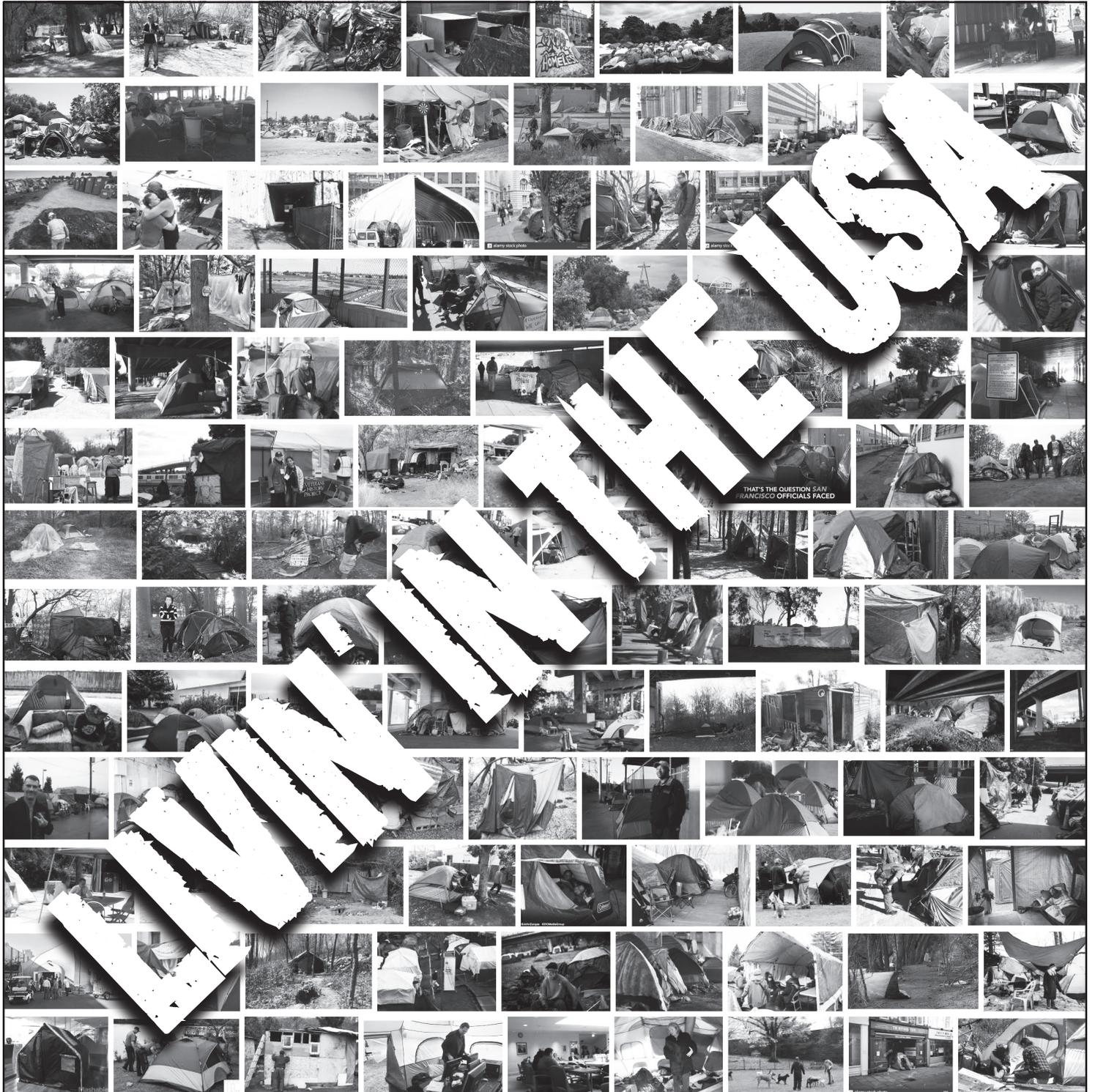


# Peace Press

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County  
PJCso.org • Jun/July 2018 • Vol. 33, No. 3

- ▶ We're Here for the Community
- ▶ Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza
- ▶ Letter People – LGBTQIP2SAA+
- ▶ Democracy... How Do We Get It?
- ▶ How to Change Our Culture

*much more inside...*



Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,  
an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).  
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See Membership form on back cover

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Deadline: July 1, 2018

Email articles in MSWord to [peacentr@sonic.net](mailto:peacentr@sonic.net)

Word limit up to 700 words – space is limited.

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, 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.

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

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

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRODUCTION CREW

Terra Freedman, Larry Harper, Earl Herr, Attila Nagy, and an awesome battalion of collaters, distributors, and others far too great to name.

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### PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER BOARD MEMBERS

Attila Nagy, Kelly Brothers, Nikki Pyle, River King, Susan Chunco

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## GETTING CENTERED

# We're Here for the Community

**Shekeyna Black**

*"One is left with the horrible feeling now that war settles nothing; that to win a war is as disastrous as to lose one."* – Agatha Christie

The Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County, while physically located in Santa Rosa, is a resource for everyone countywide. The PJC strives to engage with the entire community. We welcome people from all walks of life, from immigrant families to LGBTQ folks, to anyone interested in being an activist, looking at intersectional connections that unite us. Want to receive our weekly email calendar of social justice events happening around Sonoma County? Then, sign-up on our website or send a request to [peacentr@sonic.net](mailto:peacentr@sonic.net) to be added to our email list.

There are over a half million people living in Sonoma County, of which, an estimated 3000 or so people are homeless. How does this happen in California, which was recently declared the 5th largest economy in the world? Where do you go if you have no place to call home? Six advocates for the homeless were arrested on May 1st during the weekly Santa Rosa City Council meeting for courageously trying to bring attention to the homelessness crisis.

On June 2, the public is invited to the Grand Opening of Andy's

Unity Park on Moorland Avenue in Santa Rosa. The family-friendly event takes place from 1-5:00 PM with food, kids' activities, art and music. Andy Lopez should be celebrating his 18th birthday on June 2, but instead, the date of the park opening is a bittersweet commemoration. In a matter of seconds on October 22, 2013, Sonoma County Sheriff Deputy Gelhaus shot and killed Andy, who was a 13-year-old child at the time, and to date, justice has not been served.

The PJC will be participating in the Sonoma County Pride Festival in its new location in Santa Rosa's Courthouse Square. On the first Saturday in June, the Pride parade begins at Freedom Park, travels down 4th Street and ends at Courthouse Square. Be sure to stop by the Peace & Justice Center's Booth at the Pride event on Saturday, June 2. Visit, [www.sonomacountypride.org](http://www.sonomacountypride.org) for the full event schedule.

Can it be summertime already? It does not seem like a year has already gone by since we did the upgrades to the Peace & Justice Center's building! Thank you to everyone who donated to our recent Spring Appeal. Memberships to the PJC make great gifts for graduations or Father's Day and more information is available on our website at [www.pjcsoco.org](http://www.pjcsoco.org). Stay Centered! 🙌

## Get Ready for a Plastic Free July

**Occupy Sonoma County**

Will you refuse to use single-use plastic for the month of July? Occupy Sonoma County is participating in Plastic Free July, a worldwide, month-long conservation effort. Visit Occupy's YouTube page to see the 3-minute video we made last year and stay tuned for something special this year.

Plastic Free July was started in Australia in 2011 with less than 40 participants. By 2017, more than one million people in 159 countries around the world accepted the challenge. You can join this year's effort at the [PlasticFreeJuly.org](http://PlasticFreeJuly.org) website. When you register, your number is counted plus you will receive information on how to reduce plastic consumption. There are also resources available if you want to launch your own campaign.

Scientists estimate that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. The plastic bottles, bags and takeaway containers that we use for just a few minutes use a material that is designed to last forever. By bringing your own reusable shopping bags, remembering reusable coffee cups and water bottles and avoiding pre-packaged fruits and vegetables you can help make a difference. Avoid putting plastic in the landfill, reduce your eco-footprint and protect the ocean from plastic pollution.

Whether you choose to refuse a handful of items for a single day, refuse all plastic for the

entire month or anything in between, the Plastic Free July challenge is all about taking positive action and being part of a movement creating lasting change. Organizing a plastic free meeting or social event, gathering a group of friends to watch a documentary or getting your local community group to do a beach clean-up are just some of the ways to spread the Plastic Free July message.

Say no to plastic straws and choose products with minimal and renewable packaging. Write a letter to sympathetic companies asking them to be like Dr. Bronner's, where all plastic bottles are 100% recycled post-consumer waste which also helps to create a market for recycled plastic.

Every bit of plastic ever made still exists. Plastics break up, they do not break down. They become permanent pollution. They are mostly downcycled (made into low grade products for just one more use) or are sent to a landfill. These plastics transfer to the food chain, carrying pollutants with them. They also increase our eco-footprint – plastic manufacturing consumes 6% of the world's fossil fuels. Let's stop making new plastic and find ways to recycle what we have already.

More than 6 out of 10 of us are already refusing plastic bags and packaging as well as picking up litter and participating in plastic reduction on a daily basis. Check your trash bin and find ways to reduce even further. With



all of your purchases, consider how a product was made and where it will end up when you are done with it.

You can follow Plastic Free July on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see how others are participating. Look for our local Sonoma County Zero Waste group there, or go to [ZeroWasteSonoma.org](http://ZeroWasteSonoma.org). Join the Occupy Sonoma County Earth Action listserv to receive our weekly newsletter that includes information about plastic problems and solutions in every issue. Join our Plastic Free July campaign or create your own. Our Earth Action Campaign meets every 3rd Monday from 7-9 pm at the Peace & Justice Center.

For more information contact [OccupySonomaCounty.org](http://OccupySonomaCounty.org) or call 707-877-6650. 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. 🙌

# Ongoing Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

*Sam Tuttleman*

Facing overwhelming Israeli military force, Palestinians seeking to end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza have largely turned to non-violent resistance. This resistance has ranged from weekly marches in villages like B'illin and Nabi Saleh to the larger scale Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. On March 30 of this year 30,000 residents of the Gaza Strip engaged in a non-violent demonstration to commemorate the killing of 6 unarmed Palestinians in the Galilee in 1976 who were protesting the confiscation of their land by the Israeli government.

The protests are expected to continue until May 15, the 70th anniversary of the Nakba, Arabic for "Catastrophe," when 750,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes in 1947/48 due to the creation of the state of Israel.

The demands of the protesters include an end to the decade-long Israeli blockade of Gaza which has created a humanitarian crisis made worse by Israeli military attacks in 2008/09 and in 2014. The Israeli military invasion of Gaza in 2008/09 resulted in between 1,166 and 1,417 Palestinians being killed and extensive destruction of civilian infrastructure including homes, hospitals and schools. In 2010 UN Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes described conditions in the Gaza strip this way: "They're living in a kind of open-air prison. They're still suffering this kind of collective punishment they've been suffering for three years now."

In 2014, in response to the kidnapping and killing of 3 Israeli teenagers, the Israeli military attacked Gaza again. Between 2,125 and 2,350 Gazans were killed, including 500 children and between 10,626 and 10,895 were wounded. 7,000 homes were destroyed and 89,000 homes were damaged.

A 2017 Human Rights Watch report describes the current situation in Gaza this way: "Israel continued to maintain its decade-long effective closure of Gaza, exacerbated by Egypt's keeping its own border with Gaza largely sealed, and to impose restrictions that limit supply of electricity and water, restrict access to medical care and educational and economic opportunity, and perpetuate poverty. Approximately 70 percent of Gaza's 2 million people rely on humanitarian assistance."

How has the government of Israel responded to the current demonstrations? The response

has been to deploy large numbers of soldiers, drones, tanks and over 100 snipers, all with the goal of preventing demonstrators from breaching the fences that separate Gaza from Israel and to undermine the legitimacy of the demonstrations. NPR reported that the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza said 1,416 Palestinians were wounded and 16 killed during the first demonstration on March 30th. During the first 2 weeks of demonstrations 34 Palestinians were killed, including a 15-year-old child and 2 journalists. No Israeli military personnel have been wounded or killed by Palestinians.

widely supported in the international community. That choice would be to end the blockade of Gaza, end the expansion of settlements in the West Bank, and to negotiate in good faith the establishment of a Palestinian State. The government's failure to do so while murdering Palestinians makes clear their commitment to continuing the occupation regardless of international law and the rightful claims of Palestinians for self-determination.

The Land Day marches in Gaza have finished. 110 peaceful Palestinian protesters were killed, at least 5,000 were wounded. Some lost



*Unarmed demonstrators in Gaza at the Israeli border, running from tear gas and Israeli sniper's bullets. (photo: IFP News)*

According to B'Tselem, an Israeli Human Rights Organization, "Israeli officials were quick to undermine the legitimacy of the protest, claiming it was the sole initiative of Hamas, and some went so far as to call it a "terror parade". Participants were collectively pegged as "terrorists" who are a danger to national security and as yes-men for the authorities in Gaza. Israeli officials made it clear that the open-fire regulations would permit lethal fire at anyone attempting to damage the fence, and even at any person coming within 300 meters of it."

The Israeli government would have the world believe that they are justified in massacring unarmed civilians. They would have the world believe that they have no choice in their actions. In fact the Israeli government has a clear choice in how to respond in a manner that would be

limbs, and more will die in the days to come.

Why would the Palestinians do this? According to CNN they are all mindless robots who do what Hamas tells them. This comment is typical of corporate media. And it is blatantly untrue.

It was people, everyday people, like you and me, who came up to the fence to protest their imprisonment in the world's largest open air prison. Nearly two million people live in an area the length of Windsor to Penngrove and the width of Cotati to Sebastopol. Parents are forced to give their children poisoned water, for there is no other water to drink. All borders are sealed by Israel or Egypt. There isn't enough food. Unemployment is at 60%. Many people preferred taking action and facing the violence of Israel rather than continue to slowly die inside the prison that is Gaza. ✍️

# Childhood's End

*Rebel Fagin*

Obada awoke at 3 a.m. to find eight masked men surrounding his bed, rifles pointing at him. "I felt terrified," said the fifteen-year-old. Obada is one of around 700 Palestinian children ages 12 to 17 arrested and prosecuted annually by Israel.

Israel is the only country in the world to automatically prosecute children in military courts. Israeli military courts have a 99%+ conviction rate. Palestinian children appear in courts that lack basic safeguards for fair trials:

- Trials are held in Hebrew without translators.
- 75% of these children experience physical violence during arrest or interrogation.
- 97% are interrogated without parents or legal counsel present.
- 91% are held incommunicado for part or all of their interrogation.

When Obada was arrested he was hit with a rifle butt, blindfolded and his hands were tied with a plastic cord that cut into his flesh. "The soldiers dragged me out of the house without allowing me to say goodbye to my family and without telling me why and where they were taking me."

Obada said that over the next two weeks he was repeatedly beaten and assaulted with Tasers. For twelve days he was kept in a small toilet cubicle and only taken out for interrogation where he was tied tightly to a chair, slapped and threatened.

During arrest:

- 86% of children report being blindfolded.

- 70% were strip-searched.
- 84% weren't informed of their rights.
- 28% report being held in stress positions, slapped, kicked, pushed, choked, punched or had their heads slammed against walls.

From September 2000 to April 2017, 12,000 Palestinian children were detained, 13,000 were injured and 3,000 were killed.

Jihad Eliyan, a sixteen-year-old, reported that when he told his arresting soldiers that he had broken toes they increased their beatings of his legs and feet. "They continued beating me on my legs until my ankle was broken," said Jihad.

"Palestinian children are regularly subjected to coercive and violent interrogation techniques intended to extract confessions," said Ayed Abu Qtaish, accountability program director for Defense of Children International. "Interrogators use position, abuse, threats and isolation to coerce confessions from children. Israeli military court judges seldom exclude these confessions. As Palestinian children continue to experience systemic ill-treatment and denial of due process rights, it becomes evident that military courts have no interest in justice."

There is resistance to these crimes:

On June 14, at 7 pm, the Arlene Francis Center will present a North Coast Coalition for Palestine showing of "Stone Cold Justice" and "My Name is Saleh". Discussion of action plans will follow. 🙌



## On Strike, Shut It Down!

*E.G. Singer*

This phrase became a rallying cry for students, echoing throughout the halls of academia and across the nation's college and high school campuses during the late 1960's. The call and walkout – a response to issues pertaining to the Vietnam War as well as other domestic injustices being observed – said that business as usual was not to be observed.

In the past month we have seen the same strategy being employed by students and by underpaid teachers in various parts of the United States. Beginning in West Virginia, frustrated by low pay and working conditions for years, teachers took action and walked out, statewide, forcing its own union's hand in what is called a "wildcat" strike. One month later they had won.

Now, teachers in Oklahoma and Kentucky are picking up the torch of their West Virginia brethren. In Oklahoma, teachers might get to a \$40K yearly income after 10 years! Arizona teachers could also be involved in labor actions soon.

Many teachers not only work multiple jobs before and after school, but often times rely on social services and local food pantries to support their own families. Out of pocket and unreimbursed expenses for classroom supplies to enhance their students' learning experiences is the norm in many parts of the country.

When parents drop their children off at school, telling them they love them, they and we should remember that the men and women who chose to become teachers love and value those very same children, with their impressionable hearts and minds. Teachers are a crucial interdependent link in the process of instilling values, knowledge and a sense of community to young people.

There is a saying that goes, "My family has a good doctor and dentist... we pay them very well, a good lawyer... we pay him very well, a good accountant... we pay him very well, and my children have good teachers and we really appreciate it! Teachers deserve much more than our appreciation. 🙌"

## End Israeli Military Detention and Torture of Palestinian Children! Congress to Vote on HR4391

HR4391, Promoting Human Rights by ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act, is in Congress. Congressmen Huffman and Thompson must sign on.

The No Way to Treat a Child campaign challenges Israel's ill treatment of Palestinian children held in Israeli military detention. They demand that Israeli authorities ensure children prisoners' basic rights and stop all torture and ill-treatment. In accordance with the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, they demand that no children anywhere be subjected to physical or psychological violence and that all juvenile prisoners have access to legal counsel and parents prior to and during

interrogation. Children must be informed of their rights.

Evidence created from torture or because the child wasn't informed of her/his rights must be excluded from court. Solitary confinement of children must end immediately. This campaign is supported by many organizations including Jewish Voice for Peace, American Friends Service Committee, Friends of Sabeel North America, Defense of Children International and others.

All torturing of children must end now!

Sources: nwtac.dci-Palestine, www.mondialisation.ca 4/24/16, www.middleeastmonitor 10/10/17, fosna.org. Read more at gcml.org. 🙌

# Open Letter to So. Co. District Attorney Jill Ravitch

*Marni Wroth*

To Ms. Ravitch

Re: The Killing of Branch Wroth

I am Branch Wroth's mother. I will not be accepting your invitation for a chit-chat in your office before you release a statement to the press. I wish I had faith enough in our system to think that the press release would be objective and fair. Instead, it will likely follow the pattern I have seen many times over: the report will vilify the victim of a police shooting, in this instance my son, with no understanding of who he was. And it will vindicate the two officers, Sean Huot and David Sittig-Wattson, who killed him. Such has been the ongoing pattern of the DA's office, an informal policy which ensures re-election, but allows police to operate with impunity. As such, I expect no justice to come from this meeting.

The heartache in this family is nearly unbearable, and some days we simply succumb. Branch's father and I are forever broken; Branch's siblings are still in disbelief. Friends are devastated. Grief strangles us. If these cops and you could possibly grasp the great suffering you have caused, I believe all of you would fall to your knees and cry and ask forgiveness.

**The DA's office will provide only a narrow accounting of what happened. But real justice must address these questions and concerns, and many others:**

1. Why would officers kill a man who was asking for medical assistance?

Branch was in distress when officers arrived on the scene at the Budget Inn and police officers reported that Branch stated he had been "poisoned."

The reasoned, humane response would have been to call an ambulance. The police know basic first aid, but they lack the training and licensure to make a medical assessment. And yet they did just that when they ignored Branch's request for help.

Instead, the officers, upon learning his name, discovered Branch had a misdemeanor and became sidetracked from the medical emergency. By not seeking competent medical expertise, they placed Branch's life in further danger. In short, there was no due diligence by the police to ensure the safety of my son.

2. Branch was tazed to death over a misdemeanor.

The Taser's manual states clearly that the

product can cause death and great bodily harm, and these risks compound exponentially "if someone is in medical distress." Branch clearly was. My son is dead because the officers did not exhaust all other options before using a Taser. Let me repeat: they tazed and killed a man who was harming no one, who was pleading for medical assistance. The FDA classifies Tasers as a firearm.

3. The DA's office will focus on Branch and ignore the real question.

I suspect you will call Branch's death a tragedy, but you will never admit it was preventable, except to lay the blame at Branch's feet. Your only responsibility is to determine whether the officers violated local, state and federal laws.

Instead, the issue must be: Did the officers follow what should have been good, sensible policy when confronted with an individual in either a medical or mental health crisis? The officers carelessly chose to focus on compliance, when medical distress was the real issue.

4. The County and the City of Rohnert Park

responses to police shootings lack human decency.

Branch was killed around 3 p.m., however, we did not know of his death until some eight hours later. We never saw our son's body. We had to file in court to ensure the autopsy was videotaped, a necessary precaution since this County does not separate the Coroner's office from the Sheriff's.

Following the police killing of Andy Lopez, a task force recommended a critical incident liaison be established to assist families in navigating a horrendous tragedy. No liaison exists, however. The silence surrounding my son's death is bound in part by legal constraints. But the system has lost its basic humanity and denies shattered families even a modicum of compassion.

Branch was a son, a father, a brother, and an uncle and a friend to a great many people. He was respected, deeply loved and a great big heart of a man. My deepest hope is that truth will prevail. I know that takes a long time sometimes, but just as in the Andy Lopez case, the real truth is coming to light; slowly but surely the truth will prevail for Branch, also. ✍

## Meeting with DA Ravitch on Branch Wroth Death

*Chris Wroth, Branch's Father*

On Tuesday, April 24, we met briefly with Sonoma County District Attorney Jill Ravitch to review her report on our son Branch's death before the report's public release. Attending the meeting were myself, my daughter Serika Wroth, Alicia Roman, Susan Lamont and DA staff Michelle Carstensen. DA Ravitch was in and out of the meeting and attended only briefly. After our meeting, the DA decided to make some changes to her report. For that reason, the report is still not public. I don't know when she will finish the rewrite.

Several days before the meeting, our family sent questions about the critical incident, along with other related questions, to the DA. The DA refused to answer most of those questions.

**Here are the questions the DA refused to answer:**

1. The taser is a firearm as defined in Title 18, USC., Section 921(a)(3) and is subject to the provisions of Title 18, USC., Chapter 44 and Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 178. In addition, the taser carries a manufacturer's product warning stating that the

firearm "Can cause death or serious injury." Also, two extensive reports by Stanford University Criminology Lab for two cities (Berkeley and Mountain View) conclude that tasers should only be used under circumstances where the legal use of deadly force would be allowed. Do you believe it is appropriate for Public Officers to use the taser firearm to overcome unarmed resistance from a person who is not a known fugitive felon?

2. During their interaction with our son, Branch, did either of the officers appear agitated? If so, what words and actions by the officer(s) indicate that agitation?
3. During their interaction with Branch, what words and actions indicate that the officers are proceeding with due caution and circumspection?
4. As you know, for homicide by a Public Officer to be justifiable under California law, the Public Officer must have probable cause to believe that the decedent posed a threat of death or great bodily injury. During the initial interview of the two responding officers by

*Meeting with DA Ravitch...see page 11*

# The Songwriter's Blues #1

*Brad L. Smith*

I have been beating the down the door on Facebook. Well, not actually their door, just the door to the window to the world. I got it bad right after the November election. You know the year. Yes, there I was with my adult daughter hanging in the Mission at a very cool bar that was full bore into celebrating Clinton's rise to the Presidency. Everyone was happy. The drinks flowed. Bring it on!

It is my fate to write protest songs. I started writing a protest song as soon as I recovered that next week – "Dark Days America." Our band put it up on You Tube a few months later and there it languishes. Alone. Unnoticed. But it felt good. I can go to it anytime and relive the fire I felt when I wrote it. Since then we (the band) have put together an album of protest songs and got that up online, and there it languishes (as it should like most protest songs do) awaiting what? Fame? No. That is not why we did it. Money? Money for music? That's hard to come by. No, it was the least we could do. Say "No!" Out loud! What? Awaiting what? Awaiting... something.

I think it is illumination. Some certain form of light that will sink into my black hole of a brain and devour it like a black hole should do to all shiny objects. It must be something like that. It must be something that will endure the pain of watching our country begin to die before our very eyes, and we are helpless to give it even one clean breath until the upcoming November mid-term election. This is what I rail about on Facebook. Stuff like that. Shouting into the wind and straight into the faces of my choir, I recently wrote a piece on the idea of corruption in government and the cynicism that can accompany the unmasking of the corrupt. Here it is:

I was talking to a long time friend who was very adamant about all of politics being corrupt. There was no hope from his point of view. Corrupt. Over and out. And then, this morning, I was watching an interview of Medger Evers' widow Myrlie Evers. You may remember Medger was MLK's cohort in the early days of the Civil Rights movement and he was assassinated in Mississippi on his front porch June 12, 1963. At 85 Mrs. Evers was clear and quite thoughtful – totally together. She was saying that now more than at any other time in our collective American experience (my paraphrase) has it been so necessary

to take back our county's democratic heritage before it is too late. She also said she was beyond "horrified" AS I AM about our present "leadership."

And it struck me suddenly why I cannot and will not bow to the cynicism that human nature i.e. corruption takes me off the hook from caring or fighting against the Alt Right world view that is currently destroying America. It is now easy for me to be clear in the future when I run up against the cries of "They are all corrupt!" Think of two words: CIVIL RIGHTS. Think of one word: EQUALITY. That is all we need as our guiding light. We all know, truly, our country has a long way to

go to reach that perfect pitch of civil rights for all. Carry that on your shoulders. It will make the marches and protest we should all attend that much easier.

I imagine when I write this way I am trying to be somewhat sane, but the rattle of my pen striking the firing pin of my opinion makes me twist in my seat. I cannot sit still. I try to close my eyes in order to gather what is left of my reason. If I could hold my breath until November I would if I could. Believe me, it is the Songwriter's Blues I have, and I have it bad. I would rhyme that with "sad" but we all know who uses that word.

Until next time. ✍

SONOMA SOLIDARITY WITH STANDING ROCK, PRESENTS

## The Doctrine Of Discovery UNMASKING THE DOMINATION CODE

Cristobal Colón (Columbus) and other colonizers laid claim to the lands of original nations on the basis of the idea that Christians had a biblical right to discover and dominate non-Christian lands. This doctrine of ancient Christendom, supported by papal edicts, continues to serve as the conceptual foundation of the political and legal system of the United States, and as the conceptual foundation of other dominating political systems elsewhere in the world in relation to original nations.

**DIRECTED BY Sheldon Peters Wolfchild**

**NARRATION BY Buffy Saint-Marie**

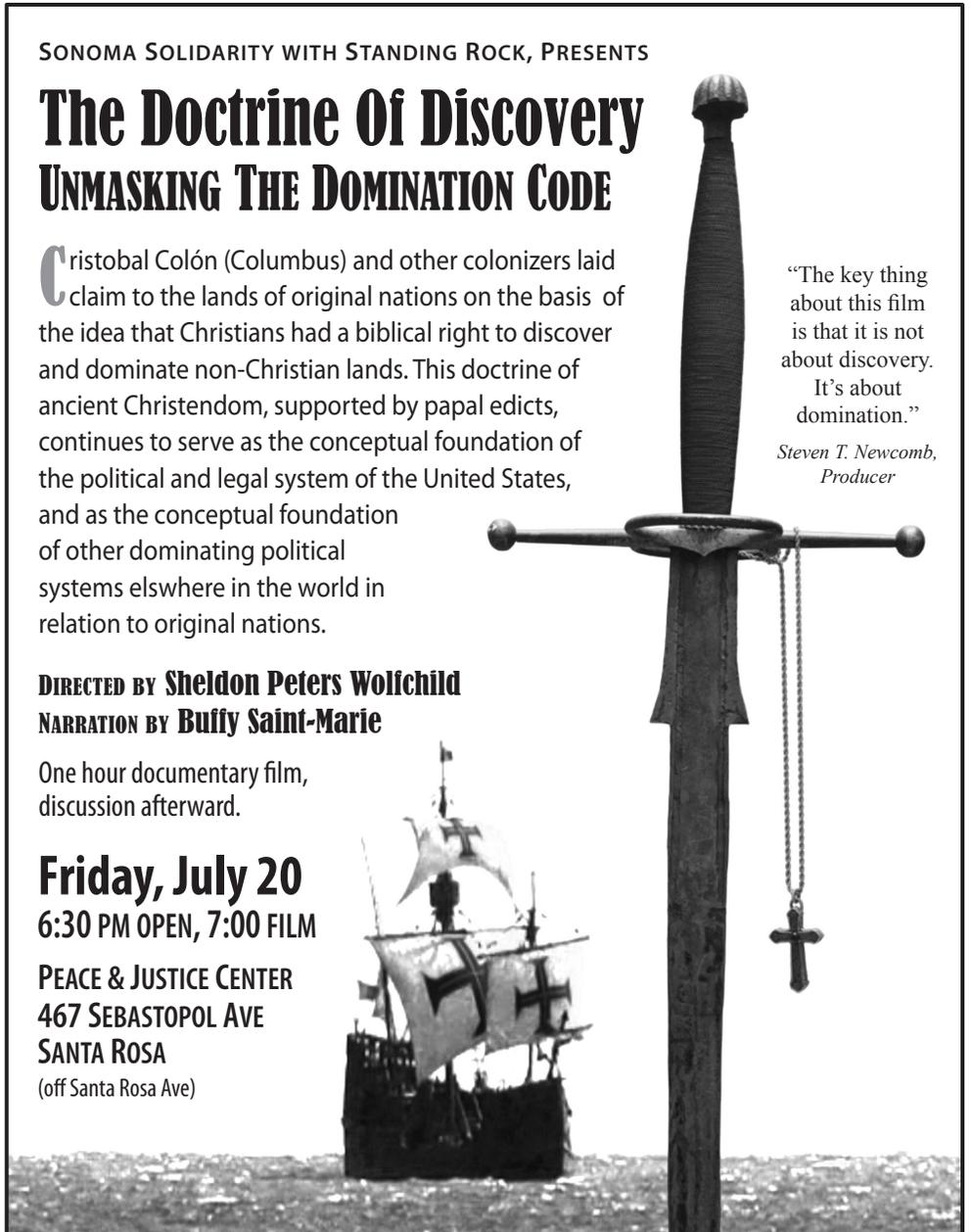
One hour documentary film,  
discussion afterward.

**Friday, July 20**  
**6:30 PM OPEN, 7:00 FILM**

**PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER**  
**467 SEBASTOPOL AVE**  
**SANTA ROSA**  
(off Santa Rosa Ave)

"The key thing about this film is that it is not about discovery. It's about domination."

*Steven T. Newcomb,*  
*Producer*



# Letter People – LGBTQQIP2SAA+

*Michelle Farrell, Samantha Kraseig,  
Linnea Kennedy, Mandi Camille Hauwert.*

Letter People is an all volunteer business and social community founded in 2015. The mission of Letter People is to connect, empower, and educate career-minded LGBTQ+ individuals and businesses. By hosting mixers, talks and community outreach programs, Letter People seeks to create and nurture business growth, mentorship opportunities, and interpersonal connections.

## Built Upon 4 Pillars

### *Mixers and Luncheons*

On the first Thursday of every month Letter People meet at Brew Coffee and Beer. Every other month we host luncheons at local LGBTQ-owned or allied businesses around Sonoma County.

### *Adventures*

Adventures help our group create strong interpersonal relationships and, well, they are also just a good time. Past adventures included

a “ValentSkate Night” at CalSkate in Rohnert Park, GLBT Historical Society in SF, Hikes around the North Bay and showing our support at various Pride celebrations.

### *Mentorship*

As Letter People grows, we hope to expand our mentorship program. We envision the mentorship program as a means of creating cross-generational connections in the North Bay queer community, and as a tool for empowering and educating the next generation of Letter Leaders.

### *Education*

With the expansion of Letter People’s educational program, we hope to eventually host interesting workshops and lectures on topics ranging from adoption rights to financial literacy, and other areas of interest to our group members.

## Creating a United Community

The founders of Letter people saw a need to bridge the divide amongst the letters, to unite

all on the spectrum from A-Z. To create a safe space to share information, build contacts, provide resources and most of all create genuine connections in the community.

## LGBTQQIP2SAA+

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit (2S), androgynous, and asexual. That covers a whole lot of people, from all walks of life and intersections, but despite the many differences all the letters are bonded by a common thread – the need for equality, accurate representation, equitable and inclusive practices, and legal protection.

Letter People is not like every other networking group. We’re serious about creating a robust network that will have lasting benefits, opening up a world of possibilities.

We are grateful to the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County for becoming our fiscal sponsor and look forward to opportunities for growth and collaboration! 🌈

# LezResist! Sonoma County Lesbians Organize... Again

*Liz Larew*

Within the first hour of the 2016 presidential inauguration, the current US administration removed the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender rights webpage from the WhiteHouse.gov site. It was one of the very first actions taken by the new administration.

*LezResist!’s mission is to empower and support lesbians in Sonoma County, the United States and around the world to live free from homophobia, fear and oppression. . .*

Lesbians have long been at the forefront of progressive political and social change in our country, but more often than not, our lives, presence and contribution have been silenced, made invisible, “disappeared” from history. Many of us continue to experience threats, violence, discrimination and death just for being a Lesbian. Never again.

LezResist! formed in the immediate aftermath of the inauguration to take action, to be a

visible and unified presence in support of each other and to stand in solidarity with the many communities, causes and policies under attack by the current US administration.

LezResist!’s mission is to empower and support lesbians in Sonoma County, the United States and around the world to live free from homophobia, fear and oppression; to be a visible lesbian presence as we collaborate with and support other groups standing for social justice; and to take bold and creative actions against the oppression of lesbians, LGBTQQI people, people of color, working people and other marginalized communities.

In keeping with our mission, in January LezResist! organized a “Taking It to the Streets” action, a monthly peaceful gathering in Sebastopol on the third Saturday of the month from 10-11am, outside of CVS, along Highway 12. All are welcome to this peaceful action. Come, join us with signs, songs and chants. Or just show up; we’ll have signs you can use. Show up in unity and support for each other. Our next

gathering will be on Saturday, June 16. Look for our LezResist! banner.

In addition, over the past 15 months, LezResist! has participated in or been present at various actions and events including – in 2017, the We the Future Social Justice Conference; The People’s March for Jobs, Justice and Climate; the Rally and March for Health Care; and the LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration. We participated in the Santa Rosa 2018 Women’s March, the March for Our Lives, and the International Worker’s Day Rally and March. We are currently working with California Alliance for Retired Americans ([www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org)) to establish a Sonoma County chapter. We’ll be at LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration in June (<https://www.sonomacountypride.org/>).

The core group of 6 meets monthly but we maintain a contact list of over 100 members who receive updates on our activities and information about upcoming community actions. If you’d like to be on the contact list, email [LezResist@gmail.com](mailto:LezResist@gmail.com). And check out this Washington Post article <https://www.thelily.com/on-lesbian-visibility-day-commemorate-the-successes-and-recognize-the-work-that-remains/>. 🌈

*Liz Larew is a longtime resident of Sonoma County, a core member of LezResist! and a proud elder lesbian.*

# Democracy... How Do We Get It?

*Sharon Kaiser*

We need Democratic Socialism. Capitalism does not give us "Liberty and Justice for all." Ask any homeless person. Ask a black man who gets out of prison after serving a term for using marijuana and loses his basic rights, like voting (the new Jim Crow). Ask an employee working three jobs who has to claim bankruptcy because of the high costs of his wife's medications and medical bills. Ask a student who still can't get a job after getting into quarter million dollars in debt from a rip-off educational system.

Who said, "Life isn't fair"? Both the man on the top and the man on the bottom of our profit-before-people capitalist system. The man on the top thinks "Tough Shit" while the man on the bottom is in tough shit or hell.

So what is Democratic Socialism and why do we want it? Bernie Sanders tried to show us. It is getting the money out of government, except for government salaries. It is higher taxes on the corporate wealthy. And we have to stop funding the illegal wars that are destroying other countries and invalidating our constitutional rights.

Then we would have money to decrease the debt, create national health care for everyone and design a more free educational system. There would be more money for programs to support our mentally challenged and less fortunate, and there would be jobs to better our infrastructure and promote sustainable energy. It's difficult to change the Federal Government, where our votes are compromised and money makes the rules. We can have more effect locally. Colorado has its own bank. And New York is suing an oil company for pollution damages. That's a good start.

We need to support co-ops. The internet is a creative tool. We could educate more people on how to create worker-owned businesses.

We have credit unions. The workers now own Oliver's Market. We need to put more pressure on our City and County Governments to take the lead in promoting renewable energy and safe, sustainable food production. They must protect our air and water quality without privatizing them. We can do this. We have to do this. ☘

## Michael Moore's Film at the PJC, June 28



*Marilyn Madrone*

Hoping to rev up your activism? Here's a spark for your fire, a breath of fresh air!

Prepare to be amazed and truly awestruck, as we laugh together and enjoy Michael Moore's upbeat satire, "Where to Invade Next?" Film showing Thursday, June 28. Doors open at 6:30 pm, film starts 7:00 pm, at the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County, 467 Sebastopol Ave. (in Santa Rosa, near Juliard Park).

We'll travel with Michael as he takes us on an eye-opening tour around the world, "invading" numerous countries to steal the best ideas in the world, and claim them for the USA! You'll think it's too good to be true!

Imagine! There really are countries where:

- You – yes, you – can attend college completely for free!
- ☉ Recreational drug use is entirely decriminalized!
- ☉ Corporate CEO's are devoted to fully funding their employees' unbelievably long vacations, and enjoy paying their employees double salary in December so that their employees can buy holiday gifts!
- ☉ Private schools are illegal! All public schools are equally well-funded! Rich kids and lower income kids are friends and grow up together!
- ☉ School teachers enjoy respectfully high salaries and work shorter hours. Students have lots of time to play and hang out! These

# Where to Invade Next?

same students rank best in the world!

- ☉ Prison guards don't carry weapons. Neither guards nor inmates wear uniforms. The inmates are treated with respect and have their own key to their own room. There are no prison bars keeping them in, they have privacy and decorate in their own way – rather like having their own college dorm room. And they have a much lower recidivism rate than the USA's!
- ☉ Those who brought on the 2008 financial crash are actually be held accountable!
- ☉ Our vicious history of enslaving and exploiting people would be honestly told.
- ☉ Women hold at least 50% of all government positions, but no more than 60% – which is what the law requires!

After the film, we'll have time to absorb and discuss these unbelievable but absolutely true impossibilities that are actually happening as you read these words!

So, Kindred Activists! Take Heart! Rev up your activism! There's Hope! There are Solutions! Prepare to be amazed! Let's recapture the American Dream and restore it to, of all places, America!

Suggested donation \$10, no one turned away for lack of funds. Please bring non-perishable food to be donated to people in need.

For more information, contact [marilynmadrone@yahoo.com](mailto:marilynmadrone@yahoo.com) or [dustyw@sonic.net](mailto:dustyw@sonic.net) and put FILM in the subject line. Thanks! See ya there! P.S: Surprise snack provided! ☘

# Patriarchy, Punishment and Peace

*Kendra Mon,  
Sonoma County Peace Alliance*

The sign outside the booth read: "This exhibit is an examination into our patriarchal society and the ways in which oppression of women affects the daily lives of all members of society. All are encouraged to experience this exhibit, however, it is intended for a male audience and may be traumatic for some women. What you will hear inside is taken verbatim from brave women who chose to share their experiences."

This booth at the recent San Diego Demo-

*According to the National Street Harassment Hotline, gender-based street harassment affects at least 65% of women and 25% of men in the USA, and it starts at a young age.*

cratic Party convention was like a black-walled tent with a dark inner room, containing only a mirror. People went in one at a time, were asked to stand facing a mirror, and given headphones with the suggestion that we spend at least a minute listening to a bombardment of different men's voices catcalling women -- sometimes in one ear, sometimes in both ears. Sometimes the voice was soft and wheedling, sometimes loud, harsh and angry. I don't think I made it to a minute and was crying softly as I added my words about the experience to a big sheet they had outside the booth for that purpose. This experience gives lie to the old expression "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." You can read and watch videos about the project online by searching "Terra Lopez and This is What it Feels Like."

According to the National Street Harassment Hotline, gender-based street harassment affects at least 65% of women and 25% of men in the USA, and it starts at a young age. It can range from catcalls and unwanted sexualized and homophobic comments to illegal acts, like following, flashing, groping and sexual assault.

Research studies report street harassment resulted in decreased confidence and self-respect on the part of those who were objectified in this way, which sometimes led to larger problems. Some who have been harassed have felt empowered by answering back, but others have felt too frightened or have even been physically attacked after answering back.

Researcher Gary Barker of Research Promundo stated in an interview on NPR that many

of the perpetrators that his organization talked to "have high aspirations for themselves and aren't able to meet them... so they harass [others with less societal status] to put them in their place. They feel like the world owes them." The idea is that harassment is about exerting power over others when that person feels powerless.

The National Street Harassment Hotline founded in 2016 provides immediate crisis help, information about strategies for dealing with harassment and information about the issue. They also offer resources for ongoing

help. To contact the hotline, call toll-free 855-897-5910.

Catcalling and verbal street harassment has been reported in many societies. Belgium has adopted a law against catcalling and other sexist

verbal abuse. One man has been convicted and is facing a fine. France is considering adopting a similar law proposed by the country's Gender Equality Minister. [Imagine that -- a Gender Equality Minister!]

While I am not advocating such a law in the US, I do appreciate the teaching value of this law. Remember that Sweden became the first nation to prohibit corporal punishment of

children by their parents. The law was passed in 1979 but had no enforcement mechanism and did not change the existing penal code. Instead, the strategy was to uphold an ideal not yet shared by the populace, promoting the new law widely and allowing for a gradual change in attitudes and behavior. Today in Sweden the use of corporal punishment by parents is greatly reduced and largely frowned upon.

Every year we celebrate the original intent of Mother's Day by coming together for peace. We visit our local legislative offices to advocate for a US Federal Level Department of Peacebuilding (HR 1111 sponsored by Rep. Barbara Lee) and other peacebuilding legislation, such as this year's gun violence prevention legislation. Along with conversation and information, we deliver a pie with a tiny slice cut out of it to symbolize the tiny piece of the federal budget pie we want to fund peacebuilding. Knowing that peacebuilding saves lives and that every dollar invested in prevention reduces the costs of violence by \$16 over the long run, we ask legislators to invest in peacebuilding.

If you would like to join us next year, please email Kendra Mon at [kendramon@comcast.net](mailto:kendramon@comcast.net) or call 707-347-6800. Students concerned about gun violence are invited along with other others who seek to build a culture of peace.

"I don't want to be an opposition, as was said of me. I want to be simply an affirmation."

– Bishop Oscar Romero 🙏



# Were Chemical Weapons and Poisoned Civilians Found in Syria?

*Barry Barnett*

The US/UK/French alliance bombed three “suspected” chemical weapons facilities and other sites in Syria on April 13, 2018, six days after photos and video appeared that supposedly depicted a poison gas attack claiming 40 lives in the latest episode of the civil war that began in March 2011.

The airstrikes consisted of 105 cruise missiles (at \$1.4 million each of US taxpayer money to Raytheon, which President Trump owns stock in – no conflict of interest there) that destroyed military bases, several airports (including Damascus International), two storage sites in the vicinity of Homs, and a scientific research station in Barzeh.

However, a Russian/US joint effort in 2013 after the first of three chemical weapons attacks blamed by the US on Assad disposed of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s chemical weapons. The event five years ago was actually a “false flag” operation by a jihadi insurgent group working with the White Helmets, trying to create a pretext for US invasion and potential regime change. This was the objective of the rebels and a goal explicitly stated by the US beginning in 2010.

Since 2013, US and UN inspectors verified again in 2016 and 2017 that the Syrian government was chemical weapons-free.

The true activities of the pro-Western propaganda organization, the White Helmets, are censored in the American press and other Western press. Former British Ambassador to Bahrain and Syria, Peter Ford, has much personal experience on the ground in order to ascertain the facts. He condemns the White Helmets, stating that they are allied with ISIS insurgent groups in Syria such as al-Nusra, assisting with many summary executions (beheadings), and staging faked gas attacks in order to try to topple the secular Shiite Assad government and establish a Salafi Sunni theocracy enforcing Sharia law. And the Western powers are happy to keep the profitable war going for US and UK weapons contractors (as in the war in Yemen).

Almost 100 Congress members from both major parties (two wings of the same bird of prey) communicated to President Trump their insistence that he seek Congressional approval before attacking and follow legal procedure. Their message was “Engaging our military in Syria when there is no direct threat to the United States and without prior official authorization

would violate the separation of powers clearly outlined in the Constitution.”

There has been more talk in Congress lately of reaffirming the War Powers Resolution of 1973, which among other provisions delays a president’s military action 48 hours. However, prudent advice was ignored. The Western alliance was in a hurry to act.



*Allegations, but no evidence of Syria being responsible for chemical attacks. Since 2013, US and UN inspectors verified again in 2016 and 2017 that the Syrian government was chemical weapons-free. (photo: Mint Press News)*

Please remember that this is the third time since 2013 that, just when Assad and the Syrian military were about to win a crucial phase of the war, suddenly a claim of “Assad gassing his own people” emerges. Not only is it illogical that Assad would do the one thing that would invite US military invasion and international condemnation, but inspectors have verified that Syria has disposed of all chemical weapons. Inspectors have also attested that insurgent anti-Assad jihadists backed by the US do have stores of poison gas.

Note that Syria and Russia insisted on a full and open inspection to determine if there was any gas attack at all, while the Western alliance hastened to obliterate any evidence one day before UN international inspectors were due to arrive. Even US Secretary of “Defense,” James “Mad Dog” Mattis admitted there was no evidence of a chemical weapons attack by Assad and was not in favor of a hasty reaction.

Russian diplomats, including Foreign Min-

ister Sergei Lavrov, Alexander Yakovenko and Igor Konashenkov reported that experts found no evidence of civilians with symptoms of gas poisoning. They further stated that they have obtained documentary proof that the UK-funded White Helmets and US were responsible for staging fake chemical attacks by the Syrian army in an attempt to mislead the world.

The US military’s claims of Assad poisoning his own people were publicly announced as being sourced from internet weblogs – which were reporting from anti-Assad government activists speaking for insurgent jihadi militias! That is the only “evidence” repeated by US and other Western “leaders” and the crass media!

Thousands of citizens in Damascus responded with a spontaneous demonstration in support of President Assad and against the imperial aggression of the United States, which has the biggest arsenal of nuclear, chemical, biological and other prohibited weapons on Earth.

Sources: Ambassador Peter Ford interview on Former Sen. Ron Paul’s Liberty Report, 4/19/18; Max Blumenthal interview on Lee Camp, 4/13/18; Syria Girl (Maram Susli) interview on Infowars, 4/9/18 & 4/10/18; Wikipedia; Counterpunch, “The Search for the Truth in Douma,” Robert Fisk, 4/17/18, “Chemical Attacks, False Flags and the Fate of Syria,” Louis Project, 4/13/18, and other Counterpunch articles. 🌿

# THE NEW RAGING GRANNIES OF SONOMA COUNTY

We are growing in strength and membership. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at Peace and Justice Center from 4:30-6:00. We're an enthusiastic and vital link to the community. Women of all ages can join us. We sing for world peace and social and environmental justice, including healthcare and housing for all.

## insomnia

awake until the early mornin  
night is dead when baby's born  
while lovers love they see the light  
reaching within the fear of fright

and children play a vicious game  
they learn our rules and it's a shame  
that fathers and mothers live alone  
but the seeds of life the wind has blown

to sprout in earth where they may fall  
and grow freely inside prison walls  
of law and order and power of wealth  
while governments determine our state of health

mother nature's wilting, wounds are showing  
and alchemists die without knowing  
that gold is not the healer of soul  
the essence of spirit is the source, not the goal

saviors sang but we missed their dance  
while frantically working for another chance  
to explore time and live in space  
we create destruction to save face

of demons and supergods we project  
and protect  
with bullets that blow holes in minds  
to convince us it takes all kinds

of wasted energy to build a jail  
for yin-yang prophets who always fail  
to speak the truth with silent vows  
'cause we see only sacred cows

and muse in decadence carving roast beef  
as wisdom stares, starving for relief  
and for the man in the field who must harvests beans  
these words don't justify ends or means.

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### Meeting with DA Ravitch... from page 4

investigators, what words and actions did the officers use to indicate their belief that Branch posed an immediate threat of death or great bodily injury?

5. During the initial interview of the two responding officers by investigators, what reason did the officer's give for disregarding Branch's report that he was in medical distress as a result of an unknown poison?
6. Do you support passage of AB 931, legislation that would update California's deadly use of force standard so that police would only be "allowed to use deadly force if there were no reasonable alternatives available and if there was an imminent threat to the officer or another person's safety"?
7. Do you support passage of SB 1421, Lifting the Veil of Secrecy: Police Misconduct & Use of Force?

In her report, the DA did not consider or address involuntary manslaughter charges. Our weekly three year-long, megaphone-armed public campaign every Tuesday in front of her offices has led her to develop a strong personal bias against my wife and I. That bias is evident in her report and was on display at our meeting. When the DA releases the report, we will proceed with filing a complaint with the state attorney general. 🙏

# BOOK REVIEW:

## A Book for This Season – Welcome to the Revolution

Anne Cummings Jacopetti

**W**elcome to the Revolution: Universalizing Resistance for Social Justice and Democracy in Perilous Times – by Charles Derber

We know that we need a system change, a great turning, a rising tide of outrage coupled with a vision for a future that will nurture coming generations and protect our beautiful planet. Because the challenge we face is literally existential, we also know that we must act now. There is no time to wait for the pendulum to swing. Those of us who have been activists for the environment or for social justice may feel a creeping sense of despair as the days pass with only small victories, while a growing flood of actions threaten to engulf our resistance. What can we do? What must we do to protect what we love?

Charles Derber, Sociology Professor at Boston College and author of 20 books, offers a blueprint and a path beyond overwhelm. Derber states that grassroots progressive activism is the last best hope for greater social justice and the survival of humanity. He notes that our current neoliberal, militarized, capitalist system has lost popular support. As a result, our populace is splitting between fascist, authoritarian populism on the right and progressive populism on the left. This progressive populism is fragmented into many political and activist groups without a clear mutual direction and vision. Our primary task then is to organize across groups to create a coherent vision of environmental health, social justice and peace that effectively counters the policies of the right, which offers only further extinctions, more catastrophic climate change, greater income disparity and increasing threat of nuclear war.

### Derber offers ten steps to realize our goal:

1. Shift from siloed activism by becoming part of a larger movement with specifically targeted democratic goals. These goals must be based on understanding the nature of the system we are opposing and building clear systemic alternatives.
2. Call out the individualism that is the philosophical underpinning of our current system and address the shame and anger that it causes. Promote community solidarity by

reaching out to marginalized communities, including the white working class.

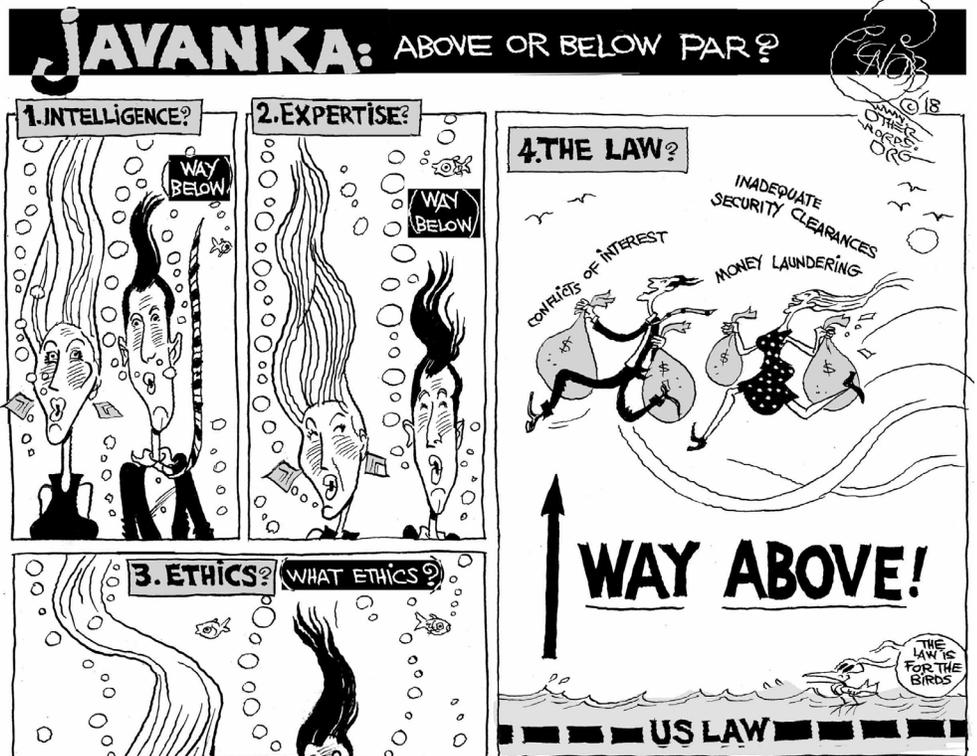
3. Develop Rapid Response Teams to connect local groups and the coasts with the heartland.
4. Link up with international compatriots for mutual support.
5. Insist on ethical consumption and disposal of goods and food to protect Pachamama, the living earth.
6. Describe what a new economy looks like – with cooperative business ventures, democratic distribution of wealth, public banking and regulations that protect the commons.
7. Use independent and social media to communicate goals and educate the larger community.
8. Engage in local electoral politics to build a strong network that confronts far-right propaganda.
9. Fight corporatization of education at all levels by promoting critical thinking, encouraging creativity and stopping endless testing.
10. Approach all differences of opinion and conflicts with a spirit of solidarity and love and a commitment to non-violence.

To find out what each of these steps entails

and how Derber understands them, you must read the book. It is a good read, full of wisdom and common sense. It received an enthusiastic rave from Ralph Nader, who wrote: “So gripping and personal is Welcome to the Revolution, you can scarcely put this book down without putting yourself down. Read, digest, reflect and join with others for a functioning democracy.”

The bad news is that there is only one copy of Derber’s book in the Sonoma County Library system. Multiple requests might solve this problem. The good news is that progressives in our county are already building coalitions to realize goals, particularly since October’s catastrophic fires brought the community together to grieve, imagine and rebuild. We have an opportunity to use this challenge to articulate our intentions to the whole community and to offer solutions that go beyond business as usual – for ourselves as well as for city and county officials. Many challenges and perils lie ahead, but what better way do we have to meet them than by unifying in “the most important hope and action of all time, saving the world and creating democracy and justice for all.”

Anne Cummings Jacopetti is a member of 350 Sonoma Steering Committee, Zero Waste Task Force, Compost Coalition, retired teacher [www.howchildrenlearn.org](http://www.howchildrenlearn.org)



# The Morning After... Processing Grief

Joyce Higgins

As I awakened in the night,  
I tried not to think  
of what we heard  
the evening before,  
or I certainly would find  
sleep no more.

In the moments after  
a documentary -  
refugee children  
being sensitively taught  
in Dutch countryside -  
their new home -

We see one Syrian boy,  
talking aloud to himself,  
utter the Arabic words:  
"My country is shattered;

I feel so sad"  
as he sits alone.

How can he focus on sums  
and a new way of speaking  
with a black cloud  
of trauma and grief  
hovering constantly,  
preventing sleep?

Immediately following the film  
we hear of the Allied bombing.

More of the bombardment  
that's been happening,  
but so disheartening!  
I'd been waiting with dread  
for news of that bombshell  
to fell me all week.

This morning I find myself  
listlessly trying to make  
these tired eyes and face,  
that have almost given up  
hope for the human race,  
look alive once again.

While drinking  
my morning tea,  
eyeing the teapot  
of red and pink roses  
with bone china cups,

I'm trying to pretend  
there's still magic,  
yet there's not.  
Not for me;  
not this morning.

My only ray of hope  
will come when I see  
vast crowds of people  
in Paris, London,  
New York, Washington,  
Oakland, Austin...

Protesting the new,  
but very old,  
inhumanity  
we are raining upon  
the people of Damascus,  
adding to their misery.

To the children who live,  
who have known  
nothing but war and fear,  
All I can say  
through my tears is,  
"I'm so, so, so very sorry."

"You deserve  
to know,  
to fully believe  
there can be, will be  
in your future  
much more."

*Joyce Higgins was privileged to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants for 17 years.*

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#### State Senator Mark Leno

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harris.senate.gov/content/contact-senator

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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, cirsc@yahoo.com,

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

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

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

**Green Party of Sonoma County** – sonomagreenparty.org

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

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

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

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

**Indivisible Goups** – All the groups are on Facebook.

**Indivisible Sonoma County:** indivisiblesoco.com

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

**Indivisible Sebastopol:** indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

**Indivisible Healdsburg**

**Indivisible Windsor**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**North Coast Coalition for Palestine** – Brings greater aware-

ness 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 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: (707) 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 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

<b>Sun</b>	1st ♦ Democratic Socialists of America, 1–4 PM
<b>Mon</b>	2nd & 4th ♦ North Coast Coalition for Palestine, 3:30–5 PM 3rd ♦ Occupy Sonoma County Earth Action, 7–9 PM 5th ♦ Sonoma County Climate Action Network, 7–9 PM
<b>Tues</b>	1st, 2nd, 3rd ♦ Community Action Coalition, 6–8 PM 4th ♦ NAACP, 6–8 PM
<b>Wed</b>	1st ♦ Raging Grannies, 4:30–6 PM 2nd & 4th ♦ Citizen Empowerment, 7–9 PM (No meeting July 25) 3rd ♦ 350 Sonoma, 7–9 PM
<b>Thur</b>	1st ♦ Peace & Justice Center Board, 6–8 PM
<b>Sat</b>	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
- ♦ Helping with grant writing
- ♦ Fundraising or Donating to the Center
- ♦ Sponsoring our bi-monthly Peace Press Newsletter

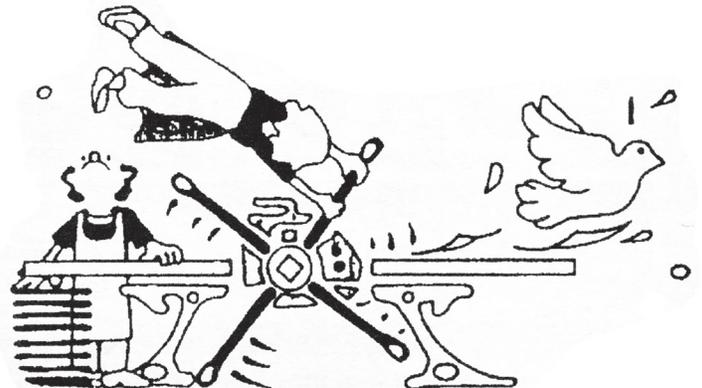
Please call 575-8902 or visit [PJCso.org](http://PJCso.org)

## PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

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

peacentr@sonic.net  
PJCso.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.org](http://PJCso.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](http://pjconoma.org) for activities and hours.