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1 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE JUNE 2012



Hundreds came out on May 1 to celebrate International Workers Day and demand immigrant rights. See the full story on pages 10 and 11.

## Drones Kill, but the Blood Is on Our Hands

By David Swanson

In her spare time, between nonstop peace activism and leading international exchanges, Medea Benjamin has somehow managed to write the best book yet on the most inhuman form of war yet. The book is called *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*.

Even if you've been reading everything you could about drones, attending peace conferences and protesting in the

lobbies of drone companies like General Atomics, you will learn a great deal from this book. In fact, I'm willing to bet that even if you "pilot" drones from a desk for a living you will learn a great deal from this book. And if you have not been paying attention to drones, then you really need to read this book.

Many Americans first heard about "unmanned aerial vehicles" as weapons when Colin Powell told the United Nations in 2003 that Iraq might use them to attack the United States. This turned out to be a projection as well as a lie. It was, of course, the United States that used drones, among other weapons, to attack Iraq for nine years, and the U.S. drones are still in the skies of Iraq today, as well in the skies of many other countries.



Medea Benjamin will be in Fresno on June 24 to discuss her new book *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. See pages 4 and 5 for more information.

detaining people, only to murder them with a drone days later. And, as with other innovations in lawlessness, it didn't take long for this one to come back and bite U.S. citizens. President Barack Obama has now used drones to kill Americans in Yemen, including a drone strike on Anwar al-Awlaki, and a later strike that killed his teenage son. Neither of them was ever charged with a crime, and neither was holding a weapon on a battlefield.

Yet, somehow, as Attorney General Eric Holder explained at Northwestern University Law School this month, through an alchemical combination of law enforcement and war it is perfectly OK for a president to kill anyone anywhere. And drones

Killing individuals (and whoever is near them) has become the primary substitute in U.S. public policy for capture/imprisonment/torture. Torturing someone to death is not what former CIA General Counsel John Rizzo calls "clean." Blowing them and anyone near them into little bits is "clean."

As Benjamin documents, the United States has avoided

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## Occupy Fresno: Longest Continuous Occupation in the U.S.

By Vanessa Aranda

Occupy Fresno, a protest that began Oct. 9, 2011, in Courthouse Park, celebrated its seventh month in May. In its seven months, the participants have raised awareness about a number of troubling issues including the unemployment rate; budget cuts to all levels of education; healthcare costs; major banks, including their fees and fraudulent foreclosures; and unconstitutional laws being passed specifically targeting Occupiers because they carry a message that challenges the authority of Big Brother.

In November, arrests began for Occupy Fresno due to outdated county park ordinances. As a few might know, Occupy Fresno decided to take action and their lawyers challenged the ordinances by filing civil suits against Fresno County regarding the ban on passing out handbills, needing a permit for an assembly of nine persons or more and the park closure hours. The U.S. District Court in San Francisco found two of the three regulations unconstitutional and ordered Fresno County to stop enforcing the ban on handbills and requiring a permit for an assembly of nine or more people.

Since early November, there have been 100-plus acts of civil disobedience, resulting in the arrests of protesters. Many Occupiers have been arrested multiple times for the cause, some as many as 6-8 times. A team of 30 attorneys jumped on board, representing the Occupiers, pro bono, when their court trials began on Feb. 1. After months of negotiations and deal offers from both sides—the county and Occupiers—there was finally an agreement. The Board of Supervisors and the District Attorney's Office decided to drop all charges against Occupiers and have agreed to three 24-hour vigils, meaning overnight camping without the threat of cuffs.

Occupiers feel differently about the deal, which is to be expected as the movement is diverse and comprises people from all walks of life. Some see it as a victory and celebrate the news of being able to have three vigils on nights of their choosing (as long as it's not a holiday) within a year. Others are unhappy with the deal, still noting the time, place and manner restrictions as being unconstitutional, as proponents of the 1% get to dictate those restrictions.

Not many are aware that Occupy Fresno is the only Occupy in the movement that has managed to maintain a 24-hour presence at its original location. All of the other Occupies were evicted from their camps, and although many of them have returned,

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Last month, the Occupy Fresno movement participated in the May Day march in downtown Fresno (above), held a protest at Chase Bank to hold it and other banks accountable for the foreclosure crisis, and maintained their vigil at Courthouse Park.

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# Pride: Why It Matters

By Kaylia M. Metcalfe

It's time for Pride!

The 22nd Annual Central Valley and Fresno's GLBT Pride Parade and Festival (sponsored by News Link) will take place on June 2 in the Tower District from 10 a.m. to 3p.m.

The grand marshals for the 2012 Pride Parade are DJ Binx, Justin Kamimoto (founder of My LGBT+), Chantal/Victor, Veronica Salmeron and the Fresno County LGBTQ Task Force, Judge David Gottlieb, Brian Bishop and the SHARE Video Committee. This year's theme is "One Nation under the Rainbow."

As we all get ready for Pride, whether that be by signing up to march with our favorite organizations, breaking open our piggy banks in order to take advantage of all the fabulous rainbow-colored merchandise or just stocking up on sunscreen, it is a good idea to take a moment and reflect on what Pride means.

*Pride*: a high opinion of one's importance, to be proud. *Proud*: having or showing self-respect or self-esteem.

We, as a community, have a lot to be proud of. We are, what many consider, the final edge of civil rights. We challenge the status quo of traditional beliefs in order to change them, to make them more inclusive. We are making it safer, one day at a time, to come out of the closet, and no amount of bullying and threats can push us back in. Every day, the current of popular opinion moves closer to full acceptance. The number of active, proud and non-apologetic LGBTers on Facebook, in social media, in major label recording studios, in professional sports teams, in Hollywood and in politics continues to grow.

The President supports our equality, not only in the arena of marriage, but also in protections for the transgender community and in freedom to serve in the military.

This year marks the 22nd Pride Parade and Festival in Fresno, and what a difference 22 years has made. No more protests by the KKK, no more skeptical police department personnel who may or may not step in to keep the peace. This month's Pride event will be safe, fun and attended by LGBT families (families!) along with hundreds of straight allies.

Some might say that being proud of something you "are" as opposed to something you "earn" is arrogant. Although that point is valid, that isn't what the yearly Pride festivals are really about. The parades and parties every summer are more than an excuse to drink, wear silly clothes and be a spectacle (although many enjoy those aspects!). The point of Pride festivals is to reconnect with one's community, to celebrate how far we have come and to recharge our batteries in order to continue the work we still have to do.

There hasn't been a better time to celebrate, to look with optimistic eyes toward our future. Now is our chance, at Pride and in the November elections, to come together as a group and continue to push these changes forward. It's hard to remember what it was like at Stonewall. Today's youth can hardly imagine that level of bigotry and hate, and for this we are supremely grateful. But our work is far from over, and we all know it.

We should be proud of what we have done. We should be proud of what we are going to do. We should feel a swell of self-esteem, of self-respect. And we should get together to loudly celebrate with all the trappings, glitter, sparkles and bright colors we can stand.

So, bring your friends, bring your family, bring your long lost relations and your neighbors and the friendly cashier at the grocery store—bring them all to Pride and help us celebrate that we are all one nation, a nation of fiercely individual spirits who come together happily, under one beautiful and colorful rainbow.

The 2012 Pride parade starts down Olive Avenue and runs through the heart of the Tower District at 10 a.m. on June 2. The festival gates open at 11 a.m. A donation of \$5 is suggested for entry to the festival. For more information, visit [www.fresnorainbowpride.com/newsite/pride.html](http://www.fresnorainbowpride.com/newsite/pride.html).

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Kaylia Metcalfe is a writer, blogger and activist in Fresno. She is a cofounder of *Skeptics Without a Cause* and serves on the Gay Central Valley Board of Directors. Her short story collection *Links* is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Contact her at [kayliametcalfe@gmail.com](mailto:kayliametcalfe@gmail.com).



Do you, your Business/Organization support  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
EQUALITY**  
and believe in community-building events?

For the past 22 years, Fresno Rainbow Pride has presented the Central Valley & Fresno's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Pride Parade and Festival. The event brings together thousands of people from all over the Valley. This year, the all-ages festival takes place on **SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND from 10am to 3pm** in Fresno's Tower District. The event includes a **Parade at 10am** traveling down Olive Ave. from Palm to Maroa, and a **Festival from 11am to 3pm** with food, entertainment, bounce houses and fun zone for the kids.

Your attendance, participation and contributions to Fresno Rainbow Pride will send a clear message that you, your business/organization **SUPPORTS EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE.**

But even more important is the psychological effect the parade and festival have on the Fresno Community. We live in a difficult area to "be ourselves", to feel safe, to be safe.

Your presence will go a long ways in promoting  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
EQUALITY**  
Check us out at [www.FresnoRainbowPride.com](http://www.FresnoRainbowPride.com)



## FROM THE EDITOR



The coverage by the *Fresno Bee* of the local May 1 march and rally in support of immigrant rights was simply amazing. It was, in my opinion, a clear reminder of why we need alternative/independent media coverage of local events. I looked at the front page of the *Fresno Bee* on May 2 hoping to see a photo of the 500 people who took part in the march and rally in downtown Fresno the day before. Seeing nothing there, I opened the paper and on page 3 was featured a rally of what looked like 30–40 businesspeople (organized by the Tea Party) who oppose high speed rail—full color photo, illustrated map and in-depth story, but nothing about the 500 people celebrating the local May Day event.

Turning the page, I saw a single person in a photo with the headline “Remembering Fallen Officers,” taken in the same place (Courthouse Park) where the May Day rally and march was held. This was a story about law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

When readers finally got to the *Bee*’s May Day coverage on page 10, the headline read “Clashes Scar May Day.” The photo shows police and protesters fighting in Oakland; the caption referred to the violence and said, “hundreds of activists across the U.S. joined the worldwide May Day protests.” Hundreds? Hundreds?!? There were hundreds in Fresno alone, which was not mentioned.

The *Bee* connected the violence at the May Day events with the Occupy movement in the photo caption, and the story below focused on violent clashes between participants and the police. At the end of the story, praise was heaped on the 100,000 May Day marchers in Russia, which it was claimed were celebrating Vladimir Putin’s government (and presumably the end of communism). Not a word was mentioned about the May Day rally and march in Fresno. It is as if it never happened.

Next to the *Bee*’s main May Day story was an article, “Five Men Arrested in Bomb Scheme,” that linked an attempt to bomb a bridge in Cleveland with the Occupy movement, because it was claimed that the participants once attended an Occupy event. The proximity of the article looks to me like a thinly veiled propaganda effort to further link violence, the Occupy movement and May Day.



### Kudos

Congratulations and a big thank you to the *Community Alliance* and its staff, writers and volunteers. The May issue was the best ever—both in content and layout! The well-written articles are timely, informative and address important issues that the mainstream media ignores. I hope others will join me in increasing their financial support for the *Community Alliance*. This newspaper is of critical importance in furthering progressive change in Fresno and the Central Valley.

Howard K. Watkins  
Chair, Central Valley Progressive PAC

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### Why Cuba Solidarity Is Important to the Progressive Movement in the United States

There are many changes we need to make in society, many problems we need to solve and evils we need to eliminate. It often seems that our whole role is that of opposition, that we are defined by what we are against: racism, war, economic exploitation, environmental degradation. We are right to fight against these wrongs, but this can feel like always being negative.

Cuba, which has its own problems and imperfections, still provides another model of a society and economic system. It is profoundly different to see a country where “it will make money” is not the ultimate reason for all that is planned and done and where cooperation rather than competition is the ideal. Because this example is valuable to progressives everywhere, it represents a threat to the U.S. ruling class and U.S. government, which in turn have tried invasion, subversion and a 50-year blockade to try to defeat the Cuban revolution.

These attacks by the U.S. government and its sponsored Miami terrorist groups have killed and injured many people and have cost Cuba much suffering through the blockade, through violence, through the introduction of disease agents. But they have failed to overthrow the government and failed to re-conquer the people for colonialism and exploitation. Throughout the world, the United States imposes its will by violence, by economic force, by sponsoring coups. Cuba is the beacon for Latin America and the world, saying “It is possible to resist” and “It is possible to win.” We need to know these truths.

The May *Community Alliance* newspaper, on the other hand, had a front-page story encouraging readers to participate in both the May Day march and rally in downtown Fresno and the Occupy Fresno event held at a local bank. We told the history of May Day (International Workers Day) and gave information about how to participate in those local events. This month, we continue our coverage with an article on page 10 about immigrant rights and photos of the march and rally on page 11.

Alternative/independent media validates the work progressive activists are doing by telling their story and encouraging people to participate in building a movement for peace, social and economic change. If you are tired of the *Bee* ignoring, distorting and lying about what is going on in this community, please consider subscribing, or if you already subscribe, donating to keep the *Community Alliance* newspaper financially viable.

We could really use your support right now, as we do not (as I write this sentence) have enough money to print the next issue. A subscription/donation form is available on page 23.

The future of the *Community Alliance* is in your hands.

Speaking of financial trouble, we also have the City of Fresno, which is in a fiscal crisis of its own. But unlike the financial problems that this newspaper is experiencing, the problems at City Hall are the result of decade after decade of Republicans dominating the local political landscape. Over the years, conservatives (always the friend of the businessperson) have allowed builders and developers to reap huge profits by not taxing them enough to cover the expenses of necessary infrastructure.

In addition to not taxing the rich, conservatives have burdened us with one financial boondoggle after another. City Hall

- built the downtown baseball stadium that is a constant drain on the city budget.
- ended up owning the Metropolitan Museum by guaranteeing loans that defaulted.
- were partners in the Granite Park business park that failed.
- built parking garages we don’t need, yet must maintain.
- bought (from the Economic Opportunities Commission) a community center in West Fresno that was built but never opened.
- makes taxpayers liable for unrestrained officer-involved shootings.
- purchased a massive video surveillance system that violates our civil liberties and wastes our money.

The 23rd Pastors for Peace Caravan will be coming through Fresno early in July. The caravan is an act of nonviolent civil disobedience that challenges the blockade. We take aid to Cuba as an expression of solidarity: as the people’s foreign policy. If you agree, lend a hand. Donations of medical equipment, especially wheelchairs, and medical supplies, as well as money are needed. Contact Gerry Bill at 559-227-2133 or gerry.bill@gmail.com or Leni V. Reeves at 559-855-4511 or lenivreeves@gmail.com. Checks may be sent directly to IFCO Pastors for Peace at 418 W. 145th St., New York, NY 10031.

Leni V. Reeves  
Auberry

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### An Open Letter to the LGBT+ Community

It’s an exciting time to be in Fresno! With Pride just around the corner and the summer heat ramping up, it is hard to wait out the final weeks of May.

We wanted to let you know about some changes that affect you, the LGBT+ community.

Gay Central Valley and Gay Fresno have split. To better serve the community at large, each organization will focus on what it does best.

Gay Fresno (www.gayfresno.com) will continue to bring you news and articles that are relevant to the LGBT+ community and offer a community calendar of events and resources.

Gay Central Valley (www.gaycentralvalley.org) will continue to focus on being an online resource, as well as expanding the current scope and programs of the LGBT+ Community Center in the Tower District (www.fresnolgbtcenter.org), and will be taking over the Rainbow Delegation—those fabulous rainbow bracelets (www.rainbowdelegation.org).

The transition is a positive one, and the two organizations will continue to work together because both have the same goal: to help the Fresno LGBT community be safe, secure and empowered.

We want to thank you all for your patience as both organizations adjust to the changes. We anticipate getting the bugs worked out and the Web sites updated within the next few weeks.

And then, only good things coming your way this summer: Pride! The Laramie Project 10 years later! The first LGBT+ community fireworks stand (supporting Gay Central Valley,

The list goes on and the financial incompetence is staggering. For a political party that always puts business before workers and the poor, the Republicans sure have made some incredibly bad business decisions. Now, the chickens are coming home to roost.

City Hall’s response? The mayor has privatized essential public services (commercial sanitation), is hammering away at city workers’ wages and benefits, and will probably end up declaring a fiscal emergency to get what she wants.

Stockton is a little further along in the process of financial crisis than Fresno. It has already declared a fiscal emergency, and bankruptcy is a serious possibility. The *Community Alliance* has heard rumors of bankruptcy being declared by the City of Fresno. Someone at City Hall even gave us the date when it is supposed to happen, but that could just be a cynical negotiating tactic by the Republicans to beat up the unions.

I would like to report that progressives in Fresno have an alternative budget plan to present, but we don’t. If we did, it would certainly call for some much needed changes.

For example, rather than spending hundreds of thousands of dollars destroying homeless encampments (like the city did last October and November), we might open up the Community Center on California and Elm so those without homes could have some place to get out of the heat. Progressives would then get homeless people into housing because we know that living in an apartment costs less than living on the streets. The high cost of living on the street is because of medical, policing and other expenses related to homelessness.

Progressives, if we had political power, would end the war in Afghanistan, reduce the bloated military industrial complex and use that money to improve our community. We would provide help for the mentally ill and drug and alcohol addicts rather than putting them in jail. We would build a thriving and vibrant economy by supporting an aggressive alternative energy program that would end our reliance on foreign oil, and we would make the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes.

If you have ideas for how to challenge Mayor Ashley Swearegin’s slash-and-burn budget proposal, send it to me and we will print as many suggestions as we can in next month’s *Community Alliance* newspaper.

United Students Pride, the Fresno College Diversity Club, My LGBT+ and Trans-E-Motion)! The NoH8 Project! And more.

Again, thank you for your understanding as we transition. We are happy to serve the community, but it is you, the LGBT

### Continued on page 23

The *Community Alliance* is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly newspaper is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental and economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

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Drones continued from page 1

allow a president to do this without any supposed risk to what U.S. newspapers treat as constituting the complete category of human beings, namely members of the U.S. military. Benjamin’s book establishes that drones do not live up to their advertising.

Drones turn out to have been falsely marketed as a humanly cheap way to make war. In February 2002, a drone pilot thought he’d killed Osama bin Laden, but it turned out to be an innocent man.

Expert observers, including Shahzad Akbar, a Pakistani lawyer representing drone victims, believe the vast majority of drone victims are not the individuals who were targeted—which is not to suggest any moral or legal case for killing those who are targeted. Often victims are not counted as “civilians” because they were carrying guns, but in some areas all men carry guns. Noor Behram, who photographs drone victims, says, “For every 10 to 15 people, maybe they get one militant.”

Benjamin tells some of the stories of the families shattered by drones and the hatred created by the constant buzzing sound that the drones make in the skies above the homes of people who know that at any instant they can be killed. President Obama has instructed the government of Yemen to keep a reporter locked up whose crime appears to be having reported on the victims of a U.S. drone strike. When the drones strike in Pakistan, local death squads swoop down on the area to grab anyone whom they suspect of having collaborated with the Americans. Families live in fear of both the drones and the raids that follow. More than a million people, by Amnesty International’s estimate, have fled the areas of heavy drone bombing.

Drones have killed Americans in “friendly fire,” including on April 6, 2011, in Afghanistan. Afghans have killed CIA drone pilots and other U.S. officials inside their offices. Even drone “pilots” working in the United States can commit suicide. They are suffering extremely high rates of stress and burnout, according to the Air Force. Pilots who actually fly in planes often do not see what they kill. Drone pilots sometimes watch a family for days, feel like they’ve gotten to know the people, and then blow them all up, and watch the suffering.

A Pakistani who tried to blow up a car in Times Square in 2010 said it was revenge for drone attacks. In the fall of 2011, a Massachusetts man, Rezwan Ferdaus, was arrested and accused of plotting to attack the Pentagon and the U.S. Capitol with drones that would crash themselves into the buildings.

The Obama administration claims to have limited its drone strikes in Somalia so as to avoid turning a regional threat into a group with the determination to attack the United States. As Benjamin points out, this shows awareness that there is not a current threat to the United States. Ironically, such a threat could come from drones. U.S. companies sell drones to democracies and dictatorships alike. Al Qaeda stole a crashed U.S. drone from Yemeni police in February 2011. And in December 2011, Iran captured a U.S. drone a decade after the CIA had given Iran plans to build a nuclear bomb, any possible progress on which the drone was no doubt supposed to be spying on.

Drones turn out to have been falsely marketed as a financially cheap way to make war. While initially cheaper than manned planes, unmanned drones of the sort used now tend to require many more personnel: 168 people to keep a Predator drone in the air for 24 hours, plus 19 analysts to process the videos created by a drone.

Drones and their related technologies are increasing in price rapidly. And to make matters worse, they tend to crash. They even “go rogue,” lose contact with their “pilots” and fly off on their own. The U.S. Navy has a drone that self-destructs if you accidentally touch the space bar on the computer keyboard.

Drones also tend to supply so-called enemies with information, including the endless hours of video they record, and to infect U.S. military computers with viruses. But these are the sorts of snafus that come with any project lacking oversight, accountability or cost controls. The companies with the biggest drone contracts did not invest in developing the best technologies but in paying off the most Congress members.

Drones turn out to have the power to eliminate the Fourth Amendment. The way this works, of course, is that first people who don’t look or talk like us lose their rights, and then we do too. “From 8,000 miles away in Nevada,” writes Benjamin, “a drone pilot can watch an Afghan as he lights up cigarettes, sits talking to friends on a park bench, or goes to the bathroom, never imagining that

anyone is watching him.” Meanwhile, Congress has approved 30,000 drones for U.S. skies. So, we’ll be able to hide inside as the National Security Agency (NSA) records our phone calls and e-mails, or get offline but have our actions videotaped by drones. What a choice!

Drones turn out to be very costly to the rule of law. My only quibble with Benjamin’s book, other than an occasional use of the term *defense* for things that aren’t defensive, is the sort of language used in the early chapters to distinguish between targeted victims of drones and victims who were in the wrong place: “[W]hen the target is falsely identified, even the most accurate bombs will result in tragedy.” Only when the target is falsely identified? Of course not.

Killing is always a tragedy, even if the victim is guilty of something. But none of these victims are being given trials. The person choosing to use the drone is judge, jury and executioner. As Benjamin points out, just two months before Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. ambassador to Israel said, “The United States government is very clearly on record against targeted assassinations. They are extrajudicial killings, and we do not support that.”

Benjamin also points out that the majority of strikes are not even meant to be targeted at known individuals. Rather, they are targeted at unknown people whose “pattern of life” appears to fit that of “militants” in the eyes of the drone operator. And, as Benjamin further notes, even actual militants are usually

trying to drive foreign forces out of their countries, not launching attacks abroad.

Obama claimed that air war on Libya was not war, and was not even “hostilities,” because U.S. troops were not on the ground in large numbers. But murder on a larger and more haphazard scale is not more legal than “targeted” killings. The CIA, the Joint Special Operations Command and Blackwater (or whatever that mercenary company calls itself this month) are used to keep drone wars more secretive and less accountable.

But do we really need all the details to know that wars are illegal? War violates the Kellogg-Briand Pact, in most cases the UN Charter and, when not declared by Congress, the U.S. Constitution. War is not made legal by making it resemble assassination. And assassination is not made legal by calling it war. Nor is killing a legal alternative to law enforcement.

Should we ban, as some propose be done before it’s too late, the creation or use of automated drones that kill on their own without human interference? Or should we ban all drones that kill? Or should we ban all drones that kill or spy? Should we seek to treat drones that kill as a particularly offensive and unfair type of weapon, along the lines of land mines or cluster bombs? The rest of the world has banned those weapons, but the United States has not. The United States has also refused to ban weapons in space or to work for the elimination of its nuclear arsenal. How far does getting the rest of the world to turn against a type of weaponry get us?

I think what’s needed is a campaign that seizes on the particular horror of life under a sky of drones and pivots from there to enforcing the ban on war that was put in place among mostly wealthy nations in 1928 and violated by World War II. That ban needs to be applied to wars waged against poor nations. As long as it is not, we go on losing morality, becoming less human, less empathetic, more violent and more bigoted.

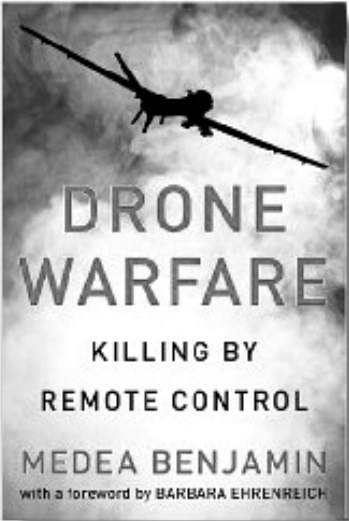
Back on Sept. 4, 1804, as John Feffer points out in his excellent new book, *Crusade 2.0*, suicide bombing was introduced to the world of warfare, and it was the United States that came up with it. Commodore Edward Preble sent the USS Intrepid into the bay at Tripoli with 10,000 pounds of gunpowder, 150 shells and U.S. sailors who died in the explosion. Now the U.S. military is busy creating suicide-bombing drones, with full awareness that people enraged by the crimes of the U.S. military will inevitably possess that same technology shortly after the United States does.

The cycle of violence can become a spiral of violence. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, there is such a thing as being too late. There is an urgency to acting now. Benjamin’s book documents the activism that is under way. Join it.

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David Swanson is the author of *When the World Outlawed War*, *War Is a Lie* and *Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union*. He blogs at <http://davidswanson.org>

and <http://warisacrime.org> and works for the online activist organization <http://rootsaction.org>.



Wednesday, June 20, 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m.  
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Oppose Drone  
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# Oppose Drone Warfare with Peace Fresno

By Beverly Fitzpatrick

Drone warfare has quietly become the weapon of choice for the Obama administration’s war on terror. Since taking office, Obama has allowed five times as many strikes as George W. Bush did in his second term as President.

According to an article by John Sifton that appeared in the Feb. 27, 2012, *Nation* magazine, the CIA had been flying unarmed drones over Afghanistan since 2000. It began to fly armed drones after the Sept. 11 attacks. Some were used during the air war against the Taliban in late 2001. As of February 2002, the CIA hadn’t yet used a drone for a strike outside military support. It was 10 years ago, on Feb. 4, 2002, that the CIA first used an unmanned Predator drone in a targeted killing.

Today, around one in three U.S. warplanes are drones. They may soon all be unmanned. This type of killing is cheap and efficient. Drones kill without warning and risk no American lives. Drones are used primarily to target individual humans, not places or military forces as such. Yet, many drone strikes not only kill individuals but also in places like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Iraq and Somalia, many innocent lives have been lost.

To learn more and understand why drone warfare should be opposed, join Peace Fresno on June 24 when it hosts Medea Benjamin, one of the world’s leading antiwar activists and co-founder of CODEPINK and Global Exchange.

A demonstration will begin at 1 p.m. at River Park (the corner of El Paso and N. Blackstone avenues), followed by a short march to the Pinedale Boys and Girls Club at 343 W. Minarets Avenue, where at 2:30 p.m. there will be a presentation by Benjamin, author of the just published book, *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. The book will be available for purchase, and Medea will be available for questions.

The event is cosponsored by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Attend on June 24 to be inspired by Benjamin’s passion and learn how you can get involved in opposing drone warfare along with Fresno’s peace community.

For more information, call 559-487-2515 or visit [www.peace-fresno.org](http://www.peace-fresno.org).

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*Beverly Fitzpatrick is a retired school teacher, a homeless advocate and current president of Peace Fresno. Contact her at [president@peacefresno.org](mailto:president@peacefresno.org).*



Beverly Fitzpatrick

## Pakistan: Behind the Headlines

By Dan Yaseen

Some in the U.S. government and the media consider Pakistan to be “the world’s most dangerous country.” Is this true? In a KFCF special radio special to be broadcast on June 29 at 5 p.m., we will discuss the current situation in Pakistan, U.S.-Pakistani relations and the Af-Pak War.

Pakistan’s historical relationship to the United States has changed over the years. In May 1950, Pakistan was a new, free country full of hope and aspirations and it anticipated becoming an independent, developing country.

Alben Barkley, vice president of the United States, said this about the first prime minister of Pakistan: “We have had many guests who have addressed the U.S. Senate. I would not wish to draw any comparisons except to say that no address has been more inspiring, more appreciated than this one by the new Prime Minister of a new free country.” It was the beginning of a rollercoaster U.S.-Pakistani relationship. Now, six decades later, that relationship is strained.

Pakistan has been in and out of crises since its independence in 1947. It was under military rule for 35 years. Pakistan is currently under a democratically elected government, but it is suffering from many seemingly insurmountable problems. American wars in Afghanistan and drone attacks in Pakistan have had a huge impact on Pakistan; sectarian and ethnic violence further exacerbate the situation. In addition, government corruption, law and order breakdown, load shedding (rolling blackouts) and rampant inflation have made the citizens’ lives miserable. Pakistan appears to be breaking apart at the seams.

“Pakistan: Behind the Headlines,” a one-hour radio show on KFCF 88.1 Free Speech Radio for Central California, will air on June 29 at 5 p.m. The guest will be Abdul Quayyum Khan Kundi, a Pakistani American businessperson and political activist.

Both Kundi and I are natives of Pakistan. I have lived in the United States since 1974, and Kundi moved here in 1998. He is from Dera Ismail Khan District, which is close to the Federally

Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Kundi is a member and political organizer of Pakistan’s currently popular political party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He is the author of a recently published book, *Freedom by Choice*.

Kundi served as president of the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce-USA in 2010. He is the founder and chief executive officer of getTickets, LLC, and Interactive Ventures—companies that own and operate a network of more than 200 Web sites. To keep people informed and educated on politics and social issues, Interactive Ventures launched getPakistan.tv and DemocracyinPakistan.com.

I would like to get some input from readers and the KFCF listening audience. What would you like to know about Pakistan and U.S.-Pakistani relations? Please contact me with your suggestions. It will be helpful for both my guest and me.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Dan Yaseen is an editorial board member of the Community Alliance newspaper and Peace Fresno’s vice president for membership. Contact him at [danyaseen@comcast.net](mailto:danyaseen@comcast.net) or 559-251-3361.*

## Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

[www.cvppac.org](http://www.cvppac.org) PO Box 5845, Fresno, CA 93755 (559) 435-1992

### The Valley’s Voice for Progressives

The results of the June 5th election will help shape the future of our community for years to come. The members of the CVPPAC urge you to help elect the following candidates we have endorsed.

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[www.harkness4supervisor.com](http://www.harkness4supervisor.com) 559-273-2942  
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**SUSAN GOOD** Fresno City Council # 4  
[www.good4council.com](http://www.good4council.com) 559-681-8107  
[Facebook.com/good4council](https://www.facebook.com/good4council)

### NEXT CVPPAC MEETING

Saturday, June 9, 3:30 p.m.–5 p.m.

Topic: What the June 5 election results mean and gearing up for November 6

The meeting will be held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence located at 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. For more information, visit [www.cvppac.org](http://www.cvppac.org).

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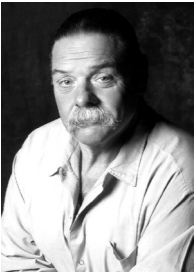
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# Code of Silence

By Boston Woodard



**Boston Woodard**

When the Constitution of the United States was drafted 200-plus years ago at a convention of revolutionary leaders in Philadelphia, it guaranteed rights for all citizens. Over the centuries, the Constitution has been amended and modified by lawmakers and the courts, and it now protects many rights of prisoners, too.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) repeatedly violates prisoners’ rights and liberties under the First Amendment. “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press,” it states clearly. Nor should prisoners be subjected to volleys of retaliation for exercising their right to free speech or for filing grievances in answer to unlawful vengeance, according to the California Code of Regulations [3084.1.(a)(d)]. In addition, according to the law and to the Departmental Operations Manual (54010.12.2, 54010.12.3), prisoners have a right to attorney/client privileges and to “confidential” and “legal” correspondence.

In 2009, while in Solano State Prison in Vacaville, I was placed in Administrative Segregation (“the Hole”). I was not charged with violating any written rule or policy because what I write about is legal. The official lockup order alleged that I was a “safety and security risk” to staff members due to my journalistic activities—writing about rogue guards, violations of prisoners’ rights, filthy (and overcrowded) living conditions and sub-constitutional medical practices (the list runs long). Not long after I wrote an article that described how Solano used the prison guards’ infamous code of silence to intimidate and retaliate against prisoners, I was transferred to the California Correctional Center (CCC) in Susanville.

A similar action has now been leveled against me because I refuse to be intimidated. For the second time (since my arrival in 2009), CCC staff members (two guards in particular) began a series of retaliatory actions against me because I filed damaging complaints on their vindictive behavior. This latest onslaught began in August or September 2011, when I voiced my objections to a guard who was reading the contents of my confidential mail from my attorney in San Francisco.

Around this time, CCC guard Brett Cox apparently had begun opening and reading my confidential/legal mail, most of which concerned an ongoing lawsuit I have pending in the Eastern District Court in Sacramento against Solano prison officials for similar violations. Strict rules govern how prisoners’ legal and confidential mail must be handled: “In the presence of the inmate, the staff shall remove the contents of the envelope upside down to prevent inadvertent reading of the content. Staff shall remove the pages and shake them to ensure the absence of prohibited material” (DOM 54010.12.3).

On one occasion, I asked Cox not to read a piece of mail from my attorney. “What are you going to do, write me up?” Cox responded. “Prove it, prove it. How are you going to prove it? Who’s going to believe you?” Cox became furious because I challenged his miscreant behavior. After reading the contents of my confidential mail, Cox threw the letter on a desk toward me, then said, “Here—now get the f--- out of here!”

Many attempts to speak with Cox’s supervising sergeant met with negative results. Some of the responses included “He [Cox] can do that,” “Are you telling him how to do his job?” and “602 it!” (file a grievance). A lack of supervision (and an obvious cover-up) only allows rogues like Cox to become overly arrogant and confident that they can infringe on our rights with impunity. Cox’s jauntiness and cocky attitude, along with his apparent lack of social skills, are not what’s expected of a prison guard. His mishandling of legal mail could also be perilous to a prisoner’s ongoing litigation in the courts.

And the retribution continued. On Nov. 23, 2011, Cox opened a piece of (clearly marked) “confidential” mail from the Chief Appeals Branch—the Director of Corrections at CDCR headquarters in Sacramento, the third (and final) level of review for all grievances filed by prisoners statewide. Cox began reading the contents, flipping through four (stapled together) pages for several minutes. When I asked Cox not to read my confidential mail, he replied, “I spoke to the lieutenant and the captain about reading your legal mail, so I can do that!”

When I asked Sergeant S. Turner (who was present) to stop Cox from illegally screening my confidential mail, Turner responded, “We can do that.” Also, in the presence of Turner, Cox told me he was confiscating my confidential mail because he thought that the letter might contain “contraband”—from the CDCR’s Director of Corrections for the Appeals Branch office in Sacramento! I was ordered to leave the office without my mail. A short time later, Cox returned my mail. “I was ordered to give you this [confidential mail] by the Watch Commander,” he said.

The confidential mail that Cox illegally confiscated contained information regarding a complaint I had filed several months earlier on another guard (Cox’s friend and cohort, D. Mena) for destroying and then stealing some of my personal property. When Cox returned my mail, it was unstapled and the pages were out of sequence. I believe Cox copied the private information, then shared it collusively with his buddy, Mena. This violation by Cox is a clear prison guards’ code of silence tactic.

In an attempt to justify Cox’s violation of my rights, the CCC’s Chief Deputy Warden Matt Mullin attached a copy of an extraneous “law enforcement-sensitive” Situational Information Report to my complaint against Cox. “Personnel are instructed to check all legal mail that looks suspicious in nature and to exercise extreme caution,” it read in part. This document has no relevance concerning Cox’s criminal behavior.

My attorneys believe this appears to be a statement that all prisoners’ legal mail in California is now routinely searchable and that Cox was merely complying with this memo when he searched and photocopied my confidential mail. There was no legal cause for Cox to usurp my mail, none whatsoever.

Cox wasn’t through yet, however. On Feb. 6, 2012, he came to my dormitory to inform me, “I want that bunk for someone else. I’m your tier cop today, so I’ll be moving you. Yeah, how about that? Now pack your stuff.” “I want that bunk, your bunk,” Cox kept repeating. I said nothing, packed my property, then moved.

Cox did not stop there, however. After I filed a second complaint for the retaliatory dorm move on Feb. 8, Cox (who was still assigned to the housing unit he moved me from) was responsible for sorting my general mail. I watched Cox cross the prison yard with a newspaper in his hand. A few minutes later, another guard handed me the February 2012 issue of the *Community Alliance*, a newspaper from Fresno to which I’ve been contributing news stories and essays since 2005. The copy of the newspaper had been taken apart and was given back to me out of order, with several pages apparently missing. That particular issue contained an article I wrote, “Still Crowded,” which described cramped living conditions at Susanville’s 16- and 32-man dormitories. According to prisoners in my previous housing unit, on Feb. 6 Cox had placed my copy of the newspaper in the “reroute mail” file, the same day he moved me from an overcrowded 16-person dorm to a horrendously overcrowded 32-man unit. Coincidence? Hardly.

Again, on Feb. 8, several prisoners observed Cox peeking through the dorm window at my bed area. This is bizarre behavior, considering the fact that Cox was assigned to another housing unit located 100 yards away. Perhaps I should mention that I had already filed a serious “Category 7” staff complaint on him. During dinner release that same day, I stayed back. Cox entered my dormitory, standing a few feet behind me while I watched TV in the day room.

“Woodard, what’s up? What’s going on?” Cox mumbled. “Got your mail okay?” This so-called peace officer was in the middle of a full-blown retaliation and harassment campaign against me, deliberately unchecked by his supervisors. After five minutes, Cox smirked, “See you around, okay,” then left the dorm.

That same day, approximately an hour and 20 minutes later, Cox returned to my dorm room again and handed me a concocted, derogatory CDC-128-B informative documentation, which he had backdated to Feb. 6. He lied, claiming that I had hurled verbal threats at him when he moved me to the new dorm two days before. The documentation was replete with false quotes attributed to me. If any of his written accusations had been even remotely true, I would have been placed in handcuffs and hauled off to Administrative Segregation. I filed a third staff complaint on Cox. This is what must be done when dealing with dangerous prison guards such as Cox. Being intimidated is not an option.

One would think that having three serious rules violation staff complaints filed against you would be time to stop this vindictive retaliation. Not prison guard Cox. On April 5, Cox came into my housing unit (he is not assigned there) and ordered me “to step away from your bunk area.” In an attempt to intimidate me (again), Cox sat on my bunk, snickering to himself, while he began writing the contents of my personal property on a slip of paper. My personal property consists of legal papers and confidential mail, address books, photo albums, personal writing materials and manuscripts, and miscellaneous food items purchased from the prison store.

The alarming danger of this rogue prison guard going through my personal property without cause made me wonder if he was still being allowed to shadow me (under the color of the law) by reading my legal mail, subjecting me to retaliatory bed moves, and destroying and censoring my general mail. When I asked Cox what cause he had to arbitrarily sort through my legal mail and other materials, he said, “Oh, I’m just monitoring you.” These actions are bizarre and dangerous, uncharacteristic of the duties expected of a competent California correctional peace officer.

In an official memo dated Feb. 17, 2004, the CDCR said there would be zero tolerance regarding the code of silence it acknowledged was still widely used by rogue prison staff and those officials who cover for them. “The CDCR is only as strong as the values held by each of its employees, sworn and non-sworn. The Code of Silence operates to conceal wrongdoing. One employee, operating alone, can foster a Code of Silence. [This includes]...failure to act when there is an ethical and professional obligation to do so. Any employee who fails to report violations of policy or who acts in a manner that fosters the Code of Silence shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.”

Since my multiple staff complaints have been filed on guard Cox, he has been reassigned from his post in Susanville’s Sierra post office (where confidential mail is distributed) to a new job. Unfortunately, Cox has been taking advantage of a loophole that allows him access to the Sierra Yard by working overtime in these positions.

I cannot stop the violations by dirty prison staff like Cox. But I can and will continue to document his rogue actions until someone in a position of authority steps up and puts an end to the abhorrent behavior exhibited by this prison guard and the cover-up of that behavior by his supervisors and officials at the CCC in Susanville.

In the words of D.H. Vodicke, ex-prison guard and author of *The Green Wall*: “I believe the California Dept. of Corrections has lost its integrity and its ability to police itself. Complete structural reform from top to bottom is needed. The people and their elected or appointed leaders are the ones who give meaning to the value of the piece of paper on which any policy is written. If top officials neither understand nor care about the need for fair investigations, they are unlikely to investigate thoroughly, or they will investigate with prejudice.” I could not agree more.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Boston Woodard is a prisoner/journalist serving his sentence in Susanville State Prison. Boston has written for the San Quentin News and the Soledad Star and edited The Communicator.*

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Occupy continued from page 1

none have had a continuous overnight vigil. This is an amazing feat, coming from a small group of people who dedicate their time to a cause they believe in, despite an overwhelming force that had previously not been reckoned with. As you may know, Fresno might be a bit conservative, politically, so it really is phenomenal when commitment, coupled with perseverance, survives on our little red island.

The Occupy movement has done more than raise awareness about pressing matters: It has helped some grow. One occupier, Kaila Igasan, recalled her experiences with the movement, touching upon different issues, ranging from homelessness, to the Fresno Unified School District meetings:

I’ve definitely grown up a lot since being involved with the movement. I’ve learned so much about the things that really do matter in life, and why. I’ve seen things I never thought I’d see—raids on Occupy camps all over the world, Michael Hanson and other school officials “stealing” money from the kids they’re supposed to be helping, people whose homes were taken away (both at the Santa Fe and other homeless encampments and elsewhere in the United States by foreclosures), and even the inside of a Fresno County Jail holding cell.

I’ve learned about the horrors of the NDAA [National Defense Authorization Act], fought for corporations to not be considered people and cheered on people who moved their money from a major bank to a local credit union. I’ve lost a lot of respect for many people I once looked up to (some law enforcement officers, various board members and elected officials, etc.), but I’ve gained respect for so many more people in this city.

I’m so proud of all of the many activists I’ve met out at Occupy. I’ve never met so many amazing people, and I’m so glad to have so many awesome role models to look up to. The experiences I’ve had over the past 7–8 months have shown me that there are issues out there that I care about, and that affect my life, and it feels good to finally stand up for the things that I believe in.

I hope that even if people can’t make it out very often right now, that we can all come together again to celebrate everything we’ve always fought for at the three 24-hour vigils we will soon be allowed. I will continue to Occupy as much as I can, and always remember the people I have met and the things I have learned while being an Occupier.

HOWARD’S HOPEFULS

Here are my June 5, 2012 primary election voting recommendations. Most are clear choices, some are close calls. I hope you find this list helpful. However you choose to vote, PLEASE VOTE! Thank you.

Howard K. Watkins

FEDERAL

- President OBAMA
- US Senator FEINSTEIN
- Congress #4 UPPAL
- Congress #16 COSTA
- Congress #21 HERNANDEZ
- Congress #22 LEE

STATE

- St. Senate #5 Galgiani
- St. Assembly #23 ROJAS
- St. Assembly #31 PEREA
- STATE PROPS. YES on 28 & 29

FRESNO COUNTY

- Bd. of Supes #2 HARKNESS
- Bd. of Supes #5 KRIL

CITY OF FRESNO

- Mayor No Rec.
- City Council #2 SAIGAL
- City Council #4 GOOD



Another activist, Moises Hernandez, explained why he chose to Occupy:

I came to Occupy to physically demonstrate against the threat of corporate fascism in the United States. I think the 2008 bailout caused all of those who had already been protesting from the discretion of their own confined areas to come together in a public space and demonstrate in defiance that we are not going to leave until the social contract that binds civil government is restored back to its promise of opportunity, pursuit of happiness, and the preservation of liberty and freedom for all.

The Bush presidency became a joke even though some very serious and frightful things happened during his presidency, like the Patriot Act and 9/11 events that affected our freedoms. At the same time, the nature of business in the corporate realm became self-evident. It became seen as an entity that had dominated American culture and politics. Common and safe political rhetoric is to portray the corporation as a symbiotic partner with the government.

I think Occupy can continue to become a symbolic political demonstration against the loss of liberty.

Truthfully, the Occupy movement in sleepy towns like Fresno has died down a bit. Individuals returned to focusing on school or work, etc. There are still a number of dedicated supporters who continue to commit their time to being down at Courthouse Park. Because of the lack of bodies at the camp on a regular basis, it has been hard for Occupy Fresno to plan anything. As of now, nothing is happening in June, but a little innovation could go a long way. Everyone is encouraged to come down, any time or any day, as there is always someone at Courthouse Park, and talk. The General Assemblies (GAs) are Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at noon.

One of the most frequently asked questions Occupiers get is “what do you need down here?” A common response to this inquiry is bodies. Because Occupy Fresno runs purely on donations, food, water, poster boards and various other art supplies would be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Occupy Fresno would not have survived so long without the support and love of the community and thanks to everyone for sticking with them. Further information and details regarding upcoming events can be found on the Facebook page Occupy Fresno Ca, on Twitter @occupyfresno or at the official Web site [www.occupyfresnocalifornia.com](http://www.occupyfresnocalifornia.com).

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The author is an APOC down with the movement named Vanessa Aranda. Contact her at [occupy559@gmail.com](mailto:occupy559@gmail.com).

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Clearing the Air  
By Kevin Hall

Kevin Hall

In discussions of air pollution, the topography and climate of the San Joaquin Valley are usually compared to a bowl with an inversion-layer lid, and when that lid closes in the summer, pollution is trapped and solar-cooked into a life-shortening, toxic soup of smog.

I have always preferred to describe the Valley as a garage: You and the family are in there, sitting in the car with the engine running, the garage door closed. When the wind blows or daytime highs stay below about 90°F, the door stays open, but in the long, hot summer months, the winds die and temperatures stay high. So the door stays shut for days, even weeks.

This year the door started to close in April, and smog levels rose to unhealthy levels in the usual places such as Bakersfield, Clovis and Fresno. But it really slammed shut the second week of May. Of the two dozen machines throughout the Valley that measure smog, all but two of them recorded dangerous levels for one or more days or, as in the case of Maricopa, simply broke down and stopped working.

From north to south, people’s health was being damaged in Tracy, Modesto, Turlock, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Clovis, Parlier, Tranquility, Porterville, Visalia, Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, Shafter, Arvin, Bakersfield, Edison and vast areas in between those monitor locations. Parlier, which sits downwind of Fresno in southeast Fresno County, was hit the hardest. For five days in a row, lung-scarring levels of smog were present for as many as eight hours each afternoon and evening. No doubt the same was true for Arvin in Kern County, but that community’s monitor was unlawfully removed last year and no local readings are available.

No Escape

If you live in the foothills or higher up in the Sierra Nevada, you’re pretty much on your own and could be at high risk. The only pollution monitors along the majestic eastern wall of the Valley are in Tulare County at the 1,500- and 5,000-foot elevations, and ozone levels there regularly surpass the worst the Valley floor has to offer. Worse yet, the hours per day of dangerous pollution are greater, too. Researchers at UC Merced have suggested that Shaver Lake in Fresno County could be considered one of the most smog-polluted rural areas in the nation. Anecdotaly, I remember being told years ago that a monitor at Shaver was removed because its readings were too high.

How high is the roof of this garage? Well, one clear visual example was provided by the infamous Gridley Tire Fire back in the late 1980s. Returning from a backpacking trip in the Sierra, as we drove down the mountain toward Huntington Lake at 7,000 feet in Fresno County, a yellow cloud of smoke covered the water. That’s the smog ceiling.

To keep you and your family safe this summer, pay attention to the Air Quality Index color codes. If it’s an “orange” day, plan on staying inside from around 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. or later. During those hours, the smog level will rise above orange to red and even purple. While the heat alone will usually keep most people indoors, many work outside. I again encourage people to sign up for hourly updates through the RAAN page at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org). It’s an online service only. There is no emergency system in place for warning the general population on most dangerous days.

What the Health?

The Central Valley Health Policy Institute recently issued an important report on the Valley’s severe, multiple health crises: *Healthy People 2010—A 2010 Profile of Health Status in the San Joaquin Valley*. Its findings show that over the last decade, there was little to no improvement. Go to [www.cvhpi.org](http://www.cvhpi.org) for more information.

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Kevin Hall is director of the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition based in Fresno, online at [www.calcleanair.org](http://www.calcleanair.org) and on Facebook. CVAQ is a partnership of more than 70 community, medical, public health, environmental and environmental justice organizations representing thousands of residents in the San Joaquin Valley unified in their commitment to improve the health of Californians. Contact him at [kevin@calcleanair.org](mailto:kevin@calcleanair.org) or follow him on Twitter at SJVair.

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# Eugene Zumwalt Is Honored

By Alex Vavoulis

A reception for Dr. Eugene Zumwalt was held on April 14 sponsored by Dean Vida Samiian for the School of Arts and Sciences at Fresno State. It was to honor Zumwalt for having a scholarship fund placed in his name for the amount of \$50,000 by a former student. It is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on a teacher. Zumwalt is a professor emeritus of English at Fresno State, and the reception was held at the home of his son, Kurt.

Zumwalt was a founding member of the Fresno Free College Foundation (FFCF) when it was organized in 1968 to defend the academic freedom rights of an English Department poet and to provide him and his family with a stipend following his dismissal by the administration. Zumwalt was also there to help the FFCF after it evolved into a cultural and artistic force in the Fresno community.

He used his printing skills to assist the FFCF with its David S. Bates Fund that was established in 1974. Bates was a professor of music for three years at Fresno State until he died from cancer at the age of 38. Zumwalt printed one of his compositions called “Suená,” which was performed by his wife Susan Bates (cello) and pianist Ena Bronstein. This performance was recorded by KFCF (the Foundation’s radio station) and broadcast on the station. In addition, a national competition in Bates’ name was established by the FFCF, and Zumwalt printed a poster that was distributed to many music departments throughout the country.

A highlight of the reception was the selection of Dr. Dale Bush to speak about his colleague and friend. This turned out to be a stroke of genius by Dean Samiian. Bush provided the assembled group with an informative and delightful biographical sketch of Zumwalt. Bush was a good choice because both were comrades-in-arms during a most repugnant period at Fresno State. Bush was a founder of the FFCF and served on its first Board and remains interested in the activities of the organization to this day.

Bush spoke of Zumwalt as a man of many parts:

Among other things, Gene is a jack-of-all-trades in the best sense of that term. He has mastered the use of just about every tool known to carpenters, plumbers, electricians and every skilled craftsman in between. He is a journeyman welder, builder of boats and a master printer. Gene loves tools. I don’t believe he has ever met a tool he didn’t like. He is notorious for collecting tools of every sort. In pursuing this hobby, he has become a denizen of flea markets up and down the state of California. Happily, Chris, his lovely wife, enthusiastically joins him in these forays.

Gene is also an accomplished classical pianist, poet, author of short stories, a publisher, an outdoorsman, an inveterate birdwatcher and an expert fisherman who gently returns his catch to the water—although he does confess to eating some of the fish he catches. He says he is not a purist.

Speaking truth to power:

It is difficult to believe that this gentleman was a P-38 pilot who experienced the horror of aerial combat as he flew missions over southern Germany. Nevertheless, it is precisely the courage he exhibited in WWII that has been on display throughout his life as he has taken up one noble cause after another. Gene has consistently spoken truth

to power, defending free speech and opposing those who would corrupt the values of higher learning and pervert the mission of the university.

The outright suppression of free speech is bad enough. It exists today, as it has throughout history. But far subtler, and perhaps more pervasive, is the capacity of powerful vested interests to induce the artist to engage in self-censorship. The best defense against “art made tongue-tied by authority” lies in the vigorous and open crusade against tyrannies of all kinds. And that crusade has been diagnostic of Gene’s career.

Those who have read his poetry, or heard his lectures on Chaucer or Shakespeare, or studied writing with him, can tell you that his greatest act of courage is to be found in his dogged commitment to intellectual honesty in a world that is increasingly indifferent to the search for true self-awareness and dismissive of the arts and humanities that nurture the quest for enlightenment.

On the bolting of the doors:

In what has to be one of the most bizarre academic atrocities of the 20th century, on Dec. 4, 1970, Gene, then chair of the Department of English and his assistant chair, Roger Chittick, were physically evicted from their office by the acting dean of the School of Humanities with the assistance of armed campus police. A locksmith then proceeded to put metal bars and locks on their file cabinets and bolt shut the door to the office.

This ridiculous charade was undertaken as the acting dean informed Gene and Roger that they were being fired from their positions as chair and vice chair of the department. When asked by the press why the administration had engaged in such unusual behavior in an academic personnel matter, the acting dean said disingenuously that it was simply a matter of “normal procedure.” *New Yorker* magazine, in one of its famous short quips, reported the acting dean’s “normal procedure” with a dismissive raised eyebrow.

The paranoid delusions that prompted the university to take these actions are hard to explain, as they had no grounding whatsoever in reality. In truth, the firing of Gene and Roger from their administrative positions in the Department of English was in retaliation for their public expressions of concern over the well-established fact that the administration had undertaken a political purge of the campus.

I remember very well those who perpetrated this outrage, but I will not name names. There is really no need to do so, for they have long since descended into obscurity, whereas Gene Zumwalt continues to thrive.

On the printing of the journal:

One of the most pleasant experiences of my professional life was the time I spent working with Gene on a professional economics journal of which I was the editor. We printed that journal in Gene’s print shop located in the garage of his house in Fresno.

Our first task was to edit the articles and abstracts contained in the journal. It is a well-known fact that economists speak a foreign language and are incapable of writing

understandable English prose. Thus, we had to try to edit my colleagues’ writing so that their ideas could be clearly understood. We labored for hours on this chore. It was during this undertaking that Gene taught me a few things about the English language—its diction, syntax and the rhythm of its sentences. With great subtlety, he tweaked their sentences, producing edited manuscripts that were actually comprehensible.

The second task was to print the journal. It was during our work in his print shop that I observed firsthand Gene’s love for machinery and the skills required to run it. He delights in hard work and takes pleasure from creating something out of the combination of physical skill and intellect.

In conclusion, Bush said:

The greatest reward in being a teacher is to witness one’s students discovering their own minds. To whatever extent a teacher can nurture this process, the fulfillment of one’s career is realized. But seldom is the fulfillment of a teacher’s career celebrated in a more appropriate fashion than that which has brought us here today.

I wish to thank, from the bottom of my heart, the donor who has generously endowed a scholarship for the Department of English in the name of my dear friend and colleague. It is truly a fitting tribute to one of the finest teachers ever to have served on the faculty at California State University, Fresno.

The Fresno Free College Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, was formed in 1968. Throughout the years, it has preserved many of the events mentioned above:

- The “normal procedure” comment was given artistic form by a Fresno State student and is part of the photo gallery on the FFCF Web site.
- The “bolting of the doors” is part of *The Slow Death of Fresno State*, a book written by Kenneth Seib and published by the FFCF.
- The first broadcast by KFCF is in image form in the FFCF photo gallery.
- Information about the David S. Bates Fund is in the FFCF 1975–76 Annual Report.

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*Alex Vavoulis is professor emeritus in chemistry at Fresno State. He served as president of the Fresno Free College Foundation from 1972 to 1992 and was a Board member from 1999 to 2011. Contact him at [avavoulis@yahoo.com](mailto:avavoulis@yahoo.com).*



**Alex Vavoulis, one of the founders of KFCF 88.1 FM and the Fresno Free College Foundation, is seen here tuning into the listener-sponsored station when it first went on the air in 1975.**

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# Café Corazon: More Than Just a Good Cup of Coffee

By Paul Gilmore

So walking through the Tower today—heading to my regular bar—I must say I was a bit edgy. I had had seven cups of coffee since getting up for work at four in the morning. No food. That simultaneous fatigued and wired feeling. I was keyed-up, attentive to the little things. Mostly, I wanted to attend to a beer.

But as I approached the bar, the desire for beer faded. I was distracted by my efforts to count and calculate the density of the tiny specs of dust floating through the harsh afternoon sun that spotlighted the doorway. Besides, Dave the bartender, had propped the door open to the street, airing out the bar and the fragrance was a tad ripe—you could smell it a ways down the block. It had the ordinary off but homey (for me) sour-mildew-mop-water-and-beer odor, but added to this was a fruity sweetness from those sugary drinks folks serve in the martini glasses. It must have been a young crowd last night. Not a punk crowd. I was imagining little scent molecules glomming onto the dust particles (some 42,006 per cubic foot of air), riding those particles up my sinus passages and infecting my brain. So I pressed on—to a coffee shop, Café Corazon.

Now it’s important to recognize that not all public places are the same. A coffee shop is not a bar. The pace and tenor of the banter is quite a contrast. From guys along a bar, staring at a TV and unwinding with a few stories, to the earnest caffeine-fueled barrage of chatter at the coffee shop. The difference between these scenes is the difference between lions lounging on the Serengeti and squirrels fighting on a power line.

And just as there are differences between bars, there are great differences between coffee shops as well. Some are filled with movement—the chain-that-shall-remain-nameless-here seems always to be in constant motion. They are filled with wound-up lawyers and salespeople shouting into their cell phones while grabbing their mochas-to-go from the invisible barista—the name of the game here is *time and motion*. There’s work to be done! Even the hipsters at this coffee shop look disciplined—hardworking artists.

I won’t disparage the other places. They’re just not my thing. I went to Café Corazon because I like it, and because I was planning an experiment. I was looking to enhance my caffeine buzz with even yet still more coffee.

The great French novelist Balzac once analyzed the stimulative effects of great coffee benders, going for days drinking enormous quantities of progressively stronger coffee—“finely pulverized, dense coffee...consumed on an empty stomach.” This was not for the faint of heart, he said. It was for men with “excessive vigor, men with thick black hair and skin covered with liver spots, men with big square hands and legs shaped like bowling pins.”

I am none of these, so I figured that if this guy was going to push his limits, he better not do it with those shiny, waxy, way-too-bitter, “bold,” burned beans he’s seen elsewhere. He needed quality—a lighter roast, “first crack”—a term he just learned and had been throwing around like he knew what it meant. (You can tell I was serious because I slipped into the third person.)

Into Café Corazon I went. “Leo! I’m on a Balzac-ian mission, my friend. Set me up.”

From behind his beautiful Diedrich IR 2.5 roaster, and over the sound of unobtrusive reggae, the voice of Leo Rios, the



Why are progressives going to Café Corazon for their coffee? It’s about Fair Trade (not free trade), good friends and good coffee. Café Corazon is located at 1306 North Wishon Avenue in Fresno’s Tower District.

proprietor, piped up: “Missster Gilmore. In for a cup or in for a pound?”

“I’m looking for something that can keep this buzz going, man.” I think I sounded like a junkie.

Leo calmly said, “Well. What do you like?”

Leo has a subtle way of getting you to remember that coffee is a matter of taste. And he can talk to you about his coffees the way others talk about wine or scotch. Try a cup—he’ll describe every sip. “Notice how it starts out with the citrus, but as it cools, the acid backs off a bit and you get that hint of berries?” I know how that reads, but this guy is most definitely not a snob; the man just knows his beans and wants you to know what you’re getting. And you really can taste it.

“Well. I like the Tweaker,” I answered.

Leo saw my condition and wisely steered me away from the Tweaker, offering a cup of Sumatra, roasted just the other day, and very little acid, just the way I like it. While he ground up some beans and set up the dripper—all coffee at Café Corazon is brewed to order—I looked around at his place. There were a few folks in the front and on the couch hanging out and talking, and a couple at another table having a quiet conversation. One whole wall is taken up by industrial-looking metal shelving. On the bottom shelf are big burlap bags filled with raw beans and above this are large jars filled with the various roasts sold by the pound—Colombia, Rwanda, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama.

“So what’s this Balzac-ian mission you’re on?” Leo asked handing me the cup.

“I’m trying to up my coffee consumption—enter a new level of consciousness, if only for a few hours, ‘sparks shooting all the way up to the brain...ideas quick-marching into motion!’ just like Balzac!”

“Uh-huh.” Leo was wary.

“Inspire me!” I commanded. “Tell me about your beans. How did they get here?”

Leo proceeded to tell me about his suppliers. “This is not mass production. Quality comes from small batches, even small

sections of particular small farms. You have to have producers who separate out the really quality beans. I deal with brokers who pay a fair trade price—organic too. We get stuff from brokers who deal with all sorts of these farmers all over the world, often really small operations. Sometimes we get beans from co-ops—and small ones too, even co-ops with 10 farmers with about an acre each! The end product is key for us, but a big part of that is our supply.”

I took a drink of coffee—the connections spinning in my head. “You know, Leo, this whole thing reminds of this idea of commodity fetishism.”

Leo cocked his head, warier even more now. “Yeah?” he said.

“Commodity fetishism, man. This isn’t like some sexual fetish though—some kinky thing for women’s shoes or something. No. It’s the basic idea of a fetish—some object we irrationally put our desires into—applied to the value of commodities. We irrationally misplace the source of value, putting it on the thing, or the brand, instead of the human labor that went into it.

“Everybody thinks the roasted coffee bean itself has value. When all along it’s the process—the work that went into it—that gives it the real meaning, real value! This cup of coffee right here has a price—here’s your two bucks, by the way—but it’s more than that. It represents human relationships. Relationships with all sorts of people we never see! Relationships you just told me about. The co-ops. The organic relationship with the soil. You don’t hide the labor that goes into stuff.

“In every cup, there is a chain of relationships back to the people who made it, starting with you and the Diedrich roaster over there. Production isn’t hidden here—it isn’t veiled with lying marketing crap that says that this stuff is just conjured up by money! The bags are on the shelf screaming, ‘look at my history—investigate!’ And in this place, you can! You can trace the story back to the beginning, to the extent that such a thing can be known. These beans haven’t entered the anonymous stream of commerce that forces all human relationships into mere exchanges of money—and little money at that. Like Pete Seeger’s song, ‘Business,’ look it up.

“Think about the sheer numbers of people out there, growing coffee, harvesting, trying to make a living—the ‘efficiencies’ of the market must literally kill them. And then, as an insult to injury, their meager existence, their brutal treatment, is romanticized and sold back to us as the simple peasant, Juan Valdez! What gall! To confess such a colossal crime in your very own ads! And here you are, hanging out in Fresno, roasting beans from these farmers, recognizing those relationships, before all those sacred and solid beautiful human connections melt into the ether, dissolved by those who know the price of everything and the value of nothing.”

Leo looked at me, carefully took my empty cup from my hand, and said, “Paul. You’re cut off.” I guess I don’t know coffee shop etiquette. I’ve been drinking beer at the “dark loser hole” for years, but it took Café Corazon to 86 me. I deserved it.

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Paul Gilmore teaches history at Fresno City College. He tries to mean every word he says but does not always succeed. Contact him at oscaratategilmore@hotmail.com.

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# Progressives Support Immigrant Rights

By Oday Guerrero

## May 1st March and Rally

The May 1st march and rally have made their imprint in Fresno since 2006, when thousands of people from all over the Central Valley came together to cry out for comprehensive immigration reform. This year’s demonstration did not surpass the large gathering from 2006, but a strong collaboration was present between veteran organizers and the emerging immigrant youth.

Organizers from different age groups met for several weeks during the May 1st Committee meetings to ensure that diverse issues affecting the immigrant community, especially the undocumented community, resonated throughout the march and rally.

Several organizers spoke at the rally about Secure Communities, SB 1070 and the massive 400,000 deportations that have separated families in the past few years. Undocumented youth were given the opportunity to present during the rally and be at the forefront of the march, several of whom were shouting for the federal DREAM Act and “education not deportation.”

The wave of generations of immigrant families could be seen as many walked out on the street from Courthouse Park, down Fresno Street and returning to Tulare Street. This year’s march and rally expressed a growing restlessness as a result of the current issues influencing legislation pertaining to immigration.

## The TRUST Act

The Transparency and Responsibility Using State Tools (TRUST) Act, authored by Assembly Member Tom Ammiano (D–San Francisco), is a possible state solution to the damage caused by Secure Communities, a federal program enforced by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which has detained and deported undocumented immigrants and even U.S. citizens who have no criminal background.

Secure Communities requires jails to share information about arrested individuals with ICE, which then places a detainer on individuals that it believes should be taken into federal custody and eventually deported. This program was intended to target undocumented immigrants with severe crimes, but undocumented people have been arrested and deported for only minor offenses or the only crime of being in this country.

With the TRUST Act, local police enforcement would not be required to detain someone unless that person had been convicted of a serious crime or felony. It would also help prevent profiling and detaining citizens, as well as encourage victims to report crimes. This bill would regulate the intended purpose of Secure Communities, which is to only detain individuals who have committed serious crimes.

Several organizations in the Central Valley such as Central Valley DREAM Team and Communities for a New California will be advocating for this bill during Immigrant Lobby Day at Sacramento, an annual event in which pro-immigrant groups do lobby visits to urge legislators to support immigrant-friendly bills.

## Central Valley DREAM Team

The Central Valley DREAM Team (CVDT) is a community organization that defends higher education rights for undocumented youth by providing a network of support, as well as advocating for the DREAM Act and other pro-immigrant legislation. The CVDT is determined to provide workshops, campaigns, lobbying and rallies in order to make the DREAM Act and immigration reform a reality.

Since September 2011, the CVDT has organized several events including a Valentine’s Day fund-raiser for scholarships and a

“Coming Out of the Shadows” event, in which undocumented youth bravely declared their undocumented status in public to show that they are no longer afraid of anti-immigrant attacks. Currently, the CVDT is joining other organizations in advocating for the TRUST Act, as well as developing a campaign to get the community to become advocates for the DREAM Act.

The CVDT is a space that encourages both undocumented youth and allies to become transformers of social change. For more information about the CVDT or to join, contact 559-273-1610 or centralvalleydreamteam@gmail.com.

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Oday Guerrero is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine, with a degree in psychology, cognitive sciences, and a minor in sociology. She is the founder of the Central Valley DREAM Team, a community organization dedicated to helping and advocating for undocumented youth and pro-immigrant legislation. Contact her at gueroda@gmail.com.

# Immigration Reform: The Good, the Bad and the Absurd

By Stan Santos

## The Good:

### Student Financial Aid for Undocumented Immigrants

In 2011, Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 130, and in 2012 he signed AB 131, which comprise the two-part California DREAM Act, allowing undocumented immigrant students to apply for private and state-funded financial aid for college. The California Department of Finance estimates 2,500 students will qualify for Cal Grants at a cost of \$14.5 million, or 1% of the program’s annual \$1.4 billion budget.

## Immigrant Activists Sue U.S. Senate over DREAM Act

A group of undocumented college graduates is suing the U.S. Senate for using the filibuster rule to prevent passage of the federal DREAM Act. That bill would have given them a chance at legal residency and eventually citizenship. They were joined by Common Cause and political supporters in challenging the constitutionality of the U.S. Senate’s filibuster rules, which require routine 60-vote thresholds for bills and nominations that often have majority support. Many wish them well in their brave, uphill battle.

## Senate Democrats Appeal to President Obama to Use His Executive Authority

A letter signed by 22 Senate Democrats asks President Barack Obama to use his executive authority to prevent deportation of young people who would have benefited from the failed federal DREAM Act. The legislation would have allowed undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children to stay, provided they kept a clean record and either enrolled in college or joined the military.

## The Bad:

### Romney Calls for “Self-Deportation”

Setting the tone for the Republican Party, presumptive presidential nominee Mitt Romney was quoted as calling for “self-

deportation,” which means making life so miserable for the undocumented that they will “voluntarily” leave the country. Romney adviser and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach declared the United States could remove 5.5 million “illegal aliens” by the end of the first Romney administration.

## Republicans Attack Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) allows undocumented immigrants who assist in prosecutions of serious crimes to apply for visas and eventually obtain green cards. They must provide evidence of abuse, including police reports, medical records and undergo intense scrutiny. Republicans want to weaken the VAWA by eliminating the confidentiality and other provisions, arguing that they want to combat fraud and false claims of abuse. They provide no data or studies to substantiate this argument. The VAWA expired in 2011 and has not been reauthorized due to Republican roadblocks. Despite overwhelming support, even by law enforcement agencies, the future of this important program is in limbo.

## Florida Senator’s Immigration Proposal

Senator Marco Rubio (R–Fla.) was once considered an up-and-coming brown face for the Republican Party, despite his initial comment that he might agree with the “Arizona solution.” Although he was once considered a good running mate for Romney, polling showed that Romney’s numbers actually declined when associated with Rubio. Rubio presented his own plan for immigration reform in a cheap political move to win the battleground states of Florida, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Colorado. His plan would allow undocumented youths to study, work, obtain a driver’s license and eventually apply for residency. But they would not be able to vote, pay in-state tuition rates or receive welfare. More important, there would be no special path to citizenship.

## Agricultural Jobs and Industry Stabilization Act

Authored by Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez (D–Coachella), the California Agricultural Jobs and Industry Stabilization Act of 2012 (AB 1544) would allow undocumented farm and service-sector workers to stay in California lawfully. This bill adds some complex twists to the “guest worker” approach, allowing permits for work in those sectors where it can be proven that nobody else wants those jobs. Although it is considered the only option for many California undocumented, and has received bipartisan support, particularly in agriculture, it is widely opposed by labor and community groups.

## The Absurd:

### President Obama Again Asked to Produce His “Papers”

Like a bad joke seeking a new audience, President Barack Obama is again being asked to prove that he was born in Hawaii, despite posting the formal document on the state government Web site. It would almost be humorous, except that in an astounding legal twist, the Arizona Secretary of State has declared that the President might not be allowed on the ballot in that state.

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Stan Santos is an activist in the labor and immigrant community. Contact him at ssantos@cwa9408.org.



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# MAY DAY RALLY 2012



## Immigrant Rights Are Human Rights

By Pablo Reyes

### SB 1070 Reaches the Supreme Court

In April, a majority of the Supreme Court justices appeared sympathetic to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer's anti-immigrant bill SB 1070. The bill's most controversial parts are Section 2, which allows police officers to arrest someone if they have "probable cause" to think a person is undocumented, and Section 5, which makes it a state crime for unlawfully present aliens to solicit or perform work.

The bill reached the Supreme Court for the justices to rule on its constitutionality. The first hearing on the case lasted an hour and 20 minutes. Although the justices appeared friendly to the bill in this first session, the court has a difficult decision to make because of the potential impact of the case on federal law. The ruling also will have an enormous political impact. The presidential race will be affected by the outcome as the Republican Party has repeatedly stated support for SB 1070 copycat laws, whereas the Obama administration has shown support for immigration reform.

### The Feds Sue Arpaio

The U.S. Justice Department has sued Arizona Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio for allegations of civil rights violations and racial profiling of Latinos. Randomly arresting Latinos on the streets because of their "illegal appearance" and making female inmates sleep on their own menstrual blood are just two of the accusations against Arpaio.

Arpaio faces reelection in November. Defending himself from these allegations, he stated, "If they sue, we'll go to court. And

then we'll find out the real story.

"They're telling me how to run my organization," Arpaio added. "I'd like to get this resolved, but I'm not going to give up my authority to the federal government. It's as simple as that."

### Dare to DREAM

Dare to DREAM (D2D) is a campus organization dedicated to helping AB 540 students at Fresno State. Founded in the spring of 2011 by Jovana and Nancy Lopez, D2D provides resources to undocumented students in the form of scholarships and encourages students to participate in community service activities. The group consists of AB 540 students and their allies.

Arisbeth Miranda, the current president, believes that there is a need for undocumented students to have a safe space at the Fresno State campus. "We make ourselves become a family," she says.

D2D will be giving out scholarships to AB 540 high school students at its annual banquet. Eligible students would qualify to attend Fresno State in the next year, have a 2.5 GPA and submit three letters of recommendation and a personal statement. For more information, contact D2D at 559-355-8309 or csufresno.daretodream@gmail.com.

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Pablo Reyes is a DREAM Act advocate and a member of the Central Valley DREAM Team. Contact him at pabloneb@gmail.com.

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MUSIC AND ARTS CALENDAR

| <i>Sundays</i><br>11 a.m.—William Morris at Campagnia<br>6 p.m.—Larry Keyes Band at Bottoms Up<br>6 p.m.—Ooi Jazz Jam Session with Les Nunes at Ooi Japanese Cuisine | <i>Mondays</i><br>7:30 p.m.—Acoustic Open Mic at Starline Grill<br>7:30 p.m.—Folksinger 101 at Brick Wall | <i>Tuesdays</i><br>5:30 p.m.—Mike Miller at Santa Fe Basque<br>6 p.m.—African Dance for Fitness at African American Museum<br>6 p.m.—Lyons Sings at the Grand Piano at Slates<br>7 p.m.—Deep Cover at Lamp Post<br>7:30 p.m.—Shaphill Jazz Band at Fulton 55<br>7:30 p.m.—Silver Dollar Band at Silver Dollar | <i>Wednesdays</i><br>5:30 p.m.—Kenny Hall & Friends Old Time Music Jam at Santa Fe Basque<br>6 p.m.—Larry Keyes Band at Bot-toms Up<br>6 p.m.—Lyons Sings at the Grand Piano at Slates<br>6 p.m.—Open Mic at Cozy Thai<br>7 p.m.—William Morris at Cam-pagnia<br>9 p.m.—Tommy Delgado at Baby-lon<br>10 p.m.—Open Mic Night at Fib-ber McGee’s | <i>Thursdays</i><br>2 p.m.—KFSR-FM 90.7: <i>Jazz Then to Now</i><br>6 p.m.—African Dance for Fitness at African American Museum<br>6 p.m.—Ron Thompson & the Resistors at Babylon<br>7 p.m.—Open Mic at Shooters<br>10 p.m.—Reality Sound International at Club Habanos |
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**The Yawpers**  
Led by dynamic young singer-songwriter/guitarist Nate Cook, the Yawpers recall a grittier version of Wilco—as much a raw country sensibility as a twisted indie imagination. Equally akin to Deer Tick, Tom Waits, Bob Dylan and Elvis, the Yawpers gives a fresh blend of indie-country and rock. Catch the Yawpers at Full Circle Brewing on June 15.

For a complete list of programming on KFCF and KFSR, including that which is locally produced, visit the sites below:  
KFCF: [www.kfcf.us](http://www.kfcf.us)  
KFSR: [www.csufresno.edu/kfsr/KFSRhome.html](http://www.csufresno.edu/kfsr/KFSRhome.html)

**MUSICIANS & ARTISTS**  
*Submit Your Upcoming Events*  
The *Community Alliance* Music and Arts calendar provides information on local activities related to music, filmater and other performing arts. E-mail submissions to [calendar@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:calendar@fresnoalliance.com). The deadline is the 15th of the month for inclusion in the issue for the subsequent month.

|  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Sunday, June 3</b><br>2 p.m.—Marie Wilson on the Patio at Elbow Room<br>4 p.m.—Richie Blue at Shooters<br>6 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring the <b>Craig Von Berg Trio</b> at Tokyo Garden   | <b>Monday, June 4</b><br>7:30 p.m.—Taize Service (meditative singing) at Big Red Church   | <b>Tuesday, June 5</b><br>7 p.m.—Poor Man’s Poison at Babylon | <b>Wednesday, June 6</b><br>6 p.m.—Threat Level Rising, Super Heroes in Training and The Normandys at CYC<br>7 p.m.—Marie Wilson on the Patio at Elbow Room<br>8 p.m.—Electric Falcons at Audie’s | <b>Thursday, June 7</b><br>5 p.m.—ArtHop<br>1821 Calaveras<br>Arte Américas<br>ArtHop/JazzHop at Full Circle<br>Cal Arts–Severance<br>Clay Mix<br><b>Glen Delpit</b> at the Glen Delpit Studio, 1753 Van Ness Ave.<br><i>Occupy Zeitgeist</i> at Gallery 25 (thru July 1)<br><b>Robert John Friesen</b> exhibit at Spectrum Gallery (thru July 1)<br>Works of <b>Cathy Varvis</b> and <b>Cathy Speiser</b> at Studio 74<br>Works of <b>Heather Anderson</b> at Fig Tree Gallery<br>6 p.m.—Good Amount, Angelo Harmsworth, Restaurnaut, Danny Lango and Josh Sagouspe at CYC<br>6:30 p.m.—Jazz Xperiment at Patio Café<br>7 p.m.—Jim Schmidt Jazz at Pinot Wine Bar<br>8 p.m.—The History of the World at Audie’s |
| <b>Sunday, June 10</b><br>1:30 p.m.—Ukulele San Joaquin meets at Sequoia–Tower<br>2 p.m.—Valley Cats on the Patio at Elbow Room<br>3 p.m.—Fresno Filmworks Classics presents <i>The Misfits</i> at Tower Theatre<br>3 p.m.—Sycamore Slough String Band at Full Circle<br>4 p.m.—Margo Montoya & Beale Street at Shooters<br>6 p.m.—Archimedes, Watch Out!!, Thirtyseven, Glamour Tronic and Hands on Deck at CYC                                       | <b>Monday, June 11</b><br>11 a.m.—Glen Delpit at Farmers Market, Kern St. Downtown Fresno |   | <b>Wednesday, June 13</b><br>6 p.m.—Before We’re Done, Gorilla Stomp and Farooq at CYC<br>7 p.m.—Tom Scott on the Patio at Elbow Room<br>9:30 p.m.—Brewfish at Fulton 55                          | <b>Thursday, June 14</b><br>6 p.m.—Rock the Mall with Pamela Henri & the Big Boss Band at Sierra Vista Mall  |
| <b>Sunday, June 17</b><br>1:30 p.m.—Tower Father’s Day Blues Festival with Daniel Castro, Gary Mendoza Band, Kyle Rowland, Electric Grease and Square One at St. Therese Church Park, Maroa & Floradora Aves.<br>2 p.m.—Krossover on the Patio at Elbow Room<br>2 p.m.—Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances at Frank’s Place<br>4 p.m.—Joe Boy Walton & Starr Choice at Shooters<br>6 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring Mike Dana & his band at Tokyo Garden |   |   | <b>Wednesday, June 20</b><br>7 p.m.—Allen Woodward on the Patio at Elbow Room   | <b>Thursday, June 21</b><br>7 p.m.—Banjer Dan at Full Circle<br>8 p.m.—Straight Line Stitch at Babylon   |
| <b>Sunday, June 24</b><br>1:30 p.m.—Ukulele San Joaquin meets at Sequoia–Tower<br>2 p.m.—Paymela Henri on the Patio at Elbow Room<br>2:30 p.m.—Irish Jam at La Boulangerie<br>4 p.m.—Ripper Blues Band at Shooters<br>6 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring Andre Bush and David Aus at Tokyo Garden<br>6:30 p.m.—Beata Bermuda at Cal Arts–Severance   |   | <b>Tuesday, June 26</b><br>6 p.m.—Clayton Miears at CYC       | <b>Wednesday, June 27</b><br>6 p.m.—Casting Call, Think Big!, Keep Your Fingers Crossed, Tommy Marquez and Failed Creation at CYC<br>7 p.m.—Mike Miller on the Patio at Elbow Room                | <b>Thursday, June 28</b><br>6 p.m.—Rock the Mall with Voodoo at Sierra Vista Mall  |

|   |                            |          |                                 |                            |              |
|---|----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1821 Calaveras Gallery & Studios              | 1821 Calaveras             | 233-9992 | Campagnia Restaurant            | 1185 E. Champlain          | 433-3300     |
| 2nd Space Theatre                             | 928 E. Olive               | 266-0660 | Chinatown Youth Center (CYC)    | 901 F                      | 492-8254     |
| African American Historical & Cultural Museum | 1857 Fulton                | 268-7102 | Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino | 711 Lucky Lane, Coarsegold | 866-794-6946 |
| Arte Américas                                 | 1630 Van Ness              | 266-2623 | Clay Mix                        | 1003 N. Abby               | 485-0065     |
| Auberry Library                               | 33049 Auberry Rd., Auberry | 855-8523 | Club Habanos                    | 6759 N. Palm               | 449-2447     |
| Audie’s Olympic                               | 1426 N. Van Ness           | 233-3733 | Cozy Thai                       | 575 E. Divisadero          | 840-2863     |
| Babylon Club                                  | 1064 N. Fulton             | 495-0852 | Crossroads                      | 3315 N. Cedar              | 385-0770     |
| Big Red Church                                | 2161 N. Van Ness           | 227-8489 | Dusty Buns Bistro               | 608 E. Weldon              |              |
| Bottoms Up                                    | 4113 W. Swift              | 277-0074 | Elbow Room (Fig Garden Village) | 731 W. San Jose            | 227-1234     |
| Brick Restaurant                              | 820 Van Ness               | 264-2561 | Fat Boys Taqueria & Sports Bar  | 3045 W. Bullard            | 435-7600     |
| Brick Wall @ JA Photography                   | 2003 N. Van Ness           | 224-6993 | Fibber McGee’s                  | 6650 N. Cedar              | 297-4100     |
| California Arts Academy–Blackstone            | 4750 N. Blackstone         | 222-6539 | Fig Tree Gallery                | 644 Van Ness               | 485-0460     |
| California Arts Academy–Severance             | 1401 N. Wishon             | 498-3300 | Fresno Art Museum               | 2233 N. First              | 441-4221     |



## JUNE 2012

## *Fridays*

11 a.m.—**Larry Lindberg** at La Boulangerie  
6 p.m.—**Chris Janzen Ensemble** at Dusty Buns  
6 p.m.—**Chuck DeFina** at DiCicco's, 516 S. I St.  
6 p.m.—**Jim Lyons Sings at the Grand Piano** at Slates  
6:30 p.m.—**Larry Lindberg** at DiCicco's, 1914 W. Clinton Ave.  
8 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: *Album of the Year*  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: *The Groove Session*  
10:30 p.m.—**Band-Nu** at Kocky's

### Saturdays

6 p.m.—**Jim Schmidt Jazz** at Brick Restaurant  
6:30 p.m.—**Larry Lindberg** at DiCicco's, 7038 N. West Ave.  
7 p.m.—**California State Old Time Fiddlers Jam and Dance** at 1917 S. Chestnut Ave.  
7 p.m.—**Monsanto** at Crossroads

## ONGOING EVENTS

Artwork of **Dignidad Rebelde** in Galería de la Comunidad at Arte Américas  
***Dos Amantes: The Artwork of Adolf & Ella Odofer*** in Fresno Art Museum Partnership Gallery at Arte Américas  
***Esmeralda & Nye***, photography by Bruce Haley, at Fresno Art Museum (thru Sept. 2)  
***Fig Tree Gallery 50th Anniversary*** at Fresno Art Museum (thru Sept. 3)  
***Renzi: Life, Art, Legacy*** at Fresno Art Museum (thru Sept. 2)  
The Good Company Players present ***Grace & Glorie*** at 2nd Space Theatre (thru June 17)  
The Good Company Players present ***The Sound of Music*** at Roger Rocka's (thru July 15)  
***Voice of the Voiceless*** by Malaquias Montoya in Ruiz Gallery at Arte Américas

## Friday, June 1

5:30 p.m.—**Glen Delpit** at Audie's  
 6 p.m.—**The History of Hope, Forty Fathoms, We Sunk the Mayflower, Embrace the Nightmare, Failed Creation, Evisceration and CGR** at CYC  
 7 p.m.—**Glen Delpit & the Subterraneans** at Audie's  
 7 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Mariachi Tenochtitlan** at Arte Américas  
 8 p.m.—**American Heritage** at School House  
 9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***The Groove Session***  
 9 p.m.—**Krossover** at Fibber McGee's  
 9 p.m.—**Nilo Smeds** at Spectrum Gallery  
 9 p.m.—**Salvador Santana** and **Heavy Weather (The Music of Santana)** at Fulton 55

Saturday, June 2

6 p.m.—**The Wrath of Vesuvius, ItheDeceiver, We Sunk the Mayflower** and **Aethere** at CYC  
7 p.m.—**English Country Dance with Evo Bluestein** at Auberry Library  
7 p.m.—**Jammin' in Clovis** at Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th St., Clovis  
7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: **Jazz Shoppe**  
8 p.m.—**The Noralauts and D.R.I.** at Babylon  
9 p.m.—**3 Guys Playin' the Blues** at Sequoia-Tower  
9 p.m.—**Krossover** at Fibber McGee's  
9:30 p.m.—**The Original Snail** at Fulton 55

## Friday, June 8

5:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.—Fresno Filmworks presents *Turn Me On, Dammit!* at Tower Theatre  
 6 p.m.—**War Hound, The Beautiful Ones, Domination** and **Rise!** at CYC  
 7 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Samba Central** with **Eva Scow** at Arte Américas  
 7:30 p.m.—**American Heritage** at Tasting Room  
 8 p.m.—**Clockwork Continuum** at Full Circle  
 8 p.m.—**The Best Damn Cover Band** with **Michael Nagy** at School House  
 9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: *The Groove Session*  
 9 p.m.—**Larry Keyes** at Fibber McGee's  
 9:30 p.m.—**Mercury Bullet, Beta State** and **Relax Reload** at Fulton 55

Saturday, June 9

4 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Soul Kitchen***  
 6:30 p.m.—**Contra Dance** with **Evo Bluestein** at Cal Arts—Blackstone  
 6:30 p.m.—**Real Jazz Quintet** at Patio Café  
 7 p.m.—**Creedence Clearwater Revisited** at Chukchansi  
 7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Earthbeat/Jazz with Jim***  
 8 p.m.—**Epiphany Tones** at School House  
 9 p.m.—**Larry Keyes** at Fibber McGee's  
 Noon—Spokes-N-Rods with **Tommy Castro Band** and **Mofo Party Band** at Fresno Fairgrounds

## BanjerDan

BanjerDan is a banjo player and multi-instrumental performer whose style is an Americana mix rooted in straight-ahead bluegrass and branching into many musical genres. His banjo, mandolin and dobro work have appeared on numerous albums for artists across a variety of genres. BanjerDan will be at the Full Circle Brewery on June 21.



## Friday, June 15

5:30 p.m.—**Glen Delpit** at Audie's  
 7 p.m.—**3 Guys Playin' the Blues** at Patio Café  
 7 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Zebop** at Arte Américas  
 7 p.m.—**The Yawpers** at Full Circle  
 8 p.m.—**Morgan Hill Band** at School House  
 9 p.m.—KPCF-FM 88.1: ***The Groove Session***

## Saturday, June 16

5 p.m.—**Sacred Harp Singing** @ Linda & Tom Booth's, 4822 E. Pontiac Way  
6 p.m.—**English Country Dance** at Cal Arts—Blackstone  
7 p.m.—**Jammin' in Clovis** at Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th St., Clovis  
7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Underground Railroad/Interstellar Lounge***  
7:30 p.m.—**American Heritage** at Tasting Room  
8 p.m.—**Lady & the Tramps** at School House  
9 p.m.—**Rappin' 4 Day** and **Benni Boom** at Babylon  
9 p.m.—**Wheelhouse** at Jimbo's

## Friday, June 22

7 p.m.—**Fab Four - The Ultimate Tribute** at Chukchansi  
 7 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Audiafauna** at Arte Américas  
 7 p.m.—**Travis Larsen Band** at Full Circle  
 8 p.m.—**Death Alley Motor Cult** at Audie's  
 9 p.m.—**Executive Rockers** at Fibber McGee's  
 9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: **Set Free Radio**

## Saturday, June 23

4 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: *Soul Kitchen*  
 7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: *Saturday Evening Classics*  
 8 p.m.—Margo Montoya & Beale Street at Fat Boys  
 9 p.m.—Executive Rockers at Fibber McGee's  
 9 p.m.—Little Joe y La Familia at Tower Theatre  
 9:30 p.m.—The Old Tire Swingers and Poor Man's Poison at Audie's

## Friday, June 29

6 p.m.—**Gorilla Stomp** at CYC  
 6:30 p.m.—**Glen Delpit** at Spike & Rail  
 7 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Luz Maria** at Arte Américas  
 7:30 p.m.—**American Heritage** at Tasting Room  
 9 p.m.—**The Rockaholics** at Fibber McGee's  
 9:30 p.m.—**Strange Vine, He's My Brother, She's My Sister** and **Poor Man's Poison** at  
 Fulton 55

## Saturday, June 30

6 p.m.—**At the Hands of an Architect, The Human Contortion, Zombie Death Stench, Evisceration and Failed Creation** at CYC

6 p.m.—Music on the Creek with **Glen Delpit & the Subterraneans** at Intermountain Nursery, 30443 N. Auberry Rd., Prather

9 p.m.—**The Rockaholics** at Fibber McGee's

|                                     |                     |          |                                      |                                  |          |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Fresno Fairgrounds                  | 1121 S. Chance      | 269-9535 | School House Restaurant & Tavern     | 1018 S. Frankwood, Sanger        | 787-3271 |
| Full Circle Brewing Co.             | 620 F               | 264-6323 | Sequoia Brewing Co. (Tower District) | 777 E. Olive                     | 264-5521 |
| Fulton 55                           | 875 Divisadero      | 412-7400 | Shooters Bar (Mission Village)       | 375 E. Shaw                      | 224-4777 |
| Gallery 25                          | 660 Van Ness        | 264-4092 | Silver Dollar Hofbrau                | 333 E. Shaw                      | 227-6000 |
| Jimbo's                             | 495 Herndon, Clovis | 299-9924 | Slates Restaurant                    | 7455 N. Fresno                   | 256-4141 |
| Kocky's Bar & Grill                 | 1231 Van Ness       | 266-5500 | Spectrum Art Gallery                 | 608 E. Olive                     | 266-0691 |
| La Boulangerie (Fig Garden Village) | 730 W. Shaw         | 222-0555 | Spike & Rail Steakhouse              | 2910 Pea Soup Anderson,<br>Selma | 891-7000 |
| Lamp Post Bar                       | 607 E. Divisadero   | 412-4287 | Starline                             | 833 E. Fern                      | 485-5356 |
| Ooi Japanese Cuisine                | 840 Herndon, Clovis | 323-4131 | Studio 74                            | 1274 N. Van Ness                 | 908-0658 |
| Patio Café (Fig Garden Village)     | 5138 N. Palm        | 243-1074 | Tasting Room                         | 7775 N. Palm, Suite 105          | 432-8584 |
| Pinot Wine Bar & Bistro             | 805 E. Olive        | 445-1800 | Tokyo Garden                         | 1711 Fulton                      | 268-3596 |
| Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater        | 1226 N. Wishon      | 266-9494 | Tower Theatre                        | 815 E. Olive                     | 485-9050 |
| Santa Fe Basque Restaurant          | 3110 N. Maroa       | 226-7499 |                                      |                                  |          |



# The World Court of Women in Poverty in Oakland

By Jennifer White

The World Court of Women (WCW) in Poverty was held May 10–May 13 at Laney College in Oakland. The conference was sponsored by the Women’s Economic Agenda Project (WEAP), which demands economic human rights for poor women and families. Its vision is a world in which all women and their families have the skills, healthcare, shelter and nourishment they need to enjoy happy, healthy and productive lives, and it implements this vision by building the leadership of low-income women through education, training and advocacy.

The WCW is a liberating event, and women from all over the country convened in Oakland to voice their past experiences and concerns about the plight of their past and future in regard to their own or their community’s personal and individual plight of poverty and inequality.

According to the U.S. Census, in 2010, more Americans lived in poverty than combined in the last 52 years totaled. This included more than 49 million Americans, or 16% of the population. This is why it is so important to have a voice to continue to fight to end poverty and to host conferences such as the WCW worldwide.

Each daily session at the WCW included keynote speakers, conference presenters, jurors and witness testimonies, roundtable discussions and uplifting musical performances.

The keynote speakers and conference presenters were exceptional. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D–Calif.) presented the welcome to attendees of the conference and encouraged all

women to “share solutions for ending the violence of poverty.” The founder of the WCW, Corinne Kumar, spoke on a local, regional and international level expressing how “poverty is worldwide and once everyone comes together with their stories



Dr. Jean Kennedy (right), Fresno City College professor, and Corinne Kumar, founder of El Taller International and the World Court of Women

This roundtable focused on changing the basis of our economic and political system that prioritizes individuals over community and profit over people, particularly in the areas of the environment and the justice system.



Richard “Patch” Day of Occupy Fresno speaking at the World Court of Women in Oakland

no. He said, “Women in homeless encampments are mistreated and suffer a tremendous amount of poverty-related issues and unless someone puts a stop to it, our situation will only get

Dr. Jean Kennedy, professor of socialism at Fresno City College and community radio host for KFCF-FM 88.1 traveled from Fresno to attend the conference and was one of the speakers at the Environment and the Justice System roundtable discussion.

Dr. Kennedy said that the “U.S. system is linked and responsible for America’s poverty, health, disparities and the education process and that the system we live by is unequal and unfair. The process to provide direct access to housing, affordable healthcare and education must be fixed in order for us to move forward progressively.”

Richard “Patch” Day was also in attendance and spoke at the conference as a now homeless representative of Occupy Fresno.

worse.” He was appreciative of being asked to participate and stated “conferences like these only make women and the world stronger.”

Juror and witness testimonies were strong and emotional. Women shared their stories on losing their homes to foreclosure, being homeless and living in poverty. Most of the stories involved themselves, families and friends who lived or live in a state of poverty. Upon completion, resolutions were drawn and presented so that collectively, these proposals of poverty issues and concerns will be presented at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The WCW’s platform consists of the following:


- Call for the elimination of poverty as guaranteed through the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Use the methodological process set forth by the WCW to expose why poverty exists in the midst of plenty, particularly in the United States.
- Advance the vision and principles of the right to economic justice as a means to end violence against women and the poor.
- Focus on building intersections by geographic region that will allow us to move forward together building power locally for the elimination of poverty as central to every issue women face and the communities they are a part of.
- Position the movement to eliminate poverty as both a women’s right and a human right broadening the movement by uniting issue-based struggles.
- Engage and empower poor people to participate in the WCW process and become leaders in the movement to end poverty.
- Put the United States on trial for human rights violations by presenting our findings from the 2011–2012 World Courts on Poverty in the U.S.: Disappeared in America to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The emotional closing session, hosted by Ethel Long-Scott, executive director of WEAP, joined members of the panel to express her gratitude for everyone’s participation and how important it is to continue the fight against poverty as the women’s movement and shouted, “This is a battle for democracy and humanity, and it only starts here—at the World Court of Women in Poverty!”

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Jennifer White is a freelance writer. Contact her at [jentex123@gmail.com](mailto:jentex123@gmail.com).

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PATRICK BALL-LISA LYNNE-ARYEH FRANKFURTER




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**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM**  
WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

*All content paid for by WILPF*

*Graphic by Lincoln Cushing*

**WILPF BUSINESS MEETING**

Thursday June 14 7PM, at Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness. This meeting is open to all members.

**WOMEN IN BLACK**

June 6, noon to 1PM at the Fresno County Courthouse. (first Wednesday of each month; come on the month in which your birthday falls!) Wear black, bring a sign if you wish, and stand in silence for peace.

**STIR IT UP - WILPF - ON KFCF 88.1 FM (LISTENER-SUPPORTED FREE SPEECH RADIO FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA)**

June 27 3PM (4th Wednesday of each month) Jean Hays does outstanding interviews on subjects involving WILPF interests and activities. Let Jean know if you have ideas for a program. Listen!  
Also on KFCF 88.1: WILPF member Dr Jean Kennedy, Keeping It Real 8PM every Tuesday

**SUNDAY JUNE 24 DEMONSTRATION AND MEDEA BENJAMIN PRESENTATION**

Protest against drone warfare at Riverpark (El Paso & N. Blackstone) 1PM, short march to Pinedale Boys and Girls Club at 343 W. Minarets where Medea Benjamin will speak at 2:30PM  
Fresno WILPF co-sponsors this event, donating to Code Pink and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno.

**MOVIE NIGHT THURSDAY JUNE 28 "WHO'S AFRAID OF A LITTLE YELLOW SCHOOLBUS?"**

Fresno Center for Nonviolence 7PM.  
A chance to see a moving film about the Pastors for Peace Caravan - Free! Movie snacks provided.

**RAGING GRANNIES**

Meetings on selected Mondays at 7PM. Call Ellie at 229-9807 for details.

**Fresno Delegation Attends World Courts of Women on Poverty in the US**

A delegation from Fresno went to Oakland May 10th-May 13th, to attend The World Courts of Women on Poverty in the US. WILPF made it possible for the following persons to attend: Beverly Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Wohl, Jean Kennedy, and aka "Patch". We got to hear a number of personal testimonies by both men and women from all over the United States, giving evidence of human rights violations. Aka "Patch" entered testimony regarding the abuse and mistreatment to the homeless population here in Fresno. All testimonies heard will be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Kennedy, (KFCF "Keeping It Real...") had the pleasure of sharing the platform with Davey D (KPFA, Hard Knock Radio) at the conference, to speak on "Environment and The Justice System." A special presentation will be shared at our next WILPF meeting. Ms. Jennifer White (freelance writer) and Dr. Jean Kennedy had a special opportunity to co-interview the founder of the World Courts of Women, Ms. Corinne Kumar, of El Taller International, who is responsible for introducing over thirty Courts globally. Womens Economic Agenda Project hosted this Western Region's World Court of Women. We all had fabulous experiences. -----Dr. Jean Kennedy

**Carolyn Raffensberger spoke on Science and Environmental Health**

Carolyn Raffensperger, Executive Director of the Science and Environmental Health Network was in Fresno April 21-22 to do presentations about Becoming Beloved Ancestors: Preserving Our World for Future Generations. Her California tour was sponsored, in part, by a WILPF mini-grant. She spoke at Fresno City College and at the College Community Congregational Church. The underlying theme was the fact that we are borrowing this world from future generations, and that it is our duty to take care of it. Raffensperger is a proponent of the Precautionary Principle, which states that we should take action to prevent harm in

the face of scientific uncertainty, when dealing with certain practices which pose potential harm to all life on the planet. We should also serve as trustees of the common health and wealth of future generations, and review all regulations as to their effects on future generations.  
On Sunday, April 22, Earth Day, WILPFer Pat Wolk hosted a potluck in Carolyn's honor. For more information on her work, go to [www.sehn.org](http://www.sehn.org).

**Statement of WILPF - US Section - on Iran**

We in WILPF US are dismayed by the current drumbeats for war and calls for increased sanctions on Iran. This is reminiscent of the buildup to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Fear of nuclear weapons development is once again given as the rationale. This time there are major differences and alternatives that could move us toward the global abolition of nuclear weapons. The way will not be easy but is infinitely preferable to the dangerous war that will inevitably be the result of current policies. It is time to lift the sanctions and to stop the war talk. We need to open the way to future peace and stability in the Middle East. We urge women and men committed to a world of peace, human rights and security for all to participate significantly in coming negotiations. The Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone is a positive alternative to war and military actions for which UN member states have been working through the UN since 1980. (For complete document see [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org))

**Fresno WILPF co-sponsors member on Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba**

IFCO Pastors for Peace advocates a foreign policy based on respect and justice. Every year we enact this People's Foreign Policy, taking aid to Cuba, which has suffered from US aggression and economic blockade. Donations of medical supplies and equipment are especially needed. Leni V Reeves will help load them on a bus and take them to Cuba for you. Call or email for more info - [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com) or 855-4511. Check out the website [www.pastorsforpeace.org](http://www.pastorsforpeace.org)



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2012

# Fresno Center for Nonviolence

2012



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FCNV page editor:  
Richard Gomez

It is with such sadness and deep appreciation to the family and friends of

**Diane Corbin Scott**

that we remember her.  
She left us in April but we will always remember her.

Picture by Ken Hudson.



## Our Way of Peace Awards for 2012

Every year the Fresno Center for Nonviolence believes in acknowledging outstanding members of the community who through hard work and compassion have inspired others by their involvement and effort. This year we thank...

**Nancy Waidtlow** - Nancy has lived her life, with love and compassion. She is to be admired for finding fulfillment and happiness through giving of one's self... is a life well lived. A Raging Granny, a Counter-recruiter for peace, an activist for the home-less as a member of the Fire Brigade, a backyard gardener and a mean tennis player.



**Lance Canales**—for his excellence and generosity as a musician ever-ready to enliven and support events of our progressive community with the beauty of the native flute and the soulful rocking of Lance Canales & the Flood; and equally for "educating without instructing" both in countering stereotypes in the larger population and in demonstrating possibilities for young people with Indian ancestry.



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**Occupy Fresno** (pictured left)

Occupy Fresno has maintained its home at Courthouse Park since early October of 2011. They speak out against the inequity that has endangered the many while benefitting the few. Supported by their community they show that true strength derives from the determination of the people and not by the wealth or those that use intimidation. Occupy Fresno has won 2 of 3 lawsuits to protect the civil rights of all the people of Fresno to demand truth, accountability and justice despite enduring over 100 arrests, harassments and more.

## 2nd Wednesday Video Series

**Wednesday, June 13th**

Open to the Public

12 noon & 7pm  
Potluck at 6:30pm

**Fresno Center for Nonviolence.**



wheelchair  
accessible



With ample irony, **EVEN THE RAIN**, explores the effects of Spanish imperialism, still resonating some 500 years later in the continued struggle against oppression by indigenous people.

A Spanish film crew helmed by idealistic director Sebastian and his cynical producer Costa come to Bolivia to make a revisionist epic about the conquest of Latin America - on the cheap. Carlos Aduviri is dynamic as “Daniel,” a local cast as a 16th century native in the film within a film. When the make-up and loin cloth come off, Daniel sails into action protesting his community's deprivation of water at the hands of multi-national corporations.

When riots break out in Cochabamba, protesting excessive fees for water, production is interrupted and the convictions of the crew members are challenged. Sebastian and Costa are forced to make an unexpected emotional journey in opposite directions.

This fictional Fitzcarraldo-like quest to make a film against all odds, is set against the back drop of the real life “Water Wars,” fought against the privatization of Bolivia's water supply in the year 2000 and is anchored in the philosophies of historian Howard Zinn, as well as the stories of 16th century priests, Fathers Bartolome de las Casas and Antonio Montesinos, the first radical voices of conscience against an Empire. Video is 104 minutes.

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**Wednesday,  
June 13th  
3:00 pm**

**AMAZING BUT TRUE:**

**Eating chocolate could actually save your life**



New research shows dramatically reducing risk for heart attacks and stroke through the consumption of Chocolate. In fact, Dark chocolate and cocoa powder actually contain more disease- fighting antioxidants than do blueberries, cranberries, acai, and other “super fruits,” according to a peer-reviewed study published in Chemistry Central Journal. People who eat the most chocolate are 37 percent less likely to develop cardiovascular disease (CVD)—the leading killer of Americans—and 29 percent less likely to suffer a stroke, compared to those who eat the least. One of the most surprising findings was that indulging in the sweet treat also trims diabetes risk by 31 percent, an international team of researchers reported in British Medical Journal. So consider buying chocolate from us! They are at \$3.00 a bar, organic, kosher and FAIR TRADE. Very Dark Chocolate, Milk Chocolate with a hint of Hazelnut, Mint Chocolate, Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch, Orange Dark Chocolate, We also have Drinking Cocoa and Baking Cocoa. We are open from 11-3 M- F, so call us at (559)237-3223.



# Rising Like a Phoenix? A New Central California Food System?

By Edie Jessup



Edie Jessup

For too long, the poverty of the Central Valley and the abundance of our agriculture have been a conundrum. With the decrease in community-based access to healthy food, and the rise in chronic disease here in the heartland of the state of California and the nation, we are beginning to see a phoenix rising and a coming together of the people and agriculture.

healthy communities and our heritage as the place with the capacity to feed the nation and feed our region. Institutions (schools, hospitals, city and county governments) are looking at their ability to access healthier, affordable local food and the ability to drive their economies home.

Spearheading this new food regionalism has been long-term work by organizations such as the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (CCROPP) in partnership with the eight county Public Health Departments in the Central Valley, and the statewide good food movement organized through Roots of Change to bring healthy people and healthy farms to the forefront of intentional community policy and systems changes.

Fresno will host the next Urban-Rural Round Table, resulting in a Food Policy Council, following San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Oakland. This is huge and will ensure the values and systemic change for regional food. The Fresno Food Systems Alliance has been working across the food system for more than a year and has committed to a Farm to School effort in Fresno County this year.

The CCROPP will coordinate with innovative rural school systems to expand the new Central California cooperative buying of local food by rural school districts in Tulare County (Earlimart, Delano and Exeter). Farmers markets and produce stands are targeting low-income food deserts particularly, creating the ordinances and zoning options that allow local small farmers to vend today’s fresh produce where people do not have access to healthy food—and make a living.

None of this is magic, but times have changed; demand for healthy fresh food is up, and somehow a tipping point has been reached in an area that before couldn’t see itself as a market for its own goods and produce.

This view by the Central Valley as a valuable region in the state has changed the participation of collaborations grounded in Valley ways and taken its place in forging a new state future. Because most of the growth increase in California is projected to be where the food is grown, some rethinking of the food

system is natural, and the Central Valley could potentially lead the state in assuring that prime farmland does not become parking lots, that our urban places grow up instead of out and that our rural communities can be invested in to assure that the environmental degradation of past agriculture practices are changed.

The Central Valley becomes the place where the Food Commons, a regionalization of food and farming, will be piloted with the support of the business world. A new vision for our values and ability to grow healthy food here is emerging, based in the people who have previously been left behind by urban centers. Recently, at the Fresno City Council, a proposal for the General Plan that included forward-thinking transit corridors, infill preferences and green building rewards was presented to the city, and more than 85 community residents (of 300 in attendance), with interpretation in Spanish and Hmong, spoke to their preference for the smart-growth Plan A.

Our grassroots community leaders are asking their schools to implement healthier meals, sourced more locally, demanding access to clean, free water for students all day, and requesting safe neighborhoods to be active.

Cities are passing Healthy Eating Active Living resolutions, the state is committed to Health in All Policies and traditional community-based organizations are looking to whole food systems that will create health and access to good food for all.

The CCROPP in eight counties graduated another 80 new leaders this month (from a yearlong leadership curriculum), and the Community Leadership Institutes for 14 communities in Smart Valley Places are bringing in new community members who care about where their food comes from and the capacity for their communities to be walkable, bike-able and have access to open space and parks. These new leaders from low-income communities of color want community gardens, local produce in their corner stores and the ability to be entrepreneurs in the new food system.

I wouldn’t say that things have to get so bad to get good. I would say, though, that recognizing what we have, and how we can use what we have to better the health of our communities—while we are waiting for the new general plans, or federal and state infusion of much needed resources—seems to be happening.

The question here where we grow healthy food for the nation and yet we are so poor is “How can we take the pilot programs and make successful models to scale?” And create a place again where access to healthy food is the norm for all our neighbors, especially those who are the experts in growing our food. The reversal of the current hunger and ill health in the land of plenty is what I am watching for this year.

*Note:* The original version of this article was published in the April 2012 California Institute for Rural Studies Rural Report.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Edie Jessup is the program development specialist for the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (CCROPP) and co-chair of Roots of Change. Contact her at edie@ccropp.org.*

On May 9, I made a complete nuisance of myself at a Merced Union High School District board meeting at Merced High School. I went an hour early to stand in the sun on a busy corner and protest with the bus drivers who lost their jobs and the families and teens that were suddenly deprived of a sacred and necessary service. I held a sign that said, “Your school board spent \$4.7 million on swimming pools this year and now they are laying off bus drivers? Where are the grown-ups?”

Approximately a dozen people spoke to the school board under the “three minute” rule. Fully half of them could not get through their speeches without tears. One young Asian girl sobbed, as we waited, as the clock ticked. One man told of his two Downs’ syndrome children that can manage a bus but could never manage the long walk to school safely. Another spoke of pedophiles and road dangers. It was heart-wrenching, and it made me angry.

It made me angry because down the block in the Beachwood Franklin area, there is a group of concerned citizens going after state grants to make the routes safe for kids to walk to school. Right now, it is near deadly.

The more the people talked, the more I watched the faces of the school board. Stone cold. Don’t care. Not their problem. Enraged by their lack of response, as each of the last six speakers concluded, as the applause died down, I would say, as if proudly pointing out the silver lining, “But we have new swimming pools!” It was my way of returning contempt for contempt.

The school board here doesn’t answer to the people, do they? The voices of the people don’t go in their meeting minutes, and the board members don’t answer any accusations or questions from the public. I understand that they record the comments, but if you were to peruse the history of the school board meeting minutes, you will see not one notation on public comments. No one thought to write, “Twelve concerned citizens, directly affected by our bad management, got up and gave us hell.” That would be transparency, something this board doesn’t practice. The response, every time, to an outraged public is, “no comment.” How’s that for public servant-hood?

The last time I visited a school board meeting was 13 months ago, when the board announced that it was spending \$87 million to build a new school. It justified this move based on the

fact that \$35 million would come from the state as a grant and claimed it was not possible to give up such a grand gift from the universe. This lame argument sounded to my ears like someone is trying to convince me that buying something on sale is the same as putting money in my pocket. What the school board members didn’t address with the press is the other grand gift that comes along with the new school—taxpayers saddled with \$63 million of debt over two years.

Yes, the new school has been in the planning stage for almost a decade, and if we were to postpone the building of it, it would mean that we would have to start over to have a new school in 10 years. It would mean a lost investment of \$5 million on the planning done thus far. To this, I would respond that I understand the situation. But your job is to deal with change and everything has changed.


Funding that was previously available is being removed via state budget cuts. The new school was planned during a time when population growth was higher and massive budget cuts were not anticipated. If we can’t bus our farm-kids to school, perhaps letting go of the sunk cost would have been better for Merced than throwing good money after bad.

Perhaps an attempt with the state to recognize Merced’s distinct impoverished situation would have allowed a plan that pumped the money into improving what we have, keeping and expanding bus services, making the streets safe to bike and walk to school. We don’t know if any attempt was made to negotiate with the state in regard to modified plans and the grant money, because our school board operates behind closed doors and just announces its decisions with an unsettling arrogance.

Our school board and all of education across the valley are under attack and under stress. The taxpayers voted against all the propositions that would have closed the funding gap. Yet, we have a new school coming, new swimming pools, 15 newly unemployed families facing poverty and a whole lot of kids who just lost their basic right to attend school without walking five miles to get there.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Christine Meensen (aka Sister Occupy) lives in Merced and is active in the Merced Occupy movement. Contact her at anorynnun99@gmail.com.*



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# A Call for Nonprofit Action!

By Yezdyar S. Kaoosji

As Americans, we pride ourselves at being the greatest democracy in the world, yet our voting habits leave much to be desired. Not all eligible citizens are registered to vote. Those among us who have registered to vote often fail to turn up at the polling places or neglect to vote by absentee ballot. The oft-repeated excuse for not voting is that politics is a turn-off and that voting does not make a difference.

The Vote With Your Mission campaign believes that by not participating in elections we abdicate our right to express our choices and opinions. By focusing attention on California’s nonprofit sector, we believe we can successfully challenge such excuses and enhance voter registration and participation in the democratic process. More than 13 million professionals and 61 million volunteers work for nonprofit organizations in the United States. The sector generated \$1.5 trillion in revenues in 2009 and makes a significant impact on the nation’s economy (The Nonprofit Quarterly 2011).

Vote With Your Mission aims to galvanize the power of the nonprofit community and emphasize the importance of voting for the ideals and values that have brought each of us, whether professional or volunteer, to our nonprofit community benefit work. Too often, nonprofits hesitate or are afraid to join anything that is “political.” However, we have a duty—and indeed—a right to be heard. Encouraging our volunteers and staff to vote is a first step toward this important goal of citizen mobilization and participation in the political process. It is time to position the nonprofit sector as a significant segment of the voting public.

The California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits) designed Vote With Your Mission to encourage volunteers and professionals to match their voting to the ideals and values that brought them into the nonprofit sector. The campaign wants to ensure that 100% of the eligible nonprofit board members, volunteers and staff register and vote regularly in every election, local, state or national.

The campaign was launched on May 1, 2012, with more than 40 participating organizations from across the state. It is our hope that every nonprofit and community benefit organization in the state will join the growing list of California nonprofits (71 at press time) that have already signed on to Vote With Your Mission.

Signing on is simple: Nonprofits join by pledging to 1) ask all board members, volunteers, staff and constituents to vote in all elections, and 2) provide nonpartisan voter registration materials onsite. That’s it! An organization can make a greater commitment by signing up as a co-sponsor by inviting 15 other nonprofits to join the campaign.

For more information, visit the campaign Web site at [www.vote-withyourmission.org](http://www.vote-withyourmission.org). Legal counsel has vetted the campaign and prepared a set of FAQs. These are on the Web site. The campaign coordinator, Leslie Hatamiya, is also happy to answer any questions or concerns ([leslieh@calnonprofits.org](mailto:leslieh@calnonprofits.org)).

If you are a board member, a volunteer or professional staff, please take a lead to introduce Vote With Your Mission to your

## Progress on Building a Progressive Network

By Paul Pierce

A collective of progressive organizations that formed after the Jim Hightower presentation last fall has met a number of times this year. The group’s working Steering Committee, composed of volunteers from more than 10 community organizations, met in May to review the status of the group. Here is a synopsis of the meeting results:

### Recent Accomplishments

The networking among progressive groups has already proven to be an effective force. The overflow turnout at the Fresno County Planning Commission urging denial of the Cemex proposal to mine Jesse Morrow Mountain caused the Commission to postpone action and continue the matter for further discussion. The proposal to have the City of Fresno allow commercial development into the Sugar Pine Trail was denied after another outpouring of public opposition organized by the progressive community. More recently, the Fresno City Council voted that the City’s General Plan update through 2035 would promote infill and not urban sprawl. We also brought much public input to the AB 109 Corrections realignment meetings for alternatives to incarceration. These show that a networked progressive community can bring change at the local level.

### Name Adoption

We will soon be sending out information to all of the participating organizations to vote on one of four options for a group name. We reached consensus that having “Progressive Network” in the name conveyed the most accurate purpose of the group. The discussion then focused on whether to include some geographic reference in the name.

The options are Progressive Network, Progressive Network of Fresno-Madera Counties, Progressive Network of Central California and Progressive Network of Greater Fresno.

### Communications

We are encouraging all participating organizations to use the *Community Alliance* newspaper and its Peace and Social Justice

Calendar to share information about upcoming events. Those who sign up for the calendar will receive an updated e-mail of the calendar each week. To subscribe to this e-mail list, go to [www.mailermailer.com/x?oid=32254t](http://www.mailermailer.com/x?oid=32254t) and follow the brief instructions. Although this is a free service, all are urged to also subscribe to the newspaper at [www.fresnoalliance.com](http://www.fresnoalliance.com).

### Urgent Action Alerts

From time to time, the progressive community needs to take action in a short period of time. The Steering Committee is proposing that if some action is critical to the purpose of our Progressive Network, then with at least 60% approval of the Steering Committee, an Urgent Action Alert can be e-mailed to the participating organizations/individuals to inform them of the important action. This is not intended to become a newsletter or a regular weekly list. The Peace and Social Justice Calendar should be utilized for this purpose.

### General Meetings

As each organization has its own meetings and many participants are members of multiple organizations, the Steering Committee is recommending that our general network meetings be held on a quarterly basis. The next general meetings are being planned for mid-August and mid-November. Details on date, location, agenda, etc., will be determined later.

### Statement of Purpose

Based on discussions at our prior general meetings, the Steering Committee is drafting a Statement of Purpose to be considered by the general body when completed. This will help provide information and guidance about the network.

### Contact Information

To contact the Steering Committee, e-mail Judy Hess at [judy-hess@gmail.com](mailto:judy-hess@gmail.com).

*Paul Pierce is a facilitator, trainer and coach. Contact him at [paul@paulpierce.com](mailto:paul@paulpierce.com).*

## What does it mean to sign on to Vote With Your Mission?

When signing up to participate in Vote With Your Mission, a nonprofit agrees to do two or more of the following:

- Ask all staff, board members, volunteers and constituents to vote.
- Adopt the slogan, Vote With Your Mission, with the tag-line, “Nonprofits are led by ideals and values for changing the world. Vote with the ideals and values that lead you.”
- Provide onsite nonpartisan voter registration materials for staff, board members, volunteers and constituents.
- Add to the organization’s list of responsibilities for its board of directors, “Voting in every election while you are on the board.”
- Allow up to two hours of paid staff time to vote on Election Day (a California law). For non-voters, the time can be used to help co-workers or neighbors.
- Place the Vote With Your Mission poster in your lobby, on your door or window, in your clinic, in your newsletter and elsewhere, or create your own poster by using the logo provided on the Web site [www.VoteWithYourMission.org](http://www.VoteWithYourMission.org).

organization and use the resources provided to ensure your vote as a citizen and as a participant of a nonprofit organization is counted.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Yezdyar S. Kaoosji is a Board member of CalNonprofits. Based in Fresno, he consults with community benefit organizations and trains corporate and citizen volunteers to become effective nonprofit board members. Contact him at [yezdyk@comcast.net](mailto:yezdyk@comcast.net).*



THE FRESNO CITY COUNCIL IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF A FRESH, NEW VOICE AND SUSAN GOOD IS THAT VOICE. SUSAN HAS SPENT HER LIFE FIGHTING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WORKING FAMILIES AND MAKING OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL. AT THE STATE LEVEL, SUSAN FOUGHT TIRELESSLY TO CLEAN OUR AIR, PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM FRAUD AND ABUSE AND FOR A FAIRER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR VALLEY FAMILIES. THE RESIDENTS OF DISTRICT 4 DESERVE A COUNCILMEMBER WHO WILL WORK AS HARD AS THEY DO AND SUSAN GOOD IS THAT PERSON. PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING HER’.

-HOWARD WATKINS  
CHAIR, CENTRAL VALLEY PROGRESSIVE PAC

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## June 5, 2012, Progressive Voting Grid

Compiled by Michael D. Evans

| Office                | Central Labor Council | Democratic Party | Democratic Women’s Club | Central Valley Progressive PAC | National Women’s Political Caucus | Stonewall Democrats | San Joaquin Valley Democrats |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| U.S. Congress 4       |                       | Jack Uppal       | Jack Uppal              |                                |                                   |                     |                              |
| U.S. Congress 16      | Jim Costa             | Jim Costa        | Jim Costa               |                                |                                   | Jim Costa           |                              |
| U.S. Congress 21      | Blong Xiong           | *                | John Hernandez          |                                |                                   | John Hernandez      | John Hernandez               |
| U.S. Congress 22      | Otto Lee              | *                | Otto Lee                |                                |                                   | Otto Lee            | Otto Lee                     |
| CA Assembly 23        | Richard Rojas         | *                | Richard Rojas           |                                |                                   | Richard Rojas       | Richard Rojas                |
| CA Assembly 31        | Henry T. Perea        | Henry T. Perea   |                         |                                |                                   |                     |                              |
| CA Assembly 32        | Rudy Salas            | Rudy Salas       |                         |                                |                                   |                     |                              |
| Fresno BOS 2          | OPEN                  |                  |                         | Debbie Harkness                | Debbie Harkness                   |                     |                              |
| Fresno BOS 3          | Henry R. Perea        | *                |                         |                                |                                   |                     |                              |
| Fresno BOS 5          | Maria Kril            |                  |                         |                                | Maria Kril                        |                     |                              |
| Fresno City Council 2 | Sue Saigal            |                  |                         |                                | Sue Saigal                        |                     |                              |
| Fresno City Council 4 | Susan Good            | Susan Good       | Susan Good              | Susan Good                     | Susan Good                        | Susan Good          | Susan Good                   |
| Madera BOS 3          | Isabel Barreras       | Isabel Barreras  |                         |                                | Isabel Barreras                   |                     |                              |

\*Candidates either entered the race too late to seek an endorsement or did not seek an endorsement.

Note: The Fresno Green Party recommends voting “No” on Propositions 28 and 29 but made no recommendations on any of the local races.





# Progressive Religion...Is Not an Oxymoron: The Homeless Summit: Creating a “Home” for Long-Range Solutions

By David E. Roy

About 65 of Fresno’s highly varied faith communities and agencies came together last month for what had come to be billed as the Homeless Summit (on May 10 at the St. Paul Newman Center). Altogether, conference organizers estimate that 150 people attended.

## A Region of Extreme Poverty

As was pointed out several times during the day, Fresno City and County are at the dead center of some of the worst poverty in the nation. This extreme poverty is one of the major routes individuals and families travel to homelessness, and it also makes the steps toward “homefulness” much more difficult.

Other contributors to homelessness include severe mental illness and addictions to alcohol and other drugs. Sadly, U.S. veterans add to the overall numbers in all three categories.

## A Wide Variety of Religions Take Part

Personally, I was heartened to see involved participants from the Jewish and Islamic synagogues and temples alongside representatives from the array of theological positions that constitute today’s Christianity: Orthodox, Roman Catholic and many of the shades of Protestantism (liberal, moderate, conservative). Present as well was one of the LDS churches (Mormons) and the Unitarian Universalists (often found at the forefront of struggles for justice).

As someone who took the religious leadership of the civil rights movement seriously, to the point of making it the norm of how citizens in our society could band together for justice, I have been struck by the lack of visibility, let alone leadership, that has characterized today’s religious leaders and their institutions in seeking justice in these economically dangerous times.

Last month’s event was an important step in confronting the people, institutions and issues that contribute directly to poverty and, specifically, to homelessness.

## The Late Bishop John Steinbock and the Homeless Summit

In researching the background to this event, I learned that the late Roman Catholic Bishop John Steinbock played a key role. In what turned out to be his last pastoral communication to the parishes of the Fresno Diocese, due to his cancer, the bishop named the homeless and their issues as a central concern for the ministry of this region (the diocese covers eight contiguous counties).

With Fr. Jim Rude, SJ, as the appointed diocesan liaison, the committee was charged to design and plan approaches to meeting the multifaceted challenges of this issue. Bill Simon, who heads the St. Paul Newman Center’s Social Justice Committee, was recruited to chair the new committee.

## Key to Success: Committee Became Ecumenical

A key to the success of the May meeting was the committee’s decision to make this an ecumenically designed and led program. As a result, the summit included religious leaders and other members from close to 50 houses of worship and about 20 church-related agencies and programs.

There are any number of ways to analyze the types of churches supporting this program. For example, 10 Roman Catholic parishes were represented. Protestant churches accounted for three times that figure, but the actual number per denomination did not rise above five parishes (the Mennonite Brethren). More important by far is that there were representatives from 19 of Fresno’s zip codes, including eight from the Westside (93706). Rev. Jymme Foote, a member of the planning committee, is also the president of the Westside Ministerial Alliance.

Additional important organizations include Faith in Community, headed by Lutheran Pastor William Knezovich, and Evangelicals for Social Action, Love, Inc., headed for many years by Alan Doswald.

## Event Was Well-Managed

The day was well-managed by the MC, one Peggy Grant, Ph.D., who is an organizational effectiveness consultant with Community Medical Centers and an adjunct or visiting professor in psychology for several programs. I have never seen anyone able to “bring closure” to participants’ input so swiftly yet graciously when time was short.

Jim Grant (her husband), whom many of us know as the voice and face of the San Joaquin Roman Catholic Diocesan TV station (KNXT), helped to ensure that the entire day was captured on video for later broadcasting.

## Model Programs for the Homeless Shared

The morning included presentations from about four programs already at work assisting the homeless in some fashion. These included Hope Lutheran in Fresno, a program in Merced (Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project) and the St. Anthony Claret Parish in Fresno.

This gave the rest of us an opportunity to see concrete examples of these types of programs as well as to gain from the experience they have had with helping the homeless.

## Months of Mentoring Necessary

The Merced team, for example, stressed repeatedly that it is not nearly enough to provide housing and simply walk away, at least not for people who may have been homeless for decades and who have had to deal with addictions and serious mental illness. The Merced group has come to realize that some of these people, to make a successful transition, may require mentoring for years.

In my mind and from my years of clinical experience, I am in solid agreement with this idea. This also could be an excellent use of the many trained clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, addictions specialists, and so on, along with medical care. And much more.

## Hope Sanger: The Official City Government Actively Supports!

The Hope Sanger program benefitted from a unique feature: Unlike Fresno and other Central Valley communities, the city government in Sanger is strongly behind its efforts. Why that is the case needs to be explored to see if its approach can be generalized to Fresno, Merced and elsewhere.

By contrast, as we have seen repeatedly, some of our elected officials express much concern about the plight of the local homeless, yet at the same time they appear to support needlessly inhumane actions.

As far as I could tell, there were no local elected officials present at the event. At this point in the process, this may well be the better option in order to further develop the strength and cohesiveness of the faith community, enabling this diverse group to work together with a unified aim of giving quality assistance to the poorest of the poor.

## Where to Next?

At the end of the program, the discussion focused on outlining what steps to take next. It was decided that Jim Nelson of St. Paul Newman Center be named co-chair of the committee, serving along with Simon. A promise was made to get out information from this conference as soon as possible and to convene a follow-up meeting in six weeks to review details of the suggestions for next steps.

I felt that at least some in the large group had a clear sense of the complexity of the issues that intersect with the challenging and potentially highly degrading experience of this level of poverty. While at one extreme, some of the homeless may need only brief support to return to a more mainstream existence, at the opposite extreme, some may never be totally self-sufficient, needing support and guidance indefinitely.

## At Least Three Important Levels of Concern

Perhaps less well-recognized is the reality that there are several levels of concern in any attempt to resolve this serious issue. The first level is to meet the immediate crises posed by lack of safety, food, shelter, healthcare and the like. This has to do with immediate survival. This also should include some mental health support.

The second level is to deal with all of the factors that can interfere in a personal manner with creating a more stable life. This would include overcoming addictions, managing extreme mental health issues (e.g., psychosis, PTSD) and gaining sufficient education and training to cope with today’s social and economic world, as well as to move into a job or career, developing language skills and so on.

A possible third level could be training leaders from this group to mentor others in all the ways they have been helped, to invest in future generations.

## Our Economic System Subordinates Humanity

While there well may be more issues for consideration, there is another problem that is far more difficult to recognize let alone resolve at a local level. This is the nature of the underlying causes that give rise to such a large homeless population in the first place. Although there are people who prefer to exist outside of community (e.g., the schizoid person), the number we see today has to far exceed this particular population, and the numbers appear to be growing for a variety of reasons.

Our present financial system is antithetical to a full humanity for most of the world’s population. Instead of being a means to noble ends, most of the world’s economies have become ends in themselves with humanity being subordinate, placed in the role of serving the market instead of the other way around.

Few if any of us as individuals are likely to be in a position to have any real influence in changing this. However, through churches, temples, synagogues and other houses of worship, from all the religious traditions represented in this valley, if we are working together to solve the disaster caused by the ongoing series of major “humanity spills,” we may find ways to reverse the present and clear priority that the economic system has over the best interests of humanity.

## Needed for Long-Term Success:

### A Comprehensive Program (Inc.)

A final reflection: There are many excellent agencies and programs in this area that in a variety of ways provide pieces of the care needed for the many different types of people who are homeless. Some of these programs have dug deep roots and grown. However, there is also good reason to be uncertain about the longevity of some of these programs: Pastors leave churches (willingly, and not in some cases), church memberships rise and fall; a program initiated by a strong and determined individual can die out when that person leaves.

These factors point to a need for a comprehensive, coordinated outreach, where the total individual and the total family’s needs are assessed and solutions outlined and proposed. This task, however, is far too demanding for any largely volunteer organization. In previous years, some forms of government help might have been assumed. Because our current damaged economy has been early bled out by the unprincipled and selfish actions of a handful, fewer and fewer programs will remain able to serve. At present, the social services at the county and city level cannot begin to provide this.

For me, the model provided by the Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries, under the long-time leadership of Rev. Sharon Stanley, is one worth considering by those planning for the future. Here you have an incorporated, networked nonprofit dedicated to providing a wide array of services for a well-defined population. I believe this approach could be adapted to helping all of us better serve the homeless in our extremely distressed valley.

Finally, I want add my appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in the planning and execution of this workshop. This was a critical first step and absolutely necessary for any true success.

If you are interested in helping, wish to be informed of future meetings and the like, e-mail Bill Simon, the co-chair of the diocesan Committee on the Homeless, at [bsimon6565@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsimon6565@sbcglobal.net). Put the word “Homeless” in the subject line.

*Note:* In my next column, I will be delving into another factor that holds us back from dealing effectively with the homeless but that touches on many other of the most painful and dangerous aspects of our lives.

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*Ordained in the United Church of Christ, David Roy is a pastoral counselor and a California licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who directs the Center for Creative Transformation. He has a Ph.D. in theology and personality from the Claremont (California) School of Theology. Send comments to him at [admin@cctnet.com](mailto:admin@cctnet.com) or 5475 N. Fresno St., Suite 109, Fresno, CA 93711.*

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# The Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative Faith Calendar

Compiled by Susan Orovitz

*ISJC Mission Statement:* To network and collaborate as we work to serve and promote systemic change for the common good; to educate and inspire one another to positive actions; to model interfaith cooperation; and to break down barriers as we work together for justice, right relationships, an end to violence and care for the earth.

**Friday, June 1 • 7 p.m.–9 p.m.**

Dances of universal peace. Sacred circle dances from around the world. First Congregational Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.

**Saturday, June 2 & 16 • 10 a.m.–noon**

Bishop Steinbock Homeless Advocacy Committee. Bishop Scher Room, Diocese of Fresno Pastoral Center, 1550 N. Fresno St. For more info, contact Bill Simon at 559-227-6565 or bsimon6565@sbcglobal.net. The interfaith community is invited.

**Saturday, June 2 • 1 p.m.**

Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative (ISJC) monthly meeting. Little Leaf Tea, 6011 N. Palm Ave. You need not RSVP. Come if you'd like to meet others engaged in faith-inspired social and environmental justice work. Our new meeting format enables individuals of different faith traditions to meet and exchange ideas, share event flyers and support each other's efforts to create a healthier, more loving and compassionate world. It will be an informal meeting. Little Leaf Tea (www.littleleaftea.com) is an independently owned small business.

**Saturday, June 2 • 3 p.m.–5 p.m.**

Women of Spirit—a gathering of women rediscovering their own spirituality and enabling others to do the same. 7319 N. Fourth St. Beginning and closing meditation, discussion and activity; light refreshments after closing. Free. Both men and women are welcome. For more info, call Veena Kapoor at 559-435-2212.

## Fresno's Jail House Blues

By Pam Whalen

Can Fresno County break its addiction to mass incarceration and finally get serious about treatment and rehabilitation? After several months of hard work by local activists, the answer seems to be—maybe.

On Feb. 20, activists led by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Prison Moratorium Project staged a rally to oppose the opening of another floor at the County Jail. This action, which was attended by more than 60 community members, has been followed by significant public participation in the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) meetings of the past few months.

The CCP is a group of local, mostly law enforcement, officials that is charged with developing a plan and a budget to implement the criminal justice realignment legislation AB 109, which transfers the lowest-level offenders from the state to the counties for custody and/or supervision.

At a handful of meetings, community activists have argued for prioritizing mental health services, drug treatment and other reentry services rather than allocating more than 60% of the funds to jail expansion.

At the CCP's May 14 meeting, Central Valley Progressive PAC Chair Howard Watkins said, "We don't want dangerous criminals on the street, but those of us in this room don't want you spending money to keep people with drug problems in jail. That would be a waste of money."

Jim Compton-Schmidt of Occupy Fresno lamented the closure



**Do we want more jails and harsher sentences for offenders or is it time to start providing treatment for those with mental health issues, rehabilitation for addicts and jobs so members of this community can earn a living wage?**



**Tuesday, June 5, 12, 19 & 26 • 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.**

The Fresno River Zen group meets. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. 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 are led by Grace Schireson, an ordained Zen priest. For more info, contact Grace at 559-877-2400 or grace@emptynestzendo.org.

**Wednesday, June 6, 13, 20 & 27 • 7 p.m.–8 p.m.**

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization Meditation Class. St. Paul Newman Center, 1572 E. Barstow Ave.

**Sunday, June 17 • 3 p.m.–5 p.m.**

World Meditation Day is observed to promote peace within oneself and harmony in the world. 7319 N. Fourth St. Program includes guided meditation followed by discussion and light refreshments. For more info, call Veena Kapoor at 559-435-2212.

**Monday, July 16–Friday, July 20**

Chalice Camp is a a one-week inclusive, educational, spiritual retreat for freethinking kids. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. Give your elementary-age kids a safe, fun and meaningful summer day camp experience filled with art, science, songs, drama, spiritual centering and water play. Registration ends June 1. For more info, call 559-322-6146.

of numerous drug treatment facilities in Fresno County at the same time that the jail inmate population has soared.

Public Defender Ken Taniguchi suggested that funds could be better spent on transitional housing, residential treatment and educational services. This suggestion was deferred by Chief Probation Officer Linda Penner due to the urgency of deciding on the jail expansion question.

After four meetings to discuss the jail expansion, the CCP members expressed their frustration with the ever-rising cost of the proposal to add another floor. The original cost in 2011 was \$4.4 million for one floor; it has now increased to \$11.7 million to operate two floors, and this figure doesn't include the \$1.2 million for mandatory healthcare.

Fresno County Administrative Officer John Navarrette presented information about using jail space in Coalinga as an

alternative to the County Jail. The group agreed that it was not prepared to vote for funding for the additional floor at the jail at that time. The discussion was to be continued at a meeting scheduled for May 25.

Even though it would be less expensive than opening a second floor of the jail or shipping people to Coalinga, Fresno has not yet implemented a robust pretrial assessment program. Jurisdictions across the country that have put such programs in place have been able to safely and significantly reduce their jail populations, save money and start to get people back on the right track sooner rather than later.

Activists in Fresno have formed a new organization—Alternatives 2(to) Incarceration of Fresno. The group meets monthly at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence to discuss strategies to reverse the out-of-control expansion of incarceration and to come up with ideas to support alternatives.

Currently, the group is working on support for SB 1506, which would de-felonize simple drug possession, and it is exploring the possibility of setting up a reentry council in Fresno. These efforts are designed to lessen the damage done to African-American, Latino and working-class neighborhoods by the current draconian policies resulting from the war on drugs in Fresno. For more information about the group, call Pam Whalen at 559-994-9390 or Debbie Reyes at 559-367-6020.

Activists in Merced have also formed a group—the Merced Prison Reform Advocates. It is hosting an event with ex-offender comedian/actor David Moss.

### FAITH RESOURCES

*Interfaith Alliance of Central California:* To receive monthly e-mails, contact IACC secretary Janett Freeman at revnette@gmail.com.

*Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative:* Click "Like" on this Facebook page to receive updates.

*Interfaith Youth Alliance:* Learn more at www.ifya-net.org.

*Mental Health America-Central Valley:* Learn more at www.mha-cv.org/ (information for clergy and faith leaders).


Multifaith Exchange: Learn more at <http://fresnomultifaith-exchange.org/>.

*Bishop John Steinbock Homeless Advocacy Committee:* Learn more at [www.dioceseoffresno.org/homeless.html](http://www.dioceseoffresno.org/homeless.html) (click on English or Spanish near the top for a brochure on how to help the homeless).

*List of All Religious Holidays:* Visit [www.interfaithcalendar.org/2011.htm](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2011.htm).

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*Susan Orovitz is the Community Alliance ISJC Faith Calendar coordinator and the ISJC e-mail coordinator. Contact her at [sussieg@pacbell.net](mailto:sussieg@pacbell.net).*



### Humanists of the San Joaquin Valley

Meets on third Sundays at Noon for pot luck & conversation at the UU Church.  
2672 E Alluvial Avenue, Clovis

*Meetings start at 1:00 p.m.*

Information: <http://Fresno.humanists.net/>

## QUAKERS

New location

### FRESNO FRIENDS MEETING

**Silent Worship Sunday 10:30-11:30 AM**  
**4230 N. Arthur Ave. , Fresno**  
**559-272-2284**

ALL WELCOME




### First Congregational Church

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**2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.** (South of Clinton)  
**559-227-8489**  
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Moss shares his life experiences with the system in his passionate appeal for reform. The event will take place in the Moat at Applegate Park in Merced from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 2. For more information, call Kelly Turner at 682-553-2366.

Although some voices are starting to be heard and some democratic participation in this important process has been achieved, much work remains to be done. We must continue to work to reclaim the criminal justice system—transforming it from its current form as an occupying army in service to the 1% to a democratically controlled institution to ensure safety in our communities. Billions are still being spent to put poor people in jail—dollars stolen from education, healthcare and safety net programs.

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*Pam Whalen is a longtime labor and community activist and a member of the editorial board of the Community Alliance. Contact her at [pamwhalen@comcast.net](mailto:pamwhalen@comcast.net).*



PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

**Friday, June 1 • 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.** (light potluck at 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m.)  
The Reedley Peace Center features John Clements on “School Transportation and the Electric Bus.” Fellowship Hall, First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley. Free. For more info, e-mail Don Friesen at dfriesen0@gmail.com.

**Friday, June 1 • 7 p.m.**  
Screening of *For the Bible Tells Me So*, a thought-provoking 2008 documentary. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee and Interweave, the film is grounded in the stories of five conservative families and their gay sons and daughters. A panel of members from Interweave, our LGBT group, will lead a discussion after the movie. For more info, visit [www.uufresno.org](http://www.uufresno.org) or contact Lisa Lindsay [lisa.lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lindsay@gmail.com) or Glenda Roberts at [ggrcalif@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ggrcalif@sbcglobal.net) or 559-291-1590.

**Saturday, June 2 • 9 a.m.–11 a.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley. Denny’s Restaurant, 141 N. Abby St. For more info, contact 559-292-4905 or [ckrugman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ckrugman@sbcglobal.net).

**Saturday, June 2 • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**  
The 22nd Annual Central Valley & Fresno’s GLBT Pride Parade and Festival will be celebrated in the Tower District. For more info, see page 2.

**Saturday, June 2 • 4 p.m.–6 p.m. & 7 p.m.–9 p.m.**  
Reel Pride Night Out! Screening of *Gayby*. Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. Synopsis: Jenn and Matt are best friends from college who are now in their 30s. Single by choice, Jenn spends her days teaching hot yoga and running errands for her boss. Matt suffers from comic-book writer’s block and can’t get over his ex-boyfriend. They decide to fulfill a youthful promise to have a child together—the old-fashioned way.

**Tuesday, June 5**  
California Primary Election. For progressive voting recommendations, see page 18.

**Tuesday, June 5 • 6 p.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the National Women’s Political Caucus. Toledo’s Restaurant, 367 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, e-mail [claval@comcast.net](mailto:claval@comcast.net).

**Tuesday, June 5 • 6:30 p.m.**  
Poet Philip Levine joins Zócalo to discuss the changes in how we relate to one another amid the shifting sands of American life. Frank’s Place, Warnors Center for the Performing Arts, 1432 Fulton St.

**Wednesday, June 6 • Noon–1 p.m.**  
Women in Black. Fresno County Courthouse, 1100 Van Ness Ave. First Wednesday of each month; come in the month in which your birthday falls! Wear black, bring a sign if you wish and stand in silence for peace.

**Wednesday, June 6 • 6:30 p.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee. Hugh M. Burns State Building, 2550 Mariposa Mall (enter through the loading dock area on the P Street side of the building). All Democrats welcome. For more info, visit [www.fresnocountydemocrats.org](http://www.fresnocountydemocrats.org).

**Friday, June 8 • 5:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.**  
Fresno Filmworks presents *Turn Me On, Dammit!* Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. This coming-of-age comedy from Norway tells a story rarely explored in film: It examines the unbridled sexual appetite of a teenage girl. Advance tickets \$10 general, \$8 students/seniors, and can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office. Tickets and details available at [www.FresnoFilmworks.org](http://www.FresnoFilmworks.org).

**Friday, June 8 • 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.** (light potluck at 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m.)  
The Reedley Peace Center features Lance Zimmerman on “Attitudes about Conflict Resolution Styles and Intimate Partner Conflicts: What Contributes to a Just and Peaceful Home?” Fellowship Hall, First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley.

**Saturday, June 9 • 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.**  
Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) will

present its 2012 issues forum. Westside Church of God, 1424 W. California Ave. Topics will include health, education and the criminal justice system. For more info, contact 510-763-9523 or [staff@bwopa.org](mailto:staff@bwopa.org).

**Saturday, June 9 • 3:30 p.m.**  
Central Valley Progressive PAC. Mike Rhodes and Michael Evans will analyze the Primary Election results. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. For more info, contact 559-355-7040 or [howardkwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:howardkwatkins@gmail.com).

**Sunday, June 10 • 8:30 a.m.–afternoon**  
Action Meeting: What Do Fresno’s Homeless Need? Housing, County services and an end to police raids. Poverello House, 412 F St. 8:30 a.m.: hot food; 10 a.m.: meeting with officials; 11:30 a.m.: street fair. For more info, contact Rebecca Van Stokkum of Faith in Community-PICO at [rebecca@fcpico.org](mailto:rebecca@fcpico.org) or 559-244-9227 or visit [www.fcpico.org](http://www.fcpico.org).

**Sunday, June 10 • 3 p.m.**  
Fresno Filmworks Classics presents *The Misfits*. Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. A western unlike any other ever made, the film stars Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable in their final big-screen performances. Directed by John Huston. Advance tickets \$5 general admission and can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office. Tickets and details available at [www.FresnoFilmworks.org](http://www.FresnoFilmworks.org).



KFCF 88.1 FM presents the play 8. Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Martin Sheen and Kevin Bacon lead an all-star cast in a timely portrait of an American civil rights struggle. Sunday, June 10, at 7 p.m.

**Sunday, June 10 • 7 p.m.**  
KFCF 88.1 FM presents the play *8*. Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Martin Sheen and Kevin Bacon lead an all-star cast in a timely portrait of an American civil rights struggle. In California, Prop 8 has been passed to ban same-sex marriage and two of the country’s biggest lawyers have joined forces to strike it down. L.A. Theatre Works presents the debut radio broadcast of *8* by Dustin Lance Black. Directed by Rob Reiner and produced for the stage by the American Foundation for Equal Rights and Broadway Impact.

**Wednesday, June 13 • Noon & 7 p.m.** (potluck at 6:30 p.m.)  
The 2nd Wednesday film presents *Even the Rain*. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. With ample irony, this film explores the effects of Spanish imperialism, still resonating some 500 years later in the continued struggle against oppression by indigenous people. For more info, see page 16.

**Wednesday, June 13 • 6 p.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the Stonewall Democrats. Carrows Restaurant, 4280 N. Blackstone Ave. For more info, contact 559-292-4905 or [ckrugman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ckrugman@sbcglobal.net).

**Friday, June 15, & Saturday, June 16**  
Juneteenth in Fresno—Work the Dream. Cecil Hinton Community Center, 2385 S. Fairview St. For more info, visit [www.fresnojuneteenth.com](http://www.fresnojuneteenth.com).

**Friday, June 15 • 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.** (light potluck at 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m.)  
The Reedley Peace Center presents Lela Folkers on “Cuba—Has Our Embargo Worked? Impressions from a People-to-People

The Peace and Social Justice calendar is updated regularly and is available on the **Community Alliance** Web site at [www.fresnoalliance.org](http://www.fresnoalliance.org). To receive the **Peace and Social Justice Calendar** by e-mail (once a week), visit [www.mailermailer.com/x?oid=32254t](http://www.mailermailer.com/x?oid=32254t) and follow the brief instructions.

The Peace and Social Justice Calendar is sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

**Saturday, June 16 • 3:30 p.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the West Fresno Democratic Club. Salaam’s Seafood, 841 F St. For more info, contact 559-999-9445 or [fortheinside@hotmail.com](mailto:fortheinside@hotmail.com).

**Saturday, June 16 • 7:30 p.m., & Sunday, June 17 • 3 p.m.**  
The Fresno premiere of *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. Advance tickets online at [www.gayfresno.com](http://www.gayfresno.com). A decade after the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming, the Tectonic Theatre Project returns to Laramie to try and comprehend its long-term effects. Found was a city struggling with its infamous identity. Proceeds benefit the Greater Fresno LGBTQ+ Community Center.

**Sunday, June 17 • 3 p.m.**  
KFCF fund-raiser featuring KPFA’s David Gans, musician and host of *Dead to the World* (and the syndicated *Grateful Dead Hour*). Full Circle Brewery, 620 F St. Admission \$12 general, \$6 students/low income. For more info, call 559-233-2221.

**Tuesday, June 19 • Doors open at 6:30 p.m., presentation at 7 p.m.**

The movie *Save KLSD: Media Consolidation & Local Radio* will be shown. Full Circle Brewery, 620 F St. Jennifer Douglas, the film’s director, will be present. The film chronicles the struggle of KLSD-AM 1360 in San Diego and explores how media consolidation is killing localism and shrinking the range of viewpoints on America’s airwaves.

**Wednesday, June 20 • 6:30 p.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club. Denny’s Restaurant, 1110 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, call 559-312-3925.

**Thursday, June 21 • 6:30 p.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the Clovis Democratic Club. Hometown Buffet, 458 W. Shaw Ave., Clovis. For more info, contact 559-322-9740 or [jenikren@aol.com](mailto:jenikren@aol.com).

**Thursday, June 21 • 6:30 p.m.**  
Central California Criminal Justice Committee meeting. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. This citizens group will discuss recent Fresno shootings, towing policies and developing a strong independent police auditor. For more info, visit [www.cccjc.org](http://www.cccjc.org).

**Sunday, June 24 • 1 p.m.**  
Peace Fresno hosts a speech by Medea Benjamin and a demonstration against the use of drone aircraft. Protest against drone warfare at River Park (at the corner of El Paso and N. Blackstone avenues) at 1 p.m., followed by a short march to the Pinedale Boys and Girls Club at 343 W. Minarets Ave., where Benjamin will speak at 2:30 p.m. Fresno WILPF co-sponsors this event, donating to Code Pink and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno. For more info, see page 5.

**Monday, June 25 • 11 a.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the Democratic Women’s Club. Ramada Inn, 324 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, contact 559-260-9187 or [susang1953@hotmail.com](mailto:susang1953@hotmail.com).

**Wednesday, June 27 • 6 p.m.**  
Monthly meeting of the Progressive Democrats of America. Denny’s Restaurant, 1110 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, contact Judy Hess at 559-434-8721 or [judyhess@gmail.com](mailto:judyhess@gmail.com).

**Thursday, June 28 • 7 p.m.**  
The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom movie night with *Who’s Afraid of a Little Yellow Schoolbus?* Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. A chance to see a moving film about the Pastors for Peace Caravan—free! Movie snacks provided.

**Friday, June 29 • Noon**  
Monthly meeting of El Concilio de Fresno. Denny’s Restaurant, 141 N. Abby St. For more info, contact 559-486-5350 or [elconciliodefresno@att.com](mailto:elconciliodefresno@att.com).

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**Continuing Thoughts on Education**  
**By Ruth Gadebusch**



This series on education is rooted in the formation of yet another dropout task force by the Fresno Unified School District. The trouble is these studies are all too often done but never fully implemented. Let us hope that this one is different, although we have yet to hear any proposals that, even if implemented, will take time for results.

My contention is that we know what to do; we just don't allocate the resources offering one excuse or another for our failure. In perhaps overly simplistic terms: Start at the beginning (prenatal/birth), build a foundation, follow up step by step with diverse programs and approaches. None of this is cheap but cheaper than the various prisons and other problems of society that result from failure to reach individual children with suitable programs.

As noted in an earlier column, success breeds success. That leads to the idea of moving success in one area to another. Years ago, a member of the State Board of Education with a doctorate degree told his personal story of how he had been considered mentally retarded until a third-grade teacher convinced him that the skill he had in reading a comic book was transferable to reading other material.

Another story that changed my thoughts was from a parent who in a discussion of grades for PE quietly said, "We had a son for whom that good PE grade was the only thing that kept him in school." Knowing the story of the loss of that child in an accident in our mountains the previous summer I caught the past tense of "had" and my thinking about PE versus academic grading was forever changed. How often we overlook that child's physical talent was as important as another's academic achievement. It did not change my thinking that our society puts too much emphasis on sports, but that is a story for another time. Balance is difficult to reach.

When resources get cut how quick we are to eliminate art and music instead of building on a child's interest and talent in those areas. Those go beyond entertainment often leading to academic success. To cite one example, I have known many a musician who was an excellent mathematician making me think there must be a scientific connection. There are some who would mark such approaches as through the back door to the old basics of reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic, but so what, if they work?

Then too, we need to accept that a college education should be available for all who desire it, still recognizing that workers needing different training are necessary for the well-being of the nation. In other words, let us not force all into one track regardless of their or society's needs. The student must see a purpose in being in school, a connection with real life. It must fit that individual's needs.

I simply cannot think about education without again emphasizing that the individual profits from it but that our democratic society exists only by having an educated populace. That is why we support public education.

Public education must provide for the individual's and the society's needs. Yes, teachers' unions sometimes seem to be the tail wagging the dog but I note in their defense that unions were developed to counteract the failure of society, as represented by the school board, to appreciate the challenge of the classroom.

Legislators often fail to understand that times have changed since they were in school and that we are attempting to teach children that at one time would have been ignored, or worse. Therefore, they meddle in ways that are not productive. Parents are under different pressures than of the fondly—and often wrongly remembered—"good old days" and on and on in a world that is not what it used to be.

It is a team effort that requires adequate resources to build a firm foundation and to offer step-by-step building with an appropriate approach to the building material—the individual child's talent and interest. Only then can we expect to bring the vast majority to the success of graduation, productive citizenship.

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*Ruth Gadebusch is a community activist, a veteran, a former member of the Fresno Unified School Board and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and an emeritus member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Civic Education.*

**Civil Society Self Destructs**  
**By Leonard Adame**



Walking the Fresno Mall one gorgeous spring day. Slight breeze, not a portentous cloud anywhere, even the tamale seller is smiling for a change. On Mariposa, walking from Van Ness to the clock tower, I spot a brightly dressed elderly woman. Clearly she's homeless, her worldly goods stuffed into a couple of plastic bags, her shoulders sagging like those pouches, her head low, the weight of her condition slumping her shoulders.

I try for eye contact, but she walks away toward the Holiday motel. As she recedes, I wonder how God made it so that on this gorgeous day an unfortunate woman and a guy like me (who has enough to eat, a place to sleep, people to care about—fortunate, in other words) can breathe the same air, inhabit the same space and yet be so different. Though we are both human beings, both people with the same need for safety, relationships, attention, hope and love, how is it that a lone woman can have so little or none of these basic needs?

More important, how is it that she's being ignored by those charged with helping people in terrible circumstances: Social Services, public administration, housing authorities.

Not long ago, a homeless woman died on the steps of a homeless shelter, probably having frozen to death. And occasionally, the bodies of the former homeless are discovered at various parts of the city, though rarely in Fig Garden, River Park and gated communities.

From having spoken to several homeless people over the last couple of years, I've found their stories terribly familiar. They've lost jobs, homes, families, been to mental health centers, jail, been rejected by relatives, been on the road looking for hope in various cities that have offered only more derision and rejection.

Is this what our communities have come to, being places where only the privileged have more than basic necessities, where the majority can lock their doors at night, see wide-screen movies at the touch of a button as they sit in plush chairs and couches, munching on microwaved popcorn?

In fact, what is a community? Take your pick of definitions:

1.
  - a. A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government.
  - b. The district or locality in which such a group lives.
2.
  - a. A group of people having common interests: the scientific community; the international business community.
  - b. A group viewed as forming a distinct segment of society: the gay community; the community of color.
3.
  - a. Similarity or identity: a community of interests.
  - b. Sharing, participation, and fellowship.
4. Society as a whole; the public.
5. Ecology
  - a. A group of plants and animals living and interacting with one another in a specific region under relatively similar environmental conditions.
  - b. The region occupied by a group of interacting organisms.

They all mean people live in some sort of group and that those people can rightfully and morally expect to be treated equally. This group can be termed a civil society. According to the French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau, who died in 1778, in such a group or community, if one person's rights are taken away, there is no longer a civil society. I think it's come to pass that we have destroyed our own civil society a long time ago. The homeless are religiously harassed by police, robbed by heartless creatures among us, kept from applying for social services because they have no address and generally ignored by the laws that supposedly were designed to protect everyone.

The woman in the picture no longer lives in a civil society. And I would add that in fact none of us do.

The Black gentleman in the picture, young, intelligent and articulate, panhandles on the mall. Hard times found him vulnerable. He's lost touch with his family and has generally been sentenced to long days traversing the mall, trolling for people who might give him a few cents.

Sure the current economic tragedy, caused by banks, corporations and rich Republicans, is somewhat to blame for the state of misery that permeates our formerly civil society. This is all the worse because it didn't have to happen. But the rescission of regulatory banking laws has led us to the brink of economic catastrophe. That catastrophe has landed atop the homeless like an avalanche, killing some, isolating others and promising only more misery and further deterioration of civil rights for everyone: in the form of laws that let the government spy on everyone and jail people for forcefully criticizing government methods in the name of national security. The fact is that that term is invoked whenever the government does things, such as giving money to corporations, that are more than likely constitutionally illegal and surely morally deplorable.

It all comes to this: Rousseau is turning in his grave, the homeless are in deeper ruts of despair, and more and more people are turning their backs on the destitute, thinking perhaps that they'll never be homeless or suffer the loss of civil rights. But the fact is everyone is a heartbeat away from homelessness and other catastrophes. It's mostly a matter of luck whether one remains employed, whether one remains healthy, whether one isn't spied on by this government. There are any number of good films and books that outline these things in much more articulate detail, should we be inclined to learn more about this terrible state of things.

The thing is I've found something that's maybe scarier than the things I've mentioned: Apathy thrives among us like flesh-eating bacteria. In this society, too many people just don't want to care, don't want to help the less fortunate, don't want to act on their Christian beliefs. All of this means, of course, more deaths, violation of rights and further destruction of this once civil society.

There's precedent for this destruction of a society: the fall of the Roman Empire. In fact, it seems to be the destiny of most empires to flower for short periods and then self-destruct, like that tape on the old show, *Mission Impossible*. The difference is that we have more than a few seconds to stop the destruction, but not much more.

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*Leonard Adame has retired from teaching college English. He now plays drums in various bands, takes photographs, reads mystery novels to a fault and has published poetry in college anthologies. He most enjoys re-learning about human beings from his grandkids. Contact him at giganteescritor@hotmail.com.*

**Take Your Vote Back!**  
**Whose Vote? Your Vote!**  
**By Richard Gomez**



Yes, as American citizens above the age of 18, currently not incarcerated or incapacitated, off parole or on probation, we have the right to vote in the upcoming Primary Election on June 5, but most will turn their back on that responsibility.

Don't get me wrong, I completely understand that putting your hope into someone who's indebted to those who have huge amounts of money to invest in candidates like property for their own selfish greed could sour one to what should be an empowering moment in your life, but there's the rub.

This system allows us, the voters, the choice between corporate-owned candidates or those who have no interest in or do not give a damn about you, your family or your hometown. Instead, people should vote for themselves, their families and their community. It's about taking care of what and who you know best and that's supposed to be the idea behind elections. Telling your elected officials what you, your family, your neighborhood and your city needs is the path that you believe we should take with your vote.

Historian Lawrence Goodwyn concluded that democratic movements are initiated by people who are neither resigned to the status quo nor intimidated by established powers. The cultural and physiological building blocks of democratic movements are individual self-respect and collective self-confidence. Without self-respect, we don't believe that we are worthy of power or capable of utilizing power wisely and we accept as our role being the subjects of power. Without collective self-confidence, we do not believe that we can succeed in wresting away power from our rulers.

We are concerned for those who give a damn about people, their families and their hometowns because we have no Fresno Greens running locally for any political seat. We know it's scary to run against multi-thousand dollar local campaigns or even multimillion dollar statewide campaigns. So think about this: It's the number of votes you get and not the amount of money. Money may buy votes, but money hasn't given us good government. Only people who give a damn can do that.

This primary, the Greens of California have three choices for President: Jill Stein, [www.jillstein.org](http://www.jillstein.org); Roseanne Barr, [www.roseanneforpresident2012.org](http://www.roseanneforpresident2012.org); and Kent Mesplay, [www.mesplay.org](http://www.mesplay.org). Please be responsible and vote.

The Fresno County Green Party recommends voting "no" on both June primary election propositions.

**Prop 28: Term Limits—No**

Term limits create inexperienced legislators who are more easily influenced by special interests and who become "lame ducks" the minute they get elected to their second term. This proposition may be better than what we have, but it will not solve the problems in the legislature as would other electoral reforms. It would be better to limit funding and the influence of special interests, require disclosure, provide public funding, revise redistricting and offer ranked choice voting.

**Prop 29: Tobacco Tax—No**

The tobacco tax is regressive and discriminates against tobacco users as a class of people who should not have to pay more than the regular sales tax on what they buy. Furthermore, the bulk of the proceeds will go to new research and not to those who would benefit from prevention programs.

The Fresno County Green Party meets the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Hugh M. Burns State Building at 2550 Mariposa Mall in downtown Fresno.

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*Richard Gomez is currently a council member of the Fresno County Green Party. Contact him at 559-408-3320 or nate136\_66@yahoo.com.*



# IN THE HOOD: Portraits of Fresno Neighborhoods

Abid says his neighborhood has no official title, an anonymous part of west central Fresno. “But,” he adds, “friends call this small residential area I live in The Cottages in the Hood.” Bordered by low-rent apartments, industrial complexes and small ungentrified businesses, including several bars, his home sits among a small rectangle of ranch-style homes with well-manicured lawns and quiet occupants—many being original owners now in their 70s. “There’s a lot of owner pride,” Abid says.

When his family moved there some 14 years ago, they were new to Fresno and didn't know the area at all. "We liked the layout of the house and saw its potential. The immediate surroundings were quiet and cared-for, and the price was right. But when colleagues [Abid is a school counselor for the Fresno Unified School District (FUSD)] heard the location, they just shook their heads."

Abid's first neighbors were mostly Japanese-American, Armenian and Latino—older people without children, people who raised flowers and took walks. As the older generation has departed, younger families—some with children, some Anglo—have moved in looking for affordability. “Most I’d guess qualify for food stamps and school lunches,” he says, characterizing it as a lower-middle-class neighborhood.

"But it has remained a quiet street...though," he adds, "we do have one die-hard Raiders fan and on Sundays during football season we can hear the collective groans from his friends watching the game."

The neighborhood has no major retailers, but Abid says he tries to patronize local gas stations and the relatively new Mexican market. “Also we do have the rather well-known Chicken Man and Guadalajara restaurants nearby.” The major landmark is Our Lady of Victory, a private Catholic school. On the day I went over for the interview, there was a carnival in progress there, and cars were parked up and down the streets as well as on the grounds of Cooper Middle School a couple of blocks away.

At Ashlan and Hughes avenues, there are a police station and post office, and the strip malls of the area shade into Indian/Pakistani enclaves. The streets immediately adjacent to the main thoroughfares seem to be attracting more police activity, Abid says, and he no longer walks there at night. He says there is also

inner peace in the true spirit of Islam, which we know stands for peace. In times of difficulty, you have extended your hand in friendship, opened your heart and home to greet and welcome all of God's people.

Through activities, services and celebrations, you have educated us and liberated us from prejudices and phobias. You have built bridges of understanding and friendship. You have nurtured coalitions and partnerships particularly in the interfaith movement in Fresno such as the Interfaith Alliance of Central California, the Interfaith Youth Alliance, the Interfaith Scholar Weekend and the Multifaith Exchange, just to mention a few.

You have been a good role model in cooperation and understanding in the Fresno faith community. You are an inspiration in promoting religious harmony and peace building. The center is not only a place of worship to empower Muslim believers but

a visible Bulldog gang presence (tattoos and red paraphernalia), but, he says, he doesn't feel this to be necessarily a criminal element. "I have parents at school come in with tattoos up and down their arms and necks, but they're just as concerned about their kids as anyone else."

process.” To many, this is typical FUSD treatment of parents.

Abid says there is district pride in having elected the first Hmong City Councilmember, Blong Xiong, and—judging from the yard signs—he senses the people of the neighborhood to be politically aware and generally Democratic.

“But,” he says, “although I feel safe here and have felt absolutely no negativity at our family’s being African-American, I do wish there wasn’t so much reserve between neighbors. Through external circumstances, my daughter wound up attending an out-of-district school, and she feels no connection with this area at all. I regret that.”

As for himself and his wife Sharon, the Wakeels are grateful for finding such a neighborhood to live in that is serene and affordable—and is consistent with what Abid calls his “mission statement.” This is a commitment he made to himself to live among working-class people like those he grew

up with, not to aspire to the image of American hyper-prosperity replete with extra-large houses, upscale appliances and over-the-top debt. “I want us to be comfortable,” Abid says, “but I want to have the freedom to make decisions not based on keeping up with loan payments.”

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*Richard Stone is on the boards of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence and the Community Alliance and is a member of Citizens for Civility and Accountability in Media (CCAM). Contact him at richard2662559@yahoo.com.*

also a place to inspire members of other faiths through interfaith dialogue, exchange and outreach.

The center is an amazing place where we find a kind, gentle spiritual leader like Imam Syed Ali Ghazvini from the Shia tradition of Islam and a dynamic cultural director, Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, from the Sunni tradition of Islam working together harmoniously and leading the center toward greater heights of excellence in the teachings of Islam in the next decade. It is a shining example of cooperation and coexistence. They practice what they preach. They preach what they practice. We are not only fortunate but also blessed with the presence of the Islamic Cultural Center in our community. Our best wishes for successful decades ahead.

*Sister Veena Kapoor, Brahma Kumaris*

*Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus  
Fresno*

This is a detailed street map of a neighborhood in Detroit, Michigan, centered around Wilson Park. The map shows a grid of streets with names such as Ashlan Ave, W Griffith Way, W Dakota Ave, W Shields Ave, and W Clinton Ave. A north arrow is located in the bottom left corner, pointing towards the top of the map. The map is color-coded with yellow for major roads and pink for residential areas.

community at-large, that supports us and lets us continue this vital work.

*Gay Central Valley Board of Directors*

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## In Recognition of the 10th Anniversary of the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno

Our heartiest, warmest and sincerest congratulations to our brothers and sisters at the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno on its 10th anniversary, which was observed on April 21. We convey our love, joy and affection for reaching this great milestone. We are proud of your exemplary achievements within a short period of time. Your vision, leadership, outreach and services provided to the community are commendable and noteworthy.

Right from its inception, the Islamic Cultural Center has been a powerful and positive force in our community creating an atmosphere of understanding, tolerance and mutual respect.

Despite some misconceptions and negative publicity, sometimes hostile and vitriolic, you have stayed calm and maintained your

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# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

## Marcha y rally del primero de mayo

La marcha y rally del primero de mayo han sido presentados en Fresno desde el año 2006, cuando miles de personas de todas partes del valle central se juntaron para exigir una reforma migratoria compresiva. La demostración de este ano no ha sobrepasado la multitud del año 2006, pero una colaboración grande estuvo presente entre organizadores veteranos y la creciente juventud. Organizadores de diferentes edades se encontraron durante varias semanas en juntas del Comité Primero de Mayo para asegurarse que los diversos problemas afectando a la comunidad inmigrante, especialmente a la comunidad indocumentada, resonaron a través de la marcha y rally. Muchos organizadores hablaron en el rally sobre el programa Comunidades Seguras (Secure Communities), la ley propuesta SB 1070 y la suma masiva de 400,000 deportaciones que han separado familias en años pasados. Juventud indocumentada fueron dados la oportunidad de estar presentes durante el rally y estar al liderazgo de la marcha, muchos de los cuales gritaban a favor del Acta de Sueno (DREAM Act) y “educación no deportación”. La ola de generaciones de familias inmigrantes pudo ver vista como ellos caminaban en las calles del parque de la corte y por las calles Fresno y Tulare. La marcha y rally de este ano demostraron la impaciencia excesiva como resultado a los problemas que influncian leyes pertinentes a inmigración.

## El Acta de la Confianza (The TRUST Act)

El Acta de la Confianza (The Trust Act) propuesta por Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, es una posible solución estatal al daño causado por el programa Comunidades Seguras (Secure Communities), un programa federal implementado ICE que ha detenido y deportado inmigrantes indocumentados y hasta ciudadanos estadounidenses que no tienen expedientes criminales. Comunidades Seguras (Secure Communities) requiere que las cárceles compartan información sobre individuos arrestados con la oficina de ICE, quien después detienen a individuos a los que se crea deberían ser tomados en custodia federal y eventualmente deportados. Este programa fue propuesto para enfocarse en inmigrantes indocumentados con crímenes severos, pero han estado arrestando y deportando gente indocumentada que nada más tienen ofensas mínimas o cuyo crimen único es estar en este país.

Con el Acta de la Confianza (TRUST Act), la policía local no sería requerida de detener a alguien a menos que el individuo haya sido juzgado por un crimen serio o felonía. También ayudaría a prevenir discriminación y el deteniimiento de ciudadanos, como también convencer a la comunidad a reportar crímenes. Esta ley regularía el primer propósito del programa Comunidades Seguras, que es el solamente detener a individuos que hayan cometido crímenes serios. Varias organizaciones en el Valle Central tal como el Equipo de Sueno del Valley Central (Central Valley DREAM Team) y Comunidades por una California Nueva (Communities for a New California) estarán favoreciendo esta ley durante Immigrant Lobby Day en Sacramento, un evento anual donde grupos pro-inmigrantes estarán visitando representantes estatales exigiendo su apoyo por leyes pro-inmigrantes. Detalles sobre Immigrant Lobby Day serán cubiertos en nuestra siguiente edición.

## Central Valley Dream Team (CVDT)

CVDT es una organización comunitaria que defiende los derechos a la educacion alta para jóvenes indocumentados, por medio de una red de apoyo y abogando por el Acta de los Suenos y otras propuestas pro inmigrantes. CVDT se dedica a proveer talleres, campanas, cabildeo, mítines, etc, para hacer del Acta de los Sueños y la reforma migratoria una realidad. Desde Septiembre de 2011, CVDT ha organizado varios eventos incluyendo la recaudación de fondos para becas. “Saliendo de la Sombras”, es otro evento por medio del cual los jóvenes con mucho valor declaran su estado de indocumentado en público para demostrar que ya no tiene miedo a, ante los ataques anti-inmigrantes. Actualmente CVCT se une a otras organizaciones en apoyo al TRUST Act, igual como el desarrollo de una campaña para ganar el apoyo de la comunidad para el Acta de los suenas. CVDT es un espacio que anime a los jóvenes indocumentados y sus aliados a transformarse en el cambio social. Para mas informacion, comuníquense al (559) 273-1610 o centralvalleydreamteam@gmail.com

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Oday Guerrero: gueroda@gmail.com

## SB 1070 alcanza la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos de América

En Abril, una mayoría de las Justicias parecieron simpáticas hacia la ley propuesta anti-inmigrante de la Gobernadora Brewer, SB 1070.

SB 1070 ha sido el blanco de discusión entre oposiciones sobre el problema de inmigración. Las secciones más controversiales de la ley son la Sección 2, la cual le permite a los oficiales de policía arrestar a alguien si ellos tienen “causa probable” al pensar de que la persona está en este país indocumentada y la Sección 5, la cual hace que cuando los extranjeros indocumentados soliciten o desempeñen trabajo un delito estatal.

La ley propuesta alcanzó la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos para que 8 Justicias juzguen su relación con la Constitución. Esta primera sesión de cuestionamiento duro 1:20 hrs. Aunque la Justicias se presentaron amigables a la ley en esta primera sesión, es estimado que dado a la confrontación entre la ley propuesta y la ley federal, este jurado tendrá decisiones difíciles de hacer.

Este juzgado tiene el poder para inclinar la política. La carrera presidencial depende en el resultado de este juzgado, ya que el partido republicano a repetidamente demostrado su apoyo por leyes similares a SB 1070 y la administración Obama ha demostrado apoyo a leyes inmigrantes favorables.

## Los Federales demandan a Arpaio.

El Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos de América multo al alguacil del condado Maricopa en Arizona, Joe Arpaio por alegaciones de violación a los derechos civiles y discriminación racial a los latinos.

Desde arrestar latinos al azar en las calles por su “aparencia ilegal” hasta hacer que mujeres en la prisión duerman en su propia sangre menstrual son solo dos de las acciones que testigos han declarado contra la oficina de Arpaio.

Arpaio encara la reelección en Noviembre. Defendiéndose solo de esta alegación Arpaio dijo: “Si ellos demandan, iremos a corte. Entonces descubriremos la verdadera historia” él dijo. “Ellos me están diciendo como manejar mi organización. Me gustaría tener esto resuelto, pero no daré mi autoridad al gobierno federal. Tan simple como eso” anidio Arpaio.

## Atrévete a Sonar (Dare to Dream)

Atrévete a Soñar (Dare to Dream) es una organización de universidad dedicada a ayudar a estudiantes AB 540 en la Universidad de Fresno (Fresno State University). Fundado en la primavera del 2011 por Jovana y Nancy López, Atrévete a Sonar provee recursos a estudiantes indocumentados en la forma de becas y empuja a estudiantes a participar en actividades al servicio de la comunidad. Este grupo consiste de ambos, estudiantes AB 540 y aliados. Arisbeth Mirando, la presidenta en turno, cree que hay necesidad de un espacio seguro para estudiantes indocumentados en la Universidad Estatal de Fresno. “Nos hacemos una familia”, dijo ella. Atrévete a Soñar estará dando becas a estudiantes AB 540 en su banquete anual. La aplicación es para estudiantes que califican para asistir a la Universidad Estatal de Fresno en el siguiente año, que tengan 2.5 GPA, tres cartas de recomendación y un discurso personal. Para más información, comuníquense con Atrévete a Sonar al (559) 355-8309 o csuf.resno.daretodream@gmail.com

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Pablo Reyes

## Reforma de Inmigración: Lo Bueno, lo malo y lo absurdo Por Stan Santos

Lo Bueno:

**AB 130/131, Asistencia a Estudiantes Migrantes Indocumentados por Gil Cedillo**

En 2011, Gobernador Brown firmo AB 130, y en 2012 firmo AB



131 que juntos componen las dos partes del Acta de los Suenos de California, que permite a estudiantes indocumentados acceso a ayuda financiera para el colegio de fuentes privadas y estatales. El Departamento de Finanzas de California calcula que 2500 estudiantes podrán calificar para Cal Grants (Becas) a un costo de \$14.5 millones, o el uno por ciento del presupuesto anual de \$1.4 mil millones.

## Activistas Inmigrantes demandan al Senado de Estados Unidos sobre Acta de los Suenos

Un grupo de graduados universitarios indocumentados están demandando al Senado por el uso de demoras para prevenir que pase el Acta Federal de los Sueños. Este Bill les hubiera dado oportunidad de arreglar la residencia y luego la ciudadanía. Fueron apoyados por el grupo Common Cause y otros en retar la constitucionalidad de las reglas del Senado, que requieren 60 votos para aprobar leyes y postulaciones aunque muchas veces gocen de la mayoría de los votos en la cámara de 100 representantes. Muchos los desean suerte por su valor en su lucha contra los intereses más poderosos.

## 22 Senadores Demócratas peticionan al Presidente Obama a usar su autoridad ejecutiva

Una carta firmada por 22 Senadores pidió al Presidente Obama a que usara su autoridad ejecutiva para prevenir la deportación de jóvenes quienes hubieran beneficiado del fallado Acta Federal de los Suenos. La legislación hubiera permitido a inmigrantes indocumentados quienes entraron de joven, a quedar, con la estipulación de demostrar un record limpio y matriculación en un colegio o inscripción en el servicio militar.

Lo Malo:

## Mitt Romney exige “auto-deportación”

Enmarcando el tono para el Partido Republicano, Romney hizo una declaración pidiendo la “auto-deportacion” de indocumentados, que significa haciendo la vida tan miserable para ellos que estarían dispuestos a abandonar voluntariamente el país. Consejero a Romney y Secretario del Kansas, Kris Koback declaro que los Estados Unidos debe remover a 5.5 millones de “ilegales” para el fin del primero término de la administración de Romney.

## Republicanos atacan al Acta Violencia Contra Mujeres (VAWA)

El Acta Violencia Contra Mujeres (VAWA) permite a inmigrantes indocumentados quienes cooperan en la prosecución de crímenes graves, a solicitar visas y obtener permisos. Deben proveer evidencias del abuso, incluyendo a reportes de policías, archivos médicos y someterse a un escrutinio minucioso. Los Republicanos quiere debilitar VAWA, eliminando la confidencialidad y otras medidas, con la justificación que quieren combatir el fraude y el abuso por medio de peticiones falsas. No proveen ningunos datos ni estudios que comprueben este argumento. VAWA se venció en 2011 sin reautorización debido a obstáculos impuestos por los Republicanos. Al pesar de apoyo mayoritario, hasta por agencias policíacas, el futuro de este importante programa permanece en estado de limbo.

## Propuesta pare Inmigración del Senador de Florida Marco Rubio

El Senador de Florida Marco Rubio, fue una vez considerado como una emergente “cara café” para los Republicanos, al pesar de su comentario que tal vez estaría de acuerdo con la “Solución Arizona”. Aunque una vez se haya considerado como buen candidato para Vice-Presidente, encuestas demuestran que el nivel de apoyo a Romney se bajó cuando fue asociado con Rubio. Rubio presento su propio plan para reforma de inmigración en una movida netamente política para ganar los estados importantes de Florida, Nuevo México, Arizona, Nevada y Colorado. Su plan daría permisos a jóvenes indocumentados para estudiar, trabajar, obtener licencias de manejar y luego pedir la residencia. Pero les niega el derecho de votar y recibir asistencia pública y pagarían matriculas dos o tres veces más altas. Lo más importante es que no abre un camino a la ciudadanía.

Lo Absurdo:

## Al Presidente Obama se le piden otra vez sus “papeles”

Como un chiste desagradable en busca de risas, al Presidente Obama le volvieron a exigir prueba que nació en Hawái, al pesar de habérselo publicado en el sitio oficial en el internet de la Secretaria del Estado. Sería hasta chistoso sino fuera por una sorpresiva declaración del Secretario de Estado de Arizona, cuando dijo que posiblemente el nombre del Presidente no aparecería en la balota de votación en ese estado.