

SONOMA COUNTY

# peace press

Publication of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County

**FOR JUSTICE SO THAT ALL MAY LIVE IN PEACE**

PJCsoco.org • April/May 2025 • Vol. 40, No. 2

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ▶ The Resistance Coalition – May Plans
- ▶ Sonoma County Revises Living Wage
- ▶ The Solidarity Economy: Principles and Practices
- ▶ Links to Independent Credible Media Sources

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### SUBMITTING ARTICLES

**Deadline to submit articles for the April/May 2025 issue, is March 17**

Email articles **with title on the document**, in MSWord to [zenekar2@gmail.com](mailto:zenekar2@gmail.com)  
(type PEACE PRESS in all caps on email subject line)

Word limit up to 1000 words (negotiable).

Shorter pieces welcome about local actions and events.

**Authors are encouraged to delineate fact from opinion and wherever possible to substantiate their facts with references. Include ways readers can engage with the movement for peace and social justice.**

We welcome poems but limited to approx. 30 lines.

### EDITING POLICY

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

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

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

### CALENDAR ITEMS

Events on topics of social justice, environmental, and related items to be placed in the PJC weekly email calendar, can be sent to [events@pjcsoco.org](mailto:events@pjcsoco.org)  
Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

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PJC office hours: 1-4 PM, M-F. Best to call ahead to ensure volunteers are available when you visit. To receive the weekly Social Justice e-newsletter, go to: [PJCsoco.org](http://PJCsoco.org)

# Get Involved in Community

by The PJC Board of Directors

Your Peace & Justice Center has been very active since Trump launched his war against America. New organizations have joined us including Indivisible Sonoma, a literary group and people who want to sing. We also play host to the Party for Socialism and Liberation, the Democratic Socialists of America, conversations around the fire, and others.

There is a large coalition of many organizations determined to stop the fascism coming out of D.C. We all agree that this profound change in America needs to be challenged and we're willing to work to make this happen. Events are being planned for several days in early May. To receive the weekly Social Justice e-newsletter, go to: [PJCsoco.org](http://PJCsoco.org) Details will be posted as they develop.

We have many new members, with more joining daily. Many individuals are angered at what's happening and want to do something about it. We are more than happy to hook people up with organizations that can help them fulfill their needs. Let's face it, we are much more effective when we work with others.

We have also begun a Bluesky page. Here's the link: <https://bsky.app/profile/pjcsoco.org> This is an alternative to Zuckerberg's Face-

book. While we are still on Facebook, we're planning on fading our presence there as more people go to Bluesky. Until then our goal is to disseminate information so we're keeping our Facebook page, for now.

Many of our friends and neighbors are fearful of ICE (immigration and Customs Enforcement) abducting and deporting them. To aid these folks we have information and links to the North Bay Organizing Project's Rapid Response Network. There are also "know your rights" teach-ins coming up at the center. While the abductions and deportations are starting with the immigrant community it is spreading to others. Already Palestine justice folks are being arrested and sent to the new Gitmo in El Salvador. We are needed now more than ever. It's important that we organize, support one another and act. Your Peace & Justice Center offers sanctuary.

If you want to learn what's coming up your best bet is to go to <https://www.pjcsoco.org> and read the e-blast. This is where upcoming actions are posted. There are organizing opportunities educational links and actions there. Sometimes there is a demonstration or picket every day. Find one that fits you and jump in. You have nothing to lose but your chains.

## Solidarity Against the New US Regime

by Barry Barnett

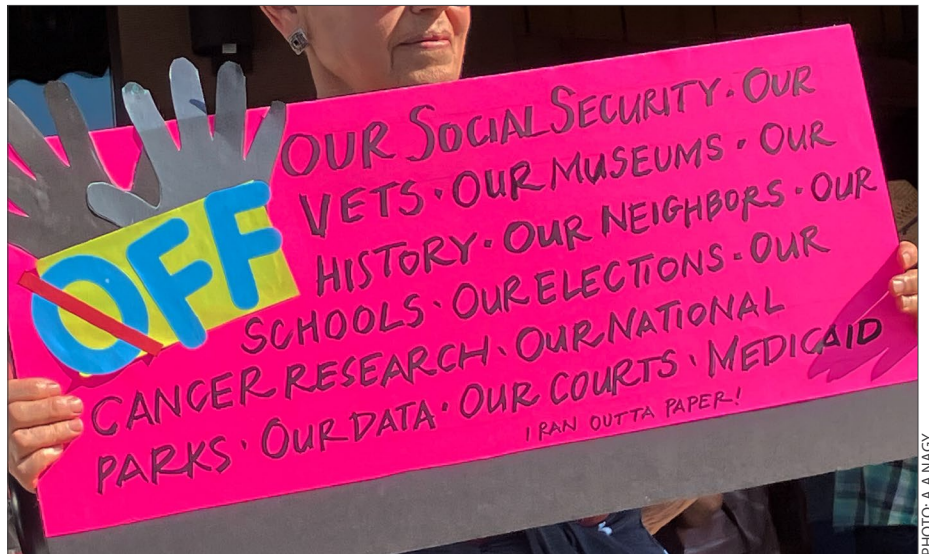
*"The fundamental weakness of Western civilization is empathy." – Elon Musk*

The billionaires and millionaires are bent on taking away our rights, and exploiting us as the US Empire declines.

But brilliant, energetic, young personalities and activists are not only inspiring and encouraging organized dissent; they are drafting progressive plans of action. One, [Chiaro Scuro](#), a prolific TikTok presenter and activist, is networking with thousands of participants for the creation of an entirely people-owned social media platform, with no corporate input and no shareholders. On Presidents Day, Feb. 17, 2024, the grassroots opposition organized a Not My President's Day rally in all 51 US capitals. [Code Pink](#) has organized large, loud, nonviolent rallies virtually daily since Jan. 20, 2025, and before.

Let's enumerate a small number of the many executive actions, most of them unconstitutional and/or illegal under US and international law, that President Trump and the unelected head of DOGE (Department of Government Elimination), Elon Musk, have been barging the American people with – to confuse and overwhelm us.

1. Trump lied (surprise!) and distanced himself from the notorious Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 when he perceived how unpopular it was, especially the sections specifying cutting essential social services, such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, which Musk derided as "entitlements," trying to



Sign held among thousands, at the April 5 Hands Off Protest in Santa Rosa

characterize programs necessary for poor people as elitist rip-offs. Trump's estrangement from the 922-page *Mandate for Leadership* lasted only until January 20. Then he succeeded in appointing Russell Vought, one of the main authors of Project 2025, to the position of Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). And at least 140 members of Trump's first administration helped create the plan.

2. In general, many of Trump's executive orders (70 in the first

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## Solidarity Against the New US Regime... *from page 1*

month) violate the 10th Amendment that outlines the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches, and their permitted functions. Trump has mostly usurped powers that the Constitution delegates to Congress, such as allocating, revoking, or redirecting funding that is the sole right of the two houses of Congress to vote on and approve, and eliminating or creating agencies mandated by Congress, such as the Department of Education, and DOGE.

3. In Trump's first term, his Secretary of Education was billionaire Betsy DeVos (married to multi-billionaire Amway heir Dick DeVos), whose dream has been to privatize all schools in America. In a reprise of dumbing down the America that Trump claims to love, Linda McMahon is the new head of DOE, and Trump has instructed her to follow the DeVos blueprint, which is a document for the dismantling of that very cabinet department. As a first step, nearly half of the DOE employees were fired or left due to their departments being eliminated: a loss of 1950 workers – 77 percent unionized – out of a former force of 4133, or 47 percent. Trimming government inefficiency? Cuts disproportionately affect financial aid to poor students, protecting their civil rights, and education research.

As of Mar. 13, 2025, a coalition of 20 Democratic-led states plus the District of Columbia has filed a lawsuit to prevent the DOE worker layoffs. Courageous federal Judge William Alsup has ordered the [re-hiring of laid off workers](#) in the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Veterans Affairs, Defense, Energy, and the Treasury. He called the massive firings a "scam," and said that the new Office of Personnel Management's characterizing excellent employees as being fired for poor performance "a lie." Severe cuts to the IRS, which were announced as a goal early last year, is preventing the efficient collection of the huge amounts of taxes that the rich get away with not paying, by using loopholes, tax shelters, false valuations (Trump), and offshore accounts.

So some of the strongest actions supporting our side have been and will be by judges of conscience upholding multiple laws that Trump is breaking.

3. The most dire, detrimental slashing of funding and departments concerns the environment. To quote Professor Noam Chomsky, "Donald Trump is the most dangerous criminal in history... passionately dedicated to destroying the projects for organized human life in the near future." He is referring to everything from Trump's breaking of treaties such as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the Iran nuclear treaty, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Paris Climate Agreement – the only nation out of 196 parties, including the European Union with 28 nations, to withdraw. He must know that the latter had a goal of keeping planetary warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial times until the year 2100 – and that it reached 1.6C in 2024.

And since Jan. 20, 2025, Trump has mandated executive orders that have severely cut funding and personnel at the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), repealed the Clean Water Act and frozen funds appropriated by Congress for clean energy projects – such as wind energy, the country's biggest source of renewable power. This is keeping in line with his famous "Drill, baby, drill!"

He has also scrubbed references to climate change from federal websites. Trump has actually declared an energy emergency, giv-

ing him the power to fast-track oil and gas production, in spite of his last term "energy domination" policies making the US the largest energy producer in the world. He promised the oil and gas industries to weaken environmental regulations in order to increase their profits, in exchange for the \$75 million they "donated" to his campaign.

There are many more insults to the fragile planetary environment that our new president has enacted, too numerous to enumerate here. Also, many flout the law, with agencies defying court orders, freezing funds in legally binding contracts, and reinterpreting regulations to suit their aims. Two federal judges have ordered billions of dollars in climate and energy grants from the Inflation Reduction Act to flow again, and *some* of the funding has been restored. Trump has also fired thousands of workers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy. The new EPA administrator, Lee Zeldin, has actually recommended reversal of the 2009 finding that greenhouse gas emissions endanger human health and welfare.

Sounds intimidating? Large numbers of judges, states and organizations are issuing injunctions and lawsuits on behalf of the rights of Americans. Many groups had already started organizing and networking last Nov. 5. Please check out any of the following: the Ameri-

## *Large numbers of judges, states and organizations are issuing injunctions and lawsuits on behalf of the rights of Americans.*

can Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Sierra Club, Black Lives Matter, Indivisible, The Lincoln Project, People for the American Way, Transgender Law Center, Planned Parenthood, the Southern Poverty Law Center, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Americans for Immigrant Justice, Climate Science Legal Defense Fund, PeoPublica, Amnesty International, and many others.

You can join these organizations whose websites are specifically stating that they are working to oppose the new administration's damaging policies. You can donate. You can call your representatives and specify what you are outraged about, and indicate that they will be voted out of office if they are not voting for the people. You can form your own groups. You can forward relevant info, and connect and network with like-minded folks who want to combat these rapid-fire assaults on our health and freedoms. You can write, as I do, being past the age for public protest and arrest, as I did in progressive affinity groups for years. And keep positive.

To be continued, with many more subjects to cover about Trump's, DOGE's, and other departments' egregious and mostly illegal middle fingers to the 90 percent of Americans.

SOURCES: KPFA News Jan.-Mar. 2025; MOATS/George Galloway broadcast 3/16/25; [codepink.org/events](#); *Federal Government Layoffs Tracker 2025*; *News Wrap: Judge orders Trump administration to rehire thousands of fired federal workers*, PBS News 3/13/25; *How Trump Has Undermined US Climate Policy*, David Gelles, Lisa Friedman and Brad Plumer, *The New York Times* 3/1/25; *Latest DOGE Cuts So Far*, *Newsweek* 3/14/25; *Elon Musk becomes the world's richest with a \$500 net worth*, *Times of India* 12/23/24.

*Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist writing from the left coast of the US Empire.*

# The Resistance Coalition – May Plans

Since the ascent of Trump many people have become frightened. Some have gone into hiding. Some are closing ranks and dealing with this in isolation. Other folks are organizing collective resistance. A large group of representatives from a variety of organizations such as the Peace & Justice Center, Petaluma Vigil for Palestine, Comte VIDA, North Bay Organizing Project, Indivisible Sonoma, Democratic Socialists of America and more are meeting and planning multiple days of resistance to the thundering fascism that threatens to run over all of us.

The Community United to Resist Fascism is supporting 5 days of action beginning on May 1. International Workers Day 2025 is a day to honor all workers. In Sonoma County we are proud of our tradition of honoring the immigrant community and standing up for dignity and safety for all. This year the May 1 Coalition is planning a May Day March on Thursday, May 1, to begin at 3 p.m. at the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. Go all out for immigrants and workers! May 2 planning is still underway. Stay tuned. May 3 – Resist Fascism marches and rallies will take place, at times and locations yet to be decided. May 4 – Solidarity with Palestine action at 2 pm, Courthouse Square, Santa Rosa. May 5 – Celebrating the Anti-colonial Victory of Mexico. Other events are planned by the Latino Democratic Club and others. Many acts of resistance are coming. Details are forthcoming as we draw nearer. Let's be a presence for resistance wherever we spend the day.

You can know people by their values. It's easy to say what you're against. It's much harder to provide a vision of what you want to be. Here are the stated values of the Resistance Coalition.

## To build a future just community:

We support a governmental system separate from the influence of major corporations, businesses and industries – especially from tainting elections through donating large sums of money to political candidate campaigns.

We uphold the US constitution's separation of powers into three separate branches: The executive, legislative and judicial. This includes a system of checks and balances to protect against the abuse of power.

We support equal voting rights and bodily autonomy in order to protect fundamental agencies, social programs and special programs designed to produce equity, and environmental protection, and expand the social safety net, which includes: Medicaid, disability insurance, universal health care, Social Security and Workers' Compensation.

We value diversity, pluralism, and multiculturalism, and defend all marginalized communities.

We uphold the US Constitution's Bill of rights and freedoms, which upholds and protects separation of church and state, racial, gender and physical ability equality and marriage equality.

We support mass media that is decentralized in ownership, reports facts objectively, represents multiple points of view, and is not controlled by any single interest.

We support the equal opportunity to access education and resources to live with dignity and safety.

Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming acts of resistance and join the ones that make sense to you. Radio Resistance will focus on these actions on April 20 at 6 on KBBF. Together we can stop this racist terrorism. Together we can build a better, more just and inclusive world.

## Community Support Needed for the Resistance

*by The PJC Board of Directors*

If you are reading this you know how sick and pathetic the state our country is right now. Every day, we see less safety net for those in need, rights ignored or stolen, citizens detained, international relations crumbling, genocide, security breaches. What's next? What can we do? There is more war and chaos abroad and at home than many of us have known in our lifetimes, the life we once knew seems to be fading away as we watch.

The PJC shares your anger and fear but we hope together our efforts will turn to action, resistance, urgency and determination as our fight for democracy and justice intensifies. The Peace & Justice Center is here to serve, we aim to be a hub for all individuals and groups involved in today's struggle. We offer our building and organization as an umbrella for members and activists, for groups to fight the good fight. How can we help your resistance efforts? Can we promote or amplify your actions, or provide a meeting space?

In the past months the PJC made significant progress. We are collaborating with over a dozen groups, (who represent 100's of people) and we are building a coalition. A large critical mass march and rally are in the works. We are planning together and supporting as many actions as we can. The Center is hosting singing groups, the DSA, PSL, Indivisible, and others are meeting at the center.

I would like to draw your attention to an important event we have planned for May – a critical mass march and demonstration that will bring together activists, community members, and all those who believe in the power of collective action. This will be an opportunity to make our voices heard in unison, to show that we will not stand idly by as our rights are eroded by fascism. This day of action will be a declaration of our unwavering commitment to resist and to protect the freedoms we hold dear. (this was the optional paragraph and is 90 words).

We have two new, passionate and dedicated folks on our Board of Directors. They bring fresh voices, leadership, and vision to strengthen our continued fight for the rights of the marginalized, the oppressed, and all those whose freedoms are threatened. But we need more, more volunteers, board members, organizers, and funding... here comes the pitch.

Your donations are needed now to support the Community United to Resist Fascism (CURF) May 3rd March and Rally. [Please donate here](#) to help pay for permits, sound, printing, Porta Potties, event insurance and more. We need your \$\$ support to make the PJC a vital hub, to keep this movement sustainable. We are stronger together. Help us build a powerful, unified front, so we can react in the current situation, and also come together in solidarity. Thank you for your support.

# Justice Under Siege – What About Health Care?

by Terry Winter

Republican leaders are acting on their agenda that benefits rich Americans while eviscerating programs that provide health care and food support.

As our friend and neighbor Susan Collier Lamont has stated, “Fewer and fewer of us are being allowed to enjoy what the richest country in the world should be able to provide, whether it’s education, health care, housing or employment. So, schools close, homelessness increases, retail crime rises. The money is there, but this system doesn’t work for us.”

What can you expect regarding your healthcare this year?

- On Medicaid? (MediCal in CA) You are likely to face big cuts and work requirements if you are able to maintain any coverage at all.
- If you are an employer or receive your health coverage through your work expect a big jump in costs.
- Get your coverage through the ACA (“Obama care”)? You are at risk of losing your coverage since Biden-era subsidies are set to expire at the end of this year.
- Accelerated efforts to privatize Medicare and limit care by private equity firms as they search for ever-increasing profits.

These actions strip people of health coverage, resulting in more suffering and death. It is not about saving money. Pulling the rug out on our families costs society and us more than it saves. Even work requirements don’t save money, but cut people out of care. It all is about gathering more political and economic power for the wealthy, as if they don’t have way more than their share already.

In the period from Ronald Reagan to Joe Biden, deregulation and tax cuts moved \$50 trillion from the bottom 90 percent of Americans to the top one percent. And now their intention is to further worsen that imbalance.

[Excellent 8 min video](#) on Republican cutting Medicaid by Brian Tyler Cohen.

Rather than become paralyzed, our working group is collaborating with others to tap growing public dissatisfaction. History shows us that dissatisfaction and resistance will generate a swing away from the priorities of the current administration.

If you believe that healthcare is a human right for everyone, join with us to educate, organize and advocate for health, wellness and economic security like we have never had before.

The Healthcare For All Working Group meetings are held on Zoom, Second Monday of each month, 6 pm. [Zoom link here.](#)

*Terry Winter is a retired nurse and Chair of the Healthcare for All Sonoma County Working Group. Contact: 707-480-2271 or [healthcareforallsonoma@gmail.com](mailto:healthcareforallsonoma@gmail.com)*



**Healthcare For All**  
WORKING GROUP

# Sonoma County Revises Living Wage Law

by Martin J. Bennett

In 2021, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors began revising the County Living Wage Ordinance, first passed in 2015. In January, the Board raised the Living Wage rate from \$18.10 to \$23.15 an hour, effective July 1, 2025. The recent Board action completes the four-year revision process.

The revised county Living Wage ordinance covers approximately 1700 low-wage full-time and part-time workers employed by large county contractors, concessionaires, lessees, and franchisees. The ordinance affects janitors, landscapers, security, park aides, food service, mental health, and other low-wage employees.

The revised law provides an annual COLA, 12 days paid sick leave, and a responsible bidder provision mandating that all contractors demonstrate a satisfactory record of compliance with labor, health and safety, and environmental laws. In addition, the revised ordinance expands coverage to the county airport and fair.

The movement to raise the wage floor, also known as the “Fight for \$15,” has evolved over the last two decades in the county. Sebastopol (2003), Sonoma (2004), and Petaluma (2006) approved Living Wage Ordinances covering city employees and workers for large city contractors. The Petaluma Living Wage rate is currently \$21.24 an hour.

In 2019, four North Bay cities, including Sonoma, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and Novato, passed \$15 an hour (by 2020) citywide minimum wage laws with annual COLAs. These laws cover most workers within the city limits. The Santa Rosa minimum wage rate is now \$17.87 an hour.

North Bay Labor Council Executive Director Jack Buckhorn stated, “overall, the revised county ordinance is a huge victory and major improvement over the 2015 legislation. The wage rate is now nearly the same as in County of Santa Cruz Living Wage, and the ordinance is comparable to the best Living Wage laws passed elsewhere in the state.”

Amanda Carles, a single parent, longtime Sonoma County resident, and home care worker, says, “Increasing my wages by \$5 an hour would make a significant difference in my life. I would no longer have to cut food costs to pay for housing and childcare. Low-wage workers should not have to make these choices. Everyone deserves a living wage.”

Nationwide, according to the UC Berkeley Labor Center, more than 120 cities and counties have approved Living Wage Ordinances, and 68 cities and counties have passed minimum wage laws.

Buckhorn believes that “our grassroots economic justice movement has educated the public about what it costs to make ends meet and has pressured states to boost their minimum wage.”

Since 2016, when California raised the state minimum wage to \$15 an hour plus annual COLA (phased-in and now \$16.50 an hour), 15 states and Washington, D.C., have approved \$15 minimum wage laws. Hawaii, in 2022, became the first state to increase the state minimum wage to \$18 an hour.

Moreover, the “Fight for \$15” has now been transformed into the “Fight for \$20” an hour (and more). In 2024, the California

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# Militarism Fuels the Climate Crisis

by Susan Lamont

As an associate member (non-veteran) of Veterans For Peace (VFP) Sonoma County, I've had that message on a bumper sticker on my car for many years. VFP and I want people to recognize the connection. And we want them to work to do something about it.

The first Earth Day was celebrated fifty-five years ago on April 22nd, 1970. During the intervening years, despite greater awareness, the climate crisis has deepened. In large measure, that is because major corporations – fossil fuel companies, plastics manufacturers, Big Ag, and more – have spent lavishly on propaganda to the public and on “legal bribes” to politicians of every stripe. The work to reverse this has been an uphill slog.

One aspect of this struggle gets very little attention: the effects of militarism on the climate, with the greatest polluter being the U.S. military. Veterans For Peace has been working to change that through its Climate Crisis and Militarism Project. The Project's mission is “to be part of the world-wide movement to mitigate the climate crisis and promote peace and justice (climate, racial and economic).” Its members are educators and activists who “focus on US militarism's damage to the climate: its vast and largely unreported greenhouse gas emissions; its role as military protection for oil corporations; its squandering of trillions needed for addressing climate and people's needs; its promotion of war – a human, climate, and environmental disaster.”

During the Biden administration, the Project (joined by 68 other organizations) wrote to John Kerry, Biden's Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, and asked, “How do we ask millions of people to die as a result of a climate catastrophe fueled by endless war and militarism?” To thwart that catastrophe, several requests were made.

They asked for the inclusion of military emissions in all reports on Greenhouse Gas (GHG). During negotiations for the Kyoto Protocol, the US had demanded that military emissions not be included in any data. Then the US refused to ratify the Protocol anyway.

Essentially, what the Project requested was a broad program for peace: reduction of the military's footprint around the world; closing its bases and bringing the troops home; the end to drone warfare; rejection of nuclear modernization; and defunding of the Space Force.

The Project asked for bilateral agreements between the US and Russia and the US and China “to prohibit financial institutions from funding future fossil fuel investments, cease military exercises in the South China Sea, keep the Arctic safe from extractive exploration and weapons systems, and to create people-to-people ‘climate protector’ delegations to exchange knowledge, build friendships, and undertake joint projects to promote biodiversity and renewable energy” and so much more.

They concluded their requests by saying, “We cannot afford to ignore the elephant in the room or remain in denial.

“As we witness extreme weather events, from flash floods to wildfires to freezing temperatures, we are reminded of the urgency of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. To ensure a carbon-free future in a sustainable world, we must redefine global security as climate security and recognize that war and war preparations will only make us less secure.”

*One aspect of this struggle gets very little attention: the effects of militarism on the climate, with the greatest polluter being the US military.*

The response has been little more than crickets and the prospects under a Trump administration are infinitely more dismal. Clearly, we must speak with a louder voice.

To educate yourself on the subject, VFP has created a list of resources – books, articles, films, and webinars – which can be found on the [Project's website](#). You will find actions to take, ways to be involved, downloadable resources and more. Most important, with this information in hand, you can recruit people to the cause (instead of the Army!) and contact your representatives.

On this Earth Day and every day, when you think of the many worthy environmental organizations you know and love, add Veterans For Peace Climate Crisis and Militarism Project to your list of resources and advocates. And if you're a veteran or, like me, a veteran of the Peace Movement, consider joining local VFP Chapter #71 by contacting its president, Fred Ptucha, at 707-494-2086 [or me](#).

## Sonoma County Revises Living Wage Law... [from page 4](#)

legislature mandated a \$20 an hour minimum wage for the state's 550,000 fast food workers and a (phased-in) \$25 an hour minimum wage for health care workers.

The Economic Policy Institute reports that, by 2027, nearly half of all workers will reside in states with at least a \$15-an-hour minimum wage. Overwhelmingly, workers affected by state minimum wage increases are youth, immigrants, women and workers of color.

Despite the progress made by the movement to raise the wage floor, twenty states set their minimum wage at the federal rate of \$7.25 an hour, which Congress has not increased since 2009.

Moreover, state and local living and minimum wage rates are still well below an actual living wage, particularly in high-cost states like California. According to the M.I.T. Living Wage calculator, an actual living wage 2025 in Sonoma County, for two

parents to support two children, is nearly \$33 an hour to pay for food, housing, transportation, medical and childcare expenses.

Jack Buckhorn stresses that “despite the attempts by President Trump and the corporate oligarchs to suppress wages, our movement for economic, racial, and gender justice is certain to grow.”

Numerous Sonoma County labor, social justice and environmental organizations have supported the county living wage and minimum wage campaigns. These include the North Bay Labor Council, North Bay Jobs with Justice, North Bay Organizing Project, North Bay Building Trades, SEIU Local 1021, Sonoma County Conservation Action, Sierra Club Sonoma Group, 350 Bay Area, Graton Day Labor Center and the Sonoma County Democratic Party.

*Martin J. Bennett is an Instructor Emeritus of History at Santa Rosa Junior College and a consultant for UNITE HERE Local 2.*

# So.Co. Legal Aid is Here to Serve You

by Rebel Fagin

The 6th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States declares that anyone accused of violation of the law shall “have the assistance of counsel for his defense.” Many people think that access to a lawyer is reserved for the well to do, or limited to public defenders, but that’s not so.

Legal Aid of Sonoma County has served people for over 60 years. It serves over 5,000 people a year. Legal Aid offers free legal services for qualifying people. Mostly it serves low- and no-income people. To prove that you qualify you need to bring in documentation from means tested programs such as pay check stubs, benefits letters, EBT cards, SSI or Social Security letters describing your benefits, tax returns, bank statements or other proof of your income. If you are staying with a friend or family member or in a shelter a letter stating so will work. If you have domestic violence issues the need to document poverty is waived.

Legal Aid of Sonoma County has several focus areas headed by attorneys who specialize in each. They can help with housing, child abuse, domestic violence, elders’ needs, employment and health, disaster relief, medical legal partnership, small business equity and veterans’ needs. They triage clients, and deal with the person in need in a holistic manner, so that, for example, a veteran suffering both domestic violence and housing issues will have each of these areas supported legally by experts from each area. If your issue involves the law, it is important to provide, police reports, court papers and any pertinent legal papers.

On it’s website it has links to your rights. It has resources for tenants and landlords as well as a link to the law library.

It has ramped up services since the mass deportations began, including guardianship services so that if American-born children with foreign-born parents have their parents

abducted by ICE, relatives or friends can assume temporary guardianship over these minors.

In terms of housing, Legal Aid of Sonoma County served over 600 households last year. We have Just Cause eviction protection in Petaluma and the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County. There are exceptions to these protections so that all rental properties are not covered. Under Just Cause eviction protection landlords can still evict people if the landlord no longer wants to be a landlord, if he or she is moving a family member in, if your behaviors are a nuisance or danger to other tenants, if you’re involved in illegal activities or if you engage in property damage.

Your best first line of defense is to establish and maintain a good relationship with your landlord or landlady. If that’s unlikely, then document all interactions with your landlord or landlady. Emails, letters or texts are time and date stamped. This can help your case. Your legal rights as a tenant start from the moment you’ve paid your landlady or landlord. In eviction cases Legal Aid of Sonoma County can help you negotiate a payment plan with your landlady or landlord so that everybody wins. It’s best to work things out instead of going to court. Very few landlords or landladies want empty rental units. 36 percent of the people in Sonoma County are renters. Nearly half the people in Santa Rosa are renters. Working collectively offers more protection to renters than doing it on your own. A good move would be to join the Sonoma County Tenants Union.

Email or go to [website](#).

There are also for a limited time Disaster Eviction Protection for people whose homes or means of income have been seriously affected by a disaster, such as floods along the lower Russian River area. If your failure to pay rent was due to a disaster then Legal Aid of Sonoma County may be able to help you. Your first step is to come into the office, with or without an appointment, at 144 S E Street #100 in Santa Rosa. You can call at (707) 542-1290. Check the [website](#) for hours of operation as well as the various areas of specialization so you can be fully prepared.

Poverty does not mean you do not have your right to legal representation. Learn more to protect yourself before housing disasters hit and you reduce all your belongings to what you can carry.

Sources: radioresistance20050309, legalaidsc.org, The Constitution of the United States of America.

## CALL TO ACTION MAY 1ST & 3RD Critical Mass Marches & Rallies

A local coalition of organizations planning five days of resistance building solidarity with the May 1st International Workers’ Day and Immigrant Rights. May 1 to May 5 Actions supporting all public acts of resistance against the fascist government. We support the struggle for dignity and justice for all people and communities historically marginalized and currently targeted by the current administration and billionaire cronies!

### INTERNATIONAL WORKERS’ DAY • THURSDAY, MAY 1ST



## Immigrant Rights Are Human Rights!

3:00 PM GATHER AT SHERIFF’S OFFICE  
2796 VENTURA AVE. SANTA ROSA  
3:30 PM MARCH TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
4:00 PM MARCH TO COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
5:00 PM RALLY AT COURTHOUSE SQUARE

- FREEDOM
- LABOR RIGHTS
- JUSTICE
- SOLIDARITY



MAY 1ST COALITION • 707-294-5005

# NAACP 2025 Statement on School Safety

Addressing the issue of School Resource Officers on Campus is not new to our organization. Please see the [National Resolution from July 2018](#) for NAACP's Policy.

The Santa Rosa-Sonoma County NAACP branch is deeply impacted by events in Sonoma County schools. We are still seeing the long term effects of social isolation and virtual learning during the Covid-19 pandemic and climate crisis events. Our youth need intentional and guided support on what can be an extremely challenging path to graduation and adulthood. We are devastated by the tragedies that have brought pain and trauma to the community.

We are also deeply aware of the tendency to utilize these events to call for increased police presence on school campuses which disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous students of color and students with disabilities and feeds the school-to-prison pipeline. We are in alignment with the national NAACP's stance on school resource officers, which notes that most SRO policies do not empower parents to intervene on their children's behalf to protect against self-incrimination or unwarranted searches. Many of our children aren't afforded the appropriate support needed to overcome the challenges posed by socioeconomic impacts. Additionally, intentionally ambiguous School Resource Officer policies allow officers to conduct activities such as searches and seizures, stop and frisk, or interrogations that would otherwise be prohibited and potentially create constitutional violations that the average child would not be aware of or have the wherewithal to defend against. Above all, school districts must minimize police presence in schools.

Santa Rosa-Sonoma NAACP chose to participate in discussions around the proposed MOU for an SRO program at Santa Rosa City Schools in good faith, to ensure that the concerns of the communities that are most disproportionately impacted were considered. At no point did our branch agree to be named as a supporter of the Memorandum of Understanding contract. Despite this, our branch and members of the executive committee were named repeatedly at the March 25 Santa Rosa City Schools board meeting by Trustee De La Torre as supporters of the MOU agreement for Santa Rosa Po-

lice Department to provide SRO programming. This misrepresents our position and is not what we intended. We do not support the current iteration of the MOU. We did not consent to be listed as supporters. This is disingenuous and manipulates our partnership to insinuate our support of the current iteration of this new plan without our knowledge or consent.

We recognize the lack of evidence and the deficit of statistically significant correlation between student safety and the presence of law enforcement on campuses. We acknowledge the importance of truly listening to the voices of the community—especially those who are most affected by this decision. The impacts on our community are profound, leaving lasting scars on individuals and their families, especially given our political climate and weaponization of law enforcement for federal agenda purposes. As we reflect on this, it's crucial that we dive deeper into the data to better understand the nuanced effects of law enforcement presence. It is only through a thorough analysis of both qualitative experiences and quantitative data that we can make informed decisions that prioritize the well-being of everyone in the community which SRCS did not embark on.

We are not in alignment with the outlined policy on SRO access to student records as it is currently written. The language of the policy grants law enforcement broad access to student directory information, attendance records, and discipline files with minimal safeguards to protect student privacy. While we understand the importance of ensuring school safety, the policy lacks clear and specific limitations on when and how student records can be accessed. Additionally, the provision allowing the disclosure of confidential student information during emergencies is overly subjective, relying on vague terms like "seriousness of the threat" without clear criteria. This presents a concern for potential violations of student confidentiality laws under FERPA.

The stance of this branch is clear. We do not support SRO programming. Our previous public statements and actions have remained clear and steadfast on this issue. Unfortunately, there are loud voices in the community that would push our school districts to implement SROs when they are dealing with crucial budget deficits and staffing issues that impact the daily lives of teachers and students. SRCS must consider the larger impact that this expenditure would have on our localized economy with regard to attrition and displacement of staff, teachers and families. The California Department of Education has provided guidance through its Transforming Schools Initiative that investment in restorative justice programs, mental health and counseling services, McKinney-Vento resources, youth development, ensuring safe havens and eliminating bias and discrimination are more effective strategies to help students and support fiscal sustainability.

No student should be unsafe at school. And disproportionately impacted students should not have their safety compromised by increased police presence at Santa Rosa City Schools. Santa Rosa-Sonoma County NAACP has not changed its position on police in schools, and we will not accept our branch or our executive committee members being named or utilized to uphold policies we do not support. We stand by our previous statements in support of students and police free schools. We Came to Learn.

*Santa Rosa-Sonoma County NAACP Branch Executive Committee*

**Become a member  
of the Local Chapter**



**NAACP**  
*Santa Rosa - Sonoma County*

PO BOX 3964, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Phone: 707.536.1047

Email: [naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com](mailto:naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com)

Website: [naacpsantarosasonomaco.org](http://naacpsantarosasonomaco.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/naacpsonoma](https://facebook.com/naacpsonoma)

Instagram: [instagram.com/naacpsonoma](https://instagram.com/naacpsonoma)

Twitter: [mobile.twitter.com/naacpsonoma](https://mobile.twitter.com/naacpsonoma)

# Israel Bombs and US Pays Fight to End US Funding for Genocide – Join TAG

by *Taxpayers Against Genocide*

As the US and Israel continue committing genocide against the native people of Palestine. American officials, including Biden and Trump, blatantly violate both domestic and international law by illegally sending billions of our hard-earned tax dollars to bomb and slaughter hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians in Palestine.

Human rights institutions have determined that Israel is committing genocide in Occupied Palestine, and the international community has called for an end to weapons sales to Israel. Legal cases to expose US officials (CCR; TAG) have been taken to federal courts, and the courts have failed to act.

US officials arming Israel are criminals and they make us all complicit in this genocide. It is our responsibility to stand against genocide and refuse to be complicit. We demand an end to military aid to Israel NOW!

**Another World is Possible**

Taxpayers Against Genocide (TAG) is a national grassroots movement fighting for Palestinian liberation and an end to the use of our federal tax dollars for genocide. TAG is working for and towards the world we know is possible – one where workers and families are safe to flourish on a healthy planet free from occupation, extraction, oppression, apartheid and exploitation; where leaders are responsible to the people they serve and not to corporations or the rich and powerful.

After TAG's initial federal case [was dismissed, we announced plans to go international and began working with the National Lawyers Guild. We will submit two reports](#) to the UN Human Rights Council and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, [showing](#) evidence of US participation in genocide. Real change is possible through the collective power of the people. Together, we can confront the violence of the US government and create a future rooted in liberation and human rights.

## Our Government, As We Know It, Doesn't Exist

by *Arcadia Jones*

*"No one would owe a dime of federal taxes if other companies paid their share." – Warren Buffett*

Our government, as we know it, doesn't exist. Musk has hit it with a powerful, all destructive chainsaw, putting our country in free-fall. Many departments have been closed and thousands of employees laid off. Vital, life-saving services have been cut for those of us at home and abroad. Those in power are intent on committing genocide and promoting climate destruction, endless war, and economic injustice.

Why would you pay taxes to this rogue government controlled by AI Silicone Valley billionaires? Profit is their goal, not fulfilling citizens' needs. This is not the government we want. We shouldn't pay for it.

Many agree but have not thought of refusing to pay taxes. But this is the time to think seriously about tax resistance. There are actually several strategies for disobeying the IRS an either avoiding or minimizing IRS consequences. I have gleaned information from the [National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee \(NWTRCC\)](#). Briefly, tactics include filing but refusing to pay your tax, refusing to file a tax return, purposefully earning less than the taxable income.

### Risks for not filing

Many taxpayers, however, are worried about consequences of not paying. But according to the NWTRCC, the risk of jailing or fines for war tax resistance cases has been very low. Since World War II the total number of cases fined, or otherwise punished with jail or property seizures, has amounted to fewer than 100 people or less than 1 percent of those people who have practiced war tax resistance over those years. It's very possible that this rate may continue given the chaos that is the government now.

### Power in numbers

While we might be concerned about consequences of defying IRS rulings, we also need to consider the possibilities for success. Success of a tax boycott largely depends on the number of taxpay-

ers who refuse to pay their taxes. A million taxpayers can't be ignored when they refuse to pay their taxes for a government they don't want. Every refusal to pay is a step towards success. Your refusal is a step towards success.

If you're not ready to refuse to pay your taxes, you still can show your resistance. You can start the resistance by simply signing a Tax Boycott pledge. A Tax Boycott Pledge is a powerful way taxpayers can show their anger and their resistance without risk.

This is how it works: Just email [taxboycott@pm.me](mailto:taxboycott@pm.me), giving only your first name, or another name if you wish, and email, your zip code and any questions you might have. When 1,000 pledges are received, the boycott will be activated. Then you can decide if you want to withhold your taxes or not. Your pledge is no risk, no obligation.

Spread the word. No time to waste.



## Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

The purpose of the Commission on Human Rights is to promote better human relations among all people in Sonoma County through education, mediation, cooperation with County and community agencies, and by initiating action that fosters the recognition of and an appreciation for the cultural diversity of the community.

Monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday. [See schedule here.](#)  
Email: [chr@sonoma-county.org](mailto:chr@sonoma-county.org) • [Website](#)

# The Solidarity Economy: Principles & Practices

by David Cobb

The seminal essay on this topic is [Solidarity Economy: Building an Economy for People & Planet](#) by Emily Kawano. What follows below is my effort to give a short overview of the principles and practices. I strongly encourage you to read the full essay, as it provides greater depth and nuance.

The solidarity economy is a comprehensive transformative framework aimed at building a just and sustainable economic system. It is explicitly and unapologetically post-capitalist, and the good news is that there are concrete real-world examples of the practices already being implemented.

Although the solidarity economy framework is unwavering in its goal of replacing capitalism, it is not a dogmatic or sectarian, or a one-size-fits-all mode. Sometimes Leftists are accused of promoting “theories in search of a practice,” suggesting our concepts haven’t been adequately implemented or translated into practical application. The nice thing about the Solidarity Economy framework is that it sometimes feels like “practice in search of a theory.” That’s because some Solidarity Economy practices are ancient, and individual practices can exist within capitalism. But the overall Solidarity Economy framework aims to unite these principles and practices into a theory of change.

## 1. The Problem: Capitalism is destroying the Planet

- Economic inequality: The concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few leads to exploitation and marginalization.
- Environmental destruction: Capitalism’s drive for profit results in unsustainable resource extraction and climate change.
- Market-driven priorities: Profit maximization often comes at the expense of workers’ rights, social well-being and ecological balance.
- Social alienation: The system fosters competition over cooperation, breaking down community ties and solidarity.

These issues highlight the urgent need for transformational systemic change rather than mere policy reforms.

## 2. Defining the Solidarity Economy Framework:

### A Holistic Alternative

Principles of the solidarity economy:

- Democratic ownership and control: Economic resources and institutions should be owned and governed collectively.
- Social and environmental sustainability: Economic activities must prioritize people’s well-being and planetary health over profit.
- Pluralism: The solidarity economy embraces diverse approaches and solutions rather than a single rigid model.
- Equity and inclusion: A truly just economy must dismantle structural inequalities based on class, race, gender and other forms of oppression.
- Cooperation over competition: Encourages collective decision-making and mutual aid rather than market-driven competition.

A global movement:

- The solidarity economy is not just theoretical — it is being built worldwide through grassroots initiatives.
- It includes cooperatives, community land trusts, public banking and other alternative economic structures.

## 3. Alternatives Already Exist

- Worker cooperatives: Businesses owned and managed by work-

- ers, ensuring fair wages and democratic decision-making.
- Community land trusts: Models that remove land from speculative markets and ensure long-term affordability.
- Participatory budgeting: Local communities making direct decisions about how public funds are allocated.
- Public banking and alternative finance: Financial institutions that prioritize social benefit over profit, reinvesting in communities.
- Time banking and mutual aid networks: Non-monetary exchange systems that foster community support and economic resilience.

These examples illustrate how solidarity economy practices are already functioning and can be scaled up to transform the broader economic system.

## 4. The Path Forward: Growing the Solidarity Economy Movement

A new economic system requires intentional strategy and organizing to connect and expand solidarity economy practices.

- Mapping and connecting existing efforts:
- Many solidarity economy practices already exist but are fragmented.
- Organizing efforts should focus on linking these initiatives into a coherent movement.
- Shifting economic narratives:
- The dominant capitalist narrative must be challenged to make the solidarity economy more widely understood.
- Education, storytelling, and grassroots organizing are essential to shifting public consciousness.
- Policy and institutional support:
- Governments and policymakers can help scale up solidarity economy models through supportive legislation.
- Public funding and incentives should be redirected toward cooperative and community-based economic initiatives.
- Building power through movement alliances.
- Solidarity economy efforts must align with broader social movements, including labor rights, racial justice and environmental activism.
- We need a “Resist & Build” or “Build & Fight” strategic orientation to resist corporate and state efforts to co-opt or suppress transformative economic alternatives.

## Conclusion: Toward a Just and Sustainable Future

Emily Kawano’s essay calls for a systemic transformation rather than piecemeal reforms. The solidarity economy offers a pathway beyond capitalism by centering democratic ownership, social equity, and ecological sustainability.

- The crises of capitalism demand bold, systemic alternatives.
- The solidarity economy is already taking shape through real-world initiatives.
- Scaling and strengthening the movement requires organizing, education and political strategy.

By embracing the solidarity economy, communities can build an economy that prioritizes people and the planet over profit, laying the foundation for a more just and sustainable world.

*David Cobb is a people’s lawyer who has sued corporate polluters, lobbied elected officials, and been arrested for non-violent civil disobedience. He was the Green Party nominee for President in 2004 and currently serves as Co-Coordinator of the US Solidarity Economy Network.*

# Sometimes the People Win

by Lois Pearlman

This news item caught my eye in mid-march because it was happening in my old hometown of Miami Beach. And then it captured the attention of people around the world due to its flagrant attempt to suppress our constitutionally protected freedom of speech.

It has also turned into an object lesson about what people can do to prevent government officials from committing something both illegal and intolerable.

The news item concerned the mayor of Miami Beach, Steven Meiner, who is, apparently, a Zionist Jew. He had proposed that the city should terminate the lease held by O Cinema, and demand the return of a \$40,000 city grant. The theater, which shows a variety of independent films, including an annual Jewish film festival, rents a space owned by the city.<sup>TM</sup>

What was the theater's crime, according to Meiner? It had screened the Academy Award winning documentary, "No Other Land." He called the film "egregiously anti-Semitic" and "a public safety threat." Meiner had initially told the 69-seat theater not to show the film, but they went ahead with it anyway because they felt it was true to O Cinema's mission.

"(It) is a false one-sided propaganda attack on the Jewish people that is not consistent with the values of our city and our residents," Meiner said.

But, apparently he was misinformed about the city's values because every showing played to a sold out audience.

The film includes footage of Israeli soldiers and settlers destroying buildings in the West Bank Palestinian village of Masafer Yatta, mostly shot by one of the co-directors, villager Basel Adra. The other co-director is Jewish Israeli journalist Yuval Abraham.

In the week between Meiner announcing his proposal and March 19 when he withdrew it at a meeting of the Miami Beach City Commission, it became big news, including in such media as "The Times of Israel," "Mother Jones," National Public Radio, the "New York Times," and NBC.

Then there was a major backlash. Over 700 filmmakers – including Michael Moore and Miami-born "Moonlight" director Barry Jenkins, signed an open letter to the city saying Meiner's proposal was "an attack on freedom of expression." The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and the Miami-based Community Justice Project were ready to represent O Cinema if the case ended up in court.

Even more importantly the commission meeting was packed with people, the majority of whom opposed Meiner's resolution. One of the many hand written signs said, "En este pais todavia somos libres." (In this country everyone is free.) Here were the real values of the community on display, no matter what Meiner was claiming.

So Meiner backed down, withdrawing his proposal. Five of the six city commissioners said they wouldn't have voted for it anyway, even though one said she supported Israel but did not support censorship.

In the course of a single week the people blew away a paper dragon who claimed to be protecting his city, but was really trying to force his own values on its residents.

These are treacherous times and many people are overwhelmed, wondering what they can do to protect themselves, their neighbors and the world. But the brave residents of Miami Beach, who stood up to a man threatening their freedom, are a shining example of the time-honored precept, "El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido." (The people united will never be defeated.)

Any effort taken in the direction of what is beneficial to the people and the planet is a step in the right direction, such as demanding that local officials honor the US Constitution's First Amendment, or just standing on the street corner with others, holding signs and flags and letting neighbors know they are not alone.

## Keep Harmful Radioactive Waste Out of Our Children's Food, Conventionally Grown or Organic

Campaign created by Kimberly Roberson, Fukushima Fallout Awareness Network



Aerial view of demonstration at San Francisco's Ocean Beach, to illustrate that radiation from Fukushima Power Plant in Japan has reached the west coast of California.

protect our children. We are asking that the limit be reduced to 5 Bq/kg for all food, nutritional supplements and pharmaceuticals – lower when technology allows-- and that we quickly and responsibly institute widespread, transparent testing to ensure this limit, particularly in the wake of Japan's catastrophic and ongoing radiation releases from Fukushima Daiichi's triple nuclear meltdowns.

Why is this important?

An official Citizen's Petition to the FDA has been filed to put important safeguards into motion where your comments are welcome.

Please help support that effort by signing and sharing this [SignOn companion petition](#) widely. We must begin to know how much radiation is in the food we are serving our families, so we can decide what is safe to feed them. All protections in our food supply have been fought for and won. We can win this too.

MORE INFO: Radiation and Health Expert Cindy Folkers [7 minute video clip](#) presentation on man-made radiation in our food.

The US limit for carcinogenic radioactive cesium is 1200 Bq/kg in food. Japan, which is still suffering a triple meltdown, has a limit of 100 Bq/kg. Both of these limits are way too high to

# Lawsuit Against California Congress Members Goes International



PHOTO: LEON KUNSTENAR

*Taxpayers Against Genocide (TAG), rally in front of the US Federal Court of Northern California, on Feb. 19, 2025.*

*by Lois Pearlman, reprinted from Mondoweiss*

What began as one northern California activist's idea to up the ante on pressure against local congressmen who support Israel's assault on Gaza has turned into a plan to air the issue in the international arena.

Retired high school history teacher Seth Donnelly, a resident of Boyes Hot Springs in Sonoma County, California, said he was fed up with his congressman Mike Thompson, who refused to respond to phone calls, emails and protests demanding that he stop funding Israel's genocide in Gaza.

"I even invited him to speak before a student human rights group at Rancho Cotate High School," Donnelly said, referring to the school where he taught until recently. "When the students asked him if he would agree to vote against more military aid to Israel, he refused."

At that point, joined by Fort Bragg activist Anna Marie Stenberg and members of Sonoma County for Palestine, Donnelly initiated a class action lawsuit against Thompson and another local Congress member, Jared Huffman. Stenberg is a former paralegal and long-time activist who was excited to find a new avenue for addressing the ongoing siege of Gaza. Sonoma County for Palestine had been holding weekly ceasefire vigils since late in Oct. 2023.

Stenberg told Mondoweiss, "I had been thinking, what else can we do? When Seth called me about a class action lawsuit I jumped on it right away."

Once the group decided to prepare a lawsuit, it began calling itself Taxpayers Against Genocide (TAG) By the time the lawsuit reached a federal district court it had garnered almost 2,000 class members from 18 northern California counties, and some 100 to 150 volunteers were actively working on the case.

Late last year TAG filed the class action lawsuit against two Democratic congressmen, Mike Thompson and Jared Huffman, who represent 10 coastal counties from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border.

A month later, excited by the prospect of reaching representa-

tives who had been ignoring their concerns about Israel's genocide in Gaza, taxpayers from eight additional Bay Area counties joined the lawsuit.

Then, on February 10 Judge Vince Chhabria of the Northern California Federal District Court in San Francisco dashed the group's hopes by dismissing the entire case.

His order reads, "This case is dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. Even if plaintiffs could establish Article III standing, the case nevertheless presents a nonjusticiable political question."

This means he determined the case was political, not legal, and the court does not have jurisdiction to intervene on a decision from either the legislative or executive branches of government.

But the judge's ruling did not deter TAG. Even before his dismissal they had begun working with attorneys from the National Lawyers' Guild on the next step in their quest to prove the US Congress and the Biden administration had violated both federal and international law by sending billions of dollars in military aid to Israel, even when they should have known Israel was using the money and weapons to commit human rights violations.

Right now TAG is gearing up to present their case to the United Nations Human Rights Council Periodic Review, which convenes once every four years. They hope to bring at least 10,000 US taxpayers onboard between now and then. Everybody who pays federal taxes in the US is eligible to sign on, whether or not they are US citizens.

The original lawsuit is based on three federal laws and two international standards. The federal laws include the Leahy Law, the Foreign Assistance act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act, all of which make it illegal for the US government to provide military assistance to governments, or units of a foreign security force, that use the aid to commit human rights violations.

Former Vermont senator Patrick Leahy, who authored the Leahy Law in 1997, agreed that Congress and President Biden's administration were violating it by not applying it to Israel.

In a May 20, 2024 Washington Post opinion piece Leahy wrote, "Since the Leahy Law was passed not a single Israeli security force has been deemed ineligible for US aid, despite repeated credible reports of gross violations of human rights and a pattern of failing to appropriately punish Israeli soldiers and police who violate the rights of Palestinians."

In addition to federal law violations the lawsuit claims that the two Congress members violated the International Genocide Convention, which the US has ratified, and the Genocide Implementation Act, which criminalizes complicity in genocide. Several human rights organizations, and individual countries, have said Israel is committing genocide, including Amnesty International, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and UN Special Rapporteur to the Palestine Occupied Territories Francesca Albanese.

According to the lawsuit, northern Huffman and Thompson overstepped their tax and spend authority when they voted in favor of the Israel Security Supplemental Act April 20, 2024, which authorized \$26.38 billion in military aid for Israel. The bill passed

**Lawsuit Against California Congress Members...see page 12**

# Gaza: The World *Does* Care About You!

by Lilli Sher

As Israel resumes its brutal assault on Gaza, the need to give direct aid to Gazans living under genocide increases tenfold. While direct aid is, of course, a band aid fix to the relentless attacks on Palestinians, providing people with the means to survive is paramount.

Gazans deserve to decide their futures for themselves to the most possible degree, despite living under relentless bombing, aid blockades, disease and starvation. Trump, Netanyahu, and other Israeli and American government officials have been pontificating about “owning” and “selling” Gaza, and they scheme to ethnically cleanse Palestinians from their homeland. The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) recently dropped [leaflets](#) on the besieged enclave amidst renewed bombing stating that the world will not care if Gazans disappear from the face of the earth.

In the face of such physical and psychological attacks, it's essential to give direct, concrete support to those who have lost everything: their homes, their livelihood and their entire society.

Palestinians around the world have been working tirelessly alongside allies to give direct, concrete aid to Gazans. One such

initiative is a campaign for [direct food aid](#) organized by Palestinians living in diaspora. They also organized an initiative to repair a well in Beit Hanoun in partnership with friends living in Gaza. It's crucial to give Gazans tools for survival and to repair critical infrastructure, even if the tools available are meager.

Here are other verified mutual aid networks to support:

- [The Gaza Soup Kitchen](#), which feeds countless people across the Strip. One of the leaders of the initiative, Chef Mahmoud Almadhoun, was [targeted and killed](#) by the IOF for his work feeding starving people.
- [The Sanabel Team](#), which provides food and water to displaced Palestinians in Gaza and Egypt.
- [Dahnoun Mutual Aid](#), which provides food, water, tents, and other critical supplies to Gazans.
- [Gaza's Roots](#), which provides food and housing to displaced Gazans.

Now more than ever, it is imperative to stand alongside Gazans and give them the ability to cope in the face of war, genocide, settler-colonialism and the looming threat of imperialist takeover.

*Lilli Sher is a Bay Area transplant, mutual aid organizer & former Jewish educator from the Midwest.*

## Lawsuit Against California Congress Members... *from page 11*

both houses of Congress and was signed into law by President Biden.

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution limits the legislature's power to collect taxes only for the common defense and general welfare of the country.

In addition to the first lawsuit filed against Thompson, TAG filed an amended lawsuit filed a month later that also names Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Kevin Mullin, Jimmy Panetta and Anna Eshoo, as well as California Senators Alejandro Padilla and Laphonza R. Butler, as well as former US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin.

Class members span the spectrum from college students to retirees, and include Palestinians, Jews, Latinas, First People and many others. Most of them have been contacting their Congress members repeatedly since Israel began its assault on Gaza. Many of them are veteran activists, both for Palestine and a variety of other causes.

Tarik Kanaana, a Palestinian American who works in child nutrition, has worked on labor rights, immigration issues, housing justice and tenants' rights. He is a long time resident of Santa Rosa, California and one of the founding members of Sonoma County for Palestine. He often cries when he speaks about what Israel is doing to his homeland and his people.

“Every day since this genocide began 440 days ago I have had to witness Israel savagely kill and maim Palestinians in Gaza and other parts of the Palestinian homeland. I have shed so many tears,” he said at a rally held in front of the federal district court in San Francisco January 19. Then he continued, “During those 440 days I have witnessed the destruction of parts of my history and parts of the beautiful culture of which I am a product.”

### The next steps

Huwaida Arraf, one of the National Lawyers Guild members working on the case, said TAG is now following two different tracks. One, she said, is the plan to bring it before the UN Human Rights Council for Review and the other is to seek out other international courts and commissions. Arraf is a Palestinian American, a co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement and a two-time participant in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla.

“We are appealing to the international system because our justice system has repeatedly made it clear that it is not going to intervene to stop heinous crimes or hold perpetrators accountable,” she said.

One such avenue is the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. It is the body that supports the American Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by most nations in the Americas on May 2, 1948, in Bogota, Colombia. While its findings are not legally binding, they are considered to be a source of international obligations for the Organization of American States' members. The US did not ratify this declaration but it is expected to abide by it.

And then there is what Arraf calls “universal jurisdiction.”

An example of that occurred recently when Brazil attempted to bring a case against a former IDF soldier who boasted on social media about the human rights violations he committed in Gaza. Fortunately for the soldier the Israeli government whisked him away before Brazil could begin the investigation. Brazil is a signatory to the Rome Statute and it abides by the International Criminal Court's decisions.

So how are TAG members feeling about stepping into the inter-

***Lawsuit Against California Congress Members...see page 13***

# Former Zionist Jews on Becoming Wise to the Lies

by Susan Lamont

Until now, my column has featured three books I recommend which highlight how we got into this mess. This column will be a little different. I'll discuss a family conversation, a movie, and a book. All three are by Jews who were once Zionists and want their fellow Jews to understand how they have been lied to about Israel and Zionism.

And why do I, an Anglo-Saxon atheist, feel qualified to bring these to you? Because I was once also lied to about my country — my roots here go back to Jamestown in 1619 — and American exceptionalism. I had to move from the elementary school projects of little handmade turkeys and Pilgrims on the dining room table and the lies in the Pledge of Allegiance to understanding the barbarity of which my country is capable. So, the stories in these different media feel all too familiar.

Having made it through the myths, my hope is that everyone can do the same.

My first recommendation is a family discussion ([Gaza Besieged, Jews Divided, & a World in Pain](#)) between Gabor Maté and his sons Aaron and Daniel. Gabor is well-known as a deep trauma therapist. Aaron is a journalist and Daniel is a musical theater artist. They leave no doubt as to their love of the Jewish communities and families of which they are a part. They all began their lives as Zionists, devoted to the cause of Israel. They are clear about the realities of antisemitism, but they are clear about how they came to understand Palestinian history and the ways in which Palestinians and Israel were misrepresented to them.

Gabor Maté, in an oft-quoted line, said, "I went to Gaza. I cried every day for two weeks of what I saw." And that was in the early 1990's, well before the current horrors. They have all been to Occupied Palestine.

The conversation is an hour long and worth every minute of your time.

My second recommendation is the movie *Israelism*, which was produced and directed by American Jews who attended Jewish schools in the United States. We see what is taught in those schools and the pressure to take "birthright" trips to Israel and even to join the IDF, Israeli Defense Forces. 900,000 young people (ages 18-26) have made birthright trips, 80 percent of them from

the United States, about 20 percent of eligible Jews.

The goal of the trips is to strengthen Jews' connection to Israel, but a few of the participants see how Palestinians are brutally treated in Israel and begin to rethink what they have been taught. They come to understand that they have been propagandized from the beginning and this movie is the story of that new understanding.

The movie has been shown in very few theaters and has had screenings at universities and other venues canceled and protested. It is available for free on The Roku Channel and Tubi TV and for a fee from the usual suspects.

My third recommendation is *Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza: A Reckoning* by Peter Beinart. He is a professor of journalism, an editor of *Jewish Currents* and contributor to many news outlets, such as *The New York Times*.

This is a small book, 121 pages sans footnotes, but it packs a huge punch. Beinart explains many beliefs of Zionism and then dismantles them. He is at his most powerful when speaking about the ways in which this thinking both violates Judaism and makes Jews less safe.

To quote Beinart, "This book is about the stories Jews tell ourselves that blind us to Palestinian suffering. It's about how we came to value a state, Israel, above the lives of all the people who live under its control. And it's about why I believe that Palestinian liberation means Jewish liberation as well."

And harkening back to the movie and what young American Jews have been taught in their schools, I'll again quote Beinart speaking of his own children: "I first began writing on this subject fifteen years ago... because I feared that Jews of my generation were failing Jews of theirs."

As you read this, the official count of slaughtered Palestinians will be horrific and, undoubtedly, greater than that count. It is well past time for all of us, Jewish or not, to demand an end to the ongoing Nakba in both Gaza and the West Bank by both Israel and its partner, our own government.

Please understand that Donald Trump's plan to create a resort over the bodies of those buried beneath the rubble is akin to building a casino over Auschwitz. Enough said.

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## Lawsuit Against California Congress Members... *from page 12*

national arena, something they never could have imagined when they decided last year to sue their local congressmen?

"Of course the dismissal (of the class action lawsuit) was a disappointment," Kanaana said, "but I was sure they would find some way to dismiss it. It's just more proof that the government is set up to protect itself."

Then he went on to say about working internationally, "I don't expect there can be anything binding. It's just calling them (the US government) out."

Norman Solomon, a journalist, activist and author who is Jewish, said, "I think it's a good step. But it does not challenge the political power of any member of congress. In my lifetime I can't

remember seeing the US court ever preventing the US government from slaughtering civilians overseas.

Donnelly, who began this entire project by becoming fed up with his congressman, sees going international as a great organizing tool whose time has come.

"I think that the current moment we are in makes it more important to organize, to go out into the world. If we don't develop a popular grass roots movement, than who will do that? The US is the source of so many human rights violations. It is our duty to do this."

We will continue to update this story as new developments arise.

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# Salem's Words and Photos from Gaza

by *Dianne Monroe*

I began helping to support the extended Alaydi family trapped in Gaza not long after Israel began its war of annihilation in October, 2023. They are the family of my long-time friend Rolla Alaydi, a Palestinian-American now living in Monterey County, CA. The family includes her brothers, their wives and their children (a total of 21 people, including 13 children).

Through helping to support this family, I have a very personal window into life in Gaza over the past year and a half. Here I share a little of this with *Peace Press* readers.

One of the children, 18-year-old Salem, is an incredibly talented photographer, videographer and writer. Below are some of

his powerful and poetic words from two recent Instagram posts, and a few of his photos.

You can follow the Alaydi family through [Salem's Instagram](#) and [Rolla Alaydi's Instagram](#)

Please donate at [Alaydi family GoFundMe](#) (and read updates)

The family is in great need of almost everything – food, water, medicine, clothes, shoes, e-sims and more. Your donation helps to maintain them until they can rebuild their lives in a safe place. Even more, your gift lets them know that people outside Gaza see them and care about what happens to them.

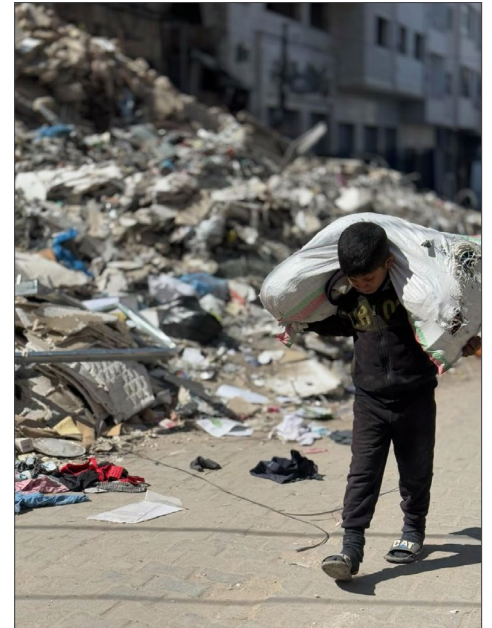
*Dianne Monroe is a writer and photographer, long-time advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people, living in Sonoma County.*



25-2-25, Medhat looks for his tools.



25-01-17, Salem's younger sister Alma swings a friend outside the family tent in Al-Mawasi camp, south Central Gaza, just before the ceasefire.



25-2-12, Boy carrying a heavy bag. North Gaza.

## North Gaza, during the ceasefire, 2-25-25

We have lost everything in this genocide -  
Our loved ones, our neighbors,  
The walls that held our memories.

We now walk through streets  
Filled with the spirits of those  
Who once lived, laughed, and loved here.

But even in this devastation, we search.  
We dig through the ruins,  
Not just for objects,  
But for proof that our history cannot be erased.

And no matter how much they try  
T strip us of everything,  
They cannot take away our resilience.  
They cannot steal our memories.  
They will never erase our smile.  
Because we will always find treasure in what remains.

## North Gaza, shortly after Israel broke the ceasefire and began bombing Gaza again, 3-21-25

I can't take this anymore.  
The genocide is back, worse than before.  
Death is everywhere.  
My family is trapped, living every second in fear.  
I've lost friends, neighbors  
Sometimes, I wonder if I'll wake up tomorrow  
Or if I'll just be another body buried under rubble.

I feel like I'm losing my mind.  
The screams, the bombs, the hunger it's too much.  
This isn't life.  
This is a nightmare that never ends.

To the world:  
Do something.  
Don't just watch us die.  
Don't scroll past our pain.  
We are not numbers. We are not statistics.  
We are human.  
We deserve to live.

# We are becoming wild again

We are becoming wild again!  
 roaming  
 the streets of the walled cities  
 demanding justice,  
 We are becoming wild  
 refusing to obey, to submit  
 to accept the lies  
 Refusing to let ourselves  
 be imprisoned by our fears  
 Our fears will make us all the more ferocious!

We are like tigers pacing on the freeways  
 stopping traffic, stopping the machine  
 We are the elephants stampeding  
 to rescue our children  
 from the jaws of death

We are snarling in our hunger for justice  
 We are like sharks ready to devour  
 anyone that will pollute the waters of the earth

We are wild animals refusing  
 to believe that anyone owns  
 the body of the great mother  
 we are roaring like lions,  
 screeching like owls  
 with ancient wisdom  
 that the laws of man  
 are a trick to protect thieves  
 and tyrants  
 and we are wild animals

Declaring our allegiance to the earth  
 to Earth Justice  
 to the laws of nature  
 that love is power  
 that there is more life in a single  
 petal of a rose than ever pulsed through  
 the hearts of dictators and military generals  
 police have become thugs  
 and criminals, putting our brothers and sisters  
 in prisons  
 in the name of progress and profit

We will break down  
 the gates to the dark factories  
 where children labor from dawn  
 to dusk to feed the economy.

We will laugh like hyenas  
 in the face of fascism  
 shake our rattles like snakes  
 hissing and slithering through  
 the halls and malls  
 where they sell her body  
 in little plastic packages that smell of death.

We are becoming wild again  
 and we will fly with the eagle that refuses  
 to be used as a symbol of war any more  
 When we destroy the dams  
 We will once again understand the language  
 that comes out of the mouths of rivers  
 We will converse with the spirits of the rain forests  
 as we drive out the oil drillers that are pillaging paradise.

We will tie the likes of the Koch brothers  
 and the Walmart family to the mighty oaks  
 and have them take magic mushrooms  
 until all they want to do is hug trees,  
 beg for mercy  
 and sing hymns of praise to the great mother!

We are becoming wild again, and the laws of the universe  
 will protect us-  
 The law that love conquers all  
 that there is nothing more fierce  
 than a mother wolf fighting for the lives of her cubs

We are gathering in herds, swarming like bees  
 out in the open, we will not hide,  
 only to be hunted down and picked off  
 one by one  
 We have all been in the cages of zoos  
 too long, waiting to become extinct,  
 we had almost forgotten  
 that humans come from humus  
 We are re-rooting ourselves in this black earth...  
 Because black is beautiful Oh! Mother Africa!  
 we remember now where we came from  
 we are wild women, wild warriors,  
 when words fail  
 we will howl and cry and wail and scream  
 and stomp our feet!  
 we are becoming wild again  
 and freedom never tasted so good!

*by Magick, for the Earth*

*(recited at the Hands Off rally in San Francisco)*



## ENGAGE YOUR GOVT.

### Sonoma County Supervisors (707) 565-2241

District 1 - [Rebecca.Hermosillo@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Rebecca.Hermosillo@sonoma-county.org)

District 2 - [David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org](mailto:David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org)

District 3 - [Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org)

District 4 - [James.Gore@sonoma-county.org](mailto:James.Gore@sonoma-county.org)

District 5 - [Linda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Linda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org)

### State Senator Mike McGuire

50 D St., Ste. 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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

[Senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov)

### Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen

District Offices, 9250 Laguna Springs Drive

Suite 220, Elk Grove, CA 95758,

Tel: (916) 670-7888

Capitol Office: State Capitol

P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0010

Tel: (916) 319-2010

### Assemblymember Chris Rogers

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

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

California Assembly Website: [assembly.ca.gov](http://assembly.ca.gov)

### U.S. Representative Jared Huffman

1630 Longworth Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20515

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

Nearest local office:

999 Fifth Ave., #290, San Raphael 94901

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

### U.S. Representative Mike Thompson

231 Cannon Bldg., Washington D.C. 20515

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

Fax: (202) 225-4335, Santa Rosa (707) 542-7182

Fax (707) 542-2745

[m.thompson@mail.house.gov](mailto:m.thompson@mail.house.gov)

### U.S. Senator Alejandro Padilla

112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Relay Fax: 202-224-0454

[padilla.senate.gov/content/contact-senator](http://padilla.senate.gov/content/contact-senator)

### U.S. Senator Adam Schiff

12 Hart Senate Office Bldg. #112

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-3841, S.F.

Contact form: [schiff.senate.gov](http://schiff.senate.gov)

### California Gov. Gavin Newsom

State Capitol, Sacramento, Ste. 1173, CA 95814

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

[governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov)

### Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis

State Capital, Rm. 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 445-8994, Fax (916) 323-4998

### Citizen Comment: (202) 456-1111

(A 1-minute call before 8 am costs 29 cents;

caller's message is recorded for reference

of public opinions)

### Congressional Switchboard

(202) 224-3121

### President Donald J. Trump

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500

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

[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

*Let the politicians know  
you're watching them.*

# Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

ALL PHONE AREA CODES ARE (707)  
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

**350 Sonoma County** – Engaging our community in the work of [350.org](http://350.org) to solve the climate crisis. [350sonomacounty.org](http://350sonomacounty.org)

**ACLU Sonoma Co.**, working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. [sonomaaclu.org](http://sonomaaclu.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

**The Climate Center** – Rapid Response Team,

[benderjane613@gmail.com](mailto:benderjane613@gmail.com), 707-291-5988 or [info@speakeasies.biz](mailto:info@speakeasies.biz), 707-494-9495. [theclimatcenter.org](http://theclimatcenter.org)

**Comité VIDA** – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, [circsc@yahoo.com](mailto:circsc@yahoo.com),

**Daily Acts** – Offers sustainable solutions rooted in the power of inspired daily actions. 789-9664, [dailyacts.org](http://dailyacts.org)

**Green Party of Sonoma County** – [sonomgreenparty.org](http://sonomgreenparty.org)

**Green Sangha** – Spiritually engaged environmental action. [info@greensangha.org](mailto:info@greensangha.org)

**HPEACE** – Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. [hpeaceonomacounty.wordpress.com](http://hpeaceonomacounty.wordpress.com)

**Healdsburg Peace Project** – Peace and social justice action group, Healdsburg. 431-1129, [healdsburgpeaceproject.org](http://healdsburgpeaceproject.org)

**Hate Free Petaluma** Progressive organization.

[www.facebook.com/hatefreepetaluma/](http://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](http://indivisiblesoco.com)

**Indivisible Petaluma:** [indivisiblepetaluma@gmail.com](mailto:indivisiblepetaluma@gmail.com),

or follow on Twitter at @IndivisibleLuma

**Indivisible Sebastopol:** [indivisible.wsc@gmail.com](mailto:indivisible.wsc@gmail.com)

**Indivisible Healdsburg**

**Indivisible Windsor**

**LezResist!** A visible unified Lesbian presence in support of each other, and stand in solidarity with the many communities, causes, and policies under attack by the US administration. Info @ [LezResist@gmail.com](mailto:LezResist@gmail.com).

**LGBTQ Connection, Napa & Sonoma Counties** – Sonoma County, 714 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401, 707-582-0552, [emerson@lgbtqconnection.org](http://emerson@lgbtqconnection.org)

**Listening for a Change** – Programs support listening and oral history to create a caring community. 578-5420, [listeningforachange.org](http://listeningforachange.org)

**MEChA de Sonoma** – Student group that focuses on issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community. [info@mechadesonoma.org](mailto:info@mechadesonoma.org)

**Los Cien** – advances belonging, trust and equity by engaging with community, facilitating honest dialogue, elevating Latinx pride and power in So.Co. [loscien.org](http://loscien.org)

**Metta Center for Nonviolence** – Works to promote and build a nonviolent culture worldwide. 774-6299

**MOVES-Minimizing Occurrences of Violence in Everyday Society** – Stresses nonviolence as the answer to society's ph. 524-1900

**NAACP - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. [naacpsantarosasonomaco.org](http://naacpsantarosasonomaco.org) Email: [naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com](mailto:naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com) 707.536.1047

**National Women's History Project** – coordinates observances of Women's History month around the country. 636-2888, [nwhp@aol.com](http://nwhp@aol.com)

**North Bay Jobs with Justice** – organized for better conditions and a living wage for workers. Email: [northbayjobswithjustice@gmail.com](mailto:northbayjobswithjustice@gmail.com), Website: [northbayjobswithjustice.org](http://northbayjobswithjustice.org), [www.facebook.com/nbjwj](http://www.facebook.com/nbjwj) Ph: 346-1187

**North Bay Organizing Project** – a regional community organization. [www.facebook.com/NorthBayOrganizingProject](http://www.facebook.com/NorthBayOrganizingProject) 318-2818

**North Coast Coalition for Palestine** – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 575-8902. [www.nccpal.org](http://www.nccpal.org) or find us on Facebook.

**NOW of Sonoma County** – local chapter of the National Organization for Women. 545-5036

**Organizing for Action:** Progressive organizing project. Contact Linda Hemenway: [whatisworking@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:maggik3@sonic.net), [thepeacealliance.org](http://thepeacealliance.org)

**Peace Roots Alliance** – We seek to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world for future generations. 765-0196, [Linda@peaceroots.org](mailto:Linda@peaceroots.org)

**Petaluma Blacks for Community Development** – [facebook.com/pb4cd](http://facebook.com/pb4cd)

**Petaluma Progressives** – Grassroots, political education and action group. Producers of the Progressive Festival. 763-8134, [info@progressivefestival.org](mailto:info@progressivefestival.org)

**Praxis Peace Institute** – Peace Education organization, 939-2973, [praxispeace.org](http://praxispeace.org)

**Progressive Sonoma** – Peaceful Resistance Network. An umbrella association to network Sonoma's local progressive action groups. [peacefulresistance9.wix-site.com/progressivesonoma](http://peacefulresistance9.wix-site.com/progressivesonoma). Facebook at Peaceful Resistance Sonoma

**Project Censored/Media Freedom Foundation** – Publishes the top 25 most censored news stories each year. [Mickey@projectcensored.org](http://Mickey@projectcensored.org). [projectcensored.org](http://projectcensored.org).

**Racial Justice Allies** – Developing anti-racist practices among white social justice activists. 795-2890 [racialjusticeallies@gmail.com](mailto:racialjusticeallies@gmail.com), [www.racialjusticeallies.org](http://www.racialjusticeallies.org)

**Sonoma County Black Forum:** Our mission is to lead, serve, and thrive, by promoting positive community and youth engagement events. Monthly meetings. [sonoma-countyblackforum@gmail.com](mailto:sonoma-countyblackforum@gmail.com)

**Physicians for a National Health Program, Sonoma County (PNHP).** In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925. [sngold@juno.com](mailto:sngold@juno.com). [pnhpca.org](http://pnhpca.org).

**Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCo CAN!)** Groups and individuals working address and reverse climate change. Meet in months with a 5th Monday, 7-9 PM at the PJC. Info: 595-0320 or [Sonoma-CountyCAN@gmail.com](mailto:Sonoma-CountyCAN@gmail.com) (email preferred).

**Sonoma County Coastal Hills:** [gardens@mcn.org](mailto:gardens@mcn.org)

**Sonoma County for Palestine:**

[sonomacountyforpalestine.com](http://sonomacountyforpalestine.com),

[facebook.com/SonomaCountyforPalestine](http://facebook.com/SonomaCountyforPalestine),

[instagram.com/SonomaCountyforPalestine](https://www.instagram.com/SonomaCountyforPalestine)

**Sonoma County Nonviolence Training Collective** offers free trainings in methods and principles for progressive social change and peace. [soconvtc@gmail.com](mailto:soconvtc@gmail.com).

**Sonoma County Resistance** via [change.org](http://change.org)

**Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock** – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. [SonomaSolidarity.org](http://SonomaSolidarity.org), [facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL](http://facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL). 795-1044.

**Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice** – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. [audreyvh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:audreyvh@sbcglobal.net)

**Sunrise Movement, Sonoma County Hub** – Our hub believes in the power of mobilizing youth, taking direct and indirect action, building political power, civic engagement, and partnerships. More in fo: [www.sunrisesoco.org](http://www.sunrisesoco.org) and [facebook.com/SunriseSoCo](http://facebook.com/SunriseSoCo)

**SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice, Sonoma County)** – [facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty](http://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

**VIDAS - Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services** 576 B St Suite 1C, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, [vidaslegal.org](http://vidaslegal.org) Sonoma County, Napa County, Solano County Providing Low-Cost, Immigration Law Services, Advocacy, and Community Education. (707) 523-1740, Spanish/English, Monday-Friday 9am-1pm and 2-5pm

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

**Women's Justice Center** – Advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse, particularly in the Latina community. 575-3150, [justicewomen.com](http://justicewomen.com)

For additions or changes, email [zenekar2@gmail.com](mailto:zenekar2@gmail.com) type "PEACE PRESS" on Subject line.

All web links and email addresses in blue are interactive. A click will get you there.

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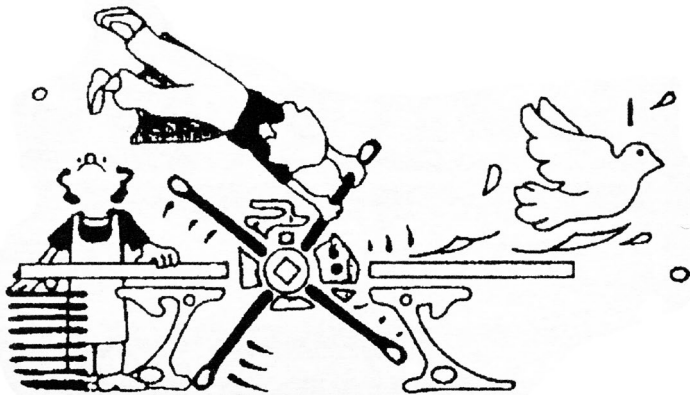
Let us know what issues the PJC can assist with, and how you can help the Center

Contact us if you would like to use your skills to help the Center advance by:

- ▶ Serving on the Board
- ▶ Joining the Peace Press Collective
- ▶ Helping to maintain and expand our social media
- ▶ Assisting at Center Events
- ▶ Helping with grant writing
- ▶ Fundraising or Donating to the Center
- ▶ Sponsoring the bi-monthly Peace Press publication

Please call (707) 575-8902 or visit [PjCsoco.org](http://PjCsoco.org)

S O N O M A C O U N T Y peace press



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

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