

Peace Press

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Community activists stand by revised mural in Roseland.
 Left to right: Alicia Roman, Concepcion Dominguez Galvan, Elaine Holtz, Evelina Molina, Ana Salgado and Kathleen Finigan

Celebrating
RESISTANCE

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See Membership form on back cover

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Deadline: Wed., Nov. 1

Email articles in MSWord to eszter@sonic.net. Word length: 500-600 words

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, and word count. 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.

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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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We have an ongoing need for volunteers to help with the editorial collective, collating, distribution, and other needs. To get involved, please call 707-823-9203

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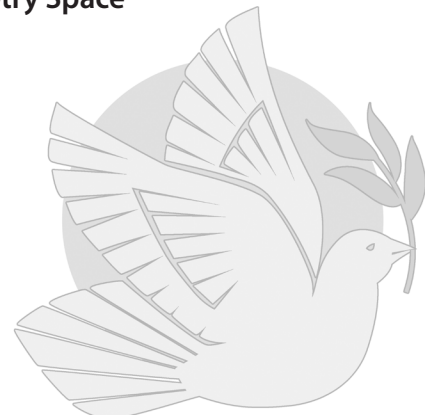
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GETTING CENTERED

Living Life to the Fullest

Shekeyna Black

Autumn is here, the official end-of-the-year and a time for harvest. I hope many of you got to enjoy the Peace & Justice Center's 2nd Annual Concert in the Hub on September 9 in La Plaza Park, Cotati. I was unable to attend, despite months of planning, because my Mother, Molly Black, passed away unexpectedly earlier that week. The time since has been a whirlwind both emotionally and logistically.

My Mother was the unwavering rock for our family's foundation. She turned 80 this summer and her greatest wish was to have her family join her to celebrate this momentous occasion. We had a wonderful time together in the beautiful California Sierra's, spending time in

Bristlecone pine live for 5,000 years, and to coexist with this species at this tumultuous time, is our inheritance as a people of the earth.

Mammoth Lakes, my family's favorite place. My Mom lived life to the fullest until the very end. Her last cognitive moments were sitting next to my Dad in her favorite chair in their condo in Mammoth. She had to be airlifted to Reno due to complications from cancer. She passed away peacefully in the hospital surrounded by her family on Labor Day.

My family went back to Mammoth for closure and a private service. I drove back to southern Nevada with my Dad, to my parents' home, to help him adjust to life without my Mom after 53 years of marriage. It is with great appreciation that I thank the Board of Direc-

tors of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County for stepping in to ensure that the Concert in the Hub happened and for covering my shifts at the PJC during my absence so I could have time to grieve my Mother and help my Father.

Celebrating Resistance is the theme of our Annual Awards Event and Fundraiser Dinner. The special event takes place on October 21 at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. We invite you to enjoy exceptional food, dancing, beer & wine, silent auction, great company, awards ceremony and live music by French Oak Gypsy Band. A delicious dinner by Sam's Mediterranean Deli is included in the price. Advance Tickets are required and are available online at peaceandjusticeawards.brownpapertickets.com. Tickets are \$45 each or \$80 for a pair. To order tickets by check, simply mail or drop-off your payment to the Peace & Justice Center at 467 Sebastopol Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Getting Centered during this life-changing transition is vital. Death serves as a messenger reminding us to let go and trust and to stay present in each cherished moment. My Mother taught elementary school for 37 years and because of her, I have the utmost respect for teachers. Mom loved to travel and my siblings and I were blessed to be the recipients of her vast knowledge during every trip. She made sure, for example, that we knew about the bristlecone pine tree.

I was saddened to read in the September 14, *Press Democrat*, "The bristlecone pine tree, famous for its wind-beaten, gnarly limbs and having the longest lifespan on Earth, is losing a race to the top of mountains throughout the Western United States, putting future generations in peril, researchers said." Traditionally, when someone dies they leave a legacy and the descendants receive an inheritance. Bristlecone pine live for 5,000 years, and to coexist with this species at this tumultuous time, is our inheritance as a people of the earth. What legacy will be ours? 🌲

Witness, Accompany, Advocate

Join the North Bay Rapid Response Network

Do you want to support those who are vulnerable to immigrant raids and warrantless searches?

We are working to create a way for people to respond to fear and anxiety in our community as a result of an increase in immigration enforcement, ICE raids and other attacks against our communities.

Join the North Bay Rapid Response Network Sonoma County as a Legal Observer – someone trained to document what's going on at the scene of an ICE raid. You don't interfere or intervene – you collect information that could be crucial later if someone's rights were violated.

The network currently consists of the Napa County Rapid Response Network and the following 14 organizations in Sonoma County:

- Corazon Healdsburg

- Community Action Coalition
- Interfaith Council and Of One Soul
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Peace and Social Justice Ministry
- Allies Safety Network
- Healdsburg Indivisible
- Sonoma Valley Action Coalition
- La Luz
- VIDAS: Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services
- North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP – 21 member institutions)
- Petaluma Rapid Response Network
- The Graton Day Labor Center/ Centro Laboral de Graton
- North Bay Jobs with Justice (17 member institutions)
- SURJ – Showing UP for Racial Justice

Check out the Facebook page for a list of current training dates and locations: www.facebook.com/NorthBayRapidResponse/

A second avenue of solidarity has formed and is part of the Rapid Response Network. Accompaniment teams have formed around the county. Accompaniment is a long-term commitment to be present for the victims. Teams work to support the victims with presence to their needs – rides, connecting to social services, food, making appointments, housing, etc. They also work to organize public actions to support their case, to connect them to the movement to tell the stories, as well as to go with them to court hearings and other legal proceedings.

For more information, contact: sshaw@northbayop.org or 707-481-2970

What is Indivisible?

Thea Hartman

After the election last November I was alarmed and wanted to take action, but didn't know what to do. People I knew, including liberal family and friends, didn't see much reason for alarm, so I turned to my friends on Facebook, and at least got some validation and comfort from people who shared my concerns. As I scrawled through the news feed, I came across a very rough document posted by some young Democratic Congressional Aids. (It was later posted online in a more polished version.) Their post described how a few people in a small populist organization were successful at getting Democratic and moderate Republican members of Congress to move to the right in their policies and legislative votes. That group was the Tea Party. The document was the Indivisible Guide. The message is that people on the left would do well to adopt some of the tactics used by the right to fight back. I downloaded it, filed it and wrote in the comments, "This is very important."

The tactics described are:

1. Coordinated calls to members of Congress to ask them to vote in the way you would like them to vote.
2. Face to face interactions with members of Congress at Town Halls.
3. Interacting with members of Congress at other scheduled local events, and
4. Visiting members of Congress and their staff at their offices.

Up until Indivisible Groups started to form and take action, Congress members got very few calls or visits from their Progressive and Democratic constituents. According to the framers of the Indivisible Guide, direct messages from constituents are what influences Congress. Marches and petitions influence them less. The Tea Party was successful in moving most Congress people to the right. People following the Indivisible Guide have been successful in moving many Congress members to the left, encouraging and getting moderate Republicans to vote against their party and Democratic members to become more progressive. It is a powerful movement.

Indivisible is really a grassroots movement. At first, the only way to be part of Indivisible was to start your own group. There was no national organization other than a small group of volunteers publishing online. I couldn't find a group in Santa Rosa (not realizing that Indivisible Sonoma County was in Santa Rosa) so I started one. Each Indivisible Group was and remains its own entity with its own rules and

priorities. Some were and are more progressive than others. Some address local and state politics, others just work with national issues. Our group and the local groups I know about have been completely nonpartisan. Many members of Indivisible Groups are new to political activism. In our group, we vote on our priorities and on our mission.

The Indivisible Guide was meant only as a tool but there have been many requests for guidance and coordination, so there are regional, statewide and national leadership cohorts who communicate by phone, online and in person. The Indivisible Project is now a national nonprofit. Their mission statement reads: "Our mission is to cultivate and lift up a grassroots movement of local groups to defeat the Trump agenda, elect progressive leaders and realize bold progressive policies. Across the nation, over 6,000 local groups (at least 2 in every congressional district) are using the Indivisible Guide to hold their members of Congress accountable."

Each Indivisible Group is unique. The one I started is very small by design. Others are huge,

with 2,000 members or more. Several members of our group are also members of Indivisible Sonoma County. Within our county there are at least six Indivisible Groups. They are in Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Petaluma, Windsor and Healdsburg. Indivisible also partners with many other progressive groups including Democratic Socialists of America, the Women's March, Working Families Party, Greenpeace, Organizing for Action, The National Immigration Law Center, Color of Change, CREDO, SEIU, Friends of the Earth and Jobs With Justice. There are at least 94 partner organizations. These groups work together to identify specific campaigns related to the Trump agenda, such as the repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act, which has been quite successfully prevented from making progress due to solidarity among these groups and use of the tactics found in the Indivisible Guide.

An upcoming campaign is "Not One Penny" which will resist the Trump Administration's Tax "Reform" Bill that aims to cut taxes for the wealthy and for corporations. We will be successful! 🙌

Seven Ways We Are Losing Free Democratic Elections

Thea Hartman

As anticipated, the Trump administration has been toxic. Timothy Snyder, in his book *On Tyranny*, warned that if we learn the historical lessons of the twentieth century, we will understand it takes only a year or two for a democracy to transition to a totalitarian system once an authoritarian leader has been elected. Fresh on the heels of a victory for participatory democracy – the apparent failure of the Senate health care bill – as I write, steps have been taken to further threaten our already compromised electoral process. The so-called "Electoral Integrity Commission" is a move toward extensive voter suppression. The move toward tyranny is right on track.

We never had a strictly democratic vote because of our form of government. The electoral college was put in place because the founders didn't trust the popular vote. A democratic election of the president was not on the table when the Constitution was written. The electoral college does play a part in the way the popular vote has been manipulated. Areas in which the vote was very close were targeted via ads and social media. A few votes in small areas could

and did throw all of a state's electoral votes in one direction.

Number two is gerrymandering. This has been with us since 1812. It is the practice of redrawing districts to favor a particular political party. Although employed for most of the history of our democracy, it has changed in recent years. Computer technology has made it possible to redistrict with mathematical precision, turning majorities in two districts to minorities in several districts and a majority in none. This affects the makeup of Congress as is evidenced by the huge Republican majority we have now.

Voter suppression, third in my list, is nothing new. The Constitution says nothing about who may vote. When it was written, only white male landowners were allowed to vote. Years later, amendments specifically gave the vote to African-Americans, women, and young people. No amendment mentions voting rights for Native Americans or other non-white citizens. Now voter suppression continues in many guises. After Reconstruction, African-American rights to vote were circumvented by Jim Crow laws, poll taxes, and literacy tests. Native Americans

Seven Ways We Are Losing...see page 7

Celebrate Resistance

AT THE PJC ANNUAL AWARDS COMMUNITY DINNER & FUNDRAISER

Sat. Oct. 21

Please come join the community's Annual Peace & Justice Awards and Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 21, 5 pm. Enjoy socializing, the wine and beer bar, the silent auction, and delicious food from Sam's Mediterranean Deli. Dance to the French Oak Gypsy Band. Tickets are \$45 each; \$80 for two people. Please look at the flyer in this issue for more details. The theme is 'Celebrating Resistance'. The awardees are:

Peace & Justice Award: Alicia Roman

Alicia Roman was born and raised in Santa Rosa. She graduated from Piner High School, obtained an A.A. degree in Law Enforcement and an A.S., from Santa Rosa Junior College. Ms. Roman also obtained her B.A. from CSU Sacramento and a Juris Doctorate degree from Empire College. Currently, Ms. Roman is an attorney in Santa Rosa focusing on tenant rights, civil rights, and personal injury matters. She is also on the Board of KBBF Bilingual Radio Station.

Ms. Roman is an activist for social justice in the community, including providing Know Your Rights Training for immigrants. For several years she has observed police activity on the streets and at protests, in hopes of deterring police misconduct and to ensure police do not violate the constitutional rights of protestors. She also represents clients suing the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, Santa Rosa Police Department, and Sebastopol Police Department concerning the seizure of vehicles.

Russ & Mary Jorgensen Courage of Commitment Award: Ana Salgado

Ana Salgado is from Morelos, Mexico and has been living in Sonoma County for the past 25 years. She is married and is mother of three children. Ana seems to appear everywhere injustice is perpetrated. Among other issues, she has been consistent in keeping the memory of Andy Lopez (the 13 year old boy who was shot down by Sheriff deputy Gelhaus) in the public's consciousness. Although establishment authorities tell the community that we must move on, Ana continues to speak out on behalf of Andy's parents and was active with the community to establish the Andy Lopez Unity Park in the Moorland neighborhood where Andy was killed.

Ms. Salgado is not shy when it comes to educating the dominant culture about being inclusive and sensitive to the needs of the Latino population. Sometimes she is the lone voice to speak up and remind people at group meetings, at the City Council, at the Board of Supervisors, to be cognizant of the diverse population in the County and that we must work together. When the Andy Lopez memorial mural was first unveiled, she voiced her opposition to the inclusion of a sheriff deputy in one of the panels because the Sheriff never apologized to Andy's parents. The artist changed the mural. Ana is also an organizer with the Rapid Response Network, a community hotline response to ICE raids.

Unsung Hero Award: Yes on Measure C, Rent Control Campaign

The Measure C campaign began two years ago in response to negligent Landlords' treatment of low-income Latino tenants on Hoen Ave. The tenants had complained on multiple occasions about mold and poor living conditions, in response the landlords doubled the rent, then served them with eviction notices. Advocates like David Grabill, Edie Sussman, and Davin Cardenas helped to defend the tenants and publicize their story. It became apparent that there was a pattern across the city, of landlords taking advantage of tenants, and evicting long-term residents without just cause.

Santa Rosa City Council woman Julie Combs, in partnership with community groups and attorneys, began a campaign to pass a rent control and just-cause eviction ordinance in Santa Rosa. As the ordinance began to be implemented, big real estate interests and the California apartment association funded a misleading petition campaign to put the ordinance on the ballot. Signature gatherers were paid five dollars per signature to secure the necessary petitions. In some cases the gatherers lied to residents, telling them that this was a 'pro rent control petition.'

There are now hundreds of complaints on file with the county registrar. Julie Combs was instrumental in navigating this process, and promoting fairness/objectivity in this flawed electoral process. The opposition to rent control spend \$1 million to defeat the ballot measure in June 2017, four times the amount ever spent in a local election, and measure C lost by only 700 votes.

Community Organization Award: Indivisible Groups in Sonoma County

The Indivisible Guide is a national step-by-step guide for individuals, groups, and organizations looking to replicate the Tea Party's success in getting Congress to listen to a small, vocal, dedicated group of constituents. Local groups are organized in Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Petaluma, Windsor and Healdsburg. Many involved are first time activists.

"Our mission is to cultivate and lift up a grassroots movement of local groups to defeat the Trump agenda, elect progressive leaders and realize bold progressive policies. Across the nation, over 6,000 local groups (at least 2 in every congressional district) are using the Indivisible Guide to hold their members of Congress accountable. The guide is intended to be equally useful for stiffening Democratic spines and weakening pro-Trump Republican resolve. We believe that the next four years depend on Americans across the country standing indivisible against the Trump agenda. We believe that buying into false promises or accepting partial concessions will only further empower Trump to victimize our neighbors and us. We hope that this guide will provide those who share that belief with useful tools to make Congress listen." (indivisibleguide.com)

One, Two, Three States Yer Out

Rebel Fagin

Israel's total occupation of Palestine began fifty years ago following the Six-Day War. Under international law, occupying forces aren't to build permanent structures on occupied land. But by 2008, 465,000 Israelis lived in the West Bank on strategically-placed hilltop settlements. These are middle class, Jewish-

*A lasting solution
requires justice.
Only then will
peace prevail.*

only neighborhoods where settlers commute on Jewish-only roads.

Today over 600,000 Israelis squat illegally in these settlements; 400,000 in the West Bank and 200,000 in East Jerusalem. East Jerusalem is the legally designated capital of Palestine. Since last year there has been a 70% increase in settlement construction, much of which surrounds East Jerusalem or threatens Palestinian towns like Ramada, Hebron and Bethlehem.

According to the World Health Organization, Gaza – where two million people live in 141 square miles – has become unlivable. Electric-

ity is available in spurts of two to four hours a day. When the electricity shuts down, so do dialysis machines and automatic respiratory systems.

65% of the population is unemployed. Youth unemployment is at a dangerous 60%. 85% of the inhabitants rely on the U.N. and others for food rations. All the borders in and out of Gaza are controlled by Israel. Israel decided that 2,279 calories per person per day was enough to keep people alive, so that's what they allow in. This equals 170.4 truckloads per day, five days a week. After breakage and other spills, that shakes down to 131 truckloads per day, less than what people need to survive.

During Operation Cast Lead (2008-2009), Israel bombed Gaza's only sewage treatment plant. Today raw sewage flows into the sea. Fishermen in Gaza have a six mile range in polluted waters. Due to intermittent electricity, the desalination plant isn't working. Even the drinking water is untreated and undrinkable.

These excesses in cruelty began eleven years ago when the people of Gaza democratically elected Hamas. Israel and the US freaked out because they'd elected the wrong government! They needed to be punished and hell got hotter. When Palestinians exercise their legal right to resist occupation, the US press calls it terrorism.

Israel has rejected a one-state solution; democracies where all citizens enjoy equal civil

rights. You can't do that and be a theocratic state where one group is "better" than the others. A legal two-state solution would require Israelis in the occupied West Bank to leave and go back to Israel. That's not very likely.

Now Israel is proposing the three-state solution. A three state solution would move Israel's border with Egypt a few hundred meters northward along a strip of land hundreds of kilometers long. In exchange, Egypt would give a strip of land along their eastern border and extend Gaza. Israel would build more settlements in the West Bank, then give some of the occupied West Bank land in the north to Jordan. Jordan would transfer the land to Palestine. Simple right? Israel could live as an apartheid state and Palestine would no longer be a problem.

There are a couple of problems with this plan. No one asked King Abdullah II of Jordan what he thinks. The last Egyptian president to comment on it, Mubarak, said that Egypt wouldn't forfeit one grain of sand from the Sinai Peninsula and no one asked the Palestinians. No, this three-state solution only works for Israel and the USA in an alternative reality called Planet Peace Process. A lasting solution requires justice. Only then will peace prevail.

Sources: Peacenow; AlJazeera.org, 6/6/17, 6/19/17; Democracy Now, 7/19/17; Haaretz, 10/17/12; Electronic Intifada, 7/20/17; Al-Monitor, 2/20/17. Read more at gml.org. ☘

Films about Palestine/Israel Oct. 12, 7PM at the PJC

467 Sebastopol Ave. Santa Rosa

Four short films on the origin and history of the conflict in Palestine/Israel and the ongoing Occupation with its devastating effect on the Palestinian population.

Free public showing.
Discussion and refreshments.

Sabeel Conference Coming to Santa Rosa, Dec. 1-2

If you care about justice and peace, and reading this is a sure sign you do, and if you are looking for an opportunity to get first hand information about life in Palestine, and if you want to hear experts discuss the most current thinking when it comes to relations between Israel and Palestine, then come to this conference.

No matter how much or how little you already know, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to learn and get involved in justice and peace initiatives.

The theme of the conference is: Challenging Oppression: Working for Justice from Palestine to the USA.

There will be Christian, Muslim, Jewish and secular speakers from as far away as Gaza and as near as Sonoma County speaking on struggle, solidarity, and hope across identities and borders. There will be resources to take back

to your community, to empower justice work. There will be food, music and networking.

Conference will be held at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church hall at 320 10th Street, Santa Rosa. For more information go to fosna.org (Friends of Sabeel North America)

Online registration will be available on October 1, 2017.

What is fosna? Friends of Sabeel North America is a nonprofit, tax-exempt Christian ecumenical organization seeking justice and peace in the Holy Land through nonviolent advocacy and education. Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians, who seek a just peace as defined by international law and existing United Nations resolutions.

Local contact: therese4peace@gmail.com
Bay area: john.erickson@fosna.org ☘

So. Co. Climate Change Activists Summit

Occupy Sonoma County

Climate change and global warming has seeded many groups to focus on this issue here in Sonoma County. On July 31 Occupy Sonoma County hosted a gathering of local climate change activists at the Peace & Justice Center. This event was co-sponsored by 350Sonoma. The purpose of this summit was to introduce ourselves and our various climate change campaigns to one another for a cross-fertilization of groups and individuals. Over 70 people representing 25 local climate change organizations attended.

The first hour was spent getting to know each other socially at a potluck. We spent the next two hours introducing ourselves and the climate protection campaigns we are engaged in. Each group was given five minutes and then individual climate activists were given one minute to talk about their efforts. It was exciting to see all the climate change groups come together and learn what each group is doing and create a stronger connection. Everybody was excited about being there.

Many of the groups, such as Sierra Club Sonoma, Transition Sonoma Valley, the Lite Initiative, the Climate Change Disaster Campaign, the Center for Climate Protection and Sonoma County Conservation Action have campaigns focused on influencing governments to take immediate, decisive action. Democratic Socialists

North Bay, Sonoma County Citizens Climate Lobby, 350 Sonoma, Fossil Free California and Friends of Public Banking are using economic pressure, primarily for divestment from fossil fuel companies. North Bay Jobs with Justice, an umbrella group of 18 organizations, is working with the Teamsters to ensure quality waste management that is socially responsible and environmentally sustainable with safety and union benefits for workers. Zero Waste and Green Mary were there to address waste diversion as a method for reducing greenhouse gases.

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers, the Compost Coalition and Northern California Earth Institute concentrate their efforts on sustainable farming and soil management while the Regional Climate Protection Authority and Sonoma County Transportation Authority are government agencies that deal with local transportation issues. The Center for Climate Protection is working on Sonoma Clean Power. Daily Acts teaches hands-on skills for sustainable practices such as gray water systems and lawn conversion. Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock supports public banking and is raising funds for legal issues including the defense of water protectors and lawsuits to force divestments. The Green Party has been about protecting the environment since its inception. Occupy Sonoma County talked about their GMO campaign, their Earth

Action listserv and unveiled their Climate Change Declaration.

Local students spoke, including a Sonoma State University student, three students from Santa Rosa Junior College who are forming an Environmental Club and a freshman from Analy High School who has formed Schools for Climate Action. The Sonoma County Non-violent Training Collective, Sonoma Climate Coalition and Climate Mobilization were also present. This is only a small summary. Every group is also involved in educating the public and empowering folks to take action.

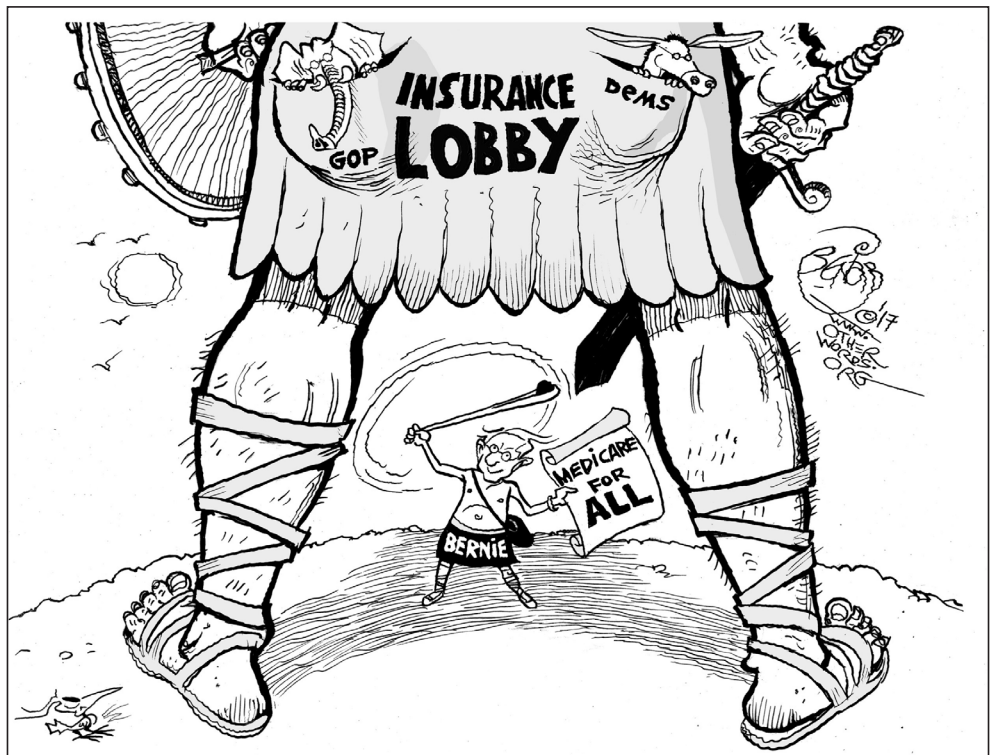
The meeting was the beginning of taking county-wide collaboration to a whole new level. When one of the summit organizers asked for interest in having follow up meetings almost every hand went up. We ended the evening with a plan to meet on the 5th Monday with a next meeting planned for October 30 at 7 pm at the Peace & Justice Center. All Sonoma County climate change groups and individuals are encouraged to attend.

A growing energy is building in the community so that we can be effective. Climate change is bigger than all of us unless we work together. ☘
The Occupy Sonoma County Earth Action Campaign meets on the 3rd Monday at 7 pm every month. Next meetings are October 16 and November 20 at the Peace & Justice Center. There will be no meeting in December. For more information go to OccupySonomaCounty.org or call 707-877-6650.

Killing Them Safely Film About the Taser Controversy

In response to the killing of Branch Wroth by a Rohnert Park officer with a taser (detailed in the Aug/Sept issue of the *Peace Press*), the Police Brutality Coalition has been screening the movie "Killing Them Safely." The hope is to influence law enforcement agencies in Sonoma County to restrict the use of tasers – now classified as a lethal weapon. The movie will be shown at the **Peace & Justice Center on Thursday, October 26 at 6:30.**

Controversy has erupted over the safety and impact of the weapons, as by 2008 more than 300 people had died as a result of tasers and their effectiveness was found to cause officers to use them with less and less restraint. "Killing Them Safely" provides a behind-the-scenes look at one of America's most fascinating and controversial corporations, bringing the Smith brothers' revolutionary decisions into the open and asking if in the realm of law enforcement the ends truly justify the means. ☘



Valuing Life and Activism

On August 27, Susan Lamont's name was inscribed on Sebastopol's Living Peace Wall. Here is a condensed version of her acceptance remarks:

I want to thank Michael Gillotti for his dream of a Living Peace Wall and Bill Simon and Veterans For Peace for nominating me. It's an honor to join the other names on this wall.

We all come to our activism differently. For most of my life, I was a sporadic activist. I protested the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, boycotted grapes, wrote letters to the editor, but never was consistent. That changed with September 11. I had recognized American Exceptionalism, but when I saw how strongly people believed that US deaths were more tragic than a Nigerian, Ecuadorian or Palestinian death, something snapped in me.

The Peace & Justice Center began weekly vigils for peace, first for Afghanistan and then

Iraq. Once a man screamed at us, "Don't you understand? They want to kill us!" I responded, "Don't you realize how many people the United States has killed?" He yelled, "I don't care about them."

Then I knew what I wanted to do. With help from fellow activists – I want to acknowledge Harry Hagaman – I created a wall of doors, which would honor those around the world who die daily in politically and religiously inspired violence. This wall honored everyone – civilians, military, even suicide bombers and "terrorists." Those who employ violence are as much the victims of its power as are the innocent.

The wall began with the names of those who died on 9/11, including the alleged terrorists. Over six months, I collected more than 10,000 names simply from the newspaper. Sometimes I found names or just a body count. An entry might read "Anonymous child, Kashmir,

10/2/02" or "Muzafar Avazov, Columbia, 8/7/02." Anonymous victims are as important as Americans who died in the towers. I wrote, "The names on this wall are a fraction of those who have died in political and religious violence around the world beginning on September 11, 2001. Some we know by name – we can call up their faces and read about their lives. Others are anonymous to us, but not to their loved ones. They are missed in their countries, just as those who perished on September 11 are missed in ours."

One day, a woman pointed to an entry and asked, "What happened on this day in the Philippines?" I couldn't remember. We realized that Americans expect the world to remember September 11th, but we don't remember those who die every day or why.

I now work around issues of law enforcement brutality. I began with the killing of Andy Lopez, though others worked on this years before I did. Andy and his family were not people I knew, but in my heart Andy joined all those names on that wall. And now Branch Wroth, son of my dear friends Marni and Chris Wroth, has been killed by an officer using a taser. Law enforcement is founded on violence as a solution. When we should be finding real solutions to problems, Sonoma County instead spends 50% of its budget controlling the people it fears – often for no reason. If we're going to have law enforcement, couldn't it at least protect us from the comfortable instead of protecting the comfortable from us?

With racists and neo-Nazis in the streets, I hope people remember that those who advocate for violent solutions are also victims of those solutions. It's difficult to evoke sympathy for people in uniforms carrying guns or white men in khakis carrying tiki torches, but if we don't find ways to understand the fears that drive them and emerge as anger against innocent people, we'll just be pushing that anger underground to emerge at a later date. We must meet them where they are, not where we want them to be. If real needs, physical and emotional, are met, there is less room for false needs to grow. I'm not a person who can love my enemy, but it behooves us to figure this out.

I got some flack for including perpetrators on my wall and I may get some for saying understand neo-Nazis or law enforcement (I'm thinking of the followers here, not so much the leaders). But the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights says "All human beings are born equal in dignity and rights." I hope we can work on this together. Thank you. 🌱

Remaining in Solidarity with Standing Rock

Houi-An Truong

On Sept. 24, 2017, we at Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock celebrated our one-year anniversary. But is it over for Standing Rock now that the camps are gone? The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) still threatens current and future generations at Standing Rock, and the 17 million people downstream of where the DAPL crosses the Missouri River. The Dakota Access Pipeline and the entire fossil fuel industry threaten life on our planet by accelerating climate change. The camps are gone, but the water protectors continue to inspire Standing Rock-style fossil fuel resistance the world over.

Our group Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock has come a long way, from that first meeting of about 30 people concerned about Standing Rock a year ago, to supporting protests against and divestment from DAPL investors Citibank, Wells Fargo, Chase and SPO Partners in Santa Rosa, Marin and San Francisco, culminating in a vigil and silent march ending in front of Citibank on Dec. 4, 2016 in solidarity with the 2000 veterans who converged at Standing Rock to act as a human shield for the water protectors. 500-600 people joined our solidarity march on short notice. We have raised money for the legal defense of

water protectors and for Lakota People's Law Project. We've been interviewed for radio and newspapers, we've written articles and given presentations.

Native American leaders and organizations continue to urge divestment from fossil fuels, and we continue to call people to action. In March, we started a divestment team which works on both individual and institutional divestment. Our divestment team has joined forces with Public Bank Santa Rosa to urge the City of Santa Rosa to start a public bank (www.sonomasolidarity.org), which will reap tremendous local benefits, including funding the transition to clean energy locally.

Lakota People's Law Project is calling people to action to support a petition to drop charges against the water protectors who have inspired us all. Now that the water protectors have inspired us to action all over the world, we cannot abandon them to the tender mercies of the State of North Dakota's courts (www.lakotalaw.org/our-campaigns/native-justice). We have to transition away from deadly fossil fuels to a clean energy future. We have work to do, and there are some great opportunities ahead of us. 🌱

What Da Ya Mean, Greenin'?

Rebel Fagin

Greening is a process for diverting waste away from the landfill (dump) as much as possible and into compost, recycling and repurposing. You will find Greeners at foot races, concerts, festivals and other public events. Greening is front line climate change push back.

70% of all waste that goes into our landfills is organic waste. Organic waste releases methane and other greenhouse gases as it decomposes. When we compost it right, these gases can be converted into biofuel that can be used to run public buses. This is a double win for the climate. Not only has compost been prevented from releasing methane into the atmosphere, but municipal bus companies don't have to buy gas from the fossil fuel companies, leaving that gas in the ground where it belongs. We can compost anything that has been alive since the meteor wiped out the dinosaurs. This means food waste, paper and cardboard. You can also recycle dry cardboard, dry paper and metals. It doesn't mean diapers, sanitary napkins or treated wood. Cigarette butts are a huge problem. They can turn methane-heavy

compost into landfill. All tobacco products must go into the landfill.

Recycling at public events comes down mostly to plastics. Recycled plastics come back as decking, recycling containers, furniture and other useful objects. Plastic is made from oil. People kill for oil. The more we reuse plastic, the more oil can stay in the ground where it belongs. Don't recycle little plastic utensils for they get caught up in the machinery at the final stage of recycling and cost the companies thousands of dollars when they have to shut down the machines to remove them. Compostable utensils made from bamboo, corn and potatoes can replace these. Better yet, bring your own utensils. It can become a habit, like bringing your bags with you when you go shopping. Broken glass, jagged metal, treated wood, cigarette butts, diapers and incandescent light bulbs all go in the landfill. Florescent bulbs need to be set aside as toxic waste.

Repurposing gives items a second life. Hangers, clothes, pallets and sterno cans can all be repurposed. Sterno fuel is toxic waste and needs to be disposed of as such.

Greeners both sort materials and help cel-

ebrants understand what goes where and why. This is called eco-education; the impacts of which are phenomenal and show what humans are capable of with a minimal amount of effort. Here are the results from one event in San Francisco earlier this year. The diversion report showed that 1,668 pounds of garbage had been produced. 700 pounds were composted, 700 pounds were recycled, 208 pounds were repurposed and 60 pounds of waste went to the landfill.

In Sonoma County we currently have a deficit in our capacity to be proper earth stewards. Unlike the immediate Bay Area, we have no composting facility. Oakland and San Francisco have laws requiring promoters of large events to Green them. While events here ranging from the Human Race to the Railroad Square Hootenanny do employ Greeners, it isn't required. We need this law so that even events like Iron Man have to be part of the solution. With Recology as our waste diversion company this seems quite possible. We need to eco-educate and divert garbage as one form of climate change push back. Read more at gcml.org. 🌱

Seven Ways We Are Losing... from page 2

were denied the vote in many states into the mid-twentieth century. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was partly struck down in 2013, a factor in the 2016 election. A subtle form of voter suppression happens when people doubt their vote counts, so don't vote.

Number four: Corporate money and dark money in campaign funding are steadily growing factors in national elections. In 2010, "Citizens United" overturned a 2002 law and century-old precedent that did not allow political contributions from corporations. Since then, campaign spending has increased many times over; allowing extravagant, vicious media campaigns. The resulting power imbalance leads to voter discouragement, but in fact, the only thing that equals the power of money in determining the behavior of politicians is concern over losing votes. Having money to fund a campaign is important only in order to amass votes. The power of the vote is tremendous.

Fifth is cyber tampering. Apparently, this was undertaken in 2016 both by the Trump campaign and by foreign artificial intelligence experts. There is growing evidence they may have worked together. This was done partly through websites and social media. The idea was to get people to vote for Trump, or to vote for a third party, or just not to vote. There is no

doubt in my mind that there will be more use of artificial intelligence to pinpoint voters in specific areas in coming elections.

The sixth thing is Donald Trump's so-called "Election Integrity Commission." Based on his bombastic, inane assertion that the 2016 elections were "rigged," this commission is demanding voter-roll information from every state. Some states are not complying, others are complying only in part, so there has been push-back by state governments. However, the states don't have to comply. Many people have de-registered as voters to keep the government from obtaining their personal information. This commission is a move toward wholesale voter suppression.

Finally, something that *could* happen in this climate: A recent poll by *The Washington Post* shows that 52% of Republican voters would support postponement of the 2020 election until the government can make sure only eligible voters can vote. This refers to the above-mentioned commission, which is ostensibly investigating voter fraud. More Republicans (56%) would approve postponement if members of Congress also supported the move. Postponing elections is a common tactic of dictators. Eliminating the vote, even "temporarily," would be a radical and dangerous route for our country. The movement away from democracy is gaining momentum. 🌱

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Poetry Space

Little Boy for Donald Trump

by Clare Morris

When you speak, I hear
the child in you demand:

Make me a golden crown
Bring me a spotless mirror
Tell me I an the smartest
richest, most powerful
king ever. You like me
- don't you? Don't You?
Answer me.

What is the story
of the sorrow I hear behind
the wall of your bravado?
Did no one welcome your birth?
Did no one notice the
miracle of you?

In your man's body, you are
a boy-child who fears
he will fail, who was not seen
or heard, whose gifts were
greeted with disdain.

I hold in my arms
the newborn you once were.
I want you to be cherished,
not for being the wealthiest,
cleverest winner,
but for the wholly human
you were created to become.

Charlottesville

by Laure Reichel

Suddenly, white supremacists, neo-nazi's
are visible among us.

Surprised?

You should not be.

They have been there all the time
waiting for encouragements

from the power holders

and their supporters

in the wings of governments

and their agencies.

Charlottesville is just one manifestation
of their perceived empowerment.

Twenty first century reality demands
that there cannot be, anywhere,

a nation of Christian, Moslem, Jewish,
Buddhist, one kind only humans.

Diversity of crops, animals, insects

plants and humans is the only assurance

for the survival of anyone

on our endangered planet.

Now is the time -

perhaps the last opportunity -

for all good men and women

to come to the defense and support

of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity

for All -

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4-James Gore, 5-Linda Hopkins

Sonoma County Peace & 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

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

CAC (Community Action Coalition) – facebook.com/actioncoalitionofsonomacounty/

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

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

Fukushima Response – works to inform about the Fukushima melt downs, monitor the consequences, advocate for the shut down of Diablo Canyon. fukushimaresponse.org. 823-9203

GMO Free Sonoma County – Working to protect farms and families from transgenic (GMO) contamination. gmofreesonomacounty.com

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreenparty.org

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

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

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

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

Indivisible Goups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.com

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

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Windsor

It Won't Happen Here – Petitions cities and the County of Sonoma County to protect the community from discriminatory orders and laws. itwon'thappenhere.org.

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 nonviolence 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

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. 953-2011

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, facebook.com/pages/North-Bay-Jobs-With-Justice/922338944459410 Ph: 707-346-1187

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

North Coast Coalition for Palestine – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 575-8902. 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-wide social justice campaigns that are globally relevant. 877-6650, OccupySonomaCounty.org

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

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

Peace Roots Alliance – We seek to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world for future generations. 707-765-0196, Linda@peaceroots.org

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. 707-874-2695, Peter@projectcensored.org, 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 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 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 County Taxes for Peace – Provides information and support about war tax resistance. 823-9203

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

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. 576-6676

Women's Justice Center – Advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse, particularly in the Latina community. 575-3150, justicewomen.com

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for any changes to this list.**

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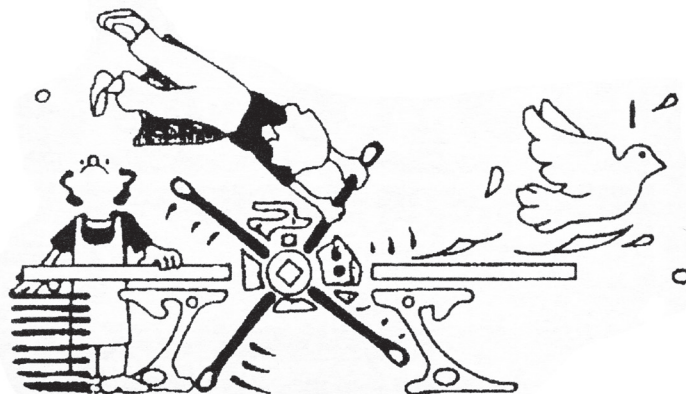
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