

SONOMA COUNTY

Peace press

- ◆ What's Goin' On?
 - ◆ After the Fire...
 - ◆ WALKOUT/May Day
 - ◆ May Meat Challenge
 - ◆ Deconstructing America
- much more inside...*

*Humanity in upheaval
on planet Earth!
Come to the rescue!*

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,
 an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).
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SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline: May 1, 2018

Email articles in MSWord to eszter@sonic.net. Word limit up to 700 words.

Shorter pieces welcome about local activism and events.

EDITING POLICY

The editorial collective selects articles that serve the movement for peace and justice in a positive way. Articles are edited for clarity, syntax, grammar, length and spelling. If needed, authors will be contacted to assist with editing.

Submissions must contain author's name, address, phone number, and word count. Decisions about editing fall within these guidelines and are the final judgment of the Peace Press editorial collective. Articles are the opinion of the author unless otherwise noted.

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 ADS

Contact: rebelfagin@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

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRODUCTION CREW

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FRONT COVER Google Earth satellite image of the 'Middle East'

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER BOARD MEMBERS

Attila Nagy, Kelly Brothers, Nikki Pyle, River King

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.

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GETTING CENTERED

What's Goin' On?

Shekeyna Black

What does Social Justice mean to you? Attila Nagy, President of the Peace & Justice Center, and I had the opportunity to facilitate a presentation during Social Justice Week at Sonoma State University, where we asked the students to talk about the ways they are involved in Social Justice issues. Being on campus with the motivated students was inspiring. Great big thank you to Professor Peter Phillips for spearheading the Social Justice Week program. Phillips "is co-host with Mickey Huff on the hour long weekly Project Censored show on Pacifica Radio originating at KPFA in Berkeley for airing nationwide," as per his faculty bio at Sonoma.edu. We emphasized the importance of Justice first, and for all, before everyone can experience Peace.

The PJC will be participating in some important community events in April and May. *We the Future Social Justice*, hosted by SRJC Petaluma and the North Bay Organizing Project takes place on Friday, April 13th at the Petaluma Campus. According to the *wethefuture.santarosa.edu* web page, "This day-long conference aims to raise consciousness and inspire action. For those feeling the call toward political engagement, *We the Future* offers an opportunity to build solidarity among activists of color, working-class folks, interfaith allies, feminists, members of the LGBTQI community, immigrants and the undocumented, labor organizers, and environmentalists whose diverse work is united by a desire to build a more just, humane world."

The family-friendly, free, annual Earth Day Celebration on April 21st takes place in Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa from noon-4pm. According to the Sonoma County Tourism website, "This year Earth Day OnStage will also be a Zero Waste event, which means vendors and participants will be reducing consumption, reusing, recycling, and composting all waste with nothing going to landfill or incineration." Stop by our booth to enter to win an annual Peace & Justice membership for you or for a gift for someone else.

The May 1st Coalition is organizing a May Day Walkout and March on International Worker's Day, Tuesday, May 1st in Santa Rosa. This has been an annual action since 2006 when 10,000 people marched in Santa Rosa for comprehensive immigration reform. Even more reasons to participate this year. On another note, did you know the Raging Grannies are back singing in Sonoma County? The singing activists meet the first Wednesday of each month from 5:00 to 6:00 PM at the PJC for open rehearsals.

On a personal note, my Dad, Ed Black, was recently in town for his first visit after my Mother passed. He said of the people of Sonoma County, "there is a genuine love and acceptance from everyone I met from the community." We need to focus on building bridges not walls, figuratively and in actuality. We are in our Spring Appeal period, please consider making a donation to your local non-profit, Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County. Your support helps the PJC to build bridges for Social Justice.

After the Fire – Using the Public's Credit to Rebuild

Shelly Browning and Marc Armstrong

What's the connection between public banking and natural disasters? Plenty. And anyone with a fiduciary duty involving public finance should pay attention.

When a natural disaster happens, unplanned expenses occur – not just for the general public, but especially for city and county budgets. Overtime pay and unplanned direct costs jeopardize the planning that went into the budget. Frequently these government organizations have to immediately cut other budgets, arrange for a line of credit, or plan for some other kind of funding to see them through.

A public bank, a bank that is owned by the city or state government and that uses government deposits to create credit, can provide this funding and alleviate many of the immediate budget shortfalls. Grand Forks, North Dakota, a city of about 50,000 people, experienced a devastating flood and fire in 1997. Within two weeks of the disaster, the Bank of North Dakota, the nation's only public bank, established a disaster relief loan fund, set aside \$5 million to assist flood victims and set up additional credit lines of about \$70 million:

- \$15 million for the ND Division of Emergency Management
- \$10 million for the ND National Guard

- \$25 million for the City of Grand Forks
- \$12 million for the University of North Dakota, located in Grand Forks
- \$7 million to raise the height of a dike at Devil's Lake, about 90 miles west of Grand Forks.

In other words, the public bank stepped in and provided about \$1,400 (\$2,135 in 2017 dollars) in credit per capita to government agencies immediately after the disaster. The \$25 million line of credit for the City of Grand Forks is the equivalent of Santa Rosa obtaining a \$134 million line of credit today.

But the value of a public bank in times of natural disasters does not stop there. Best of all, mortgage holders and students who had loans with the Bank of North Dakota were granted a six month moratorium on their monthly payments. Have private banks exercised this level of forbearance, especially for the young people of Santa Rosa saddled with student debt?

Why has the City of Santa Rosa, a state chartered city guaranteed by the state's constitution to be able to further its "municipal affairs," not been willing to take this low-cost public finance option? If it were to do so, it would find that the public's credit could be used to effectively address affordable housing, wastewater treatment, local infrastructure, renewable energy production and use, and public health and safety

matters. The list is familiar to many.

Public banking is a bold move, but it's a return to conservative banking and does not use Wall Street to bail us out. It's a move that the City of Oakland is just now beginning to study and the new governor-elect of New Jersey, Phil Murphy, has promised to implement in New Jersey. The fiscally prudent Germans have over 600 public banks with loan programs that address every one of these very same matters that prove so vexing to Santa Rosa city officials.

Surely, Germany and North Dakota have the same public financing options as the public officials in Santa Rosa. They just don't take the least expensive one off the table, and as a result, are able to more effectively be responsible with their taxpayers' money by lowering debt service costs, providing more services with the same money and lowering the risk of Wall Street dependence.

Let's keep the public banking option on the table. A public bank of Santa Rosa can help meet the increasing demand for expanded – and low cost – public finance.

Marc Armstrong is co-founder of the Public Banking Institute and Commonomics USA, an economic justice nonprofit based in Sonoma, CA. Shelly Browning is a small business owner and resident of Santa Rosa and founder of the Public Bank Santa Rosa working group.

Title VI Civil Rights Protections are Urgently Needed in California Schools for Students of Color

Dmitra Smith

In 2016 the Commission on Human Rights was contacted by a Santa Rosa family with a Black, bi-racial student who had experienced severe racial discrimination at Analy high school in Sebastopol. His grades began to fail and he suffered emotionally, physiologically and mentally. After becoming aware of the harassment, which was occurring both on campus and online, his parents notified the administration. The protections guaranteed to this student under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 were violated repeatedly by the harassers, teaching and administrative staff, as well as the district, who failed to properly address the situation upon being notified by the student's parents, receiving formal complaints and a request for an investigation.

In addition, several other Black families left the school, citing a lack of support and transparency from the administration. After an exhaustive search for assistance which included the NAACP, ACLU, local elected officials and others, the parents filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights in San Francisco. A comprehensive investigation found serious civil rights violations and resulted in a resolution agreement that the school was required to implement to insure that no further violations of title VI occurred.

As the Commission began to hold public meetings on the matter, a pattern of systematic civil rights violations of students of color in Sonoma County schools began to emerge through anecdotal evidence provided by parents, students and teachers, as well as analysis of OCR complaints for the county from 2010-2015. Equally disturbing, the commission learned that a majority of educators and administrators, as well as parents and students, had little to no idea of what Title VI was, the extent of the civil rights guaranteed under its protections, or how to file a complaint.

No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Title VI is a vital foundation of civil rights protections in the United States. It applies in all sectors of our most fundamental institutions receiving federal funding, from the Department of Education to Housing and Urban Develop-

ment, from the Environmental Protection Agency to Equal Employment Opportunity, from the Department of Transportation to Health and Human Services, and so on. Yet it is relatively unknown and therefore vastly under-utilized to combat racial discrimination and harassment. At a time when the current federal administration seeks to dilute, marginalize and remove civil rights protections for citizens, it is essential that Title VI be protected in all areas of our society. This is true especially for children in schools, who are reasonably the most vulnerable individuals of our society and deserve a healthy learning environment in schools in which to thrive and reach their fullest potential.

It's alarming to contrast this information vacuum on Title VI with the improved visibility of Title XI civil rights

protections against discrimination based on gender, passed as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX requires schools to respond appropriately to reports of sexual harassment and sexual violence, and also provides protection for transgender students against sex-based discrimination.

With the rightful passage of SB 1375 in 2016, commonly known as the California Sex Equity Education Act, all public, private and charter schools that receive federal funds and their associated school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools must "post in a prominent and conspicuous location on their Internet Web sites specified information relating to Title IX."¹

Without the implementation of a complementary "California Race Equity Education Act", there is no state mandate for similar provisions under Title VI. The reality in California and nationwide, is that the active civil rights protections of students of color are based on the personal whims of administrators and are all too often violated through ignorance or purposeful discrimination. This is not only unethical and heartbreaking when we consider the historical significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; it is also against state and federal law. Additionally, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos

has set a dangerous precedent for civil rights violations through her troubling interpretations of Title IX^{2,3}. With the added threat to civil rights protections under the current administration, it is essential that folks know their rights and have the understanding and ability to file a complaint.

As part of the work of the Commission, I am honored to serve as the liaison to Save Your VI, a group of Black and Brown mothers of Sonoma County students and allies who have created a user friendly website to explain Title VI and provide helpful tools to students, parents and teachers when dealing with racial discrimination and harassment. Save Your

The reality in California and nationwide, is that the active civil rights protections of students of color are based on the personal whims of administrators...

VI seeks to increase awareness, visibility and share this information as widely as possible. It is my intention to engage the full Commission on Human Rights in a discussion and possible vote on officially pursuing support from state leadership for similar legislation to SB 1375, to address the systematic racial discrimination and harassment faced by students of color in California. If we as a state can elevate Title VI to its rightful place alongside Title IX, it will strengthen our communities of color and lead the way for Title VI to be fully understood and protected nationwide. It is my opinion that we need a "California Race Equity Education Act", now more than ever. (Endnotes)

1. https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/bill-NavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1375
2. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2017/09/08/betsy-devos-title-ix-interpretation-is-an-attack-on-sexual-assault-survivors/?utm_term=.a978a44cf00c
3. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/01/18/under-devos-education-department-likely-to-make-significant-shift-on-sexual-assault/?utm_term=.91c8efd23151

Dmitra Smith is Vice Chair of the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

Deconstructing America – Year One

E.G. Singer

Our country has witnessed the Iraqi War phrase of “shock and awe” almost daily in the past year’s news. This is appropriate, given the war mentality reflected in the political maneuverings of Mr. Trump and his cronies – both in domestic and foreign policy – as they begin to shred the social/economic safety net many Americans rely on and remake a new world order. Quite an agenda!

Let’s see – passed tax “reform” legislation, repealed medical care, repealed environmental regulations, repealed banking regulations and consumer protections, questioned, repudiated and defunded evidence and science-based research, continued belligerent rhetoric toward foreign leaders, governments and foreign policies as well as our own government and free press. Anything left out? Probably!

But wait! Past progressive political legislation has shown that our government, with bipartisan, congressional support, can respond to our nation’s most pressing issues. The New Deal programs of the 1930’s and 40’s brought Social Security and other government programs to address the plight of the poor and improve and safeguard working conditions. The Great Society’s mandates of the 1960’s and 70’s ushered in Civil Rights legislation, Medicare, Entitlement Acts in education and environmental and consumer protection laws. Both these eras of government assistance and involvement in the lives of its citizens had positive outcomes, despite the fact that wars were being fought as these programs were being implemented (proof that we could walk and chew gum at the same time!).

Our isolation, division and fear have grown, within the confines of our own borders and beyond. We see through a glass darkly now.

There is a Native-American story of a grandfather talking with his grandson. The grandfather states he has “A terrible fight going on inside his heart between two wolves – one has anger, greed, resentment, lies, false pride, arrogance, superiority, ego; the other one has faith, generosity, hope, humility, kindness, joy and love.” The grandson is quiet for a moment, and then asks, “Which wolf will win?” The grandfather simply replies, “The one I feed.”

E.G. Singer is a photographer and writer. He resides in Santa Rosa.

Change or More of the Same

Rebel Fagin

In forty-five years I’ve never seen a competitive race for Sheriff in Sonoma County. Usually by November the heir apparent, with the blessing of the previous Sheriff, the *Press Democrat*, Korb and members of the Board of Supervisors, has been ushered into office and it is back to business as usual.

Things may be different this year. With the early retirement of Steve Freitas, a window of opportunity opened up. As of February, three candidates remain in the race. In June we’ll reduce the field to two. How do they differ? Here’s a look at each candidate’s views on leadership, community relationship and accountability to community.

First, however, let’s follow the money.

Mark Essick is proud that his top six donors all come from law enforcement, mostly local. John Mutz’s top six donors include two local business couples and a local environmental activist. The other three are from out of town.

They include a member of the Immaculate Heart Community, a retired Naval Officer and a retired law enforcement officer from Los Angeles, where Mutz was a former Police Station Commander. Ernesto Olivares’ top six donors include five individuals and Teamsters Local 665.

How will each candidate lead the Sheriff’s Department?

Essick states that the Sheriff’s Office is one of teamwork, community service, compassion and integrity. As an example, he cites the Crisis Intervention Training program he built after consulting with mental health and faith leaders.

Mutz was Police Commander at four different posts from 1992 to 1998 and replaced quotas with an ethic of respect and engagement. His example of community engagement focused on working with Sister Socorro Mesa from the Immaculate Heart Community. She inspired him to mold the Department into a culture of

Change or More of the Same...see page 8

‘Walkout’ film, April 21 – Walkout for real, May 1st

“Walkout,” the film directed by James Olmos, will be showing at the Peace & Justice Center, 467 Sebastopol Ave. (South of downtown, Santa Rosa), Saturday, April 21, 6:30 PM.

The film is based on the 1968 student walkouts in Los Angeles, which empowered Mexican-American students to demand the end of discrimination and that their history be included in the school curriculum. The walkouts culminated in the beginning of the Chicano Movement in the US.

“Walkout” was released early in 2006, shortly before the mass mobilization for comprehensive immigration reform on May 1st of the same year. According to Olmos, the film has been an inspiration for walkouts and demonstrations, including the May Day march of 2006 when millions across the nation, including 10,000 immigrants and allies marched to protest the Sensenbrenner bill in Congress. There will be discussion with a member of the Brown Berets, after the film.

Tuesday, May 1st is International Workers Day. There will be a Walkout and March starting with a gathering at Roseland Village by the Dollar Tree Store, at 2:00 pm. After a rally, there will be a march to downtown Santa Rosa beginning at 3:30 pm. Bring your signs with demands for Workers Rights, Fair Contracts, Immigration Reform, Living Wage Jobs, Rent Control, Housing for Homeless, End to Gun Violence, End Racism... More info about May 1st: [facebook.com/May1stCoalitionSC](https://www.facebook.com/May1stCoalitionSC)

The May Meat Challenge

Occupy Sonoma County

Breeding and killing billions of animals for human consumption requires vast amounts of land, water and fossil fuels. According to the United Nations, animal agriculture is responsible for more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (primarily through methane and nitrous oxide) than all modes of transportation combined. Emissions could be as high as 51% if GHGs from transportation, refrigeration, deforestation, etc., that are typically categorized separately but are a direct consequence of animal agriculture are taken into account. Western influence on developing nations to increase their animal product consumption will only exasperate this problem. As such, to reduce our own GHG footprint and set a better example for others to follow, a shift to plant-based foods is essential to preventing a climate catastrophe.

What's on your plate? Is it 80-100% plants?

Occupy Sonoma County collaborated with vegan climate activists and local farmers to create a campaign to educate the public as well as other activists about the greenhouse gas impact of animal agriculture and conventional food production. We promote healthy eating for ourselves and the planet, eating food that is produced in ways to capture carbon in the soil, not emitting more greenhouse gases than are absorbed into the soil, and supporting and educating people in making 80-100% plant-based organic and biodynamic food choices.

All diets recommend eating mostly vegetables.

When animals are grazed according to the life cycles of grasses, deep-rooted perennial bunch grasses are encouraged, carrying carbon from the roots into the soil. This puts carbon deeper into the soil, preventing erosion and requiring less or no irrigation. Not only does this improve soil organic matter and water holding capacity, but grasslands – which co-evolved with either fire, grazing or both – cycle their old growth back into the soil so that they do not become thatched over and die out. An exclusive grass diet also produces healthier meat than one that fattens animals with grain before slaughter. Grains and vegetables fertilized with compost instead of chemical fertilizers feed the fungi that add carbon to the soil and result in less greenhouse gas emitted. No-till farming (that is, not digging into the dirt or plowing the soil in a conventional manner) results in less GHG being emitted.

What You Can Do

- Pledge to eat 80-100% vegetables, fruits, legumes and grains that are certified organic or biodynamic.
- Pledge to eat zero or less than 20% animal

products (meat, eggs, dairy, fish).

If eating animal products:

- Pledge to eat meat that is organic, pastured, certified humane, and grass-finished (not finished in feedlots). Rotational grazing is important. Eat meat from farmers who are addressing climate change through carbon capturing waste processing.
- Use organic, pasture-raised and humane-certified dairy products and eggs from small farms.
- Use organic, sustainable, farm-raised fish raised without toxic chemicals.
- Ask questions at the meat and fish counter. Consult our Shopper's Guide on our website.
- Eat 4 ounces or less animal products in a serving (palm-sized). Buying smaller amounts can balance the cost of higher quality.
- Pledge to eat locally grown food.

Conventional farmed fish might be more toxic than the Styrofoam tray!

Take the 31-Day Challenge

May Meat Challenge (check all that apply)

I am already eating an 80% organic plant-based diet.

I will participate by going 100% organic, local and plant-based on or before May 31.

I am currently eating a diet of animal products along with some fruits, vegetables and other plant foods.

I will aim for an 80% organic, local, plant-based diet by May 31 and choose organic, grass-fed/grass-finished, certified humane, pasture-raised meat, eggs and dairy and organic, sustainable, farmed fish that is raised without toxic chemicals.

I am currently eating a diet of animal prod-

ucts along with some fruits, vegetables and other plant foods.

I will aim for a 100% organic plant-based diet by May 31.

I will bring organic plant-based foods to all events I attend in May.

One Day Challenge (or in addition to 31-Day Challenge)

I will participate by eating an organic, plant-based diet on May 31 (Memorial Day) and will spend the month of May learning good recipes for my favorite Memorial Day foods. If I attend a gathering on that day, I will bring organic, local, plant-based foods and introduce them to the people at the gathering as my contribution to reducing greenhouse gases and I will initiate a conversation about this topic.

Long-term Challenge (in addition to 31-Day Challenge)

I will consider long-term changes to my diet that reduce greenhouse gases by eating more whole and unprocessed foods as well as shopping locally to support small organic and biodynamic farms with sustainable practices.

Join the OSC Earth Action Campaign every 3rd Monday, 7-9 PM at the PJC. For more information go to OccupySonomaCounty.org or call 707-877-6650.

Sources: "Livestock's long shadow – Environmental issues and options" by Jeff Anhang & Robert Goodland; "Livestock and Climate Change: What if the key actors in climate change are... cows, pigs and chickens?" World-Watch, Nov./Dec. 2009.

Occupy Sonoma County embraces the egalitarian, deep democracy principles of the Occupy Movement with a regional strategy for effectively organizing countywide social justice campaigns that are globally relevant.

Why a Plant-Based Diet is the Most Socially Equitable Form of Environmental Activism

Kamal S. Prasad

It is no secret that animal agriculture wreaks havoc on the environment. From water and land pollution to excessive use of these and other resources (fossil fuels, artificial fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, antibiotics, farm subsidies, etc.) and climate change, there can be no doubt that addressing animal agriculture's impact needs to be a part of any environmental conservation effort.

It is not 'cheap' to buy so-called sustainable and ethical animal products where animals eat only foods that they would eat in the wild, have 'full autonomy' over their very short lives (compared to their species' natural lifespan),

and happily throw themselves on the butcher's knife. Compare that to the factory-farmed animal products, which makes up over 90% of US animal food production and are so readily and cheaply available.

If the environmentalist solution is to eat fewer animal products and only that which they deem sustainable, they will only drive up the cost of animal products further. This means that fewer people will be able to participate in the environmental efforts to restore our planet to a healthier state (as far as the environmental impact of food choices). I doubt many, if any, environmentalists would support the idea of

Plant Based Diet...see page 11



PHOTO: HOAI-AN

Teen holding sign at Santa Rosa "March for Our Lives" rally

Conversations Around the Fire Continuing

The previous *Peace Press* issue announced a series of "conversations" around the issues that are impacting people's lives as a result of the October's fires. The conversations have been organized by the Peace & Justice Center, the Green Party of Sonoma County, Community Action Coalition and the Social Concerns Task Force of Christ Church. On the day this current issue is being collated, the next conversation is being held to introduce disaster economics and Sonoma County's local power brokers who stand to profit from our local disaster.

The series will not end there, as previously announced, but will continue approximately every two to three months. Please watch your PJC email calendar for announcements of upcoming conversations.

KIDS' DAY OF ACTION MONDAY, APRIL 23, 9 AM-3 PM

Join Common Sense Kids Action and Mom's Rising in Sacramento for a day of action on behalf of California's future: our kids.

As a parent, you advocate for your kids' well-being every day. It's time for our leaders to hear your voice to ensure they prioritize what's in kids best interests.

Register today at: commonsense.org/kids-day-of-action-2018

9-10 am Kids' March

11-11:30 am For Kids Rally

12-3 pm Legislative Office Visits

Questions? info@commonsensekidsaction.org

Sonoma County local organizer, Pamela Van Halsema

pvanhalsema@commonsensekidsaction.org

GET INSPIRED • GET THE TOOLS • GET TO WORK ON BEHALF OF KIDS

NO! TO U.S. WARS AT HOME & ABROAD



Sunday, April 15, 2018

SPRING ACTION 2018 • MARCH & RALLY

ASSEMBLE/RALLY: 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Lake Merritt Amphitheater 12th St. & 4th Ave. on Lake Merritt Blvd.

MARCH: 12:30 Oscar Grant Plaza near 14th & Broadway

MAIN RALLY: 1:30 PM

For further information, contact SpringAction2018@lmi.net

CARPPOOL from the Peace & Justice Center, Meet 9:30AM
467 Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa (south of Juilliard Park)

NO TO U.S. THREATS OF WAR and intervention in North Korea, Iran and Venezuela. End all U.S. wars now from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen to Sudan, Libya and Somalia.

HANDS OFF Haiti and Honduras. End U.S. overt and covert wars, drone wars, sanction/embargo wars, death squad assassination wars.

CLOSE all U.S. bases on foreign soil. Dismantle all nuclear weapons.

BRING ALL U.S. TROOPS HOME NOW. Self-determination not military intervention. U.S. hands off the Middle East, Africa, Asia & Latin America. End U.S. aid to apartheid Israel. Self-determination for Palestine. The U.S. cannot be the cop of the world.

DEFEND THE ENVIRONMENT against life-threatening fossil fuel-induced global warming. For a rapid transition to a 100 percent clean, sustainable energy system and re-training and jobs at union wages for all displaced energy workers.

NO TO WHITE SUPREMACY & racist policies & actions against Muslims, immigrants, people of color, and indigenous peoples. No to police brutality/murder. End racist mass incarceration. Black Lives Matter!

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL. No to deportations. Yes to DACA and TPS (Temporary Protective Status) and a just and early path to citizenship. No ban, no wall!

NO TO SEXISM, sexual violence, and harassment and targeting of LGBTQI communities. Yes to equal work and pay. Support women's reproductive rights.

\$TRILLIONS FOR HUMAN NEEDS. For jobs, and social services, quality debt-free education, single payer health care and massive emergency relief for Puerto Rico. No to \$trillion tax cuts and corporate bailouts for the rich. No to anti-union legislation. For \$15 and a Union Now.

Sponsor: Spring Action 2018 Against U.S. Wars At Home and Abroad
For a list of Bay Area endorsers see: www.facebook.com/endwarsspring2018/
Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/187473998692994/>
For more info visit www.springaction2018.org/



We Must Protest Starvation Tactics Against Millions in Yemen

Barry Barnett

All human beings are of one species and one people. If another suffers, it is our brother or sister who is suffering.

In the “civil war” in Yemen – which is actually an invasion by its neighbors – it is the deliberate, disgraceful policy of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, supported by the United States and United Kingdom, to capture the port of Hodeidah. This is where 70% of Yemen’s food is imported. By blocking the port, they are using starvation as a tactic in this cruel war on millions of innocent people.

The United Nations estimates 400,000 people will be displaced in an attack on Hodeidah. As of late December 2017, over 20 million Yemenis out of 28 million are in need of humanitarian assistance due to famine and/or disease and 7 million are on the brink of starvation. Cholera has reached a total of 1,000,000 cases, the worst outbreak of the disease in human history.

UAE forces are reportedly running a network of secret torture prisons in this horrible war, making Yemeni citizens afraid to speak about human rights abuses, fearful of being abducted, brutalized and disappeared.

Supposed allies Saudi Arabia and the UAE were for a time warring with each other over Aden airport and ostensibly the port of Aden and southern Yemen. The Saudis suspected the Emiratis of trying to carve out territory in their traditional “backyard.”

But now the four powers are united and apparently intend to make “the Houthis and their allies, along with millions of civilians... starved into submission,” according to the Jamestown

Foundation. If the UK or US really wanted the war to end, it would end. Either of the two governments could threaten to cut off aid. Instead, both Donald Trump and Theresa May are stating that they condemn the blockade and want it to stop, while continuing to sell billions of dollars and billions of pounds in weapons to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The capture of this port is far from easy or certain. East of Hodeidah are treacherous mountains, caves and deep canyons that will certainly prolong the conflict with guerrilla warfare – not the “blitzkrieg” the Saudis promised when they invaded in March 2015. However, they have now stated that a prolonged war is in the coalition’s interest; that they can count on a steady flow of cash and weapons, but expect the Houthis will run out of supplies.

Both the US and Saudi Arabia have been using the pretext of Iranian involvement to justify these war crimes. President Obama cut off weapons sales (though \$112 billion worth had been sold) after a Saudi airstrike killed 160 people when they bombed a funeral in

the capital Sana’a in October 2016. The Saudi military blamed it on “wrong information.” Whoops! President Trump has resumed sales.

Saudi Arabia has used US-made cluster bombs in its airstrikes. Cluster bombs are banned by 116 nations. They have deliberately targeted hospitals, bridges, roads, water and



sanitation systems, and have bombed residential neighborhoods.

The House of Representatives voted to condemn the war and attempted voting on using the War Powers Resolution. The House Rules Committee decided that the War Powers Resolution did not apply, which the Friends Committee on National Legislation called “outrageous.” American involvement in the Yemeni civil war is not legally permitted by either of the two military force authorizations Congress passed after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Some opposition to this war has been brewing in the Senate. But American and British weapons manufacturers are making such a killing (literally), that it will take a lot of protest against this seemingly permanent war economy to prevent one of the worst humanitarian disasters ever.

Sources: Huffpost, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, Medecins Sans Frontieres, United Nations/World Health Organization, *The Nation*, Counterpunch, salon.com, Al Jazeera, Wikipedia.

Barry Barnett is a writer, health professional and musician living in Santa Rosa.

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Ragle Park's National Peace Site Needs Your Help

Steve Fowler

The National Peace Site at Ragle Park near Sebastopol has been under construction since 1987. The brainchild of Arthur Lisch, it was originally permitted by Joe Rodota, who was head of Sonoma County Regional Parks at that time. Arthur laid out a circle 100 feet in diameter surrounding a sickly chestnut tree and declared it to be “a work of public art with a maximum of community participation that makes a profound statement about world peace.” Other than the chestnut and a nearby pear tree, remnants of the Ragle Ranch home orchard, the site was an empty expanse of annual grasses and weeds on level ground overlooking Atascadero Creek.

Thirty years later, the Peace Site has become a landmark and gathering place for the peace movement in Sonoma County. A split rail fence surrounds an assemblage of trees, memorial shrubs and benches, a spiral path, and yes, several pieces of public art. There is an eight-sided Peace Pole provided by the Peace Crane Project, a carved redwood bench designed by sculptor Bruce Johnson and clad in figured copper by ArtStart students, a massive granite sculpture fashioned by stone carver Masayuke Nagase, and a mother-and-child bas-relief carved into a dead portion of the chestnut tree by Takayuki Zoshi. The chestnut and pear trees are thriving, as are an olive tree planted by Vietnam Veterans for Peace, a blue spruce provided by the grandson of Cyrus Eaton, a birch tree planted by Russian exchange students and a black pine donated by Sebastopol's Japanese Sister City and placed by then-mayor Ann Magni. Memorials to such peace stalwarts as Jack and Peggy Warnick, Jim and Lucy Forest, Woody Schwartz and Danaan Perry are embedded in the site.

The David E. Smith Family Foundation accepts donations to the Peace Site and has provided funding for the major features. After a few years of wait-and-see, Regional Parks now supports the project with signage, water supply and green waste removal. Hundreds of people have put in volunteer time and funds and many more have celebrated marriages, memorials, solstices and dedications in the garden. All along, a small core – the Peace Site Care Group – has faithfully raked, pruned, planted, dealt with public suggestions, midwived the art and archived thousands of memorabilia. The first volunteers, myself included, were in their 40's and 50's back in 1987; we are now in our 70's and 80's. Arthur Lisch, now felled by Parkinson's, cheers us on from a skilled nursing facility in Seattle. Others, like Chuck Kallander and Tom Pringle, have passed on.

All of us in the current Peace Site Care Group are facing diminished capacities. We meet to work on the site on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm and at a recent workday we discussed the need for succession. It was agreed that I would write this article and submit it to the editors of *The Peace Press* in hopes of reaching the maximum number of peace activists. Those of you wishing to see a more complete account of the Peace Site can go to www.sacredsites.org to see my article entitled:

“Creating A Contemporary Sacred Site.”

If you are someone who thinks beyond the current news cycle, who can sustain a vision for years, even decades; if you know in your heart that there need to be sanctuaries where Peace is a fact, on the ground, expressed in natural materials and resonating with the deep longings of countless visitors, then perhaps this is a call to you and an opportunity for service.

Steve Fowler is the Volunteer Coordinator at Ragle Park Peace Site.

Bonds: Not What You Think

Susan Lamont

In times of monetary shortfall, local governments can reliably turn to bonds as a means to raise money. This is primarily the result of the rich duping the rest of us into passing propositions or letting our legislators pass laws which keep the rich from having to pay their fair share. No fair taxation is allowed – only regressive taxes, such as sales taxes and, yes, bonds.

Think of a bond this way: You work for an employer who underpays you and he gets rich in the process, while you struggle. So you have to put everything on your credit card to buy what you need. By the time you've paid interest to the bank, what you bought now costs at least twice its value, probably more. Your employer has stock in the bank and his dividends come from your pockets – the ones he has already shortchanged. The employer wins on both ends and you lose every which way.

That's what a bond is – a need, in response to underpayment of taxes by rich individuals and businesses, filled by issuing a bond which

costs the taxpayer two to three times the value of the need, with rich folks buying the bonds and getting the interest which comes from your pockets.

A parcel tax bond is a little different, but the result is similar. A middle class couple, with a combined income of \$90,000, struggles to afford their \$400,000 house and now has a parcel tax payment of, say, \$200 (assuming \$50 per \$100,000 of value). A wealthy couple, with an income of \$800,000, has no trouble paying for their \$1.5 million house with its parcel tax payment of \$750. The wealthy couple earns 9 times as much as the middle class couple, but only pays 3.75 times the parcel tax. And renters pay their landlord's parcel tax with every rent check.

Bonds are regressive and very expensive taxation, any way you look at them. It's time to take back our city councils, boards of supervisors and state legislatures from the rich. Demand tax laws that are not regressive. There's a lot of money out there. Time for them to stop profiting from us.



IN THE WAKE OF STANDING ROCK: Fossil Fuels, Indigenous Rights and Climate Change

Debora Hammond

Oil began flowing through the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) in June 2017, despite the highly publicized and widely supported protests of the Water Protectors at Standing Rock. To date there have been at least five spills along its length. Fortunately, so far none have impacted Lake Oahe, the water source for the Standing Rock tribe and the primary motivation for the protests.

The struggle continues, galvanizing environmental and indigenous rights movements throughout the United States and beyond. Recently water protectors in Louisiana were arrested for shutting down construction on the Bayou Bridge Pipeline, which would connect with DAPL to bring fracked Bakken shale oil to terminals in the Gulf.

The confrontation at Standing Rock has inspired a global divestment campaign, as Native leaders and non-Native allies urge individuals, cities, states, pension funds and other investors to move their money out of the banks responsible for funding DAPL and ultimately, to withdraw funds from any investments in fossil fuels.

These efforts are gaining momentum amid mounting concerns about the impacts of climate change and the resulting imperative for clean energy. Notably, even the conservative World Bank has decided to stop financing oil and gas exploration and extraction in 2019. And New York has recently announced plans to divest both State and City pension funds from fossil fuels.

Even more compelling in mobilizing fossil fuel resistance are the egregious human rights violations evidenced in the militarized assault on the indigenous people of Standing Rock who were peacefully seeking to protect their water and land. Disturbed by the brutal treatment of the water protectors, shareholders in Marathon Petroleum, an Ohio-based company invested in DAPL, submitted a resolution requiring the company to consider environmental and human rights issues when assessing risks associated with purchases.

Citing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the shareholder resolution asserts: "The construction and operation of energy infrastructure in North America requires respect for rigorous standards of environmental review and the human rights of Indigenous Peoples" (David Hasemyer, "Oil Investors Call for Human Rights Risk Report After Standing Rock," *Inside Climate News*). Significantly, the lead sponsor of the resolution was New York State Pension Fund Management, demonstrating the ongoing synergy be-

tween indigenous rights and divestment efforts.

Kandi Mossett is one of the many powerful spokespeople to emerge from Standing Rock. She was featured as a keynote speaker at the annual Bioneers Conference in San Rafael in October 2017, addressing the topic of "Cultural Resilience to Strengthen Our Communities and Defend the Earth." She gave a powerful and disturbing account of the impacts of extractive industries on native communities. In addition to the environmental devastation wrought by these projects, the temporary "man camps" of predominantly male pipeline workers have resulted in the rape, murder and disappearance of Native women, with little or no consequences.

Mossett is the Climate Campaign Organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network, whose mission is to "Protect the Sacredness of Earth Mother...by Respecting and Adhering to Indigenous Knowledge and Natural Law." In an initiative entitled Rights-Based Law for Systemic Change, they contend: "To avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis and move toward a planet in balance, we must challenge the idea that Earth's living systems are property and change our legal frameworks to adhere to

the natural laws of the Earth," honoring the inherent rights of nature.

Paul Hawken identifies indigenous peoples' land management as a critical factor in reversing climate change. Indigenous voices were prominent at the February 8 rally in Sacramento, protesting oil drilling along the California coast. A recent Supreme Court ruling in Canada in favor of the Clyde River Inuit Community represents an important victory in a similar struggle. The landmark ruling bans the seismic blasting used in searching for offshore oil deposits. According to Farrah Khan (Greenpeace.org), this ruling will have "far-reaching and lasting impacts across Canada in terms of Indigenous rights and resource extraction projects, including Arctic oil exploration, tar sands and pipelines."

Jerry Natanine, an Inuit activist and former mayor of Clyde River says, "Like all people, we want economic opportunities to flow into our communities. But we know that we are part of the land, and an economy that destroys the earth destroys ourselves."

Debora Hammond is a retired professor from Sonoma State University's Hutchins School.

Change or More of the Same... *from page 3*

service, compassion and respect. This resulted in the community feeling safer, reduced costs, improved morale among the officers and the restoration of trust in the community.

Olivares says the relationship between the community and the Sheriff's Department hinges on open and regular communication. He has a fifteen-point plan to help realize this. His example of community engagement was when he was Director of California Cities Violence Prevention Network, where he coordinated the first Northern California forum on building trust between law enforcement and community.

Internal review is very important, specifically the Sheriff's relationship with IOLERO, The Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach.

Essick is quick to point out that state law limits what he can reveal on personnel matters. He will limit IOLERO's investigations to the strict limits of the law. He voted down 20 of the 21 recommendations our local Law Enforcement Task Force made to the County Supervisors. He cites the California Values Act as limiting his collaboration with ICE to persons convicted of violent and serious felonies or where a judicial warrant has been issued.

Mutz says that rank and file officers have

to hold one another accountable. Transparency is necessary and under his leadership, the Sheriff's Auditor will have full access to Use of Force reports. His first priority is to create trust in the community, especially the immigrant community.

Olivares also cites state law forbidding disclosure of disciplinary actions against officers. He plans to bring more transparency through the use of IOLERO and build better relationships with the community. He will guarantee that IOLERO has full access to all records within the limits of the law. He doesn't support law enforcement cooperating with ICE.

These are some of the issues all three candidates addressed at the September 28 Sheriff's Forum during the follow-up question period. All three have long histories of public service, complete with accessible public records.

Who has shown good judgment? Who has called out SWAT when mental health might have been a wiser course? Who has blown his top at public meetings and who has remained professional? Who has shown the courage to initiate change and who maintains the status quo? Who will be our next Sheriff? That all depends on you and your vote. What do you want to see for our community?

An Answer to the Healthcare Crisis is Here Now

Bill Simon, PhD

As a *Peace Press* reader, you are painfully aware of the devastating effects of unbridled capitalism and consequent deregulation for our environment, US citizens and especially the poor. In this time of obscene wealth distribution, our basic “unalienable rights” of Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness cannot be actualized. When your financial situation dictates your access to healthcare, education and a safe place to live (to name just a few basics), you live by the results of unrestrained capitalism.

conduct medical research – and replace it with a privatized, profit-driven model.

Estimates agree that VA Healthcare privatization will increase costs by a minimum of 30% and will result in often-dangerous uncoordinated services. The VA system is a fully integrated system providing physical, mental, and dental and mediation services as well as training, research and development. Eighty percent of veterans polled stated they felt that VA services were superior to comparable healthcare facilities. And 92% of veterans in a poll conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars

with free-market, Social Darwinism values of plutocrats that control politicians and government policies.

Polls clearly demonstrate that most Americans are very dissatisfied with the current profit-driven system of private insurers, providers, the pharmaceutical industry, etc. Those that agree with CVA and the religion of the Free Market fear that the VA healthcare system could someday be expanded to provide universal healthcare.

How do the plutocrats, their cronies in Congress, the Administration and the CVA plan to privatize the VA?

- Portray VA Healthcare as broken & beyond repair.
- Portray private healthcare as the solution to any quality or service problems in the VA.
- Starve VA hospitals & clinics of dedicated staff by not filling vacancies. There is currently a hiring freeze on 48,000 staff positions.
- Ignore extensive evidence of high quality care provided by the VA.
- Blame every VA problem on its employees or administration and not on budgetary and policy decisions made by politicians in DC.
- Create a “shame and blame” atmosphere in the workplace that discourages staff recruitment and retention.
- Fail to maintain and improve infrastructure or construct facilities necessary to serve expanding



It is in this cultural/economic context that the notorious Koch brothers established “Concerned Veterans for America” (CVA). CVA is a nonprofit funded by the Koch brothers and their anonymous donor network (the pharmaceutical industry, health insurance companies, hospital systems, etc.), to advance their “free market” religion and privatization policies.

They are determined to dismantle the VA Healthcare System with the support of the same Republican House, Senate and President that intend to dismantle Medicare, Social Security & Obamacare. CVA is extremely well funded and organized (Google: Concerned Veterans for America) and they are salivating over the idea of dividing up the VA’s multi-billion dollar budget, their hospitals and clinics, and eliminating thousands of union jobs. They plan to dismantle the VA Healthcare System – a system driven by the mission to provide quality healthcare and

(VFW) reported that they would rather improve the VA system (provide adequate funding and staff) than privatize. Surely the VA, like all large organizations, has its share of problems and challenges. However, independent assessments consistently find that VA healthcare outperforms private facilities and consistently at a lower cost (see *The Battle For Veterans’ Healthcare*, by Suzanne Gordon).

So why are politicians and the Kochs’ CVA so determined to privatize VA Healthcare?

Drugs: The VA is the only organization in the country that negotiates with Big Pharma to receive discounted drug prices; if privatized the pharmaceutical industry will enjoy immediate and substantial profit increases.

Money: The VA Healthcare budget request for 2018 was \$186 billion. This would largely go to private healthcare companies.

Values: VA Healthcare is clearly inconsistent

needs.

- Shift public funds to the private sector under the guise of “Choice.” Forty percent of VA outpatient appointments are now conducted in the private sector.
- Make deals with for-profit companies to provide medical equipment or services that the VA Healthcare can already provide at lower costs with higher quality.
- Produce erosion of services & respond to service user’s complaints by arguing for further privatization.

Please call your elected representatives and tell them you don’t support privatization of the VA Healthcare system.

Bill Simon has been President of Sonoma County Veterans For Peace, Chapter 71, for nearly a decade. He worked in Sonoma County for 40 years as a psychotherapist and Program Planning & Evaluation Analyst for Sonoma County Mental Health Services. He is a veteran of the American war in Vietnam and utilizes VA Healthcare.

KPCA Radio in (Almost) Full Swing

Susan Price

KPCA 103.3 FM is thrilled to announce that they are now on the air and streaming online. In addition to currently airing new programs and training prospective programmers, they are also inviting others who would like to create a program to share their vision.

But first a little background...

Petaluma Community Access, Inc. (PCA) was founded in 1996 as a nonprofit member or-

ganization charged with administering Community Access TV for the City of Petaluma. Their Mission Statement then, remains effective now: To promote freedom of expression in a public voice, provide access to communication tools and foster the use of media.

PCA's original tagline, *Communication Builds Community* still stands, but should actually be extended to complete the loop with *Community builds Communication*.

The vision for this new community radio adventure is that KPCA will provide an audio window of opportunity for residents of Petaluma to express themselves on streaming internet and low power LPFM airwaves – sharing passions, opinions, musical tastes and civic interests while shining a positive light on all things related to life in our community.

Their commitment to KPCA includes the community at large. As John Bertucci, KPCA's Executive Director, says, "Truth be told, the basic formula for our most productive, collective commitment to this public access radio adventure is... if you turn us on and don't hear anything like what you'd like to hear, come see us and we'll show you how to make it, for everyone to hear."

Prospective programmers can call the Radio Station Manager, Rob Tomaszewski at 707-773-3190.

Programming is eclectic from various types of music to talk shows, such as *Two Micks and a Mike*, a wide-ranging talk show discussing anything and everything that strikes their fancy, to *Not Your Mother's Storytime*, for grown-up stories read out loud by Readers Theatre founder, Jennifer March. Still other shows include the *Dr. Angela Hour*, a talk show delving into the mind-brain and brain-body, featuring Dr. Angela Brown-Miller, as well as *The Susan Price Show* with organizing tips and ideas for your home and office. *The Midnight Skeptic* talks about science-oriented topics, while *Let's JAM!* with Cindy Thomas will provide you with an earful of jammin' tunes. You'll hear plenty of rock but be prepared to open your mind to some R&B, jazz, bluegrass and anything else.

Many other shows are currently offered. You can see them listed by day/date on the Schedule page of the KPCA.FM website under Programming.

While KPCA is not broadcasting on the FM band 24/7, you can stream shows online. Just go to KPCA.FM and click on Listen Live.

"All this costs money," Bertucci admits, and to that end, KPCA will be presenting a fundraiser combined with the love of Oscar Night, called *The Envelope, Please 2018*. Petaluma's third annual Oscar night benefit gala will be held on Sunday, March 4 from 4 to 10 pm at the Mystic Theatre in downtown Petaluma. Attendees can walk the red carpet; enjoy cocktails and appetizers, with black tie optional. More information and tickets can be found at the KPCA.FM website.

Susan Price, 3 P's in a Pod, specializes in organizing, publicity and personal assistance.

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Systemic Violence and How to Change our Culture

A Conversation Based on the Book The Gender Knot: Unraveling our Patriarchal System

Kendra Mon

Systemic Violence and How to Change our Culture is the topic for the Peace Alliance conference call on February 13. This call was in tribute to sociologist Allan G. Johnson, who taught and wrote about violence for 40 years. Ultimately, he concluded, “patriarchy is nothing less than the root cause of men’s violence functioning as an instrument of control in the enactment of patriarchal manhood. From individual to state-sanctioned violence, it really is that simple.” He also stated that by shaping relationships and institutions, patriarchy has shaped our very culture for thousands of years.

Johnson was to have been the speaker on this call, but unfortunately brain cancer took his life on Christmas Eve. Instead, our

special guest speaker was Geri Kennedy, a Unitarian Universalist Women and Religion activist. Geri consulted on the development of a curriculum based on Johnson’s *Gender Knot* book and has presented that curriculum, *Challenging the System that Binds Us*, in several workshops.

With this call, the Peace Alliance hoped to deepen the conversation people are having about male predatory behavior in the workplace and elsewhere. Johnson pointed out that oppressors as well as the oppressed are robbed of their own human growth and development by the patriarchal system. Johnson was convinced that feminism is the only ongoing conversation about patriarchy that can lead to a way out.

Johnson left rich resources for all of us

who want to change our violent culture. If you search online you will find a number of books, including *Privilege, Power and Difference*, plus videos of his talks and a long blog list. He was an inspiration and a longtime friend of the Massachusetts Department of Peace Campaign and saw advocating for it as an action toward eliminating patriarchy. The current version of the Department of Peacebuilding Act, HR 1111, includes as a responsibility of the Department the support for “peace projects that facilitate the development of conflict resolution and healing of societal wounds such as patriarchy, racism, war, manifest destiny and economic injustice.”

“The challenge of these times is to inhabit the space between accepting that the world is as it is and refusing to accept that it should remain so.” – Allan G. Johnson

Plant Based Diet... from page 4

having different classes of people: those who can afford animal products and those who can’t.

In addition, people who have to work two, sometimes three jobs just to put food on the table, cloth on their backs and a roof over their heads don’t always have the luxury of buying into solutions like electric cars, solar roofs and even things that may seem trivial to the rest of us, like LED light bulbs and low-flow toilets and showerheads. They may live in housing situations where they may not even have control over these things.

While they may have a vested interest in a better environment for themselves, their families and their progeny, when a person of limited means sees environmental organizations only promoting solutions and products they cannot afford, they may feel ostracized by the environmental movement. Why would they support a cause that appears to explicitly exclude them?

Everyone has to eat. By adopting plant-based foods exclusively, we can start to reverse the damage done to our planet by animal agriculture and include more people in its restoration. It is something anyone and everyone can do. Instead of subsidizing animal foods that cause environmental degradation and worsen our climate problems, we could do so much better by supporting farmers to grow foods that are healthy for the planet as well as people.

Environmentalists have a huge opportunity to set an example for others to follow and create a demand and abundance of affordable, healthy plant foods by shifting their own food choices to plant-based foods. It may not be easy for everyone to make the switch overnight, but start

somewhere and move to incorporate more plant foods over animal foods with time.

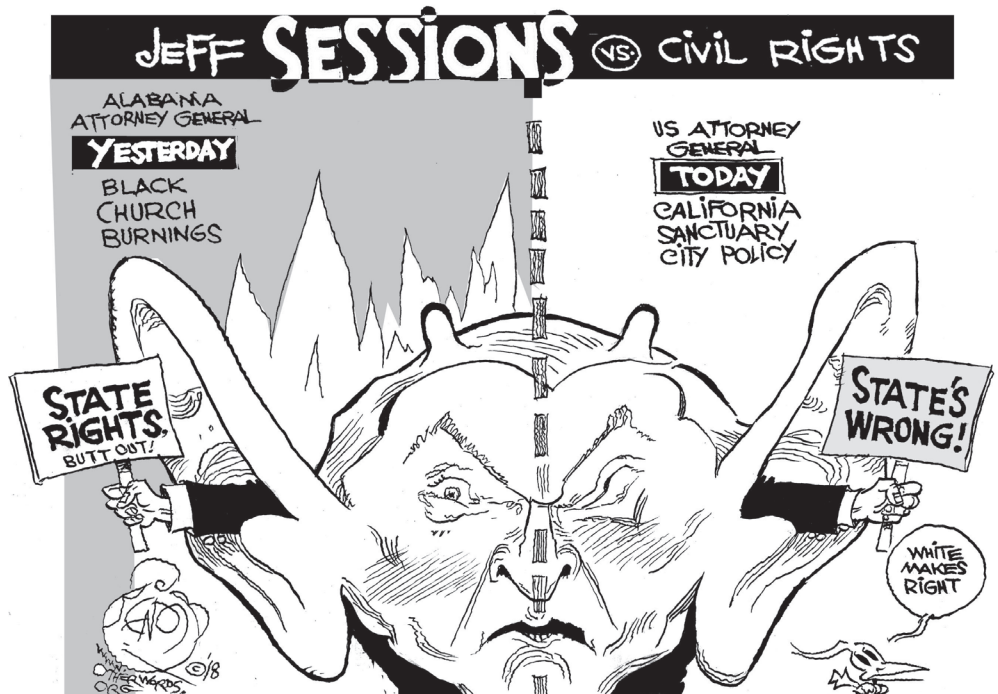
In a world with diminishing resources and a growing population (farmed animal population in the world beats human population by a factor of 10!), it is not enough to say that we should only reduce our consumption of animal foods that, as I’ve already pointed out, is inequitable. No environmental organization supports only the reduction of fossil fuels.

We only need to achieve critical mass – about 10% of the population – before exclusive plant-based eating becomes widely accepted as the norm. Surely, the percentage of environmentalists in the US is greater than ten.

Some of the things I have mentioned may be hard to swallow. Perhaps I could be more diplomatic, but it is hard to be tactful in the face of a clear and present danger that we could very well not have a habitable planet by the end of the century. I may not be around then, but people I love and care about will.

We should be doing everything in our power to avert the worst effects of climate change. Switching exclusively to plant-based foods is something in which everyone, regardless of income and social status, can participate. Will you?

Kamal S. Prasad is an activist, author and filmmaker with a focus on empowering people to be the change that they seek in the world by applying the power of their food choices.



Sonoma County's Going Green

*Arlene Francis Center for Spirit,
Art & Politics Staff*

There's a quiet revolution going on throughout the county and beyond. People aren't waiting for government to act; they are taking matters into their own hands and doing what they can with what they have to push back at climate change. One place where this is happening is the Arlene Francis Center for Spirit, Art & Politics.

The Arlene Francis Center, located at the corner of Sixth and Wilson in Santa Rosa's historic Railroad Square, is now a Green event center. They are making positive steps to reduce the amount of garbage that goes into the landfill to as close to zero as possible. At smaller events, say 25 to 40 people, the AFC is using real plates and silverware. For larger events they use compostable materials. There is a ban on Styrofoam.

If you order coffee you only get a lid on request. The cups themselves, thanks to Recology's expanded services, can now be composted. With professional help, AFC is sorting their garbage prior to pick up. Out-

side there are four bins: one for recycling, one for compost, one for landfill items and a fourth container for redeemable recycling so that people who need these cans and bottles to earn money for food can get them without having to dig through the garbage. It's part of the Arlene Francis Center's sense of community responsibility.

Said the staff at the AFC, "We're a community center, modeling the changes we want to see, for all change starts with self. Our job is to educate. The Arlene Francis Center's Mission Statement is to protect the planet. It's part of our DNA. We have a massive garbage problem that requires us to modify our behaviors. We developed as a cultural hub that attracts an eclectic mix of people. What we do here ripples across the community."

With some minor purchasing changes, a touch of eco-education, conscientious staff and volunteers and the will to make it happen, the Arlene Francis Center is now Green. If they can do this with a small staff and next-to-no money, then anyone who cares enough can go Green in 2018.


Of Elephants and Bisons

Laure Reichel

Oh oh say can't you see
the elephant in the room?
It's been sprayed in camouflage paint -
but it's there.
Next to it is a bison -
a female and her calf
also covered in camouflage paint -
but it's there -
Look well and listen.
The elephant and the bison are crying.
Turn off that cell phone and listen!
Can you hear now?
Can you see now?
They've been there a long time,
a long time,
their existence denied,
the inconvenient truths
of their near extinction erased
from our would be glorious history
but they're there
still there
and the camouflage paint
is beginning to fade,
revealing the elephant and the bison
in the room.
See?

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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. Jerry Brown

State Capitol, Sacramento, Ste. 1173, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841, Fax: (916) 445-4633
governor@governor.ca.gov

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom

State Capitol, 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

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

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

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

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

Comité VIDA – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, cirs@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. fukushimareponse.org. 823-9203

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

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreenparty.org

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

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

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

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

Indivisible Goups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.com

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

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Windsor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

North Bay Jobs with Justice – organized for better conditions and a living wage for workers. Email: northbayjobswithjustice@gmail.com, Website: northbayjobswithjustice.org, facebook.com/pages/North-Bay-Jobs-With-Justice/922338944459410 Ph: 707-346-1187

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Project Censored/Media Freedom Foundation – Publishes the top 25 most censored news stories each year. 707-874-2695, Peter@projectcensored.org, Mickey@projectcensored.org. projectcensored.org.

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

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

Sonoma County Coastal Hills: gardens@mcn.org

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

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org

Sonoma County Taxes for Peace – Provides information and support about war tax resistance. 823-9203

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AT THE PJC

Sun	1st Sunday ♦ Democratic Socialists of America, 1–4 PM
Mon	2nd & 4th ♦ North Coast Coalition for Palestine, 4:30–6 PM 3rd ♦ Occupy Sonoma County Earth Action, 7–9 PM 5th ♦ Sonoma County Climate Action Network, 7–9 PM
Tues	1st, 2nd, 3rd ♦ Community Action Coalition, 6–8 PM 4th ♦ NAACP, 6–8 PM
Wed	1st ♦ Raging Grannies, 4–6 PM 1st & 2nd ♦ Citizen Empowerment, 7–9 PM 3rd ♦ 350 Sonoma, 7–9 PM
Thur	1st ♦ Peace & Justice Center Board, 6–8 PM
Fri	Every Fri. in April ♦ May 1st Coalition, 6–8 PM
Sat	2nd ♦ Solidarity with Standing Rock, 2–6 PM

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

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
- ♦ Fundraising or Donating to the Center
- ♦ Helping with grant writing
- ♦ Sponsoring our bi-monthly Peace Press Newsletter

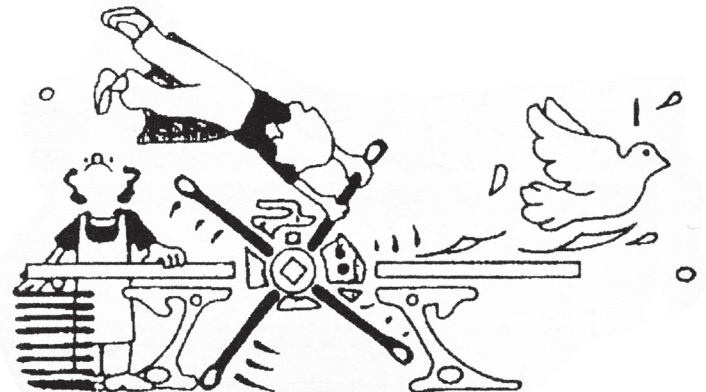
Please call 575-8902 or visit PJCso.co.org

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 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 pjconoma.org for activities and hours.