

# PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, November 2**

Día de los Muertos: In commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of Fresno County, Arte Américas and the Fresno Historical Society are collaborating to celebrate Arte Américas’ annual tradition of Día de los Muertos. This year we are honoring our Valley’s native and early settlers. The following communities are joining us this year for Nuestra Herencia/Our Heritage: African-American, Armenian, Greek, Filipino, Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Mexican, Native American, Portuguese, and Sikh. Each one will erect an altar/display that represents their ethnic community and/or history. The exhibit will be on view from October 12 through November 12. Día de los Muertos exhibition opens October 12th and ends November 12. The annual procession from St. John’s Cathedral, 2814 Mariposa Street, Fresno, CA to Arte Américas, 1630 Van Ness, Fresno, CA will take place November 2. Call Arte Américas for further information: (559) 266-2623 or visit our website... [www.arteamericas.org](http://www.arteamericas.org)

**Thursday, November 2 • 7:30 PM**

The Fresno Poet’s Association presents Jesse Lee Kerchval at the Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N First. For more information see [www.fresnopoets.org](http://www.fresnopoets.org) for further information or call 226-1528.

**Friday, November 3 • 5:15 PM**

Two films: *Maximum Security University* (dir. Tom Quinn) and *Inside Corcoran: Where Hell Begins* (by the California Correctional Peace Officers Association) will be shown in Instructional Technology Bldg. 101 at Fresno State, entrance off Barstow near Cedar. This film is sponsored by the Cineculture Club at CSUF. Cineculture seeks to promote cultural awareness and discuss issues related to diversity through film. For more information: President: Kumar Navaneetha Krishnan [kum.nav@gmail.com](mailto:kum.nav@gmail.com) Advisor: Denise Blum [dblum@csufresno.edu](mailto:dblum@csufresno.edu)

**Friday, November 3 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

The Reedley Peace Center presents Speaker: Pulkit Sawroop, a refugee from India, who is now a pre med student at Fresno Pacific University, will tell his story. Pulkit has worked at the National Institute of Health and with the Center for Disease Control, and has chosen to work on world health issues.

Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on ‘L’ street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at [dfriesen0@gmail.com](mailto:dfriesen0@gmail.com)

**Friday, November 3 • 7 PM**

LUNAFEST. Films by...for...about women. Fresno State - Satellite Student Union. For more information call 278-4435.

**Saturday, November 4 • 10 AM - 1 PM**

The first planning meeting for the California Central Valley Journey for Justice 2007 will be held at the Comite No Nos Vamos offices. Address: 453 N. Fresno Street (near Belmont) in Fresno. Representatives of community groups and organizations throughout the Valley are invited to attend. This will be a “potluck” meeting—bring something to share. For more information, please call: Salvador or Gloria Sandoval (209) 631-6461.

**Sunday, November 5 • 12:30 PM**

The world’s oldest and most reputable peace organization, from Nobel Peace Prizes to U. N. resolutions, the International Peace Bureau has been in the forefront of the peace movement for almost 100 years. A very exciting conference just took place in Helsinki, Finland. Come and hear all about it from our members who attended: Barry Nishkian and Fran Saunders. At the Center, 1584 N. Van Ness. Pot-Luck 12:30; Program 1:00 PM. FREE Information: 237-3223

**Tuesday, November 7**

Election Day GET OUT AND VOTE! - FREE TIME: All Day WHERE: Your local polling site WHY? So that: You’ll still have the right to vote next year. You won’t have to mail your absentee ballot from Guantanamo or Abu Ghraib. You’ll have done your best to protect our freedoms, support our troops and bring ‘em home. You’ll earn that cute little sticker that says “I VOTED.”

**Wednesday, November 8 • 12 Noon & 7:00 PM**

Second Wednesday Video Series - Film: “Why We Fight.” Warns of the dangers of the Military-Industrial Complex. Both showings at the Center, 1584 N. Van

Ness. Pot-Luck at 6:30 preceding the evening showing. Discussion follows 7 PM showing only. Information: 327-3223

**Wednesday, November 8 • 3 - 3:30 PM**

Post-Election report hosted by Richard Stone and Dan Yaseen KFCF radio, 88.1 FM

**Friday, November 10 • 5 PM and 8 PM**

Fresno Filmworks presents “Half Nelson” at the Tower Theatre. Boasting an astonishing performance by Ryan Gosling, this incisive drama is both honest and inspirational. Gosling stars as Dan Dunne, an idealistic, charismatic middle-school teacher who is beginning to lose his struggle with cocaine and alcohol. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., and at the door, for \$10; \$8, for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to [www.fresnofilmworks.org](http://www.fresnofilmworks.org)

**Saturday, November 11**

Veterans Day

**Thursday, November 16 • Noon - 1 PM**

Women in Black at the CUSF Free Speech Area. For Justice. Against War. Please join us for a silent vigil. Protesting all forms of militarism! Wear black, bring a sign, women only.

Co-sponsored by POWER, Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition & WILPF, Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom. Please contact Whitney Thompson for Campus Peace, [whitneyt06@csufresno.edu](mailto:whitneyt06@csufresno.edu) — or call 278-4593 for more information about WIB, [www.womeninblack.org](http://www.womeninblack.org)

**Thursday, November 16 • 6:30 - 9:30 PM**

Progressive Thursday presents: Ecoparque and Gone Tomorrow, the Hidden Life of Garbage This will be our first double feature Progressive Thursday presentation. Both are short videos. Ecoparque, the film (33 minutes), explores the creation and impact of Ecoparque, the place - a park flourishing on a formerly barren urban hillside thanks to an innovative system that uses residents’ wastewater not only to transform one canyon, but to make a scientific and economic case for neighborhood-scale, nature-mimicking facilities being preferable over centralized conveyance and chemical treatment for many canyon communities. Gone Tomorrow, the Hidden Life of Garbage (20 minutes) is based on the book of the same title and is about recycling and waste in the United States. These videos will be presented at Round Table Pizza, 5763 N. First St., Fresno. For more information contact Larry Mullen at (559) 227-0293 or go to [www.FresnoGreens.org](http://www.FresnoGreens.org)

**Thursday, November 16 • 8 PM**

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Inner Ear Poetry Jam. \$3.-cover 620 F St. Downtown Fresno 559-264-6323 [www.fullcirclebrewing.com](http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com)

**Friday, November 17 • 5:15 PM**

Celebrating International Education Week! Kordavision will screen in the Peters Educational Center, located on the west side of the Save Mart Center, 2640 E. Shaw Ave, Fresno. Admission is FREE and parking is FREE in all student (green) lots. Hector Cruz Sandoval. 2005. Cuba. Spanish and English. 90 min. No Rating. This film is sponsored by the Cineculture Club at CSUF. Cineculture seeks to promote cultural awareness and discuss issues related to diversity through film. For more information: President: Kumar Navaneetha Krishnan [kum.nav@gmail.com](mailto:kum.nav@gmail.com) Advisor: Denise Blum [dblum@csufresno.edu](mailto:dblum@csufresno.edu)

**Friday, November 17 • 7:30 PM**

THE ANCIENT TONES: Kathy Kallick (guitar & vocals); Bill Evans (banjo & vocals); Tom Bekany (mandolin & vocals); Cindy Browne (acoustic bass). Bluegrass & more. Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N 1st St. Tickets are available at these independently owned stores: The Movies Video Store; Patrick’s Music, National Hardware or online at [www.fresnofolkconcerts.com](http://www.fresnofolkconcerts.com) The Museum Gift Shoppe carries tickets for the concerts at the Fresno Art Museum. Or send a check made out to FFS and send with an enclosed SASE to Pat Wolk, 6661 N. Forkner, Fresno, 93711.

**Sunday, November 19 • 3 PM**

Fresno Metro Ministry’s 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Thanksgiving Festival of Choirs will be held at Hope Lutheran Church. For more information call 485-1416 or email [carmen@fresnometmin.org](mailto:carmen@fresnometmin.org)

**Sunday, November 19 • 4 - 5:30 PM**

Peace Fresno and La Raza Law Student Association of the San Joaquin College of Law are co-sponsoring an educational forum on the new Military Commissions Act of 2006. The forum will be moderated by Jeffrey G. Purvis, James K. and Carol Sellers Herbert Professor of Constitutional Law and will be held at the San Joaquin College of Law, located at 901 5th Street, Clovis. For more info. contact Dan Yaseen 432-3445 [danyaseen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danyaseen@sbcglobal.net) or Steve Malm 264-9122 [SteveDM88@aol.com](mailto:SteveDM88@aol.com)

**Friday, November 24 • 5:15 PM**

Source (Zdroj) will be shown in Instructional Technology Bldg. 101 at Fresno State, entrance off Barstow near Cedar. Martin Marek & Martin Skalsk, Czech Republic, 2005, 75min.

In Czech, Russian, English and Azerbaijani with English subtitles. Selection from the Human Rights Watch Traveling Film Festival. This film is sponsored by the Cineculture Club at CSUF. Cineculture seeks to promote cultural awareness and discuss issues related to diversity through film. For more information: President: Kumar Navaneetha Krishnan [kum.nav@gmail.com](mailto:kum.nav@gmail.com) Advisor: Denise Blum [dblum@csufresno.edu](mailto:dblum@csufresno.edu)

**Saturday November 25 • 3 - 7 PM**

Full Circle Brewing Co. Presents Saturday Afternoon Blues Jam Hosted by Russ Allen. \$3.-cover Belly Dancing with Cory Zamora Featuring Bayle Zena, Gregory & Denise 8:00pm \$5.-cover 620 F St. Downtown Fresno (559) 264-6323 [www.fullcirclebrewing.com](http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com)

**Saturday December 2 • 10 AM - 4 PM**

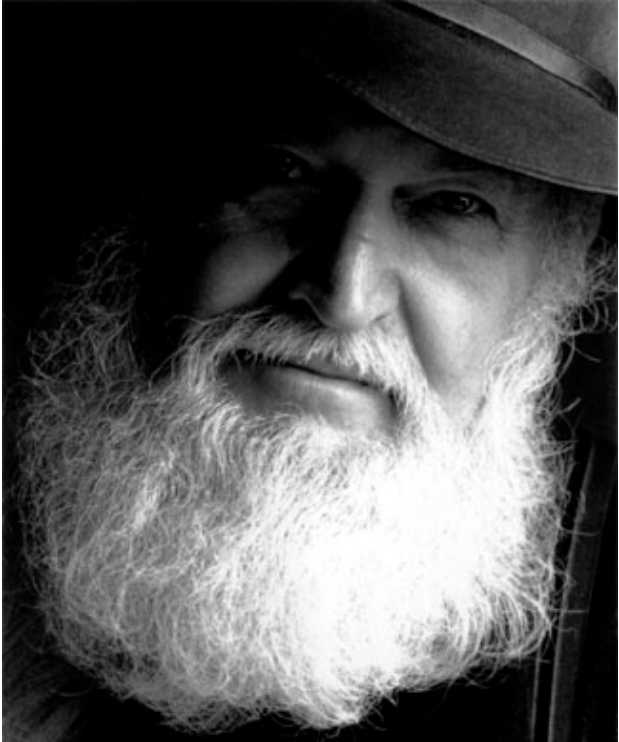
The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom will hold the Peace Community Craft Faire at the First Congregational Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. in Fresno.

**Saturday, December 2 • 7:30 PM**

UTAH PHILLIPS. That first class rapscaillon and rabble-rouser, folksinger, humorist, and storyteller. Fresno Art Museum 7:30pm. Frank Moschella will open.

UTAH PHILLIPS is a first-class rapscaillon and rabble-rouser, as well as a folksinger, humorist, archivist, and storyteller. Pete Seeger says: “If you have never heard Utah Phillips live, you’re in for a treat. He’s fantastic. Unique. You’ll feel better ever after, as you recall him. There’s no one like him.” Rolling Stone: “Call him a conspicuous enigma: a canny, uncanny blend of Mark Twain and Will Rogers, with a touch of P.T. Barnum and more than a hint of Huck Finn. Utah Phillips is also one of the most important songwriters to be found in North America.”

Tickets are available at these independently owned stores: The Movies Video Store; Patrick’s Music, National Hardware or online at [www.fresnofolkconcerts.com](http://www.fresnofolkconcerts.com) The Museum Gift Shoppe carries tickets for the concerts at the Fresno Art Museum. Or send a check made out to FFS and send with an enclosed SASE to Pat Wolk, 6661 N. Forkner, Fresno, 93711.



ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

**Every Sunday  
3 - 4 PM**  
Sunday Food Not Bombs serves free food at Courthouse Park to anyone who is hungry. They start cooking at 1 PM and serve the food at 3 PM (meet at the Tulare side of the park). For more information see: <http://cafefresno.org/>

**Every Tuesday  
6:30 - 8:30 PM**  
The Fresno River Zen group meets in Horsley Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno. This group welcomes all who wish to seek clarity, compassion, and harmony with oneself and the world through mindful meditation. Emphasis is on bringing peaceful actions from personal experience in meditation to healing the world. Teaching and practice in the spirit of the Suzuki Roshi Lineage is led by Grace Schireson, an ordained Zen priest. For more information, call Grace at (559) 877-2400 or email her at [grace@emptynestzendo.org](mailto:grace@emptynestzendo.org)

**Every Monday and Tuesday  
7–9:30 PM**  
The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, and visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets). Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. For more information contact Liza Apper at (559) 229–6410 or [liza.apper@sbcw.org](mailto:liza.apper@sbcw.org) ; or visit their Web site: [www.sbcw.org](http://www.sbcw.org)

**Every Tuesday  
7 PM**  
Peace Fresno meets at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N Van Ness, south of McKinley. If you want to help stop Bush’s endless war against the world, come to this meeting!

For an up-to-the-minute listing of all peace actions in the Fresno area, call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at (559) 23PEACE (237–3223). For more information about Peace Fresno, call 487–2515 or visit their Web site at [www.peacefresno.org](http://www.peacefresno.org)

**Every Friday  
7 PM**  
Reedley Peace Center holds it weekly peace meeting at the Fellowship Hall at Reedley’s First Mennonite Church, 1208 L Street, Reedley. Programs vary, but the focus is always on peace issues: local, state, national, international. The contact is Carol Krehbiel: (559) 637–9098 or [krehbiel@cvip.net](mailto:krehbiel@cvip.net) . The meeting is free, open to the public, and accessible to the handicapped.

**Every Saturday  
1–2 PM**  
Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Ave entrance to Roeding Park. If you would like to help us prepare our meal, we meet every Saturday at Wesley United Methodist Church (1343 E. Barstow) at 10am. For more information see: <http://myspace.com/fresnofnb> . For more information on Food Not Bombs you can contact us at [fresnofnb@hotmail.com](mailto:fresnofnb@hotmail.com) or visit the offical FNB website [foodnotbombs.net](http://foodnotbombs.net)

**Every Saturday  
1 PM until the last patient is served**  
Medical clinic for the homeless, actively injecting drug users, and prostitutes. You can find them near Hughes and Olive Ave. Staffed by Dr. Marc Lasher and volunteers. Accepting financial donations. Contact: 266–0444.

**Every Saturday  
1–3 PM**  
Fresno Free Bicycle Repair Clinic. Most Saturdays. Donations of bicycle parts, inner tubes, and blinky lights welcome. Volunteers needed to help with minor repairs. The bicycle clinic is near the Olive Ave entrance to Roeding Park, beside Food Not Bombs. For more info and to arrange donations, e-mail [fresnofreebikeclinic@yahoo.com](mailto:fresnofreebikeclinic@yahoo.com)

ONGOING MONTHLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

**1st Sunday of every month  
1 - 3 PM**  
The South Valley Peace Center holds a demonstration for peace at Mooney and Walnut in Visalia.

**1st Sunday of every month  
3 - 5 PM**  
Fresno Stonewall Democrats meeting at Java Wava,1940 North Echo across from Fresno High is open to the public. Stonewall Democrats’ focus is on social and political issues of interest to progressives in general and progressive and liberal Democrats in particular. For more information contact Jay Hubbell at (559) 292–4905, e-mail [fresnostonewall@mangen.com](mailto:fresnostonewall@mangen.com), or visit the Web site [www.mangen.com/stonewall/](http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/)

**3rd Sunday of every month  
10 AM–12 Noon**  
World Meditation Day is observed to promote peace within oneself and harmony in the world. Held at 7319 N Fourth St, Fresno. Program includes guided meditation followed by discussion and light refreshments. Call Veena Kapoor, (559) 435–2212, for more information.

**3rd Sunday of every month  
1 PM**  
Humanists of the San Joaquin Valley meet in Room 1 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 4144 N Millbrook. For info visit their Web site at [www.fresno.humanists.net](http://www.fresno.humanists.net)

**2nd Monday of every month  
1 PM**  
The Living Wage Committee will meet at the SEIU 250 office, 1279 N Wishon. For further information contact Frances Sivak at (559) 222-5240 or [fsivak@msn.com](mailto:fsivak@msn.com) [www.livingwage-fresno.org](http://www.livingwage-fresno.org)

**3rd Monday of every Month  
6:30 PM**  
California Prison Moratorium Project will meet at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting. The discussion “Uncaging the Valley” mobilizing a valley wide coalition an exclusive valley focused project. Potluck is encouraged but not required. Upcoming, speakers from the anti prison movement are being scheduled. Call Deb Reyes at (559) 916-4370 for more info.

**3rd Tuesday of every month  
7 PM**  
The Fresno Free College Foundation (owner and operator of KFCF 88.1 FM) Board of Directors meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N Millbrook, Fresno. The public is invited. For more information call (559) 233–2221, e-mail [kfcf@kfcf.org](mailto:kfcf@kfcf.org), or visit [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org)

**1st Wednesday of every month  
12 Noon–1 PM**  
Women in Black– Silent Vigil at the Fresno County Courthouse entrance. Show your support for PEACE and for negotiated settlements of US current military actions! Meet downtown at the Fresno courthouse, and stand silently, advocating for PEACE. For more info, call 278–7140 or 225–2850.

**1st Wednesday of every month  
7 PM**  
The Fresno County Democratic Central Committee meetings are held in the State Building Assembly Room. The address is 2550 Mariposa Ave. Call Steve Haze, Chair – 855-8844 [stevehaze@psnw.com](mailto:stevehaze@psnw.com) or Jay Hubbell, Secretary - 292-4905 / [jayhubbell@comcast.net](mailto:jayhubbell@comcast.net) for more information.

**1st Wednesday of every month  
7:30 PM**  
Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N Millbrook, Fresno.

**3rd Thursday of every month  
6 PM**  
Central California Criminal Justice Committee is meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1564 North Van Ness ( Southeast corner of McKinley and Van Ness).

**1st Thursday of every month**  
ART HOP. For more information contact Maria Franco at [mfranco@fresnoarts.org](mailto:mfranco@fresnoarts.org) or call (559) 237- 9734.

**2nd Thursday of every month  
7 PM**  
Fresno LGBTQ Social Group <http://www.gayfresno.com/social/> Carrow’s Fresno 1484 E. Shaw Ave (one block south of Fashion Fair) Get together and hang out.

**2nd Thursday of every month  
7 PM**  
Monthly meeting of the Fresno County Green Party, County Council, at the California State Building in downtown Fresno. The address is 2550 Mariposa Ave., and is located between O and P streets and Fresno and Tulare. Enter through the main door along the pedestrian mall just off P Street. Call (559) 265–3647 or go to [www.cagreens.org/fresno](http://www.cagreens.org/fresno) for more information.

**2nd Thursday of every month  
7 PM**  
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom meeting, 1584 N Van Ness, south of McKinley. For more information contact JEAN HAYS [skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net)

**3rd Thursday of every month  
6–8 PM**  
Fresno County Bicycle Coalition, monthly meetings to provide a forum for bicyclists to organize, discuss common concerns, and influence public policy. If you are interested in helping Fresno County become more bike-friendly, you are invited to join this group. Please call (559) 444–2065 for more information.

**4th Thursday of every month  
7 PM**  
FresCAMP (Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides) meeting. For more information e-mail [frescamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frescamp@sbcglobal.net) or call (559) 227–6134.

**1st Friday of every month  
4:30–6:30 PM**  
Peace Fresno is at Shaw and Blackstone Avenues to protest the occupation of Iraq and other harmful domestic and foreign policies of the Bush administration. Peace Fresno advocates alternatives to war and social and environmental justice. For more information go to [www.peacefresno.org](http://www.peacefresno.org)

**1st Friday of every month  
7–9 PM**  
Dances of Universal Peace. Sacred Circle Dances from Around the World at the First Congregational Church, Van Ness and Yale.

**4th Friday of every month  
5 - 6 PM**  
Street Heat on KFCF, 88.1 FM in Fresno. This is the Community Alliance radio show.

**1st Saturday of every month  
9:30 AM**  
Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meets at Denny’s Restaurant at Abby and Divisidero. Call 439–8140 for more information.

**1st Saturday of every month  
3–5 PM**  
Women of Spirit—a gathering of women rediscovering their own spirituality and enabling others to do the same. You are invited to join the circle of women the first Saturday of each month, at 7319 N Fourth St, Fresno. Beginning and closing meditation, discussion and activity, light refreshments after closing. The event is free. Both men and women are welcome. Contact: Veena Kapoor, (559) 435–2212.

**2nd Saturday of every month  
9:30 AM**  
Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting at 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. For more information about the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, see their Web site [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org) or call (559) 23PEACE (237–3223).

**2nd Saturday of every month  
10 AM**  
The Black Political Council meets at King of Kings on Martin Luther King Blvd.


**4th Saturday of Every Month  
8 -10 AM**  
Tower Beautification Cleanup. Meet at the Olive/ Wishon corner of the Chicken Pie Shop. Bring hat, gloves, broom or rakes and weed hoes, water. We supply orange vests, pick up bags, grabbers and extra tools. Why do we do this? To beautify our community and build empowerment through responsibility for our quality of life. Questions:? Call Coordinator, Gay Amend, at 237-6716 Sponsored by the Tower Trust, Council Districts 1 and 3 and the City of Fresno Sanitation Department which provides supplies and insurance.



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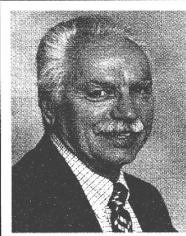
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**Amy Goodman and her brother David read the Community Alliance when they were in Fresno on their book tour. Their new book is called *Static, Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the People Who Fight Back*. You can hear Amy on the Democracy Now! Radio show heard Monday - Friday on KFCF 88.1 FM.**



**California Alliance  
for Retired Americans  
C.A.R.A.**

**Gene Roza**  
★ Active Volunteer ★

OFFICE: (559) 570-6041 FAX: (559) 244-6016  
HOME: (559) 297-9552 CELL: (559) 905-3521  
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**QUAKERS**

FRESNO FRIENDS MEETING  
Silent Worship Sunday 10-11 AM  
2219 San Joaquin, Fresno

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Political Action Committee

cvppac.org PO Box 5845, Fresno, CA 93755 559-435-7360

**The Central Valley Progressive PAC  
endorses the following candidates:**

**Margaret Mims for Sheriff  
Blong Xiong for City Council District #1  
Dottie Smith for State Community College District #5  
Floyd Harris for Fresno County Board of Education District #1**

**Propositions supported are:  
84 YES • 85 NO • 87 YES • 89 YES • 90 NO  
Vote YES on Measure C**

**For more information about the CVPPAC, go to: www.cvppac.org**



## Why We Need an Alternative/Independent Press in Fresno continued from page 15

standing on the banks of the Perfume River while the U.S. Army pounded Hue, the ancient capital of Vietnam, which has been captured by the National Liberation Front in the 1968 Tet Offensive. As thousand-year old walls crumbled under the assault of howitzers and 1,000-pound bombs, Cronkite said the war couldn't be won.

But Cronkite's conclusion—which because it came five years too late cost the Vietnamese people two million lives—was just a case of the mainstream media finally catching up with the alternative press, which had relentlessly reported the truth about Vietnam, which had exposed the lies and the horrors, and had helped mobilize an anti-war movement that was winning the battle for the hearts and minds of Americans.

At every turn in our history, the alternative press has been there, to anticipate, to inform, and to organize.

This is not unique to Americans. In 1788, there were three newspapers in Paris. In 1790, there were 100.

There is a reason for this and I want to take a moment to consider it.

We human beings have always put down our thoughts. We seem driven to do so. We have painted our ideas on the cave walls of Lascaux and Alta Mira when we just becoming human, we have scratched them into the walls of the Australian Outback, carved them into stone cylinders in the Ur of the Chaldes. Archeologists recently uncovered a note from a New Kingdom scribe in Thebes sent to a pupil 3,500 years ago

“Set your heart firmly on writing, a useful profession for one who does it. Your father had hieroglyphs, and he was honored in the streets.”

We love to read and write. We love to communicate our ideas to others, and when we do it, we are honored.

But while people have always put down their thoughts, the transmission of ideas is particularly important once humanity invents this system called capitalism.

In all the systems that proceeded capitalism, one didn't need a media to tell you the source of your oppression.

In slavery, it was obvious: the slave owner. And slaves could see with their own eyes the difference between being a slave and being free. They either remembered their former lives or could observe the difference between bondage and freedom. There wasn't a whole lot complex about how to resolve it either: Make a run for it, or get rid of the slave owner.

Feudalism was a little more complex, but not much. If you were a serf, you had a pretty good idea how to make your life better: get rid of the lords and own your land. Plus you had a lot of people living in cities who weren't serfs and seemed to do just fine. In short, you had two systems living right alongside one another, Feudalism and early capitalism, one a constant example and reminder for the other.

But capitalism is a very different kind of beast. It allows no other system but its own. It makes everything into a commodity that is up for sale: life, death, health, politics, you name it; it will sell it to you, discounted at your local Wal-Mart. It camouflages its nature behind a screen of ideology about freedom and the rule of law, though the essence of those laws, as Anatole France once remarked, was to prevent both the rich and poor from begging in the streets and sleeping under the bridges.

And more than any society that has gone before it, it understands the need to control information. No sooner had Gutenberg invented the movable type printing press, than you had to get a license from the state to use it. For under capitalism, ideas matter, and whoever controls the media, controls those ideas.

45 million people in this country have no health care, and while profits are at an all time high, working people's real wages have declined. Who is to blame? Illegal immigrants, of course.

Our country is embroiled in an insane war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has at least two other possible wars on the drawing boards—Iran and North Korea. The U.S. has never been so disliked around the world, and on most issues we can count our allies on one hand. And who is to blame? Back-stabbing, cut-and-run Democrats, allied with Islamofascists who hate us for our freedoms, the ones we just lost under the Patriot Act, Oh, also gays, and effete liberals. And Mike Rhodes and the Community Alliance.

Last week, the publisher of the Los Angeles Times was fired. The LA Times was not making enough money. It was making a 25 percent return on its investment, more than three times the amount of return the average business in the U.S. makes. But it wasn't enough. His parent company wanted him to lay off reporters and he refused. He apparently had some silly, old-fashioned ideas that the job of a newspaper was to report the news, as opposed to telling people what they ought to think on the way to the mall.

We talk about media conglomerates, but most people have no idea what that really means. It means from the time that Ben Bagdikian wrote his first edition of the “Media Monopoly” in 1983 until the fifth edition in 2002, the number of media giants that dominate 85 percent of the newspapers, magazines radios, television stations, music, and movie studios shrank from 52 to eight.

These huge corporations themselves are dominated through their boards of directors and large stockholders by insurance companies, banks, pharmaceutical companies, oil companies, and such military giants as Lockheed-Martin—the largest arms company in the world—Boeing, Teledyne, General Dynamics, General Electric, (which owns NBC) and others.

A study by the National Association of Newspaper Editors found that 33 percent of the editors of daily newspapers admitted—I underline that word “admitted”—they would not run an article that would throw an unfavorable light on one of their parent companies. Okay, so nothing on banks, insurance companies, energy, arms spending, health care right off the top.

And you wonder why the media has a feeding frenzy around a story like Jon Benet Ramsey? In part this has always been the case, but it becomes more acute when the crisis of the system deepens and the country is at war.

Zogby International conducted a poll this past May that asked two questions.

The first was: “Some people say President Bush lied so that we would go to war with Iraq. Others say he was given faulty intelligence and did not intentionally mislead the nation. Which do you think is true?”

Some 51.8% said that Bush lied, but watch what propaganda does. In this case, Fox News. Between 89.1% and 63.2% of the viewers of ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and MSNBC thought Bush lied. Among Fox News viewers, 2.3% thought Bush lied.

The second question was stimulated by a comment that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made that President Bush has already received an okay by Congress to go to war with Iran and need not return for any further authorization.

Zogby asked “Do you agree or disagree that the President has the right to use military force against Iran without the support of Congress?”

By margins of between 96.9% to 68.8%, viewers of non-Fox television disagreed that the President has the right to attack Iran without seeking congressional authorization. Only 14.7% of Fox viewers disagreed that the President has to seek such authorization. And while the network news audiences are falling, Fox News's numbers are rising.

This is exactly the moment when we need a vital alternative media, but looking around can be a little depressing. I think the difference these days is that our “alternative” press is more about life-style than it is about political choices.

Back in the early 1970s the Underground press found out there was lots of money to be made by handing out newspapers free, thus raising their circulation, and then filling 65% of their pages with ads. It also discovered that it wasn't good business to annoy their advertisers.

There are weekly alternative newspapers in cities and towns all over the country, but most of their news is about how to snag clothing deals, where to go hear music, or what farmer's market has the best arugula. What you don't see much about is how the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are bringing foreign policy home, one aluminum casket at a time, or the 20,000 wounded that are being shortchanged by the Veteran's Administration. God forbid you should hear about the 600,000 plus Iraqi dead.

You don't see much about how developers are paving over the Central Valley, or much about the local and state politicians who help them do it. You don't see much about poor people, Hispanics, Hmong, Arab-Americans, In-

dian-Americans or Native Americans. Most of the so-called alternative weeklies are part of big chains, like the New Times conglomerate, and they dutifully keep an eye on the bottom line.

This is not a good situation. If there is one thing we can learn from looking back over the past almost 400 years of capitalism is that no social revolution or major reformist movement got anywhere without a media. Period. There are no examples to the contrary. Because under capitalism you have to change peoples ideas and then their ideology. That isn't easy when capitalism is so all embracing.

You can get away from it, of course. You can go east from here, build yourself a shack in the mountains and subsist on nuts and squirrels. The problem is that is really hard to build a mass movement around nuts and squirrels.

If we are to do something about the world we live in, we are going to have to build a real alternative press that informs, agitates, organizes—and amuses and annoys. Hopefully it will annoy the people we want to annoy, but occasionally we will annoy our friends. That comes with job description. But the main thing is that we build a paper that lets the voiceless speak; that is more interested in masses than malls, and that understands that if people can't dance, most of them won't want to be in your revolution.

You can't let someone else do this job. You have to raise money. You have to distribute the paper. You have to report for it. You have to write for it. Say you can't write? Learn. It's not quantum mechanics. Is it hard? You bet. You think getting rid of war, racism, sexism, and homophobia, exploitation and Republicans is going to be easy? Next to all of those things writing is a piece of cake. We are all going to have to learn a lot of stuff we never thought we would have to before this is over.

On April 19, 1783, Thomas Paine wrote his last Crisis.

*“The times that tried mens souls,” are over - and the greatest and completest revolution the world ever knew, gloriously and happily accomplished.*

*But to pass from the extremes of danger to safety from the tumult of war, to the tranquility of peace, though sweet in contemplation, requires a gradual composure of the senses to receive it. Even calmness has the power of stunning, when it opens too instantly upon us.*

I must admit I look forward to the confusion of calmness, but Paine is making an important point: it's never over, and it never should be. And it wasn't for him. He went on to write thousands of essays and scores of books, including one of the great works of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, “The Rights of Man.”

So, after you all make things right here in Fresno, you are still going to need the Community Alliance.

But there will be moments that make it all worth it.

When Paine wrote the first Crisis, the Revolution was on the ropes. By the time he wrote the last one, Lord Cornwallis had surrendered to Washington at Yorktown. When the British troops marched out to stack their arms and surrender their colors, the British regimental band played “The World Turned Upside Down.” Paine was delighted.

We have had those moments. We will have them again. The mainstream press usually tries to take the credit. The New York Times, for instance, thinks that its reporting and editorials ended the Vietnam War. I beg to differ. We will know who kept the Continentals alive at Valley Forge, who began the agitation to end slavery, give women the vote, organize workers into unions, derail the war in Vietnam, shame the country into ending our support for apartheid, challenge racism and homophobia.

There are a thousand more struggles I could point to where in the end our foes played the equivalence of “The World Turned Upside Down.” Ask the Sheriff of Fresno County why he isn't running for re-election and what he thinks about Mike Rhodes and the Community Alliance, and can he whistle “The World Turned Upside Down”?

Frederick Douglass said in his West India Emancipation speech of 1857, that: “Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”

As long as we have an alternative media that fights for liberty not Lexuses, we can resist with words the prescriptions of tyrants. As long as we can give the people a voice, they cannot be silenced.

# CCWF Holiday Gifts

About 4,000 women are confined, most for nonviolent crimes, in Central California Women’s Facility (CCWF), Chowchilla, the world’s largest women’s prison. Many have few relatives or friends, or those relatives/friends may live too far away to visit, or can’t afford to make the trip. The women are crammed, eight to a small room, in bunk beds. So, while the women are lonely and miss their loved ones, the overcrowding means a severe loss of privacy and limitations on personal freedom, conditions that are hard to bear.

The CCWF Family Council, in conjunction with several Prison Ministries and church groups has undertaken a project which will result in the delivery to each woman of a one-gallon Ziploc bag containing an equitable assortment of small gifts during the December Holiday Season.

The purpose of the project is to give tangible evidence that people outside do care, to supply practical items which will be useful and appreciated, and to raise awareness of people outside about the circumstances and needs of people inside.

You can respond to these needs in two ways:

- 1. you can donate a couple hours of time, once a month, befriending and visiting a specific inmate. The gift of friendship can be arranged by Nancy Turk in Visalia at 627-1088.
- 2. donations to the gift bags can be given to Maria Telesco at 255-9492.

The women may receive only authorized items. Toiletry items must be small sample/travel sizes:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash / Bath Gel
- Hotel Size Bar Soap
- Hand Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Tooth Brush

Authorized food items should be in individual packets and have NO FOIL WRAPPING.

- Coffee
- Tea Bags
- Hot Chocolate
- Individually wrapped hard candies
- Miniature chocolate bars

Also: Picture post cards (no stamps)

- Stationery
- Envelopes

Monetary donations are also needed and welcome. Checks may be made payable to FCNV Prison Ministry, and sent to Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness, Fresno, 93728. The deadline for donations is November 1st. Items for gift bags can be delivered to Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness, Fresno 93728 during open hours M-F 11-3 or by appointment. If pick-up is needed, call Maria Telesco at 255-9492.



## THE ANCIENT TONES: Over 100 years of Professional musicianship

Bill Monroe often spoke of “**The Ancient Tones**” that were the basis of his music, bluegrass. Comprising elements of the ballads, dance tunes, and religious music brought by immigrants from the British Isles plus the music that came to be blues and jazz brought by immigrants from Africa, those ancient tones give the music its distinctiveness, its possibilities, and its soul. Kathy Kallick and Bill Evans have formed a new band based on just those elements, a band called The Ancient Tones.

**Kathy and Bill** have played together many times in the past few years, and both have been making contributions to bluegrass since the 1970s. They’ve toured the country and the world with their music, collaborated with some of the top contemporary acoustic musicians, have an obvious reverence for traditional bluegrass but have recorded a number of their own compositions, and have never forgotten to have fun playing this music.

**Kathy Kallick** (guitar, vocals) has been among the elite of contemporary songwriters and singers since co-founding with Laurie Lewis the internationally-acclaimed band, Good Ol’ Persons, in 1975. In 2001, she received a “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the California Bluegrass Association for all her contributions. She’s released 14 albums, which include more than 100 of her original compositions and arrangements, and been on countless compilations. Both of her releases with The Kathy Kallick Band — *Walkin’ In My Shoes* and *Warmer Kind Of Blue* — enjoyed substantial success on the bluegrass charts,

Virginia native **Bill Evans** (banjo, vocals) has been involved with bluegrass for more than twenty-five years,

and currently performs with Jody Stecher (The Secret Life of Banjos), the Bluegrass Intentions, Due West, and the Bill Evans String Summit. Bill was a member of Dry Branch Fire Squad for most of the ‘90s, and has released two highly-regarded solo albums. He hosts his NashCamp Banjo Retreat with Sonny Osborne (and has presented banjo workshops across the country), has produced two popular instructional DVDs and is about to release a third (as well as a new bluegrass songbook), and is a columnist for Banjo Newsletter.

Acoustic bassist **Cindy Browne** has more than 30 years’ experience as a touring and recording musician playing a variety of styles that range from jazz to classical to ethnic folk to bluegrass. She has accompanied many

well-known jazz musicians, and teaches and directs the jazz program at Las Positas College. She’s known for her recent work with Due West, String Summit, The Webster Sisters with Scott Nygaard, Kaila Flexer, jazz guitarist Mimi Fox, Wake The Dead, and Kathy Kallick’s “Reason & Rhyme” album.

**Tom Bekeny** (mandolin, fiddle, vocals) has played in and recorded with The Kathy Kallick Band for the past 10 years, and with High Country for more than 15 years. He’s a co-founder of Done Gone and Tenbrooks, an early member of Laurie Lewis’ Grant Street String Band, and is featured on the Kathy/Laurie album, “Together.”



## Initiative Overload

By Ruth Gadebusch



As democratic as the initiative process appears, it has gotten out of hand. Its original intent, created in a more simple time, was to allow citizens to have direct input in covering voids of the legislature. Instead, it has become one more way for the rich to buy government.

Anyone with the finances can write an initiative, file it with the election authorities, and pay signature gatherers. With any financial backing at all it is a simple matter to qualify for the ballot. They are supposed to be confined to one subject matter but it becomes a judgment call as to just how far that subject can be stretched. The gathering of signatures was, and is, vastly more difficult when dependent on volunteers, which before the advent of paid signature gatherers kept some restraints on the proliferation of these measures.

Do we really want our government bought? It is bad enough when the rich decide to offer themselves as candidates, usually starting at the top with no experience in government. They then proceed to put millions into their candidacy, to the absolute disadvantage of ordinary candidates, perhaps more qualified. Acquiring wealth whether through inheritance, luck, or hard work does not qualify one for the position. Nor, should it disqualify one; however, there is no denying that it tilts the field completely and totally when one has access to such bounty.

There is no doubt that money, prodigious quantities of it, are required to run for public office — often times, even at the beginning level of the most obscure office. If one has his/her own money s/he can bypass the system of soliciting it freeing him/her to concentrate of the campaign itself. The good news is that one of wealth is not beholden to the givers. The bad news is that they may be unable to identify with those of lesser wealth thereby ignoring the constituent base. Most assuredly an under funded candidate is unlikely to overcome the advantage of campaign money regardless of qualifications of either candidate.

Having said this about candidates and money, my greater concern goes to California's unique process of government by initiative. Of greatest concern of all is that so many of these initiatives are constitutional amendments to California's already overburdened constitution. Worse yet is that many of them are bought and paid for by out of state moguls.

Proposition 90 (so called property-rights) on this November's ballot is one such. More often than not, the money is funneled in a way that the source is well hidden. The *San Francisco Chronicle* identifies Howie Rich, the backer of Prop 90, as "a wealthy libertarian who believes in limited government and has long used tax-exempt groups to promote his favored candidates and political beliefs — property rights, term limits, tax cuts and school vouchers, among others." We pay for this doubly, first through the tax exempt entity and again as it skewers our constitution.

There are many tax exempt groups formed purely for political gain that exercise great power in elections through money without ever having to identify their contributors. Candidates, as well as certain groups, must list their sources of campaign income.

Adding to the problem is that so many of these initiatives — 1A, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90 in this election — are constitution amendments making them near impossible to change once passed. Regardless of how one feels about the issue we would do well to very seriously consider if they belong in the constitution. Note: Proposition 1A was placed by the legislature, giving no more assurance that it belongs in the constitution than those placed by signature gathering. Keep in mind that no matter how far reaching these propositions are they require only a simple majority to pass. Once in statute or the constitution, they can only be changed by another initiative or a super majority of the legislature.

No matter how well written or good intentioned, there is a problem with voters getting the whole picture. For

just this one election there are 76 pages of very fine print. Without doubt this is a challenge for the lawyers who deal with them on a daily basis. For us ordinary citizens it is a super challenge. We end up reading summaries, perhaps tilted by the writer, or being swayed by the advertising.

Speaking of advertising, here is another method of buying the election. Even in our valley it is quite costly, but still more so in the larger markets of this huge state. These measures are often drafted in ways that keep the courts busy interpreting the meaning and the effect on existing laws.

Further more it isn't just the propositions with which the voters must contend in this election. There are the candidates, their statements, and bond issues. All told the voter handbook contains 192 pages which we are supposed to comprehend and that does not include the local measures and candidates. That information came in the sample ballot, another 40 pages. The actual Fresno ballot is two pages 18 inches long.

Is it any wonder than many do not feel it is worth the effort — mistaken as that idea may be? It is a daunting process for politically active citizens and more so for everyday citizens. It is healthy to have a variety of candidates offering their service but I fear so many other considerations on the ballot spread our attention too thin.

It is time for the initiative process to be modified to better fit today's conditions. It is time for the legislature to take its responsibility more seriously. They should even go so far as to give us more reasonably apportioned districts. Alas, I don't advise anyone to hold their breath until these kinds of reforms are done by the legislature. Anybody for another initiative? Or even 3 or 4 or more, since they can only contain one subject!

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Correction to my October column on Proposition 85: it requires only parental notification, not consent, which carries the same problems without accomplishing the desired effect.

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*Ruth Gadebusch was born and raised on a Georgia farm. In 1977 she was elected to the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District and served for thirteen and a half years. She continues to be active in the community while serving as Vice-President of the Center for Civic Education (promoting responsible citizenship and democratic principles internationally) and writing for the Liberal Opinion, a weekly national newspaper.*

## No Home For A Man With AIDS

Gary Dennis

There is nothing like the joy of coming home after a hard day of work. If you're like me, you might put on some music, take a shower, cook some food, light candles and incense, and just simply relax. Or maybe you're a television watcher or a book reader, well, whatever it is you do at home, I'm sure you're glad you have one. Well, that's not the case for all people. I just recently had an encounter with someone who had AIDS and he had trouble finding himself somewhere to live. Particularly he was looking for a clean and sober living environment like a home of some type that could help him. But the problem was, he said none of the places



that he tried would accept him because he had AIDS! Luckily for him, my HIV/AIDS education and experience also included Fair Housing training. Funny as it may be, that is actually how I got started in the HIV/AIDS arena in the first place. I used to work for the Fair Housing Council of Central California under their HOPWA grant. HOPWA for those of you who don't know is Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA). One of the main things that we dealt with was housing discrimination issues; and in my cases, those against people living with AIDS. What people may not know is that AIDS is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act and is also afforded the same privileges as other disabilities covered under the act.

Since I knew all this, I was able to calm the man down and refer him to the proper places to get his situation handled. Unfortunately, I have been unable to get back in touch with him to find out how his progress is coming but one thing you can be sure of is that this type of situation has happened to and is still happening to others living with AIDS. Some other things that had come up in my conversation with this man were the fact that there are no AIDS housing/complexes. I don't know if any of you all remember the Miller Project or the Van Ness house. Both of these places were around before I moved here to Fresno but now I don't see them and I haven't heard too much mention about them either. But from what I saw in a 1999 Fresno County AIDS Housing report, these places once existed. What happened?!! To me, things like this show the progress and growth (or lack thereof) of this community in regards to HIV/AIDS and the concern for the people living with this disease. I'm very concerned when people don't take action and more particularly when people stop asking "WHY?" Folks, you have to understand that HIV is a human disease meaning that human lives are at stake; that is why the "H" in HIV stands for Human. One of PROJECT: MALE's core beliefs states this, "We believe that individuals infected with HIV/AIDS deserves to be treated with dignity and respect regardless as to the circumstances that may have caused them to acquire this disease and that they should not be discriminated against in accessing medical treatment, housing, or employment." So if you feel this way too, give us a call at (559) 268-1969 and let's talk about it to make Fresno County a better place for people with HIV/AIDS!



Progressive Thursday presents

## EcoParque and Gone Tomorrow: The Hidden life of Garbage

Two short documentaries on wastewater and garbage landfills.

Thursday, November 16, 2006

6:30-9:30 P.M.

Round Table Pizza

5763 N. First street

Fresno, CA

(SW corner of First and Bullard)

Doors open 6:30

Video 7:00

Discussion 8:00

This event is free, wheelchair accessible and open to anyone interested in discussing progressive topics.

Contact Larry Mullen at 559 227-0293





# The Word on the Street

by Wendy Russell

He gave me a big huggy squeeze and kissed me before I left. Through the window glass we wave bye again as I head to my car. For the gazillioneth time I give thanks for that man.

It's that time of month again and I have a decision to make. Where do I go to ask this month's Question:

Thanksgiving is coming up. What are you thankful for?

The old large trees of the Tower District pull me in their direction. Maybe there is some nice Fall color beginning and I could enjoy that while also collecting 'Words' on the street. On Olive in the Revue's parking lot I see Richard "Guto" Ferraguto, who I've known since back in the day when I restored my beloved 1959 Rambler station wagon. He also owned an old car, a huge convertible - lots of old cars actually, but today he is in a Toyota and probably thankful for its much lower fuel costs.

So I ask Guto our Question: Thanksgiving is coming up. What are you thankful for?



Guto

"I'm thankful that I've gone on a vegetarian diet after reading this book, *Mad Cowboy*, and it seems to be working real good for me. I'm thankful that I'm alive and well on this planet. And that I became a grandfather last October." Here he busts into the biggest of smiles, "Hi, Samuel!"

I ask Guto for one strong fact from the book that powered his decision to quit eating meat. Get ready, because he gave me a disgusting one: in L.A. they grind up 40,000 pounds of unwanted dogs and cats every month and feed them to cows that in turn becomes the meat on the family dinner table.

Whew! I'm thankful I don't have *that* job. And that I am in *this* life, instead of a cat dumped at the pound in Los Angeles!

Instead, I'm in this life with two great sons, Noah Russell, who is meeting me for lunch today, and Brook Bernstein (I'm really his step-mom and sure we had some rocky times but I give thanks for even that - because it helped



Amy Hernandez

us both be who we are today). I also have some great kids I never had - by that I mean young people in my life that are like my own - but are not. Like Chris Lane, who lived with us three years after high school. I give thanks for all my kids.

Next door at Piemonte's I see Amy Hernandez efficiently working the counter. She is another Almost Daughter of mine. I go in and ask her boss if she could step outside for a photo and The Question, so he called another employee over to take her place at the counter. Her boss clowned around a little and I could see this was a happy place to work. The place was packed with friendly, chatty people ordering sandwiches as I got her answer:

"I am thankful because the love of my friends and family has enabled me to be self-sufficient. Their support has led me to happiness. I'm also thankful I can enjoy freedom of choice and equality."

On my way out, one of Piemonte's customers made a funny comment and so I asked her the Question next. Thelma E. Ware became serious:

"I'm thankful for my family - my natural family and my church family - and for having God in my life because He enables all of this. And I'm thankful for my health."



Thelma E. Ware

With her purchase, Thelma hurried home to her own cooking as I walked the sidewalk very thankful that my wonderful husband does most of the meal preparation at our home. He says I could be a good cook - if I just stayed in the kitchen - but I just can't bear wasting time cooking when there is *anything* better to do, so I make sure my life is jam-packed with lots of things that are better to do, while he likes to settle down cooking the ultimate meal to go with a particular wine. It's a perfect match and I give thanks for that.



Angelica Ramirez and Thomas

Noah had shown up at the Revue. We order and consume tasty sandwiches - all food is tastier if prepared by others, have you noticed? Next we walk across the street to see his paintings displayed at the Dream Salon. A cute kitten played in the geometric shapes on the floor made from golden sunlight streaming in through the square windows.

I ask owner Angelica Ramirez our Question: Thanksgiving is coming up. What are you thankful for?

"I'm thankful for loving family and friends believing in my dream. I'm thankful for their support in opening my

business - we painted together and my brother did the graphics - and for investing in me!"



Mitchell Takarakis

By now we are all petting the little kitten. "Our Dream kitty is so pretty!" Angelica adds, "And Thomas the cat is thankful for finding me. She is a rescued kitty!"

Strolling under the orange, rust and green trees I marvel once again at we humans. One Question that I ask varied people and yet the answer remains the same. We love each other. We need each other.

Later I caught up with Mitchell Takarakis and asked him what he was thankful for:

"I'm thankful for my friends and family, and for my health, my faith and my church, Truth Tabernacle, and the revelation of Acts 2:38."

Yes, we are all one and the same. We move towards the light of love, to where it shines brightest for each one of us. I sure hope your flame helps you to blaze up to your highest. Like mine does. My husband never says anything remotely like, "You aren't capable of doing that!" or "That's an impossible dream!" No, instead he is my staunchest supporter. He builds me up. I build him up. I am thankful for that.

I stopped at the KFCF 88.1 fm studio to see what answer I might find there. I Asked Ali Rezapour, an immigrant from Iran 28 years ago and host of Common Ground: Thanksgiving is coming up. What are you thankful for?

"I am thankful for my family that includes my wife, Aurora, and my four children; Sabrina, 12, Gabrielle, 10, Ismail, 6, and Miguel Mohammad, 4. I'm also thankful for the independent media of KPFA/KFCF that allows an alternative point of view that begs to differ from the Sean Hannitys and the Bill O'Reilly's that seem to fill the mainstream media of today. I am especially thankful of Amy Goodman that has given me new hopes to help bring a more factual view of current events. I do believe in the good heart of Americans and I want to be a part of this effort to bring more truthful information to my fellow citizens so they can decide for themselves on how to change the world by changing their community. A thought that I keep in my mind in this struggle is to seek light in the darkest."

"Seek light in the darkest..." Good words. If those closest to you bring darkness to your spirit, step out of that line and follow your heart to love. And give thanks for those that let you shine.



Ali Rezapour