

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

peace press

Publication of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County
FOR JUSTICE SO THAT ALL MAY LIVE IN PEACE
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TAP HERE, to see Gaza after over 2 years of bombing, paid for with US tax dollars

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline to submit articles for the Dec 2025/Jan 2026 issue, is Nov. 20

Email articles with title on the document, in MSWord to 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
Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

DISPLAY SPONSORSHIP RATES & SPECS

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To receive the weekly Social Justice e-newsletter, go to:
PjCsoco.org PJC office hours: 1-4 PM, M-F. call ahead

Come Visit the Peace & Justice Center

by The PJC Board of Directors

The Board of Directors recently undertook a training on how to do what we do better. Turns out we've been doing a lot right and now, thanks to this training, we'll be an even more efficient Board for the Peace & Justice Center.

One way we're getting more inclusive is by growing. In the last issues of the Peace Press you were introduced to Kim and Fran. In this issue we'd like to welcome our newest and youngest member Erin Latham-Ponneck to the Board. Erin has been donating her services as a bookkeeper and for this we thank her. Now she'll be adding her expertise to the Board.

Lots has been happening at the Center with a wide array of organizations using the facility for evening meetings. We're open Monday to Friday 1 to 4 pm, and we have two new volunteers

staffing on Wednesday and Friday. On Wednesday you'll be greeted by Ailsa Rothman, an energetic young woman adding her warmth to the PJC. On Fridays you'll meet Rodger Doncaster who is constantly looking for ways to improve the Center's interior. Both new members are welcomed to our staffing crew of Larry, Rebel and George.

Finally, Winterblast is coming. This lovely family friendly street party is a celebration of light with music, food and displays from the many contributors of this, the art district. The Peace and Justice Center will be open and welcoming folks to come in and see what we have to offer. We'll have a band as well.

The Peace & Justice Center is brimming with activity. Come check things out. Chances are that you'll find something that appeals to you. Enjoy the magic of winter and please join us for Winterblast. 🐾

A Wake for Waco

On Sept. 21, a beautiful Celebration of Life was held at Christ Methodist Church in Santa Rosa, honoring the much-loved and dearly missed Alice Waco. If you didn't have a chance to attend or would like another opportunity to be with others and reflect on Alice Waco's amazing life, the Peace & Justice Center will host a wake for Alice at the center in the near future; the date is still to be determined. Please check our weekly PJC E-newsletter or website calendar in the coming weeks if you don't hear about it. We will try to put the word out through the activist community grapevine.

The "Waco Wake" will be at the Peace & Justice Center sometime before the end of the year. If you would like to be part of hosting, want to volunteer, help set up or clean up, bring some food, donate wine, or help in any way, please Email us with your contact info and any other details at Peace@pjsoco.org and put 'Waco Wake' in the subject line.

A bumper sticker seen here, was made to honor Alice Waco. We hope to receive donations in Alice's honor to support VIDAS (immigration attorneys), to be designated to help address the legal



and material needs of those affected by ICE. We will have them at the Peace & Justice Center and hope to raise \$7500. To donate, see webpage: "[Unite and Resist Like Alice Waco](#)" 🐾

Farewell to Alice Waco, from Friends in Nicaragua

Alice, along with her beloved Bill McGee and a group of friends from California, visited Nicaragua in the late 1980s, motivated by a desire to learn about the impact of the Revolution. One of the offices they visited to learn more about the achievements of the Revolution was the Human Rights Office. Through one of those mysteries of fate they met Sister Mary Hartman, who worked in that office. The group showed such interest in learning more about the revolutionary achievements that Mary invited them to her home, where they would meet Anabel Torres. Both Mary and Anabel were members of the Congregation of Sisters of Saint Agnes and co-founders of CANTERA. After learning about the practice and concept of the work that Cantera was doing, Alice

decided to provide as much support as possible to the organization's programs. To strengthen their support, in December 1992 the group founded the organization "Friends of Cantera, Inc." in the United States. This organization provided extraordinary support for Cantera's work.

From Alice's first meeting with Mary and Anabel, a deep connection was established as dreams were shared, as well as ideas about the best ways to strengthen female and youth leadership. Supporting people in developing their leadership skills and personal value was our shared aspiration.

Alice and her husband Bill were members of the Board of

Farewell to Alice Waco, from Friends in Nicaragua... see page 11

Open Letter to Lynda Hopkins in Opposition to Her ICE Policies:

Dear Supervisor Hopkins,

I read your recent newsletter regarding the proposed sanctuary ordinance with great care. I thank you for the clarity of your position and the clear respect you hold for the hunger strikers and the immigrant community. Your commitment to tangible action is noted.

However, I must express why, from a perspective of moral righteousness, your position is profoundly wrong. You have argued effectively as a pragmatic manager of risk, but you have failed to meet the moment as a moral leader.

You state that declaring a sanctuary county is an “empty promise” because we cannot physically stop ICE. This confuses a practical outcome with a moral one. The promise is not that we can create an impenetrable forcefield; the promise is that we will stand, unequivocally, on the side of the vulnerable. Righteousness is not defined by our capacity to control an oppressor, but by our willingness to stand between the oppressor and the oppressed. By your logic, no one should have sheltered Jews in Nazi Germany because they could not stop the Gestapo. The righteousness was in the act of sheltering itself.

Your second point, that the ordinance could create a “false sense of security” and draw retribution, is the logic of the bully’s enabler. It suggests we should not loudly oppose an injustice for fear that the unjust power will punish us for speaking up. This is the antithesis of courage. Righteousness requires the courage to accept retribution. The hunger strikers understand this; they are sacrificing their very bodies. To reject their call because it might “put a target on our backs” is to prioritize the comfort of the powerful over the safety of the vulnerable. It is a betrayal of the very principle of standing up for what is right when it is hard.

You correctly note that the Board of Supervisors lacks authority over the Sheriff. But a sanctuary ordinance is not merely a directive; it is a public, moral mandate. It shifts the political landscape and creates a new standard of accountability. If the Sheriff then acts in opposition to the declared will of the people, that is a political problem for him to answer for. Your position surrenders moral authority to a jurisdictional technicality. Righteousness demands we use every tool at our disposal to make our values law, even if its immediate enforceability is limited.

Most troubling is your defense of the Sheriff’s policy, which cooperates with ICE in the case of “serious and violent felonies.” You ask, “Are we fighting to protect the vast majority of our immigrant community, or are we fighting to protect the ten folks arrested by ICE who repeatedly committed crimes?” This is a false and dangerous choice that abandons the principle of universal rights.

Righteousness is not conditional. We do not believe in due process only for the innocent. We do not believe in protection from cruel and unusual punishment only for the likable. The moment we accept that it is permissible for anyone in our community to be swept into a system you yourself describe as terrifying and unjust—where people are “whisked away by masked officers to an out-of-state detention facility... or worse”—we have lost the moral core of our argument. We become complicit in designing a

tiered system of justice, and that is a stain on our collective soul.

You urge us to prepare for the “floods and fires” of ICE raids through know-your-rights training and supporting non-profits. These are vital, but they are the actions of a community preparing for a siege. A sanctuary declaration is the action of a community refusing to accept the siege as legitimate. It is the difference between teaching someone how to survive in a burning building and declaring that the arsonist has no place here.

The hunger strikers are not engaging in “grandstanding.” They are embodying the highest form of moral witness. They are demonstrating that some principles are worth suffering for. Your pragmatism, while well-intentioned, reads as a refusal to take that same moral risk.

In the end, this is not about a policy that “looks good on paper.” It is about who we are. Will we be a community that calculates the risks of defending the vulnerable, or one that declares, as a matter of fundamental principle, that we are a safe haven for all? I urge you to reconsider. Do not let a manager’s calculation of risk override a leader’s duty to righteousness.

Respectfully,

Peter Walker, a Sonoma County Neighbor
(Reprinted from a Social Media public post) 🙏

North Bay

Rapid Response Network

NAPA, SOLANO & SONOMA COUNTIES

*If you see immigration (ICE) agents in
our community, call our hotline*

(707) 800-4544

For more resources visit:

www.northbayop.org/rapidresponse

North Bay Rapid Response Network provides a way for people to respond to fear and anxiety in our community as a result of the increase in immigration enforcement, ICE raids and other attacks against our communities.

The network provides a 24-hour hotline to immigrants facing a raid by federal immigration agents, dispatches trained legal observers to the raid location, provides legal defense to affected communities, and offers accompaniment to impacted people and families following a raid

It's Time to Revisit Your City's Flag Policy



by Susan Collier Lamont

After the death of the racist, sexist, homophobic (I could go on) friend of Donald Trump – Charlie Kirk – Trump ordered the lowering of all American flags to half-mast. Most municipalities complied, including Sebastopol and Santa Rosa. I don't know about the others in Sonoma County. The city council members did not know about it because it was done by the city clerks in accordance with current flag policies.

When I saw the lowered flags, I wrote to my activist email list and asked people to contact their city councils and some of you did. So, by the time you read this, Sebastopol will have considered a slight revision in its flag policy at its October 7 meeting. I have been told that Santa Rosa will be doing the same, but it has yet to appear on an agenda.

Sebastopol's flag policy covers many things, such as special flags they have agreed to fly, for example, ones for their July 3 fireworks celebration and the Apple Blossom Festival. But it also says that the city clerk will do whatever the president says to do (obviously not in those words). The new flag policy makes it a decision in consultation with the mayor. Therefore, if there is even a moderate mayor or a cowardly mayor, the flag will still be lowered. It has been suggested that the decision be made by both the mayor and vice-mayor and, if they don't agree, the flag will not be lowered.

There are no standards for this decision. One could be a murderer, as some of those pardoned by Trump are. One could be a child molester or perpetrator of domestic violence, as almost everyone Trump knows is. One could believe in creating a theocracy or curtailing the rights of groups of people, as Charlie Kirk did.

At the very least, it must be clear that anyone suggesting curtailing any group's civil rights cannot be honored in any way by our cities or county. Forget the bullshit about polite discourse between people who disagree on civil rights. There can be no discussion on that because it implies that taking away people's civil rights is a viable position. In a democracy, that must be a non-

starter. The Pledge of Allegiance ends with the words "with liberty and justice for ALL." If you don't believe that – and Charlie Kirk did not – then we shouldn't lower the flag.

What might a positive position be? Possibly that the person honored must have done something to advance the equality of all people or to improve their lives (not the same as giving them whatever they want and not people who improve the lives of some while taking away the rights of others). This will never be perfect, of course, but some examples are so egregious, as Kirk was, that it's a no-brainer. This cannot be the apartheid country that it once was. We shouldn't even discuss going backwards.

As Nikole Hannah-Jones (scholar on the 1619 Project) says, this country has reached the point where "expressing explicit bigotry no longer relegates one to the fringes of political discourse." There are people within government who are now advocating taking the vote from women or resurrecting slavery. These are people who must never be honored.

Too bad that we'll have to lower the flag for Trump (if there's a country left), but we probably can't exclude a president.

I think the proposal from Sebastopol needs to go back to the drawing board. It will take a while to craft something better, so this could be an interim step. But a person who denigrated so many groups of Americans should never be honored again.

Please ask your city council what was done in your city. I drove by the Sonoma County main building and no flag was flying. Compromise? I don't know. If you live in Sebastopol or Santa Rosa, I hope you'll let your city council know what you think and expect. If you live in another city that lowered the flag, please contact them. If your city did not lower the flag, please thank them.

Ta-Nehisi Coates has asked, "If you would look away from the words of Charlie Kirk, from what else would you look away?" And I'll note that the people who honor Kirk also believe that one should lose one's job for repeating his words. And when they honor him, they never repeat his words. We're in Alice's Wonderland. Or, I guess, it's Orwell's. 🙄



THE CRISIS OF MENTAL HEALTH IN THE US

by Terry Winter

Well before COVID-19, our nation faced a growing mental health care crisis. In 2019, 21 percent of adults experienced mental illness. Our rate of death by suicide has risen by 35 percent since 1999, and is now the second leading cause of death for young people. Seventy thousand Americans died from drug overdoses in 2019, a 57 percent increase from 2013.

But by the summer of 2020, the level of unmet need had grown totally out of control: The percentage of adults experiencing mental illness nearly doubled. Rates of anxiety and depression were three times higher, and the number of fatal drug overdoses spiked by 21 percent.

In 2020, 57.2 percent of adults with a mental illness received no treatment.

In 2019, 89.7 percent of Americans 12 and older, with a substance use disorder, were unable to get treatment. Among youth with severe depression, 72.7 percent did not receive consistent treatment.

Almost a quarter (22.3 percent) of all adults with a mental illness, who actively sought treatment – including 47.7 percent of those with serious mental illness – said they were not able to receive the care they needed. This percentage has not changed since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The gap in care is particularly apparent among those with the highest need.

A recent study in JAMA looked at caregivers reported to Child Protective Services who had a psychiatric disorder. Only 38 percent received counseling and 67 percent received psychiatric medication. Among caregivers with a substance use disorder, 40 percent received counseling and 38 percent received a substance use disorder medication.

Americans with untreated mental illness – including children – often end up on the streets, in the emergency room, or in jail.

Locally, a Sonoma County Grand Jury found that the sheriff's office was mismanaging care for people in lockup, in large part because of the high concentration of inmates with mental health issues. Yet a nearly 10-year-old funded plan to build a Sonoma County jail mental health wing remains in limbo.

Why can't Americans get the mental health care we need?

Barriers to care included a lack of insurance coverage for mental health, a shortage of mental health providers, lack of available treatment types and high out-of-pocket costs – such as deductibles, copays and fees paid to providers not covered by a patient's insurance network.

A 2024 report by the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General found that Medicare and Medicaid have a dire shortage of mental health care providers, causing significant problems in finding care.

On Medicare, one in 4 enrollees are living with a mental illness, and yet less than half of those people are receiving treatment. There is evidence that those enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans face even greater barriers to care.

Among people on Medicaid, one in three has a mental illness, and one in five have a substance use disorder. The need is tremendous, yet treatment remains elusive.

Commercial insurers discriminate against mental health care

1. Despite laws requiring parity for mental health and physical health services, commercial insurers pay mental health providers 24 percent less than primary care providers for similar services, causing mental health providers to opt out of insurance "networks." Eighty percent of counties outside core metro areas have no psychiatrists. Sixty one percent had no psychologists.
2. Insurers limit our choice of providers. A visit to a mental health provider is six to 10 times more likely to be "out-of-network," forcing patients to wait weeks or months for appointments, to travel long distances, or to seek costly care from "out-of-network" providers. Many simply give up.
3. Insurers limit or deny common treatments such as medication, therapy and hospitalization. The nation's largest insurer, United Behavioral Health, was recently found guilty of denying 67,000 claims for mental health care based on financial – not medical – reasons.

Don't other countries have similar mental health problems?

The US had the highest suicide rate among the 11 high-income countries, a trend that has been worsening for nearly 20 years.

Compared with these other countries, both white and Black US adults reported the highest rates of mental health needs. Here we compare the percentage of adults age 18-plus who reported a mental health need: Source: 2020 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey.

How did they define mental health need? Respondents who reported they had been told they had depression, anxiety or other mental health conditions, or said there was a time in the past 12 months they wanted to talk with a health care professional about their mental health.

Approaches to expanding mental health services in other countries offer the US important lessons on prioritizing mental health, making care more convenient, and scaling treatment approaches to help more people.

What can and must be done?

While many complex factors contribute to mental illness, we cannot address our nation's mental health crisis without first providing universal, comprehensive and patient-centered health coverage.

Only a single-payer healthcare system would eliminate the greed and waste of commercial insurance and cover everybody in the US for all medically necessary care – including medications and services for behavioral and mental health and substance use disorder – with no copays, deductibles, or gaps in coverage. And unlike commercial insurance, single-payer provides free choice of hospital and provider, including psychiatrists, psychologists and licensed counselors.

We are one of many groups continually advocating, educating and agitating for this drastically needed change in our health, including mental health care.

Contact the Healthcare for All Working Group, 707-480-2271 or healthcareforallsonoma@gmail.com 📧

Terry Winter is a retired nurse and Chair of the Healthcare for All Working Group, So.Co.

Solidarity Against the New US Regime, Part 3

by Barry Barnett

Elon Musk has supposedly left the government, but the barrage of mostly illegal, unconstitutional, unilateral actions by President Trump continues. They are orders of magnitude even greater than the tyranny of his first term.

The second coming of Trump has ushered in a season of violating the Constitution almost religiously, even more extremely than Bush Jr. and Dick Cheney, as Trump's Evangelical Christian base justifies its worship of this felon, and rapist of women and the planetary environment.

The Trump regime is proposing a 55 percent cut to the Environmental Protection Agency (\$4.9 billion). Also, proposed is a 60 percent (\$2.4 billion) cut for clean and drinking water projects. Along with Trump's unilateral abrogation of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), and the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), the 2015 multinational Iran nuclear treaty and along with the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

Professor Noam Chomsky in 2020 called Donald Trump "the worst criminal in history... passionately dedicated to destroying the projects for organized human life on earth in the near future."

Executive action is ruling that the EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) discharge limits for PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances), called "forever chemicals," should be rescinded, leaving states to regulate industrial pollution. As this group of chemicals does't easily break down, and builds up in your body, PFAS can lead to immune system disruption, increased cholesterol, liver damage, hormonal imbalances and increased risk of some cancers. Suggested practices include drinking filtered water, taking probiotics, and eating only organic pasture-raised eggs and ocean fish if you are not vegan.

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) has decried the new administration's dismantling of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau – established in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis – which has saved 195 million Americans over \$19.7 billion, preventing fraud perpetrated by payday loans, credit cards, other corporations, banks, and additional fraudsters rampant in this age of digital opportunism.

And now the Food and Drug Administration is ending regular food safety inspections. Like many of the agency cutbacks, the responsibility in this case is being shifted to the states. However,

while the federal budget appears to be reduced, most states are in deficit with no surplus – hence having to cut their social services as well. Better smell everything you eat, and have golden seal or pharmaceutical antibiotics ready at each meal!

The US Refugee Admissions Program has been suspended, and asylum, a sacred trust since ancient Greek times, has been stopped at the southern border – except for bringing white Afrikaners from South Africa to America. As of this writing, 59 have been brought here as refugees and given financial support. Trump claims – falsely attested by South African-born Elon Musk(rat), – that Black South Africans are murdering whites and stealing their land. Actually, while racial apartheid has ended there, whites own 75 percent of the land, and Blacks own five cents on the dollar in comparison (similar to the ratio in the US). (A "joke" – Elon Musk has quipped that he is a (White) African-American. Black African-Americans are not amused.)

The National Weather Service and the National Oceanic Administration have suffered mass firings – just as Atlantic hurricane season is commencing.

Trump has stated that he is putting away his golf clubs "to focus on the country." But 27 percent is the amount of time he has spent at his golf clubs during his presidency. He lied that he had important work to do at the White House, leaving West Point without the traditional greeting of the graduates after a rambling, incoherent commencement speech – and then was filmed driving his golf cart immediately after.

In a very presidential pronouncement, Trump stated that, in response to his Earth-blanketing tariffs intended to bring industry back to America, "countries are kissing my ass" trying to make trade deals with the United States." In actuality, only the UK has made a modest deal, and China is tentatively proposing one or more. The rest of the nations, overwhelmingly, are activating equally costly countermeasures. And Trump has been giving many concessions, causing additional hesitation for companies to decide whether or how to invest.

Non-corporate media have reported that Trump's back-and-forth vacillations (intentionally) cause the markets to fall, whereupon he and his family and friends buy stocks at a low price, then sell high when the stock market rebounds, as it has been doing repeatedly. Also, it has been reported that Trump is making concessions, e.g. to Japan, in exchange for investments in his and his friends' corporations, specifically Elon Musk's.

More conflicts of interest: Trump opened a "cryptocurrency reserve for the US" three days before inauguration, on January 17, 2025. One billion of the "meme coins," \$TRUMP, were issued, with Trump keeping 800 million in two of his companies. Leaked information allowed select investors to make bets early. Within one day, the value increased over 300 percent. These 800 million are potentially worth over \$56 billion, increasing Trump's personal wealth to \$63.8 billion. Within two days, total value was nearly \$13 billion.

In April, Trump hosted a White House dinner for top investors. The coin jumped over 50 percent. Some buyers interviewed admitted that they bought coins with the intention of securing actions concerning US policy. A China-linked firm associated with TikTok, which is currently censoring left-wing sites, is also getting



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 • [Website](#)

What is Project Esther?

by Lois Pearlman

In early September the now-former Northwestern University president Michael Schill resigned his post, even though his colleagues praised his leadership, which spanned the last three years and saw hundreds of staff layoffs due to the loss of federal funding.

But resigning at that critical moment was not really his idea. Schill was forced to resign when pro-Israel groups — the Anti-Defamation League, StandWithUs and the Brandeis Center — claimed he had failed to do enough to protect Jewish students at Northwestern from anti-Semitism. The organizations also attacked him for negotiating with students involved in a pro-Palestine encampment, and agreeing to fund two temporary positions for Palestinian faculty members, pay for the education of five Palestinian students and explore how the university was investing its money.

This makes Schill, who is Jewish and the descendant of Holocaust survivors, the latest victim of Project Esther, a right-wing policy formulated by the Heritage Foundation, the same group of Trump allies who created Project 2025.

While Project 2025 lays out plans to round up and deport immigrants, take over federal agencies and install right wing allies as their directors and roll back the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community, Project Esther specifically targets pro-Palestinian activists, especially in colleges and universities.

The policy takes its name from the Book of Esther in the Old Testament, which relates the story of a Jewish woman named Esther who married the king of Persia in the fourth century BCE and, from her prominent position, saved the Jews of Persia from being killed by the followers a man named Haman.

Project Esther disguises itself as “a blueprint to counter anti-Semitism in the United States,” and claims that the pro-Palestinian movement in the US is “part of a highly organized global Hamas

support network, and therefore effectively a terrorist support network.” By using the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, which includes criticism of Israel, Project Esther labels supporting Palestinian rights as a form of antisemitism. It also says this alleged Hamas Support Network “benefits from the support and training of America’s enemies overseas” — whoever they might be.

Never mind that the pro-Palestinian movement in the US is primarily non-violent and largely grass roots and underfunded

Schill, the most recent university president to lose his job over allegedly supporting antisemitic actions, defended himself in an op-ed in the Chicago Tribune saying, “I am a proud Jew who practices many of our rituals, and grew up with a love for Israel, which remains today. My family has experienced antisemitism, and so claims that I have collaborated with antisemitic people feel like personal affronts.”

So much for Project Esther’s so-called mission to protect Jews.

Written by non-Jews, who unlike Schill, have no interest in Judaism, Project Esther is clearly just another hammer in the right wing’s toolbox for destroying the rights granted to people in the US by the Constitution and making it acceptable to quash protest against the policies of the federal government.

Professor Barry Trachtenberg, head of Jewish history studies at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and a member of the Academic Advisory Boards at Jewish Voice for Peace, said, “The architects of Project Esther aren’t interested in fighting antisemitism, even in this moment of rising white nationalism — instead, they’re building a machine to crush dissent by any means necessary.”

You can find more information about [Project Esther](#) on the [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) website or by listening to an interview with Professor Trachtenberg on KBBF’s [Speaking of Palestine](#). 🦋

Lois Pearlman is a local theater artist, journalist and social justice activist

Solidarity Against the New US Regime, Part 3... *from page 5*

into the act – a first. GD Culture Group, in mid-May, announced a \$300 million investment in bit coin and \$TRUMP. However, value slumped in February, the same month Argentine President Javier Milei promoted cryptocurrency \$LIBRA, similarly declining, a scandal being called “Cryptogate.” Over 800,000 people lost \$2 billion, while the president’s company and partners profited about \$100 million from trading fees.

This, along with a \$400 million “gift” of a golden jet from the Qatari government, violates the emoluments clause of the Constitution, along with Trump continuing to profit from his companies while in office. Congress must approve all gifts to a president from foreign nations.

This list of executive abominations could go on and on. I don’t have space to list cuts affecting worker safety, and much more. Fortunately, this behavior is so outrageous, that reactions on many levels are ongoing. There have been well over 120 court rulings that have blocked or overturned Trump’s executive actions. Celebrities are publicly excoriating Trump for his corruption. And they are being told to “shut up” by our most tactful president – and then threatened. Numerous college students across the nation are speaking out for Palestine in their commencement addresses (not against Israel or Jews). The universities are retaliating by withholding diplomas and banning the malefactors from campuses, and the corporate press is crying “anti-

Semitism,” including several times in New York Times articles.

Regarding Trump’s “Big, Beautiful Budget Bill,” there is a nationwide campaign to contact senators of both major parties to vote down any cuts to HUD, food assistance, Medicaid, Medicare, children’s programs or (not on this bill) Social Security. It’s looking like there’s a good chance that it will not pass the Senate, as at least half a dozen Republican senators have questions and objections, or are not Trump/MAGA supporters. (Republicans actually caring about the serfs?)

These include Thom Tillis (NC), Susan Collins (ME), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Todd Young (IN), Josh Hawley (MO), newcomer John Curtis (UT), and others - possibly Mitch McConnell (KY), Lindsey Graham (SC), Ron Johnson (WI), Rand Paul (KY), and/or Rick Scott (FL). However, the last four want *even more extreme* cuts to the social safety net – to reduce the deficit – which is *caused* by other cuts that only benefit the wealthy. Economists estimate a \$2.3 to \$5 trillion deficit over ten years. How about not increasing the Pentagon budget from \$841.4 billion to \$1.1 trillion?! Especially as Trump claims he will end both wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

So, let’s keep agitating for change in any and all ways. History is not something we read about. With our organizing and activism, we can create it. 🦋

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist in Sonoma Co.

Ending Mass Shootings Requires Fewer Guns

by Peter Phillips

The mass shooting on August 27, 2025, at a Minneapolis Catholic church killed two children and wounded 14 children and three adults. A shocked America prompted many calls for stronger gun control laws. First Lady Melania Trump posted on X about the need for pre-emptive intervention in identifying potential shooters. Both approaches, restricting gun ownership and mental health intervention, have some validity. But that won't make the problem go away.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in the United States. Gun deaths for children and teens rose fifty percent from 1,731 in 2019 to 2,590 in 2021. In 2021, guns killed more than 45,000 Americans. In 2023, 647 people in the US were killed in mass shootings. In 2024 711 mass shooting deaths were reported. A mass shooting is defined an incident in which an attacker kills or wounds four or more people.



The United States accounts for less than five percent of the world's population, yet has 46 percent of civilian-owned guns in the world, making the US globally the highest per capita gun ownership country. People in the US own 393 million firearms, equating to about 120.5 guns per 100 people. Therefore, the availability of firearms in the US makes for easy access to guns for people seeking to own one or multiple weapons.

Many millions of firearms remain unregistered in the US as well. Efforts to prevent mass shootings in the US must include reducing the total number of guns. One way to reduce weapons would be to cut back on the two million new guns produced annually in the US.

Smith and Wesson and Sturm, Rogers & Co are the largest makers of firearms in the US. Together, they produce over 2.2 million new handguns and rifles per year, earning over \$600 million in revenue. Three large investment management companies, Blackrock, Vanguard, and State Street collectively invest over \$600 million in Smith & Weston, and Sturm, Rogers & Co. making them the largest profitters from new weapon sales in the US:

Smith & Wesson, \$474 million in revenue (2024)

Produced 800,975 handguns and 188,453 rifles, 2,137 shotguns in 2024. Total 991,847.

Top investors in 2022: BlackRock \$164 million; Vanguard \$70.1

million; State Street \$32.4 million. Total \$266.5 million.

Sturm, Rugers & Company Inc., \$536 million in revenue (2024)
Produced 683,101 handguns and 621,527 rifles in 2024. Total 1,305,615.

Top investors in 2022: BlackRock \$183.6 million; Vanguard \$177 million; State Street \$34.9 million. Total \$395.5 million.

To reduce weapons in the US towards lowering mass shootings, we must ask the

investors in gun making to suspend profits on weapons. That is an immediate first step. Government buybacks of privately held weapons, and full enforcement of registration laws would also contribute to smaller numbers of weapons.

Our first task is to ask the multimillionaire CEOs of these three assets companies to withdraw investment funds in gun manufacturers for the greater good and human safety in America. The amounts involved are only a small portion of their total investments. The following individuals are the CEOs of the large weapons investors and can easily be reached through their companies:

Blackrock, Assets under management, AUM \$9.5 Trillion.
Contact 800-441-7762

Laurence (Larry) D. Fink, US, CEO: BlackRock and director of PNC Financial Services Group, Innovir Laboratories (private) Member Financial Services Roundtable, Museum of Modern Art, Trustee-World Economic Forum (2019-2023) International Business Council, Business Roundtable, Director-Council on Foreign Relations, Trustee: New York University. Education: UCLA (MBA, BA). Financials: Net worth \$1 Billion (2022) (Forbes), BlackRock compensation \$36 million (2021), BlackRock shares owned 608,271 – \$428.1 million (2021).

Vanguard Group, AUM \$8.1 Trillion. Contact 877-662-7447

Salim Ramji, Born Tanzania, Dual US-Tanzanian citizenship, CEO Vanguard (2024). Prior Employment: Blackrock, Global I-shares and Index Investing, McKinsey and Company, Clifford Caance Law, London Hong Kong, Education: BA University Toronto, MA Law Cambridge University. Financials: Vanguard salary \$26 million, Net worth \$20 million+.

State Street Corporation, AUM \$4.02 Trillion. Contact 617-786-3000, Ronald P. O'Hanley, US. CB - CEO/Chair: State Street, Director: Unum Group. Member World Economic Forum, (2023) Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Federal Reserve's Federal Advisory Council, The Boston Foundation, The Ireland Funds, IYRS School of Technology and Trades, Syracuse University. Education: Harvard Business School (MBA), Syracuse University (BA). State Street Compensation \$14 million (2021); Unum Group Compensation \$290,001 (2021); net worth 2022: \$25.9 million.

Ending mass shootings in the US means reducing the number of guns available and making strong efforts by governments to enforce registration laws. Doing this, combined with increased mental health care, will save lives from mass shootings. We must insist that the CEOs of the largest investment management companies cease all investment in new gun manufacturing. Many thousands of us must ask them to quit these dangerous investments. 🙌

Peter Phillips is a professor of sociology at Sonoma State University and president of Media Freedom Foundation/Project Censored. He wrote his dissertation on the Bohemian Club in 1994.

The Nonviolent Return Attempt of 2018-2019

by Luigi Petrigh-Dove

The mass media will have people believe that the Gaza assault across the Israeli border on October 7, 2023, was a vicious and undeserved attack on innocent Israelis. But here is just one example of a mostly nonviolent effort by Palestinians to reclaim the land that was stolen from them by the Zionists. The most noteworthy event to have happened at the fence encircling Gaza was Friday, March 30 of 2018. There was one of the largest non-violent civilian mobilizations the world has ever known: the Great March of Return. That day, 30,000 people showed up after work or after school, at locations along the eastern border fence which Israel had built around the Gaza Strip.

The Great March of Return was intended to openly, and without weapons, push towards the fortified border fence and the lands of Palestine that Palestinians were forced to leave when the United Nations gave 55 percent of their land to the Zionists. That day Gazans showed up to resist nonviolently, on foot and unarmed, to show the world their pain of dispossession and their strife under the illegal blockade which Israel imposed on them in 2007.

The blockade of Gaza had been going on for 11 years, and the refugees had not been home for 70 years. Something had to change! Could massive civil disobedience, unarmed civilian action, be the answer?

That was the intention set by the journalist who imagined such an action, and shared his thoughts in a Facebook post almost a decade earlier. As the idea picked up steam, other individuals championed the cause. Community organizations also got involved and promoted the effort, as did the government of Gaza.

But these demonstrations were not absolute in their adherence to non-violence. Every person who has been part of non-violent action will tell you that different people have different ideas of what constitutes not going far enough, or going too far. Some groups of people threw stones, others reportedly approached within 300 meters of the fence with guns and were shot (the Israeli military only allows its own soldiers to be near the fence with guns).

There were incendiary kites flown over the border fence, which burned swaths of agricultural land farmed by Israelis – lands that had belonged to Palestinians. These fires constituted destruction of property, and were potentially dangerous to the life and safety of people on the other side. Out of thirty thousand people, though, the vast majority did not endanger anyone or anything except the status quo of domination and

subjugation by a colonial Zionist Israel.

These nonviolent gatherings were made more significant because of the real danger: unarmed demonstrators faced that was more than batons or arrest. They faced real bullets. Some nonviolent demonstrators were injured by crossfire, no doubt, however thousands were intentionally targeted by the Israeli military. The tell-tale signature of Israeli snipers was [to shoot participants in the knees](#) so the army would make sure the participant would never “march” again.

It’s important to understand the context, the motivation, and the name for this massive popular action. Seventy percent of the



Israeli forces fire tear gas and live ammunition at Palestinian protesters near the Gaza border fence during the start of the Great Return March, as seen from the Israeli side of the border, March 30, 2018. Photo: Oren Ziv/Activestills.org

population of Gaza is not from Gaza. They are from the rest of Palestine. They, or their parents or grandparents, were simply kicked out in 1948 or in 1967, and had to relocate to Gaza. Just like in the West Bank, there are many refugee camps in Gaza (small refugee cities really) where Palestinians live who were displaced from their villages, towns and cities so the Zionists could create an “ethnically clean” Jewish state.

Ever since 1948, Zionist forces have sought to win the “demographic game” they created to outnumber other religions and ethnicities, by committing ethnic cleansing. The Zionist project’s approach is captured in Zionists’ own [literature](#) and frequently described in their journals and correspondence. But this article is about Palestinians’ response, and the Great March of Return symbolized Palestinians returning on foot to the places from which they had been removed.

On the Fridays that followed, the demonstrations continued – from the spring of 2018 to the winter of 2019. Even though the event was originally planned to end on [Nakba Day](#) in May of 2018, for another 18 months beyond that people in Gaza showed up and demonstrated to the world the lengths they were willing

[The Nonviolent Return Attempt of 2018-2019... see page 9](#)

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: International Law

by Rebel Fagin

When South Africa was enduring apartheid, one of the significant steps in its dismantling was global isolation. Eventually it stood alone, and shortly thereafter apartheid in South Africa fell. Now our current apartheid state, Israel, is becoming more and more isolated as its brutality is exposed around the world.

Palestine civil society has called for a military embargo on Israel since BDS was founded in 2005. This is not a moral decision only; it's a legal obligation under international law.

More countries are joining. Currently Spain, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Indonesia, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Turkey, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands have, since August, suspended sending military equipment usable in Gaza. The US is glaringly absent.

More countries are withdrawing military aid from Israel as the genocide continues. A military embargo includes not selling weapons and dual-use items, not buying weapons from Israel and not transporting weapons to Israel through the country's territory. Australia has ended 16 arms export licenses due to public pressure. They have also restricted visas to Israelis suspected of war crimes. France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Norway have made public statements about not selling weapons to Israel since October 2023 due to public pressure.

The supply chain to Israel relies on military and commercial ships and cargo planes. These are points of vulnerability. Block the Boats. Persistent protests in Spain have brought about denials of a port of call. Angola, Namibia, Malta, Montenegro, and Slovenia closed their ports to the MV Kathrin because it carries weapons to Israel.

Portugal has banned the MV Kathrin from unloading and has denied its "flag of convenience" to Italy. Greek unionists have confiscated a container of ammunition, and are guarding it at a fish

market, to prevent it from reaching Israel. Sit-ins and other forms of direct action have delayed ships carrying military cargo to Israel from the US, Italy and Spain.

Itochu and Nippon Air Systems of Japan ended their memorandum of understanding for the development of drones with Israel's Elbit Systems since February 2024. The Norwegian sovereign fund divested from Caterpillar and General Dynamics in 2024. Human rights groups from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and US have filed lawsuits against their countries' arms shipments to Israel. While lawsuits rarely succeed against the apartheid state, they do raise public awareness and lead, in some cases, to disruptions of military exports to Israel.

So what actions can you take? According to BDS some possible actions include: blocking, occupying and disrupting strategic highways, bridges, ports, tech centers, media and financial corporations. You can also organize mass protests and disruptive actions at government offices, and demand that they comply with their legal obligations under international law by imposing a full arms embargo.

Expel Israel from the UN. Escalate boycotts of priority targets of the BDS Movement, which you can find at bdsmovement.net. Launch broad international campaigns starting with city councils, universities, trade unions, and hospitals, and make them adopt ethical procurement and investment policies.

In September 2024, the UN General Assembly voted for sanctions on Israel and told Israel that they have until September 18, 2025 to end its illegal occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israel didn't do it.

Israel is reliant on the US for permission to continue its genocide. The overwhelming majority of the world's countries do not support Israel's genocide, apartheid and occupation. The US stands alone in supporting Israel. This criminal behavior must end and it must end now. Source: bdsmovement.net 🙌

The Nonviolent Return Attempt of 2018-2019 *from page 8*

to go to in order to plead their case and present their demands: Lift the blockade on Gaza and allow refugees to return to their homes.

The event was organized around five locations – five tents distributed along the length of the Israeli fence around Gaza. Over time, each location turned into a tent city. There were tents grouped by the village of origin, or the areas the participants were from. Each tent city became a microcosm of Palestine. Music and dance were frequent, music played over loudspeakers with dabke lines stomping through the dusty ground – all with the backdrop of dark smoke billowing from piles of tires set aflame to obstruct the military snipers' view of the participants.

By the time the demonstrations were declared "postponed" in December of 2019 That meant more than 4,000 bullets fired, one by one, into civilians demonstrating for their rights. The UN documented 124 Palestinians had been killed and 15,000 injured. More than 4,000 by live gunfire. Of those killed, the Israeli military justified that 50 were enlisted armed fighters for the resistance, however they did not provide evidence of wrongdoing. Many reports described cold blooded murders of unarmed people and medical personnel by snipers.

As early as 1948, the United Nations asserted that Palestinians have the right to return to their homes in [UN Resolution 194](#). And the Palestinian refugees in Gaza have longed to exercise that right for 77 years. But today they are being decimated and starved to try to stop them from returning.

And remember, the people have the power. But will we use it? Following a call from the civilian resistance in Gaza, the [global consumer strike for Gaza](#) is every Thursday. Go to work but don't spend money or buy anything on Thursdays.

From March 2018 until December 2019, Palestinians civilians demonstrated for their right to cross the fence and were rebuffed. In October 2023, armed Palestinians used bulldozers to cross the fence and did not have any more success regaining their homeland. How can we support a more successful effort? Can Gazans do anything which will not have them demonized by colonial mass media for resisting the invasion and occupation of their country? What will the future hold for Palestinians in Gaza? It may depend on humanity's willingness to use its strength and skill as a protective force. 🙌

Luigi Petri-Dove, activist and writer in Sonoma County. He can be reached at theotherLuigi@pm.me

A Question of Life, Choice, and Consequence

by Elaine B. Holtz

Lately I find myself deeply confused and disturbed by the contradictions in our society, especially when it comes to how we define and value "life." We're told that life is so precious that a woman's right to choose must be stripped away to protect the unborn. Abortion is treated as a moral crime – some would even call it a cardinal sin – because every fetus represents life and potential.

And yet, at the very same time, we elect leaders who slash funding for the very programs that support life after birth – Medicare, Medicaid, mental health services, school lunches and breakfast programs for children in need. How can we claim to value life while simultaneously gutting the systems that help children and families survive once that "precious life" arrives?

How can the same hands that claim to protect the unborn so quickly vote to send weapons into war zones – into conflicts where civilians, including children, are being slaughtered? We justify these actions by calling them support for allies or defense of freedom, but too often it feels like blind allegiance to ideology. We ignore the nuance, the history and the lives caught in between.

Look at the suffering in places like Gaza or Ukraine. Where is the compassion then? Where is the same sanctity of life we preach so

loudly in the abortion debate? We are so quick to take sides, to send arms, to choose war over dialogue. In doing so, we risk becoming the very monsters we claim to fight against.

We fight so hard to protect the unborn, yet we do so little to ensure that those lives – once born – are supported, loved and protected. We should be teaching future generations the power of choice and the weight of consequence. Before making any decision, ask yourself, "Can I live with the worst possible outcome of this choice?" If you can't, maybe think twice.

Women, especially, must reclaim their power and their role in this debate. We carry life, yes, but we also carry wisdom, empathy and strength. We are not incubators. We are creators, caretakers and citizens. If we're going to talk about the sanctity of life, let's talk about it fully – from womb to world.

I don't know if there's a single "right" answer. But I believe every human being has a right to make choices for themselves, guided by compassion, informed by consequence, and rooted in respect for others.

Elaine B. Holtz is co-producer/host, with Ken Norton, of [Women's Spaces](#) which airs on KBBF 89.1 FM Mondays 11 am and replays on Mondays at 11 pm. 🌸

LET'S HAVE THE AUDACITY TO MAKE THE WORLD
A BETTER PLACE FOR US ALL



Audacity Rising to Benefit Community

The first Audacity Rising launch party took place on Oct. 6 at the Barrel Proof Lounge at 501 Mendocino Ave. in Santa Rosa. The organization's newly minted website was unveiled as well as a celebration of the official start of the journey with friends, allies, affiliates, and partners. We are blessed to have developed a deep relationship with these organizations and activists, including: The Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County and sponsoring partners at VIDAS Law, the North Bay Labor Council, our allies SoCoIndivisible, and other key allies.

The following dates are also intended to raise funds to help the immigrant community, to create much-needed financial support for legal and material aid to those vulnerable, those detained by ICE, and their families.

Our first three fundraising concerts are confirmed.

- Nov. 8, at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Hall, presented with our partners at the Peace & Justice Center, we will host MomotomboSF and a special guest artist. This is a Latin rock show not to be missed!
- Nov. 15, at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, we will be presenting again with our partners at the Peace & Justice Center. We will be hosting Sol Flamenco and Mark Taylor. A night to transport your imagination to a new experience.
- Dec. 13, back at the Barrel Proof Lounge, we will present Dirty Cello. Their friends Mild Heroes will open the show for them. We have already started booking our shows for 2026 and will have further exciting announcements as this schedule unfolds. Please join us and support us by attending and spreading the word. Check us out [online](#). 🌸

Alice's Celebration of Life Event on YouTube

by Susan Lamont

For those who couldn't make it to Alice's memorial, you'll find a [link here](#) to the video of the event on YouTube. It's public which means it can be shared with everyone, everywhere.

We celebrated Alice Waco's life and so many of our deep connections with her. There were many people on ZOOM and many who could not attend. The folks at Christ Church United Methodist in Santa Rosa recorded the event. Our thanks go out to the technical team that ran the Powerpoint, ZOOM, provided crystal clear sound inside and outside and even edited the long version of the video. They are Robin Coolidge, Abbey Sawyer, Deborah Weinman,

Stan Pelmeare and Dave Allen from Christ Church. Their technical expertise and professionalism were key to our success. And of course we thank Pastor Lindsey Kerr for her leadership and excellent words of welcome and closing. We wish Lindsey and Diana blessings as they begin lives of parenthood.

Kudos to the team led by Patti England from the Emmaus Community that worked tirelessly to set up the outdoor space and organize the bountiful potluck. We also recognize all who came to celebrate Alice for their generosity. We had a mountain of food left over which we passed on to a very appreciative Redwood Gospel Mission. 🙌

Farewell to Alice Wako, from Friends in Nicaragua... *from page 1*

Directors of [Friends of Cantera](#). Alice always sought to involve her friends and colleagues in participating directly or indirectly in this admirable effort to support the development of Cantera's programs. Alice devoted much of her time to promoting campaigns to raise public awareness of the work being done, organizing tours to Nicaragua, and seeking technical and financial support. Part of her support and accompaniment was to visit us every year. We were fortunate to have received an estimated 30 visits. During her stay, she integrated herself as part of the team. She used her time to visit projects, offer courses to Cantera team, technicians and community leaders in the communities where Cantera worked, particularly leaders in natural and alternative medicine, educators, and youth leaders. The leaders of the Natural Medicine network organized by Cantera (leaders of 25 community natural medicine centers) learned from her some specialized massage techniques. When she taught massage techniques, the method she used to verify that they had learned was to ask each student to give her a massage, a difficult but very effective test.

Alice trained a naturopathic doctor in cranial sacral massage technique and was always very proud of how well he had learned it. She also taught the healing powers of plants, stones, and crystals. After teaching these courses, Alice distributed crystals to health leaders to use on the people they cared for. She offered courses on effective educational techniques for working with children to preschool teachers connected to Cantera, in the Jorge Dimitrov neighborhood and Ciudad Sandino. Alice conducted these workshops with fellow educators who accompanied her on her visit. Those who accompanied her shared her love, commitment, solidarity, and desire to carry out solidarity work. In addition to offering workshops, these delegations met with community groups to discuss, share experiences and personal stories, and exchanged ideas on different ways to improve the situation of their family and community.

When she came with one or two friends, Alice always called to ask if they could stay at our house, to which we always replied: "Alice, this is your home, and therefore your friends are always welcome." That is how we managed to cultivate beautiful relationships with Sabita and Jim, with Andy, and with other close friends of hers.

Alice created and strengthened Cantera's high school, technical, and university scholarship program. For more than 20 years, the annual average number of scholarship recipients was 55 young people. During her visits, Alice always set aside special time to talk

with the scholarship recipients, certain that education would pave the way for a better future for these young people. Many of them completed their university degrees, and two earned doctorates and are now university professors. The scholarships covered transportation, school supplies, books, photocopies, tuition, and food.

Alice was much loved by members of the Cantera technical team and by the people and communities in the countryside and the city to whom she offered her services or whom she visited.

Here is the testimony of a friend who, whenever Alice came, this friend would ask Alice to take care of her mother, specifically asking her to give her a massage—Alice had a reputation here for being the best masseuse in the world.

"Alice was a friend of my mother's, and language was never a barrier for them.

Alice had a very big heart; she was a woman committed to life, liv-

Part of her support and accompaniment was to visit us every year. We were fortunate to have received an estimated 30 visits.

ing her commitment to bring joy and creativity to others. She healed people by giving massages with her impressively talented hands, but above all with her love and respect for each person who came to her.

She also shared her knowledge and expertise with people who wanted to learn specialized healing techniques. She always told us that everyone had the right to learn and live well.

She loved the energy of plants, flowers, stones, and crystals, which could transmit health and healing to people. Purple was her favorite color, and we were struck by the fact that most of the clothes she wore were that color, always giving a sense of peace and transcendence. Perhaps that is why her presence brought joy and hope to those of us who knew her.

When she shared, she always gave her best, buying the best without skimping on expenses. She always said that we all deserve to have good things."

After Bill's death, Alice brought part of his ashes to Nicaragua, where they were placed in a garden dedicated to him at the Cantera Training Center during a beautiful ceremony. Alice loved Nicaragua so much that she left part of her beloved's ashes there so that he could continue to accompany us on our journey toward a more just and equal world. ALL OUR LOVE TO ALICE. 🙌

FCC Chair Brendan Carr to the Rescue! (sarcasm)

by Susan Collier Lamont

After the killing of Charlie Kirk, late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel said, "We hit some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it."

Without anyone's knowing what the accused murderer, Tyler Robinson, actually believes, an uproar between the right and the pseudo-left ensued. It's important to note that the real left is never consulted nor listened to.

Because everything is always about him, the Moron-in-Chief said that the networks are "97 percent against me. They give me only bad press. They're getting a license. I think maybe their license should be taken away. It will be up to Brendan Carr. I think Brendan Carr is outstanding. He's a patriot. He loves our country, and he's a tough guy. So, we'll see."

And, of course, Carr, the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, did exactly what he was hired to do. Despite having taken office saying he would defend free speech, he shut down speech that he deemed not "in the public interest" – translation: "not in Trump's interest."

Carr declared that Kimmel was part of a "concerted effort to lie to the American people..." Frankly, when you see stuff like this, I mean, we can do this the easy way or the hard way."

Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer, defending Kimmel, chimed in that "Trump and his allies seem to want to shut down speech that they don't like to hear. That is not what democracies do. That is what autocracies do."

Unless, of course, you're speaking in support of Palestinians, then STFU.

I don't watch Kimmel and wouldn't know him if I tripped over him, but, as a supporter of free speech, even speech I don't like, I felt compelled to write to Carr. Here is my letter, followed by a fabulous re-writing of it by local spoken word artist Tee Rodriguez, aka Big Daddy Tee, BDT!

*Brendan Carr, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
45 L St., NE
Washington, D.C. 20554
Mr. Carr:*

You demanded that ABC fire Jimmy Kimmel because of his "concerted effort to lie to the American people." And you have said that your work isn't done.

In May of 2024, all nine members of the Supreme Court reaffirmed that "Government officials cannot attempt to coerce private parties in order to punish or suppress views that the government disfavors." And, yet, you have done exactly that.

If making such a "concerted effort to lie" offends you to such a degree that you are willing to break the law, I would ask why you have not banned Donald Trump, J.D. Vance, Stephen Miller, Pam Bondi and Kristi Noem from the airwaves? Even a school child, with minimal effort, could research and discover their repeated lying, which escalates by the day.

Need an example? On January 20, Trump said, "I will also sign an executive order to immediately stop all government censorship and bring back free speech to America. Never again will the immense

power of the state be weaponized to persecute political opponents." I will remind you that the majority of the American public does not support Donald Trump, nor his lying. Please do us a favor and ban him so that we are no longer subjected to the lies.

"Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

Susan C. Lamont

Dear Mr. Carr (Truth Ain't Quiet)
by Big Daddy Tee Style

Yo Brandon, you came swingin'
Like a badge-wieldin' truth cop,
Demandin' Kimmel get canned
For lies you claim don't stop.

But let me ask -
Who crowned you the arbiter of speech?
When the Supreme Court said,
"Gov can't coerce,"
You still reached.

Nine robes, one ruling:
"No suppression of views the state disfavors."
Yet you leaned in, heavy-handed,
Like truth was yours to tailor.

You say lies offend you?
Then where's your ban list
For the real offenders?
Trump, Vance, Miller, Bondi, Noem - repeat pretenders.

Even a fifth grader
With a Chromebook and a snack
Could fact-check their fiction
And never look back.

January 20, Trump said:
"I'll stop censorship, bring free speech to the land."
But that mic was dripping irony -

State power in his hand.
So I ask you, Mr. Carr -
If lies are your enemy,
Why silence the jester
And not the kings of duplicity?

The people ain't blind,
We see the game you play.
Majority don't ride with Trump,
We're tired of the decay.

So do us a favor -
Ban the real deceivers,
Not the ones who dare to joke while truth

bleeds through the speakers.
This ain't just a letter,
It's a callout in rhythm.
From the streets to the courtrooms,
We demand better vision.

Thank you for your attention - But don't mistake our tone.
We speak truth to power,
And we don't stand alone.

Resilience

by Ana Salgado

I feel, like the leaves fall at the end of autumn.
Without noise, without glory, without anyone watching.
But in my soil a seed grew...and I learned that loss is
also living.

The wind spoke to me with the voice of a storm, it
broke my branches, it ripped away my song.
But each wound was an open crack, through which light
filtered its rays of light to germinate.

I was clay, I was a shadow, I was the dark night.
But deep inside I kept the sun, you know not every
thing that is broken turns to ashes, there is fire
that is born from the same pain.

I became stone, but not gray.

I became water, but I did not flee, and so walking
among ruins and thorns my soul understood what it
means to resist.

Why force does not yell, it is affirmed.

It does not boast, it rises in subtle silence.

Resilience is not falling, it is knowing how to get up
and continue again, yes that is how to continue
with a broken soul, but full of faith, that
tomorrow, yes tomorrow, brothers and sisters, will
be a new and better sunrise.

Ana Salgado is an activist and poet in the struggle

Robes in the Shadows

Spoken Word by Big Daddy Tee, Tongue of Fire

They rule from the shadows, no reason, no light, Just a
rubber stamp in the dead of night. Appeals courts speak, but
the robes override, No law, no logic—just power and pride.

Roberts plays referee while the game gets rigged, And the
Constitution's corpse gets quietly dug. They don't write opin-
ions, they don't cite the code, They just nod to the tyrant
and clear the road.

Emergency orders, unsigned and bare, Justice stripped down
to a partisan glare. Twenty-six filings, twenty-one wins,
Trump's got the Court like a blade to the skin.

Tariffs, Fed seats, executive reach, They hand him the mic
and silence the speech. No hearings, no questions, no public
debate, Just fascist finesse in a judicial state.

This ain't dysfunction—it's design, A slow-motion coup
dressed in legal decline. They weaponize silence, they
sanctify lies, While the truth gets buried beneath red skies.

So I speak with a tongue that scorches the air, For every voice
drowned in judicial despair. If unity's dead, let the ashes fly,
And may every robe feel the fire in my cry.

NO WAR ON VENEZUELA! NO TROOPS ON OUR STREETS! ALL OUT FOR A WEEK OF EMERGENCY

| November 15-23

Urgent Call for a Week of National Coordinated Protests

| No War on the Global South!

| No War on USAmericans!

| No War at Home or Abroad!

An emergency network is calling for local actions!
United National Antiwar Coalition, Veterans For Peace,
CodePink, School of the Americas Watch, Black Alliance
for Peace, Task Force on the Americas, and many more!

| Local Rally in Santa Rosa

Sunday, November 23, 2:00 to 3:30 PM

Old Courthouse Square, Santa Rosa

More info: 707-889-3021 or peacenik@sonic.net

*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

Website: naacpsantarosasonomaco.org

Facebook: facebook.com/naacpsonoma

Instagram: instagram.com/naacpsonoma

Twitter: mobile.twitter.com/naacpsonoma

ON THE COVER...



*Paul Nicholson's fine art has appeared on previous covers
of the Peace Press, as it does for this issue.*

Link to: [Art by Paul Stuart Nicholson](#)

I am Death

I am Death
I am here to tell all of humanity
I cannot eat any more.
You are making me sick
I am bloated, and poisoned,
by the dead you dish up for me.

I have tasted terror in the meat of men
dying before they lived,
Shoveled off of battlefields
in foreign lands, saturated with uranium and
peppered with pieces of cluster bombs that break
my teeth.

I do not seek your guilt and remorse,
I have none and I do my job.
But it used to make me feel satisfied
to feast on the full life of a loving, respected
grandmother.
To taste the zest of a freedom fighter from Nicaragua
who walked his talk.

To chew on the brain of a brilliant poet who died
peacefully in her sleep.
These deaths made sense and I and my cronies
composted these
past imaginations into free floating energy of
regeneration.

I refuse to eat the last of a species driven to extinction
by the greedy grinding jaws of profiteers.
I offer this to a higher altar
Where it is known that nothing ever sown
is lost forever,
I pray with bony fingers, and walk on.

But the very worst taste is of a mother who was beaten
and left to die, when she fought back at the border
to save her children.

Her ghost just hovers next to the corpse screaming,
Why! Why! Why! Her face frozen in fear and disbelief,
Her grief unbearable, her red heart
Too beautiful to touch.

This you ask me to turn into soil?
Her cells will not release the memory,
She will spoil anything that tries to grow.
I am Death and you are killing me!
When do I get to eat organic?

I am Death and I can take no more.
Before I slam the door between the worlds let me
offer you this pearl,
My sister Life has come to speak
Listen, listen, it is her you seek!

I am Life and I see you "My people, you are so brave,
so filled with dreams in your hearts that you risk
everything...
You have left behind your land, your language the
home of your precious childhood.

Driven out by the greedy ones that came from the
North, you walked a thousand miles.

I cannot think of a more courageous act than this.
To trust in a people to welcome you,
because has not Lady Liberty promised to give
everyone a chance?
Because we all have a right to be free,
That's all you are asking.
You, like all your brothers and sisters before you, will
even take the hardest, lowest paying jobs,
You are willing to work long hours mopping floors, or
picking the crops in sweltering heat,
But now, not even this is offered.

Now there is nothing.
And still you stand, looking across the border
that runs through the middle of your hearts.
You, who are disparaged, called illegal, alien, criminal,
Still you rise!
And you are awakening hearts all over the Earth!
You, my people are everything that is great about
humanity,
I am Life and you, you are truly living me through your
fierce determination to believe there is
another way.

That there can be a day that is beautiful again, that
one day you will be warmed by El Sol
on the porch of your own casa and you will smile
with that sweet taste of freedom in your mouth.
Si Se Puede!

by Magick 11-2-19

Magick Altman is a lifelong activist, author, and spoken word artist, dedicated to the radical idea that Nature's systems are the only ones that truly work. She advocates for the Rights of Nature, locally and worldwide. May we find our way home.

ENGAGE YOUR GOV.

Sonoma County Supervisors (707) 565-2241
District 1 - Rebecca.Hermosillo@sonoma-county.org

District 2 - David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org

District 3 - Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org

District 4 - James.Gore@sonoma-county.org

District 5 - Linda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org

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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

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

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112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

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Relay Fax: 202-224-0454

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

California Gov. Gavin Newsom

State Capitol, Sacramento, Ste. 1173, CA 95814

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

governor@governor.ca.gov

Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis

State Capital, Rm. 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Citizen Comment: (202) 456-1111

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

president@whitehouse.gov

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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 to solve the climate crisis. 350sonomacounty.org

ACLU Sonoma Co., working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. 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, 707-291-5988 or info@speakeasies.biz, 707-494-9495. theclimatocenter.org

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

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

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomgreenparty.org

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

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

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

Hate Free Petaluma Progressive organization.

www.facebook.com/hatefreepetaluma/

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

Indivisible Goups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.com

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

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Windsor

LezResist! 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.

LGBTQ Connection, Napa & Sonoma Counties – Sonoma County, 714 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401, 707-582-0552, emerson@lgbtqconnection.org

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

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

Los Cien – advances belonging, trust and equity by engaging with community, facilitating honest dialogue, elevating Latinx pride and power in So.Co. 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 Email: naacp.srcs1074b@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

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

North Bay Organizing Project – a regional community organization. www.facebook.com/NorthBayOrganizingProject 318-2818

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

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

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

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

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

Petaluma Blacks for Community Development – facebook.com/pb4cd

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

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

Progressive Sonoma – Peaceful Resistance Network. An umbrella association to network Sonoma's local progressive action groups. peacefulresistance9.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. projectcensored.org.

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

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

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

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

Sonoma County Coastal Hills: gardens@mcn.org

Sonoma County for Palestine:

sonomacountyforpalestine.com, 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.

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org

Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. SonomaSolidarity.org, facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL. 795-1044.

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIDAS - Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services 576 B St Suite 1C, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, 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

For additions or changes, email zenekar2@gmail.com type "PEACE PRESS" on Subject line.

*Add your voice
to the vision of the
Peace & Justice Center*



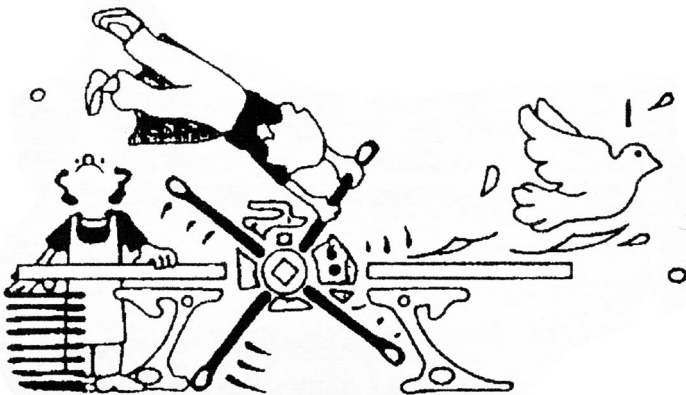
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- ▶ Joining the *Peace Press* Collective
- ▶ Helping to maintain and expand our social media
- ▶ Assisting at Center Events
- ▶ Helping with grant writing
- ▶ Fundraising or Donating to the Center
- ▶ Sponsoring the bi-monthly *Peace Press* publication

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

SONOMA COUNTY
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PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

467 Sebastopol Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
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