

SONOMA COUNTY

Peace Press

Publication of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County
PJCso.co.org • Oct/Nov, 2019 • Vol. 34, No. 5

in this issue

- The Sunrise Movement's Local Hub
- Protections for Homeless People
- Local Health Professionals Speak Out on Improved Medicare for All
- Free Movie Nights Return to the PJC

and much more...

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY ANNUAL PEACEMAKER AWARDS & FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019
REDWOOD CAFE • COTATI • SEE DETAILS INSIDE

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,
an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).
467 Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Published bi-monthly: Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., Dec.

Join the Peace & Justice Center

See Membership form on back cover

(707) 575-8902 • PJCsoco.org

Facebook.com/PJCSonoma • email: peacentr@sonic.net

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline: Nov. 1, 2019

Email articles in MSWord to peacentr@sonic.net

Word limit up to 700 words – space is limited.

Shorter pieces under 400 words welcome about local activism and events.

Authors are encouraged to delineate fact from opinion and wherever possible to substantiate their facts with references.

Poems are limited to 30 lines.

EDITING POLICY

The Editorial Collective selects articles that serve the movement for peace and justice in a positive way. Articles are edited for clarity, syntax, grammar, length and spelling. If needed, authors will be contacted to assist with editing. Submissions must contain author's name, address, phone number, word count and a brief – one or two sentence bio. Decisions about editing fall within these guidelines and are the final judgment of the Peace Press editorial collective.

Articles are the opinion of the author unless otherwise noted.

CALENDAR ITEMS

Events on topics of social justice, environmental, and related items to be placed in the PJC weekly email calendar, can be sent to peacentr@sonic.net. Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

DISPLAY SPONSORSHIP RATES & SPECS

Contact: rebelpfagin@gmail.com or call 707-841-6084

Classifieds: 50¢ per word, \$5 minimum

FLYERS/INSERTS

Contact: 707-823-9203

Due to post office regulations, any inserts for events must be cosponsored by the Peace & Justice Center. Three 2 hour shifts of collating are required from the sponsoring group.

COLLATING

To help, call: 707-823-9203

VOLUNTEER

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

EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

Rebel Fagin, Terra Freedman, Eszter Freeman, Larry Harper, Earl Herr, Attila Nagy

SPECIAL THANKS...

to an awesome battalion of collaters, distributors, and others far too great to name.

PRINTING Dave Foote

DESIGN On The Wall Graphics

FRONT COVER ART Abstracted from PJC Awards Event poster art by Katie Kincaid,

CARTOONS Khalil Bendib, studiobendib.com, bendib.com, otherwords.org

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER BOARD MEMBERS

Attila Nagy, Audrianna Jones, Rebel Fagin, Susan Chunco

DISCLAIMER: The content of the Peace Press represents the views of the contributors and does not necessarily represent the views of the Sonoma County Peace & Justice Center or its Board of Directors.

CONTENTS

page

- 1 Celebrating the Peacemakers
- 1 The Sunrise Movement's Local Hub
- 2 Protections for Homeless People
- 3 The Fight for \$15 Continues in the North Bay
- 3 Free Movie Nights Return to the PJC
- 4 Earl Herr, Sebastopol Living Peace Wall Honoree
- 5 2019 PJC Awards Event, Sat., Nov. 9
Introducing this year's Awards Recipients!
- 6 IOLERO – Sheriff Accountability
or Damage Control?
- 6 On Losing Our Son, Branch
- 7 Local Health Professionals Speak Out
on Improved Medicare for All
- 8 Sonoma County – United in Kindness
- 8 Drums for Solar: People Helping People
Sharing Our Humanity
- 9 Israel in Syria
- 9 Despair and Hope: A Dual-Narrative Trip
to Israel and Palestine
- 10 The Declaration of Natural Sovereignty:
Establishing The Earth Government
- 11 Are You Zero Waste Curious?
- 12 Remembering Phyllis Mae Stanley

Celebrating the Peacemakers

Shekeyna Black

"I often talk to people who say, 'No, we have to be hopeful and to inspire each other, and we can't tell [people] too many negative things'... But, no – we have to tell it like it is. Because if there are no positive things to tell, then what should we do, should we spread false hope? We can't do that, we have to tell the truth."

– Greta Thunberg, Swedish climate activist, born Jan. 2003

The Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County is honored to announce the recipients of the 2019 Peacemaker Awards. We cordially invite the community to the 2019 Peacemaker Awards presentation and fundraiser. Celebrate the achievements of the awardees while enjoying a night of music along with a wonderful silent auction at Redwood Cafe in Cotati on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7:00 pm. The Silent Auction will be open to early-birds at 6:00 pm. Get something nice for yourself or do some holiday shopping by supporting the PJC's Silent Auction. All proceeds benefit the Peace & Justice Center.

Learn more about the 2019 Peacemaker Award recipients on page 6 of this issue of the Sonoma County *Peace Press*. The Annual Peacemaker Awards is an opportunity for the community to come together to network and celebrate while contributing to the largest fundraiser of the year for the PJC. Tickets are \$15 in Advance or \$20

at the Door. You may purchase Advance tickets 3 different ways: 1) in person at the venue, 2) online at Eventbrite.com or 3) by sending a check to the Peace & Justice Center at 467 Sebastopol Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Checks must be received no later than Friday, November 1. You may also purchase a ticket to be donated to someone who cannot afford it. Patrons are welcome to order dinner or dessert from the extensive menu during the event.

The price of admission includes the presentation of the 2019 Peacemaker Awards and dance music by AfroFunk Experience. According to their website, "The AfroFunk Experience is an ambrosial mix of musical interpretations influenced by the African diaspora, created in a collective and organic manner." Visit the band at www.afrofunkexperience.com.

Discover various groups and meetings in Sonoma County by subscribing to our weekly email calendar at www.pjesoco.org/sign-up.html. We are seeking people interested in joining the PJC to serve on the Board of Directors. To find out more, email peacentr@sonic.net.

The mission of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County is to inform, support and energize the Sonoma County community to create peace and social justice through active nonviolence. ☺



Celeste Chavez Hernandez

The Sunrise Movement is centrally a youth-led political movement which is coordinated by the political action organization Sunrise, and calls for immediate governmental action on climate change. The Movement has recently garnered vast social and political attention in the United States. The organization was founded in 2017, its first goals being to elect renewable energy advocates in the 2018 midterm elections. Shortly after the midterm elections, the organization decided to focus on gaining majority support in the Demo-

The Sunrise Movement's Local Hub

cratic Party in favor of the Green New Deal, proposed legislation aiming to address both climate change and economic equity.

Some of their recent actions include the November sit-in at the office of Democratic Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, forming a Green New Deal committee, urging Senator Diane Feinstein to sign onto the Green New Deal legislation and joining global climate strikes. On a broader scale, there was recently a focus to urge the Democratic National Committee to hold a climate debate, although the DNC voted against it.

Largely inspired by teen climate activist Greta Thunberg, Sunrise has also followed in her steps to demand immediate action and awareness. In 2018, the Swedish 16-year-old began her school days protesting the Swedish parliament and insisting on action to address global warming. She began the global movement "school strike for climate" and has motivated our hub and millions of other people to stand tall and refuse complacency.

The purpose of Sunrise hubs – like the Sonoma County Sunrise Hub – is to create grassroots organization within a community,

engage more people, and extend its outreach to all parts of the country. The intent behind such hubs is to create a network of community participation which boosts the overall mass participation of the organization, working essentially in a decentralized manner. Our goals as a hub are to talk to people to get them more involved and knowledgeable on the climate crisis and offer actions to stop it. This allows flexibility for local hubs to set up meetings and activities however they see fit, as long as

Our goals as a hub are to talk to people to get them more involved and knowledgeable on the climate crisis and offer actions to stop it.

they fall under the Sunrise principles.

The organizers of the Sonoma hub, Celeste Chavez Hernandez and Lucia Garay, kick-started the hub's action with the Petaluma Youth Climate Strike on March 15 which attracted hundreds of students to show support for climate justice in solidarity with the national climate strike. Shortly after that, our

Sunrise Movement...see page 11

Protections for Homeless People

Adrienne Laub

Beginning August 12, 2019, a landmark injunction gives homeless people within Santa Rosa additional protections against harassment by law enforcement. The injunction came after an 18-month long Federal lawsuit by three local homeless or formerly homeless women: Nicholle Vannucci, Ellen Brown and Shannon Hall and the activists at Homeless Action, with help from lawyers from the Public Interest Law Project, California Rural Legal Assistance and the Law Office of Alicia Roman.

According to the terms of the injunction, people will no longer be forced to move from public areas unless they are offered an adequate place to go. And if they are forced to move, the law enforcement agency is required to store their property for three months. The injunction is in place for the next 12 months.

A key protection concerns people whose disability requires specific accommodations that are not available at the local homeless shelter, Sam Jones Hall. Up to 42% of local homeless people are disabled, many with symptoms of PTSD that make living in large communal spaces difficult or impossible.

Homeless People in Santa Rosa Read On! Know Your Rights!

Right To Camp

You have the right to camp in a public place if you have nowhere else to go. If you are offered a place to go it must be adequate for your personal circumstances, including any disability accommodation. Finally, you must be given written notice before being asked to

move from a public place.

Public Property Exceptions

1. If your camp blocks the sidewalk or creates an immediate hazard (blocking sidewalk, highway shoulders, off ramps, risk of flash flood) or if the encampment creates a risk of damage to property, you can be forced to move.
2. Public property does NOT include a school, property that is locked and posted 'no trespassing', or other public property which is operated as a private business.
3. You must be in a dwelling to qualify for protection on public property. A dwelling is any structure including cardboard box, tarp, tent, RV or car. A sleeping bag alone is not a dwelling. You must be in a dwelling to get written notice before being asked to move from a public place.

Under *Martin v. Boise* you have a right to be offered an adequate placement if asked to move from a public place, even if you are not in a dwelling. Talk to a legal expert if this happens to you.

This injunction does not give you the right to camp on private property.

If You Are Ordered To Move

If you are on public property and a government employee asks you to move, orders you to move, threatens you with a citation or arrest if you do not move or tows your home, you

must first be offered an adequate place to go.

What is an adequate placement?

It is an offer of permanent housing or an emergency placement, including shelter beds, transitional housing or hotel vouchers for 30 or more days. The adequacy of the placement includes consideration of your individual circumstances, including but not limited to

...people will no longer be forced to move from public areas unless they are offered an adequate place to go.

mental and physical disability.

Personal Property – Bag, Tag & Store

Under the court order you have the right to have your personal property stored and to be provided with information on how to retrieve your property from the storage facility.

Unattended Personal Property

If your personal property is unattended, City employees shall collect, bag and tag property and store it for up to 90 days.

Attended Items

After an order to move, government employees shall give the owner reasonable time to collect and move their belongings, taking into consideration any special needs and the volume of their belongings. After that, they can bag, tag and store anything that is left. Reasonableness depends on each individual's circumstances.

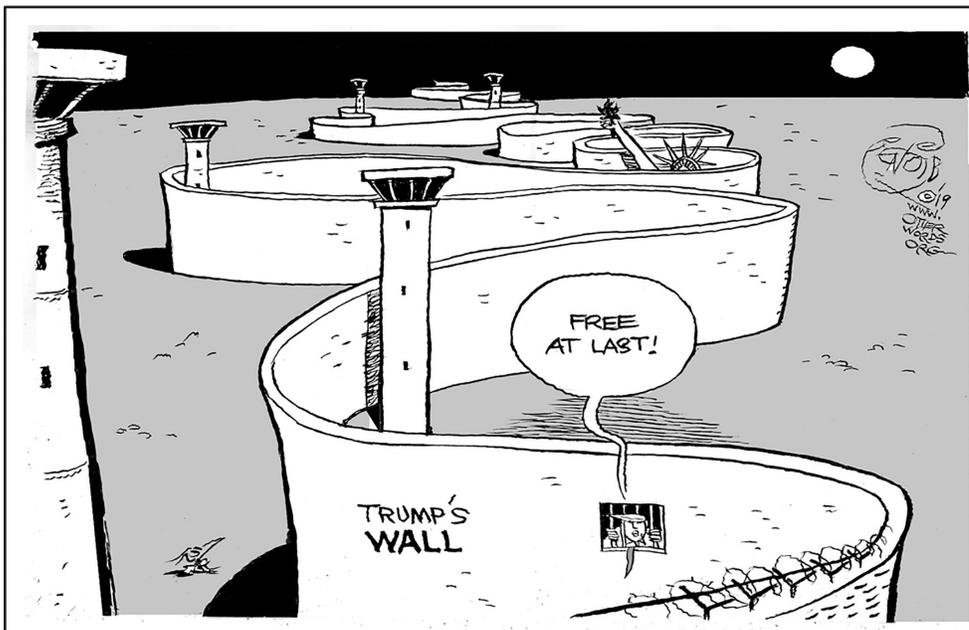
Exceptions to Bag, Tag & Store

Under the current court order, some property will not be bagged and tagged. This includes items that are an immediate hazard, garbage, items that are infested by rodents or insects, are illegal or bulky (such as a mattress, shed or furniture). A bulky item does not include a tent, operational walker or operational wheelchair.

Under the 4th Amendment and *Lavan v. City of Los Angeles*, (2012) 693 F.3d 1022, you may have a right to file a claim for the loss of your personal property.

If you feel your legal rights have been violated or if you have legal questions, please feel free to contact California Rural Legal Assistance for a free legal consultation at 707-528-9941, 1160 N. Dutton Avenue, Suite 105, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. 🐾

Adrienne Lauby is a member of Homeless Action!



The Fight for \$15 Continues in the North Bay

Bonnie Petty

Members of North Bay Jobs with Justice (NBjwJ) knew it would be a heavy lift when, in 2018, they took on the challenge of passing \$15-an-hour minimum wage ordinances in cities across the North Bay on an earlier timeline than that set by the state. The California law raises the statewide minimum wage to \$15 an hour in 2023. NBjwJ's position has been that it is too little, too late and that we need \$15 Now! It seems clear that the Fight for \$15 that began in 2012 with fast food workers has now swept into the North Bay, and workers are winning!

Armed with a recent report, "The State of Working Sonoma 2018," by researcher Jesus Guzman and commissioned by NBjwJ, they took their case to six city councils across the North Bay: Sebastopol, Sonoma, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Cotati and Novato. Working with allies in community, labor, and environmental organizations, NBjwJ has led a grassroots effort, organizing volunteer groups in each city to lobby their city councils to pass the ordinances. Activists have spent weeks meeting with city council members and doing outreach to community members and local businesses to hear their concerns and to educate everyone on the provisions of the proposed ordinances.

Generally, the proposal includes a quicker timeline to reach \$15 an hour a year or two earlier than the state's proposal, with a slower pace for small businesses. The proposal also establishes an annual cost of living increase which is tied to the Bay Area CPI (Consumer Price Index) with a cap of 3.5%.

Sebastopol's City Council was the first to hold a study session in Nov. 2018, however consideration of a minimum wage ordinance is now on hold due to the recovery efforts of the recent floods. Cotati has also held a study session but has yet to bring the ordinance for a vote.

Taking a leadership role, the city of Sonoma was the first to pass an accelerated \$15 minimum wage ordinance in June after several tense city council meetings with restaurant owners turning out to oppose the ordinance. Sonoma's ordinance begins in January 2020 (\$12.50 for small businesses; \$13.50 for businesses with over 25 employees) and gradually brings Sonoma's workers to hourly wages of \$16 (small businesses) and \$17 (large businesses) by January 2023.

Following close behind, Petaluma's City Council adopted a heftier minimum wage ordinance in July, voting unanimously to set

the minimum wage at \$15 an hour on Jan. 1, 2020 for businesses with over 25 employees and \$14 an hour for small businesses. January 2021 will see all businesses at \$15 with the Bay Area CPI to serve as basis for annual cost of living increases.

The campaign is moved into Novato and Santa Rosa. Both city councils have held study sessions and are now ready to bring the ordinances forward for public hearings and a vote.

In August, the Novato City Council held their first public hearing on the ordinance and, as the clock struck midnight on Aug. 27, council-members agreed to bring the ordinance back for another look on Sept. 24. Public comment was long and at times, heated, with the council sending the ordinance back to staff to incorporate the discussed options and allowing more time for all interested parties to comment on the ordinance in advance of the council's vote on Sept. 24. As this is going to publication, Novato passed \$15 minimum wage, effective July 2020.

In the city of Santa Rosa, the ball is finally beginning to move again on an ordinance for that city. It took considerable time and effort by various allies to get the study session scheduled. Finally, in July, a study session was held and a vote has now been set for October 1st.

NBjwJ would like to see both Novato and Santa Rosa pass ordinances that mirror that of Petaluma's – with the earliest timelines – using the Bay Area CPI to establish cost of living raises and with a strong enforcement provision. They are encouraging letters of support be sent to these city council members, if unable to attend the council meetings.

Anyone interested in joining in the campaign to "Raise the Wage" in the North Bay should visit NBjwJ's facebook page or the website at NorthBayJobsWithJustice.org (select the "Campaigns" tab for the link to the "Raise the Wage" campaign) or email NorthBayJwJ@gmail.com. ✉

Bonnie Petty works with North Bay Jobs with Justice and has been a long-time advocate for workers' rights.

FREE MOVIE NIGHTS Return to the PJC

The third Friday of each month Sponsored by the Sonoma County Socialists, a loosely affiliated reading group. We will be showing a series of powerful films starting September 20th, and continuing through November. We hope to add additional selections and continue the series beyond these first three. Please check the *Peace Press* and the email calendar for updates.

All movies will be free, with a small donation appreciated to cover costs of the PJC's facility use. Our purpose is, via film, to invite conversation, build community and create a space to discuss pressing social justice issues.

We hope you can make it. All movies will be shown at the Peace & Justice Center, 467 Sebastopol Avenue in Santa Rosa.

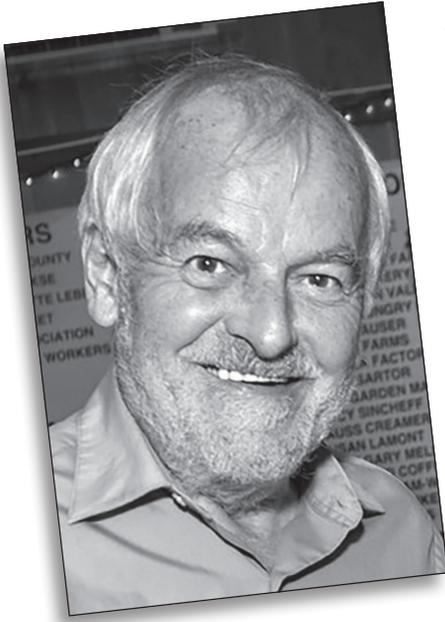
SHOWTIMES AND SELECTIONS

• Friday, October 18, 7:00 pm

Mumia: Long Distance Revolutionary – This documentary explores Mumia's past, politics, imprisonment and his unflinching efforts to educate and inspire – with commentary from Alice Walker, Cornel West, Angela Davis and others. "Tracing the path of a brilliant journalist whose message cannot be silenced... a rallying cry for an alternative political discourse." – Variety

• Friday, November 22, 7:00 pm

Z – A classic from 1969, *Z* follows the murder of a prominent leftist, played by Yves Montand, and the government coverup of its role in his death. Those who speak up pay the price for their honesty. "It is a film of our time. It is about how even moral victories are corrupted. It will make you weep and will make you angry. It will tear your guts out." – Roger Ebert.



Earl Herr, Sebastopol Living Peace Wall Honoree

It was from these traditions at the edges of the wider culture, that I left my rural home as a teenager to work at a New York City hospital as a conscientious objector to war. I discovered a larger world. I was privileged to attend my last 3 college years at Howard University in Washington, D.C. It was years later that I began my 36 years as an emergency physician in Petaluma, volunteering at Sonoma County free clinics.

During the Vietnam war, I too participated in anti-war protests. But it was afterward that I had first-hand experience with Ronald Reagan's Contra war against Nicaragua and his support of an El Salvador government slaughtering its civilians. Only then did I adequately awaken and attend to the long history of forceful and imperialistic maltreatment by my country against my and our neighbors in Central America, and elsewhere, in the name of fighting communism.

I immersed myself in Spanish. I read Penny Lerneaux's *Cry of the People* and Stephen Kinzer's books. I learned of America's empire-like arrogance against our neighbors and a host of other nations – a century of imperialism accepted by our society.

So, I participated intensely for several decades in the activist peace movement with our Sonoma County Peace and Justice community. Many of the others I worked with – Richard Coshnear, Terry Winter, Susan Shaw, Alice Waco, Dr. John Shearer – are more worthy to attain today's significant honor. We worked hard for Single-Payer healthcare and against Pete Wilson's Prop. 187, which sought

to deny health care and education to our Hispanic immigrant neighbors and friends, also proclaimed illegal and illegitimate, many having fled the conditions our country helped to cause.

But now, from the fruits of this past, we in America are at another learning and teaching moment. Our proudly imperialist president with his obedient tribe of Republicans, skillfully uses DoubleSpeak, demanding a new brand of patriotism, America 1st Exceptionalism – 'We are the best'. Claiming moral superiority, while our own sins of hatred and racism are not considered consequential. Banishing our neighbors from our borders, as though we bear no responsibility for the poverty and violence in their countries.

Our president now reverts back to the shameful American eugenics promoted a century ago by prior presidents and academic leaders that fed the extremes of Nazism. Now a repeated version of clearly racist, white nationalism and superiority. Now non-whites (and non-Christian), immigrant or not, are considered inferior, rodent-infested, not really legitimate. Intent on reversing any inclusiveness achieved by President Obama, seeking to destroy the economic livelihood of the people of Iran.

My vision, instead, is that, turning from this extreme of America 1st Imperialism, the beginning of a period of healing can replace these hateful values with nourishing and empathic values as fundamental to a healthy America. Thank you. 🌱

On September 7 the names of four lifelong peace activists —Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, Earl Herr, Tula Jaffe, who directed Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament in Sonoma County, & Jim Corbett, who founded Sebastopol's Love Choir — were added to the Sebastopol Living Peace Wall, a monument to those who have worked nonviolently for peace and justice. Their names joined those of former inductees Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter and Daniel Ellsberg, as well as many lesser-known but equally remarkable crusaders from our peace and justice community.

Speech from the Annual Ceremony 9/17/19

I'm honored to be here with (fellow honoree) my Congresswoman, Lynn Woolsey.

I've long been convinced,

1. that our society has significant responsibilities we haven't acknowledged;
2. that we should actively reject both violence and war, especially now with our extreme capabilities either of violence or of healing; and
3. that we must demonstrate our solidarity with the needy, both in our society and worldwide, even as their numbers dramatically increase.

I grew up nurtured in the values of an Anabaptist-Mennonite culture, with its history of illegitimacy – the wrong brand of Christians – who would not baptize their children, (too young to decide yet for themselves) and who would not participate in the military and its extreme destructiveness and violence. Therefore, my ancestral family and community of 800, in the winter of 1681, were banished from their native Switzerland.

I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country; corporations have been enthroned, an era of corruption in High Places will follow, and the Money Power of the Country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the People, until the wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed.

- Abraham Lincoln, 1863



2019 PJC Awards Event, Sat., Nov. 9

Introducing This Year's Awards Recipients!

Peacemaker of the Year Award – *An individual with a passion for working for peace and social justice, who makes a significant contribution that makes a difference to the Sonoma County community and beyond.*

Izaak Schwaiger is a Sebastopol attorney whose practice is dedicated to defending the criminally accused and upholding the civil rights of those wronged by the police. Izaak was born in 1975. His parents were active in the peace movement, which influenced Izaak's decision to enlist in the Marine Corps following high school. Following ten years in the Marines, Izaak enrolled in law school where he did not graduate with honors, but was voted "most likely to become a rockstar." In 2010, Izaak accepted a position as Deputy District Attorney for Sonoma County. In 2013, he left his work as a prosecutor to devote his efforts to confronting institutional failures in Sonoma County law enforcement. His work in civil rights litigation has brought accountability and change to previously unchecked law enforcement practices across the county, from abuse of prisoners in jail to the use of deadly force on the streets. In 2019, he won the largest jury verdict ever against a Sonoma County law enforcement agency for the parents of Branch Wroth who was killed by Rohnert Park police. Izaak and his long-time partner, Chandra, live on their farm outside of Sebastopol with three children, two cows, three donkeys, five chickens, two dogs and a self-righteous cat.

Russ and Mary Jorgensen Courage of Commitment Award – *A person from Sonoma County with a passion for working for peace and social justice, who performs acts of courage to make a difference, often at their own personal risk.*

Alfredo Sanchez has always had a fighting spirit for social justice, from an early age as a teenaged activist to being an elder in the Brown Berets. Alfredo worked as a UFW volunteer/supporter. He was involved in the Sonoma County Industrial Union in the 1980's which won the first union contract among Latino workers. He was involved in Pueblo Unidos for immigrants' rights and fought against Proposition 187. He was involved in the Sanchez Mendoza Institute for Development of Leadership among immigrants. Alfredo served on several non-profit Boards of Directors including Graton Labor Center, Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County and KBBF radio. He was involved with P.O.D.E.R., a parents/activists organization fighting against racism in the Santa Rosa school system. Alfredo had an integral part in the Andy Lopez Coalition, working with Andy's parents, Andy's Youth and other activists by protesting and speaking to the Board of Supervisors about Andy's murder. On KBBF bilingual public radio, he helped form a Community Advisory Board to speak about social issues on the air. He has been a mentor to many young people, including his 10 children. "Alfredo Sanchez is an authentic warrior in the social movement, demonstrating courage when he confronts injustices. He believes it is the right thing to do," says his sister, Alicia Sanchez.

Unsung Hero Award – *A person from Sonoma County who works diligently for peace and social justice but stays in the background, out of the limelight*

Bruce Alan Rhodes is a local hero because of his unwavering dedication to youth, solar energy activism and his reputation as

the best bartender in Sonoma County. Bruce was born and raised in the projects of Staten Island, New York. He worked at a youth center advocating for young people for 9 years, earning his degree in Architecture & Urban Design. He moved to Telluride, Colorado in 1979. Here, he would start the first Youth Center, The Next Generation, and found Telluride's first solar company, Telluride Energy Solutions. He still sojourns to the Telluride Film Festival every September. Bruce moved to Sebastopol in 1999. He partnered with Sebastopol Heat, Cool and Solar in the early 2000s. This is when his life project was born: Drums for Solar. He found his way to Mali, West Africa in 2001 and has been cultivating a life there ever since. The organization's mission is to empower young people in Mali to be self-reliant and bring solar solutions to their communities. Their current major project is a summer camp and school program called "I Can Build It, We Can Build It," a hands-on empowerment program. The Sonoma County community recognizes Bruce for his humility, honesty and his inability to let any circumstance take away his joy.

Community Organization Award – *A local group whose activities have a significant beneficial effect on the well-being of the people of Sonoma County.*

Petaluma Blacks for Community Development was formed 41 years ago with the purpose of sharing black history and culture through various programs and events with the Sonoma County community. PBCD hosts an annual Black History Program and hosts an Annual Jazz Concert celebrating Black History Month. Additionally, the non-profit organization has sponsored Senior Night to recognize high school graduates as well as offer a Saturday tutoring program. The group has sponsored a census workshop, picnics and other social activities. PBCD member, Faith Ross explains, "Through our efforts to uncover our history, we have learned a lot about the first black settlers in Sonoma and surrounding counties. We continue to follow the efforts and contributions of more recent blacks to our community. Gloria Robinson is our founding member. She dreamed of starting a black organization that would bring black families together in Petaluma for both social and educational activities. She found that there were other families that shared her dream."

Youth Peacemaker Award – *This award is granted to someone from Sonoma County, 13–22 years old, who has a passion for working locally for peace and social justice and has made a significant contribution to making our community more just and peaceful.*

Lucia Garay is a Senior at Casa Grande High School. She has been a local activist since she was in the 7th Grade. She has always been passionate about the environment and protecting the natural places. Her activism work started with the Sonoma County Junior Commission on Human Rights, where she led several projects including a Racial Injustice and Inequality Awareness in Schools Initiative and the 2018 Sonoma County March for Our Lives. After she recognized the intersections between the environment and social justice, Lucia began to work on local environmental justice issues. She founded the local Sunrise Chapter and has worked extensively to promote a just transition to a sustainable society, especially for frontline communities in Sonoma County. In addition, Lucia is Editor of her school news magazine and she is an excellent baker.

IOLERO - Sheriff Accountability or Damage Control?

Susan Collier Lamont

Things are heating up in Sonoma County around the subject of law enforcement accountability. About a dozen activists have attended more than 100 meetings following this. It has been a while since I've written about it, so I'll begin with a little history.

After the killing of 13-year-old Andy Lopez, the Community and Local Law Enforcement Task Force and its subcommittees held multiple public meetings a week for 15 months. One of its recommendations was the creation of the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO).

The new office would track law enforcement investigations and public complaints and "include community education and outreach; conveying feedback from the community on law enforcement issues; public discourse regarding policies and procedures; advice and recommendations regarding policies and procedures." A Community Advisory Council (CAC) was created to take the lead with "direct public testimony... to provide advice to law enforcement on policies and procedures, training methods and subject areas, trends and needs within the community."

IOLERO's first director, Jerry Threet, and the community members appointed to the CAC took this seriously. Despite considerable behind-the-scenes resistance from the Sheriff's Office, as well as Supervisors Zane and Rabbitt, Threet and the CAC worked together to study law enforcement best practices to prepare recommendations to make both the public and officers safer. They also sought input from the Sheriff's Office (SCSO).

While creating an office from scratch and studying and recommending policy, Threet completed reviews of more than 50 Sheriff's Office internal investigations. After 2-1/2 years, he presented a 100+ page report on his work and a proposed ordinance to make the office more efficient and effective. The sheriff responded with the equivalent of the William Barr rebuttal to the Mueller Report. Both Giordano and Barr's responses were written to play to bases unlikely to read the actual reports. Because of serious health concerns, Threet had to submit his resignation and under Chair David Rabbitt, the recommendations disappeared into the garbage.

Long before Threet announced his need to resign, Supervisor Zane was combing the weeds for a replacement. We know because one person she approached called a meeting

with activists to let us know. Apparently, she kept on looking for a person who would do the SCSO's bidding.

Karlene Navarro became the current director in March. No time to orient Navarro was allowed. With just six months on the job, on September 10th, she presented the Board with a rewrite of her office and the mission and duties of the CAC. She eliminated recommendations on policy from CAC and the public, cut the number of community members on the CAC almost in half and reduced the public meetings by two-thirds. But she said she'd consider an extra meeting if an officer kills someone, essentially saying that the office wouldn't work to prevent critical incidents, just investigate them after they happen.

Navarro has ended the CAC's ability to meet with SCSO representatives to discuss policy. She no longer allows them any independence and they are not allowed to present anything with which she disagrees. She violates the by-laws of the CAC. A dictatorial style is counterproductive to community engagement.

Unlike the office itself, her recommendations were created without a single public

meeting and made public just three working days before she wanted the supervisors to vote for it. Concerned community members turned out and, with the help of Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, postponed the vote. Since her appointment, Navarro has used her time in meetings to shame Threet, the CAC and the public. She has accused Threet of not doing enough work despite his completion of ten investigation reviews per six-month period, compared to her one. But she has been sure to praise Sheriff Mark Essick. No wonder Essick stated, "I'm excited. I think this person will bring a different perspective to IOLERO than the current director."

It doesn't take a forensic investigator to see the Sheriff's fingerprints all over Navarro's ordinance.

Why would Essick, who ran his campaign for Sheriff on his support for IOLERO and community involvement, want to see a change of "perspective?" And why would Navarro, with no involvement in the issues which brought us to this moment and with only six months on the job, ignore the duties of her job and work so hard to reverse the policies of the Board-appointed task force? Help us demand answers! 🙌

On Losing Our Son, Branch

Marni Wroth

It has been two years since losing Branch Wroth, our son, who was killed by 5 Rohnert Park Public Safety officers. Brutally beaten, tased and suffocated; Branch was unarmed, naked, under the influence and having a medical crisis.

In June, a jury in San Francisco Federal Court found the City of Rohnert Park liable for Branch's death and awarded us \$4 million dollars. The process that unfolds when something horrific happens, catapulted me into the deepest grief, loneliness and eventually a depression that gripped me with tenacity. I believed I would not survive such a wound. I questioned my sanity. Family and friends supported us so patiently, as my husband and I navigated the treacherous waters of losing Branch.

We tread this unknown territory in different ways. Chris delved into working, writing and figuring out all legal avenues he could find to work on Justice for Branch. I cried end-

lessly, I wailed, I drummed, did art, walked the mountain, listened to way too many tapes and read too many books about grief. Nothing resonated. I could not let anything in but the relentless drone of my own agonizing rage. Something had to give.

A couple of friends stayed so close and never gave up on me, listening on and on to my sinking heart. They gave me strength to not give up. Honestly, I am still not well.

My family and many activist friends from the community came to trial. It was not for the faint of heart. They were stalwart witnesses on this journey. The trial closes one door, but fighting for Branch is not over. The appeal process was predicted. The city council of Rohnert Park resists change and oversight, though riddled with scandals and lawsuits throughout their police department for years.

Twenty years ago, the Civil Rights Commission came to Sonoma County to review local law enforcement. After their review

Losing Our Son...see page 7

Local Health Professionals Speak Out on Improved Medicare for All

HPEACE (Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment)

As health professionals in Sonoma County, we believe that the current healthcare “system” is overpriced, underperforming and inequitable. Bold, meaningful changes are desperately needed.

We pay twice as much for healthcare as people in just about any country in the world, yet US residents are younger, use fewer prescription drugs and go to the doctor and are hospitalized less often than those in comparable countries. Care is rationed, based on ability to pay, rather than on need.

Do we get good value?

Reliable measures of quality show that 33 countries have better quality of care than we do. Their care is more efficient, less error-prone and removes cost as a barrier to care. Americans have a lower life expectancy, double the rate of maternal mortality and the highest infant mortality.

Why are costs so high and the quality so low?

Corporations extract billions of dollars a year in profits and redirect resources to fund administrators, rather than care. This adds tremendously to the cost of care, often a quarter of hospital budgets, compared to 12% in Canada’s single-payer system.

Last year, 66.1 million American workers

were separated from their jobs, losing their job-based insurance. We all deserve lifelong, seamless coverage, ending the disruptive churn of job-based plans.

The solution to our health care crisis is right under our noses! Medicare – now 54 years old – is popular, efficient and proven to improve health outcomes for seniors. But before we expand Medicare to all US residents, we must improve Medicare for seniors by covering all medically necessary services, including those not currently covered, such as vision, hearing, dental, mental health and long-term care. We must also eliminate the financial burden of premiums, deductibles and copays, so nobody ever has to choose between paying their bills and going to the doctor, and making medical bankruptcy a thing of the past.

Medicare for All would slash administrative costs by funding hospitals through global budgets, similar to the way that we fund fire and police departments. Instead of having to bill hundreds of different insurers for every aspirin, bandage or saline bag, hospitals would be guaranteed a stable level of funding to meet community health needs.

The Medicare for All Act of 2019 (H.R. 1384), with 106 original congressional co-sponsors, offers a viable way for us as a country to address issues of cost, quality, efficiency and equity. Unlike our current system, we

will be free to use the medical provider and hospital of our choice.

How would we pay for it?

We currently pay, directly or indirectly, \$1,000 per person per month on average into health care. By expanding Medicare benefits and incorporating all persons in the US, regardless of immigration status, into Medicare, we expect to save trillions of dollars in the first decade alone, remove much of the profit from the system and improve access, quality, equity and efficiency. No longer would employers or individuals pay insurance premiums. Like police and fire services, schools and libraries, our care would be funded by taxes – taxes that would be much lower for most individuals, families and businesses than the premiums currently paid. Municipalities and school districts would no longer be required to pay for employee and retiree health insurance. Those billions of dollars could be redirected to fund city services and re-invigorate our schools.

Half-measures like a public option would be much less able to provide the fundamental changes we all deserve. “Improved” Medicare for All is the best and really the only way to make the changes we terribly need in our healthcare system. ✂

HPEACE is an organization of more than 200 Sonoma County health professionals.

Losing Our Son, Branch... from page 6

they made 20 recommendations, one being that Rohnert Park needed oversight. To this day, the city council has steadfastly refused. The question is why? The answer is they are corrupt.

Their new Public Safety Department Director, Tim Mattos, apparently has no intention of changing the direction of his department. Questioned at the trial, he said he’d done no investigation of Branch’s death. (The last Director, Brian Masterson, had to resign. Branch died on his watch.) Questioned at the trial he stated, incredulously, he hadn’t done an internal investigation into Branch’s death and not even spoken to any of the involved officers about the killing. They are indifferent. Their message is loud and clear to their officers, “we have your

back even if you kill someone.”

Our family will not be the last sad statistic of police brutality in Sonoma County. County government and every municipality budgets lawsuit monies for deputy and officer misconduct. The County alone has gone from thousands to hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars in lawsuit payouts. Your tax dollars at work, providing a firewall for police brutality.

I knew our case would be difficult. Rohnert Park hired their guns and came at us with all they had. Officers participating in killing Branch said they did nothing wrong and would do the same again. In the end, they lost.

Our excellent and courageous lawyers, Izaak Schwaiger and John Scott (who assisted), exposed the police’s hired guns (aka “experts”) as the paid liars they are. Both men

are teachers, activists, advocates and Warriors for Justice.

We prevailed, make no mistake, but it is bittersweet. Long before trial I knew, no matter win or lose, we’d already lost everything – our Branch. There is no morality, only legality, in the law. Dear Izaak, painfully, taught us this.

Our family has become more fragile. My adult children saw their parents nearly self-destruct. Our long marriage since 1970 was greatly tested. Our family was and is fractured.

I recognize “Hope” now, however the term “moving on” just does not have any meaning. I am eternally grateful to my family and friends with all my heart. If not for them I do not believe I would be sitting here writing about what happened to Branch. ✂

DRUMS FOR SOLAR: *People Helping People Sharing Our Humanity*

Rebel Fagin

If you've been to the Arlene Francis Center, chances are you've met Bruce Rhodes. He lives in Santa Rosa around four months of the year. The rest of the time he is in Mali, West Africa.

Bruce made his first trip to Africa in 2000. There he met some young Senegalese men who were highly educated but unable to find work, as there was no work to be found. If they wanted work, they had to create it. Together they searched for a resource they could use to make jobs. "We realized that sunlight is a resource that Africa has in abundance," said Bruce. He began Drums for Solar.

This was a natural for Bruce, who has an extensive background in solar technology. He was trained by the Solar Living Institute and Solar Energy International before starting his own company, TES, in the 1980's. Now in Senegal, he utilized his background. "You can use the Sun to empower people," said Bruce. "These are people of the earth. They live on the earth. They draw water from the earth. They grow food in the earth. They know the earth. The world is worse today than it was fifty years ago. We need to share in our humanity."

"In Mali, I met with a griot, Kanjawla

Caloubi, an artisan who spent hours educating me on West African culture and history. It was these discussions that led to the idea of selling culture craft to Westerners to help fund our solar projects."

Bruce met with village elders for three days. A friend informed him that no one cared about the words that came out of his mouth. They cared about the spirit of the human being. The elders chose to work with Bruce. Together they discussed how to pay for these projects. They told him, "Solar energy is great, but we have no way to pay for it. To receive a gift without paying back steals from our spirit and dignity." Bruce agreed to share their story, their spirituality and their humanity with others in exchange for the solar programs.

In 2016 Bruce dedicated himself full time to this project. He relocated to Mali where he eventually married and lives most of the year. He started working in village schools. Under his direction, students began cleaning up waterways and empty lots, recycling and installing solar systems, working through organizations like The Institute for Popular Education and Ciwara ("Perfection" in the Bambara language). The idea is to empower people

where they live so they aren't victims of forced migrations or terrorist cults. Solar builds community. "I build it – we can build it," Bruce says about the training that goes on daily through village schools.

To make a village whole, Drums for Solar focuses on health, income, education and culture. Health is enhanced through midwife Solar Suitcases. These portable solar systems, complete with two solar panels, batteries and lights, are used to bring electricity to village clinics. Income is provided through small enterprise development like repurposing, recycling and improving agriculture. Education brings solar electricity to village schools and clinics where computers are used as teaching tools. The cultural aspect is the sharing of humanity and the spirituality inherent in this exchange.

Bruce was invited to join the Santa Rosa East Rotary in 2017. Together they are pursuing funding while networking with the Bamako Lumiere Rotary Club in Mali. They are making a difference in the lives of others. You can make a difference, too. Go to DrumsforSolar.org or find them on Facebook. Empowerment through solar technology embraces the dual needs of environmentalism and social justice. Join in today.

Sonoma County – United in Kindness

Mohammad K. Jabbari

Communities like ours around the country and around the world are gathering in solidarity to denounce acts of violence and hate. An urgency for peace and reason is bubbling up like a geyser ready to burst in a powerful show of force for change.

The Interfaith Council of Sonoma County (ICSC) invites you to take part in a campaign titled "Sonoma County – United in Kindness." The painfully tragic events in Christchurch, New Zealand, the Pittsburgh synagogue shootings and other horrific incidents underscore how compelled we are to take a stand. It is time. Let's stop the fast-moving fire of hatred with a stream of tangible and sustainable acts in our workplaces and communities.

First action:

ICSC, with your help, will gather thousands of signatures on the declaration, Sonoma County – United in Kindness (visit

Interfaithsonoma.org/declaration). We've done this before with the 2016 campaign rejecting Islamophobia. Please sign the declaration yourself and share it with others on social media. Encourage friends, neighbors and strangers to envision Sonoma County – United in Kindness. Unify our community in a desire to build good will, harmony and kindness.

Together, not alone, we can change our world and positively impact our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and how we treat each other every day.

Next action:

Take sensible actions for a sustained campaign to ensure a Sonoma County – United in Kindness. We will call on county and city officials, school district administrators, faith congregations, business leaders, police agencies, courts, radio and TV stations and other news media to embrace our vision and to come up with a sustainable plan of action. Dozens

of local groups are already making progress toward positive change.

To succeed, this important campaign needs each one of us. Can you see downtown lamp-post banners with "Sonoma County – United in Kindness"? How would a county united in kindness feel to you? As our campaign moves forward, be part of the groundswell. Offer your ideas and work on projects that empower your vision. Keep up with our meetings and activities by reading email updates and announcements.

Step forward now to create a safer, more humane and joyful community for ourselves and our children, a Sonoma County united in kindness. Please sign the declaration! Pass it on! In hope and faith. ☸

Mohammad K. Jabbari is the founding member of the Interfaith Council of Sonoma County and Chair of the Sonoma County – United in Kindness Campaign. For more information, email UnitedInKindness@interfaithsonoma.org.

Israel in Syria

Rebel Fagin

In June of 2019, Syrian Air Defenses halted an Israeli attack on Tal al-Hara in southern Syria. This is an area with a strategic hill that overlooks Syria's Golan Heights, currently occupied by Israel. Israel claimed it needed to invade Syria to protect its occupied territories. Israel said the attack was a response to two rockets fired from Syria to Mount Hermon in occupied Syria. It also said that this was an effort to pushback at Iran.

How did Israel come to occupy part of Syria in the first place? Let's start with 1967.

How did Israel come to occupy part of Syria in the first place? Let's start with 1967.

By the end of the Six Day War, Israel occupied Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Israel defended its invasion with the usual claim of self-defense. Israel's 1967 Defense Minister Moshe Dayan gave the order to conquer the Golan, often provoking firefights with Syrians to do so. Said Dayan, "We would send a tractor to plow in the demilitarized area and knew in advance that the Syrians would start to shoot. If they didn't shoot, we would tell the tractor to advance further until, in the end, the Syrians would get annoyed and shoot. And then we would use artillery and later air force also, and that's how it was... the Syrians, on the fourth day of the war, were not a threat to us."

In July 2019, Israel again attacked Syria, killing several fighters and civilians. According to Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu, Israel acted "hundreds of times" to prevent Iranian military support of the Assad government and have backed ISIS and Al Qaeda.

Director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Said Efraim Inbar stated, "the West should seek the further weakening of Islamic State, but not its destruction. In Syria if the choice is between Iran and the Islamic State, I choose the Islamic State." To this end Israel has provided provisions, intelligence and air strikes to Jabhat al-Nusra, an Al Qaeda affiliate.

Then there's the White Helmets. Britain, Japan and USAID have invested at least \$100 million in these "civil defense workers." Much of these funds have been spent on public relations. There is a Netflix video about them

and they have received a Right Livelihood Award. Underneath the surface, the White Helmets reveal themselves to be active lobbyists for regime change in Syria. They have fought alongside both Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIS and have even been filmed participating in grisly public executions by ISIS.

"Back off from fighting territorial ISIS," said New York Times columnist and staunch Israel supporter, Thomas Friedman. "In Syria, Trump should let ISIS be Assad's, Iran's, Hezbollah's and Russia's headache – the same way we encouraged the Mujahedeen fighters to bleed Russia in Afghanistan."

In August Israel again attacked Syria. Will the US support Israel's invasion and possible land grabs in southwestern Syria? It may depend on who our next president is.

Using statements provided by israelpalestineneews.org, I have ranked the contenders of the two major US political parties into 5 groupings: those who see Israel as the one essential country in the world (not the US), those who think Israel has a right to defend itself (but Palestinians do not), those who want to listen to both sides, those who think Israel may have done some things wrong and

those who support Palestine.

Here is how the candidates stand as of this writing:

Those who love Israel and call it the one essential country include Joe Biden, Cory Booker, Kamala Harris, Michael Bennet and Donald Trump.

Those who think Israel alone has a right to protect itself include Bill DeBlasio, Steve Bullock, John Delany, Amy Klobuchar, Beto O'Rourke, Tim Ryan, Joe Sestak, Elizabeth Warren and Andrew Yang.

Those who want to listen to both sides include Julian Castro, Tulsi Gabbard, Wayne Messam and Marianne Williamson.

The only candidate who thinks Israel may have done some things wrong is Pete Buttigieg.

The supporters of justice for Palestine are Mike Gravel and Bernie Sanders.

These last three candidates will be trashed by pro-Israel lobbies. Those who want to listen to both sides will have to face the wrath of AIPAC. Unless things change, support for Israel and its expansion into Syria will continue.

Sources: www.aljazeera.com, 6/12/19; nytimes.com, 5/11/97 & 7/1/19; www.israel-palestineneews.org; www.cactus48.com; The Management of Savagery by Max Blumenthal, 2019; KPFA News, 8/26/19. 🍂



Despair and Hope

A Dual-Narrative Trip to Israel and Palestine...

A multi-media presentation and talk

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6:30 PM

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER

467 SEBASTOPOL AVE, SANTA ROSA

Earlier this year, photographer Grace Cheung-Schulman went on a 10-day trip organized by the American Friends of Combatants for Peace. She met with both Israelis and Palestinians of every level, in intimate small group settings, and share meals in their homes. She was very touched by the conflict and despair caused by the Israeli's illegal occupation in the West Bank. As a photographer, she feels that it is her responsibility to bear witness to the devastation, and raise awareness of Americans so that we know the truth and do what is right to uphold the human rights of the oppressed.

The Declaration of Natural Sovereignty: Establishing The Earth Government

Michael Bridge

"We have frequently printed the word democracy. Yet I cannot too often repeat that it is a word the real gist of which still sleeps, quite unawakened, not withstanding the resonance and many angry tempests out of which its syllables have come, from pen or tongue. It is a great word whose history, I suppose, remains unwritten because that history has yet to be enacted. It is, in some sort, younger brother of another great and often-used word, Nature, whose history also waits, unwritten."

— Walt Whitman

A global network of local meetings for personalizing government and exploring the dimensions of responsibility...

Can governments long established and long separate from each other reach deep enough into the soul of peace to enact its vision? Until we're standing together in a vision of peace, how are we not at war with our souls?

When the weave of a living world is weakened by a long thread of abuse, it is lawful, it is necessary to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as seems most likely to effect the safety and happiness of all. For our principle and guiding light, we hold to Nature. Ruling all existence with singleness of vision, she governs Earth and stars with one embrace. She makes one country of us all, sovereign and indivisible, standing over nations, subject not to their authority, only God's. In awe of her power... in wonder at the congruity of her organizing principle, we join our idea with hers. Round was given for the shape of the Earth because when it's round, everyone sits at the head of the table. Setting no one, nothing, above or below us, seeing the same one moving in the life of everything that lives, we formally accept the duties of the world.

Rethinking the world, we proceed. Humans have a say, but it's hardly what we think it is, as we live in equal measure with every other thing. There are no masters here. There is no ruling caste. Each face is God's and no force or alliance of forces surmounts the power of a raindrop to stir a seed and call forth life.

Then, where but from that stirring is true authority derived? Giving the Earth back to itself, giving ourselves to peace... dominated by no voice... partnered in the quiet pause of honest deliberation, we convene this meeting not to feign influence but to add our silence, our voice and our whole heart to staying Nature's mast, plotting the course of kindness and comforting the voyage of our souls, God's grace being there.

World peace won't be easy because people are so invested in adversarial story lines. Let's do it anyway. Let's stage a surprise attack on the adversarial brain (it's a very controlling brain so you have to be quick and catch it off-guard). Electing a Palestinian mayor of Jerusalem to co-rule with the Israeli mayor from the same city hall with a room set aside for therapy to begin untangling the pathology that confounds that region and the world... clearly a co-dependent pathology rooted in patterns of degradation... might urge things in a healing direction. A planetary therapist might be a good idea.

The Hand Signs

The hand signs enact a shift in the directive that invents our conversational moment and choreographs our conversational life together

here on Earth – the directive that manages and sculpts our attention as humans. This shift urges our attention away from the spoken voice to give it more to the unspoken, unheard voice – to give our attention more to what's going on inside of us and between us. The shift involves a humanizing. By our humanizing we are rescued. By our humanizing we are healed.

Pause (hands folded with the two little fingers pointing upward to form a steeple) means you're taking a quiet moment to process something or you're feeling crowded by words.

Urgent Inner Stirring (hands folded with the two index and middle fingers pointing upward to form a steeple) means something is astir inside of you that involves an emotional charge. (Using only the index fingers means 'stirring' with no emotional charge.)

Distress (index, middle and fourth fingers pointing upward) means great distress and you're not ready to talk about it.

Inviting (open palms pressed together with all fingers extended and pointing in someone's direction) is an offer of attention to someone. (The same sign held in an upward position means 'presence.' You are present to what's being said or what's going on.) ☸



Are You Zero Waste Curious?

Portia Sinnott

The Zero Waste International Alliance defines Zero Waste as the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse and recovery of all products, packaging and materials without burning and without discharges to land, water or air that threaten the environment or human health. – Zero Waste International Alliance, zwia.org, circa 2004.

The Bay Area leads the nation in recycling and waste diversion innovation. Yet a 2014 study found our Bay has some of the highest concentrations of plastic pollution of any major US body of water! How can we shift individuals and businesses into better consumption and disposal habits? Why is moving toward a Zero Waste Economy the answer and what does Zero Waste mean?

Everyone needs to become better informed about the impacts of every decision to consume less, reuse and repair more and view every dollar and minute as a vote for or against the environment. We must let our politicians and corporate America know our views!

Everybody has to start with simple, straight forward practices like preparing fresh food, replacing single use items with reusables and learning to fix belongings, can help address complicated challenges such as unwanted additives, food waste, single use plastic pollution and toxins in our air.

These behaviors are making impacts. “Kellogg, the maker of Keebler cookies, Frosted Flakes, Pop-Tarts and Pringles, recently posted a 2.5% decline in second-quarter sales due in part to a consumer shift toward fresher, healthier foods. Kellogg wasn’t the only big-food brand to see its sales slip. Kraft Heinz, General Mills and Pinnacle Foods (Duncan Hines, Birds Eye) did as well.”

A Zero Waste Economy makes sense as a move toward a just and regenerative economy where nothing goes to waste, nothing is entombed and no toxins are produced. The circular economy concept also makes sense and has many wonderful initiatives, but in some peoples’ opinion it too often encourages the corporate status quo.

Locally a lot is happening. The City of Santa Rosa published their draft Zero Waste Plan in March and the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (recently rebranded as Zero Waste Sonoma), has hired a new staff including a Zero Waste Executive Director.

Last year the Sonoma County Local Task

Force for Solid Waste convened a large stakeholder group which developed a decision-maker packet to be shared with each city for consideration: a resolution request with a goal of Zero Waste by 2030, a custom list of initiatives and a draft resolution. Sebastopol and Windsor adopted the Zero Waste resolution and now have active Zero Waste committees. Zero Waste Sonoma will also be sending a single-use plastic pollution ordinance to each city for consideration. Among numerous other provisions, the wide-ranging measure requires food-service businesses to not use single-use items when compostable or recyclable options are available.

The third annual Zero Waste Symposium – now called the North Bay Zero Waste Symposium – was held at Sonoma Mountain Village in July. In honor of Plastic Free July, Occupy Sonoma County held a Zero Waste Teach-in. A large team of skilled volunteers happily fixed a wide variety of items including bikes, electronics and small appliances at the Repair Café. Since March, the Sebastopol Time Bank and Chimera Arts and MakerSpace have been collaborating on monthly Repair Café’s. This Fall, Zero Waste – Action Sonoma County is again offering Zero Waste Curious presentations, repair classes, clothing swaps and our

annual GiftAway.

Sonoma County has a number of long-term reuse and repair nonprofits and businesses including: Redwood Empire Food Bank, Sonoma Food Runners, Farm to Pantry Gleaners, CropMobster, Habitat For Humanity’s Restore, the Tool Lending Library and Community Bikes as well as the Computer Recycling Center and Green Lynx Building Materials and Wood Works.

<A2>Portia Sinnott is the Executive Director of Zero Waste – Action Sonoma County and Community Bikes. She works with Zero Waste USA and the Northern California Recycling Association. Portia collects data on Zero Waste initiatives and organizes small and large events and projects focused on the transition to a world without waste.

Resources:

Zero Waste International Alliance:

www.zwia.org

SB 1383

zerowastesonoma.gov

Sonoma Food Runners:

www.sonomafoodrunners.org

Farm To Pantry: www.farmtopantry.org

Crop Mobster: <https://cropmobster.com/> 🐦

Portia Sinnott is Executive Director of Zero Waste.

Sunrise Movement ... from page 1

hub tabled at the Green New Deal Townhall in Santa Rosa on May 15. Both hub organizers spoke about the severe consequences resulting from climate change and the socio-economic impact of it. These actions have been largely planned at the monthly hub meetings held at the Petaluma Regional Library and the Central Santa Rosa Library. Hub meetings are posted on the Sonoma County Sunrise Hub facebook page.

While some hubs have recently been focusing on attending the West Coast Sunrise Summit and Action weekend events, our Sonoma hub has been gearing up for the Global Climate Strike being held on September 20th. On Friday from 12-2 pm, environmental and social groups which make up the coalition Sonoma County Climate Action, will gather to strike and rally at the Old Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa. Old or young; student or worker, all are encouraged to come and demonstrate their dedication to the fight for climate justice during such a critical time.

We welcome anyone who is either curious

to learn more about the climate crisis or who wishes to act on the injustices being served to our planet. Big or small, your help is needed, welcomed and embraced. For further inquiries contact the current hub organizers at socosunrise@gmail.com or email amandabegs77@gmail.com or luciagaray2002@gmail.com.

Additional references:

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/416411-youth-protestors-fill-nancy-pelosis-office-demanding-climate-change>

<https://www.sunrisemovement.org/gnd>

<https://www.sunrisemovement.org/west-summit>

<https://www.petaluma360.com/news/9395816-181/petaluma-students-rally-for-climate?artslide=12a>

<https://www.facebook.com/SunriseSoCo/> 🐦

Celeste Chavez Hernandez is one of the founding organizers of the Sonoma County Sunrise Hub as well as a member of the Petaluma Community Relations Council Planning Committee. She is a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara, centrally focused on the sustainability of the environment and related socio-economic impacts in our community.

please support the businesses
that support the work of the
PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER

Remembering Phyllis Mae Stanley

May 27, 1931 – August 16, 2019

by Alice Waco

Phyllis Stanley passed away peacefully in her home in the company of her family and cherished friends on August 16 after living a life of Educator par Excellence as a teacher in the Santa Rosa City Schools. She pioneered the teaching of Life Lab Curriculum in SRCS through the use of school gardens before it was popular, bringing her classes close to nature and growing their own food right there at school. Her lessons have been used throughout the United States.

She was also a "Teacher of Teachers." A large part of her legacy is with the 47 primary student teachers whom she trained in the methodology of The Peaceful Classroom and the Life Lab Curriculum. She taught teachers how to thematically use the program to enrich and deepen students' burgeoning understanding of subjects as varied as math, science, biology, nutrition, art and poetry.

Every school garden in SRCS and later Mark West Schools, Cotati-Rohnert Park, Roseland and Piner-Oilvet has roots in Stanley's vision. As a published author, her two books, *American Environmental Heroes* and *Elizabeth Terwilliger: Someone Special* are in public libraries and school libraries across the nation. The former was named an Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children for 1997.

Within our peace community in the early 80's, Phyllis was an important person in the founding of Educators for Social Responsibility (ESR) in Sonoma County, which was one of the original groups helping to establish the Peace and Justice Center. She spread her ideas of the "Peaceful Classroom" through workshops with National ESR and helped give a strong footing to the environmental movement through K-12 education curriculum.

Phyllis was politically involved all her life. During her years in Santa Rosa, she was not only active in Educators for Social Responsibility but also worked with the League of Women Voters, heading the committee which produced the prescient 2004 League report, *Water Watch in Sonoma County*. She never failed to get others involved in political conversation. That might have been one of her unexpressed motives when she invited you over to play board games.

Phyllis not only taught peace in the classroom, she lived it. She was always a welcoming spirit and cared about others. Her kindness abounds and is still felt.

She is survived by her husband of sixty-two years, Charles, her daughters, Pamela Rees and Paula Grant and a large extended family. The family requests that directed donations be made to the Elizabeth Terwilliger Nature Education Programs at WildCare at 76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA 94901 or to the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County, 467 Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. ☺

Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Restore, Recycle!



- Greening At Every Level
- Recycling & Composting Services
- Waste and Plastics Reduction
- On-site Green Team Management
- Training and Eco-Education
- Water Bottle Refill Systems
- Festivals, Wedding & Conferences

Good Housekeeping For Mother Earth!

www.GreenMary.com
707-548-7582



**Water rates are going up!
Is your garden ready?**

Heidi Fantacone

Garden Consultation • Drip Irrigation Repair & Installation

Qwell Certified • Reliable • Experienced

Edibles • Perennials • Trees

707-823-1386 • www.heididigstrees.com • Heidif@sonic.net

CALABI GALLERY



*Featuring an eclectic selection of art in all media
from 19th century to contemporary, with a focus on
post war west coast modernism.*

456 Tenth St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

707.781.7070
calabigallery.com

**EVERYDAY PEOPLE
ESTATE PLANNING**



**Wills
Trusts**

**Free 30-Minute
Consultation**

Call Attorney

Kevin T. O'Connor M.S.W., J.D.
(707) 694-1988
kevin@ktolaw.com
www.ktolaw.com

Be a sponsor of
the *Peace Press*.
call
707-841-6084
for rates, sizes
and formats.

*please support the businesses
that support the work of the
peace & justice center*

ENGAGE YOUR GOV.

Sonoma County Supervisors (707) 565-2241

District 1 - Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org
District 2 - David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org
District 3 - Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org
District 4 - James.Gore@sonoma-county.org
District 5 - 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

Assemblymember Marc Levine

Petaluma City Hall, Petaluma
11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952
Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-2735
Rattigan State Building, Santa Rosa
50 D Street, Suite 301, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-273

Assemblymember Jim Wood

50 D Street, Suite 450, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
(707) 576-2526, Fax: (707) 576-2297
California Assembly Website: assembly.ca.gov

U.S. Representative Jared Huffman

1630 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5161, 202-225-5163 (Fax)
Nearest local office:

999 Fifth Ave., #290, San Raphael 94901
415-258-9657, 415-258-9913 (Fax)

U.S. Representative Mike Thompson

231 Cannon Bldg., Washington D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3311, Napa (707) 226-9898
Fax: (202) 225-4335, Santa Rosa (707) 542-7182
Fax (707) 542-2745
m.thompson@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senator Kamala Harris

112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3553, S.F. (415) 403-0100
Relay Fax: 202-224-0454
harris.senate.gov/content/contact-senator

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841, S.F. (415) 393-0707
Fax: (202) 228-3954
feinstein@senate.gov

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

(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 D. J. Trump

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1111, Fax: (202) 456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

*Democracy is NOT
a spectator sport!*

Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

ALL PHONE AREA CODES ARE (707)
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

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

ACLU Sonoma Co., working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. Meets each second Monday. Contact patriciamorandi@sbcglobal.net, or davhen@sonic.net.

Allies Safety Network – compiling a phone chain/helpline to build a safety network for those at risk of harassment to provide a supportive presence in situations of hateful threats. Join the Network Call List: 583-9168

Alternatives to Violence – Presents experiential workshops in personal growth in the community and prisons. 545-1798

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

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

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

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreenparty.org

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

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

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

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

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

Indivisible Goups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.com

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

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Windsor

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

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

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

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

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

NAACP - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. 332-1573

National Women's History Project – coordinates observances of Women's History month around the country. 636-2888, nwhp@aol.com

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

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

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

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

Occupy Sonoma County – Embraces the egalitarian, deep democracy principles of the Occupy Movement with a regional strategy for effectively organizing county-wide social justice campaigns that are globally relevant. 877-6650, OccupySonomaCounty.org

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

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

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

Petaluma Blacks for Community Development – facebook.com/pb4cd

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sonoma County Coastal Hills: gardens@mcn.org

Sonoma County Nonviolence Training Collective offers free trainings in methods and principles for progressive social change and peace. soconvtc@gmail.com.

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org

Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. SonomaSolidarity.org, Facebook: Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock. 792-4422.

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

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

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

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

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

Women in Black – Women who stand in silent vigil to protest war and human rights abuses. 576-6676

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

*Please email zenekar@comcast.net
for any changes to this list.*

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AT THE PJC

Sun	1st • Democratic Socialists of America, 1–4 PM
Mon	3rd • North Coast Coalition for Palestine, 3:30–5 PM 3rd • Occupy Sonoma County Earth Action, 7–9 PM 5th • Sonoma County Climate Activist Network, 7–9 PM
Tues	4th • Nonviolence Training Collective, 7:30–9 PM
Wed	1st • Raging Grannies, 4:30–6 PM 2nd • Peace & Justice Center Board, 4–6 PM 3rd • 350 Sonoma, 7–9 PM
Fri	3rd • Free Movie Night, 7–9 PM
Sat	2nd • Allies Safety Network, 10 AM–12 noon 3rd • Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock, 3-5 PM 4th • Autistic Rebel Family, 1–3 PM

If we missed you or if your times change, please contact us.
All times subject to change between publications.
To receive the full PJC weekly email calendar, call 575-8902

Add Your Voice to the Vision of the Peace & Justice Center



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

Contact us if you would you 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 our bi-monthly Peace Press Newsletter

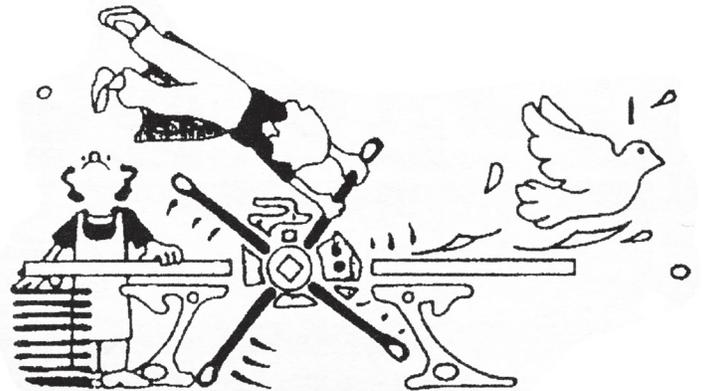
Please call (707) 575-8902 or visit PJCso.co.org

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

467 Sebastopol Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 575.8902

peacentr@sonic.net
PJCso.co.org

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
HOURS: Mon-Fri 1-4pm



JOIN THE PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

467 Sebastopol Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 ♦ (707) 575-8902 ♦ PJCso.co.org

Yes, I want to be a member of the Peace & Justice Center and receive one year of the Peace Press

Please check one: I am renewing my membership. I am a new member. How I learned about the Center:

Annual Membership Dues, tax deductible (includes the bimonthly Peace Press mailed to your address for one year).

\$15 Low Income & Student Membership \$35 Basic Membership \$60 Family or Business Membership

I would like to volunteer time or donate materials as follows: _____

Payment method: Check enclosed, payable to *Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County*

Credit/Debit Card No. _____ 3-digit Code: _____ Expires: _____ Signature: _____

Print name _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

City/State/Zip _____ (or call the PJC, 1-4 pm, weekdays)

Return by mail or fax to Peace & Justice Center. Thank you for your membership! Visit PJCso.co.org for activities and hours.