

## Justice for Patty Dawson: The Journey Continues

By Stan Santos

On June 14, the Committee for Justice for Patty Dawson gathered for a press conference regarding the violent hate crime committed exactly one year ago in Clovis. Members of the committee reviewed press packets and waited for the establishment media. Patty, her husband, spokesperson Gloria Hernandez and a dozen or so supporters, including the Brown Berets and Warrior Woman, were present.

Amid the tension and anticipation, we heard the beats of a drum song, joined by a chorus of Native American voices. As passersby paused to look, including several sheriff's officers, there were the intonations of a familiar song and we felt a calm come over us. It was the Eagle Song, a rhythmic incantation of four repeated verses that gently rise in strength and volume. It is a powerful Sweat Lodge song meant to lift our spirits.

### Brief Summary

On June 14, 2011, Dawson, who is Navajo and San Carlos Apache, was traveling through the northeast Fresno neighborhood of Tarpey Village. It was meant to be a short trip but has now become the journey of her life. She was the victim of an unprovoked attack by two or more persons who bumped her car, spit and hurled obscenities at her and eventually left her lying unconscious, bloodied and with shattered bones on the asphalt near a gas station at Ashlan and Clovis avenues.

The individuals who attacked Dawson are suspected of having connections to neo-Nazi, KKK and similar hate groups and/

**Continued on page 21**



Warrior Woman (center) speaks out for justice in the attack against Patty Dawson (left). Gloria Hernandez (right), with the Justice for Patty Dawson Committee, said that the criminal justice system has failed Patty from the very beginning of this case.

## The Final Battle to Save Wa-ha-lish (Jesse Morrow Mountain)

By Chip Ashley

At a special hearing on May 30, the Fresno County Planning Commission voted 4-3 to deny a conditional-use permit to multinational corporation CEMEX to mine Jesse Morrow Mountain. Opponents to the mine in attendance broke into an ecstatic cheer.

But this struggle is not over. CEMEX appealed on June 12 to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. The hearing is set for Aug. 28 in the Fresno County Ballroom (the same place as the May 30 hearing).



If you don't want Jesse Morrow Mountain to look like this in a couple of years, it is time for you to get involved and support environmental justice.

Locals must mobilize for the hardest test yet: motivating the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to vote down the proposed mine.

### Background

Jesse Morrow Mountain, called Wa-ha-lish or Wahallish by the Choinumni Yokuts, who consider it sacred, is the majestic foothill just east of Minkler in eastern Fresno County. Along with its near twin, Campbell Mountain, just to the south, Wa-ha-lish acts as gatekeeper on California Highway 180 on

the way to Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. In the spring, her green and flowered skirt sweeps down to the scenic highway from the north.

In 2002, Ready Mix Corp. (RMC) attempted to purchase property on both Campbell Mountain and Wa-ha-lish to site an aggregate mine. The deed holder of the property on Campbell Mountain refused to sell, but the holder of the Wa-ha-lish site did sell to RMC. According to Darby Smith of Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain, locals soon organized to oppose the mine they knew was coming. Professor Michael Becker of CSU Fresno helped form the Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain (FJMM).

RMC applied for a conditional-use permit in 2005. News stories appeared in publications like the local Sierra Club chapter's *Tehipite Topics*, the *Community Alliance* newspaper and the *Fresno Bee*, including two by Bill McEwen. There were radio interviews,

**Continued on page 9**

## Cultivating Fear: Sexual Abuse in the Fields

By Vic Bedoian

Hundreds of thousands of immigrant farmworker women and girls in the United States face a high risk of sexual violence and harassment in their workplaces because U.S. authorities fail to protect them adequately. That's the conclusion of a shocking report released by Human Rights Watch. The 95-page report, called *Cultivating Fear* (available at [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)), describes rape, stalking, unwanted touching, exhibitionism and vulgar language by supervisors, employers and others in positions of power. The report underscores legislation that languishes in Congress to help correct that situation.

Grace Meng, the New York-based author of the report, traveled throughout California and other states to document the findings. She discovered a chilling scenario of abuse and intimidation against farmworker women who were trapped between two stark realities—sexual harassment or losing their jobs and

**Continued on page 21**

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A Giant Leap Forward

In 1992, members of Visions of Community took a leap of faith and, with six months’ rent only, signed a two-year lease on a house to be called the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Bravery indeed! (Perhaps somewhat like the saying “if we build it, the money will come.”) And they were right! Our Center has been supported by the progressive community ever since.

At 20 years of age, though, a number of us believe that we need to start thinking about a larger Center, one that would not only house FCNV but also a few of the other progressive groups that have formed during this time. Indeed, some of them already use our Center as a meeting place. If you read Paul Pierce’s piece in the *Community Alliance’s* June edition on the “Progress on Building a Progressive Network,” it is heartening to see what they have accomplished in such a short time. Imagine what they could do if housed under the same roof!

In 2014, our lease will expire and we think it important that another “leap” be taken and the idea explored of buying (or renting) a building together, one large enough to house four or five progressive organizations each with an office and a central meeting place for all to use. With the present economy this won’t be easy but on the positive side housing prices are low. Is anyone interested in exploring such a possibility? Many Northern California peace centers own their own buildings, and we could ask them for advice. Just think, this could be very exciting!  
*Angela Price*  
*Board Member, Fresno Center for Nonviolence*

California Voters to Decide on Genetically Engineered Foods Labeling

On June 11, the Secretary of State announced that the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act qualified to be on the November ballot. This initiative simply requires that foods that are genetically engineered (GE) or contain GE ingredients be labeled in California.

People across the country who are concerned about the potential health ramifications of GE foods have been pleading for labeling for at least 10 years. All efforts to do so at the state and federal levels have been stymied or threatened with lawsuits from the biotech industries that do genetic engineering. What don’t they want us to know?

To pass this initiative in November, we need to grow our team of local volunteers to help spread the word and educate people. We need endorsements from businesses, professionals, organizations and churches that support the labeling of GE foods. To join the local volunteer team, contact Judy Nelson at

jnelson522@aol.com. Judy is also willing to speak to groups that want to know more about the initiative and genetic engineering. For more information or to donate to the effort, go to [www.carighttoknow.org](http://www.carighttoknow.org).

All eyes are now on California to take this historic step to make labeling of GE foods a law. We need to stand up to the corporate giants who will spend millions to defeat this initiative. It is time to reclaim our right to know what is in our food. We need your help to do so.  
*Judy Nelson, Fresno*

New Election Rules Benefit the 1%

On Jan. 21, 2010, the federal Supreme Court ruled under *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that corporations are considered legal individuals and must receive the same free speech rights as individual citizens under the First Amendment. Limiting money that corporations can contribute in elections also limits their ability to free speech.

Recent events since the passage of this law have been the passage of Public Act 4 signed by the governor of Michigan taking away the political rights of local governments with the appointment of a manager; the defeat of Councilmember John Carlisle of Merced who supported the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance; recent elections in Fresno County with ties to big business; and the recent defeat of the recall election of Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin. All of these defeats might not have occurred but for the passage of *Citizens United*. Big money by outside interests played a role.

What does this mean for free elections? Our democracy is eroding by big money from corporations, which use the media to lie and distort the truth to the general public. Big money buys you airtime and allows them to misinform the general population about issues being voted on. The other side that is being attacked does not have the funds usually to respond to these attacks until it is too late. By then, the voters have made up their minds.

Corporate America now has more control of federal, state and local governments with the passage of *Citizens United*. They can now get favorable decisions. What this means is that the 1% now can dictate what benefits to provide the 99%, which is none.

The attacks happening in Michigan are only the beginning of what other states may face in the near future. Right now, it calls for the 99% to keep fighting so we do not end up homeless, powerless and destitute.

The right-wing media would like to have the general public believe the enemy is people on welfare, the homeless, state union employees, seniors on social security and others dependent on federal assistance for their survival.

The real enemy is board members who sit on corporations, CEOs, bankers, hedge fund managers and others in collusion to bring down the U.S. economy.  
*Eduardo Castro*  
*Board Member, Central California Journey for Justice*  
*edcastrojr@sbcglobal.net*

FROM THE EDITOR



The City of Fresno spent \$1,220,000 last month defending Police Chief Jerry Dyer; \$820,000 is going to a high-profile out-of-town attorney who defended him and \$300,000 will go to the plaintiffs and their attorney. The mainstream media has covered this issue extensively, but the debate is usually about the wisdom of spending so much money on an outsourced attorney.

Although that is a problem, it misses the essence of what the lawsuit was all about. The lawsuit, filed in February 2011, alleged that Dyer made multiple racist and sexist remarks. For example, the lawsuit alleged that Dyer’s ringtone for Cynthia Sterling, an African-American former City Council member, was a slave song, “Shortnin’ Bread.” The lawsuit also alleged that Dyer mimics stereotypical slave dialect, making comments including “yessa massa, I is yo pet” and “Um hum, I’m the mayor’s boy, I’m the mayor’s boy, yes’um, I’m the mayor’s boy.”

The lawsuit alleged that Dyer repeatedly made derogatory and racial comments and/or actions relating to different races, including, but not limited to, African Americans and Japanese, which include the following:

- “You know brothers can’t resist watermelons.”
- “You know brothers love melons.”
- Routinely refers to African Americans as “brothers.”
- During a meeting discussing fist strikes to the face, Dyer commented that fist strikes to the face should never occur, “unless it is a brother, because brothers don’t have bones in their noses.”
- Dyer’s cellular phone ringtone for Blong Xiong, a Southeast Asian City Council member, was an Oriental sounding ringtone.
- Dyer refers to a female Japanese Police Department employee as his “little geisha girl.”
- Dyer makes offensive and demeaning comments about women, including but not limited to,

- comments about Police Department employees’ clothes and cleavage.
- comments that an employee must be out looking for a husband.
- comments about certain female Police Department employees never having to pay for drinks when they go out socially.
- Dyer has made offensive remarks relating to charging the County of Fresno an administrative fee for administering a grant, stating “Good, rape them, (laughing), and make them feel they liked it.”
- Dyer on numerous occasions has demeaningly referred to City Hall being run like a “sorority” because the mayor and her chiefs of staff are primarily women.
- The deputy city manager required Police Department employees to place their hands on Chief Dyer and pray over him in order to cast away evil spirits while at City Hall.

Most of us are disturbed by the fact that the city paid more than a million dollars to settle this case. But we should be even more concerned with a political and judicial system that could leave a racist and sexist department head in power, free to exploit and terrorize the workforce. Without a trial, we will probably never know which, if any (or all) of the above allegations are true. What we do know is that City Hall made a decision to spend whatever was needed (of our money) to keep us from knowing whether Dyer is a racist and sexist pig or simply misunderstood.

More Homeless Evictions Expected

I learned in mid-June that the City of Fresno is planning on new homeless evictions that will affect the homeless living in and around the Monterey Street Bridge in downtown. These evictions will affect the approximately 100 people living on The Hill, New Jack City (which has been reborn) and the area around Pastor Ray Polk’s ministry. The city demolition will also remove Polk’s Homeless Memorial that he has built for those who have died on the mean streets of Fresno.

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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Japan Nuclear Disaster Arrives in California

I just finished reading Michael Collins’ article, “Radiation Nightmare,” which summarizes the devastating effects the Fukushima disaster has had on California. Collins, using radiation monitoring devices, has reported that California, just downwind and current from Fukushima, had radiation levels 5 times normal, with cesium, iodine, strontium and plutonium detected, beginning a week after the accident occurred. It was found in all the precipitation California has had this year.

The contamination will continue, as the Japanese government is bracing for two Mark I reactors (designed by GE) to explode because of the thousands of tons of nuclear waste that was stored onsite. This will add to the deluge of already millions of tons of radioactive water released into the sea because of ongoing cleanup.  
**Continued on page 3**

I expect eviction notices to go up about the time this issue of the *Community Alliance* goes to press and the bulldozers to arrive about 10 days after that. Checking the Fresno City Council meeting agenda for Feb. 9, we found that a contract was made with Evans Brothers Inc. from Livermore for \$968,232 for the Monterey Bridge demolition. Again, so much for the “buy local” (support jobs in Fresno) campaign the mayor says she supports.

Spending \$968,232 (of Measure C money) to demolish the Monterey Bridge is outrageous! I just don’t know what we get for that money, other than a level space where the bridge used to be. It is not like the city is flush with money and can do anything with that space. I know the bridge is not in good shape, but nobody has said that it is about to fall down or anything. It just sort of serves no purpose, except that it is a place that the homeless use to get out of the rain in the winter and the sun in the summer.

It sure seems like there must be a better use for the money, particularly since there are rumors out of City Hall that it is talking about declaring a fiscal emergency so it can lay off workers, beat up on the unions, and reduce wages and benefits.

It is interesting that the city will spend money to destroy this bridge but have to cut back on senior meals because it has no money. The city spent nearly \$4 million to build a community center (Elm and California) with an NBA-sized basketball court and has no money to open it up. Yet, it can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to bulldoze the homeless encampments and destroy this bridge. Incidentally, that community center is less than a block from a new and growing homeless encampment near E and California, where people are dying from the heat. The community center could be opened as a cooling center, but the city says that would cost too much money. The city has its priorities.



Letters continued from page 2

Japan has already lost 10% of its land mass and half its coastline, which will end up a barren radioactive wasteland for generations to come. “Nuclear lepers” are feared and unwanted, as coastline residents must live elsewhere.

This should be on our minds in California, as we have two nuclear power plants, Diablo Canyon, built directly on an active fault line on the cliffs of San Luis Obispo, and San Onofre in San Diego County, built in the sand, a short walk away from the shoreline.

As a healthcare professional, I am deeply concerned. We are what we eat and drink. Now, no matter how careful we are with our diets, Fukushima has come to California and polluted our water, our soil, our seas, our food and our dairy sources. And it could happen to us again with our own nuclear folly. Both Diablo and San Onofre store thousands of tons of waste onsite because there is no waste storage available.

Please read Collins’ update on how Fukushima has affected us—a real eye-opener.  
*Grant Marcus*  
*Past Fresno Resident who was arrested six times at Diablo Canyon*

Religion and the 1%

In the United States, the fifth greatest nation in inequality of wealth among nations, our silence that maintains this inequality is dependent on all of the beliefs and statements that amount to this one, “It is easier for a wealthy man to enter the kingdom of heaven than it is a camel to pass through the eye of a needle.” Makes you feel good and complacent, does it not? Why? Because upon this concept, the wealthy can obviously control the Republican Party and can silence the Democrats, as they have done so well.

As Napoleon Bonaparte stated, “If it were not for religion (our belief in God getting even with the wealthy), the poor would slaughter the rich.” We should try to avoid that. The dire straits of the man with poor self-esteem (the True Believer) and the ignorant who cannot advance themselves and can only pray guarantee the continuation of a collective unconscious that allows the wealthy to control the U.S. government.

The best thing the alternative media can do for the poor in this community and all communities is to challenge religion, which by its brainwashing dogma dominates not only the poor who mostly do not vote but also the middle class that does.

First, and specifically, any and all dogma that comforts us into believing that God will somehow someday get even with the wealthy for what they have done to us is brainwashing us to our economic and political disadvantage.

Second, as China economically conquers the world, we need to redefine patriotism as all voting that submits military spending to being inferior to economic investment and success. Everything that can make the U.S. economically, not militarily, successful is to our benefit. Those who vote for military deficit spending and debt are traitors to all Americans.  
*Mike Starry*  
*Fresno*

Argument Against High-Speed Rail

A purported benefit of high-speed rail is that it will provide unemployed workers the access they need to obtain jobs outside of their city of residence. This assumption creates the illusion that the rail itself would expand job opportunities throughout the state. This is a fallacy that needs to be exposed.

First, we need to look at the 11% to 11.9% unemployment rate, which has held firm for the last year and a half, placing us significantly higher than all but two other states in the nation. We simply need to create jobs now. Second, we need to look at the revised \$68.4 billion cost projection for building the rail. Is this money being diverted from the more immediate and effective solutions to the problem of unemployment in our state? For example, it would be wise to compare, dollar for dollar, the number of permanent jobs that would be created by the HSR to those that would be generated through investment in solar and other alternative energy sources. If employment opportunities do not significantly improve, then the rail itself will serve as a vehicle, not to improve access to jobs, but to deliver workers to a job devoid of worker and human

rights and/or union representation. This is so because the project would, in effect, create an expanded pool of job seekers, which results in a highly competitive field. When jobs are scarce, yet easy to fill, exploitation by corporate entities becomes unrestrained. It is easy to overwork and underpay employees, who are faced with the threat of being replaced by applicants from all over the state of California. Creating jobs locally would restore dignity to all classes of workers in California, and it needs to happen now.

Let us remember that any jobs resulting from the construction of the HSR are temporary at best, and more permanent opportunities are minimal compared to those that we can develop through proper funding, at the local level.

The money earmarked for this project appears to have preempted all other state spending, including social services, education and job training. Without these services, the workers in California are likely to struggle with job deprivation for a long time to come. The end result will be to fuel the current assault on unions and workers’ rights in California and the country, as a whole.

We must question the motives behind those who would undermine our human potential. By whatever name we give them, these forces within our current socioeconomic power structures are real, and they are intent on diverting money away from the more immediate solutions to the critical problem of “no jobs.”  
*Clerylyn Smith*  
*Fresno*

Spending Priorities

Instead of attempting to privatize essential community services and bulldozing people’s homes, money ought to be directed toward things like programs for helping schoolchildren improve their math and English skills so that maybe they stay in school. Also, invest in helping the mentally ill and drug addicts so that maybe they don’t end up in the jails in the first place. That ought to save some money.  
*David Alegre*  
*Fresno*

Cooling Centers for the Homeless Are Not Needed

Our city should start a “good health campaign” to encourage everyone to do yoga and meditate. If every able person put oneself on a routine of meditating and doing yoga postures, people would become more physically fit to handle the heat in the summer. We don’t need cooling centers for the homeless and seniors. Just put grandma in the shade. We have become a very soft, pampered and whiney society. Our pioneer descendants were stronger than we are. Meditating would encourage opening one’s mind to view the problems in a different perspective.

Regarding the city’s budget woes, the pay cuts and retirement salary packages need to start with cutbacks for top administrators including the mayor’s salary first. We need to see the ones who get a three-figure salary set an example for showing economic restraint during hard times.  
*Linda Guerrero*  
*Fresno*

How to Fix the City of Fresno Budget

1. Stop activities that lead to lawsuits: police brutality and shootings, for example, and roughshod evictions of the homeless in which their belongings are trashed.
2. Solve the homeless problem in a humane, economical way. Encourage the homeless population to move into “safe and legal” campgrounds provided by the city or other public agencies. Granite Park would be a great place. Give them a bus pass or a bicycle so they can get to appointments. They won’t need so much medical care and emergency services if they have a stable place to camp, with water and trash collection provided, and an area to garden. Sanitation can be provided by a humanure system, either with the special composting method or the modified, toss it in the dumpster, method. Either way is extremely inexpensive and effective. Community groups and individuals are already spending a lot of money helping them survive. This money could be helping them thrive and find a better way of living. Find out if any of them are willing to try farm labor. I have a hunch it’s a myth that only Mexicans are able and willing to do that work. Their job now is recycling, mostly by searching the city’s green bins when they’re at the curb. This must take away from what our

- contracted recycling center gets, must therefore cost the city. If they had other useful paid work, they wouldn’t have to do this faux recycling. We do have dumpsters at several of the encampment locations. Good move, City.
3. Don’t spend money incarcerating marijuana violators. Work toward legalization with regulation so we don’t have the pot-driven crime and degradation of our wild lands. Survey the jail population for good candidates for early release.
  4. Have more festivals downtown and more events in the stadium.
  5. Install solar where cost-effective.
  6. Get creative. Use canals and water hyacinths to clean sewage water. Compost the hyacinths periodically, and sell the compost.
  7. No more Operation Cleanup. I know we love it. I do too. But most of the stuff can go into regular bins. Maybe have a disposal day in neighborhood parking lots once a year, but people must get their stuff to it. It will have to have a watchperson to make sure only neighborhood residents use it.
  8. Keep senior lunches, but encourage donations, with amounts suggested. Some don’t need it to be free, they mostly come for the social time. Entertainment by volunteer seniors could bring in more “paying customers.”
  9. Encourage use of smaller garbage containers and composting. It just occurred to me, if I add a layer of sawdust or shavings, or dirt, to my garbage bin so it doesn’t stink, I won’t have to put it out more often than once every two months or so.
  10. Sell compost and chips from city tree work. Encourage home composting to lessen the volume of garbage.
  11. Parking meters are necessary downtown. But if it’s technically possible, allow the first hour to be free. The big annoyance with meters is having to guess how long you’ll need the space. The parking cards are great because you don’t need change, and they give your money back for unused time. Get the word out about them.
  12. Want to revitalize downtown quickly and cheaply? Redesign traffic patterns downtown so it’s easier to get around. No one-way streets. And put up signs to help find freeway entrances, etc. If this must include the mall itself, so be it, but let’s try to keep the art and trees too. The Cesar Chavez school and the Medical Center are great, but they effectively block entrances to downtown.
  13. Can double-dipping be stopped? Or at least avoided? If you’re still working for the city, you should wait until you’re retired to collect retirement.
  14. We have anti-sprawl Plan A. Let’s stick to it for developers and also make it easy for homeowners to add living units onto their existing property. Remember too, big box stores destroy neighborhood businesses.
  15. Can we tax churches? Can we super-tax super-luxuries, especially if a case can be made that they cost other city residents because of environmental assaults, etc. Like blowers! Actually, I think we can and should outlaw blowers, at least for regular use.
  16. The street sweeper doesn’t do any good on streets like mine without curbs and/or gutters. Why not take them off the route?
  17. Of course, keep up the good work in getting new businesses, especially those that use our homegrown agricultural products.
  18. And the bike lanes. Great!

The following may not actually save money directly, but they are important to the health of our community.

Find the money somewhere, somehow, to have swimming pools open, especially in our poverty-stricken neighborhoods. And they need to stay open in the evenings, not close at 5 p.m. If necessary, a small charge could be made, with exceptions for those who really cannot pay anything.

Open school grounds, and maybe staff with volunteers, to provide activities for neighborhood kids, and grownups, throughout the hot Fresno summer.

Facilitate more community gardens. Neighborhood cooperation and better nutrition would be the result, for little or no money.  
*Nancy Waidtlow*  
*Fresno*

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# Clearing the Air

By Kevin Hall



The energy and economic policies of the Brown and Obama administrations appear to have merged vertically, meaning a complete overlay of the governor’s and president’s economic plans, and horizontally—energy production is our economy. It is now one big sausage best summed up by the unfortunate slogan, “All of the above.”

When either gentleman or their proxies mouth the seemingly upbeat, inclusive yet jingoistic soundbite, they are saying, “We’re investing in alternative energy in order to transition away from a fossil fuel-based economy to a sustainable one, but in the meantime we need to continue developing all forms and sources of coal, oil and natural gas.” In short, they want to say yes to everything to avoid saying no to anyone.

Unfortunately for the San Joaquin Valley’s 4 million residents, a majority of whom are people of color and often live in some of the nation’s greatest concentrations of urban and rural poverty, the politically driven strategy of all of the above has taken on a literal meaning, a dangerous physical reality. The harmful impacts from all these forms of energy production, including some dubious renewables but especially fossil fuels, are being stacked ever higher on top of us, layer upon layer of toxic pollution. All-of-the-above is pressing down on all of us below with a rapidly increasing weight that is crushing people every day.

And things are only getting worse as strange perversions emerge, pliant politicians roll back public health protection laws and increasingly dirty sources of oil and natural gas are tapped.

## Hella HECA

A prime example of perverted outcomes is the Hydrogen Energy California (HECA) 400-megawatt power plant proposed for western Kern County. It’s as if a group of sociopaths got together and asked, “What’s the worst possible project we think we can get away with in the worst possible place?”

Well, Kern County is clearly the worst place in the nation for air pollution with its unenviable rankings by the American Lung Association as No. 1 for short-term and annual particulate levels and No. 3 for ozone. Target selected.

So, the HECA proponents want to bring to Kern a “clean coal, green energy” 400-megawatt power plant that promises immense impacts of NOx and diesel exhaust thanks to a daily trainload of coal through poverty-stricken southeast Bakersfield to rural Wasco; 400 daily truck trips from there through Shafter to the site; and truckloads of petroleum coke from Southern California oil refineries, too, to burn and emit more NOx while making hydrogen and urea, then pumping the CO<sub>2</sub> into the underlying oil field to force crude oil out—but, hey, it’s sequestered, at least they hope it will be. Then the oil gets shipped and used, too. This is a \$3 billion project with \$350 million coming from the federal Department of Energy.

Another all-of-the-above layer consists of biomass-fueled power plants. Found throughout the Valley, these facilities are mostly fed by the urban waste stream from California’s urban coastal communities. Hundreds of toxic diesel trucks make daily roundtrips to carry construction waste and curbside recycling refuse for burning in plants that would not be allowed to operate in their cities of origin, but they are burning here. This is categorized as renewable energy and the companies earn credits toward the state-mandated renewable portfolio standard.

The California Energy Commission just announced a \$258,000 research grant to UC Merced to study the effects on air quality and the economic challenges of biomass gas production in California. It’s certainly about time given the plants have been burning massive amounts of waste for many years, but the \$50,000 being kicked in by Foret Plasma labs is a concern. Just over the hill from us in the Salinas Valley, our good governor has signaled his support for a \$175 million garbage-burning, plasma gasification power plant, despite that plant’s likely emissions of toxic contaminants; opponents anticipate more of Governor Brown’s growing fondness for circumventing public health protection laws. This project is also striving for renewable energy status.

## WTF—What the Frack?

Meanwhile, back in Kern “There Will Be Blood” County, Big Oil interests recently gathered at an industry conference to discuss the 500-square-mile Monterey Shale formation. This “source

rock” is two miles straight down and home to several times more oil than the notorious Bakken field’s 3.6 billion barrels. Like Bakken, fracking is the plan: high-pressure injections of explosive, toxic chemicals with water and sand to fracture rock and loosen up the sludge.

Again, the real threat of shortcuts around public health laws is a strong possibility. State Senator Michael Rubio (D–Bakersfield) recently voted with Republicans and killed a bill that would have merely expanded notification requirements for natural gas exploratory drills. Can more of the same be in store when potentially billions of dollars are at stake? Yes, of course.

All-of-the-above acolytes are encouraging, subsidizing and facilitating long-term investment in the dirtiest, most harmful forms of energy to be found.

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The time has come for everyone in the San Joaquin Valley to take a stand against polluters and in support of public health protections, so the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition is launching the Stand for Clean Air campaign. If you have read this far, then you are interested enough to want to join in this Valley-wide effort. Community-based organizations throughout the Valley are leading the effort

locally for people who want to participate in person, but we also need those who want to take action online or by phoning and writing.

If you agree that your lungs, heart, bloodstream—your life—are worth a few minutes a day, then visit [www.calcleanair.org](http://www.calcleanair.org) today and sign up. We are not interested in waiting to be noticed; we are going directly to the source of the problem. Learn more by joining the Stand for Clean Air campaign today.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Kevin Hall is director of the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition based in Fresno and 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).*



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**By Michael D. Evans**

Progressives in Fresno didn't come away with much to cheer about on Primary Election Day 2012 (June 5). Nor was it a good day nationally for progressive thinkers. But it was definitely a wakeup call to the work that still lies ahead of us.

Locally, our problems were more mundane but still problems nevertheless.

The June 5 primary was the first election under the new top two primary system. There was much confusion among voters about this system, and post-election that continues to be the case. The gist of the top two system is that for U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, State Senate and State Assembly, the top two vote-getters, regardless of party and regardless of percentage of the vote, proceed to the November election.

U.S. Congress

- *Congressional District 4.* In this heavily Republican district (which runs from the foothills of Fresno County almost to South Lake Tahoe), Democrat Jack Uppal ran surprisingly well outside of Fresno County garnering 35.6% of the vote district-wide. In the small portion of the district that is in Fresno County, however, he managed only 23% of the vote against Republican Tom McClintock.
- *Congressional District 16.* Democrat Jim Costa ran well ahead of runner-up Republican Brian Whelan in Fresno and Merced counties but trailed Whelan in Madera County. The district leans Democratic, but the Republicans may choose to dump some of their money into this district in hopes of making it competitive. Costa had a close call in 2010, and he will need an improved ground campaign this year to ensure victory.
- *Congressional District 21.* In many respects, this will be the most interesting Congressional race because it has the greatest likelihood of being competitive in November. Republican David Valadao, currently in the State Assembly, received well above 50% of the primary vote. Democrat John Hernandez narrowly passed fellow Democrat Blong Xiong, who is currently on the Fresno City Council, to be the November challenger. Hernandez and Xiong had split the endorsements from progressive groups.

The two campaigns took different strategies. Xiong sought the backing of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), which places stiff fund-raising requirements on candidates. Therefore, Xiong focused on fund-raising. Hernandez, on the other hand, spent more time in the field meeting voters and gathering local endorsements.

- *Congressional District 22.* Democrat Otto Lee received roughly 30% of the vote in Fresno County and district-wide (including much of Tulare County). Lee is challenging Republican Devin Nunes, who has established himself as a rubberstamp for the radical right. Lee generated a lot of excitement among the Democratic base, but he needs to become better known within the district to take advantage of increased turnout among all voters in November.



# State Assembly

- # Fresno County Board of Supervisors

- *District 2.* Fresno City Council Member Andreas Borgeas appears to have won outright in the primary with more than 50% of the vote. Independent Debbie Harkness, who had been endorsed by a number of progressive groups, fared poorly, her campaign being affected by a late surge of funding, mailers and a battle to the right from her

City of Fresno

- ## Statewide Ballot Measures

- *Prop 28.* This ballot measure, which would reduce the total amount of time a person could serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years but allow the person to serve that total in the Assembly, the Senate or a combination of both, passed handily in the county and statewide. It was seen as a “fix” to term limits. Term limits, however, have not worked and are, in fact, a concession that democracy does not work; are we really ready to concede that?

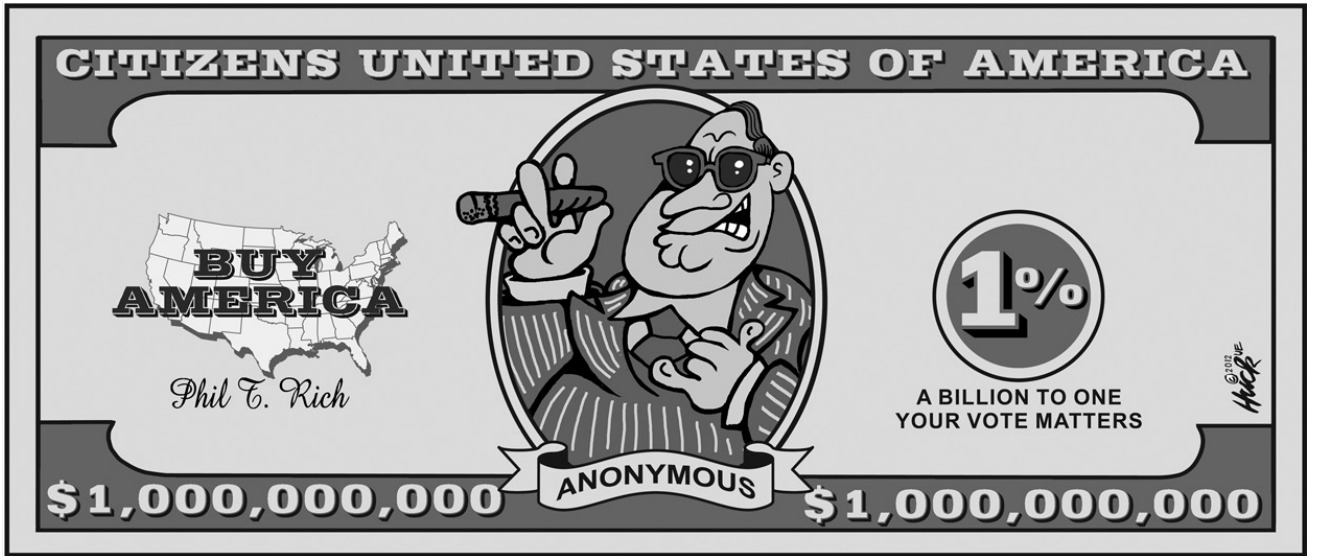
## Looking Ahead

One can see the extent of the problem in the City Council District 4 race, a district in which two Democrats were vying for the same seat. Turnout appears to have been a few percentage points below the countywide average there. Yet both candidates aggressively walked the district for months leading up to the election. There was no shortage of opportunities for voters to engage with these candidates.

Sitting out this election is not an option. If we are to have any say in the direction of our country, we must engage and do so now. We are all that stands between a Scott Walker in the White House and a Tea Party-controlled Congress.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Michael D. Evans is a political activist, editor and writer. Contact him at [evansm@usa.net](mailto:evansm@usa.net).*





# Here We Go Again: Risking Arrest by Traveling to Cuba

By Gerry Bill

Every year a group of us hardy, or perhaps foolhardy, souls invite arrest by openly traveling to Cuba in defiance of the U.S. travel ban. We violate not only the travel ban but also the 50-year old U.S. blockade of Cuba that prohibits taking goods to the island. We bring medical, educational and construction supplies that are destined for the Cuban people.

We do all of this quite openly, some would say defiantly, in a highly visible act of civil disobedience. It is our way of highlighting the useless, even counterproductive, effects of the ongoing U.S. blockade of Cuba, a blockade that is not only ill-advised but also illegal and immoral.

The “we” to whom I refer are the supporters, volunteers and staff of Pastors for Peace, a New York-based nonprofit that is now sending its 23rd aid caravan to Cuba. These caravans involve hundreds of volunteers from 130 cities across the United States and Canada. Typically, about 100 of the volunteers join the caravan and travel to Cuba with the 100 or so tons of aid they have collected.

Why do we do all of this? Well, in addition to providing some aid to the Cubans, our real focus is on educating the public back here at home about Cuba and the alternative economic model that it represents.

Guess what? You can help us break the law without breaking any laws yourself. Attend our caravan event in Fresno on July 9 at 6 p.m. at Margaret Hudson’s Barn (4247 N. Thorne Ave.). Come see our school bus packed with aid for Cuba. Meet the volunteers traveling with the bus and hear their



**Gerry Bill and Leni Reeves are working with Pastors for Peace, in solidarity with the people of Cuba.**

stories. Many caravanistas have been to Cuba multiple times and are happy to share their experiences with others.

The program will consist of a potluck meal and music at 6 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by the caravan route speaker and opportuni-

ties to hear from the other caravanistas. We can also accept some last-minute aid items at the event, but it is much better if we have the aid a day or two in advance so we have time to package and inventory it. The event itself is free and open to all. We will pass the hat to help defray the immense costs involved in transporting 100 tons of aid to Cuba, so that is another way in which you can help us challenge the blockade without putting yourself at risk.

The aid we bring with us includes medical equipment and supplies. Donated medicines must have an expiration date of February 2013 or later. Wheelchairs are the medical item most requested by the Cubans. We are also bringing construction tools and supplies to the island. Tools and supplies should all be in good condition. School supplies and educational materials are also being requested; pens, pencils and paper are welcome if they are new.

For information about the caravan or to donate aid, contact Gerry Bill at 559-227-2133 or [gerry.bill@gmail.com](mailto:gerry.bill@gmail.com) or Leni Reeves at [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

*Gerry Bill is emeritus professor of sociology and American Studies at Fresno City College and is on the boards of the Fresno Free College Foundation, Peace Fresno and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. He is co-chair of the Central California Criminal Justice Committee and a longtime activist in Fresno.*

## The T

By Kaylia Metcalfe

I use the acronym “LGBT+” daily, without thought. Sometimes I gnash my teeth at the alphabet soup that many would like to include (LGBTQAISAHCUH+TSP0\*; for now, let’s use LGBT+ and move on).

It never occurs to me that people don’t know what LGBT stands for, that there are still those who have only a vague notion that LGBT means only “other than me in some way.”

Not surprisingly, most people can guess the first three letters, after all LGB (or GLB) has been a widespread acronym since the 1990s (it began in the late 1980s to replace the term *gay community* as many felt that wasn’t inclusive enough).

But the T throws people. Someone asked me recently if the T stood for “all three.” As in, you were not only a gay lesbian, but you are bisexual as well. I explained that the T was for transgender and then had to further explain what that meant.

This wasn’t the first time I was asked to explain the T. Apparently, the memo about the transgender community still hasn’t made it to a lot of people.

But no more! Consider this your quick guide to the basics of the world of T! (This is a light overview; for more information, visit [www.trans-e-motion.org](http://www.trans-e-motion.org).)

*Transgender* is an umbrella term that encompasses several populations; it is important to remember that people aren’t data points. Many have a great deal in common with one subset but still aren’t comfortable in that box. Most people don’t fit completely into just one category.

Some of the more common categories under that umbrella would include transsexuals, cross-dressers, transvestites, intersexual, gender queer and non-gendered.

In other words: Transgender is the state of one’s “gender identify” (self-identification as man, woman, both or neither), not matching one’s assigned sex as identified by others based on physical sex.

Some examples:

*Transsexual:* They call you a boy (you have boy parts), but you know deep down inside you are a girl. You want to be a girl on the outside as well as the inside so you dress like a girl, you take on a girl name. Maybe you have surgery or take hormones to make it easier to pass and to feel more girl-like. Maybe you don’t. Maybe you change your name and gender legally and

start a new life. Maybe you don’t. Either way, you are a trans-woman, a transsexual. Chaz Bono would be an example of a trans-man. He was assigned the gender of “female” at birth due to physical/sexual organs and later in life changed his outsides to match his insides.

*Cross-dressing:* The act of wearing clothing commonly associated with the opposite sex and can be used for stress relief or as gender expression. The term does not imply any motives, however, it is important to note that typically cross-dressers do not wish to change their sex and are playing with the idea of gender.

*Transvestites:* Also don’t usually have a desire to change their sex but dress in a manner that is commonly associated with the opposite sex as a way of entertainment or sexual gratification. (Rue Paul)

*Intersex:* Someone born with anatomical features that are both male and female. Usually a sex is assigned at birth and often a surgery is done to “fix” the confusing genitalia. Later in life, the intersex person might reject the gender he/she had been assigned. The person might not; either way, the person is an intersexual person.

*Gender queer:* Anyone who identifies themselves differently than “male” or “female” and doesn’t believe those terms properly fit. They can identify as gender neutral, pan-gender or gender bender.

Of course, all these examples are purposely vague because there is significant fluidity and overlap.

And when it comes to sexual orientation, all bets are off. Transgender-ism has everything to do with who you are and how you see yourself; it has nothing to do with who you find attractive or wish to have a relationship with.

Ultimately, those in the LGBT+ community, no matter our letter, are a part of society that is “different,” “nontraditional” and “other,” and we have to band together along with our non-LGBT+ friends and family to work together for equality.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Asexual, Intersex, Straight-Ally, Hijra, Curious, Unsure, HIV-Positive, Transvestite, True-Spirited, Pansexual, Other, Questioning. It is quite a mouthful, and there are those that argue that most of these letters have less to do with your sexual orientation and more to do with either your sexual identity or your politics. There is a noisy contingent that wishes to lump all letters into the word “Queer,” but there is an even louder contingency that hates “Queer” and won’t use it. The debate continues.

\*\*\*\*\*

*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 at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Contact her at [kayliametcalfe@gmail.com](mailto:kayliametcalfe@gmail.com).*

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# Dolores Huerta: The Long Haul

By Paul Gilmore

Sometimes, I get a forceful reminder that there are other worlds coexisting right alongside mine—sometimes just a few feet away—and I could go my whole life without ever having noticed, even if the people in those other worlds have shaped mine in profound ways. And even when I do know about that other world, I could go my whole life without really entering that world and participating. Of course, I could be talking about any number of things—the world of the arts, of which I am an occasional spectator, the worlds of homeless people, who I rarely try to make meaningful contact with, or the world of organized religion, which I don't participate in either.

But I'm referring to the world of those people who, for whatever reasons, decide to dedicate their lives to working for social justice. And my forceful reminder of that world came the other day when President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Freedom to Dolores Huerta. It's not that I've ever met her. The closest I ever came to talking with her was back in 2008, when she came to Fresno City College to speak. But her award the other day reminded me that there are hundreds of people right in our midst in Fresno who do all kinds of the same sort of work, if less famously. Folks go to meetings, talk about the problems of our community and then organize their communities to do something about it. Sometimes they win.

Huerta is one of those people who, early in her life, started going to those meetings and doing something about those problems. She saw the injustice built into the status quo and decided to do something about it.

In the 1950s, as a teacher in the Central Valley, she saw the grinding poverty of her students and the complacency of others who seemed to think nothing could be done. She quit her job as a teacher and became a full-time organizer with Cesar Chavez in the Community Services Organization (CSO), a group dedicated to building political power in the Mexican-American community.

At first, she threw herself into the citizenship classes and voter registration drives of the CSO, but she was later tapped to be the CSO lobbyist in Sacramento. At 30, the first female Mexican-American lobbyist in California, she became an expert on the legislative process, testifying before the legislature on the abuses of the Bracero Program and the lack of basic benefits for farmworkers.

When Chavez left the CSO to build a farmworkers union, Huerta soon followed, giving up her paid work with the CSO for life as a volunteer organizer in the fledgling, barely existing union soon to be called the UFW, the United Farm Workers. Working for \$5 a week, struggling to raise a family (and unlike the men in the UFW, Huerta did not have a wife to support her in this), Huerta, by all accounts, turned her life over to the farmworkers organization. She served at various times as vice president and chief negotiator and as secretary-treasurer, dedicating all her time to this work.

While the story of the UFW is one of great victories, it is also one of great disappointments. Huerta was there for it all. The strikes and boycotts of the late 1960s won for farmworkers some of the first contracts in American history. Through the organization, some of the horrifying conditions in the fields improved.

But the counterattack was vicious. And it wasn't just the growers' opposition that Huerta and the UFW had to contend with. The Teamsters, with not a little support from the growers, launched a years' long campaign to move into the fields and packing sheds, precipitating some bloody conflicts. The Nixon White House, friend to the growers, endorsed by the Teamsters, joined in as well. Charles Colson, later of Watergate fame, was the point man in undermining the power of the new UFW. To break the boycott, in 1969 Nixon nearly quadrupled the amount of grapes the Defense Department sent to Vietnam!

Who knew that building a union in the fields—demanding a say in determining the conditions under which the grapes and veggies are going to be picked—was such a challenge to entrenched power in America?

This is not the place to go into my own armchair criticisms of the UFW, its leadership and its decline since the late 1970s. The UFW has few members and few contracts in the fields today. The farmworker struggle, as Huerta is the first to say, is unfinished. And the death of Maximo Lopez Barajas, who collapsed in the heat just a few weeks ago, should be a sobering reminder of what's left to be done.

But the UFW had some victories—it improved conditions for farmworkers, it helped push through a law that for the first time guaranteed farmworkers their right to organize unions; it gave farmworkers a taste of power, a taste of economic citizenship, in a state and country that treated them as outsiders, visitors; and it taught a generation of Mexican-American activists and others how to organize not just workers but whole communities to better their lives.

Huerta has continued in other realms as well. In the 1980s, she and others helped push through the immigration bill that allowed for the legalization of millions of immigrants. And though she just turned 80, she keeps working, through her foundation for community organizing, to train new community organizers who

will work to improve the lives of poor people in the Central Valley and elsewhere.

In the round of interviews she gave surrounding her nomination for the Medal of Freedom, she returned time and again to the same message: the importance of grassroots organizing, the need to organize our communities so they can fight for themselves for the things they need and the need to build a network of activists to put pressure on our elected leaders to get the changes we want. "It's got to come from the bottom up."

You've seen the picture before. Huerta is not just some woman in a picture holding a sign with the word "Huelga." She isn't just that woman who worked with Chavez. Huerta has lived her whole life in that other world, right alongside mine and maybe yours, where thousands of people work for social justice.

That term—*social justice*—is pretty loaded. Many people say it with a sneer and a roll of the eyes, as if to say that those who engage in this work are merely self-righteous do-gooders who want

to ruin my day with some kind of guilt trip. And there is some truth to that—of course activists believe that their causes are righteous; they are trying to do some good in the world; and those who do nothing, well, maybe we should bear some of the guilt, and that certainly can ruin my day. I eat food touched by other people—what is my relationship with them?

But when folks give that dismissive sniff at social justice activists, I suspect that the reason for the sneer comes from something deeper. It comes from living in that separate world—a world that is unwilling to admit that our social problems are anything more than accidents of history or bad luck; a world unwilling to see there is social injustice that we are morally bound to correct.

Thankfully, we've had people like Dolores Huerta and the thousands upon thousands of more anonymous people—do-gooders who live right next door—who have

tried to do the work of creating justice. Huerta sees her award as recognition of those thousands of activists. So I think a Medal of Freedom for Huerta is a good thing. The Nobel Peace Prize for Barack Obama? A Medal of Freedom for Madeline Albright? No comment.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Paul Gilmore teaches history at Fresno City College. He doesn't think he's naïve; he's maybe more cynical than you; he just thinks it's good to every once in a while say some good things about people with pretty darn good records overall. Contact him at [oscartategilmore@hotmail.com](mailto:oscartategilmore@hotmail.com).*



On May 29, 2012, President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Freedom to Dolores Huerta, who is a living legend in the Central Valley.

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# In This Corner: The Case of Laura Robitschek vs. Ray Appleton

By Richard Stone

*(Author's note:* Radio station KMJ is the most powerful and far-reaching station in the area. Ray Appleton is the local face of the station and a full-on participant in the station's regimen of what some people call "hate radio." This mean 90-plus hours per week of prime-time programming featuring hosts who unanimously denigrate women, immigrants, gays, ethnic minorities and liberals without regard to fact or fairness.

In 2010, I joined the Committee for Civility and Accuracy in Media (CCAM), which was trying to publicize to those unfamiliar with KMJ the actual content, and the potential social damage, of the station's prime-time programming, and to seek from the station a modicum of diversity of opinion. Despite more than a thousand signatures on petitions asking for "fairness and accountability," the station management refused to discuss the issues, citing the programmers' free speech rights and their own freedom to conduct business as they see fit. Appleton himself derided and misrepresented CCAM's mission, leading to a spate of threatening and/or pornographic communiqués from his followers.

With this unpleasant experience as background, I received with interest an e-mail from Laura Robitschek stating her intention to sue KMJ and Appleton. The following is the result of my investigation into her allegations.

By the time this appears, it may have already been reported in local media that Appleton and his employer, KMJ-Radio, have been sued by Robitschek, mother of popular mixed martial arts fighter Cole Escovedo.

I am not in a position to judge the merits of the case, especially since Appleton and Patty Hixson, the general manager of KMJ, say they are constrained by company policy from commenting. But I have interviewed Robitschek and Escovedo; have read transcripts of the communications between Appleton and Robitschek and the Facebook exchanges between Escovedo and Appleton loyalists; have read the accusations filed by Appleton with the police against Robitschek and the resulting police report; have read the text of Robitschek's suit; and have experienced for myself the negative impact of Appleton's on-air pontificating. Holding all this in mind, I offer my take on the significance of the events that have transpired.)

### Background

Escovedo is a locally based cage fighter who achieved an international ranking before having an accident and a subsequent illness that left him incapacitated. The prognosis was that he'd never fight again. But through persistence and effort he regained his strength and was making a comeback, with enough success to earn a high-profile fight in Las Vegas. Robitschek, his mother, acting as unofficial promoter for Escovedo, had been enlisting local media to follow his comeback story, made more newsworthy by his ongoing charity work with Children's Hospital.

With the Vegas fight coming up, Appleton finally agreed to do an interview on his daily show. However, the interview never happened. According to Escovedo, this was because he is obligated by contract to follow the interview dictates of the organization he fights with and they had him engaged in other interviews at the time he was supposed to be on KMJ. I have not verified this story, but there was certainly no reason for him to intentionally slight Appleton.

Nevertheless, Appleton (though acknowledging it was the organization's responsibility more than Escovedo's) railed on air against the failed interview, resulting in a flurry of Facebook entries about Escovedo such as "What a jack-off" and "He's

had all his brains knocked out, the fool knows no better."

Learning of these, Escovedo attempted to apologize on Facebook and assure everyone of his gratitude for past support and his continued loyalty to Fresno and Children's Hospital. A few listeners took this in and urged others to relent, but the scathing commentary continued for a while.

Shortly thereafter, Robitschek tried to call in to Appleton's show on another matter altogether, but although they were taking callers she was cut off. Later, while out driving, she heard on KMJ that Appleton was broadcasting live from a Clovis restaurant. Being in the vicinity, she stopped by to ask Appleton why he'd treated her and her son so badly. She was, she felt, brushed off again, whereupon she went out and texted him, "You should not have dead-miked me, asshole." His return text read, "Dead-mike you? What in the fuck is

that, bitch?"

Robitschek sent a copy of Appleton's text message to station manager Hixson, who initially expressed distress at Appleton's language, though I would surmise she didn't know about Robitschek's provocative prior message. In any event, it appears that after talking with Appleton she decided no follow-up was called for. Appleton, however, did.

Appleton filed a complaint with the police claiming that Robitschek had made threats against his safety, and (he told the police) knowing of Escovedo's martial arts abilities, he felt en-

dangered. Consequently, the police showed up at Robitschek's door to question her about the allegations, which she denied. When it turned out that Appleton claimed to have lost the written and recorded evidence of the threats, and the situation appeared to have cooled down, the police determined no action on their part was required.

But Robitschek—who has had legal experience—felt her rights had been violated by Appleton's actions, which she believed were meant to intimidate her. (She says this interpretation is supported by the fact that Appleton did not make a police report immediately after the purported threats were made, but only after Robitschek had contacted Hixson.) The lawsuit is her answer.

### Commentary

To repeat, I must leave the legal merits of the case to the courts. Still, a few things seem evident to me:

- Escovedo's story is remarkable, and after meeting him I would judge him to be an extremely earnest and conscientious young man. Whatever the circumstances of the blown interview, he did not deserve the reprobation Appleton aroused by his on-air petulance.
- This was no fluke. The atmosphere produced by the broadcast antics of Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and local imitators like Appleton are intended to engender reactive anger and animosity among listeners, and are directed by the whims and ideologies of the hosts, with no regard to truth or justice. And these fearless opinion-peddlers take no responsibility for the whirlwinds they foster; after all, they like to say, "It's just entertainment."
- Despite the provocation of being called "asshole," Appleton's reaction in a quasi-public medium as a public figure who aspires to influence if not respect was puerile and vindictive. A response from his station manager would have seemed in order.
- For Appleton to involve the police without, so far, producing any hard evidence beyond the "a-word" being brandished makes him seem if not an asshole then perhaps kin to that local politician whose response to a DUI stop was, "Do you know who I am?" To all appearances, here is someone using his media-built reputation to mobilize public resources in a personal vendetta.

Based on the evidence presented so far, I would hypothesize that Appleton's sense of vanity and entitlement led him to badly misjudge his rights—and his opponent. And if he thinks my statements misrepresent him, hey, I'm just trying to entertain.

P.S. In Appleton's e-mails to me explaining why he wouldn't comment and stating that he knew nothing about the *Community Alliance* (i.e., we're not worth responding to), he ended, "Take care." I wonder: Should I take that as a sign of affection, or as something else?

\*\*\*\*\*

*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.*



Ray Appleton is the voice for many right-wing causes such as this 2009 rally at Fresno City Hall to demand more subsidies and welfare for corporate farmers.

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### Mountain continued from page 1

letters to the editor, calls to government officials and commissions. The new Progressive Network has recently thrown its substantial support behind the effort.

Along the way, the huge multinational corporation, Cemex, acquired RMC. The original environmental consultant, Greystone Environmental, was replaced with Benchmark Environmental. Benchmark produced the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) in October 2009. Some 450 comments were submitted in response to the DEIR, nearly all of them in opposition to the project. These comments came from groups as diverse as Earth First! and the Reedley chapter of the National Federation of Republican Women. High school students as well as scientists wrote comments. The final EIR (FEIR) came out in December 2011, which led to the Feb. 9, 2012, hearing; that hearing was continued to May 30 because hundreds of opponents did not get to speak.

Locals have many reasons to oppose this mine: air pollution, road congestion, noise, water use, Native American cultural tradition, negative effects on neighboring property values and local businesses, as well as harm to local flora and fauna, such as the rare Keck’s checkerbloom and adobe sunburst. One of the most important reasons cited by opponents is the fact that CA 180 is a scenic highway and the entry to both Kings Canyon and Sequoia national parks.

### The May 30 Hearing

The May 30 hearing was contentious, marked by vociferous outbursts and applause from about 100 project opponents. It began with a report from commission staff (who recommended permitting the project) and many critical questions from the commissioners. Then came public comment, followed by presentations first from Cemex’s attorney Pat Mitchell and then from FJMM attorney Marsha Burch and Dr. Gene Otto.

Perhaps the crucial moment came when Commissioner Ross Borba questioned staff and the consultant about Cemex’s “fair share” of costs to bring road infrastructure up to standard by opening day.

Borba: When are the repairs and \$4.5 billion of construction work going to be done?...Which is it? Is it going to be done before they start? Or is it just a deposit date?

Staff: It would be a deposit date. The balance of the funds would not be available unless additional development came in.

Borba (rather sarcastically): I think I understand now what “certain payments” and “to address” really mean. It doesn’t mean that brick and mortar work is going to get done. It just means, okay, well, we’ve addressed it.

Whistles and shouts accompanied the audience’s elated applause. Locals would have to share these roads—as *is*—probably for years before Cemex contributed its fair share to improve roads and highways to a safe level of service. When if ever the improvements came, Cemex would attempt to externalize the costs—an exorbitant \$4.5 billion—onto taxpayers and cost the county and state more than the project would ever produce in revenue.

There were several other “Ah ha!”moments.

Geologist David Cehrs exposed inaccuracies regarding landslides and potential landslides on Jesse Morrow. “The proponents said there were no landslides, no landslide impacts, in the EIR. Immediately to the east of their property are two huge landslides. With the project they are going to remove the soil, exposing fractures and joint sets in the rock. Rainwater will penetrate into those joint sets and fractures. There are three pertinent triggers for landslides: One, you put water in there, it works as a lubricant. Two, they are going to undercut the slope so there is nothing holding the bottom of the slope. And three, another trigger for landslides is shaking, typically that would be earthquakes. In this case, they going to wind up blasting every day, and there’s going to be shaking every time.”

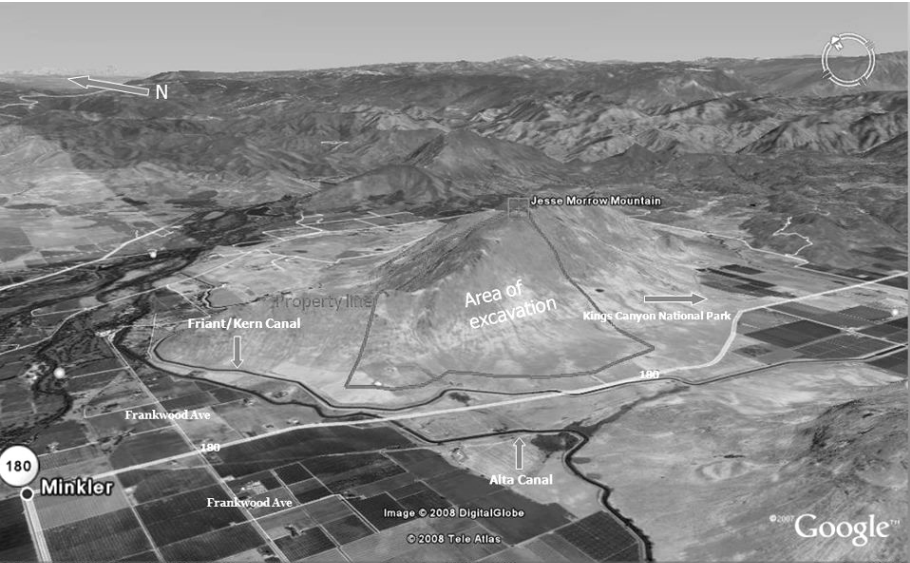
Geologist Robert Merrill repeated Dr. Cehrs’ warnings, adding that Fresno County no longer employs a geologist so that the county must rely on geologists paid by Cemex to evaluate the project.

Wah-ha-lish neighbor Toni Pacini addressed the missing core sample: “Where’s the core sample? How can the geologists say what they saw if they can’t show us what they saw? We don’t have the core sample. How can they move forward without the core sample?” How can independent geologists review the proponent’s geologist’s findings if the core samples are missing?

Former NASA scientist Pat Cassen of Miramonte attacked the air quality conclusions in the FEIR and the Staff Report. Staff

had dismissed his comments of particulates (dust) as based on the wrong formula. Cassen showed he had used the very same formula included in the environmental impact report. Clearly, staff was caught with their pants down.

One of the most intriguing and edgy moments came when a young man introduced himself as John Brown: “My name is John Brown and I am the abolitionist that led the raid on Harper’s Ferry...I [am] very concerned about the rising tide of eco-terrorism. I am here to warn you that at this very moment eco-terrorists are plotting. There is an extremist group in our community planning to use explosives—bombs!—bombs!—to blow up a noted cultural and historical landmark that’s important to the citizens across the county. They are very sophisticated. They have a history of violent acts. They are motivated by filthy, filthy greed and hatred for the human and the nonhuman communities. Ladies and gentlemen, these eco-terrorists are sitting among us today, right now, right this minute. And they are the people who want to put bombs on a sacred mountain and blow it up.”



This is the diagram of how they would like to dissect Jesse Morrow Mountain.

Many warned of Cemex’s long list of environmental infractions.

Some 30 locals spoke up. Some 70 others opposed to the project filled out the audience. All of them contributed to this victory, but opponents will have to bring equally good commentary and much greater numbers to the Board of Supervisors’ hearing.

Dr. Becker was troubled by the commissioners’ deference toward Cemex. “We are your constituents, and I feel that there is a certain amount of antagonism toward us, whereas you treat this very slick lobbyist from Cemex with complete deference.”

Dr. Becker added, “You had testimony at the February meeting from one of the Choinumni who was paid off by Cemex to say there is no cultural significance. That individual, Stan Alec, stood up and told you there was a ghost dance held on that mountain in 1890. That means there is cultural significance.”

The ghost dance started about 1870—a desperate response to the merciless onslaught of the capitalist culture on the indigenous peoples of America. The dance was revived in 1890 after the massacre at Wounded Knee.

Alec’s ironic comment, offered to dismiss the mountain’s cultural significance, hung numinous in the hushed moment as a sort of miracle. It was as if Mother Earth were speaking through Alec to mock the Kings River Farm Choinumni who supported the

mine because they were promised 40 acres and some money to say the mountain is not sacred to them.

### The Conclusion of the May 30 Hearing

Cemex attorney Pat Mitchell then made a competent but conventional rebuttal, in which he attempted to explain away such issues as “fair share” and air pollution. The commissioners looked unimpressed.

FJMM attorney Marsha Burch and Dr. Otto made an impassioned final appeal to the commission to deny the permit.

Suddenly, Commissioner Chris Mendes moved to deny the permit, and he was joined by Commissioners Borba, Randy Rocca and chair Glenn Niswander in voting for the motion. The permit was denied. Cemex said that it would appeal.

### Cemex Appeals to the Board of Supervisors

Cemex representatives told reporters the company would appeal the ruling of the Planning Commission. All of us opposed to the mine expected an appeal and watched the Fresno County Web site and the *Fresno Bee* for news of the appeal. I was surprised not to see a story in the *Bee*. But the absence of such a story is another example of why we need alternative media in this region.

When we had received no notification of the appeal from either the planning commission or the local media by June 19, I took it upon myself to look into why there was no news. At the Planning Commission, the receptionist checked with staff and said that, yes, Cemex had filed an appeal and I could check with the clerk at the Board of Supervisors across the street at the Hall of Records. The BOS receptionist said that Cemex had filed an appeal on June 12 and the hearing was set for Aug. 28 in the Fresno County Ballroom, on the first floor of the old Del Webb Building at 2220 Tulare St.

The Aug. 28 hearing may not be the final battle. It could be followed by lawsuits from either side, depending on the hearing’s outcome. Some locals have talked of nonviolent direct action if the Board of Supervisors overturns the Planning Commission’s denial. So the effort to save Wa-ha-lish may be a long way from over.

Geologist and activist Dr. Merrill says locals will need to achieve two goals to prepare for the Aug. 28 hearing: 1) lots more people must attend than attended the Feb. 9 hearing (about 400) and 2) each public commenter must prepare good arguments based on the final Environmental Impact Report, which is available at the Fresno County Web site: [www.co.fresno.ca.us/departmentspage.aspx?id=4322](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departmentspage.aspx?id=4322).

Many of the comment letters (see the bottom of the Web page cited above) are very good and can be easily turned into good presentations.

Local attorney Patience Milrod told me recently, “We have to win every time. They [Cemex] have to win only once, and Wah-ha-lish will be scarred forever.” We’ve got our work cut out. We are tired, but we must do this. We can do this. *We will do this.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Chip Ashley is a local environmental activist and member of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club. Contact him at 559-855-6376 or [wattsvillepreservation@gmail.com](mailto:wattsvillepreservation@gmail.com).*

## Why Wa-ha-lish (Jesse Morrow Mountain) Is Sacred to the Choinumni

By Chip Ashley

The terrible 1850s of the San Joaquin Valley are full of stories, like that of the massacre of the Choinumni where the foot of Wah-ha-lish meets the Kings River, which could explain the name Wah-ha-lish, “someone cried.” This massacre happened in late 1852, following a tragic series of events—the sad saga of two worlds colliding.

The Native Americans of the San Joaquin Valley were familiar with Whites by the time of the Gold Rush. The Spanish began to settle California in 1769. Their missions enslaved and exploited the indigenous, many of whom fled to the Central Valley, often taking Spanish cattle and horses with them, joining tribes in the interior. The Spanish did not come inland because of heat and harsh conditions. So by the time the Gold Rush brought new invaders to the Sierra and San Joaquin Valley, the indigenous were suspicious of outsiders.

The tension between the two cultures—the two world views—was a primed powder keg lacking only a spark. That spark may have come when James Woods built a trading post on the Kaweah River near what is now Visalia.

Local tribespeople demanded the Woods party leave. When the Whites did not leave, the tribespeople attacked and killed most of the Whites in the party and, according to some versions of the story, skinned Woods alive and mounted his skin on the trunk of a Valley oak as a warning.

A barbarous act—but before judging the tribespeople too harshly, one must consider what we would do if invaded. The Yokuts of the central Sierra foothills and San Joaquin Valley for the most part were quite tolerant. But tolerance had its limits. When the invaders dismissed the humanity of the indigenous and used up their resources, fed their acorns to cattle and hogs and killed off their antelope and elk, the tribes were driven to violence, which was met by violence.

A few days after the Woods incident, hundreds of tribespeople attacked a Captain Dorsey and a group of vaqueros led by Pedro Lopez, who were driving a herd of cattle north to the gold country. Dorsey, Lopez and most of the others were killed.

Continued on page 14



# Who’s Getting Away With It?

By Catherine Campbell

*Fresno Bee* editorials have repeatedly lambasted Sheriff Margaret Mims for letting people out of the Fresno County Jail because of a federal consent decree. The chief of police, probably the most listened-to person in Fresno, has said these “early releases” have put violent criminals back in our otherwise safe and secure neighborhoods and will do so, on and on, until the sheriff bolts the locks.

Meanwhile, there has been no talk of the true function of the jail. As one of the attorneys who has worked for the inmates locked up in the Fresno County Jail, I know who the men and women behind those bars actually are.

While the *Bee* editors assume their culpability and that they are deserving of punishment, the vast majority, six of seven, are not even convicted of a crime; they are awaiting trial. They are as legally innocent as you and I. Many, if not most, will never be convicted of anything. Instead, they will be released within days or weeks, the charges having been dropped. Some will end up convicted of crimes and will go to prison. Most will be placed on probation or diversion and returned to the community still invisibly tethered to law enforcement.

Back in the neighborhood, they will drink, drug, hang with gangster friends and get their meager income from petty crime, while continuing to be vaguely threatening to conventional people and vulnerable to police sweeps that will put them right back in jail.

Who are these people? Let’s begin by acknowledging they aren’t the brothers-in-law of *Bee* editors, nor are they the coffee-talk companions of the chief of police. They don’t know anyone in power. And they have already burned bridges to old friends and family and have few left who would be pleased to hear their voices.

For the most part, the inmates in the jail are the disorderly and inconvenient: they’re not violent, nor are they even necessarily criminal. They are disreputable drunks, addicts, prostitutes, petty

thieves and the mentally ill. They are bothersome, offensive, difficult. Some are innocent of any crime; most have broken the law, if not on this day, then recently. They are the poor who look out of their lives onto the lives of the employed and secure with no hope of ever joining their ranks.

What will happen to them when they are arrested and put in the backseat of a patrol car, on their way to the jail? They will lose their jobs if they had one, their homes, their phones, all the connective tissue of ordinary life that keeps people off the streets and a step from homelessness. Suddenly, they won’t be able to take care of the time-consuming and ordinary business of life.

While in the jail, even for a short time, their family and social relationships, already stretched thin by their behavior, will disintegrate. They will lose their belongings in exchange for a toothbrush and a jail smock that, by its orange color, will identify them as felons. They will experience disorientation and humiliation. They will increasingly align themselves with others in the jail as outsiders, forever barred by the experience of jail from the rewards of normalcy and convention. Many will be consigned to an urban underclass, if not this time, then the next.

On the other hand, as we all know, the arrest and jailing of a wealthy farmer for pouring harmful pesticides into a stream would be so rare as to be front-page news. Quick as you can say George Zimmerman, the miscreant farmer would be bailed out of jail, back to the comfort of his home—a place abounding in resources to defend himself, at least compared to the guy left behind in the jail. There’s no word of this on the editorial page of the *Fresno Bee*, not even a hint of outrage about a bail system that so starkly favors monied interests and that results in “early releases” just like the federal court order.

Few of the people in the jail are our real criminals, of course. The really dangerous hoods and looters are the people who pollute our water and air, sell profitable but unaffordable predatory mortgages, use our savings for worthless stocks and manufacture

drugs that will ultimately kill us. Those people don’t go to jail. They run for office, where they will busily conspire to commit the same crimes under legal cover.

Meanwhile, the editors of the *Fresno Bee*, the Board of Supervisors, the judges of the Superior Court and the rest who live out the dubious standards and rewards of the dominant culture—frugality, homeownership, steady work, competition, consumerism and the accompanying alienation borne of individualism—will continue to scapegoat this underclass, assuming they need to be punished for the inconvenience they cause.

Our problem is not early releases. It is a bought and paid for criminal justice system that pretends to protect us while turning a blind eye on bankers, mortgage brokers and polluters to continue their invidious crimes against the earth and against humanity. As long as we focus our fear on the rabble poor, we are diverted and entertained but we are not safe.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Catherine Campbell is a semi-retired civil rights attorney.*

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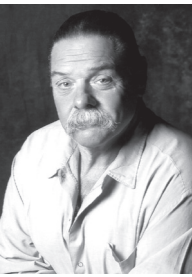
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## Prison Out Loud

By Boston Woodard



Boston Woodard

There are endless topics and issues to write about behind state prison walls. Every prison asserts its own way of running programs that make up its daily activities. Some prisons are more program-oriented than others, offering jobs with decent pay, sports, education and groups that groom prisoners for reentry into society. Other prisons offer little or no opportunities to those of us (prisoners) desiring a successful reentry back into society.

I had an opportunity to transfer from the California Correctional Center (CCC) in Susanville to another prison, so I jumped at it. There are no programs available to me at CCC to help my program of self-rehabilitation. My articles, “Autocratic Dregs” and “Code of Silence” (*Community Alliance*, April 2010 and June 2012, respectively), describe the complicity inherent behind prison walls that make it all the more difficult to program (especially at CCC and CSP-Solano). It is even more arduous to those of us who describe and define our surroundings to an interested public, out loud.

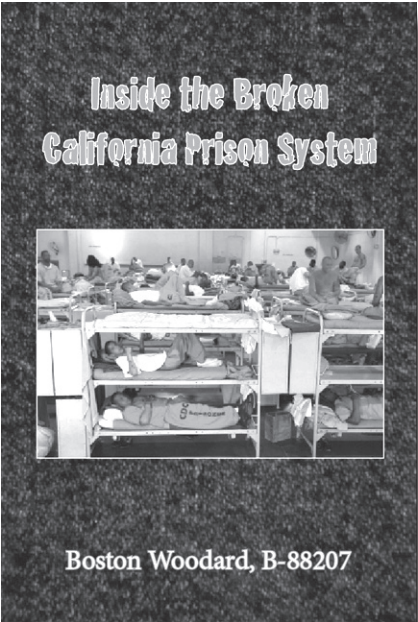
I planned an article for the *Community Alliance* regarding the “SAFE California Act” initiative on abolishing the death penalty in this state (set for a November 2012 vote) for the July 2012 issue. I could not make the deadline so my hope for the article is now the August 2012 issue. Interviewing (via collect calls)

and/or collecting pertinent quotes from as many as 10 people (e.g., some on death row, prisoner’s rights advocates) via snail mail and without access to the Internet, can be wearisome to say the least. I will get the piece to editor Mike Rhodes for the August 2012 issue. The death penalty and its proposed alternative sentence of life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) is an important matter with many sides to be heard.

I’ve recently written several profiles on some of the interesting men who I came in contact with while in prison. Geronimo Pratt, Christian Brando, James Beck Gordon and Charles H. Keating, Jr., are names known by some. There are many others I’ve met in prison who are either very interesting or have impressed me with their zeal and tenacity to make a difference in this crazy world of prison. Some have never done a day of time in their life, but have contributed to the rehabilitative needs of many men and women behind bars. I will be profiling them also.

In the meantime, I’ll be packing my belongings in apple boxes and should be on that long, ever-boring prison bus ride to a different hoosegow very soon. I will continue to describe prison out loud, soon.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Boston Woodard is a prisoner/journalist serving his sentence in Susanville State Prison. He has written for the San Quentin News and the Soledad Star and edited The Communicator. Boston is the author of Inside the Broken California Prison System, which is available at Amazon. Learn more at www.brokencaliforniaprison.com.*



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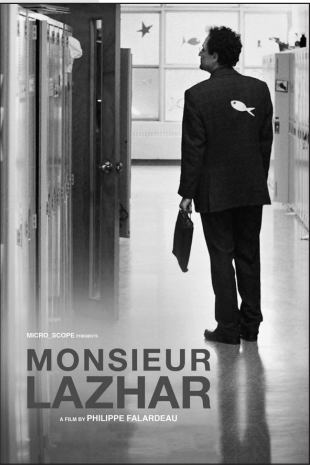
Boston Woodard’s new book,  
***Inside the Broken California Prison System***  
is available from  
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or from  
**www.brokencaliforniaprison.com.**  
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(Some of the proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit the *Community Alliance*.)

This book is a collection of writings Woodard has had published in this newspaper over the last 6 years.

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# Musicians Union on Strike

By Larry Gardner

American Federation of Musicians (AFM) Local 12 has been attempting to negotiate a successor contract with the Fresno Grand Opera (FGO) since Nov. 3, 2010 (18 months). Last fall, the local requested and received an AFM negotiator, Christopher Durham.

At a meeting in November 2011, FGO orchestra members voted to grant the bargaining committee strike authorization, which permits the union to call a strike when it deems it necessary. On March 26, 2012, the membership voted to reaffirm that strike authorization. The next day, Local 12 called a strike against the FGO concert featuring Renee Fleming on March 27 and, without movement from the parties, the FGO's production of *Show Boat* on May 11 and 12.

Chief among the issues are coverage of the agreement, musicians on the hiring roster and the hiring process.

When the opera began in 1998, the FGO entered into an agreement with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra (FPO) to provide Fresno Philharmonic musicians for FGO productions. In the fall of 2008, the FGO, believing it would save money, formed its own orchestra.

At that time, Local 12 and the FGO management entered into a first collective bargaining agreement. Local 12, not wishing to act in an arbitrary and/or capricious manner, proposed the FPO roster from that time period, which was somewhat modified in negotiation. As a result, many of the positions were and still are filled by the same musicians who play in the Fresno Philharmonic. What began as a one-year contract rolled over for a second year with an expiration of August 2010.

During this current negotiation, FGO has proposed to eliminate numerous musicians from the roster because the FGO believes "these musicians have refused too many offers of employment." Musicians who perform with the FGO are freelance musicians. FGO does not employ musicians fulltime. Some of us are "Free-way Philharmonic musicians" who drive up and down the state playing for different orchestras, perhaps a week in Santa Rosa, next week in Sacramento, Monterey, Modesto, etc. Every one of these orchestras sends out schedules well in advance (6–10 months) of the services for which musicians are being hired to perform. Other musicians teach or have full time jobs in other fields and/or work in small performing ensembles.

FGO regularly sends offers of employment for shows with just a few days notice before the first rehearsal. If there is no offer of employment until mere days before a performance, it is not surprising that many musicians refuse these offers due to having accepted other employment.

The FGO is using semantic distinctions to exempt itself from contractual responsibilities with exceptions based on definitions of "presented, purchased, or produced" performances. For example, an opera such as *Carmen* would fall under the agreement;

a Jackie Evancho concert would not. In addition, management seeks to remove industry standard language from the contract: right of first refusal, offers of employment for all services, and coherent hiring and firing procedures.

During KMJ's *Ray Appleton Show* of May 10, 2012, FGO Executive Director Ron Eichman explained that, while it was a complex issue, in simple terms the FGO thought the contract should apply to operas but not to concerts. Local 12's position is that the contract should apply whenever a musician is employed by FGO.



Fresno Grand Opera musicians picketed the performance of *Show Boat*. Stand in solidarity with organized labor and don't cross their picket lines.

Local 12 has proposed language to address situations where shows are traveling with its own musicians or requires musicians not on the FGO roster. The need for non-roster musicians may arise when shows call for "doublers." Doublers are musicians who play more than one instrument, usually in the woodwind section. For example, a musician might be required to play flute, piccolo, alto sax and oboe in one show. The latest Local 12 proposals make exceptions for shows that toured with their own orchestra and for musicians with skill sets that were not on the current roster.

FGO proposes to delete 18 musicians and demote five others. The only reason given is that FGO does not want to retain musicians who have refused to accept services with late notice. These are musicians who have performed at a professional level since the inception of the FGO in 1998. They also proposed to remove the title and pay scale for assistant principal throughout the orchestra.

In stark contrast to other organizations, the FGO typically begins to offer employment one to 10 days prior to the first service of a production even though season brochures are published at the beginning of the season and tickets are sold. Understandably, as working professionals, roster musicians are previously engaged with other commitments. The result is the FGO often ends up with a pickup orchestra, not the world-class orchestra that it claims to have on staff.

concept of the production. Reading the program notes, one finds several themes: racism, miscegenation, alcoholism and dismal poverty as it might have existed in reality in 1887, the year when the plot starts.

The FGO opted to present to Fresno a dishonest, politically correct and false version of what the original creators wanted to present to the American public in 1927. Using the Utah Festival Opera scenery, what we saw was a *Show Boat* closer to a representation of the African-American experience after the civil rights movement of the 1960s, specially visible in the pastel color costumes supplied by Goodspeed Musicals Costume Rentals. Is there a more effective way to erase from the memory of the people the dismal poverty Black people lived, and still live in many areas, than transforming a work of art and put on the stage a middle class or a prosperous world for us to see?

Patrick Blackwell, bass-baritone of first strand quality in voice and acting talent, in the role of Joe was superb, but also the most obviously flawed in concept. Instead of hearing an "Old Man River" sung by a wretchedly poor Black dockworker, what we saw was a well-tailored pastel color-coordinated Black man singing the famous lyrics so true to the miserable conditions of African Americans in the South. Still, the most insincere visual image was in the reprise of "Old Man River" when Blackwell sang dressed in a black suit, white shirt and tie as if he were dressed for one of the performances at the current White House.

There was absolutely no shock in finding Julie, well sung and acted by Robin Follman, being of mixed race, or in the line Steve, also well done by Brent Moser, when he tells us that he has swallowed "one drop of black blood" from Julie, therefore he is also Black. The alcoholism theme was barely hinted at.

In most other orchestras, musicians work pursuant to a personal service agreement (PSA). A PSA provides a clear understanding of what services musicians are hired to perform, and it enables them to organize their work schedules. What was the reason for management's refusal to issue PSAs given at the bargaining table? "Too much paperwork."

Through the efforts of AFM International President Ray Hair, Local 12 was able to secure the support of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA). An actor who grew up in Fresno, Jacqueline Antaramian, wrote a letter of support to the leadership of the AEA. The "Directors" (their leadership council) voted to support our strike, which caused three principal actors to leave the FGO production of *Show Boat*. One of the principals was Joel Abels, the director of StageWorks Fresno, a Fresno theatrical company. Antaramian also wrote a letter to the editor in our support as well.

Besides the Fleming concert on March 27, Local 12 picketed the Jackie Evancho concert at the Community Center Theatre in Sacramento on March 28 and the load-in, two rehearsals and two performances of *Show Boat* at the Saroyan Theatre from May 6 through May 11. We were joined by members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE, aka Stagehands), the California Faculty Association (CFA), the California School Employees Association (CSEA) and many of our friends and family. We thank you!

It is only by standing together as community that we can hope to achieve a fair contract with the Fresno Grand Opera. The negotiating committee for the musicians of the FGO orchestra asks that you demonstrate your support in the following ways:

- Sign our petition at [www.change.org/petitions/fresno-grand-opera-reach-a-fair-deal-with-the-opera-musicians-of-fresno-2](http://www.change.org/petitions/fresno-grand-opera-reach-a-fair-deal-with-the-opera-musicians-of-fresno-2).
- Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FresnoOperaMusicians](http://www.facebook.com/FresnoOperaMusicians).
- Visit our Web site at [www.operamusiciansfresno.com/](http://www.operamusiciansfresno.com/).

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Larry Gardner is president of American Federation of Musicians Local 12. Contact him at [larrybassoon@gmail.com](mailto:larrybassoon@gmail.com).

## Don't Cross Picket Lines!

The two articles on this page challenge us to answer the question: What should progressives do when confronted with a picket line? If you arrive at an event, a grocery store or a workplace where there is a picket line, here is what you should do. Ask those picketing if the action is an informational picket line or if they are on strike. If the picket line is a labor dispute and union members are asking you not to cross the picket line, then you should *not* enter the establishment involved in the labor dispute. Progressives should show solidarity with organized labor and support the strike by not crossing the picket line.

If you think the labor dispute does not affect you, think again. Of course it does! If management can get away with cutting pay or worsening conditions for one group of workers, it will only embolden them to do it to others. Good wages and good jobs in one industry or workplace put upward pressure on wages and conditions in other sectors and industries. Bad wages and conditions become an excuse to attack the living standards of all workers.

The dialectical controversies of these themes were so toned down one would wonder if those problems, including the one of violence on women, actually existed.

The audience enjoyed the love story, but the sexual context was also barely suggested.

Although updating or innovating a show is acceptable, many people prefer the traditional productions, especially if such works are not well known. In any case, being true to the original artistic creation shows good faith and lack of tendency from a political point of view. Producing an iconic American Broadway show and turning it into a politically correct work of art appears to me artistically flawed similar to the way mass media ignores the real social problems of poverty, health issues and economic exploitation.

There are still "Old Men Rivers" of all colors and races living in dismal poverty. I believe that a true-to-life historical *Show Boat* production is still necessary to stimulate discussion of the social conditions we have in 2012, even in Fresno.

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Alfonso Hernandez is a poet and writer from Three Rivers, Calif.

## Show Boat: A Review

By Alfonso C. Hernandez

The Fresno Grand Opera (FGO) recently presented *Show Boat*, music by Jerome Kern, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, based on the novel by Edna Ferber. I saw the matinee performance on May 12. Being a season ticketholder since its inception, I have practically seen all the productions. Because of the controversy regarding the union orchestra musicians and the managers of the opera company, I hesitated attending this time. I believe in labor unions and would never support union breakers or scab workers. There were only two or three music union members demonstrating outside the Saroyan theater at that matinee.



The Scaborchestra directed by Andy Anderson and made up of musicians from the area, some of whom I know personally, played just as well as the union musicians. Not much lost there in quality of performance. The choir, directed by Lukas Cerny, sang at its best and the choreography was at the international level the FGO has wished to attain. When an opera company insists on being "world class," the publicity becomes a cliché and a sign of inferior art.

The FGO has presented world-class productions. I will mention just one having parallels with *Show Boat: Porgy and Bess* by Gershwin seemed to me a definitive production one could have seen anywhere in the world. However, this *Show Boat* did not rise much beyond similar musical productions we have seen at Fresno State, College of the Sequoias or the Barn Theater in Porterville.

The voices and the acting were fine, not all in what one calls first strand quality opera. But the most serious flaw was in the



MUSIC AND ARTS CALENDAR

<div>Sundays</div> <div>11 a.m.—William Morris at Campagnia</div> <div>6 p.m.—Larry Keyes Band at Bottoms Up</div> <div>6 p.m.—Ooi Jazz Jam Session with Les Nunes at Ooi Japanese Cuisine</div>	<div>Mondays</div> <div>7:30 p.m.—Acoustic Open Mic at Starline</div> <div>7:30 p.m.—Folksinger 101 at Brick Wall</div>	<div>Tuesdays</div> <div>5:30 p.m.—Mike Miller at Santa Fe Basque</div> <div>6 p.m.—African Dance for Fitness at African American Museum</div> <div>6 p.m.—Lyons Sings at the Grand Piano at Slates</div> <div>7 p.m.—Deep Cover at Lamp Post</div> <div>7:30 p.m.—Shaphill Jazz Band at Fulton 55</div> <div>7:30 p.m.—Silver Dollar Band at Silver Dollar</div>	<div>Wednesdays</div> <div>5:30 p.m.—Kenny Hall &amp; Friends Old Time Music Jam at Santa Fe Basque</div> <div>6 p.m.—Larry Keyes Band at Bottoms Up</div> <div>6 p.m.—Lyons Sings at the Grand Piano at Slates</div> <div>6 p.m.—Open Mic at Cozy Thai</div> <div>7 p.m.—William Morris at Campagnia</div> <div>9 p.m.—Tommy Delgado at Babylon</div> <div>10 p.m.—Open Mic Night at Fibber McGee’s</div>	<div>Thursdays</div> <div>2 p.m.—KFSR-FM 90.7: Jazz Then to Now</div> <div>6 p.m.—African Dance for Fitness at African American Museum</div> <div>6 p.m.—Ron Thompson &amp; the Resistors at Babylon</div> <div>7 p.m.—Open Mic at Shooters</div> <div>10 p.m.—Reality Sound International at Club Habanos</div>
<div>Sunday, July 1</div> <div>2 p.m.—Pamela Brown at Elbow Room</div> <div>4 p.m.—Electric Grease at Shooters</div> <div>6 p.m.—Alive in Me at CYC</div> <div>6 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring the Craig Von Berg Trio at Tokyo Garden</div> <div></div>	<div>Monday, July 2</div> <div>7:30 p.m.—Taize Service (meditative singing) at Big Red Church</div>	<div>Tuesday, July 3</div> <div>6 p.m.—Hordes, Urban Struggles and Cabin Fire at CYC</div> <div>9 p.m.—Finn Riggins and Ornerly Ones at Audie’s</div> <div>9 p.m.—The Double Doors at Fulton 55</div>	<div>Wednesday, July 4</div> <div>4 p.m.—The Big Buchanan Fireworks Show with Wheelhouse at Veteran’s Memorial Stadium, Buchanan High School, Clovis</div>	<div>Thursday, July 5</div> <div>5 p.m.—ArtHop</div> <div>1821 Calaveras</div> <div>Arte Américas</div> <div>ArtHop/JazzHop at Full Circle</div> <div>Cal Arts–Severance</div> <div>Clay Mix</div> <div>Dick Haas &amp; Madhu John exhibit at Spectrum Gallery (thru July 29)</div> <div>Emerging Artists Group Show at Gallery 25 (thru July 29)</div> <div>Glen Delpit at the Glen Delpit Studio, 1753 Van Ness Ave.</div> <div>Heinz Kusel exhibit at Fig Tree Gallery</div> <div>Works of Ruben Zamora and Rachael Stauffer at Studio 74</div> <div>6:30 p.m.—Jazz Xperiment at Patio Café</div> <div>7 p.m.—Jim Schmidt Jazz at Pinot</div> <div>9 p.m.—Versus, Collecto and Salvo! at Fulton 55</div>
<div>Sunday, July 8</div> <div>1:30 p.m.—Ukulele San Joaquin meets at Sequoia–Tower</div> <div>2 p.m.—Marie Wilson at Elbow Room</div> <div>4 p.m.—The Stack at Shooters</div> <div>6 p.m.—Legends of the Celtic Harp at UU Church</div>		<div>Tuesday, July 10</div> <div>6 p.m.—Mahria, Tip Makhno, Cabin Fire and Grow at CYC</div> <div>8 p.m.—Steve Miller Band at Table Mountain</div> <div></div>	<div>Wednesday, July 11</div> <div>11 a.m.—Glen Delpit at Farmers Market on Kern</div> <div>6 p.m.—Stand Your Ground, Carry Your Ghost, Domination, Evisceration and Failed Creation at CYC</div> <div>7 p.m.—Marie Wilson at Elbow Room</div>	<div>Thursday, July 12</div> <div>6 p.m.—Rock the Mall with 51 Aces and Shockwave at Sierra Vista Mall</div> <div>9 p.m.—Falling Awake and The Morning Amour at Fulton 55</div> <div>9 p.m.—Inhale at Babylon</div>
<div>Sunday, July 15</div> <div>2 p.m.—Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances at Frank’s Place</div> <div>2 p.m.—Valley Cats at Elbow Room</div> <div>4 p.m.—Richie Blue Band at Shooters</div> <div>6 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring Mike Dana &amp; his band at Tokyo Garden</div>	<div>Monday, July 16</div> <div>6 p.m.—Seahaven, Sci-Fi Caper and Fast Car at CYC</div>		<div>Wednesday, July 18</div> <div>6 p.m.—Jareth Bizieff: Mountain Man &amp; Caulifield at CYC</div> <div>7 p.m.—Tom Scott at Elbow Room</div> <div><div>Lukas Nelson &amp; Promise of the Real</div><div>Lukas Nelson has been gaining praise for his musical and vocal contributions to the new CD, <i>Heroes</i>, of his legendary father, Willie Nelson. Lukas contributed to 10 of the 14 tracks, including a riveting duet with his dad on the Eddie Vedder–penned Pearl Jam tune “Just Breathe.” Of Lukas’ recent work with his own band, Roughstock.com said that he “let’s out all the stops with the album’s title track, ‘Wasted,’ which finds the singer/songwriter rocking out like a party animal. He sings its words with a slight growl over a Stones-y groove.” Lukas Nelson &amp; the Promise of the Real perform at Fulton 55 on July 26.</div></div>	<div>Thursday, July 19</div> <div>8 p.m.—Reverend Horton Heat, Supersuckers and The Goddamn Gallows at Fulton 55</div> <div>The Good Company Players present <i>Calamity Jane</i> at Roger Rocka’s (thru Sept. 16)</div>
<div>Sunday, July 22</div> <div>1:30 p.m.—Ukulele San Joaquin meets at Sequoia–Tower</div> <div>2 p.m.—51 Aces at Elbow Room</div> <div>2 p.m.—Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland at Cal Arts–Blackstone</div> <div>2:30 p.m.—Irish Jam at La Boulangerie</div> <div>4 p.m.—Margo Montoya &amp; Beale Street at Shooters</div> <div>6 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring Andre Bush and David Aus at Tokyo Garden</div>		<div>Tuesday, July 24</div> <div>6 p.m.—Citizen, Turnover, Light Years, Placeholder, Secret Plot to Destroy the Entire Universe, Hands on Deck and Failed Creation at CYC</div>	<div>Wednesday, July 25</div> <div>7 p.m.—Allen Woodward at Elbow Room</div> <div>9 p.m.—She Said at Fulton 55</div>	<div>Thursday, July 26</div> <div>6 p.m.—Flex, Ages, Vice and Failed Creation at CYC</div> <div>6 p.m.—Rock the Mall with MoFo Party Band at Sierra Vista Mall</div> <div>9 p.m.—Lukas Nelson &amp; Promise of the Real at Fulton 55</div>
<div>Sunday, July 29</div> <div>2 p.m.—3 Guys Playin’ the Blues at Elbow Room</div> <div>4 p.m.—Ripper Blues Band at Shooters</div> <div>7 p.m.—Summer Vacation and Mudmouth at CYC</div> <div>9 p.m.—Goldenboy at Audie’s</div>		<div>Tuesday, July 31</div> <div>6 p.m.—Media Blitz, Gorilla Stomp and Victimless Crime at CYC</div>	<div>For a complete list of programming on KFCF and KFSR, including that which is locally produced, visit the sites below:</div> <div>KFCF: <a href="http://www.kfcf.us">www.kfcf.us</a></div> <div>KFSR: <a href="http://www.csufresno.edu/kfsr/KFSRhome.html">www.csufresno.edu/kfsr/KFSRhome.html</a></div> <div>MUSICIANS &amp; ARTISTS</div> <div>Submit Your Upcoming Events</div> <div>The <i>Community Alliance</i> Music and Arts calendar provides information on local activities related to music, film, theater and other performing arts. E-mail submissions to <a href="mailto:calendar@fresnoalliance.com">calendar@fresnoalliance.com</a>. The deadline is the 15th of the month for inclusion in the issue for the subsequent month.</div>	

1821 Calaveras Gallery & Studios	1821 Calaveras	233-9992
African American Historical & Cultural Museum	1857 Fulton	268-7102
Arte Américas	1630 Van Ness	266-2623
Auberry Library	33049 Auberry, Auberry	855-8523
Audie’s Olympic	1426 N. Van Ness	233-3733
Babylon Club	1064 N. Fulton	495-0852
Big Red Church	2161 N. Van Ness	227-8489
Bottoms Up	4113 W. Swift	277-0074
Brick Restaurant	820 Van Ness	264-2561

Brick Wall @ JA Photography	2003 N. Van Ness	224-6993
California Arts Academy—Blackstone	4750 N. Blackstone	222-6539
California Arts Academy—Severance	1401 N. Wishon	498-3300
Campagnia Restaurant	1185 E. Champlain Dr.	433-3300
Chinatown Youth Center (CYC)	901 F	492-8254
Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino	711 Lucky Lane, Coarsegold	866-794-6946
Clay Mix	1003 N. Abby	485-0065
Club Habanos	6759 N. Palm	449-2447



JULY 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**  
**Esmeralda & Nye**, photography by Bruce Haley, at Fresno Art Museum (thru Sept. 2)  
**Fig Tree Gallery 50th Anniversary** at Fresno Art Museum (thru Sept. 2)  
**Make 'em All Mexican: An Installation Environment** by Linda Vallejo in Fresno Art Museum  
**Partnership Gallery** at Arte Américas (thru Aug. 19)  
**Renzi: Life, Art, Legacy** at Fresno Art Museum (thru Sept. 2)  
**The Good Company Players** present **The Sound of Music** at Roger Rocka’s (thru July 15)

**Friday, July 6**  
5:30 p.m.—**Glen Delpit** at Audie’s  
6 p.m.—**Houdini Logic, Forever Rising, Limits, Evisceration** and **Raised by Wolves** at CYC  
6:30 p.m.—Bluegrass in the Park with **The Valley Oak Band** at Clovis Veterans Memorial Park  
7 p.m.—**Electric Grease** at Engelmann Cellars  
7 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Mariachi de la Tierra** at Arte Américas  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***The Groove Session***  
9 p.m.—**Rocky Road Band** at Fibber McGee’s

**Saturday, July 7**  
4 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Soul Kitchen***  
6:30 p.m.—**Real Jazz Quintet** at Patio Café  
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***  
7:30 p.m.—**HammerDownSindrum, Whatever the Matter, Not Perfect Humans** and **Palm Kids** at Babylon  
9 p.m.—**Clash of the Titans** at Starline  
9 p.m.—**Rocky Road Band** at Fibber McGee’s  
9:30 p.m.—**Hoobastank** at Fulton 55

**Legends of the Celtic Harp**  
Three of the premier Celtic harpers in the world take you on a joyous, dramatic musical journey deep into the myths, legends and history of the Celtic harp. The Legends of the Celtic Harp feature Patrick Ball on Celtic harp and spoken word; Lisa Lynne on Celtic harp, Irish bouzouki and mandolin; and Aryeh Frankfurter on Celtic harp, cittern and nyckelharpa. The Fresno Folklore Society presents the Legends of the Celtic Harp on July 8 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Clovis. Visit [www.fresnofolkconcerts.com](http://www.fresnofolkconcerts.com) or call 559-307-3610 for tickets.



**Friday, July 13**  
6 p.m.—Nate Sizemore Benefit show with **Once Emperor, Embrace the Nightmare, Failed Creation, Evisceration** and **Aimaora** at CYC  
6:30 p.m.—Bluegrass in the Park with **Grassfire** at Clovis Veterans Memorial Park  
6:30 p.m.—**Glen Delpit** at Spike & Rail  
7 p.m.—**3 Guys Playin’ the Blues** at Patio Café  
7 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Noche de Trios** at Arte Américas  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***The Groove Session***  
9:30 p.m.—**40 Watt Hype, Clouded Vision** and **Sahab** at Fulton 55

**Saturday, July 14**  
6 p.m.—**Mainstream, Scare Gentlemen! The Royal, We Sunk the Mayflower, Impale the Warfare** and **Pillars** at CYC  
6:30 p.m.—**Contra Dance with Evo Bluestein** at Cal Arts–Blackstone  
7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Earthbeat/Jazz with Jim***  
9 p.m.—**Nearvana** at Starline  
9:30 p.m.—**Core a Tribute to STP, The Backstabbers** and **Velvet Jones** at Fulton 55

**Friday, July 20**  
5:30 p.m.—**Glen Delpit** at Audie’s  
6:30 p.m.—Bluegrass in the Park with **Pineridge** at Clovis Veterans Memorial Park  
7 p.m.—**Glen Delpit & the Subterraneans** at Audie’s  
7 p.m.—**Kenny Rogers** at Chukchansi  
7 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Joey V’s Bringin’ It Back Band** at Arte Américas  
7:30 p.m.—***Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*** at Cal Arts–Blackstone  
8 p.m.—**Jurassic Rock** at Starline  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***The Groove Session***  
9 p.m.—**Krossover** at Fibber McGee’s  
9:30 p.m.—**The Hiero Imperium Summer Tour 2012** at Fulton 55

**Saturday, July 21**  
3 p.m.—**Sacred Harp Singing @** Linda & Tom Booth’s, 4822 E. Pontiac Way  
4 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Soul Kitchen***  
6 p.m.—**English Country Dance** at Cal Arts–Blackstone  
6 p.m.—**The Collected, Stand as Giants, At Our Expense, ITheDeciever, Messenger of the Covenant, Evisceration** and **Failed Creation** at CYC  
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 p.m.—**Nate Butler’s Silent Movie Night** at Full Circle  
7:30 p.m.—***Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*** at Cal Arts–Blackstone  
9 p.m.—**Krossover** at Fibber McGee’s  
9:30 p.m.—**Midnight Run** and **Shockwave** at Fulton 55

**Friday, July 27**  
5:30 p.m.—21st Annual Night of Jazz Fundraiser with **Bobby Logan & Company** at Arte Américas  
6 p.m.—**Limits, Messenger of the Covenant, ITheDeceiver** and **Once Emperor** at CYC  
7 p.m.—**Deja Blues** at Engelmann Cellars  
9 p.m.—**Human Project** at Fibber McGee’s  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Set Free Radio***

**Saturday, July 28**  
6 p.m.—Music on the Creek with **Karen Marguth & Friends** at Intermountain Nursery, 30443 N. Auberry Rd., Prather  
7 p.m.—**Hamilton Loomis** at Tower Lounge  
7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Saturday Evening Classics***  
8 p.m.—**Margo Montoya & Beale Street** at Fat Boys  
9 p.m.—**House of Zombie** at Starline  
9 p.m.—**Human Project** at Fibber McGee’s

Cozy Thai	575 E. Divisadero	840-2863
Crossroads	3315 N. Cedar	385-0770
Dusty Buns Bistro	608 E. Weldon	
Elbow Room (Fig Garden Village)	731 W. San Jose	227-1234
Engelmann Cellars	3275 N. Rolinda	274-9463
Fat Boys Taqueria & Sports Bar	3045 W. Bullard	435-7600
Fibber McGee’s	6650 N. Cedar	297-4100
Fig Tree Gallery	644 Van Ness	485-0460
Frank’s Place	1432 Fulton	264-2848
Fresno Art Museum	2233 N. First	441-4221
Full Circle Brewing Co.	620 F	264-6323
Fulton 55	875 Divisadero	412-7400
Gallery 25	660 Van Ness	264-4092
Kocky’s Bar & Grill	1231 Van Ness	266-5500
La Boulangerie (Fig Garden Village)	730 W. Shaw	222-0555
Lamp Post Bar	607 E. Divisadero	412-4287
Ooi Japanese Cuisine	840 Herndon, Clovis	323-4131

Patio Café (Fig Garden Village)	5138 N. Palm	243-1074
Pinot Wine Bar & Bistro	805 E. Olive	445-1800
Roger Rocka’s Dinner Theater	1226 N. Wishon	266-9494
Santa Fe Basque Restaurant	3110 N. Maroa	226-7499
Sequoia Brewing Co. (Tower District)	777 E. Olive	264-5521
Shooters Bar (Mission Village)	375 E. Shaw	224-4777
Silver Dollar Hofbrau	333 E. Shaw	227-6000
Slates Restaurant	7455 N. Fresno	256-4141
Spectrum Art Gallery	608 E. Olive	266-0691
Spike & Rail Steakhouse	2910 Pea Soup Anderson, Selma	891-7000
Starline, The	833 E. Fern	485-5356
Studio 74	1274 N. Van Ness	908-0658
Table Mountain Casino	23736 Sky Harbour, Friant	822-2587
Tokyo Garden	1711 Fulton	268-3596
Tower Lounge at Painted Table	1211 N. Wishon	936-5558
UU Church	2672 E. Alluvial, Clovis	307-3610





# Connect the Dots: Climate Change and 350.org

By George B. Kauffman

At a Democratic National Committee fund-raiser in San Francisco on April 20, 2011, President Barack Obama called out climate change deniers in Congress and declared that investments in clean energy such as solar, wind and electric cars are crucial to boosting the economy and national security of current and future generations. He was especially critical of the obstructionist behavior of Republicans but also blamed the alliance between Republicans and Democrats from fossil fuel-dependent states.

Since then, there’s good news and bad news. In April 2012, new data released by the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication (“Extreme Weather, Climate & Preparedness in the American Mind”) show that, despite the contrarian efforts of naysayers such as U.S. Senator James Imhofe (R–Oklahoma), many Americans are growing more concerned about climate change and are figuring out the links between freaky weather, a climate kicked off-kilter by a fossil fuel-guzzling civilization and their own lives. Following a record number of multibillion dollar weather disasters, seven out of 10 Americans now believe that global warming is affecting the weather. Furthermore, 35% of the 1,008 respondents interviewed reported that extreme weather had affected them personally in 2011. According to the principal investigator, Yale’s Anthony Laiserowitz, “People are starting to connect the dots.”

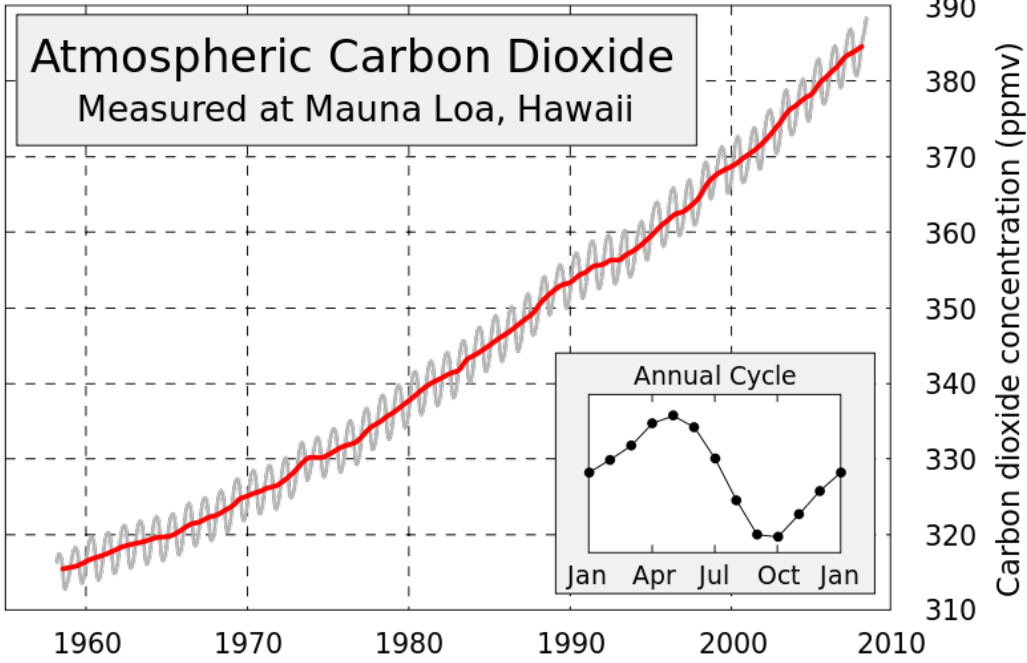
Now the bad news: During March 2012 alone, 15,000 U.S. temperature records were broken, mainly in the East and Midwest, as a completely unprecedented heat wave moved across the continent. According to preliminary estimates from the Mauna Loa Observatory, announced in late May 2012 by the International Energy Agency (IEA), annual carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the worldwide burning of fossil fuels attained a record of 31.6 billion metric tons (396.78 parts per million (ppm))—up 10 billion metric tons (3.2%) from 2010’s emissions. China contributed the most to the increase (up 720 metric tons or 9.3% from 2010), followed by the second-largest emitter, the United States.

350.org is an international grassroots campaign that aims to mobilize an independent, nonprofit global climate change movement united by a common call to action. By spreading an understanding of science and a shared vision for a fair policy, it

hopes to ensure that the world creates bold, equitable solutions to the climate crisis.

350 is the number in parts per million (ppm) that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere, a number that humanity needs to get below as soon as possible to avoid runaway climate change. Bill McKibben is a Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College in Vermont and co-founder of 350.org. His latest book is *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*, and he hopes to create a different kind of ppm—a “people powered movement” to achieve this goal.

In reality, climate change is the biggest danger that we face every day. On May 5, in an attempt to get people to see the pattern that shows this fact, 350.org organized a global day of action to “connect the dots” ([www.climatedots.org](http://www.climatedots.org)). The day followed our sun as it traveled from east to west.



**This figure shows the history of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations as directly measured at Mauna Loa, Hawaii. This curve is known as the Keeling curve and is an essential piece of evidence of the man-made increases in greenhouse gases that some believe to be the cause of global warming. The longest such record exists at Mauna Loa, but these measurements have been independently confirmed at many other sites around the world.**

In the Marshall Islands of the far Pacific, local citizens held a daybreak underwater demonstration on their coral reef that is already threatened by rising seas. Citizens held a demonstration in Bujumbura, Burundi, on the western shore of Lake Tanganyika in eastern Africa, where March flooding destroyed 500 homes. In Dakar, Senegal, the westernmost African city, citizens marked the tidal origins of recent storm surges. In Adelaide, Australia, activists held a “dry creek regatta” to highlight the spreading drought Down Under.

Chief Wahtoke and several tribespeople confronted the settlers and demanded they leave. For emphasis, Wahtoke cut the rope of the ferry. A settler hurried to Millerton, where a posse was organized, led by Walter Harvey, who had been dismissed from West Point on demerits. The settlers attacked the unprotected Choinumni village on the Kings River near Wa-ha-lish and killed 11, mostly women, old men and children; the able-bodied men were off hunting and gathering. Harvey was soon elected judge on his reputation as an “Indian killer”—following the example of Andrew Jackson and Zachary Taylor.

This tragedy might explain the name Wa-ha-lish—“someone cried.” The remaining members of the Choinumni surely cried, and continue to cry today, as Cemex again puts its boot on their necks, exercising a new form of colonialism—corporate colonialism—that follows on the colonialism of the Spanish, the 49ers and the U.S. Government.

Of course, Cemex does not use firearms to exercise its power over people and planet. It uses money and law. But the result is the same. Mother Earth, which the Choinumni worship as a living being, is reduced to commodities. A mountain is valued not qualitatively, as a mountain, but quantitatively, as a pile of aggregate.

We have forgotten what the Choinumni have known all along. We have much to learn from them. Regardless of our banks and business suits, we are a part of nature, all composed of the same elements. We must bring God, Goddess, Mother Nature and the Great Spirit back from beyond Alpha Centauri to the Garden of Eden and heal our dysfunctional family. If we do not, Mother Earth will have the final word.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Chip Ashley is a local environmental activist and member of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club. Contact him at 559-855-6376 or [wattsvillepreservation@gmail.com](mailto:wattsvillepreservation@gmail.com).*

In Pakistan, some of the millions of persons driven from their homes by unprecedented flooding during the preceding two years marked the day on the banks of the Indus River. In Ayuthaya, Thailand, Buddhist monks protested next to a temple destroyed by last December’s epic deluges that also left the capital city of Bangkok awash. Activists in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, focused on the ongoing effects of drought in that landlocked east-central Asian country.

In Daegu, South Korea, students gathered with bags of rice and umbrellas to connect the dots between climate change, heavy rains and the damage caused to that country’s recent rice crops. In Amman, Jordan, Friends of the Earth Middle East gathered on the shores of the Dead Sea to draw attention to how drought induced by climate change has been shrinking the sea that is the earth’s lowest and saltiest spot.

In Herzliya, Israel, people formed a dot on the beach to stand in solidarity with island nations and coastal communities around the world who are feeling the impact of climate change. In Libya, students held a teach-in, while elders in Oman explained how the weather along the Persian Gulf shifted during their lifetimes. Activities took place in the cloud forests of Costa Rica and in the highlands of Peru, where drought wrecked the lives of local farmers. Activists in Monterrey, Mexico, recalled how last year’s floods caused almost \$2 billion in damages, while in Chamonix, France, climbers placed a giant red dot on the melting glaciers of the Alps.

Across North America, activists in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, “swam for survival” across the bay to highlight rising sea levels. In Nashville, Tenn., high school students gathered in a football field inundated by the historic killer floods of 2011. In Portland, Ore., city dwellers held an umbrella-decorating party to commemorate the record rains of March 2012. In Bandelier, N.M., firefighters in full uniform remembered last year’s record forest fires by unveiling the new solar panels on their fire station.

In Miami, Manhattan and Maui, citizens lined the streets that scientists predicted will eventually be under water. In the high Sierra, on one of the glaciers that is steadily melting away, protesters unveiled a giant banner bearing the two words uttered by the Wicked Witch of the West in letters three stories high from L. Frank Baum’s children’s classic, *The Wizard of Oz*—“I’m Melting.”

According to McKibben, we are now in a “full-on fight between information and disinformation, between the urge to witness and the urge to cover-up.” The fossil fuel industry has funded unlimited efforts to confuse people and leave them with the impression that nothing much is taking place. However, as with the tobacco industry before them, the evidence has become too strong to ignore. Just as people saw their own neighbors and family die of lung cancer, at last they are making the connection between the current weird weather due to climate change and the burning of fossil fuels.

Unfortunately, the one institution in our society that should be spreading this news and informing the public—the news media—is falling down on the job. Our newspapers and TV channels are paying less and less attention to our shifting climate. In 2011, ABC, CBS and Fox spent twice as much time discussing Donald Trump as they did on climate change.

Because in 2011, all the Sunday talk shows devoted exactly *nine minutes total* to climate change, our planet’s greatest challenge, and it was given to Republican politicians in what he called “the great denial sweepstakes,” McKibben didn’t expect representatives from Connect the Dots day (May 5) to show up the next day on Sunday’s talk shows.

So McKibben predicted that on Sunday, no matter how big and beautiful 350.org’s demonstrations around the world were, *Face the Nation* and *Meet the Press* wouldn’t be connecting the dots: “They’ll be gassing along about Newt Gingrich’s retirement from the presidential race or Mitt Romney’s coming nomination, and many of the commercials will come from oil companies lying about their environmental efforts. If we’re going to tell this story—and it’s the most important story of our time—we’re going to have to tell it ourselves.”

Regrettably, Bill’s prediction was correct, and in an e-mail to me on May 7, he confirmed what I found by watching the talk shows. Sad, sad, sad!

\*\*\*\*\*

*George B. Kauffman, Ph.D., chemistry professor emeritus at California State University, Fresno, and Guggenheim Fellow, is a recipient of the American Chemical Society’s George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education, the Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach and the Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution. A 60-year ACS member, in 2011 he was appointed an ACS Fellow.*



# 2012 Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2012

Katharine Conway "Kitty" Felton  
July 7, 1873 - August 15, 1940

It is not right...that one woman, simply because she is one woman, should be deprived of the opportunity of pursuing the student's life and of supporting herself at the same time. The presences of female faculty would be an incentive affecting all students indirectly.



Became head of the social service efforts to restore the life of the people of San Francisco in the 1906 fire & earthquake and developed innovative solutions that are common practice today. She created the first employment agency in the U.S., developed mental health counseling to deal with traumatized, became an advocate for foster care, and by combining private and public funds made it possible for widowed and single mothers to remain at home with their children. She was responsible and within a year, succeeded in emptying of refugee camps and finding placements for the dispossessed. Felton drafted nearly all of California's early legislation covering welfare and relief.

1584 N. Van Ness Ave., 93728 - email: [info@centerfornonviolence.org](mailto:info@centerfornonviolence.org), website: [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org)



<http://facebook.com/fresno.nonviolence>

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## MONDAY, JULY 9th CARAVAN TO CUBA



6pm - 7pm Potluck Meal  
7pm-9pm -Program:

& Special Guest Speakers to Be Announced.

The 23rd Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba will be in Fresno for a free public presentation about the current situation in Cuba and the purpose behind the caravan at:

Margaret Hudson's Barn and Beautiful Garden.  
4247 N. Thorne in Fresno  
(between Fruit & Palm on Ashland Ave.)

Donation of medical supplies, building material and money is needed. For more info on kinds of donations check out our website: [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org) or contact Gerry Bill at 227-2133 or [gerry.bill@gmail.com](mailto:gerry.bill@gmail.com) or Leni Reeves at 855-4511 or [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com). Send Checks to: IFCO Pastor for Peace at 418 W. 145th St., New York, NY, 10037.

### Statement of Purpose from the Fresno Center for Nonviolence/ dedicated to Peace and Social Justice.

#### BASIC PRINCIPLES

To enter into affiliation with the Fresno Center for Nonviolence implies a commitment to examining and altering one's life toward the achievement of these basic goals.

**Simplicity** -reducing the sheer amount of material resources needed to satisfy our desires, raised as we are in a society which overvalues possessions, pleasures and convenience and which uses as unconscionable proportion of the planet's natural wealth. Adopting patterns of production, consumption and reproduction that safeguard the planet's biological integrity.

**Justice** -actively seeking to create a world where decent living conditions are available to all, and where the decision-making processes, methods of productions, distribution of wealth, and accountability to society are equitable. Giving priority to guaranteeing the basic needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

**Inclusiveness** - actively seeking to understand the situation and point-of-view of others, maintaining readiness to ally with other communities-of interest or belief that are committed to similar principles. Acting to protect the biological diversity and natural resources that sustain life.

**Non-injury** -pledging to use methods to attain our ends that do not contradict those ends; acting with compassion and an understanding of shared humanity toward those we oppose, and utilizing only those means which do not put others at greater risk than ourselves. Promoting a culture of tolerance, cooperation and peaceful problem resolutions.

Association with the Center also implies an understanding that, if we are to preserve the viability of our living environment and the hope for a safe, democratic society, there is an urgent need to make changes related to our goals. These changes are substantial, need to begin at once and start with ourselves.

FCNV page editor:

Richard Gomez

stir It, Up



KFCF

Wednesday, 88.1 FM  
July 11th 3:00 pm



Host Gerry Bill will pre-record his discussion with "Caravanistas" from the Cuban Caravan.

Sorry, no call-ins.  
For info call  
(559)237-3223



The Fresno Center for Nonviolence will have its monthly meeting on Monday, July 2; at 6pm. Enjoy your 4th of July holiday.



## 2nd Wednesday Video Series

Wednesday, July 11th

12 noon and 7pm at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Potluck at 6:30pm.



"MEN who STARE at GOATS." wheelchair accessible

For July the Center likes to kick back and relax with popcorn and an enjoyable video for all.

Reporter Bob Wilton is in search of his next big story when he encounters Lyn Cassady, (George Clooney) a shadowy figure who claims to be part of an experimental U.S. military unit. According to Cassady, the New Earth Army is changing the way wars are fought. A legion of "Warrior Monks" with unparalleled psychic powers can read the enemy's thoughts, pass through solid walls, and even kill a goat simply by staring at it. Now, the program's founder, Bill Django, has gone missing and Cassady's mission is to find him. Intrigued by his new acquaintance's far-fetched stories, Bob impulsively decides to tag along. When the pair tracks Django to a clandestine training camp run by renegade psychic Larry Hooper, the reporter is trapped in the middle of a grudge match between the forces of Django's New Earth Army and Hooper's personal militia of super soldiers. In order to survive this wild adventure, Bob will have to outwit an enemy he never thought possible. Video is 93 minutes long.



included



"Have you seen this kid's mommy?"



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- **CCCJC**
- **CVAAS**
- **WILPF**
- **Community Alliance**
- **CVPPAC**

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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

No July business meeting.  
WILPF Retreat August 25 - save the date.

WOMEN IN BLACK

No vigil scheduled since 1st Wednesday falls on July 4 (usually first Wednesday of each month at noon at Fresno County Courthouse; 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)

July 25 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

PASTORS FOR PEACE CARAVAN TO CUBA SENDOFF

July 9 at Margaret Hudson's Barn, 4247 N. Thorne, north of Ashlan  
6PM potluck, 7pm program

RAGING GRANNIES

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

SUCCESSFUL YARD SALE

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Jean Hays, whose message thanking the rest of us is below. **Thank you Jean!** A HUGE thank-you to everyone who helped in any way with the WILPF Yard Sale. We made over \$1000 and will add more to that number after Gioia sells some of the left-

over items on E-Bay or Craig's List. Although we were dead tired at the end, it was well worth the effort!! Now we can use the money to help our various WILPF programs and other peace and justice endeavors.

A huge thanks, especially, to those who came for set-up Friday, and/or selling on Saturday: Jay Hubbell, Gioia Frank, Avigdar Adams, Pat Wolk, Sally Vogl, Susan Heidebrecht, Elke Kupiers, Ann Carruthers, Gloria MacAfee, Jean Kennedy, Leni Reeves, Gail Mitchell, Nancy Waidtlow, and, of course, Patty Bennett and her husband, Tim, without whose help we could not have had the sale. Any time we needed something they were there for us. If I have left anyone out, please forgive me. My heartfelt thanks!!

Paz, Jean Hays

FRESNO WILPF ACTIVIST CHOSEN FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP

Meghan Walsh was selected for an internship at WILPF International Headquarters in Geneva. She will be doing research and hopes to have a topic applicable to both the International and to local WILPF. She will keep us updated on the Fresno WILPF listserve, and, of course, report back on her return.

NEW NATIONAL WILPF DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Ria Kulenovic has joined National WILPF as Director of Operations. She is originally from Sarajevo and was attending college there during the siege; she moved to the US obtaining refugee status in 1995. She has worked with the International Rescue Committee in several capacities and most recently has been the executive director of the Center for Balkan Development. She has also served on the Boards

and executive Committees of Refugee Women's Network and Women's Refugee Commission. She is noted for her attention to detail, interpersonal communications, and ability to grow organizations. She is also expert at negotiating the accounting rules governing 501c3 and c4 corporations; she has recently completed requirements for a masters degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on non-profit organizations. Her professional profile is available on LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/ria-kulenovic>)

The Director of Operations is responsible for managing WILPF's membership database, financial transactions, internship program, and organizational infrastructure.

Ria can be reached at [rkulanovic@wilpf.org](mailto:rkulanovic@wilpf.org) or by calling 617-266-0999.

WILPF PAGE EDITOR TAKES OUR SOLIDARITY & AID 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. WILPF member Leni V Reeves will help load them on a bus and take them to Cuba for you. Please contact me **before** the July 9 sendoff - Margaret Hudson's Barn 4247 N. Thorne, 6PM - since we have to pack, invoice, and reserve space for all aid. (except money) 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)

Thanks for your help and support. See you when I return in August. Leni

Fresno Area Chapter ACLU  
By Bill Simon

It is again time to arrange the annual Fresno Area Chapter ACLU Membership Meeting and election of a new board. The membership meeting and election will take place on Sept. 10, probably at the Golden Restaurant (1135 N. Fulton St.).

Term limits have become so popular that even the ACLU Chapter Board has term limits, and the last two members of the original board for the "new" chapter will term out in one more year. So we need to find candidates for the board who are committed to the ACLU and to our constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties. We need board members who can meet on the first Monday of each month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and who will devote a few more hours a month as they are able. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact Bill Simon at [simonaclu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:simonaclu@sbcglobal.net) or 559-227-6565.

The Fresno chapter has recently been working on several Northern California affiliate issues. These include immigration issues such as Secure Communities, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) program designed to deport even American citizens like you, and the Trust Act. We have also been attending county meetings about the AB109 realignment, which sends state prisoners to county jails. We have been arguing, with some success, for alternative sentencing and rehabilitation programs. And we worked to get a proposition on the November ballot, and now

to get it passed, to replace the death sentence with life without the possibility of parole.

On local issues, we have been monitoring the homeless situation and assisting Central California Legal Services and the ACLU affiliate with its legal efforts regarding the city of Fresno's closing of the homeless encampments last November. Although the city has recently allowed encampments to return, it appears likely they will be closed again about the time this newspaper hits your mailbox.



The American Civil Liberties Union is on the cutting edge of defending our constitutional rights. The local chapter of the ACLU needs your help. See the article on this page about how to get involved.

chapter activity. The chapter serves Madera, Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties. Tell your friends in all these counties that we are searching for them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bill Simon is past chair of the Fresno Area Chapter ACLU-NC and is currently the volunteer coordinator for the chapter. Contact him at [simonaclu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:simonaclu@sbcglobal.net).

We also stay involved in school issues and have been communicating with teachers and parents about the situation at McClane High School. We continue to be involved with police issues. We have membership on the Police Chief's Advisory Board and continue to argue for reimplementing an independent police auditor.

If you join the chapter board in September, we will soon be able to report even more ACLU

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# PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

## Monday, July 2 • 6 p.m.–8 p.m.

Tulare Green Party meeting. Cafe 210, 210 W. Center Ave., Visalia. Interested parties welcome.

## Monday, July 2 • 6 p.m. (please note change of date, just for this month)

Fresno Center for Nonviolence Board meeting. 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. For more info, call 559-237-3223 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday–Friday.

## Tuesday, July 3 • 9 a.m.–11 a.m.

9/11 Truther Jon Gold will discuss the fight for peace, justice and accountability. C.A.F.E. Infoshop, 935 F St. For more info, call 559-577-9250 or visit [www.fresnoforward.com](http://www.fresnoforward.com).

## Tuesday, July 3 • 6 p.m.–8 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).

## Friday, July 6 • 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Screening of the documentary *Farmageddon*. Americans' right to access fresh, healthy foods of their choice is under attack. *Farmageddon* tells the story of farms that were providing safe, healthy foods to their communities and were forced to stop, sometimes through violent action. Reedley Peace Center, Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley. Light potluck supper at 6:30 p.m., screening at 7 p.m.

## Saturday, July 7 • 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).

## Monday, July 9 • 6 p.m.

The 23rd Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba will be in Fresno for a free public presentation about the current situation in Cuba and the purpose behind the caravan. Margaret Hudson's Barn & Beautiful Garden, 4247 N. Thorne Ave. Potluck 6 p.m., presentation 7 p.m. Donations of medical supplies, building materials and money are needed. For more info, contact Gerry Bill at 559-227-2133 or [gerry.bill@gmail.com](mailto:gerry.bill@gmail.com) or Leni Reeves at 559-855-4511 or [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com). Checks may be sent to IFCO Pastors for Peace, 418 W. 145th St., New York, NY 10037. For details on materials needed, visit [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org).

## Wednesday, July 11 • 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

*Stir it Up* on KFCF 88.1 FM. Host Gerry Bill will be speaking with caravanistas from the Cuba Caravan. The show will be taped this month, so there will not be any call-ins. For more info, call 559-237-3223.

## Wednesday, July 11 • Noon & 7 p.m. (potluck at 6:30 p.m.)

The 2nd Wednesday film will be *The Men Who Stare at Goats*. For our July film, it has been traditional to kick back and relax with popcorn and an enjoyable video for all. And we are not going to disappoint! Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. Reporter Bob Wilton is in search of his next big story when he encounters Lyn Cassady (George Clooney), a shadowy figure who claims to be part of an experimental U.S. military unit. According to Cassady, the New Earth Army is changing the way wars are fought. A legion of "Warrior Monks" with unparalleled psychic powers can read the enemy's thoughts, pass through solid walls, and even kill a goat simply by staring at it. Now, the program's founder, Bill Django, has gone missing and Cassady's mission is to find him. Intrigued by his new acquaintance's farfetched stories, Bob impulsively decides to tag along. When the pair tracks Django to a clandestine training camp run by renegade psychic Larry Hooper, the reporter is trapped in the middle of a grudge match between the forces

of Django's New Earth Army and Hooper's personal militia of super soldiers. To survive this wild adventure, Bob will have to outwit an enemy he never thought possible. Free and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible.

## Wednesday, July 11 • 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, July 13 • Noon

Divestment Day press conference and action. St. Anthony Claret Church, 2494 S. Chestnut Ave. Faith in Community, a local PICO organization, calls on the people of Fresno to move their money out of the five largest U.S. banks (Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, JP Morgan/Chase and Goldman Sachs) and into local banks or credit unions. These large banks have caused an economic crisis that has left millions facing foreclosure and unemployment in the worst economy since the Great Depression.

We are gathering at St. Anthony Claret Church, which is located in an area hard hit by foreclosures and the economic crisis, to call out large banks for their irresponsibility and lack of compassion and educate the community at-large about the power of divesting from the big banks. Faith in Community will be joined by Occupy Fresno and Peace Fresno.

For more info, visit [www.ficpico.org](http://www.ficpico.org) or contact Steve Ratzlaff, pastor of Mennonite Community Church and a board member of Faith in Community, at [ffalzta@sbglobal.net](mailto:ffalzta@sbglobal.net) or 559-307-1555.

## Friday, July 13 • 5:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Fresno Filmworks presents *Monsieur Lazhar* at the Tower Theatre. This Canadian drama tells the story of an Algerian immigrant substitute teacher who brings emotional stability to a Montreal middle school class that's shaken by the tragic death of their teacher. Advance tickets \$10 general, \$8 for students and seniors, and can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office, 815 E. Olive Ave. Tickets and details are available online at [www.FresnoFilmworks.org](http://www.FresnoFilmworks.org).

## Friday, July 13 • 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Screening of the documentary *Mad Hot Ballroom*. Ballroom dancing goes from lame to cool for a group of New York City students in this insightful documentary, which follows a group of 11-year-olds as they learn to dance old-school styles including the merengue, rumba, tango, foxtrot and swing. Candid interviews capture the kids' initial reluctance at learning ballroom dance and their transformation into serious competitors determined to win a citywide competition. Reedley Peace Center, Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley. Light potluck supper at 6:30 p.m., screening starts at 7 p.m.

## Saturday, July 14 • 3:30 p.m.–5 p.m.

The Central Valley Progressive PAC monthly meeting will include a discussion about developing a progressive strategy for winning in November. Possible strategies include develop-

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



ing a precinct system, voter registration and getting out the vote in southwest and southeast Fresno. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. For more info, visit [www.cvppac.org](http://www.cvppac.org) or call 559-435-1992. The meeting is free and open to the public.

You can receive information about events that were received too late to be included in the print version of the Peace and Social Justice calendar by signing up for our weekly e-mail calendar. Visit [www.mailermailer.com/x?oid=32254t](http://www.mailermailer.com/x?oid=32254t), and follow the brief instructions to set up your account.

## Sunday, July 15 • 3 p.m.

Fresno Filmworks Classics presents *The Birds* at the Tower Theatre. The 1963 horror film, directed with masterful suspense by Alfred Hitchcock, tells the story of the unexplained attacks by marauding birds on the residents of Bodega Bay. Advance tickets \$5 general admission and can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office, 815 E. Olive Ave. Tickets and details are available online at [www.FresnoFilmworks.org](http://www.FresnoFilmworks.org).

## Monday, July 16–Friday, July 20

Chalice Camp, a one-week inclusive, educational, spiritual retreat for freethinking kids, held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, an interfaith, progressive community. 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. For more info, call the UU Church at 559-322-6146.

## Wednesday, July 18 • 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.



This iconic photo is of Che Guevara, one of the heroes of the Cuban revolution. Several Central Valley activists are going to Cuba this summer to find out for themselves what is going on in Cuba. See the July 9 calendar item and the article on page 6 for more information.

## Thursday, July 19 • 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).

## Saturday, July 21 • 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).

## Monday, July 23 • 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, July 25 • 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).

## Friday, July 27 • 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).



## MOVE YOUR \$\$\$ - DIVESTMENT DAY Faith In Community's Press Conference Friday, July 13 • Noon

St. Anthony Claret Church, 2494 S Chestnut Ave., Fresno

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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.

**Tuesday, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 • 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 is led by Grace Schireson, an ordained Zen priest. For more info, contact Grace at 559-877-2400 or [grace@emptynestzendo.org](mailto:grace@emptynestzendo.org).

**Wednesday, July 4, 11, 18, 25 • 7:30 p.m.**

Taize Prayer. St. Paul Newman Center, 1572 E. Barstow Ave. For more info, call 559-436-3434.

**Wednesday, July 4, 11, 18, 25 • 7 p.m.–8 p.m.**

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

**Friday, July 6 • 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, July 7 & 21 (1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month) • 10 a.m.–noon**

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

**Saturday, July 7 • 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.

**Monday, July 9 • 6 p.m. (potluck)/7 p.m. (presentation)**

The 23rd Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba will be in Fresno for a free public presentation about the current situation in Cuba and the purpose behind the caravan. Margaret Hudson's Barn & Beautiful Garden, 4247 N. Thorne Ave. Donations of medical supplies, building materials and money are needed. For more info, contact Gerry Bill at 559-227-2133 or [gerry.bill@gmail.com](mailto:gerry.bill@gmail.com) or Leni Reeves at 559-855-4511 or [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com). Checks may be sent to IFCO Pastors for Peace at 418 W. 145th St., New York, NY 10037. For details on materials needed, visit [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org).

**Sunday, July 15 • 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.



**Saturday, August 4 • 1 p.m.**

Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative (ISJC) monthly meeting. Little Leaf Tea, 6011 N. Palm Ave. You need not RSVP. Just come if you'd like to meet others engaged in faith-inspired social and environmental justice work. Our new meeting format will enable 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](http://www.littleleaftea.com)) is an independently owned small business.

## FAITH RESOURCES

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

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

*Interfaith Youth Alliance:* Visit [www.ifya-net.org](http://www.ifya-net.org).

*Mental Health America-Central Valley:* Visit [www.mha-cv.org/](http://www.mha-cv.org/) (has information for clergy and faith leaders).


*Multifaith Exchange:* Visit <http://fresnomultifaithexchange.org/>.

*The Bishop John Steinbock Homeless Advocacy Committee:* Visit [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 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

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# Statewide Homeless Memorial Event

By Al Williams



Al Williams invites you to show your solidarity with homeless people by attending this event.

Six years ago, a small group of about 40 homeless people and homeless advocates held the first Homeless Memorial Event at Roeding Park in Fresno. The event was inspired by my late wife, Sherri Williams, who had just passed away.

Since then, we have held a Homeless Memorial Event at Roeding Park each year, with Native American drummers, dancers and great entertainment like Blake Jones and the Trikes, Eddie Montoya and friends, and many others.

We here in Fresno feel that our brothers and sisters deserve a much better day of remembrance. We also believe that people are aware of the conditions that homeless people live in, but they just choose not to do anything about it, or they simply don't give a damn about homeless people.

There are a large number of people who do care and are actually doing something about it. These include the staff of the *Community Alliance* newspaper, the Universalist Unitarian Church, some of the women from the Firewood Brigade such as Nancy Waidtlow, Art Dyson, Jim Grant, the Free United Homeless Coalition (FUHC), the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) of San Francisco, the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC), the Community Homeless Alliance Ministry (CHAM) of San Jose and many others, but we still need more support especially from our government at all levels—local, state and federal.

Let us not keep our brothers and sisters who have departed us in the cold, dark side of our memory. Let us come together and bring the issue of homelessness to light. We already know the problems that keep homeless people homeless. We need to find ways of diverting things like \$968,232 of money the City says it doesn't have, but seems to have to demolish an overpass that keeps the rain off homeless people in the winter and keeps homeless people cool in the summer, into putting homeless people into houses. We need more and larger events such as this statewide Homeless Memorial Event, and maybe just march on City Hall—no, Occupy City Hall—until it stops doing what it is doing.

The Homeless Memorial Event will take place on July 28 at Roeding Park starting at noon. Please send donations to *Community Alliance*, P.O. Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755, or to Al Williams, 555 N. Park Ave., Fresno, CA 93728 Also, state that the donation is for the Statewide Homeless Memorial Event. For more information about the event, contact Al Williams at [alphonsowill62@yahoo.com](mailto:alphonsowill62@yahoo.com) or 559-647-7165.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Al Williams is a homeless advocate and is on the Community Alliance editorial board. Contact him at [alphonsowill62@yahoo.com](mailto:alphonsowill62@yahoo.com) or 559-647-7165.*

# The Crockford Files

By John Crockford

## Computer Security and Privacy

The June issue of *Consumer Reports* contains a best buy recommendation that includes a free computer security program that offers “the best combination of performance and price.” The Avira Free Antivirus software can be downloaded from [www.avira.com/en/avira-free-antivirus](http://www.avira.com/en/avira-free-antivirus). Using a good browser that includes security features, such as Mozilla's Firefox ([mozilla.org/firefox](http://mozilla.org/firefox)), can greatly reduce any external threats. And always upgrade your browser to the most recent version available to take advantage of the latest security and site rendering improvements.

Concerns over privacy, corporate and government snooping are widespread, especially among activists. The Tor network, originally developed with the U.S. Navy in mind for the primary purpose of protecting government communications, is used every day for a wide variety of purposes by normal people, the military, journalists, law enforcement officers, activists and many others. For more information, visit the Tor Web site ([www.torproject.org/](http://www.torproject.org/)).

## Smartphone Apps Made Easy

The complexity of creating apps for smart phones often puts this excellent way of communicating out of reach to most activists and community organizations. jQueryMobile (<http://jquerymobile.com/>), a free and open-source software system for creating mobile apps, changes all that by providing an easy-to-use tool to create mobile Web sites that act and perform like smartphone apps. ClovisTransit.com (<http://clovistransit.com/>) is an example of a mobile app constructed over a couple of days using basic information from the jQueryMobile demo pages (<http://jquerymobile.com/demos/1.1.0/>).

## A Resource for Nonprofits

Webblies.net (<http://webblies.net/>) was created to bring together individuals and organizations working on nonprofit projects with individuals and organizations that provide free Web site design services in support of nonprofit projects.

## Money, Money, Money

And finally, for all the libertarians masquerading as leftists, there's money to be made from free, open-source software. Red Hat, a company with headquarters in Raleigh, N.C., is a billion-dollar company that is “leading Linux and open source solutions into the mainstream by making high-quality, low-cost technology accessible.”

\*\*\*\*\*

*John Crockford, a self-described “geek with Luddite sympathies,” is an independent Web site designer and consultant. Contact him at [info@johncrockford.com](mailto:info@johncrockford.com).*

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# Valley of Shadows and Dreams: A Book by Ken and Melanie Light

By Mike Rhodes

(*Editor's note:* This interview with the photographer and writer took place in June 2012. The text below is about one-half of the interview; read the entire interview at [www.fresnoalliance.com](http://www.fresnoalliance.com).)

I'm always interested to see how other people, who live outside of this area, interpret the political and environmental landscape of Fresno and the Central Valley. Ken and Melanie Light are from the Bay Area and bring such a unique and fresh interpretation of the Valley that I had to share their impressions of the place we call home with *Community Alliance* newspaper readers. I hope you will enjoy the interview and pick up a copy of their book, *Valley of Shadows and Dreams*. You won't be disappointed.

*Mike:* In the book, you mention water as being an issue that came to your attention. Can you elaborate on that? What did you find out about water that was interesting?

*Melanie:* The first thing I noticed is that the developers were building lakes in the middle of nowhere and at the same time, we knew there was a chronic water shortage. The farmers are always asking for more water. We were just completely perplexed.

I started digging around to figure out how this works and it gets very complex. A person gets water and they sell their water here, they sell it there, but in the end it seemed like there were no supervising adults in charge of a very precious resource that is dwindling. It is a similar issue globally with rights and this is happening all over the world where the more wealthy and politically connected people are in charge of who gets the water and they are not always the most responsible people with how it is preserved, used and maintained.

One thing I found out was that all of the water is a public trust and that means all of the citizens own it, but the government has given control to a very small group of people and I just find that remarkable. It is a symptom of a national plague that we have weak government.

*Mike:* I'm always amazed by the fact that Tulare Lake was the largest fresh water lake west of the Mississippi. It was drained for the Boswell cotton farming operation.

*Melanie:* Yes, theoretically Californians own the water, but there is a small agricultural group who got the federal and state government to build the dams and the aqueduct so that they can control the water. We are paying for that, our tax dollars are paying for that (water), but we don't get a break on our water prices. Not only that, but I just found out that Fresno didn't even have a meter water plan until three years ago, whereas we on the coast have been rationed to the hilt every summer. It is so unfair and so inequitable that it is crazy.

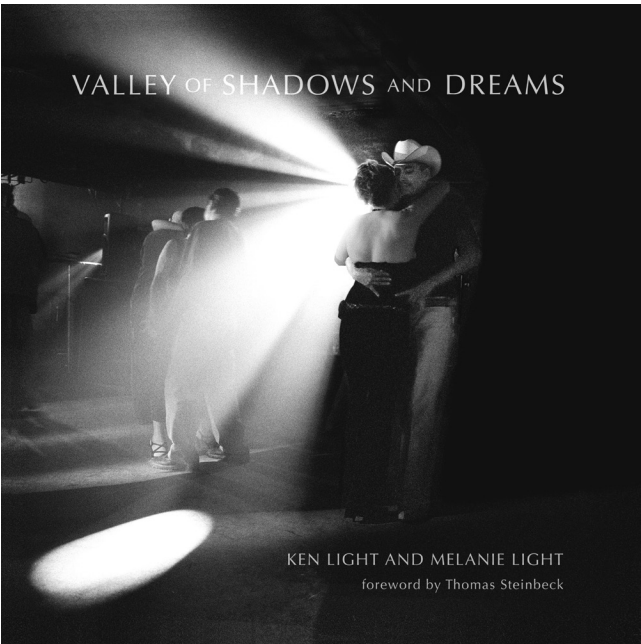
The other thing I found out is that we are subsidizing the water and the infrastructure for the water being delivered to agriculture. We are not getting a break on our food prices and the food is being sold on an international market. We are subsidizing food for profit that is going through other countries and to the private pockets of growers. I just find that remarkable. And these are the people who are talking about their rights, their freedom, they don't want regulation and they don't like the government. I have to say that the government has been serving them extremely well.

*Mike:* In addition to water what did you find here that surprised you? What was it about the Central Valley that attracted you here to do this book and were there any surprises?

*Ken:* There are always surprises. I had photographed in the Central Valley in the late 1970s and early 1980s, so for me it was a kind of revisiting with a more mature vision because I'm



California Aqueduct Tulare County, California, 2008



**Valley of Shadows and Dreams**  
**Text by Melanie Light**  
**Photographs by Ken Light**  
**Foreword by Thomas Steinbeck**  
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**176 pages with more than 100 black-and-white photographs**  
**ISBN: 978-1-59714-172-7, \$40**  
**Photography/Sociology**  
**Publication Month: May 2012**

**“The more than 100 black-and-white images evoke the topical and the transcendent...Accompanied by informative and urgent essays about the political, environmental, and social challenges facing the region, the book makes a stirring call to change the way we consider the disenfranchised by offering a window into their lives.”**  
**—Publishers Weekly**

**“Taken in the Central Valley, these stirring black-and-white images channel WPA-era Dorothea Lange through their attention to labor, poverty, immigration, and agriculture.”**  
**—San Francisco Magazine**

**“In this book you will find a powerful indictment not only of what has happened lately in America's largest state, but also of what is happening across this country right now. The abuse of illegal immigrants, environmental degradation, the madness of a real estate bubble, and all the other problems of the Central Valley are unfortunately relevant nationwide. Ken and Melanie Light bring great compassion and an eye for beauty to this subject, facing hard truths but refusing to despair.”**  
**—Eric Schlosser, author of Fast Food Nation**

more experienced as a photographer. Things that I might have passed by then, all of a sudden came out at me.

It is beautiful, you look up in the sky and it has a very open sky, but then you start seeing people with asthma and you start seeing issues around pesticide usage. I remember one day driving down Highway 5 to come into the Valley and I looked to my right and there was these big machines spraying pesticides. I was probably the only one to stop. People don't see it. They don't think about it. I worry about the use of pesticides going on our food, it goes into the water, it goes into the air. One of the things that really surprised me was the dairies.

You sit at home in the Bay Area and you watch TV with the happy cows—milk and cheese from California and they (the cows) are very happy, but then when you go out into the industrial dairies and there is not one blade of grass. That really shocks you. I remember during the summer going out around these dairies. The cows would die and they would just throw the cows alongside the road. That was a shock.

As the downturn in the economy hit, after the boom of the housing market crashed, I began to see more people with problems. I spent a good amount of time in Fresno photographing some of the camps of homeless people that grew. Some of this was chronic homelessness, but it became more visible. Because of the downturn, people became more interested in the issue. I went into these camps where people were desperate for social service support; they were living in wooden shacks. Seeing that was really a shock, and it reminded me of the Great Depression and the Hoovervilles.

*Mike:* Because of the intensity of poverty in this region, I have heard the Central Valley referred to as the Appalachia of the west. I noticed that the two of you also produced an earlier book about Appalachia in 2006 titled *Coal Hollow: Photographs and Oral Histories*. Any comparisons between the two areas you would like to share?

*Ken:* There are a lot of similarities and it was somewhat ironic after having done *Coal Hollow*. My original intention of going there was to reexamine this seminal part of America that people go back to generation after generation to see “Has America really changed?” What has happened in this region that we know is classically impoverished?

Beginning the project here and then all of a sudden two years into the project we start reading, “Oh, the Central Valley is the new Appalachia,” and we are like, “What?” But there are a lot of similarities because they are both extractive. So, in Appalachia, back east, West Virginia, Kentucky, they take out the coal and with the coal they take out the money, and the money does not go back into the community. It goes to the bankers, the corporations that are not in West Virginia—they are in Boston, New York and they are really about making money.

In the Valley, it is the same way. It is from the ground, it just happens to be fruit and vegetables, etc., on a massive scale, much like coal mining. The same exact thing is happening, and you see people with major health issues and people with bad teeth, people with educational problems. The similarities are quite remarkable and also the poverty levels in which people live.

I would say that the major difference is that coal is on a down slide and has been mechanized, which I guess is what is happening in the Valley, but I went into the coal mines to photograph and where 30 years ago there would have been 200 men working in the mine, now there are 10. They are using a machine and taking more coal out and I guess the same problem will happen in the Valley as more and more machines come in. Despite the hard work that people have laboring in the fields, it does put food on their table and supports their families as they try to move up. Theoretically, those jobs will disappear.

*Melanie:* Actually, we didn't even want to do that story when we came to the Valley. When I first came to the Valley, I thought to myself, “Oh my God, it is just like West Virginia,” right down to the whole extractive nature of the work, the parallel histories, everything. I said, “Let's not do that again.” We really wanted to stick with the housing issue but, of course, all roads lead to Rome and you could not really do it.

The other thing is that it (agriculture) is a mono industry; there is no other industry here, so as one industry shifts and moves toward mechanization there is nobody here being educated, there are no other industries being developed or businesses. The people are really left behind in the same way as human waste. That is tragic. That is sad. It is not only tragic for these people here in this area, it is tragic for the nation that this happens on such a large scale.

*Mike:* You are from the Bay Area and you have given presentations up there about this book. You did a presentation in Marin recently. How did that go? What is the reaction you get when giving a presentation about the Central Valley? What kind of questions do you get? What do people think about your story?

*Melanie:* The event in Marin was sponsored by Sustainable San Rafael. One of the most interesting things that came out was this notion of the coastal Californians versus the inland Californians. One of the things I learned in this project is that larger and more important than the divide between north and south, it is really the inland and coastal issue. They were fascinated by that and asked what is the culture of the Valley versus the culture of the coast and how can we join them together. Honestly, my little garden can't grow enough food to feed me. We all need to be on the same page about how we are going to use this resource to feed our country. That was the most interesting aspect of that event.

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*Mike Rhodes is the editor of the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at [editor@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:editor@fresnoalliance.com).*



Emmanuel and his mother in Kettleman City. Emmanuel was born with a cleft lip and an enlarged head and suffers from seizures.



## CULTIVATING FEAR

### Cultivating Fear continued from page 1

possibly being deported.

Meng observes that “the stories followed a very common pattern where a foreman or supervisor or someone in a position of power would take advantage of their power to abuse farmworker women or girls and make threat of job loss or reporting to



Farmworker women are starting to speak out against sexual abuse in the fields.

immigration authorities if the person did not comply.”

Meng relates one woman’s experience, which provides a template for a much larger picture, “I interviewed a woman who said she had been raped by a supervisor, and she said afterward he said very explicitly, ‘You

need to remember that it is because of me that you have this job.’ He continued to threaten her so she would be intimidated from reporting the abuse.”

Field workers in the Central Valley face this ominous threat too. Felicia Espinosa is an attorney in the Fresno office of California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA). The legal aid firm provides help for underserved populations including farmworkers. She says many women wait until after the work season to report abuse for fear of losing their job.

Intimidation is not just confined to the abused worker, “Retaliation is not just going to be against myself, it’s going to be against my family,” Espinosa was told. “Either they’re going to get fired right now, or they’re not going to be hired for the next season, or they’re going to be blacklisted. One foreman will tell another

foreman not to hire the family because they are troublemakers.”

Sexual abuse is not only being directed at women but also against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Dan Torres investigates LGBT cases in the fields and factories of California, working out of the CRLA San Francisco office. He reports, “We’ve seen patterns wherein particular transgender workers look for work in the farming industry and are turned away because their appearance is gender nonconforming. Or, if they do get work, they are taunted and harassed by the foremen or coworkers.”

Local attitudes vary regarding the investigation of sexual abuse. In Salinas, for example, the police take such crimes seriously. This has made a difference in abuse being investigated and prosecuted. But Espinosa says the most effective change will come when farm owners take notice, “The person with the most power to change this are the agricultural employers themselves. They are the ones that, hopefully, will do more training, that will follow up with their foremen, make sure the foremen are reporting what they’re doing and have more supervision of the workers doing actual training.”

Espinosa emphasizes the most critical step is that “if there is a complaint, to investigate the actual complaint.”

Congress is currently in gridlock over passing the Violence Against Women Act. The Senate version extends protection to groups on the edge such as undocumented immigrants and Native Americans living on tribal land. The House bill is more restrictive. Mainly, the opposition is coming from the Republican majority, which seemingly doesn’t want to recognize the human rights of all humans in America.

Meng concludes that the root of intimidation that society doesn’t want to recognize is the inconvenient fact that most farmworkers are undocumented immigrants and fear coming forward. Greater legal protection will help reduce sexual abuse, but Meng maintains that immigration reform is necessary for a more lasting resolution.



Ultimately, Congress must act on comprehensive immigration reform to ensure that farmworkers can fully assert their rights to protection from abuse. When we eat what farmworkers produce, we must also work to ensure their safety.

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Vic Bedoian is an independent radio and print journalist working on environmental justice and natural resources issues in the San Joaquin Valley. Contact him at [vicbedoian@gmail.com](mailto:vicbedoian@gmail.com).

## Divestment (Move Your Money) Day

By Steve Ratzlaff

The five largest banks in the United States—Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, JP Morgan/Chase and Goldman Sachs—have caused an economic crisis that has left millions facing foreclosure and unemployed in the worst economy since the Great Depression. This crisis has, in turn, caused massive tax revenue shortfalls for the federal government and for state governments across the country—nearly \$300 billion combined for all 50 states in the years since the crisis began.

To deal with these budget woes, politicians have cut public spending—laying off teachers, attacking public-sector workers, raiding pensions, closing hospitals and eliminating essential services for children, veterans and the elderly. Despite causing all this damage, these banks continue to do “business as usual” and have continued to earn large quarterly profits and receive large tax refunds.

These five large banks recently signed off on a \$26 billion agreement with the attorneys general of 27 states to help ease the losses from foreclosures and to assist homeowners whose mortgages are now “under water” (their houses are worth less than the amount owed on them). This admission of complicity in the great meltdown of 2008 has been made evident in the banks’ agreement to the \$26 billion settlement.

The truth of the matter, though, is that the homeowners who have been foreclosed on by these large banks have lost nearly \$700 billion in this housing debacle and all the big banks had to pay was a measly \$26 billion. Does that seem fair? In normal times, that would be considered grand larceny. There is no way that those who are being foreclosed on could ever get away with that kind of malfeasance. But the big five banks are “too big to fail” and so continue to get away with this kind of miscarriage of justice.

So, it’s time to move our money out of these large banks to local banks that are much more responsive to our needs. It’s the only leverage that we have. If enough of us, and our houses of worship and organizations, are willing to move our money, it is possible that the big banks will change the way they do business and begin to treat their customers in a just and fair way.

Here is one way to begin doing just that. Faith in Community, Peace Fresno and Occupy Fresno are planning a Divestment Day press conference and action at noon on Friday, July 13 at St. Anthony Claret Church (2494 S. Chestnut Ave.). This as an act of solidarity with the many homeowners who, through no fault of their own, are now facing foreclosure on their home as a result of the big banks’ irresponsible actions that devastated the economy.

Anyone who has already changed their bank account from one of the large banks to a local bank in the last year, anyone who is now in the process of changing banks or anyone who plans to do so in the future is invited to join us in this time of action and protest. It is no accident that the action is being held on Friday the 13th, a day that many consider unlucky. Every day is unlucky for those homeowners who have lost their homes or find themselves “under water” due to the greedy actions of these big banks. Participate in this action as we work together to change the ways these large banks operate and to support those who are facing foreclosure.

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Steve Ratzlaff is pastor of Mennonite Community Church and a board member of Faith in Community. Contact him at [fjalz@tar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fjalz@tar@sbcglobal.net).

## PATTY DAWSON’S JOURNEY

### Dawson continued from page 1

or beliefs. The principal assailant, Jennifer Fraser, has admitted to attacking Dawson, claiming as her defense an unstable childhood with underlying issues of abuse.

The Fresno County Sheriff’s Office was incompetent in its initial investigation, failing to follow basic, timely investigative procedures including the following:

- Canvassing of surrounding homes for witness statements.
- Prompt acquisition of security camera video before it was erased.
- Thorough reconstruction of the events including background checks and affiliations of all the individuals involved.
- Swift arrest once the assailant was identified.
- Cultural sensitivity and basic human compassion for the victim.

The district attorney also demonstrated incompetence in this case based on the following:

- Hate crimes charges were dismissed out of hand.
- The district attorney admitted the likelihood of a plea bargain and a reduced sentence.
- When Dawson asked the reason for the plea bargain, a senior deputy district attorney informed her that the DA’s office lacked the resources to adequately investigate the case.
- Postponements have occurred for a variety of reasons, including Fraser’s claim of Native American heritage, her child’s birth, an “overworked” Public Defender who did not have sufficient time to prepare for the case, and a change in representation.

During one of the preliminary hearings, a judge in the case reacted in a prejudicial manner to the presence of Dawson’s supporters in the courtroom, calling for the Fraser case so “we can get these bodies out here.” The committee sent a written complaint to the presiding judge, with no response to date.

Fraser’s father issued a rambling handwritten letter that basically confirmed the allegations with statements such as follows: “There in front of them was a girl going approx. 5 miles an hour...They tried to past even on a double yellow line. They tried to past on the right illegally, but they were pissed off...” His letter concluded with, “Jennifer actually thought the woman was Mexican. not Indian. Which had nothing to do with the fight. If this girl would have won the fight, would all this “be happening!?”



Patty Dawson

When someone unfamiliar with Dawson meets her, it is obvious that this account clashes with reality. She is 5’2” tall, of average build and soft-spoken with a gentle demeanor. Fraser is 5’6” tall and of a considerably heavier build. Fraser exhibited no signs of having been involved in anything that could be considered “mutual combat.”

### Justice Delayed

A year has passed from the date of the incident, and Dawson is recovering, although some scars are too deep and the images will never be forgotten. She continues to work part-time as an LVN for special needs students but has missed numerous days between healing and attending court. Instead of closure, she faces lengthy proceedings and an uphill legal battle mired in maneuvers and delays.

Will she win justice, or will the crime committed against her simply result in a slap on the wrist for one of her assailants? Will Patty receive any form of restitution for the loss of income, ongoing medical expenses and emotional damage she has suffered? How many more innocent travelers and people of color will be attacked and brutalized by racist hate groups in the Fresno and Clovis communities? Dawson smiles with a spiritual strength and conviction that something must be done.

A settlement conference is set for July 12 and a jury trial for July 23. The Committee for Justice for Patty Dawson invites the community to show their support. For more information, contact Gloria Hernandez at 559-250-2434 or [iwapgh@aol.com](mailto:iwapgh@aol.com).

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Stan Santos is an activist in the labor and immigrant community. Contact him at [ssantos@cva9408.org](mailto:ssantos@cva9408.org).



JFK: The Last Real President of the United States

By Carl Bosco



“Whaddaya mean, Kennedy was the last real president? That womanizer, that scion of a boot-legger, that elitist! That Democrat.” Yes, John Kennedy was all of those things, but he was more than that. He was his own man, the first president since Franklin Roosevelt who stood up to the fraudulent Federal Reserve and the CIA and its treasonous director Allen Dulles.

The day of the assassination I was on a bus on my way to class at Cal State Long Beach. The military draft was not yet in full swing, but a disgusting propaganda campaign was developing and tacitly the college administration discouraged U.S. students from mixing with Asians, especially Cambodians and Vietnamese. After all, you can’t make friends with people you are going to annihilate. Systematically, the United States was girding up for war and consensus had to be manufactured for the project.

Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, has said about today’s war: “It’s like Vietnam all over again, but this time nobody gives a #&@!”

The news of the Kennedy shooting came over transistor radios in an otherwise dead-silent bus. The sense of despair was palpable. We knew that the good days were over. Kennedy had sent John Kenneth Galbraith to the war zone, and he brought back news of a hopeless quagmire, whereupon Kennedy altered his hawkish stance, alienating himself from the warmongers.

Freeing America’s economy from the Federal Reserve was the target of his Executive Order 11110, and his plan to “scatter the CIA to the winds” started with the firing of Dulles from the CIA after the illegal Cuba invasion.

Kennedy’s fatal mistake was thinking he could actually be president and not a tool of the military/industrial/intelligence cabal, and for this he was slated for assassination. In 1978, the House Select Committee on Assassinations indeed found that Kennedy was taken out by a conspiracy and not just the CIA-connected so-called lone nut, Lee Harvey Oswald.

For all the 1960s excesses and hyperbole, loud rock music and the busting of decaying icons and Victorian sexual taboos, there was above all the ever-present smell of truth and justice in the air, the possibility that overwhelming the oligarchy’s stranglehold was within grasp, and the rulers were scared to death.

The charade of freedom was being exposed for what it was. Churchgoers were challenged to get off their knees and walk the walk for peace, while Chicago’s Mayor Richard Daley unleashed his police force on throngs of protesting young people. Images of American bombers raining down fiery immolation from the skies began to appear on television; we watched in horror a population being destroyed for the cause of freedom. The soldiers were sick and tired too, but the actual extent of their rebellion was kept out of the newspapers for decades. We who swooned to the plaintive songs of Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Barry McGuire (“The Eve of Destruction”) were frankly sick to death of the rampant mendacity.

So-called godless communism was our designated enemy, personified in the likes of Castro, Khrushchev and Mao Zedong. And rightly so, because they had proven themselves vicious killers.

But uncomfortable questions arose, like if the United States was so opposed to dictators, why were we allowing the CIA to give support to murderers like Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua, the military junta of El Salvador, Omar Torrijos of Panama, Augusto Pinochet of Chile. What was different about our favorite dictators and the ones we were supposed to hate? What made their atrocities above criticism?

Well, ours protected big business against the demands and needs of common people all over the world, all those asking for decent wages or land to grow crops on. It was clear foreign policy wasn’t guided by concern for democracy but for the sanctity of profit.

Kennedy was one of several charismatic leaders liquidated. Then came Malcolm X, and later Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. So, in light of past events the question arises: Is it possible for a real president, not a puppet, to actually assume office?

Ever since the unsuccessful attempt by banking interests in the 1930s to overthrow President Franklin Roosevelt, the oligarchy has had decades to consolidate its power, monopolize the media outlets and disparage or destroy the public’s only defense against serfdom: collective bargaining. Sadly, evidence shows that people are now willing to allow the shredding of the Constitution in return for the chimera of safety.

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Carl S. Bosco has been practicing naturopathic chiropractic for more than 30 years and is a former director of the Yosemite Health Retreat in Coarsegold. Contact him at UnCensoredNews@sti.net or 559-760-4199.

Educational Surrender

By Silvio Manno



While school districts across the nation are alarmed by the growing achievement gap between Anglo-American and minority students, they are particularly troubled by the staggering dropout rates among Mexican-American students. Of the nearly 1.6 million English learners in the public educational system in California, approximately 85% are Spanish speaking. Faced with the daunting task of learning the academic curriculum and the

English language concurrently, many English learners drop out of an academic race seemingly rigged from the start.

Research has shown that minority groups that tend to experience poor scholastic achievement and high dropout rates appear to have developed an insecurity and ambivalence about the value of their own cultural identity as a result of their school experience. Culture not only shapes the thinking process but it defines modes of communicating and receiving information while remaining below the threshold of consciousness. Shrouded in its dominant cultural mantle an educational system rarely perceives its intrinsic bias. Yet, a pedagogy that ignores this fundamental reality alienates students from diverse backgrounds.

Historically, schools endeavored to eradicate minority children’s culture and language while promoting the norms and values of the Anglo-American middle-class. Most Mexican-American students remain educationally disadvantaged because their home background and experiential base are substantially different from those of the middle-class Anglo student. Minority children tend to see little or no connection between what they learn in school and what they live at home.

If to survive in the Anglo-oriented school environment, the minority child is required to shed his home culture to assume the cultural characteristics demanded by the institution. Few can live with the internal conflict generated by two sets of incongruous values and mores. Unable to cope with the acute cultural dissonance that results, many escape the alienating school environment removing themselves first mentally and later physically.

A subtler form of cultural exclusion is curricular rigidity, or the removal of elements significant to the lives, expectations, experiences or values of Mexican-American children. When diverse cultural ideals and historically enriching knowledge are expunged from the curriculum, learning may become irrelevant to minority students. A personally unrewarding education marginalizes minority students nudging them closer to the dropout path. The cultural marginality of many Mexican Americans contributes to problems of self-identity while causing extreme self-derogation. Robbed of a positive self-concept, crucial to academic success, the Mexican-American student becomes educationally debilitated.

From the day he enters school, the Mexican-American student begins to lag behind academically. Taught exclusively in English while imparted a curriculum permeated with the ideals of middle-class Anglo culture, the Mexican-American student ceases to be an active learner. Eventually, if he sticks it out, he arrives at junior high school lagging two to three years behind. Striving to overcome the intense frustrations caused by a culturally antagonistic school system, marginal children tend to place great reliance on their ethnic peers for psychic support, value orientation and role identification. The effect of the peer ethnic group is often to undermine academic aspiration thus adversely affecting achievement.

Mexican-American educators and administrators who have experienced educational challenges similar to those of their disadvantaged charges have the potential of becoming powerful role models and agents of change. Lamentably, many have become status personalities who adhere strictly to institutional demands to advance their careers. Frequently, when confronted with minority students whose present economic and social condition is not unlike theirs once was, these individuals react defensively as if to escape the painful memory of their own prior status.

Often in the name of equality, well-meaning educators intensify their efforts to modify the minority child to fit the institution. Educators who see their role as getting their students from culturally and linguistically different backgrounds to replace their home language and culture with dominant Anglo values inadvertently foster academic failure and school dropouts.

One step toward promoting greater educational equity and reducing dropout rates among minority students is the use of culturally relevant curriculum materials. The extent to which students’ language and culture are incorporated into the educational program constitutes a significant predictor of academic success and an affirmation of minority students’ cultural identity.

High school seniors graduating in this global era need to have skills to be able to communicate across national borders and languages effectively. Being proficient in English and one or more other world languages will ensure high school graduates that are not merely career ready but truly prepared to contribute to the prosperity of their local community and our diverse state and nation as bilingual and bicultural professionals.

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Silvio Manno is a native of Italy who has been employed as a bilingual teacher at Rowell School in Fresno for the past 23 years. Silvio holds a B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in linguistics (ESL) from Fresno State. He has an

undergraduate degree from the Technical Institute of Tourism and Foreign Languages in Milan, Italy. Contact him at silviocarol1@sbcglobal.net.

Occupy Fresno: The End of Chapter 1

By Mike Bridges



Occupy Fresno started on Oct. 9, 2011. It started as a simple plan to utilize our rights that should be upheld by the Constitution. To peaceably assemble for redress of grievances with our government—but the establishment does not like to be challenged.

As with many other Occupy’s, we decided that we needed to locate ourselves in the presence of our elected officials. The rally on that first day started at the Federal Courthouse. It was decided by our first act of consensus to create a foothold for this movement dubbed Occupy Fresno. The group of 100+ marched a short distance down the street and spontaneously chose the location that we would Occupy 24/7 for the next eight months and counting. I doubt few people, if any, envisioned us holding on for this long.

Most people probably hoped that this much time wouldn’t have been necessary to start making change. We were a group of people who were already awake to the problems plaguing us but desperately needed a movement for correction. It was a group of activists, emerging activists and people who just wanted a better world. It was a beautiful and inspiring assembly of various ages and reasons for coming out.

We were evicted about a month after starting the vigil but chose to maintain our presence on the bordering sidewalk during closure hours. We were detoured, but not deterred. We stood for our rights participating in 105 acts of civil disobedience, some individuals as many as 6–8 times each. We do not think of ourselves as being arrested 105 times; we were kidnapped 105 times.

For the first two weeks, we had a permit. The first permit was running out and we were thinking about applying for another, but the county added a few extra restrictions. We as a group then came to consensus that we would no longer request a permit even if altered to its original form. We decided the U.S. Constitution was our permit and nowhere does it refer you to check with your local government to see what time or for how long you are permitted to redress your grievances, nor does it limit the number of grievances that you are to be allowed. It is a right not given to us, but belonging to all of the people and reaffirmed by our Constitution.

The law, however, says otherwise. It’s extremely unfortunate that peaceful people have been evicted all across the country. We have too many reasons to utilize our rights to assemble, in our own way, for as long as redress is needed.

There are many occasions when the 24/7 vigil becomes long and tedious. The lulls are periodically broken by a person or group of people walking or driving by. Sometimes hecklers and sometimes supporters. All too often, though people are apathetic to anything involving the government let alone some people that are protesting. We have also had some great visitors from other Occupy cities. The band Outernational has performed at Occupy Fresno twice.

But probably most important are the visitors that remind us of the importance of holding public space. It provides a single place that someone can go to unplug from the status quo and connect with the movement. These visitors may be random citizens, community volunteers or activists, and even a few government officials who have come by. We’ve met some inspiring people and have had many great conversations.

Not every Occupy has the ability to maintain a 24-hour presence. Those that have realize how inspiring and powerful it can be. Especially when combined with a large number of dedicated people. Here in Fresno we have lacked the numbers. We started large, but the winter, the presence of the sheriff’s deputies and the legal battles drove many away.

Even with the fewer numbers, we’ve maintained our presence while defeating two unconstitutional ordinances and voiding 105 arrests for charges that were never even filed. Some would say that is impressive and a victory. We say those were only hurdles to climb over and our most productive days are in front of us.

We need to find a way to get individuals and organizations involved that may not agree with everything Occupy Stands for. Even though we may not agree on some things, we need to put those aside and work together on topics we do agree on. Our future is not certain, but one thing is. We need more people from the community to get involved. More people like you.

The legal battle is over. The sheriff’s deputies no longer watch over us. It is time for Chapter 2. Occupy Fresno 2.0.

Occupy Fresno is located at 2201 Tulare St. in downtown Fresno.

For more information:

- Visit our Facebook page at OccupyFresnoCa.
- Visit our Web site at www.OccupyFresnoCA.com.
- E-mail us at OccupyFresno559@gmail.com.

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Mike Bridges has been involved with Occupy Fresno since Nov. 9, 2011, and has been arrested eight times standing up for his First Amendment rights. Contact him at occupyfresno559@gmail.com.



# Merced City Hall: Purple Collar Ceremony

By Sister Occupy

During our 24-hour occupation of City Hall prior to a May 21 Merced City Council meeting, we launched the church of OPDA UPRO. We watched the eclipse through a camera lens, and we set up our sacred ring of fire, using white paper bags with candles in them. And then I gave this speech:

We are gathered here to mark this date as the beginning of a new people's church. OPDA UPRO is a church of the Occupy movement: the Order of Perpetual Disruption of America until Progressive Reforms Occur. The mission of the church is to provide spiritual support to the Occupiers, physical support to the resistance movement and to reclaim religion for the 99%.

Brothers and Sisters of the Occupy know these things to be self-evident:

- One cannot claim to be religious and yet support the killing of mankind.
- One cannot claim to be religious and then stand in judgment over his fellow man in personal and family matters.
- One cannot claim to be religious, yet promote bigotry.
- One cannot claim to be religious and then act in opposition to Mother Earth, as she is part and parcel of God's gift of life to us.

One cannot claim to be religious and then support efforts to suppress workers' rights.

One cannot claim to be religious and ignore the homeless and hungry in their own town.

We of the church of OPDA UPRO believe in regulation of the banksters, not the vagina. We believe in justice, equality and an end to war and capital punishment. We believe in people before profits and the right of every citizen to live their lives with respect, for every citizen to have equal treatment and equal chances under the law. We believe people are not corporations and that the Supreme Court showed their complete contempt for the working class by ruling thusly.

With these purple collars, I bind you to the Church of OPDA UPRO. The color purple stands for love and suffering and signifies the sacrifices made by the Occupiers here and around the world, sacrifices made out of love for the people and the planet. This shade of purple, lavender, is the color of the resistance movement: It is the official color of Occupy Wall Street. It is the color you see when you melt the American flag.

The recipients of the purple collar made this pledge:

I honorably accept the Purple Collar of OPDA UPRO and promise to continue to devote my efforts to activism aimed at protecting and bettering the lives of the 99%. I promise to stand against war and capital punishment. I promise to stand for justice, equality and a representative democracy. I promise to engage in Citizen Watchdog activities to protect my people from a corrupted government. I promise to raise my children and grandchildren in the rich history and knowledge of successful activism and to teach them the high value of social reform. I promise to respect, protect and nurture Mother Earth. As a member of the Order of Perpetual Disruption of America, I am committed to peaceful revolution.

Eleven Mercedians and one minister from Mariposa took the pledge and received their purple collars that night. Twelve apostles. We've decided to be like the movement—a leaderless church. We've decided we can do this without God, and he's OK with that, on account of the fact that his name has been called upon to justify more bloodshed than can be traced or counted. We will, however, have patron saints, and these will be our forefathers in resistance and reform—like Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Florence Nightingale.

The Catholic bishops are behind the defunding of Planned Parenthood. Recently, the pope forgave all the pedophiles within the church, all of them, unilaterally, as if he had to do it the easiest way because his mistress was in bed waiting for him. Then he came out publicly against the nuns for spending too much time with the poor and not enough time fighting reproductive rights. I realized then that I had forgiven the leaders of my church too much, for too long. And yet they reach further. It's time for a new church and I will take away from the Catholics some of their rituals, but none of their darkness.

Sister Occupy (Christine Meensen) lives in Merced and is active in the Merced Occupy movement. Contact her at [anonymun99@gmail.com](mailto:anonymun99@gmail.com).



Sister Occupy and friends from Occupy Merced.

## Reefer Madness in NO Town

By Michael "Bud" Green

On June 21, the Fresno City Council voted 5-0 to approve a permanent ban on growing medical marijuana outdoors. The ordinance allows no outdoor marijuana cultivation of any kind within the city limits, just like the temporary bans that were passed in December and January. Enforcement will be handled through a civil injunctive process, with each day of noncompliance counting as a separate violation. Outdoor growers who defy the ban face possible fines and cost recovery for the city attorney's fees and investigative costs, which can easily total several thousand dollars.

Council members Blong Xiong, the acting president, Sal Quintero, Andreas Borgeas, Lee Brand and Larry Westerlund voted in favor of the permanent ban, which requires a second hearing before final adoption. Council President Clint Olivier, who voted against both of the temporary bans, was absent from the June 21 meeting, as was Council member Oliver Baines. The vote came after four people spoke against the ban: Dustin Frazier Lowery, Diane Valdovinos, Fresno attorney Brenda Linder and myself. One resident spoke in favor of the ban, which was introduced and promoted by the Fresno Police Department.

In April, I filed a lawsuit challenging the city's temporary ban, but a Fresno County Superior Court judge denied my request for a temporary restraining order. In May, the Fresno Planning Commission recommended the growing ban for City Council adoption on a 4-2 vote. Anticipating the city's action, I filed

extensive comments about specific elements of the ordinance and the process that was used to pass the urgency ordinances. Among the major points: Banning outdoor growing will increase indoor growing substantially, along with potential fire risks, home-invasion robberies, increased energy consumption and other environmental impacts related to that increase. Those comments are online at [www.fresnocannabis.org](http://www.fresnocannabis.org), along with the lawsuit and related documents.

Although the vote to approve the outdoor growing ban was expected, it was particularly untimely. Several key medical-marijuana cases are pending before the California Supreme Court. The court's rulings in future months could not only undo the city's growing ban but also its ban on medical marijuana collectives and dispensaries. As I told the City Council in June, the city needs a Plan B.

A comprehensive cannabis ordinance would govern cultivation by individual patients, both indoors and outdoors, and it would also set down rules for collective cultivation sites. Collectives are authorized in SB 420 to provide cannabis to patients who can't grow their own. Ban collectives, as the city and Fresno County have done, and an increase in home cultivation is inevitable, not just by lawful patients but also by illegal growers. Allow collectives to open, and many patients will choose not to grow at home, which in many cases might be the better choice for them and their neighbors.



The drug wars in Fresno are forcing most medical marijuana patients to purchase illicit pot because growing low cost "weed" in your own backyard is no longer an option.

State law provides for both indoor and outdoor cultivation, as well as cultivation by groups and individuals. The only remaining option in Fresno is indoor cultivation by individual patients, and those rights could be further curtailed in future months depending on the State Supreme Court's rulings.

Check for updates on the city's outdoor growing ban at [www.fresnocannabis.org](http://www.fresnocannabis.org).

Bud Green is the online persona for Michael S. Green, a Fresno native who tracks cannabis stories at [CalPotNews.com](http://CalPotNews.com). He is the executive director of the Fresno Cannabis Association.

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# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE



## México 2012: Elecciones por un cambio social y justo

Por Jesús Chucho Mendoza

México está que arde este verano y no me refiero a lo deportivo sino al ámbito político. Este 1ero de julio en México se llevarán a cabo sus elecciones presidenciales y se elegirá al próximo presidente o presidenta quien regirá por los siguientes seis años. Son cuatro los candidatos principales quienes se enfilan para el máximo puesto y son:

**Andrés Manuel López Obrador** es el candidato por parte del Partido Revolucionario Democrático (PRD) y del Movimiento Progresista. El ex-jefe de gobierno del Distrito Federal (DF) estará haciendo su segundo intento a la presidencia nacional después de que en las elecciones del 2006 perdiera por un medio punto de porcentaje (.56%) ante el hoy Presidente Felipe Calderón Fournier. Vale mencionar que López Obrador se negó a aceptar los resultados denunciando fraude electoral y su gente lo declaró “el presidente legítimo de México.” López Obrador es el candidato de la izquierda y cuenta con el apoyo popular y estudiantil. De hecho hay sondeos que lo colocan por encima de los otros candidatos y candidata. Será esta la buena para el PRD y la izquierda después de veintitrés años?

**Enrique Peña Nieto** representará a la coalición entre el Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) y el Partido Verde Ecologista de México (PVEM). Con Peña Nieto el PRI intenta darle una cara fresca a su partido y regresar al poder presidencial de México después de doce años de intentos fallidos. Vale señalar que Peña Nieto se perfila como el candidato de Televisa y ha contado con un enorme apoyo de difusión en sus medios de comunicación. De hecho algunos sondeos propulsados por esta empresa ponen muy por encima a Peña Nieto de su contrincante más cercano quien es López Obrador con más de diez puntos de ventaja; de acuerdo a expertos estos resultados son manipulados y exagerados. A Peña Nieto lo persiguen muchos cuestionamientos en relación a su pasado como ex-gobernador del Estado de México, así como su relación con Televisa y por igual en el cuestionamiento de la muerte de su ex-esposa. Por si esto fuera poco, a Peña Nieto se le critica y burla por ciertas declaraciones dadas en eventos y que han puesto en tela de juicio su capacidad para ser presidente. Podrá el PRI, Televisa y todo su poder llevar a Peña Nieto a la presidencia?

**Josefina Vázquez Mota** es la candidata del Partido de Acción Nacional (PAN) y es la primera mujer candidata que representará a uno de los partidos principales en las elecciones presidenciales mexicanas. Para su mala fortuna, Vázquez Mota ha sufrido algunos tropiezos en su campaña electoral este año donde ha tenido que cancelar algunos de sus eventos debido a manifestaciones en su contra. Esta candidata se postula como la candidata de las empresas y además tiene el apoyo del actual presidente mexicano ya que son del mismo partido. Algunas de sus declaraciones tampoco la han favorecido ante el público. Vázquez Mota ha mostrado su apoyo incondicional a las empresas y a la elite dado que promete reducir sus impuestos y proveerles mayores oportunidades a ellos y no tanto a la clase baja. La pregunta real para Vázquez Mota será relacionada a cuanto impacto tendrá su candidatura en decidir la presidencia a favor del PRD o del PRI?

**Gabriel Quadri de la Torre** representará al Partido de la Nueva Alianza (PANAL) y se hace llamar el mismo como el “candidato de los maestros.” Quadri de la Torre no cuenta con un apoyo popular significativo y por igual carece reconocimiento público en su trayectoria política. En los sondeos este candidato tiende a quedar en el último lugar con cifras muy bajas en comparación a las de sus oponentes. Entonces Quadri de la Torre no parece ser una serie amenaza para llegar a la presidencial. Es necesario mencionar que en esta campaña presidencial ninguna de los candidatos ha mencionado mucho la susodicha guerra contra el narcotráfico. Esta guerra que ya lleva cobrados a más de 60.000 muertos, a más de cuarenta mil desaparecidos y a más ocho mil huérfanos...y parece que esta “guerra” va para largo. Pero si se han tocado otros temas relacionados a la migración, la falta de empleos, a la educación, el crimen y entre otros temas relevantes.



Si de algo podemos estar seguros en estas elecciones es de que el voto tendrá un enorme movilización. De hecho, el Frente Indígena Oaxaqueño Binacional (FIOB) estará llevando organizando caravanas para ir a votar en Tijuana el día de la elección. Los puntos de partida serán en diferentes ciudades de California y Fresno está incluido. Si usted está interesado o interesada en ir a votar, por favor comuníquese a sus oficinas al 559-449-1178.

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Pare comunicarse con Jesús Chucho Mendoza: ome13@mail.fresnostate.edu



## El Acta de los Sueños “Obama”

El Presidente Obama anunció una iniciativa sobre inmigración que podría ayudar a más de 800,000 (algunos calculan hasta 1.5 millones) jóvenes indocumentados a evitar la deportación de los Estados Unidos.

**Detalles:** Permite dos años de “acción deferida” durante los cuales los quienes califican pueden aplicar por un permiso de trabajo, licencia de manejar, y tramitar otros documentos necesarios para la legalización. Esta iniciativa tiene sus límites.

**Requisitos para elegibilidad:**

- Haber entrado en los EE. UU. antes de cumplir los 16 años;
- Vivir en los EE. UU. un mínimo de 5 años;
- Sin antecedentes criminales;
- Menor de los 30 años;
- Estar inscrito o graduado de High School o,
- Estar inscrito en el servicio militar.

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## El Acta de la Confianza por Oday Guerrero

El Acta de la Confianza, una posible solución para los problemas causados por el programa Comunidades Seguras, fue pasado por el comité del senado sobre el seguro público el 12 de Junio del 2012 con un voto de 5-2. Esta legislación se va entregar a la comisión y después al suelo del senado si se aprueba. Si fuera pasar esta ley, las autoridades locales no tendrían que detener individuos por 48 horas si nunca cometieron un crimen serio. Esta ley iba regular el propósito de Comunidades Seguras S Com, que solo debería detener a individuos que han cometido crímenes severos. Hay muchas críticas sobre Comunidades Seguras por las deportaciones de miles de inmigrantes indocumentados y ciudadanos que nunca han sido condenados con crímenes serios o solo tienen delitos. Durante la audiencia preliminar, hubo varios testimonios incluyendo a una mujer que fue arrestada el año anterior por vender helados en las calles, y urgió que el estado tiene que ser el líder en la reforma migratoria.

## Cambio Demográfico: Arriban los Asiáticos

Los asiáticos han reemplazado a los latinos como el grupo más grande de nuevos inmigrantes. En el 2010, 36% de los nuevos inmigrantes fueron asiáticos y 31% fueron latinos, según el Pew Hispanic Center. Este descubrimiento da una nueva discusión sobre la inmigración, más asiáticos están viniendo a este país mientras la migración no autorizada de latinos está bajando en números. Si este rumbo continúa, asiáticos americanos van a tomar un papel significativo en influir a la sociedad y las elecciones estadounidenses.

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## Rapido y Furioso: Salió la bala por la culeta

Desde 2009 comenzó un operativo de la agencia AFI de los Estados Unidos para infiltrar armas a México con el supuesto fin de seguirlos y tal vez atrapar a los delincuentes. Casi de 2500 armas cayeron a manos de los narcos, y murieron más de 200 Mexicanos y algunos oficiales Americanos.