

SONOMA COUNTY

peace press

Publication of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County

FOR JUSTICE SO THAT ALL MAY LIVE IN PEACE

PJCsoco.org • February/March 2024 • Vol. 39, No.1

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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- ▶ Fight for \$20 for Fast Food Workers
- ▶ The Weaponization of Anti-Semitism
- ▶ China is Not Our Enemy
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Showdown on Press Freedom
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Painting by, Huong Ana
Peace Mural Foundation

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline to submit articles for the April/May 2024 issue, is March 15

Email articles with title on the document, in MSWord to zenekar2@gmail.com
(put PEACE PRESS in all caps on subject line)

Word limit up to 900 words (negotiable).

Shorter pieces welcome about local actions and events.

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

We welcome poems but limited to approx. 30 lines.

EDITING POLICY

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

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

Articles are the opinion of the author unless otherwise noted.

CALENDAR ITEMS

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

DISPLAY SPONSORSHIP RATES & SPECS

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

Community Helps the PJC Thrive

The new year finds your Peace & Justice Center (PJC) nicely busy. As well as working with the Environmental Center, the Disability Rights Workshop and others, to support each other's work in the community.

In a thumbnail, Warheads to Windmills links Climate Change to the elimination of nuclear weapons. We all know that a limited nuclear war could easily result in a global winter that would end nearly all life on earth. This is a climate change issue. Of course, there's more to it than that and you can learn all about it by going to Warheads to Windmills. They are doing a book tour to spread this idea. Your PJC hopes to be a part of bringing them to Sonoma County. Do check out this important organization.

Our second teach-in did very well with a highly engaged audience. This teach-in was on Gaza, the weaponization of anti-Semitism and Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). It was presented by members of our local North Coast Coalition for Palestine. It was filmed and soon it will be on our YouTube station. The first teach-in by Zero Waste Sonoma is posted there already, as well as a lovely concert by our dear friends, Lindalou & Michael.

You can also watch 2021 awards ceremony and a climate

change presentation from the Party for Socialism and Liberation that clearly links climate change to capitalism. All of these are very informative and worth your time. Go to pjcsoco.org to see them. If you go to our very thorough e-blast page you'll be aware of nearly every action taking place in Sonoma County. Sign up for it. It's free.

The building fund is going well and we expect to start fixing the building in the spring. It's not too late for you to contribute to this worthwhile project. Simply send your tax-deductible check to Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County, 467 Sebastopol Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Mark it building fund and we'll know how to use it.

There's a lot happening at your PJC. If you have things you want to do that help promote peace and social justice, contact of us and we'll try to fold it in with everything else. Thanks for all your support to help make your PJC thrive.

We want to thank all of our supporters who donated to the Raise the Roof appeal letter. Thank you to everyone for the quick and generous responses, this means we can start repairs on our roof in the Spring. 🙌

NAACP Addresses SR School Board

by *Kirstyne Lange*

Public Comment at January 10 Santa Rosa City School Board Meeting

Good evening board trustees, and Superintendent Trunnell.

I stand before you this evening to reaffirm a statement and [six points of recommended actions](#) I released last month. This board and Superintendent Trunnell will set the district up for great success if they move forward in a collaborative nature, ensuring that all community voices, perspectives, and expertise are included in the co-design of policy. This will address concerns around campus safety, and the revisit of educational attainment as it pertains to the college requirements.

As a policy-trained professional, it has been ingrained in me that data drives decisions. Our branch of the national Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has collected and reviewed the data and it is clear that there are a number of, needs and opportunity gaps that exist within the Santa Rosa City Schools District. Whether it's national or local, data is data and it can all be applied.

It is also clear that research is not a standard practice in our community, given the number of adults and youth who do not know or understand the legacy of the NAACP, and the long-standing legacy and educational advocacy that this organization has had in Sonoma County for the last 70 years. It is due to the work of this organization that discriminatory hiring practices against teachers were not only addressed, but corrected in an on-going way, issues with campus integration were addressed and rectified, student were tracked on their course selection through course selection, and barriers to advanced placement courses were addressed.

You see, our sole charge is to minimize barriers that contribute

to discrimination and bias. And while we have many perspectives in the community, national NAACP policy is to minimize police presence from K-12 campuses and disrupt the school to jail attitude toward Black youth.

But we are not delusional. We are keenly aware of how we got here, and that there are genuine concerns around safety and school resource officers (SROs) cannot singularly solve the root causes.

I must also be clear, about this. The accusations of “pulling the

... while we have many perspectives in the community, national NAACP policy is to minimize police presence from K-12 campuses and disrupt the school to jail attitude toward Black youth.

race card” must stop – every time. Addressing campus and community safety is not a racial issue, yet time and time again this is the undertone of the messaging from voices that find safety from the presence of police. Refusing to acknowledge the reality of youth and adults that have been harmed by systems that have been underscored by a million studies doesn't make it go away.

I get that there is fear, concern and a desire to ensure schools and communities are truly safe spaces. But we must be intentional. We may be collaborative; as there are many paths we can take. And we must communicate with care. So many of us, especially those of us who've gone through these systems, only truly want for it to be better. 🙌

Kirstyne Lange is president of the Santa Rosa - Sonoma County branch of the NAACP.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE: Symptom of a Systemic Problem of Our Culture

Susan Collier Lamont

Poet Diane di Prima wrote, “*This death culture cannot imagine solutions that do not bleed.*”

The discussion about what to do in response to violence in our schools, focusing locally on Montgomery High School and Slater Middle School, has been heated and falls mainly on the side of sending in the police. Much of the blame has concentrated on personal responsibility, with virtually no discussion of systemic problems in our culture.

The record, nationally, of using school resource officers (SROs) is an ugly one, with punishment meted out to students of color in numbers far greater than their representation in schools. There is also the added perception of being seen as a population to be controlled whether one is targeted or not. Both the local school board and the police department say that their methods and officers are different from those in other areas. Could be, but no data has ever been kept, so how do we know?

How are we to expect our young people to solve their problems nonviolently when almost all the models around them are violent?

At the very top, we have a president has never seen a war he didn't like and rejects all negotiations. And our former president incites violence every time he opens his mouth. These kids live in country which spends more on arming itself and the world than any other country by far and a country which rejects as much social welfare spending (healthcare, schools, safety net) as it can get away with, all while shoveling money to private corporations. The message that “you are not important” is clear.

Former Lt. Col. Dave Grossman wrote “On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society,” about the US Defense Department's decision to change the way in which soldiers are trained, to overcome their natural reluctance to kill, beginning with Vietnam-bound soldiers. The defense department predicted,

and accepted, greater violence on U. streets as a result. These more violence-prone men came home to be husbands and fathers. Some of them came home with PTSD. A large number committed suicide and others came home with a more violent approach to their fellow humans, particularly to those who are “different.”

Grossman didn't write the book to warn us, but because he agrees. He now trains police to overcome that natural reluctance to kill, and much has been done in the legal arena to ensure an officer's right to “defend” themselves violently. There is a sequence in the movie *Do Not Resist* that features Grossman, and he is one very scary man.

On an everyday and more personal level, in Sonoma County much of the population runs stop signs and weaves recklessly in and out of traffic, well above the speed limit, with wanton disregard for the lives of others, while their children watch from the back seat. The message? “Only I count and I'm willing to endanger myself, you and others in order to get what I want.” I live one house away from a stop sign and almost no one stops at it, people who undoubtedly consider themselves “good” people.

What passes for entertainment is increasingly violent and increasingly realistic – movies, video games, music, toys. Children are marinated in violence.

And there isn't the space here for an explanation of the way global vulture capitalism is destroying the future for young people through dead-end work and climate related destruction of life on earth. The despair this creates is horrific, whether conscious or not.

Yet, many wonder why our students resort to violence. School resource officers can't solve this problem. Only a complete change in the culture can do that. And, sadly, very few are interested in that work. 🐘

Susan Lamont is a former president of the Board of the Peace & Justice Center and a longtime peace and social justice activist. Only when the most powerful lay down their weapons and raise up justice can the world begin to find its way to peace.

Become a member of the NAACP
Santa Rosa - Sonoma County Chapter



NAACP
Santa Rosa - Sonoma County

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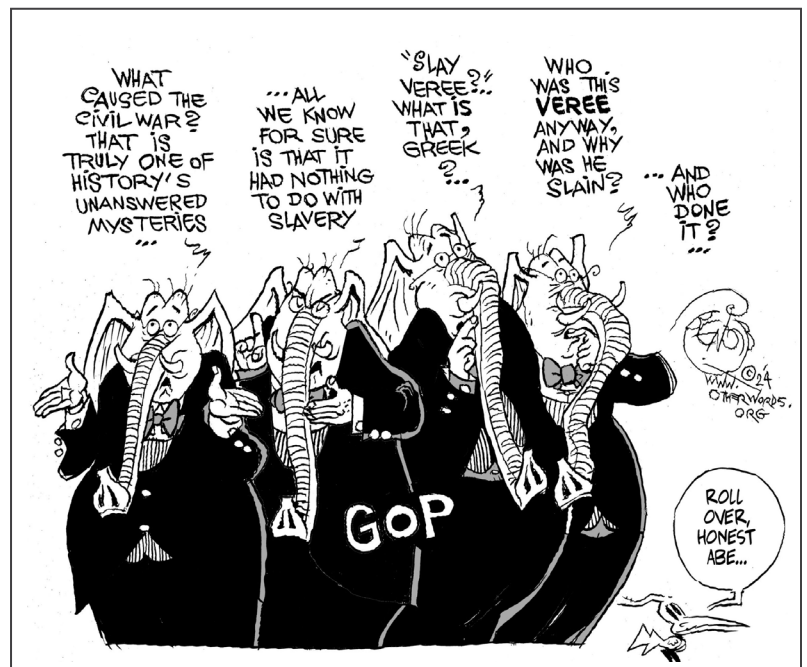
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Petaluma Black History Activities

Theme – *African Americans and the Arts*. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memories as well as for empowerment.

■ **February 2** – Opening Jazz Concert with Dorian Mode. Jazz, Blues & R & B, Where – Petaluma Historical Library and Museum, 20 Fourth Street, Downtown Petaluma, Cost \$40 upstairs and \$35 downstairs. Refreshments downstairs and upstairs, wonderful view and champagne upstairs, Time – doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a start time of 7 p.m.

■ **February 4** – Art in Conversation: Denise Ward with Orin Carpenter. Orin wrote on his webpage “ I have the power to bring others into the world I experience through the lens of my creations. I have the power to educate, elevate, and challenge anyone who encounters my works of art. My art invites everyone to see the world through my eyes and hopefully change their perception with a new vision and offer them the opportunity to share in the journey... my journey.” Where – Petaluma Arts Center, 230 Lakeville St. Time – 1 to 2 p.m. Cost – \$10, free for Arts Center members.

■ **February 9** – Opening of Exhibit with Makeda Kumasic. The exhibit, *African American and the Arts*, will include many familiar names and their work, but also some historical and less known Black artists. Makeda is from San Bernardino and is a dancer, storyteller and much more. She will mystify us with one of her original stories. Where – Petaluma Historical Library and Museum, 20 Fourth Street, Downtown Petaluma. Cost – \$10 (no one will be turned away). The exhibit will run from February 9 through March 31, 2024. The museum is open Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ **February 17** – Keenan Webster. Join musician Keenan Webster as he shares the vibrant music of the banjo related instruments of West Africa, music and demonstration for children of all ages, Where – Petaluma Library, 100 Fair Grounds. Time – 10:30 am. Cost –Free.

■ **February 18** – Art in Conversation: Denise Ward with Rose Hill. Rose’s work captures Black Americana, holds onto it, and turns it around as something positive that reminds the viewer of their love of family, respect for their history, and the universal touch points that invite discourse and community. Where – Museum of Sonoma County, 425 7th Street, Santa Rosa, Time – 1 to 2 pm, Cost – Adults \$10.00

■ **February 24** – Annual Black History Program. A program of music, dance, education and fun. Where – New Life Christian Church, 1310 Clegg St. Time – 5:30 p.m. Cost – Free and open to the public.

Check our website, pbcd4us.com, for additional details and any changes. 🌿

NAACP
Santa Rosa - Sonoma County Branch

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

African Americans in the Arts

Join us for a month of events honoring Black History throughout February 2024. Additional details and registration information will be on our website, social media and newsletter.

- 30 JAN Black History Month Kick-Off (4:00PM - 5:00PM)
- 1 FEB Black Doula Workshop (1:00PM - 2:30PM)
- 4 FEB Free Rides - Transit Equity Day (ALL DAY)
- 5 FEB General Membership Meeting (6:00PM - 7:30PM)
- 17 FEB Black College Expo (10:00AM - 5:00PM)
- 18 FEB Telling our Stories through Ethnic Studies (2:00PM - 3:30PM)
- 24 FEB Double Screening: "The Race to Space" & "Origin" (2:00PM - 3:30PM)
- 25 FEB TASTING DIVERSITY: Insights from Black pioneers in the wine world (3:00PM - 5:00PM)

CONTACT US
NAACP.SRSC1074B@GMAIL.COM
NAACPSANTAROSASONOMACO.ORG



Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

CHR Considers a Gaza Ceasefire

by Katrina Phillips

January 23, the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights introduced a statement for a Ceasefire in Gaza. We read the proposal and had a brief conversation among commissioners. Then we opened the meeting to an almost four hour public comment session.

There were so many people that we had to have an overflow room behind our regular meeting room. And we also had a zoom room open, which topped at 79 people. Both in person and on Zoom there were approximately 140 people.

We read the proposed statement, which condemns all terrorism,

demands the release of all hostages, and pleads for the end of the genocide of the Palestinian people and for an end to all genocides happening at the present moment.

Some of the speakers said the words “genocide” and “ceasefire” are anti-Semitic. When, in fact, in May of 2023 the Commission on Human Rights helped form a statement that was passed as a Golden Resolution by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors condemning anti-Semitism and all hate speech.

There was no vote on the resolution. Commissioners said they needed more discussion.

In my opinion the antonym of ceasefire is hostility. As chair of the Sonoma Commission on Human Rights, I will never choose hostility. I will only, and always, choose peace. And we can only reach peace with a ceasefire now. 🙌

Katrina Phillips is chair of the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights.

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

Monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday. [See schedule here.](#)

Email: chr@sonoma-county.org • [Website](#)

A Letter from a Palestinian

by Hanan Huneidi

My dearest community,

These past few months have been rough. It seems as though everything I thought to be true of humanity has been challenged. I, and every Palestinian I have spoken to, am living in this very other realm of shock and isolation.

What is happening to the people of Gaza and the West Bank has not only deeply emotionally affected Palestinians everywhere, but has also affected our actual physical safety all over the world. We have watched Palestinian youth being shot and stabbed here in the United States. We have seen Palestinian business owners being targeted. At this point, each of us has a story of experiencing racism. When our friends ask us the most benign question of “How are you?” we stare blankly, wondering what words we are supposed to use. Simply put, we are not okay. We may never be okay again.

I spoke with a cousin of mine who is a dentist in Amman, Jordan. We are from 1948, which means our family was driven out of our hometown of Al Lydd, Palestine during the first Nakba. I was worried about him and all of my family living in various Arab countries. I asked him, “Are you okay? Are you feeling safe with the war happening so close by?”

What he told me kind of rocked my world. He let me know that of course they are sad and angry, they are feeling all of the feelings that we Palestinians in the States are feeling, but they are more worried about me. Worried about me? I’m on the other side of the world! It didn’t compute. But then he went on to tell me that they have each other, they live in a world where they can openly mourn, openly express enraged feelings about the genocide, but they know that I live here. They know that being Palestinian in America is not

an easy thing. They know that I have to hide my pain, my sorrow, my grief, my anger, here, in the land of the free. They know that America is a country built on racism. He told me that they wished I were there. They would feel better if I were there. They would worry less about me if I were... closer to the war? I have sat with this. Turning it over in my head.

I have come to realize that somewhere deep inside of me I have

When your DNA is deemed terrorist there is never a moment of solace. When knowing that children with your name, familiar dinners, and the songs of your childhood, have all been systematically and intentionally destroyed, there can never be rest.

been holding on to a belief, probably more like a hope, that this country (or at least the progressive circles I move in) stands for justice. Somehow I believed that the same people who have performatively championed the rights of the LGBTQ++ community, and who were aghast at the Mexican children being put into cages, and who planted Black Lives Matters signs in their front yards; these people who have recited land acknowledgments, and who have read all the books on white fragility and who learned to shame other white folks for their colonized mindsets, these people who abhorred

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A Letter from a Palestinian... from page 4

Trump and all he stood for, would call out Biden and unwaveringly call for a ceasefire.

Boy. Was. I. Wrong.

What I have learned of my community is that performative action is fickle. That unless these words have been popularized by celebrities and big box companies, that unless the risk to speak up is calculated in that it will make a person appear risky without any real risk being taken, then silence is the action. "Your silence is violence." This phrase has taken on a whole different level of meaning for me.

In moments when I allow myself quiet reflections not haunted by the images of mourning mothers holding the bodies of their beautiful children now dusty and broken, limp and lifeless in their arms, I wonder if people understand what it is like to have been born with a political identity. I wonder if people understand the difference between choosing a cause and being the cause.

My sense is that most people do not know that we can never go home, take off the indicators of solidarity, put our keffiyehs away, carefully store our protest signs in the closet, and take rest. Unless you have watched your people continuously be killed by police and military who are never being held accountable, unless you have had to debate the right for your people to exist in humanitarian conditions, you may never really understand what it is like to never have rest.

When your DNA is deemed terrorist there is never a moment of solace. When knowing that children with your name, familiar dinners, and the songs of your childhood, have all been systemati-

cally and intentionally destroyed, there can never be rest. Palestine is in us. We are honored to be of those people with great faith and strength, and it is a heavy burden that we must always carry.

I feel so much guilt in my sadness. I feel so much guilt in my pain. How does racism that I experience here compare to carrying their children's body parts in bags? How does my exhaustion here compare to amputating their child's legs without anesthesia? I often wonder if I even have a right to cry.

Someday I want to write a beautiful poem about the freedom of my people. I am saving the words in my heart, dropping them like pennies of hope. I wonder what it will feel like to only write about the beauty of my homeland, of my people. It might feel strange, unfamiliar, to no longer beg for their lives to be seen.

I am wet with grief. Their grief. My grief. It is a part of our identity. Grief and strength. Grief and faith. Grief and food. Grief and music. Grief and dance. Grief and survival.

It is not complicated. Nothing about this is complicated. Killing innocent people is never complicated. Also, racism is not complicated. Othering is not complicated. But what can you say when people refuse to acknowledge humanity? What can you say when people turn a blind eye to images of dead and dying children? I wonder, "How can I make you see what I see?" Do you know your privilege? I know mine. A bed. Food. Water.

My greatest privilege is my voice. Words. Free Palestine! 🇵🇸

Hanan Huneidi is a queer Palestinian community activist and educator.

Visit: [Sonoma County for Palestine](#) and [Facebook](#)

Defy

by Katrina Phillips

After this bomb
I will never die again.
There is only so
much heat
a molecule can
take
before it changes
into something
completely different
and solid
forever.
Blow me up again

I will return
ten fold.
a hundred million bits
re-directed..
stronger than before.
Atoms, neutrons,
pieces of my heart
finding air, water, sugar.
(The makings
of a Universe)
I do not fear you
is what I mean to say.
And that is
what you are afraid of.

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE HUB CULTURAL CENTER

2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#F.U.B.U.

- FEB 1** LUNCH & OPENING CEREMONY
12PM-1PM
THE HUB CULTURAL CENTER
- FEB 8** TRUE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM
3PM-7PM
STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM A
- FEB 15** 2ND ANNUAL BLACK JOY CELEBRATION
12PM-1PM
SEAWOLF PLAZA
- FEB 22** THE ARTISTRY OF NIPSEY HUSSLE
6PM-7:30PM
THE HUB CULTURAL CENTER
- FEB 25** 7TH ANNUAL BLACK JOY PARADE
9AM-4PM
OAKLAND, CA

thehub@sonoma.edu

What Would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Do?

by Enid Pickett

Would he return his Nobel Peace Prize?

Where would he find peace today?

Would he speak out against War?

Would Love still be his message?

Would he speak up for those who suffer?

Would those who suffer stand up for him?

Would he trust the courts?

What would he do about gun violence?

Would he trust the media?

What would he say about mass incarceration?

Who would be his trusted advisers?

Would he be a capitalist?

Would he burn down hatred?

Would he love Hip Hop and Jazz?

Would he destroy ignorance?

Would greed tempt him?

Would he be harassed by the FBI?

What would he say to Malcolm?

How would he define

What it means to be fully human?

Who would he name as the oppressor?

Would he help those who are being oppressed?

What Would Dr Martin Luther Jr. Do?

Would he build our economy with jobs?

What would he say about

Palestine? Sudan? Haiti? Ukraine? Israel?

Would he trust his own government?

Would the government trust him?

Which world leaders would stand with him?

Would ghetto streets and parks honor his name?

What would he say about immigration and the Wall?

Which Black leaders would turn their backs?

Would he write about Peace on

Tik Tok and Instagram?

Who would follow him?

Who would protect him?

Would violence shut him down with silence?

Would he march in the Gay Pride Parade?

Would Union workers march with him?

Would he redistribute economic and political power?

Would the Black Church vilify him?

Consider him a saint or a sell out?

What would encourage him?

What would he say to his grandchildren?

What lessons would his sermons teach?

Would his dream still be a dream?

Do you know what

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Would Do Today?

Would he read the books that are banned?

Would his own country consider him a dangerous man?

Where would he feel safe and free?

Would the South Betray him?

Would the North Extort him?

Would the East Ignore him?

Would the West Sabotage him?

Who would sing his favorite hymn?

Would the police protect him?

Would he vote for Public Healthcare?

What would he say to Coretta?

Will his words be remembered? Or...

Will his words ignite a movement?

What would social media say about him?

Would he inspire YOU to?

March, Sing, Stand, Sit, Sacrifice?

Would he be respected and revered?

What would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Do For You?

And What would You

Do for him?

Fight for \$20 an Hour for California Fast Food Workers

by Martin J. Bennett

In a milestone for the higher wages movement, also known as the “Fight for \$15,” the Legislature and governor approved AB 1228 last September boosting pay for 550,000 California fast-food workers to \$20 an hour beginning in April. The legislation also creates a Fast Food Council, comprised of employers, employees and government officials, to set wages and regulate working conditions in California fast food chains with more than 60 locations nationwide. Twenty dollars an hour is a starting point. Beginning in 2025, the Fast Food Council can annually mandate cost of living increases.

AB 1228 could foreshadow the next phase of the Fight for \$15 movement.

The Fight for \$15 movement began in 2012, when hundreds of New York fast food workers organized strikes to push for \$15 an hour and higher labor standards. By 2014, fast food strikes supported by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) spread to 190 cities nationwide. In California, fast food workers have waged more than 350 strikes and filed 300 wage and health and safety complaints. Additionally, thousands of low-wage janitors, hotel, airport, and healthcare workers have organized unions and launched strikes for higher wages.

Consequently, 12 states and 54 counties and cities enacted phased-in \$15-an-hour minimum wage laws. California was the first to pass a \$15 minimum wage in 2016. According to the National Employment Law Project, 26 million low-wage workers, on average, won pay increases of roughly \$6,000 annually for each affected worker.

Who are fast food workers and what do they want?

According to the UC Berkeley Labor Center, more than two-thirds of California’s fast-food workers are adults age 20 and older. Nearly 70 percent live in households with four or more people, and their wages contribute 40 percent of their family’s annual income. Two-thirds of California fast-food workers are women, eight out of ten are workers of color, and six out of ten are Latinx. Harvard and UC San Francisco researchers reported in 2022 that most fast-food workers are employed part-time, and most want more hours. The average hourly pay for a California fast-food worker is \$16.21 or just \$31,050 annually.

While there is a wide variation in the state, given different regional living costs, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Living Wage Calculator a living wage for California is more than \$30 an hour for two parents, each working full-time to support two children and pay for necessities.

In addition to a living wage, California fast food workers want stronger health and safety protections. The UC Berkeley Labor Center reported in 2021 that the pandemic hammered fast-food workers because of the difficulty of maintaining social distance, shortages of masks and gloves, lack of notification when workers contracted COVID-19 and customers who refused to wear masks.

One-third of fast-food workers received no

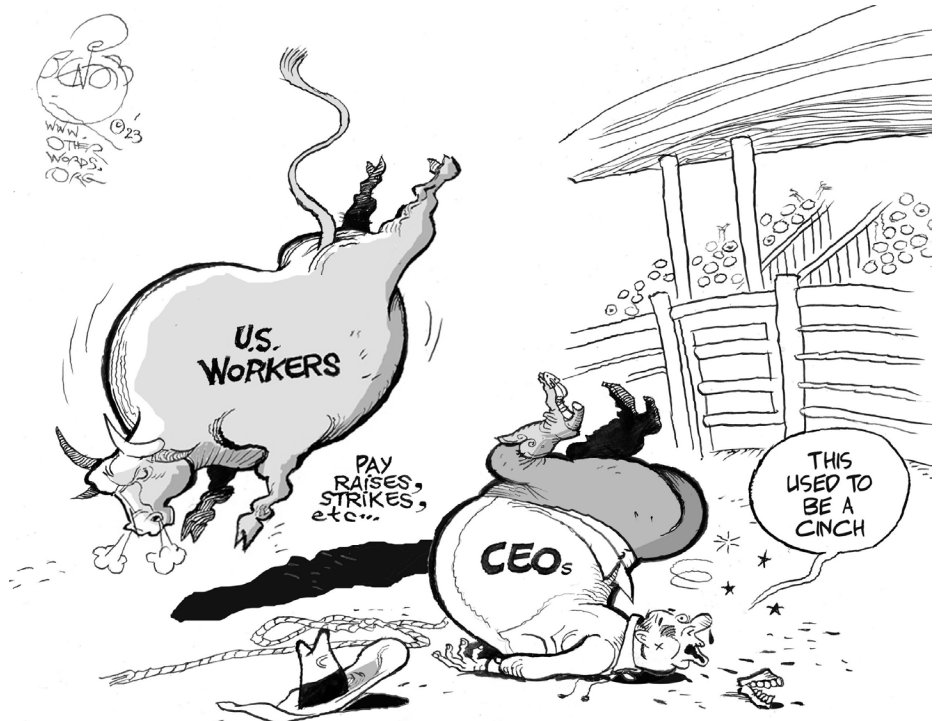
paid sick leave – forcing many to work when sick. Only slightly more than one in ten fast food workers received employer-provided health insurance, hence, prompt medical treatment for COVID-19 was problematic for many. Consequently, one-quarter of fast-food workers contracted the virus, and cooks had the highest increase in mortality for any occupation during the pandemic.

A 2022 UC Los Angeles Labor Center report found that fast food workers face numerous other workplace hazards, including exposure to sewer water, smoke and excessive indoor heat. Thirty-seven percent of fast-food workers experienced violence, such as racist slurs, physical threats, assaults, and robberies. Forty-three percent reported they were injured on the job.

The researchers also documented that wage theft and sexual harassment are widespread in the industry. In addition to setting wages, a Fast Food Council (also known as a labor standards or wage board) will be able to address these working conditions, and recommend changes that trigger governmental action. Experience with industry wide or sectoral bargaining in Europe and Australia demonstrates that boosting wages and improving working conditions benefits employees and employers. Workers will become more productive as turnover declines and increased retention promotes more training and acquiring new skills. Productivity is also enhanced when workers have a stronger voice on the job and do not fear employer retaliation.

Since 2018, seven states and cities nationwide have adopted labor standard boards, like the California Fast Food Council, for industries such as nursing homes, agriculture, transit, and domestic work. The Fight for \$15 has evolved into the Fight for \$20 or more. Sustained collective action by low-wage workers and their labor allies may lead to more states replicating the California fast-food model.

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



You Aren't Doing Activism Well If You Aren't Including Covid Justice

by Cecilia Sofranko

As we gather to fight for Palestine, for housing, and against all injustices, one crucial issue remains ignored – the Covid-19 pandemic, which is not and has never been over.

Wait. Don't let your eyes glaze over. Stay with me here. I promise it's worth it. If there's one thing I've learned lately, it's that propaganda is powerful. When President Biden declared the state of emergency over, and all mask requirements disappeared, most people believed it. It makes sense. The pandemic hit everyone hard and going back to a "normal" life sounds incredibly appealing. But life is never again going to be how we knew it, and the longer we ignore that, the worse it's going to get.

Let's dispel a few myths before we continue:

1. Covid is not like the flu or common cold. While your symptoms may be mild or nonexistent, Covid is a vascular disease affecting your brain with serious long-term repercussions. Being temporarily sick might be tolerable for some, but each infection damages the immune system, as well as increasing your odds of getting Long Covid. This has been proven to exacerbate or create chronic illness, cause brain fog and dysfunction, and worsen heart health, to name a few things. Large-scale studies show a long-term, substantial risk of cardiovascular disease after even an asymptomatic infection. There are no known treatments for Long Covid at this time.

2. A negative result on a rapid test does not mean you don't have Covid. Rapid tests were known to be faulty from the start, and with a current lack of funding and research to keep up with new variants, it has only gotten worse. Some people never test positive. Some don't until five or more days after symptoms begin. Swabbing your throat before also swabbing your nose can help provide a more accurate result. Never write off an illness as "not Covid" based on a single test.

3. Sanitizing surfaces alone will not protect you from Covid. It is an airborne virus with very little fomite (objects likely to carry infection) evidence. This means clean air is your best method of protection, not hand sanitizer. Clean air is achieved with ventilation, air purification, and a well-fitted high-filtration mask. Air chooses the path of least resistance, and that loose surgical mask just isn't going to cut it. Find a well-fitting KN95, N95, or better for optimal protection.

Wearing a well-fitted mask isn't just to keep you safe. It's a show of solidarity with community health and the single best way to protect others. Even if it isn't Covid, there is no downside to containing your germs and avoiding spreading illness to others. We know that Covid disproportionately affects black and brown communities, and keeps many immune-compromised people at home. If you miss socializing indoors, imagine how they feel. Wearing a mask is a sign of care and safety. "I am keeping the air clean so that you

Wearing a mask is a sign of care and safety. "I am keeping the air clean so that you can be here without fear."

can be here without fear." There are workers who have no option but to show up to their work every day where they are exposed to hundreds of unmasked customers. Given the state of the current job market, there is not often a choice.

With disability justice often being the most forgotten of the justices, it is imperative to think of all people when engaging in activism. You cannot ignore an active eugenic pandemic hospitalizing 20,000-35,000 people per week in the United States (the CDC Data Tracker as of December 30, 2023 showed 34,798 weekly hospitalizations), and disabling far more. We all become disabled at some point in life, or we die first. And it isn't until we ourselves become disabled, or are close to someone who is, that we see how few resources are available. There isn't a magical fix. The US does not provide sufficient aid and it's easy to ignore until it happens to you.

I'm writing these words hoping they will inspire the reader to further their personal advocacy, because those of us who are constantly advocating for ourselves are tired. We have decision fatigue. We are exhausted by the questions we have to ask our friends before seeing them, only to hear a rogue cough, or a "well I tested negative," or that their roommate is currently ill. Weighing the options of "do I try to engage in society today" versus "do I isolate and stay well" because no one is looking out for us the way we need them to, we are lonely, and sad, and tired. We want our lives back too.

I'm writing in hope of justice. Justice for the members of the disabled community who have barely left their hofuckTECHmes in four years. Justice for retail and grocery store workers. Justice for the anxious, the caring, the ill. Justice for all, and I mean, all.

The author recommends following @peoplescdc on Instagram for updates on the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. 🙌

Cecilia Sofranko is a creative and diverse artist, organizer, and business owner, and lifelong Sonoma County resident. They specialize in both artistic and technical approaches to business as well as social justice and volunteer work. You can find them on Instagram: @futchdaddie



US Promotion of Banned Fukushima Seafood Contradicts Biden's Cancer Initiatives

Japanese seafood banned by China, Russia and South Korea is headed for US military bases in Japan

by Kimberly Roberson, Truthout.org

During their first summit of the year on November 16, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida urged Chinese President Xi Jinping to end China's ban on imports of Japanese seafood imposed in response to Japan's discharging of radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific, telling Jinping, "I want to work with you to create a brighter future for Japan-China ties for the sake of the next generation."

The two leaders' agreement to seek a resolution in the dispute comes after Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel announced in October that the [United States military will buy bulk Japanese seafood](#) also banned by Russia and South Korea for U.S. service members stationed at military bases in Japan. About a month before the announcement, the Japanese embassy hosted a [sushi-tasting event at the White House](#) featuring seafood caught off the coast of Fukushima. G7 officials are now likewise calling for repeal on national bans of Japanese seafood.

The recent moves to try to greenlight Japanese seafood are going forward even as citizens and fishers from five prefectures in northeastern Japan filed a [lawsuit](#) demanding a halt to the Japanese government and Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) continued releases of Fukushima wastewater. The Pacific Island Forum's [18 nations](#) have likewise called on Japan to [stop its wastewater discharges](#).

Black rockfish from a harbor in the Fukushima Prefecture tested this past summer had 180 times Japan's acceptable limit of cesium as stated on TEPCO's [website](#). Moreover, nuclear energy education nonprofit Fairewinds Energy Education estimates that more than 70 percent of land in Fukushima Prefecture will [never be decontaminated](#). As with mercury and other heavy metals, radionuclides, including cesium-137, strontium-90, iodine-131, bioconcentrate in both seafood and land-based food.

I worked for an environmental organization after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986, so when Fukushima's triple nuclear meltdowns and quadruple explosions happened in 2011, I was alarmed. Chernobyl is still producing data showing illness nearly 40 years after its nuclear disaster began. Yury Bandazhevsky leads the European Commission-supported "Chernobyl: Ecology and Health" project in Ukraine. The project concluded that cesium-137 fallout at Chernobyl accumulates in organs and has genetic mutational effects.

So why is Fukushima seafood being promoted now? In July, the International Atomic Energy Agency completed [its final report](#) on the safety plan for dumping 1.3 million tons of radioactive wastewater in a process many firmly believe was [incomplete](#) and lacked transparency. In August, Japanese Prime Minister Kishida pro-

claimed seafood from Fukushima to be "safe and delicious."

But scientists know it's not safe. Japan's process for treating the wastewater, the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS), is controversial and has reportedly [failed](#) at least eight times in 10 years. Vitrification and cement storage are both viable alternatives to ALPS that were recommended by engineers and scientists but rejected by TEPCO.



Fishery workers sort out seafood caught in offshore trawl fishing at Matsukawaura port in Soma City, Fukushima prefecture, on September 1, 2023, about a week after Japan began discharging treated wastewater from the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Further, tritium and carbon-14 are just two of at least 62 radionuclides that have been found in Fukushima's wastewater. They won't be filtered at all, and the rest are highly questionable. Some have half-lives of thousands of years or longer. A compilation of 250 studies link cancer to the ingestion of tritium.

Nuclear fusion engineer Arjun Makhijani's book, *Exploring Tritium Dangers*, makes an urgent case for [establishing public health policy](#) that has been historically overlooked. Moreover, women and girls are much more likely to be stricken with cancer from human-made radiation than men and boys.

The United Nations expressed "deep regret" in 2021 over Japan's wastewater releases, stating it imposes considerable [risk to human rights](#). [Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights](#) Marcos Orellana, [Special Rapporteur on Right to Food](#) Michael Fakhri and [Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment](#) David Boyd released a joint [statement](#) declaring that Japan's "decision is particularly disappointing as experts believe alternative solutions to the problem are available."

Back in the U.S., parents and radiation experts, including myself,

Banned Fukushima Seafood...see page 15

China Is Not Our Enemy: An Overview of a Campaign to Bring Peace to the Pacific

by *Cale Holmes*

In 2020, during an unprecedented propaganda effort to beat the drums of war with China, CODEPINK launched the China Is Not Our Enemy campaign. For most of its history, and especially since 2001, United States foreign policy has been defined by contriving enemies out of other countries.

More than 4.5 million people have died in US-waged wars, from Afghanistan to Syria. In the run up to the invasion of Iraq, US leaders engaged in deceit to justify an ongoing atrocity. While the occupation of Iraq has only recently made headlines again, 21 years later, the catastrophe experienced by the Iraqi people is evident every day – the bombing of cities, lingering instability, economic stagnation, and a growing loss of life.

While many of the lies that enabled the war would not have justified US behavior even if they were true, polls show consent for the past decades of violence and aggression was successfully manufactured. The public discourse had become militarized, including with regards to China. And it's only escalated since President Obama's pivot to Asia and the Trump administration's openly anti-China presidency. The media is complicit in this demonization of China. NBC News, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal parroted US State Department and Pentagon officials when intelligence agencies claimed a spy balloon was collecting surveillance on sensitive US military bases.

Pentagon spokesperson Pat Ryder, and former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley, later admitted the spy balloon fiasco was a hoax. But in the aftermath, Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed a pact with Prime Minister James Marape to militarize Papua New Guinea against China. It also prompted increased hate crimes against Asian Americans, which were already at record highs due to the Trump-era lies based on cherry-picked intelligence that COVID-19 was leaked from a Chinese lab.

By the time his administration admitted it was a lie, the damage was done. That's why disarming the discourse is a focus for China Is Not Our Enemy. We have created a [toolkit](#) that educates the public on how to debunk anti-China propaganda. The toolkit points to examples of how intelligence agencies leak false or unverified information that portrays China as a country that's out to get the US. It also provides a [timeline](#) of the breakdown of China-US relations.

We also spend a lot of time hearing not only from [Chinese voices](#) but from [voices across the Asia-Pacific region](#) – from international policy advisor [John Pang](#) to Newsclack founding editor and political prisoner [Prabir Purkayastha](#). [Peace activists, journalists, researchers, and former intelligence community members](#) have helped us create an extensive video catalog of why war with China is a bad idea, why China is not our enemy, and how a normal relationship with China is the only way to solve global problems like [pandemics](#) and [nuclear warfare](#).

China, a country of 1.4 billion people and one of the world's largest economies, has never attacked the US. On the contrary, the US has attacked, and continues to threaten, China. From the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade to the military encirclement of China through military alliances like AUKUS and the presence of troops on Taiwan Island, the US, has spent years preparing for war with China.

Such a war would destabilize a society that has achieved hard-won social unity, massive reductions in extreme poverty, and one of the highest home-ownership rates in the world. China's priorities include making its education and health care systems more equitable, sending vaccines to some of the most underdeveloped countries, and mediating in war-torn regions. Chinese history is full of major [precedents of peacemaking](#).

China is not perfect, as many Chinese proud of these achievements will tell you, but all of that progress and positivity on the world stage would be destroyed in war. For China, it would spell perhaps another century of humiliation, just like the last one brought upon by foreign powers interfering in China's affairs. Many of our webinars also put the cold war with China into historical context, such as [our recent conversation with historian Ken Hammond](#) on why Kurt Campbell, who launched the pivot to Asia, is the wrong choice for Deputy Secretary of State.

We have been arduously working with groups, such as Pivot to Peace, to [stop the Senate from confirming Campbell for the number two position at the State Department](#). He is the co-founder of a Center for a New American Security (CNAS), which receives donations from weapons contractors and fossil fuel companies, and has a record of military base expansion and the human rights abuses. CNAS simulates war games between the US and China. CODEPINK delivered our petition to reject his nomination on January 12, 2024.

War with China would also be devastating for the rest of the world. There's not only the risk of nuclear war, which few can escape. But there's also potential destruction that would be first experienced by communities surrounding China in Guam, the Marshall Islands, Philippines, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, and elsewhere. It would be devastating for the US, where Asian Americans would continue to fear for their lives, face discrimination, and be forced to choose between their country and their heritage. It would ruin supply chains, which despite efforts by the US to decouple from, are still a key part of the American economy.

Working together with China is the only way we can save the world from the climate crisis. As President Xi Jinping said when he met President Joe Biden in San Francisco, "Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed." This mentality is necessary for any chance at limiting global warming to 1.5 centigrade. It's no surprise that China is seeking to de-escalate tensions in the South China Sea by pushing regional cooperation in renewable energy and negotiating a maritime non-aggression pact with its neighbors. The US relationship could look like this. And at China Is Not Our Enemy, we are campaigning for it with our petition [asking Biden to stop sending weapons and setting up bases around the world, and instead strike a climate finance deal with Beijing](#).

At the root, the China Is Not Our Enemy campaign is about affirming that another world is possible, a world without great power rivalry, arms races, colonization, white supremacy, hate crimes, sexual violence, pollution, and war. We stand for peace with China, and the entire world. To join us in our efforts visit www.codepink.org/china 🌍

Cale Holmes is a writer and peace activist who serves as CODEPINK's China Is Not Our Enemy Campaign Coordinator.

Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Victories for 2023

by Rebel Fagin

It was another good year in 2023, for the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Globally the following happened. The mayor of Barcelona, Spain suspended institutional relations with Israel. Oslo, Norway announced that it would be excluding purchases from companies that either directly or indirectly contribute to the illegal settlements. The cities of Liege and Verviers in Belgium voted to end all ties with Israel and to “strengthen its support for the Palestinian people.” The mayor of Belem, Brazil declared the city an Apartheid Free Zone. Indonesia called for the exclusion of Israel from the Men’s World Cup.

And in December, Puma sportswear dropped sponsorship of the Israel Football Association (IFA) as a result of a targeted, global BDS campaign. This happened because many people protested and occupied Puma’s offices and shops, and convinced individual teams, athletes, artists and stores to boycott Puma. They jammed inboxes and phone lines with requests that Puma drop sponsorship of Team Israel. After a five-year campaign, Puma dropped sponsorship. BDS works and it takes work.

Also, this last year, The Canadian Union of Public Employees, representing 37,000 workers, announced its support for BDS. The governor of Bali, following the example of Indonesia, also demanded that Israel be dropped from the Men’s World Cup competition. Grammy award winner, Sam Smith cancelled their performance in Israel following massive pressure from their fans, and supporters of justice for Palestine. The South African Rugby Union rescinded an invitation to play in Israel. US tech firms Electronic Arts, Dropbox and Corning have all shut down operations in Israel and moved elsewhere, citing a lack of confidence in Israel’s economy.

The Indigo Music Festival cancelled an event in Sinai following pressure led by BDS Egypt. The Balkan Trafik Festival in Belgium ended its partnership with Israel. Then in June, G4S decided to totally divest from Israel. G4S is one of the world’s largest security companies, offering its services to governments, corporations,

universities, churches, and elsewhere. G4S has an extensive, violent record of human rights abuses against prisoners, migrants and others. These abuses made large-scale coalition building possible. The campaign began in 2012n first with churches, then unions, universities, restaurant chains and others that dropped G4S services due to its abuses. Eleven years later it was a victory for Palestine.

Recently international sanctions have grown, many of them due to Israel’s slaughter in Gaza and the West Bank. More than 17 European Union (EU) countries, as well as Bolivia, Bahrain, Chad, Chile, Columbia, Honduras, Jordan, Turkey and South Africa are all participating in some form of sanctions, from ending trade relations to removing ambassadors. The list grows as the murders in Gaza and the West Bank continue.

Meanwhile in the US, the number of states with anti-BDS laws has increased. As of November 2023, 37 states have passed such laws. These laws state that if you want to do business with the state you cannot actively support BDS. This is mostly the result of well-financed lobbying coming from the Israel Allies Foundation out of Jerusalem. According to a 2019 poll from the University of Maryland, 72 percent of Americans oppose these laws. When these laws get challenged in court, they are usually overturned due to their legal flimsiness as they violate Americans’ First Amendment rights. So far, the US Supreme Court has refused to rule on the issue.

Apartheid Free Zones, where there is pro-active support for Palestine and no products that support the occupation of Palestine are available, are growing. There are over 100 in Spain. They are all over Europe and plentiful in Latin America. In the US there are Apartheid Free Zones in New Orleans, Durham, Portland and even Santa Rosa. Apartheid Free Zones can be shops, local businesses, social institutes, restaurants, cultural centers and public institutes. You can start one where you work and play today. Go to bdsmovement.net to learn how.

BDS is working as it moves more into international sanctions.

Sources: bdsmovement.net, Wikipedia, Aljazeera 🌿



Israeli Apartheid Week
March 1st - 31st 2024
March for Palestine: Stop Genocide; Dismantle Apartheid!
LINK: bdsmovement.net 2024 MarchForPalestine

The Weaponization of Anti-Semitism

by Lois Pearlman

Are you Jewish, or a person who would never discriminate against Jews? Even with these bona fides, if you dare to criticize Israel, the Zionist propaganda machine wants the world to believe you are anti-Semitic. Even if you are neutral on the issue of Palestine/Israel, but fail to come down hard enough on those who support Palestine, they will still label you an “anti-Semite.”

How could that be? Ask Liz Magill, former president of the University of Pennsylvania and Claudine Gay, the former president of Harvard. These two women were forced to resign their posts after ultra right wing New York Representative Elise Stefanik questioned their responses during a House Committee on Education and the

This phenomenon, conflating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism, is known as the weaponization of anti-Semitism.

Workforce hearing late last year.

“Does the call for genocide of Jews on your campus constitute harassment, yes or no,” Stefanik asked Magill and Gay, as well as MIT president Sally Kornbluff.

Of course this was a purely rhetorical question, since nobody on their campuses had called for “the genocide of Jews.” So the three presidents offered a hypothetical and totally legal response. They said, “It depends upon the circumstances.”

It turns out that what Stefanik was claiming as a “call for the genocide of Jews” was the chant “From the river to the sea Palestine will be free.” But this chant speaks for the equality of all people in Palestine/Israel and has nothing to do with killing anyone. One does not have to kill off the “enemy” in order to be free, especially when one wants this “enemy” to enjoy the same freedom.

Not good enough, claimed Stefanik, a staunch supporter of Donald Trump. And she blasted the three presidents on social media, causing the universities’ wealthy Zionist donors to threaten to withdraw their funding. Kornbluff survived the trumped up charges of anti-Semitism, but Gay and Magill were forced to resign.

This phenomenon, conflating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism, is known as the weaponization of anti-Semitism.

It’s an interesting and obviously inaccurate concept, in light of the mobilization of thousands of Jews who have been rallying in support of Gaza and demanding a ceasefire of Israel’s assault on the Gaza – an assault that has already claimed the lives of more than 24,000 Gazans. Is a person anti-Semitic because they support the rights of everyone, including Palestinians? Common sense says, “no way.” But the Israel lobby says anyone who doesn’t unequivocally support Israel is an anti-Semite.

A major tool in this attempt to conflate anti-Zionism, or any sort of support for Palestinians, with anti-Semitism, is a controversial definition of anti-Semitism promulgated by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). In addition to the commonly accepted understanding of anti-Semitism as hatred of Jews or discrimination against Jews, the IHRA definition includes several

examples of so-called anti-Semitism, which are actually criticisms of the Israeli government, not attacks on Jewish people.

One such example is “Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.”

By that definition, the findings of Amnesty International, the Israeli human rights group B’Tselem and Human Rights Watch, that Israel is an apartheid state, are anti-Semitic. An apartheid government is, by definition, a “racist endeavor.” Never mind that many of the people involved in writing and presenting these reports are Jewish.

Unfortunately dozens of countries, and US states and municipalities, have either adopted or endorsed this IHRA definition. Although it is not a legally binding definition, it does serve to warn anyone willing to criticize Israel over its treatment of Palestinians that they had better watch their step.

This is, of course, the main objective of the weaponization of anti-Semitism – to silence Israel’s critics and Palestine’s supporters. But there is also another problem with defining anti-Zionism as a form of anti-Semitism. It dilutes the genuine danger of real anti-Semitism, which is on the rise.

Currently the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is claiming that anti-Semitic incidents in the US have skyrocketed 360 percent over the numbers from 2022. And the mainstream media, ever eager for sensationalism, is buying it without taking a critical look at what that means. But, since the ADL characterizes any rallies “with anti-Zionist chants and slogans” as “anti-Semitic,” this figure now includes incidents critical of Israel but not of Jews or Jewish organizations.

An investigation by the Jewish Forward found that 1,683 of the 3,000 incidents the ADL claimed as anti-Semitic were actually anti-Zionist. Organizations like the Anti-Defamation League, originally

This is, of course, the main objective of the weaponization of anti-Semitism – to silence Israel’s critics and Palestine’s supporters.

founded to combat anti-Semitism in America, are so focused on the bogus definition put out by the IHRA that they are neglecting the genuine anti-Semitism, which is mostly practiced by white supremacists and other ultra right-wingers.

And here’s another example of the danger of ignoring genuine anti-Semitism in favor of supporting Israel. A major Israel lobbying organization, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has dumped millions of dollars into the political campaigns of dozens of racists, election deniers, anti-Semites and homophobes, as long as they pledge to keep US funding flowing into Israel’s coffers.

So the Israel lobby is supporting genuine anti-Semites while discrediting people and organizations that simply want justice for Palestinians. It seems Israel and its allies are playing a shell game that not only makes the world less safe for Palestinians and Jews, but for all of us. 🙄

Lois Pearlman is a member of [North Coast Coalition for Palestine and Sonoma County for Palestine](#).

Occupation: Palestine and Puerto Rico

by Candice Valentine Collier

When I was asked to speak at a pro-Palestine weekly protest in Santa Rosa, I'm not going to lie... I was apprehensive at first. I didn't feel it was my place, so I hesitated, and didn't speak that week. Then I thought about it more that night. I thought about my sister-in-law, Maysa, who has already lost 22 members of her family to the genocide in Gaza.

Maysa and I have been coming to the Sunday demonstrations in support of Palestine, and to end the siege on Gaza. We have not only bonded as sisters, but as individuals whose family origins are deeply rooted in racism in occupied territories. You see, my mother was born in Puerto Rico, as was her maternal line dating back to before the time of colonization of their island by Columbus.

Every human being, from every walk of life, regardless of race, age, ethnicity, and background, deserves to live without oppression.

If there is a territory with similarities to Gaza, it is Puerto Rico. Just one of many colonies in this world, Puerto Rico has had its share of oppression. In 1898 The US invaded Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans began to peacefully protest this occupation. Many were shot and killed, including children. While advocating for their independence, Puerto Ricans were harassed, and spied on, and their every single move was monitored. This led to the Puerto Rican resistance. Those resisting the occupation were labeled terrorists. They were attacked and bombed for simply standing up for their rights as human beings.

During this time, the US seized the Puerto Rican island of Vieques and forced the inhabitants from their homes. Their land was bulldozed, and for the next 60 years the island of Vieques was used as a weapons test site by the US military. To this very day, there are still live bombs on the beaches of the island. After years of protests, Vieques was turned into a tourist destination with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. But even behind the beauty there still lurks danger to this day.

My sister told me of an incident that happened some years back. Since the majority of our abuela's (grandmother's) family is still living on the island, my sister visits frequently. One day, when she was in Vieques with family and friends, they found a gorgeous secluded beach. So, naturally, they started to explore, not seeing the warning signs posted inconspicuously. It wasn't until a man, fishing on a boat nearby, started to shout at them in Spanish, that one of them realized they were standing on a beach with active mines left by the US military. They were warned to leave the area immediately.

There are so many awful and unfair things Puerto Ricans experience during occupation. They are not allowed to vote in presidential elections, but they are allowed to join the military and lay their lives down for the United States. During the era of my great-abuela, who unfortunately passed at a young age, women were sterilized without their knowledge. I am writing this because I highly doubt this is something you can learn in a school history book. In fact, stories like this seem to be getting lost more and more over time. This is terrifying because that's when history tends to repeat itself.

What I am describing is happening in other occupied territories of the US. The Maui wildfire is a good example. Colonization replaced moist native fauna with agribusiness, tourist development and non-native grasses, all of which allowed the fire to spread rapidly killing hundreds of people (editor's note). We all know of the land grabs that happen in occupied territories. I am grateful to see more and more people awakening to this reality. It gives me hope. We must come together to make big changes, in a collaborative effort to end these inhumane colonial occupations.

Every human being, from every walk of life, regardless of race, age, ethnicity, and background, deserves to live without oppression. What I see happening today in Gaza is a modern day holocaust.

There's really no other word for it. In just a little over a hundred days, Israel has murdered over 25,000 people. But unlike what happened during the WWII holocaust, we are watching this all take place in real time, thanks to live feeds by courageous journalists on the ground. People's eyes are finally opening, seeing things for what they truly are. The world is waking up to the reality of the consequence of occupation.

We absolutely must keep being loud. Not only for the people of Gaza, but the people of Syria, Congo, Yemen, and every other oppressed nation of the world. My son recently asked me why I go out and protest on behalf of Palestine every week. I told him, I march for my sister-in-law Maysa, to be a voice for the members of her family who no longer have their voice. I march for our friend Reem, who also lost several family members and loved ones to this genocide.

I March because 30 years from now, if I am asked where I was during this modern day holocaust, I will be able to say I was standing on the right side of history. I will be able to say I remained loud for my Palestinian brothers and sisters. I will remember the compassion I have for human beings, other than myself. Now is the time to decide, what side of history you want to be on. ✊

Candice Collier is mother of 4, musician, and human rights activist.

sonomacountyforpalestine.com

february 5-11 events

Monday 2/5

Petaluma City Council Meeting*

No group actions planned, individuals can submit comment

Tuesday 2/6

"Israelism" Documentary Showing*

Party for Socialism & Liberation

Peace & Justice Center, Santa Rosa, 7pm

Saturday 2/10

Petaluma Rally for Palestine*

Putnam Plaza Petaluma, 2-3:30pm

Sunday 2/11

Weekly Protest

Old Courthouse Square Santa Rosa, 2-3:30pm

Ongoing Actions

Write to SC Commission on Human Rights to hold a special session to vote on a ceasefire resolution

Sign and circulate the proposed ceasefire resolutions for Petaluma City Council and Santa Rosa City Council

*event organized by friends of SCFP

Julian Assange Update – Showdown on Press Freedom

by **Barry Barnett**

“It cuts out the First Amendment.” Daniel Ellsberg

February 21, 2024 is the [deadline](#) for British judges to decide whether Wikileaks founder Julian Assange should be extradited to the US to stand trial for “espionage” and “computer hacking.”

Hillary Clinton, Mike Pompeo, and Donald Trump have much to answer for.

Hillary Clinton, with the Democratic National Committee, rigged the primary so Sen. Bernie Sanders would not be the 2016 Democratic candidate for president. Wikileaks found and fired off her smoking emails with campaign manager John Podesta, right before her November 2016 face-off with Trump. He won, maybe partly from the public’s perception of her as a crook.

Hilary Clinton famously retorted, “Can’t we just drone him?” (Assange.)

Mike Pompeo, CIA director at the time, also had murderous intent on his mind. He planned to kidnap (disappear) or poison Assange, since the pompous head spook couldn’t seem to flush Assange out of the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he was holed up for seven long years. Pompeo hired a Spanish outfit to spy on him, surveilling private conferences with Assange’s doctors,

(selective memory), and Trump’s justice department indicted Assange on [18 counts](#) of espionage and computer hacking, which could have totaled 175 years in a US prison. There were 17 counts of espionage, for 10 years each, and one count of working (with Chelsea Manning) to determine a secret password and break into intelligence files, for five years.

This was a first, both for charging a publisher, and for charging a non-American citizen, also not residing in his own country.

The US government has guaranteed that Assange, now 52, would not be placed in solitary confinement nor subjected to cruel or unusual punishment, but you know how good the government’s promises are. Weapons of mass destruction, anyone?

A court in New York has now ruled that UC Global, the Spanish surveillance company, and the CIA (Coups Importing Agency) [violated](#) the constitutional rights and privacy of US citizens when they met with Wikileaks’s founder Julian Assange at Ecuador’s embassy in London. Ironically and hypocritically, UC Global unlawfully photographed mobile phone secret passwords and content, making visitors turn in electronics in order to visit Assange.

If Assange is extradited, he will certainly be convicted in the Star Chamber of the Eastern Division of Virginia. This court specializes in classified document leaks. The Department of Justice, assisted by the FBI, the National Security Division, and grand juries, [states](#) he is being charged for leaking information disclosing the names of vulnerable sources in war zones, not for leaking classified documents nor publishing itself. He is also being charged also for assisting Chelsea Manning in hacking into military computers.

Congress has finally written bipartisan letters to supposedly Democratic Attorney General

Merrick Garland, initiated by Palestinian-American Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI). One Australian PM, Anthony Albanese, has finally spoken out in defense of his countryman since winning the election May 21, 2022. “Enough is enough.” Though both Biden and Secretary of Hate, I mean State Antony Blinken have disagreed with him.

There have been [virtual](#) political rallies, many demonstrations in London and around the world, and websites for donations to the [Assange Legal Defense Fund](#). I donated. Some major newspapers, including ones that gladly utilized Wikileaks data for exposés, but ignored or even disparaged Assange, are finally arguing against extradition, which should have been done years ago, to protect reporters, publishers, and sources.

The US House of representatives has passed the Reporter’s Shield Law to protect him and others. Now it goes to the Senate. I hope it picks up speed fast.

The United Nations, on Feb. 5, 2016, ruled that Assange should walk free and also be compensated for his “deprivation of liberty.” Pres. Biden can free the almost tortured to death, celebrated Australian journalist and publisher with a flourish of his quill. British law precludes extraditing anyone involved in a political dispute. Clearly, Julian Assange is a political prisoner. Now is the time for assiduous protest. His wife and children need him home. 🙌

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist. Website, free of charge to read: Patreon.com/BarryBarnett. Also at counterpunch.org/archives and bohemian.com/archives. Feedback welcome at barymuse123@gmail.com

Some major newspapers, including ones that gladly utilized Wikileaks data for exposés, but ignored or even disparaged Assange, are finally arguing against extradition, which should have been done years ago, to protect reporters, publishers, and sources.

lawyers, and his lover, later wife Stella Moris (née Sara González Devant), with whom he secretly had two sons. He got away with that, at least.

Assange had been granted asylum by Ecuador in its London embassy in June 2012. After Lenin Moreno succeeded progressive Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa on February 17, 2017, Trump offered Ecuador \$4.4 billion in aid, on the condition that Assange’s Ecuadorian citizenship be revoked. It was done. On April 11, 2019, the London Metropolitan Police broke into Assange’s quarters in the embassy and dragged him out, incarcerating him in London’s notorious Belmarsh Prison, where he endured solitary confinement, maximum security conditions, and extremely limited access to visitors, attorneys, computers, and media for nearly five years. All his appeals have been exhausted.

President Obama considered indicting Assange for publishing the biggest leak in history – about 740,000 reports of classified CIA documents, Vault 7, containing proof of many US military war crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq. It included a short [video](#) that went viral, “Collaterale Murder,” showing American helicopter pilots in Iraq deliberately gunning down innocent civilians, including a child and two Reuter’s reporters.

But Obama decided that Assange’s First Amendment rights protected him. However, when candidate Trump found out about the leak of Clinton’s emails, he said he loved Assange and Wikileaks. But later, after the exposure of Vault 7, then President Trump said he really didn’t know anything about Julian Assange or Wikileaks

What Will it Take to Defeat Big Oil?!

by *Woody Hastings*

Here's one quick answer to that question. It will take people joining together to get the job done. As in so many struggles for peace, justice, and a livable planet, a united front against deep-pocketed polluters and their enablers is what is needed. We all have a role to play. Here's how you can keep yourself informed, join with others, engage, and take action.

Here's some good news. We live in California, the fifth-largest economy in the world. California also has a reputation as a climate champion and many other states and countries follow California's lead. Models of success in California often spread beyond our borders. By focusing on policy right here in our own state we can have global impact.

Now here's some not-so-good news. California, with all of the strides we have made on climate, is still a major oil and gas state in terms of both production and consumption. We are the seventh largest oil producer and fourth largest fossil gas producer in the nation.

But there is no plan in place to stop the import, refining, or export of crude oil. In fact, we currently export about 30 percent more finished fossil fuels than the state needs. So, although California ranks second only to Texas in terms of per capita in-state consumption of petroleum, we produce more than we need. Therefore, we can start the transition off fossil fuels today.

Three urgent reasons among many why we need to rapidly phase out fossil fuels:

- Working-class communities of color are [suffering serious health consequences](#) from living near oil and gas operations, everything from extraction to refining to end-use. Cancer, heart disease, premature birth, asthma, and other lung diseases are among the many maladies that oil and gas pollution inflict on these communities. This is a public health emergency that needs far greater attention, and meaningful regulation.
- The industry is spending millions of dollars to push false solutions such as biofuels, hydrogen, and carbon capture and storage. These only serve to either prolong the hazardous petroleum era or introduce new polluting industries, which repeat mistakes of the past.
- Last, but certainly not least, the climate crisis, which is a crisis dictated by the laws of physics, demands that swift action be taken to rapidly phase out fossil and other polluting fuels. [According to NASA](#), 2023 was the hottest year on record by far globally. In fact, many scientists are confident that the latest global temperatures are [higher than they have been in over 100,000 years](#).

So what will it take? In a nutshell, it will take a comprehensive plan for a truly just transition for oil and gas industry workers, their families, and the communities in which they live. These communities are, quite often, dependent on the industry for their tax base. That would mean a transition into high-road employment in careers in the growing clean energy economy that is, as I write this, driving down demand for fossil fuels. It would take the plan-

ning and implementation of an equity-centered, labor-friendly oil and gas production decline protocol, where these industries are mandated to reduce production, year over year, commensurate with the decline of in-state demand as the clean energy economy emerges.

Some ways you can unite with others and help end the fossil fuel era:

- Each legislative session, the oil industry shows up to kill good climate and energy legislation and push bad bills. If you live in Sonoma County, think about volunteering with The Climate Center's [Rapid Response Team](#), a small but mighty group that takes swift action when needed.
- Endorse the [Climate Safe California](#) platform, a set of policies that will enable California to remove more climate pollution from the atmosphere than we emit, while creating thousands of jobs and building a more equitable clean energy economy. You can [endorse it as an individual or get any organization you are a member of to endorse](#).

... although California ranks second only to Texas in terms of per capita in-state consumption of petroleum, we produce more than we need. Therefore, we can start the transition off fossil fuels today.

- This year, the oil industry has placed a terrible initiative on the ballot, aimed at reversing legislation passed in 2022 that creates a 3200-foot buffer between oil wells and homes. Unite with others to defeat this initiative and protect public health at the [Campaign for a Safe & Healthy California](#). On November 5, vote to "keep the law!"
- Help stop California from providing subsidies and tax breaks for the fossil fuel industry. Visit our [Action Page](#) on this issue where you can send a letter to the governor.
- Join with others in a [legislative campaign](#) to divest California's two largest retirement funds from fossil fuel companies.
- Get to know your local not-for-profit energy service provider, [Sonoma Clean Power](#), and their [Advanced Energy Center](#) at 741 4th St. Santa Rosa. Take advantage of their many money saving energy efficiency and clean energy programs.
- [Find your state representatives](#) and tell them you support strong legislation to phase out fossil fuels on a fast-paced timeline.

Woody Hastings is the Phase Out Polluting Fuels Program Manager for The Climate Center, a statewide climate and energy policy nonprofit working to rapidly reduce climate pollution at scale, starting in California. He can be reached at woody@theclimatecenter.org. Since 2001 The Climate Center has been a leader in making climate solutions a reality in California at speed and scale. www.theclimatecenter.org

IMPORTANT READING – PART TWO

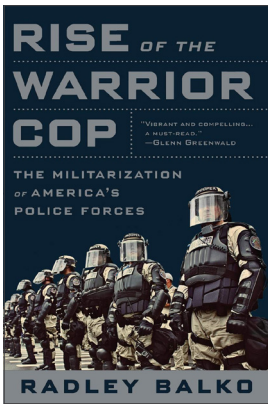
by Susan Collier Lamont

In its last issue, the Peace Press published an article on a few books, which have educated me about history, ideas and culture. In this article I would like to share a few more.

These are three more books, which have informed me on the many influences that have brought the United States to this very ugly moment in our history. I was raised with fewer American myths than the average white suburban kid in the 50s, but I still believed in a few of them. I no longer do. Believing them hasn't served us well. The people who run this country, within government and without, are soulless and brutal. Read these books to find out more.

And, if you have read some books that you consider to be of singular importance, please share them with the *Peace Press*. Inquiring minds want to know!

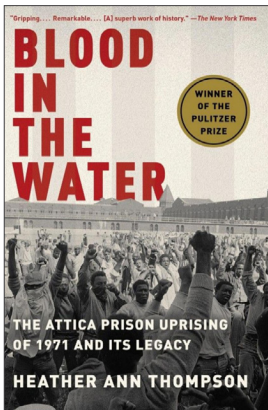
***Rise of the Warrior Cop: The Militarization of America's Police Forces* (pub. 2013) by Radley Balko**



This is a heavily documented book, which explains how we got where we are as a policed people with few rights when confronted by law enforcement officers. Balko comes from the libertarian right, but readers on the left will find common cause with him on this issue. Much of his explanation comes as a result of the War on Drugs, which found its storm troopers in both the Republican and Democratic parties, making it easier to gut civil liberties. Law enforcement and the legal institutions that back it

have been granted impunity with little accountability. We are currently trying, across the country and locally, to reduce that impunity and increase accountability. While we do that work, it is good to know just how the roadblocks have been erected to try to keep us from succeeding.

***Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy* (pub. 2016) by Heather Thompson**



Continuing the theme of deceiving the public, we have Thompson's book, which proves that everything we were told about Attica was a lie — a lie that went from the prison through local law enforcement and government through the governor of New York (Nelson Rockefeller) and up to the President of the United States (Richard Nixon). Yes, this is another heavily footnoted book (more than 100 pages!), which won the Pulitzer Prize in History in 2017. It relies on many thousands of previously unpublished documents about the

prison conditions preceding the uprising, the uprising itself and the decades of legal battles that followed. Thompson found thousands of pages of documents in the Eric County Courthouse and spent untold hours making notes and copying some of the documents. When journalist Tom Wicker, who heard of the documents through

Thompson, went to view them, the documents had disappeared, and he was told that they had never existed. The work by government to keep us ill informed is ongoing. And, if you're concerned about violence in America, read about the prison guards and local law enforcement. Men like this live, work and raise children in our communities, just like the violent men in Turse's book (reviewed in the last *Peace Press*) who fought in Vietnam.

***The Privatization of Everything: How the Plunder of Public Goods Transformed America and How We Can Fight Back* (pub. 2021) by Donald Cohen and Allen Mikaelian**



Every time you hear one of your elected "representatives" use the phrase "public-private partnership," beware. You're about to be fleeced. The refusal to tax the wealthy and corporations appropriately, from the local level to the national, has resulted in an excuse for underfunding public services (but not the military). That then becomes the excuse for turning to the private sector to "help" provide the services. The result is that a service now has a price tag for profit added to it and an excuse for gutting worker pay. This book provides

many examples of this fleecing of the public. Whether we're talking about the shredding of the social safety net, the gutting of public education, the health care system, safe water and free roads, or the viability of democracy itself, you'll find it here. Just one signed, sealed and delivered result of the economic philosophy that is documented in *Democracy in Chains*, reviewed in the last issue. 🙌

Banned Fukushima Seafood... from page 9

filed a [citizen petition](#) with the Food and Drug Administration after learning that cesium-134 and -137 were detected in cow's milk, Pacific Bluefin tuna, which migrate from Fukushima waters to California, and more. The FDA [lifted all food restrictions](#) on Japanese seafood in 2021.

President Joe and First Lady Jill Biden's own experience in a military family who lost a son to cancer drives their commitment to honorable initiatives like the [Cancer Moonshot](#), which aims to build a world where we prevent cancer before it starts. Their ambitious initiative is now at odds with a U.S. government [contract](#) to buy bulk Fukushima seafood for U.S. service members and their families stationed in Japan.

President Biden's Cancer Moonshot and other admirable health initiatives strive to understand and prevent environmental exposures. We need to learn from hard lessons and crucial research to inform decisions, especially as concentrations of cancer [continue to plague](#) the U.S. public. There are certainly better options than providing seafood from a radioactive marine environment to U.S. service members and their families — or anyone else.

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Kimberly Roberson is project director of Fukushima Fallout Awareness Network, affiliated with the National Institute for Science, Law, and Public Policy.

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District Offices, 9250 Laguna Springs Drive

Suite 220, Elk Grove, CA 95758,

Tel: (916) 670-7888

Capitol Office: State Capitol

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Tel: (916) 319-2010

Assemblymember Jim Wood

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

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

Nearest local office:

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

U.S. Representative Mike Thompson

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

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Relay Fax: 202-224-0454

padilla.senate.gov/content/contact-senator**U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein**

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feinstein@senate.gov**California Gov. Gavin Newsom**

State Capitol, Sacramento, Ste. 1173, CA 95814

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

governor@governor.ca.gov**Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis**

State Capital, Rm. 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Citizen Comment: (202) 456-1111

(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 Joseph R. Biden

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**ACLU Sonoma Co.**, working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. sonomaaclu.org**Allies Safety Network** – compiling a phone chain/helpline to build a safety network for those at risk of harassment to provide a supportive presence in situations of hateful threats. Join the Network Call List: 583-9168**Alternatives to Violence** – Presents experiential workshops in personal growth in the community and prisons. 545-1798**The Climate Center** – Rapid Response Team, benderjane613@gmail.com, 707-291-5988 or info@speakeasies.biz, 707-494-9495. theclimatecenter.org**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**Green Party of Sonoma County** – sonomagreenparty.org**Green Sangha** – Spiritually engaged environmental action. info@greensangha.org**HPEACE** – Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. hpeacesonomacounty.wordpress.com**Healdsburg Peace Project** – Peace and social justice action group, Healdsburg. 431-1129, healdsburgpeaceproject.org**Hate Free Petaluma** Progressive organization.www.facebook.com/hatefreepetaluma/**Homeless Action** – Advocating for people without shelter. 795-2890**Indivisible Goups** – All the groups are on Facebook.**Indivisible Sonoma County:** indivisiblesoco.com**Indivisible Petaluma:** indivisiblepetaluma@gmail.com,

or follow on Twitter at @IndivisibleLuma

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com**Indivisible Healdsburg****Indivisible Windsor****LezResist!** A visible unified Lesbian presence in support of each other, and stand in solidarity with the many communities, causes, and policies under attack by the US administration. Info @ LezResist@gmail.com.**LGBTQ Connection, Napa & Sonoma Counties** – Sonoma County, 714 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401, 707-582-0552, emersonnaptqconnection.org**Listening for a Change** – Programs support listening and oral history to create a caring community. 578-5420, listeningforachange.org **MEChA de Sonoma** – Student group that focuses on issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community. info@mechadesonoma.org**Los Cien** – advances belonging, trust and equity by engaging with community, facilitating honest dialogue, elevating Latinx pride and power in So.Co. loscien.org**Metta Center for Nonviolence** – Works to promote and build a nonviolent culture worldwide. 774-6299**MOVES-Minimizing Occurrences of Violence in Everyday Society** – Stresses nonviolence as the answer to society's ph. 524-1900**NAACP - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. naacpsantarosasonomaco.org Email: naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com 707.536.1047**National Women's History Project** – coordinates observances of Women's History month around the country. 636-2888, nwhp@aol.com**North Bay Jobs with Justice** – organized for better conditions and a living wage for workers. Email: northbayjobswithjustice@gmail.com, Website: northbayjobswithjustice.org, www.facebook.com/nbjwj Ph: 346-1187**North Bay Organizing Project** – a regional community organization. www.facebook.com/NorthBayOrganizingProject 318-2818**North Coast Coalition for Palestine** – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 575-8902. www.nccpal.org or find us on Facebook.**NOW of Sonoma County** – local chapter of the National Organization for Women. 545-5036**Occupy Sonoma County** – Embraces the egalitarian, deep democracy principles of the Occupy Movement with a regional strategy for effectively organizing county-wide social justice campaigns that are globally relevant. 877-6650, OccupySonomaCounty.org**Organizing for Action:** Progressive organizing project. Contact Linda Hemenway: whatisworking@gmail.com or 707-843-6110 and Facebook**Peace Alliance** – Mission is to campaign for a cabinet-level US Department of Peace. 838-8647, maggik3@sonic.net, thepeacealliance.org**Peace Roots Alliance** – We seek to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world for future generations. 765-0196, Linda@peaceroots.org**Petaluma Blacks for Community Development** – facebook.com/pb4cd**Petaluma Progressives** – Grassroots, political education and action group. Producers of the Progressive Festival. 763-8134, info@progressivefestival.org**Praxis Peace Institute** – Peace Education organization, 939-2973, praxispeace.org**Progressive Sonoma** – Peaceful Resistance Network.An umbrella association to network Sonoma's local progressive action groups. peacefulresistance9.wix-site.com/progressivesonoma. Facebook at Peaceful Resistance Sonoma**Project Censored/Media Freedom Foundation** – Publishes the top 25 most censored news stories each year. Mickey@projectcensored.org. projectcensored.org.**Racial Justice Allies** – Developing anti-racist practices among white social justice activists. 795-2890 racialjusticeallies@gmail.com, www.racialjusticeallies.org**Sonoma County Black Forum:** Our mission is to lead, serve, and thrive, by promoting positive community and youth engagement events. Monthly meetings. sonomacountyblackforum@gmail.com**Physicians for a National Health Program, Sonoma County (PNHP)** In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925. sngold@juno.com. pnhpca.org.**Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCo CAN!)** Groups and individuals working address and reverse climate change. Meet in months with a 5th Monday, 7-9 PM at the PJC. Info: 595-0320 or SonomaCountyCAN@gmail.com (email preferred).**Sonoma County Coastal Hills:** gardens@mcn.org**Sonoma County for Palestine:**sonomacountyforpalestine.com,facebook.com/SonomaCountyforPalestine,instagram.com/SonomaCountyforPalestine**Sonoma County Nonviolence Training Collective** offers free trainings in methods and principles for progressive social change and peace. soconvtc@gmail.com.**Sonoma County Resistance** via change.org**Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock** – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. SonomaSolidarity.org, facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL. 795-1044.**Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice** – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. audreyvh@sbcglobal.net**Sunrise Movement, Sonoma County Hub** – Our hub believes in the power of mobilizing youth, taking direct and indirect action, building political power, civic engagement, and partnerships. More info: www.sunrisesoco.org and facebook.com/SunriseSoCo**SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice, Sonoma County)** – facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty**United Farm Workers** – 1700 Corby Ave., Santa Rosa 528-3039**United Nations Association** – Builds public understanding and support for the United Nations. Facebook**Veterans for Peace** – Organization of vets working together for peace and justice through nonviolence. 536-6002**VIDAS - Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services** 576 B St Suite 1C, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, vidaslegal.org Sonoma County, Napa County, Solano County Providing Low-Cost, Immigration Law Services, Advocacy, and Community Education. (707) 523-1740, Spanish/English, Monday-Friday 9am-1pm and 2-5pm**Legal Assistance Women in Black** – Women who stand in silent vigil to protest war and human rights abuses.**Women's Justice Center** – Advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse, particularly in the Latina community. 575-3150, justicewomen.com**For additions or changes, email zenekar2@gmail.com type "PEACE PRESS" on Subject line.***Let the politicians know
you're watching them.*



About Huong Ana, artist, whose mural is on the cover of this issue of the Peace Press

A young Journalist at the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, Huong climbed aboard of one of the last refugee boats at the fall of Saigon, carrying her infant son in arms. She first settled in Alaska where she swapped her pen for a brush to paint out the emotions within her. Eventually she launched an art career that has captured the attention of art audiences and critic internationally. Huon's paintings collectively form a body of work addressing the global issues of war and peace. Through thousands of painted canvases her Peace Mural is a symbol of Huong's determination to purge our culture from the ways of war and to call forth a culture of Peace.

The Mural is both deeply spiritual and environmental reflective as it calls forth citizen and community response, but most of all, it resonates a challenge and change the attitude from human responsibility toward the critical environmental destruction to our mother earth. *You can make a difference!*

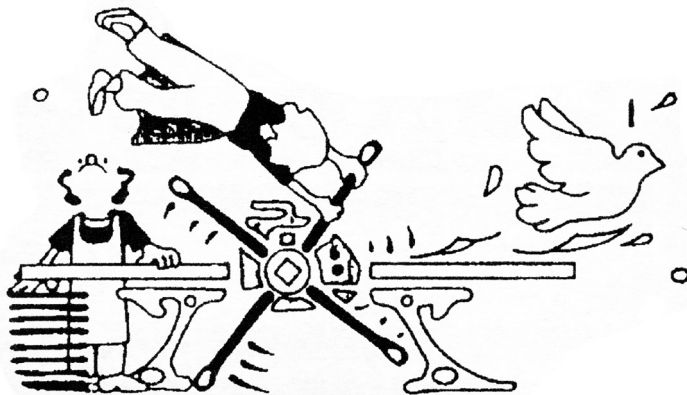
Far more than simply an exhibition of art, the Global Warming Mural is highly interactive and participatory as it evokes civic engagement and call forth from the viewers a response through reflection, dialogue and civic action.

[Peace Mural Foundation, Inc.](#) is a charita nonprofit organization supported by contributions from the public based in south Florid, from 2009, and staffed by 100 volunteers, scholars, artists and interns from UM, FIU and Miami Dade College.

Women's History Month – Celebrating Herstory!
Click here for EVENTS throughout March

SONOMA COUNTY
peace press

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

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

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

peacentr@sonic.net
PJCso.co.org

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

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

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