the news… go out and make some of your own!”

Wes “Scoop” Nisker
Make a Difference – Vote! and Take the PJC Survey

Shekeyna Black
“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”


Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have not been able to print, collate, mail and distribute the bi-monthly Peace Press. The issues April/May, June/July and Aug/Sept 2020 were published exclusively online on our website at www.pjcsoco.org/peace-press, where this and other issues continue to be archived. We have created an online survey to help us determine the strengths and weaknesses of the Peace Press. We urgently need your feedback! Fill-out our brief online survey regarding the future of the Sonoma County Peace Press in this link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JS8B75

Additionally, if mailing in the survey is easier for you, we have included the questionnaire in this issue.

RIP RBG! She was a courageous, powerful woman who made great strides toward equality for women. Here is a testimonial from the National Women’s Hall of Fame written before her passing. “Justice, justice, thou shalt pursue,’ the Old Testament words Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg keeps on the wall of her chambers, epitomize the outlook and achievement of this distinguished jurist. Ginsburg has worked her entire career to eliminate gender-based stereotyping in legislation and regulations. Appointed Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court by President William Clinton in 1993, she is the second woman to sit on the bench of the United States Supreme Court in its 212 year history.” Additionally, there have been 114 U.S. Supreme Court Justices and only four have been women.

Be sure to Vote in the November 3rd Elections! Refer to the County of Sonoma’s website for accurate voting requirements and information at: sonomacounty.ca.gov/CRA/Registrar-of-Voters/Elections/November-3-2020-Presidental-Election/. The PJC endorses a Yes Vote on Measure P (a.k.a. Evelyn Cheatham Effective Elections/November-3-2020-Presidential-Election/). The PJC endorses a Yes Vote on Measure P (a.k.a. Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance) which, “will bring greater transparency and accountability without raising your taxes or cutting the Sheriff’s budget” amongst other positive action steps as per the campaign synopsis.

The protests condemning police brutality continue non-stop around the country with peaceful protestors using leaf-blowers and umbrellas to protect themselves from the toxic and immoral use of tear-gas launched by law enforcement. Sparked by the horrendous public lynching of George Floyd on May 25 in Minneapolis, and rekindled by the Grand Jury verdict on September 23 relieving the Louisville Police Department from any wrong doing in the shooting of Breonna Taylor while sleeping in her home, the protests show no sign of stopping until justice prevails.

Unprecedented is certainly the theme of 2020 thus far. We sincerely hope everyone is safe during these challenging times with the unhealthy air quality, massive wildfires and earthquakes over much of the Pacific Northwest. As a dear friend used to say, “If you are aware, you can prepare.” This is a great time to have an emergency plan in place; including, a grab-n’-go bag with a change of clothes, flashlight, enough food and water for 1-2 days, in the case of evacuation for any reason. Hopefully, in the event of a major disaster, most of us will be able to shelter-in-place and that is where we need to think about food, water and survival items for longer-term. There is a rise in homelessness in Sonoma County and elsewhere that seems untenable. Homeless Action! along with PJC, are seeking a safe space for a homeless man to park his trailer; reach out to us if you have such a place.

The Peace & Justice Center is still closed for meetings and events and currently, the office hours continue to be suspended as we work to 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 all inquiries. Sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter at www.pjcsoco.org/e-newsletter-sign-up for current information about Social Justice issues and events. We hope you are staying safe during the pandemic, be cautious and considerate, and wear a face mask while out in public.

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 located on our website so that donations can be made online via the secure PayPal link at www.pjcsoco.org/donate. Also, Donation Checks can be mailed to: Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County, 467 Sebastopol Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401

For inspirational quotes and anti-racist resources please follow PJC Board Member Audrianna Jones’ page @blacklovemeltshearts on Instagram. We are grateful to Audrianna for setting up the Peace Press Survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JS8B75.

Stay Safe! Remain Vigilant! 🕊️

Protect Your Vote!

Most of us will be voting by mail this year. In a good year 22% of all mailed in ballots are never counted. 2020 is not a good year. There are steps you can take to protect your vote.

Make sure you are registered, even if you’ve voted at the same location for decades. Read and follow all the instructions on your ballot. In years past, ballots have been rejected because voters used the wrong color pen or a pencil; stapled or taped their ballot closed, used their own envelope or checked their selection when instructed to fill in a bubble. Read and follow the instructions carefully. Fill out all the data. Try to vote early so if there are problems, you have time to fix them. Use early voting where you can.

All California voters will receive a mail-in ballot 29 days before the election or by October 5. You can mail in your ballot, drop it off at drop boxes, or drop it off at any polling place within the county. Sonoma County voters can take it directly to the Board of Elections at 435 Fiscal Drive in Santa Rosa.

Two possible scenarios: Mail in votes take time to count and during this time it is possible that Trump’s storm troopers will riot and shut down vote counts (similar to 2000 in Florida, only with guns). Governors may not be able to verify their vote count and if no candidate receives 170 electoral votes, the
VOTER GUIDE

Click link below to view ballot recommendations from the following organizations:

Democratic Party
Peace & Freedom Party
Republican Party
San Francisco Green Party
American Assoc. of University Women
ACLU
CA Chamber of Commerce
California Labor Federation
CA League of Conservation Voters
California Nurses Association
CA Parent Teacher Association
Friends Comm. on Legislation
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assoc.
League of Women Voters
Peace & Freedom Party
Sierra Club
United Farm Workers

VOTER GUIDE: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Gnych2Mu-ynxu9usIsvvdN8jjbU_d6oe12eBcpkoE/edit?ts=5f30883c#gid=0
MORE INFO AT: https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CRA/Registrar-of-Voters/Elections/11-03-2020/Measures/

California State Proposition Descriptions

14. Authorizes bonds to continue funding stem cell and other medical research.
15. Changes tax assessment of commercial and industrial property, increasing funding for public schools, community colleges and local government services.
16. Repeals Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment thus allowing state and local entities to consider race, sex, color, ethnicity & national origin in public education, employment & contracting.
17. Restores right to vote for persons on parole.
18. Allows voting in primary elections for 17-year-olds who will be 18 by the next general election.
19. Increases ability of seniors & other eligible homeowners to transfer tax assessments. Requires inherited homes that are not primary residences to be reassessed at market value. Net revenue goes to wildfire agencies & counties.
20. Restricts parole for non-violent offenders. Authorizes felony sentences for certain offenses currently treated only as misdemeanor.
21. Expands local government’s authority to enact rent control on residential property.
22. Defines app-based transportation and delivery drivers as independent contractors and adopts labor and wage policies specific to app-based drivers and companies.
23. Authorizes state regulation of kidney dialysis clinics and establishes minimum staffing and other requirements.
24. Expands consumer privacy laws.
25. Referendum to overturn a 2018 law that replaced money bail system with a system based on public safety risk.
MEASURE P
the Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance is On the November Ballot

Susan Lamont

Longtime members of the peace and justice community know that we have been working for many years for a more accountable Sheriff’s Office through effective community oversight – first in the 1990’s and later, after 13-year-old Andy Lopez was killed.

Sometimes, speaking up works and it just did in Sonoma County. Sometimes, the times are right for change and this might just be that time.

After Andy’s killing by a sheriff’s deputy, a partial victory was achieved with the County’s creation of the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO). But the office was created without the tools to be effective – no subpoena power, no independent investigatory power, no requirement that the Sheriff’s Office cooperate and not enough money to do the job.

After more than three years as Director of IOLERO, Jerry Threet wrote a revised ordinance to remedy these shortcomings. In writing it, he combined his experience on the job as well as his conversations with diverse groups in Sonoma County, the original, unfilled aspirations of the Community And Local Law Enforcement Task Force that created IOLERO, and the recommendations of the National Association of Community Oversight of Law Enforcement.

At the end of 2019, we began the usual signature gathering needed to put an ordinance on the ballot. With a deadline of May 2020, the efforts were cut short in March by the order to shelter in place. That led us to ask the Board of Supervisors to place the Evelyn Cheatham Ordinance on the November ballot. The original organizers were joined by activists energized in response to the killing of George Floyd and many other community members. We convinced the Board of Supervisors to place the ordinance on the ballot. As a result, you can now vote for a more effective IOLERO when you go to the polls in November.

Both our communities and deputies deserve the most effective and responsive Sheriff’s Office possible. Modern law enforcement ‘best practices’ emphasize collaboration with communities and with independent, effective civilian oversight. Independent, effective civilian oversight supports the democratic principles of accountability and transparency, and thereby increases trust between law enforcement and all communities. Also, many years of work across the country have gone into creating best practices policy for use of force, running a jail and so much more.

One of the stated goals of the County in creating IOLERO was to build greater trust between the community and the Sheriff’s Office. Knowing that the deputies are employing best practices will foster that trust. The Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance – now Measure P – is an important step to building a Sheriff’s Office the community can trust.

Those who favor the status quo have already begun lying about Measure P. They began by saying that backers failed twice to get the ordinance on the ballot. First, there weren’t two attempts, only one, and second, being cut short by COVID-19 is hardly a “failure.” The Sheriff also argues that deputies will be pulled off the streets and emergency response will be curtailed. None of this is true. His hope is that voters will conflate Measure P with the Defund movement. Defunding law enforcement is NOT on the ballot. The money for IOLERO does not come out of the Sheriff’s budget.

The arguments made are so flagrantly false that they actually hinder the trust the Sheriff says he desires. The Sheriff’s Office is used to operating in secret without accountability and they want to continue that way to the tune of millions of dollars in settlements, ever-escalating insurance premiums and far too many dead and injured victims of policing use of force. Measure P will save lives and money.

You can get more information, donate or volunteer by visiting socoeffectiveoversight.org. Please vote “Yes!” On Measure P.

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Statement of Solidarity from Occupy So.Co. to Black Lives Matter, Santa Rosa

Occupy Sonoma County stands in solidarity with you! In solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and specifically Black Lives Matter, Santa Rosa. Occupy Sonoma County recognizes that the white supremacist system of slavery and institutionalized racism is perpetuated daily through unfettered police brutality and a deeply unjust and oppressive legal system, both nationally and here in our community. We support the Black Lives Matter aims to transform the judicial system. We stand with you, as individual activists and as Occupy Sonoma County, working against all forms of racist oppression with a vision towards a society based on systems of justice and equality.

Occupy Sonoma County stands with Black Lives Matter - Santa Rosa as we work together to create a truly just and democratic society!

With love and solidarity, Occupy Sonoma County, 467 Sebastopol Ave., Santa Rosa, California, 707-877-6650.


Occupy Sonoma County embraces the egalitarian, deep democracy principles of the Occupy Movement with a regional strategy for effectively organizing countywide social justice campaigns that are globally relevant.
350 Bay Area – A San Francisco Bay Area Regional Grassroots Climate Action Advocacy

Action Suggestions to Take from Home

Can you feel the election countdown? And can you feel the stakes getting even higher as our Autocrat in Chief seeks to disable the Post Office?

We need to use our anger and anguish to fight harder for a Blue Senate and White House. You can stay on your couch as you join others in our historic push for our Country. Good News! You can choose from four times a week to join our phone bank parties and help Flip the Senate:

- Wednesday from 5:30 - 6:45 pm
- Thursday from 4:00 - 6 pm
- Saturday from 10 am - 12 NOON
- Sunday from 3 - 5 pm

Register here for our virtual phone calling parties.

All couch jokes aside, the fact is there is NO door to door canvassing because of COVID, though this has always been a Democratic edge tactic. Now our phone calls are the canvass where we connect with voters and motivate turnout. It works. Making calls to voters can increase turnout by 3-5 %.

You are needed. Sign up and try out a phone bank with the support of trainers and in the company of others who share your hopes for what November means to us and our world. Thank you Marti, Lisa, Lisa, Nan and our growing Go Green, Vote Blue Team.

Power the Polls!

America is facing a record shortage of poll workers.

As coronavirus continues to impact Americans across the country, we are also seeing a staggering decrease in poll workers, which could mean closed polling places and long delays for elections in 2020. You can help make sure we have a safe, fair, efficient election for all voters, and potentially get paid to do it!

To read more or to fill out a simple application to work during the election go to https://www.powerthepolls.org/

Watch The Story of Plastic for an in depth understanding of the intersection of plastic, the fossil fuel industry, chemical companies, social justice and our environment. For a preview and actions, see https://www.storyofplastic.org/.

Watch the documentary film 13th and sign Senator Jeff Merkley’s proposal to amend the 13th Amendment for no more inmate slaves.

There is a straight line from convict leasing under the 13th Amendment in the 19th Century to today’s mass incarceration. Ever since slavery was outlawed, the criminal justice system has disproportionately incarcerated Black Americans and forced them to work for other people’s profits. If we’re serious about taking on systemic racism, it’s time for a Constitutional Amendment to end this racist legacy of slavery.

Sign the petition and demand Congress and the states pass a Constitutional amendment to ban slave labor in America: https://www.jeffmerkley.com/petition/thirteenth-amendment/e/.

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation’s prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans. The documentary is available on Netflix https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741 and Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8.

The trailer is available at https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=13th+trailer&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8

We would like to get a Peace and Justice team together to participate in the online Ecochallenge October 7-21. If anyone is motivated to read up on what it offers and how to start a team, the website is: https://peoples.ecochallenge.org/about/event-info.

Ecochallenge is back this October! Welcome to the People’s Ecochallenge at https://peoples.ecochallenge.org/about/event-info.

Ecochallenge is free to join and everyone is welcome. Join an existing team, create a new one or join the global Community team. Welcome!

The People's Ecochallenge is a 21-day environmental and social engagement program from October 7 to 28, 2020. Participants select or create actions that align with your individual values and make a 21-day commitment to complete those actions, all the while practicing and reinforcing good habits. For every completed action, you earn points and create impact. Your points contribute to your team’s total points and your impact contributes to our collective impact.

The People's Ecochallenge harmonizes individual and collective action, camaraderie and friendly competition – all for a better shared future. Over 100 actions within nine Challenge categories encourage you to think about and act on proven solutions, connecting the dots between your values and your action.

Explore Challenges

The People’s Ecochallenge is our global community’s most popular Ecochallenge, offering a vast library of actions to take, plus the ability to create your own.

Action Track: Justice for the Whole Community

To be released in the coming weeks: Action Track: Healing & Renewal, Actions marked specifically for “DFH” or “do from home.”

Use these resources to share the People’s Ecochallenge with your family, friends, coworkers, community members and beyond.

We invite you to register today, build or join your team(s) and prepare to take your actions! We look forward to seeing you there!

Protect Your Vote! ... from page 1

election will go to the House of Representatives as laid out in the 12th Amendment. Here each state will get one vote – and Trump can win this – America’s final election. The 12th Amendment was used in the election of 1824.

Another possible scenario is that so many people come out to vote that even if they steal a million votes – like they did with Obama – they will not be able to steal the election. To do this we not only need to vote, but we need to get those who don’t usually vote to vote. With overwhelming numbers we can defeat Trump.

If you want to help, go directly to the polls and stop right wingers trying to challenge your right to vote. If they riot at voter counts – especially recall counts – physically stop them. If they use violence, we can’t just say “oh my”; we need to confront them and stop them. This is important, because democracy matters.
Social and Racial Justice Action Organizations and Opportunities

Mary Munat
“Please don’t settle for happiness. It’s not good enough. Of course you deserve it, but if that’s all you have in mind – happiness – I want to suggest to you that personal success devoid of meaningfulness, free of a steady commitment to social justice – that’s more than a barren life. It’s a trivial one.”

– Toni Morrison

Delving into this question, “What to do about the state of our country so far off course, we don’t know where to grab onto or begin?” has led to a plethora of fantastic work being done and opportunities abounding. Here is a synopsis of one person’s search for promising opportunities for immediate participation and activation toward a world that works for everyone. #8cantwait lists most American cities and where they stand on eight police practices. It calls for our police departments to ban chokeholds and strangulations, require de-escalation, require warning before shooting, require officers to exhaust all alternatives before shooting, impose a duty to intervene, ban shooting at moving vehicles, establish a use of force continuum and require comprehensive reporting. There are concerns about the methodology and data collection, but via that site a citizen can see where their city stands on each practice and can call on elected officials to support measured and restrained police behavior.

Cure Violence Global is ranked #9 in the top 500 NGOs in the world. Cure Violence stops the spread of violence by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control by detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals and changing social norms. Their website is https://cvg.org/.

End Cash Bail is a system that criminalizes poverty, as people who are unable to afford bail are detained while they await trial for weeks or even months. Cash bail perpetuates inequities in the justice system that are disproportionately felt by communities of color and those experiencing poverty. Many resources, sites and organizations exist to pursue this just and essential goal.

The Marshall Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of national urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system. It was formed about 10 years ago and named for Thurgood Marshall, the first African American justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court. Their website is https://www.themarshallproject.org/.

Defund the police sounds drastic but aims to reallocate or redirect funding away from police departments to other government agencies that are currently funded by local municipalities. Our justice and law enforcement systems are fatally flawed and need to be designed anew, thus the sparking of this movement. On the heels of the burgeoning Black Lives Matter movement has come a wave of Blue Lives Matter. There is a good deal of support and criticism of that coalition and its reason for being. This month’s Vanity Fair has an interesting article on this and a myriad of other contemporary race issues. Organizations and groups around the country are working on this reallocation of funding.

Invest in Community is any investment strategy which seeks to consider both financial return and social/environmental good to bring about social change. There are many choices and it is up to each individual to choose one.

Divest funds from harmful ventures like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). The Center for Media and Democracy explains that through the corporate-funded ALEC, global corporations and state politicians vote behind closed doors to rewrite state laws that govern your rights. These so-called “model bills” reach into almost every area of American life and often directly benefit huge corporations. ALEC is a major funder and sponsor of the industrial prison complex.

Save Our Streets is a division of New York City’s Center for Court Innovation and “works to create a fair, effective and humane justice system.” Their website is https://www.courtinnovation.org/about.

People’s Safety Reimagined is a Cincinnati, Ohio Charter Amendment. Their website explains that, related to defunding the police, “There is a need for change in the way public safety is provided and that police do not keep people safe, nor has that ever been their job.” Their program is based on the principles of refocusing, restructuring, retooling, reinvesting and rebuilding.” However, it failed to get enough signatures for the city’s November ballot. Their website is https://psrecincinnati.org/.

Our justice and law enforcement systems are fatally flawed and need to be designed anew, thus the sparking of this movement.

CAHOOTS in Eugene, Oregon stands for Crisis Assistance Out On the Streets. They rely on mental health professionals to respond to situations where they are best suited, rather than police response. Their website is https://whitebirdclinic.org/cahoots/.

Volunteer! It is a guaranteed way to contribute. Here’s a favorite of mine:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) helps keep kids on the right path and out of the criminal justice system. Foster children are 40-50% more likely to become homeless and 25% of our prisoners spent time in foster care. Their website is https://nationalcasagal.org/.

Mary Munat is a long-time Sonoma County resident, zero waste professional and social justice activist. For 20 years, her company, Green Mary, has focused on the intersection of environmental and social justice, but since business has been waylaid by COVID19, Mary has been focusing on social justice, distributing food and water to people in need with area non-profits and has just completed the intensive 28-day work of Me and White Supremacy by Layla Saad through The Center for Spiritual Living. Visit www.greenmary.com.
Treatment of the Homeless – Police Brutality Cannot be an Option!

Anna Jones

Let’s get one thing straight, the Santa Rosa Police Department (SRPD) is a large group of bullies. If you think otherwise, stop reading this and keep being naive. What I observe from them is completely unacceptable. The patrons that come to eat lunch with me have been filling me in on what is happening on the streets so I can convey this to my social circle. Where to start?

Let’s talk about Cancer Park and the illegal clearings they have been doing, claiming that people are stealing power. Please note, This is not an excuse to clear encampment without following the federal regulations in place to keep police brutality to a minimum.

Activists are pointing out that the SRPD is blatantly ignoring Federal laws and health regulations that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has put in place to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. They are destroying items they are supposed to store, their best offer for shelter is that piece of shit tent city this terrible air. They are literally kicking people off of sidewalks, which is ridiculous and inhumane.

Many high risk homeless people are still on the streets being ignored and they are dying. A woman well over 60 came in for lunch and she couldn’t even stay awake to eat because she was so exhausted. We had to set up a place for her to rest after she asked if she could sleep in the dog bed!

Breaking down and setting up shelter everyday is not an easy task and sleeping outside isn’t either. SRPD doesn’t care.

Another woman over 60 came in today who has emphysema and is in a wheelchair, but the chair is not allowed into Catholic Charity organizations for a ridiculous reason that I will keep private. She cannot breathe in healthy air and she is suffering endlessly in the smoke. Catholic Charities decides who they want to help and then they bully all of the other people on the streets.

No one is paying attention to high risk populations any longer. They are focused on cleaning the streets, as if we are going to be able to leave our shelters in the next few years. Coronavirus does not end with 2020. I am only one person and I am literally greeted by an avalanche of pain and suffering every time I step outside. I know of many resources, but I also know that only a small group of people are actually making progress because now poverty is overwhelming and not limited to the homeless.

I am not looking for recognition or encouragement – the incredible guilt of not getting out of bed should keep me going a little while longer – but I need your help as a community. Please observe police interactions between people of color and the homeless (as a black woman I can tell you how much better it feels to have observers and how helpful it is if they call a supervisor on site). Call City Council and Board of Supervisors and demand low-income housing options in all neighborhoods and income housing options in all neighborhoods.

I love you guys and I really hope you are doing as well as you can, because tomorrow has many more obstacles waiting for you and all of your boundaries will continue to be tested.

NOW. Start looking into Catholic Charities’ budget and expose all of the corruption and their lack of empathy.

Pull your head out of your ass if you think you can constantly move the homeless problem around or because you think that they lower your property value.

Share this post. Come down to the kitchen if you have access to any resources at all and help people get inside. Write articles for the Peace Press (Dm for details). Advocate for budget cuts for the police – their salaries are more than triple mine and I deal with an immensely more dangerous environment every day. Vote Yes on Measure P. Vote Yes on Measure O. Investigate City Council candidates before the election and have conversations about their integrity and who fundraises them. Keep fighting every damn day. For anyone who wants to file a lawsuit against SRPD about their misconduct with Cancer Park, please include me. It is obviously necessary for them to be disciplined again by the Federal government. Also, anyone working on getting our Sheriff out of office, please include me in that as well.

I love you guys and I really hope you are doing as well as you can, because tomorrow has many more obstacles waiting for you and all of your boundaries will continue to be tested. Be on the right side of history or your lineage will suffer the consequences of your actions.

Raise your voice for all the people who are suffering and dying. 🗣️

Anna Jones provides food and cooks for homeless people everyday while most of us enjoy the warm comforts of our home. Stop the inhumanity of the established order of the wealthy privileged class enforced by the corrupt Sheriff and Police! Action for change begins with all of us.

“It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have” — James Baldwin
VRA – The Vehicle Ramming Attack

Aaron Miller and Karen Miller

On July 14, 2016, Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel drove a lorry through a crowded promenade in Nice, France, swerving as he drove to inflict maximum damage. He killed 86 people in the attack, which introduced the world to a previously obscure form of terrorism known as the Vehicle Ramming Attack or VRA.

Our area’s first major protest this spring had a VRA by a 15-year old in a truck. It was only after Snapchat messages where he said he wished he’d “killed all u f***ers” leaked, that public pressure forced police to reopen their investigation.

With this law enforcement attitude, more attacks inevitably followed. On June 4, our home town of Healdsburg saw probably the largest protest in its history. Healdsburg Police were on high alert but apart from redirecting traffic they took little action. Then, on June 26, a follow-up protest took place. Led by high school student, Isabel Soto, it drew a smaller but still substantial crowd. HPD opted not to redirect traffic.

On Healdsburg Avenue, a white male who had been circling the demonstration aimed his truck at the center of the crowd and accelerated, swerving as he went, in a move chillingly reminiscent of the Nice attack. A few minutes later, a second driver swerved around the back of the march. Thankfully, everyone managed to jump out of the way, but in a group of mostly kids and seniors, it could easily have been much worse.

The first assailant, however, made the mistake of driving one of the most recognizable trucks in town, complete with a decal for his employer, a thin blue line decal and a vanity license plate based on his last name. After video was posted, he was quickly tracked down and identified online or doxed as Alex Zouzounis of Windsor.

In response to our questions about the investigation, Chief of Police Kevin Burke told Councilmember Naujokas in a July 2 email that Naujokas forwarded to us, “We are aware of social media claims by third parties who say they were told by witnesses that the trucks actually swerved at pedestrians, but no eyewitnesses are coming to us with that information, nor can we identify them through the social media postings. Some have also claimed to have video evidence, but then failed to follow through with providing that.”

There are several problems with this state-
GLOBAL WARNING #3: Overpopulation and Greenhouse Gases

From 1750 to 2020 the US has emitted 25% of total CO2, over the period beginning with the industrial revolution until now. This is much more than any other country historically. This is a function of population growth combined with wealth and industrialization, including massive transportation and military increases. The US military is the single greatest institutional GHG polluter on Earth. While carbon and other GHG emissions have grown exponentially along with population growth, African nations, especially majority poor ones, have high population growth by percentage but are very low emitters compared to rich and more industrialized nations. Japan is declining in population. (It takes a reproduction rate of 2.1 to maintain the human species.) As the British Empire declined, its GHG contribution grew less, from over half of the world’s carbon in 1882 to only 1% of world emissions today. The US Empire currently is at 15%, or 6.67 billion metric tons of CO2 equivalent in 2018 with only 4.2% of global population.

Americans need to drastically reduce consumption. Government and bank subsidies of oil drilling, fracking and refinement need to be phased out and environmental protections strengthened.

Barry Barnett

R

ecently global human population surpassed 7.8 billion (Worldometers.info), increasing at the remarkable rate of over 222,000 a day. China’s population is over 1.44 billion, with India’s more than 1.38 billion, expanding at 2.45 times China’s rate and estimated to catch up in 7 years. Those two nations comprise 35% of our human species. Human overpopulation, with our continuing industrial revolutions, is a force multiplier for all environmental problems on Earth. A quick calculation of per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by country shows that people who criticize China as the world’s greatest emitter of GHG (and it is, at 28% of nations’ emissions) fail to notice that the US produces 2½ times as much as China per person. And China, by the way, produces 2½ times that of India per capita.

Americans need to drastically reduce consumption. Government and bank subsidies of oil drilling, fracking and refinement need to be phased out and environmental protections strengthened.

Until recently, the US was the world’s biggest GHG emitter and it is the largest cumulative emitter in history. Greenhouse gases are cumulative, building up in the atmosphere and oceans over time and being released into space over decades (methane), centuries and millennia (carbon dioxide – 20% of CO2 lingers for thousands of years).

From 1750 to 2020 the US has emitted 25% of total CO2, over the period beginning with the industrial revolution until now. This is much more than any other country historically. This is a function of population growth combined with wealth and industrialization, including massive transportation and military increases. The US military is the single greatest institutional GHG polluter on Earth. While carbon and other GHG emissions have grown exponentially along with population growth, African nations, especially majority poor ones, have high population growth by percentage but are very low emitters compared to rich and more industrialized nations. Japan is declining in population. (It takes a reproduction rate of 2.1 to maintain the human species.) As the British Empire declined, its GHG contribution grew less, from over half of the world’s carbon in 1882 to only 1% of world emissions today. The US Empire currently is at 15%, or 6.67 billion metric tons of CO2 equivalent in 2018 with only 4.2% of global population.

While every country needs to have a GHG and an overall pollution reduction plan (and stick to it), top emitters like China, the US, the European Union, India and Russia, with a combined 65% of GHG production, must take the lead. The US Environmental ‘Destruction’ Agency needs to rebrand yet again and actually protect us. The US must not only rejoin the 197-member Paris Accords, but needs to collectively forge an international policy for climate and energy solutions.

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, health professional and musician living on the left coast of the US Empire. Follow him on Twitter, Patreon.com/BarryBarnett (free to read articles, satire, political fantasy stories and poetry). His email is barrymuse123@gmail.com.
Environmental Groups Oppose Senate Bill S.4431

From Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCoCAN!)

Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Steve Daines (R-MT) have co-authored a bill, S. 4431, the “Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020” which would increase wildfire risks to communities and ignore environmental laws.

Opposing organizations, including the Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Earthjustice, Natural Resources Defense Council and National Parks Conservation Association, collectively representing millions of Americans, are saying that rather than focusing on making our homes and communities safer, the bill would result in increased unregulated logging in areas far from communities.

Congress needs to directly support communities in hardening homes and creating defensible space, rather than spending hundreds of millions for increased logging efforts – which have exacerbated recent fires in the West in areas where clear-cutting and thinning operations have removed the largest, most fire-resistant trees.

S. 4431 is calling for more biomass energy production, which spews carbon dioxide and other toxic byproducts into the air by the ton. This bill completely ignores the value of forests as storehouses of carbon. Burning forest products in biomass plants is ineffective in protecting communities and forests during wildfire, is expensive while masquerading as clean energy, and relies on government subsidies, hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars, so fewer dollars are then available for making us safer.

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It is not a climate solution, will cause heavy increases in carbon released into the atmosphere and will drastically reduce the ability of forests to store and sequester carbon. The top fire scientists have shown us that we need to focus on defensible space and on creating and maintaining fire-safe homes.

This bill needs to be completely modified, focusing on protecting homes and communities.

The Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCoCAN!) is a strong and active network of 50+ local climate change groups and over 400 individuals working together to address and reverse climate change.

Vote With Your Wallet

Support Black, Native, People of Color and POC-Immigrant, Owned Restaurants and Businesses in Sonoma County (some Napa and Bay Area included)

Click on link to discover a list of businesses compiled by members of Racial Justice Allies

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hMZosjGfhnYADWrrz5yYzUNmDjn9jdKZqVzv2bMghsEU/edit#gid=0
“My country is shattered; utter the Arabic words: We see one Syrian boy, their new home – in Dutch countryside – being sensitively taught refugee children a documentary – In the moments after sleep no more.

I'd been waiting with dread that's been happening, More of the bombardment immediately following the film hovering constantly, of trauma and grief and a new way of speaking how can he focus on sums as he sits alone. I feel so sad.”

Is your garden ready? Water rates are going up! Heidi Fantacone Garden Consultation • Drip Irrigation Repair & Installation Qwell Certified • Reliable • Experienced Edibles • Perennials • Trees

Green Lemonade

Rebel Fagin

Understatement of the year: COVID19 has forced many businesses to redefine themselves, to pivot or sink. Nowhere is this more true than for Sonoma County based Green Mary.

For two decades Green Mary has reduced the climate change impact of events with zero-waste practices by greening public events around the San Francisco Bay Area. Currently there are no events, and public gatherings are unlikely for the rest of the year. Owner Mary Munat applied for and received the government’s Paycheck Protection Program loan and has used it to morph from working at public events to being of public service, keeping 15 staff and herself busy and contributing.

Munat and her staff have been working around the Bay Area with many organizations and area nonprofits since March. They have worked with Clean River Alliance paddling up our inland waterways to clean our inland waterways and riverbanks clear of debris using zero-waste methods. In normal times, Clean River Alliance welcomes volunteers, so if you are interested, go to www.cleanriveralliance.org. During the pandemic, things have ratcheted down a bit more.

Green Mary has expanded services to include food rescue and redistribution. Working with Sonoma Food Runners, they use their big, bright box truck to move food from resource centers to distribution centers such as the Sam Jones homeless shelter, St. Vincent de Paul’s kitchen, Los Guelicos Camp, COTS and more. If you want to get involved with this vital organization, go to www.sonomafoodrunners.org.

Green Mary’s crew are also working with the Berkeley Free Clinic to distribute water twice weekly to five homeless camps in Oakland and Berkeley for drinking and hand sanitizing stations. Now, with a truck-mounted water tank, Munat is tapping into other needed hydration services, from the water-starved elk in the Pt. Reyes National Seashore to firefighters and homeless camps. Keeping people hydrated without relying on single-use water bottles has long been a major thrust of this green business.

Currently a for-profit business, with their previously much-in-demand services paid for by special events and municipalities, Munat is now considering starting a non-profit division to continue the work that is so essential to people, organizations and the environment in the region. Mary stated, “When your primary purpose is to be of purpose, you find other ways to support and move ahead collectively. If you want us to work with your organization, visit the website www.GreenMary.com for our contact information.” Green Mary is living proof of the old adage, “When the world gives you lemons, you make lemonade.”
We Need to Hear

We need to hear
broken families’ cries
for Justice
and join them
because you know,
though it’s dangerous
to be Black in America,
we are All at risk
at the hands
and hearts
of hatred.

Joyce Higgins

Look Out!

Ah! the new monarch has settled in this town.
And look! He’s even wearing a crown.

He’s moved into the big house, he’s taken up lodging;
but, somehow he seems to be constantly dodging
firing off memos and executive orders;
does this knave really think he’ll secure this long border?

yes, walls can be built, to enclose those within
but, pray tell us, your highness, who’s committing this sin?

He waves his hands wildly, like some kind of magician,
Is he taking us back to a land of patricians?

He says,” bolster the garrison... yes... more ammunition
This monarch, so petulant, will he show no contrition!

“To restore greatness,” he says, “there’s nothing to fear,”
but his plans...have already fostered great tears.

He’s just run the table, his cards are all aces,
Now, see him cut lifelines; slam doors in dark faces.

Hey...wait now...wait...people are starting to shout.
And look! Now, the boy-king - he’s starting to pout.

With such arrogance, smugness and boorish behavior,
does he expect us to bow - does he think he’s our savior?

Does he not know as yet... of what is expected?
That far too many have been neglected!

And still, even now, he goes on with his tweets,
but we plan in the alleys, our voices loud in the streets.

The choking tear gas, the knee to our necks;
this is what we have come to expect?

From a man so tone-deaf, he cannot hear;
He soon will see... we, the people have no fear

So...now be advised... and now be forewarned,
that hell hath no fury as good people scorned!

Our message and vote...it is strong...it is sound,
“Look out... beware - We are taking you down!”

e.g. singer

God personified

If I were god
I would send bolts of lightning
to scorch the earth
and scare the living daylight
from the human species.

If I were god
I would send virus microbes
to infect the human body.
Prayers wouldn’t stop me
from purging human existence.

We ARE god
as Einstein understood
the workings of the cosmos.
Everything is related —
we are one with the universe.

We create the chaos;
We are responsible;
Ancient books are obsolete.
Time didn’t stand still
with misguided authors’ claims.

The planet which gave us birth
is still spinning in space
orbiting a life perpetuating star.
We live in community
of the micro and the macro —
God personified.

Attila Nagy
Assemblywoman Gonzalez has become one of the most influential legislators in California. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Lorena was a labor leader and organizer, serving as the first woman and first person of color to be elected CEO and Secretary-Treasurer for the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Ms. Gonzalez championed the Paid Sick Leave bill for CA; raised the minimum wage to $15; and was the main force behind Assembly Bill 5, a new law that allowed many contractors to become employees. POLITICO Magazine dubbed her one of its top 50 “thinkers, doers and visionaries transforming American politics” in 2016. Lorena is the first Latina in California history to Chair the Assembly Appropriations Committee. She is also Chairwoman of both the Select Committee on Women in the Workplace and the Chair of the Latino Caucus.

Workers Rising to Lead a Movement!

Join us on Zoom with Dinner!

Our event will support two local women through the sales of a tamale dinner. Order by Friday, October 9 to reserve your meal (vegetarian option). For more information call: 707-293-2863

Registration: This event will be on Zoom. Tickets $15-25, can be purchased by Oct. 14 at NorthBayJobswithJustice.org or send a check to P.O. Box 427, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Our 2020 Awardees

Assemblywoman Gonzalez has become one of the most influential legislators in California. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Lorena was a labor leader and organizer, serving as the first woman and first person of color to be elected CEO and Secretary-Treasurer for the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

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Our 2020 Awardees

Alianza de Mujeres Activas y Solidarias (ALMAS) of the Graton Day Labor Center

Carmen Amavisca, Environmental Services, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. Union Steward, NUHW

Healthcare Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment (H-PEACE)
Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

350 Sonoma County – Engaging our community in the work of 350.org to solve the climate crisis. 350sonomacounty.org

ACLU Sonoma Co., working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. Meets each second Monday. Contact patriciamoran@bscbglobal.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

Contra VIDA – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, cirsc@yahoo.com.

Daily Acts – Offers sustainable solutions rooted in the power of inspired daily actions. 789-9664, dailyacts.org

Fukushima Response – works to inform about the Fukushima melt downs, monitor the consequences, advocate for the shut down of Diablo Canyon. fukushima.org.

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreenparty.org

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

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

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

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

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

Indivisible Groups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.org

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

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Windsor

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

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

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

Metta Center for Nonviolence – Works to promote nonviolence 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 ober vances 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: northbayjobs- siwthjustice@gmail.com, Website: northbayjobswithjustice. org, Facebook, North Bay Jobs With Justice. Ph: 346-1187

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

North Coast Coalition for Palestine – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 725-8902. www.rccpal.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. 877-6600, OccupySonomaCounty.org

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

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

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

Petaluma Blacks for Community Development – facebook.com/pb4cd

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

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

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

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

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

Sonoma County Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP). In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925. snold@gjuno.com. www.pnphpca.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. sonomacountypeace.org

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org


Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. audreywh@bscbglobal.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

Women's Justice Center

Veterans for Peace

United Nations Association

Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

ALL PHONE AREA CODES ARE (707) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

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

Democracy is NOT a spectator sport!
No meetings will be held at the Peace & Justice Center until further notice.

To receive the PJC weekly email calendar, call 575-8902

Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County
467 Sebastopol Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 575-8902
peacentr@sonic.net
PJCsono.org
TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO CURRENT PANDEMIC

Join the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County
467 Sebastopol Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 • (707) 575-8902 • PJCsono.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 PJCsono.org for activities and hours.