

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

The Voice of the Progressive Movement since 1996

SEPTEMBER 2012 • WWW.FRESNOALLIANCE.ORG

Will the  
**Community Alliance**  
survive another month?  
See page 3

**FREE!**

1 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE SEPTEMBER 2012



That is the power of love: LGBTQ activists and their straight allies held a rally last month in front of Chick-Fil-A to protest remarks made by S. Truett Cathy, the corporation's chairman and CEO, regarding marriage equality. Community Alliance writer Kaylia Metcalfe examines the reasons for and effectiveness of protests like this in her article on this page. Photo by Simone Whalen-Rhodes

## The Power of Protest

By Kaylia Metcalfe

*"One two three four, we won't take it anymore!"*

*"Gay Straight, Black White, Same Issues Same Fight!"*

Over the years, I have attended many rallies, public display protests, sit-ins, demonstrations and instances of activist civil disobedience. I have been interviewed and photographed by the press (radio, television and newspapers). I have been yelled at by the public and by cops. I have had things thrown at me, been insulted and been spit on.

And without fail, someone always comes up to me either during the activity or in the next week and asks me why I bother. What's the point?

Which are two very different things, but the answer to both questions boils down to "because I care enough to do something."

### Community Alliance at National Convention

The *Community Alliance* will have a reporter onsite at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., the first week of September. Michael Evans, who is on the *Community Alliance* Editorial Board and a frequent contributing writer, has received press credentials for the convention.

Because the timing of the convention, Sept. 3–6, does not allow for timely print coverage, Evans will report each day from the convention via a blog on the *Community Alliance* Web site ([www.fresnoalliance.com/2012dnc](http://www.fresnoalliance.com/2012dnc)).

Why I bother: I protest, attend rallies and willingly join in a community of like-minded upset individuals because I think it is important to do so. Because it can be fun. Because it can be comforting to see others who feel the same way. Because sometimes it works.

And that gets into the point—and in many cases that is the point. For most of the rallies and protests I have taken part in, the point is a combination of heightened awareness and call to action. Sometimes it is about education and team building. Sometimes the point is exposure, sometimes the point is simply to show that people care. And sometimes the point is to have an outlet for frustration, a way of feeling like you have done something, even if that something was just to be reminded that you are not alone.

And while public display protesting can be an important, some would say paramount, part of community building and exposure of the issues, sometimes we don't take part. Sometimes we want to hang back and wait. Sometimes our brain or our heart tells us we don't really have any control, that being visible and vocal won't make a difference but might be counterproductive. Sometimes we are out of town or can't afford to take time off work. Sometimes we are afraid.

Which is all understandable. But ultimately moot, because while it is true that making a scene can be a powerful tool, having a huge swell of support from our community alongside our straight allies can be a powerful tool, fighting fire with fire in

**Continued on page 11**

## It's No Longer Enough to Be Progressive

By Chip Ashley

On Sept. 16 (2 p.m.–4 p.m.), regional progressives will meet under a new name—the Progressive Network of Central California (PNCC)—at the Communications Workers of America (CWA) union hall at 4422 E. Ashlan Ave. in Fresno to kick off the 2012 elections.

The PNCC started on Oct. 1, 2011, when national radio commentator and author Jim Hightower spoke at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno. At this event, organized by Volunteers for Change–Fresno, Hightower inspired hundreds to believe anything was possible. Heck, it might even be fun. "Battling the bastards," Hightower said, "is about as much fun as you can have with your clothes on." It seemed true. We were happy as fleas at a dog show!

Almost a year of "battling the bastards" has taken its toll. The primary election last spring was disappointing. Attendance at PNCC meetings has gradually declined, and lots of us are probably remembering something else Hightower said: "Getting people together is harder than loading frogs in a wheelbarrow."

Well, maybe, but it's time to reenergize, jump back in the wheelbarrow and get to work. Hey! We have a choice (not!): We can stick together in our progressive wheelbarrow or become road kill.

Hightower spoke that day on "Strengthening Our Voice—Bringing Valley Progressives Together." The very fact that we were there—some 400 of us filling the UU Church sanctuary to capacity—proves that we can bring Valley progressives together.

Just imagine what progressives could do if we got all 400 of us (or more) back together in the progressive wheelbarrow to stay. Just think what we could do if regularly we all got out in the street or on the phone to get out the vote—and stuck with it, not just up to the election but afterward. That's what Sept. 16, 2012, is about.

Getting Hightower to Fresno in front of an excited audience of 400 proves we can accomplish great things. But success is going to take lots of hard work and sacrifice. As Hightower said as he quoted Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, "One should never wear one's best trousers when going fighting for freedom and truth."

Now all we've got to do is prove we are smarter than frogs—that we have brains enough to see the big picture and guts enough to get to work.

We've had successes. At the Fresno City Council, we protected the Sugar Pine Trail from encroachment. Many in the PNCC organized with other groups to convince the Fresno County Planning Commission to vote down the Cemex proposal to mine Jesse Morrow Mountain. We also organized with others to get the smart-growth 2025 Fresno City General Plan passed by the City Council. Neither of these last two victories is complete, and victory on these and other important issues will require sticking to it and sticking together.

Not only do we need to work hard to reelect President Obama, but we also have important local Congressional races. We need to work hard to protect unions from the deceptive union-busting Prop 32, and we need to protect public education by supporting Prop 30.

That's what Sept. 16 is all about—jumping back in that wheelbarrow together, putting on our work clothes and getting to work on making progress toward our goals of "economic fairness, social justice and equal opportunity for all people."

As Hightower puts it, "It's no longer enough to be progressive. We have to become aggressive again."

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**

P.O. Box 5077  
Fresno, CA 93755

Change service requested.

PRST STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fresno, CA  
Permit #02103



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Will This Be the Death of Occupy Fresno?**  
This for those who follow the Occupy movement and encampment in Fresno. In the beginning, our numbers at times were approximately 300. Our GAs [General Assemblies] were large and full of life, our bank protests were lively and robust. The local media was all over the place.

After the first 30 days, our permit expired. Shortly thereafter, the beginning of our 105 arrests began. Adrenaline and excitement ran high. We still had good media coverage both on TV news and in the newspapers. When it was by consensus that we stop being voluntarily kidnapped, media slowed but support was still high.

Our civil suit began and within a short period of time we received an unconstitutional ruling against the county of Fresno. The ordinance with regard to assembly was too restrictive. We then settled with the county, agreeing on an area of occupancy for the following year. Logistical support dropped for the encampment that still existed.

Fast forward 10 months. The encampment is still here, but there is little to no support. We are four barely supporting ourselves. We are approaching our first anniversary, but without support we may not make it.

How a movement with so much life in the beginning could shrivel up to a point that its existence could be placed upon four people to survive—this, I’m sorry to say, goes beyond my understanding. It’s time for those who wish for this movement and encampment to survive to stand up and be counted.

Without support from friends of Occupy, Occupy Fresno is dead. In order for us to keep going, we need donations of water, food, clothing, ice, tarps, tents and or cash donations to buy above said things and supplies. With love to all and blessings from God,  
*Richard “Patch” Day*  
*Occupy Fresno*

## Old School Support for the *Community Alliance*

Well, the first thing you might notice is that this letter is actually being typed. Do you remember that? Sure, it isn’t always perfect but then, what is? Actually, my interest in typing this letter was

inspired by reading the current issue of the *Community Alliance* while eating breakfast this morning. It was the story about Eugene Zumwalt and his “printing shop.” Yes, printing, the lost art. So I figured in this modern world, typing on my IBM Selectric II was the closest modern experience of printing.

There is something inherently satisfying about the “paper” newspaper experience. That’s what the *Community Alliance* does for me. Over the course of the month it takes me to make it from the front to the back, it accompanies me through various breakfasts, lunches and dinners. In fact, forensic analysis of the accumulated drips, splatters and stains might lead to a retroactive re-creation of my dietary patterns. Hmmm. I see some huckleberry jam stains from my toast this very morning.

So, yes I was inspired by Mr. Zumwalt’s printing history. In fact, I worry about history, I worry about history being lost because it is now recorded and stored on shiny metal and plastic discs

that may or may not be interpretable at some future date. And also because I say BRAVO to you, Mike Rhodes, for keeping the “paper” press alive. By coincidence, the other day I received a package and for packing material someone had folded up the *Funny Times*, also a devoutly paper—print publication (and pretty funny, too!).

Which gets me to the point of this letter: When I went to the mailbox the other day, I also noticed a flurry of fund-raising

requests from many of the major nonprofit organizations. All of them do good work, no doubt, and in the past, when things were a little more “flush” for me, I gave to all as generously as I could.

But then I looked at the print and ink of the *Community Alliance* and the *Funny Times*, and I thought to myself that what I should be doing is supporting these smaller but feisty independent entities that are working so hard to keep the concept of a free and independent press alive (because the editorial cartoons in the *Funny Times* speak loudly without words). Again, nothing against those major international and national organizations that are doing so much good on so many fronts. But they have a big infrastructure in place—and much of their outreach is all Web-based.

I’m going retro this year—not just typing but also shooting slide film for my photography. No Photoshop; no instant gratification. But, at least some sense of permanence.

See, I am starting to ramble—perhaps a drawback of old school

typing, it is not as easy to go back and make everything perfect through the editing process. But I hope to get my point across:

I truly appreciate the work Mike Rhodes and the team at the *Community Alliance* do. Of course, I don’t always agree with every perspective presented in the paper, but then who would want blind conformity and something that failed to challenge my assumptions? That’s part of the value of the paper. I do appreciate the diversity of viewpoints presented and the advocacy of items from the reportage.

Again, Mike, it is so heartwarming that you not only report on issues like homelessness but then take the next step and provide your readers with concrete actions they can support—and you take the lead by making those first steps yourself. Some may claim that advocacy then impairs the supposed “objectivity” of journalism. I say, it’s the necessary step that fulfills the journalist’s greater humanity. And it really inspires me.

That is why I am sending a renewal check for my subscription to the *Community Alliance*, whether it is due at this time or not. I am hoping others are so moved and that you receive the support you need to continue your good work.

On another front, I really don’t see Fresno having much to worry about from John Hutson and his nuclear ambitions. With the San Onofre nuclear plant in a free fall of its own making, the Alliance (ours) is now working (with a very forceful “we told you so”) in the legislature to make sure that all future energy plans consider the scenario of California without any reliance on nuclear power. The one and only piece of legislation this year that made any vague aspirations to promote nuclear power was “pulled from committee voluntarily by its author” because, like I said, with San Onofre going down, this is a bad year to say that nukes will save California. I’m pretty much guessing that Hutson is busy looking for his next scam!

OK, that’s it for a Saturday morning and the typewriter is starting to act up a little—might need an adjustment. Yeah, so much for the analog era! It keeps the servicemen busy!

Cheers and best wishes to you, our modern Thomas Paine!  
*David Weisman*  
*Morro Bay*

## Correction

In an article that I wrote, “The Final Battle to Save Wa-halish (Jesse Morrow Mountain),” [July 2012 *Community Alliance*] there was an error in the following sentence: “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?” The correct figure is \$4.5 million, not \$4.5 billion.

I simply misheard Commissioner [Ross] Borba’s words and thus misreported it. I discovered my error as I prepared to write a letter to Supervisor [Debbie] Poochigian and went back to the recording of the hearing to check the figures. The context showed that I had gotten the figures wrong.

My sincerest apologies to the Planning Commission, Commissioner Borba and anyone else who might have been confused by my error.  
*Chip Ashley*  
*Tollhouse*

## Prison System Punishes *Community Alliance* Writer By Mike Rhodes

Boston Woodard, who has been writing for the *Community Alliance* newspaper for the last seven-plus years, has been put in solitary confinement in a California state prison. This is not the first time this has happened. As Woodard exposes the conditions inside our state’s prisons, he himself has become a target for retaliation and abuse from those who fear what he has to say.

I have received several letters from Boston in the last month, and he wants readers to know that he is OK but unable to contribute an article this month. Being in “The Hole” is a horrendous experience of sensory deprivation that many human rights activists classify as torture.

Coincidentally, we received an article this month from Daniel Treglia (see page 22) in which he details his experience of living

in an isolation cell at Pelican Bay, a prison on the coast near the Oregon border. I encourage you to read his article.

I plan on attending a hearing in Sacramento on Sept. 20 at which I will demand Boston’s release from solitary confinement. Rather than being tortured for his telling us what is really going on inside the prison system, he should be rewarded for his bravery and ability to reach out from inside the prison walls and tell us the truth about what is going on.

If you have not purchased your copy of Boston’s book *Inside the Broken California Prison System*, now would be a good time to do that. It is one way you can protest this injustice and support Boston; his book is available from us for \$16.95 or you can get it at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Friday, November 16 • 7 p.m.**

**Agustin Lira, Patricia Wells,  
Jemmy Bluestein and more  
in a fall fund-raiser for  
the *Community Alliance*  
newspaper and KFCF 88.1 FM.**

**Unitarian Universalist Church,  
2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. For  
more info, call 559-978-4502.**

### Medicinal Cannabis Consultations

Dr. Marc Lasher



phone • 559-266-0444 • press 2

medical marijuana evaluations • recommendation letters  
home appointments

### McTeggart Irish Dancers



**Maureen Hall**, A.D.C.R.G., Director  
Performances - Competition - Travel

Classes for ages 6 and up  
Wednesdays, 6 p.m.  
Fig Garden Dance Studio  
4630 W. Jacquelyn, Fresno

**Contact Kevin Hall** - 559-301-5537





“Hey, if you aren’t doing anything wrong, you have nothing to worry about.” I hear that comment frequently from people defending the City of Fresno’s use of video surveillance. But I can’t help wonder what would happen if we took that remark and redirected it to those who are responsible for spying on us—what dark secrets lurk behind that brick wall?

The Fresno Police Department (FPD) started its video surveillance project in 2006 with approval and \$1.2 million from the City Council. At the time, the FPD agreed to develop a policy manual to guarantee our civil and human rights would not be violated. City Council member Jerry Duncan appointed me to the committee to help write the document.

I was concerned where this technology was going and encouraged the City Council to mandate the use of an auditor who would have access to the inner workings of the project and report on any new developments or problems, should they occur. What could go wrong? Well, I wanted to make sure that we would be informed if the FPD started using new technology, like infrared imaging that can see what you are doing inside your house.

Maybe you aren’t doing anything illegal in your house, but you probably do not want a police cadet watching your every move in the bedroom. Most of us would also be uncomfortable if we thought that police officers at River Park had cameras with the capability of looking through a young woman’s clothes as she walked through the mall. The City Council wisely agreed that we needed to monitor this project and included a requirement that it be audited annually.

Video surveillance technology is advancing so fast that what is being manufactured today was only dreamed about in 2006. Soon, biometrics and facial recognition technology will make it possible for the police to pick you out of a crowd, wherever you go. If you are a person of interest and you are out in public, this new technology can find, follow you around and have an officer pick you up. This is not such a bad thing if they are following a child molester, but what about a police officer who is having

“issues” with his girlfriend. Could this technology be used to stalk her, follow her everywhere, eliminating any presumption of privacy? How would we know if this was happening, if there was not someone auditing/overseeing the project?

Without safeguards in place, problems can and do occur. For example, in Washington, D.C., a police employee monitoring video surveillance cameras recorded video of a man entering a gay bar. Using police computers, the employee researched the license number of the car the man was driving and used the information to extort money from him. In London, an operator was caught selling voyeuristic videos from the cameras he was monitoring.

The cameras that have already been installed around town can also have a chilling effect on free speech. Is it just a coincidence that one of the cameras was installed right outside the door of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence? Does having the government watching volunteers and staff 24 hours a day bother anyone? Would you like to be under investigation because the police saw you attend a meeting at the FCNV? One of the issues raised in the policy manual was that law enforcement could not use the video surveillance equipment to spy on groups involved in constitutionally protected free speech activities. We will only know if our rights are being protected if we have access to information about how the equipment is being used.

Bill Simon is on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union and a member of the Chief’s Advisory Board (CAB). At the CAB meetings, Simon meets with Police Chief Jerry Dyer and other community members to talk about policing issues. Recently, Simon brought up the video surveillance project and asked if there had ever been an audit conducted, as mandated by the City Council. Dyer said “no” and mentioned something about a retired federal judge who was supposed to work on it but had dropped out for health reasons.

At the CAB meeting Simon said, “Studies show that bright lighting is more effective than cameras. If you want a picture of who mugged you, install a camera. If you don’t want to get mugged, install a bright light.” Simon said that Dyer and several others at the meeting nodded vigorously to second what he said. Dyer agreed, saying, “That’s true.”

I have asked FPD representatives repeatedly about whether there has ever been an audit of the video surveillance project. The answer is always the same, “We are working on it.” It has been five years, and there has been nobody checking behind the curtain to see what is going on.

Simon has been told that retired federal judge Oliver Wanger is willing to conduct the audit but so far, there is no time line for action. Should the FPD be accountable to the City Council and the community and provide us with the truth about what is being done with our tax dollars?

The *Community Alliance* newspaper supports government transparency. We would like to find out the following:

1. How much has the FPD spent on the video surveillance project so far?
2. The location and capability of all current video surveillance cameras.
3. What new (since 2006) video technology has been implemented?
4. What new technology is in the pipeline and is being considered for use in this community?
5. Is there any evidence that the FPD has used this technology to monitor community groups exercising their First Amendment rights?
6. Are the digital video archives being purged on a regular basis? How often?
7. The auditor is supposed to regularly monitor the use of the video surveillance equipment to guarantee that it is not being misused. If that has not been done in the past, how can you assure the community that no abuse has taken place? How will this project be monitored in the future?

Let’s remind those in charge of the video surveillance project that “if you aren’t doing anything wrong, you have nothing to worry about.” Because the FPD staff are public servants, we have a right to know what they are doing with our tax dollars. We have a right to know the conditions under which they are spying on us. Anything less than full transparency would be a dangerous and unwelcome step in the direction of a police state.

## Will the *Community Alliance* Survive Another Month?

**We certainly hope that the answer is yes, but our survival is in your hands. Last month, we put out a call for support and our readers responded generously, sending us more than \$8,000 in the first two weeks. That takes the pressure off for the next month or two, but longer term we need a more solid base of support. We are still cutting back on expenses, for example, we are printing 10,000 copies this month (instead of our usual 12,000), because we have to cut our expenses to match our income. If we had enough money, we could easily distribute 20,000 copies a month, getting our message of peace, social and economic justice into twice as many hands. If you are one of those who is always saying that progressives should stop just preaching to the choir, this is your chance to do something about it—your support does make a difference.**

**If everyone reading this newspaper subscribed (even at the low-income rate), our immediate financial troubles would be gone. If everyone subscribed at the regular rate (\$35 a year), we could triple our distribution. If all our readers subscribed at the regular rate and made an additional contribution, we might replace the *Fresno Bee* and become Fresno’s daily paper.**

**But seriously, if you appreciate the independent journalism this newspaper offers you each month, you need to show us your love. A subscription form is available below.**

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.

**EDITOR:**

Mike Rhodes

**EDITORIAL BOARD:**

Carol Bequette • Michael D. Evans  
Oday Guerrero • Pam Whalen • Luis Ojeda  
Richard Stone • Stan Santos  
Dan Yaseen • Al Williams

**LAYOUT/DESIGN:**

Tim Savage

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:**

Dan Yaseen 559-251-3361

**COPY EDITORS:**

Patty Bennett • Michael D. Evans

**PROOFREADER:**

Carol Bequette

**TO SUBSCRIBE:**

send \$35 (regular) or \$10 (low income) to  
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER  
P.O. BOX 5077  
Fresno, CA 93755

559-978-4502 (voice) • 559-226-3962 (fax)  
editor@fresnoalliance.com  
www.fresnoalliance.org

The *Community Alliance* newspaper reserves the right to edit all articles for space and clarity.  
The *Community Alliance* newspaper is printed on Recycled Paper.

### YES! I would like to subscribe to the *Community Alliance* newspaper:

☐ Enclosed is \$35 for a one-year subscription. ☐ I would like to be a monthly sustainer at the rate of \$\_\_\_\_\_ a month.

☐ Enclosed is \$10 for a one-year subscription (low-income option).

☐ Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_. I support alternative/independent media and want to see this publication survive.

Total amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Community Alliance, P.O. Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755



# Exonoree Says “Death to the Death Penalty”

By Richard Stone

Sabrina Butler has the dubious honor of being the only American female “exonoree”—a death row inmate who has later been found not guilty of the crime she was incarcerated for and released. Butler will be in Fresno on Sept. 14 to tell her story and to bring a message learned from her wrenching experiences. I spoke with her by phone from her native Mississippi where, she says, she has chosen to stay to demonstrate that “I have nothing to hide and nothing to run from.”

Butler’s story does not begin with the fateful night in 1990 when her infant son died and she was arrested for his murder. It begins for her as an unwanted child in a family unequipped to raise her, in a small town where Black folk weren’t much wanted in general. By the age of 14 she was pregnant and, as she puts it, “signed over” to a violent man to be his wife. By the age of 17, she was in a second abusive relationship, now with two children. She looks back at that part of her life as a virtual sleepwalk, and an important part of her mission now is to let young girls know their worth and agency, to not think of themselves as passive victims of circumstance as she did.

One night her baby couldn’t breathe, and able only to do what her unskilled, panicky reaction allowed, she tried to revive him. She called for help, but it was too late, and in examining the child, the emergency room medics found bruises and called in the police.

“From the first,” she says, “they just presumed I was an angry, uncaring mother. They never listened to me, being young and Black. The D.A. had just been elected and was out to prove he was tough and efficient. My state-appointed lawyer was mostly drunk and never really talked to me. He knew what he was being paid for—he did no research and wouldn’t put me on the stand. Really, there was no defense. The trial was handled so badly that afterward one of the jury gave back his paycheck in shame.

“At first, I couldn’t believe what was happening; it was like a nightmare that maybe I’d wake up from. Then somehow I was rescued. Two civil rights lawyers took on my appeal, Robert McDuff and Clyde Smith. To this day, I don’t know how they got involved.”

Gradually, they pieced together evidence to overthrow the verdict, including testimony from neighbors and medical experts to support Butler’s assertion that she’d been trying to help the child, not harm him. Also, with the encouragement of other inmates who roused her from depression and helplessness, she became active in her own defense and began doing research at the prison’s law library. She discovered, for one thing, that her attorney had a long history of failed defenses and reprimands. Her new defense team also found that the D.A. took the jury on a picnic even before the verdict was in and discovered 23 procedural violations.



**Sabrina Butler spent 33 months on death row for a crime she did not commit. She is the only woman in the United States exonerated after being sentenced to death row, and she will be in Fresno on Sept. 14.**

More than two years after being jailed, in 1992, Butler’s trial was overturned—but incredibly she was not released for another three years. And at that time (1995), Mississippi had no laws enabling compensation for false arrest or means to expunge false convictions; she still had a felony record. It has taken until 2012 for compensation and expungement to occur.

Butler comes to Fresno in large part to speak against the death penalty. She is living proof, as she understates it, that “the system can get it wrong.” She says, “Living under a death sentence can just sap your will; it’s like your life is already over... And I don’t know why they’re so eager to kill us. Even if you’re guilty, it doesn’t undo what’s been done, and it’s not our place to take lives, that’s the Lord’s work.”

Although Butler has emerged from her experiences as an empowered advocate for justice, and with the help of newfound religious conviction has overcome much of her bitterness, there is still unfinished business. “That D.A. who convicted me has never even apologized; all he says is that I fell through the cracks. And he’s still the D.A. there!”

She says, too, that the feeling of being so close to death never leaves, nor the fear that something dreadful can happen out of nowhere. “I still wake up most nights and have to get up to make sure everything’s all right, that nothing else is going to happen on my watch.”

Remarkably, Butler is now in a stable marriage of 17 years, with children ages 9 and 14. And her husband is an officer she met at the Rankin County Correctional Facility where she served time.

## Death Row Exonoree Visits Fresno

By Maria Telesco

Death row exonoree Sabrina Butler will visit Fresno on Sept. 14 to speak about her wrongful conviction and death sentence, time on death row and her struggle to be exonerated from a “crime” that never happened. She had been convicted of child abuse and murder for killing her infant son, when in fact the baby died of natural causes. After nearly six years in prison, she won her battle to save her life and return to freedom. Since then, she has dedicated her life to educating the public about our revengeful IN-justice system that condemns many innocent men and women to prison terms or even death for crimes they did not commit.

Butler will speak at the Cardinal Newman Hall on the campus of St. Paul Newman Center Catholic Church, 1572 E. Barstow Ave., across from Bulldog Stadium. The program will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

There will also be a discussion regarding Prop 34, a ballot measure that will end the death penalty in California, substituting instead life without the possibility of parole (LWOP).

The opening prayer and greeting will be given by Rev. Armando X. Ochoa, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno. Refreshments will be served. A free-will offering will be requested. Admission is free.

The event is sponsored by the Fresno Chapter of California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty (CPF) and the Peace and Social Justice Committee of the St. Paul Newman Center.

For more information, call 559-264-2934.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Maria Telesco is a retired registered nurse who has volunteered in various aspects of prison ministry for more than 25 years. Contact her at maria.telesco@sbcglobal.net.*

The diary she kept to maintain her sanity has been published as *Exonoree: The Sabrina Butler Story*.

Butler is a true survivor, who has gained strength from the ordeal she endured. We have a special opportunity to meet her and learn from on Sept. 14.

\*\*\*\*\*

*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.*

## Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

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

### The Valley’s Voice for Progressives

The CVPPAC’s November 6<sup>th</sup> Voting Recommendations as of 8/11/12:  
YES on State Props: 30, 34, 36, 37, & 40  
NO on State Props: 32 & 38; NO on County Measure O

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 4-6 pm FundRaiser; Meet & Greet Candidates for FUSD #2 & #5 + State Community College District #2 & #7. Music & light refreshments; Free to members, others \$20  
Location: 1785 W. Dovewood Lane, Fresno (SE of Browning & West)  
RSVP to (559) 435-1992
- Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:00 pm; Members-Only Candidate Endorsement Meeting (+ Remaining Props.) @ FCNV (1584 N. Van Ness Avenue [SE corner @ McKinley]).
- Members may renew or join at the FundRaiser or the Endorsement Meeting. For membership information, go to [www.cvppac.org](http://www.cvppac.org).

## SINGING WORKSHOP SERIES TALLERES DE CANTO



### Mondays - Cada Lunes @

Community Center for Arts & Technology  
1611 E Street, Fresno CA 93706  
Cost(o): sliding scale/según ingresos \$10 - \$0  
(559) 485-8558 [teatrodelatierra2010@gmail.com](mailto:teatrodelatierra2010@gmail.com)  
[www.teatrodelatierra.net](http://www.teatrodelatierra.net) ccat.com

Latin American Folklore/Folklor, New Song/Nuevo Canto, and more.  
lead instructor: Patricia Wells Solórzano

6 weeks: Sept 10th, 17th, 24th, Oct 1st, 8th, & 15th  
@5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Ages 8 thru 12  
@6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ages 13 thru adults & seniors

All classes bi-lingual Spanish & English

sponsored by Teatro de la Tierra, ACTA LCG prog, CCAT, UU, FCNV, & CBDIO - GRACIAS!!



# Fresno City Council Takes Next Step Toward Privatizing Residential Garbage Collection

By Stan Santos

On Aug. 16, the Fresno City Council approved a motion to hire a consultant, identified as Robert Hilton, to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) that would open residential garbage collection for bids from private contractors.

As stated by City Attorney James Sanchez, “The matter before you tonight is to consider approval of a consultant agreement to develop a process for proposals to perform the residential solid waste collection. So, this would be the first step of a process, and obviously there are policy considerations on both sides for the Council, but approval today does not bind the Council to grant a franchise ultimately.”

The supporters of the city’s Solid Waste Division were headed by Mario Navarro, Fresno City Employees Association (FCEA) Executive Board member, who presented a persuasive Power-Point presentation that cited many of the negative effects of privatizing waste collection, including the following:

- Higher trash rates to maximize profits
- No accountability to the citizens of Fresno
- Inferior customer service and quality of service
- Deferred maintenance of equipment leading to interruption of service
- Elimination of yearly community cleanup program
- Additional costs to senior, disabled and handicapped customers due to special handling service

Navarro also highlighted the many plusses of the City of Fresno Solid Waste Division, including the following:

- One of the lowest trash rates in California
- No additional costs for special handling services
- Yearly community cleanup program
- Customer accountability by elected officials
- Ranked No. 1 in the nation for recycling (although no longer considered so because franchising of commercial waste has caused reduced recycling and is the object of a lawsuit by Sunset Waste)

Navarro presented a comparison table with 10 cities, including several in the Central Valley, that own their trash utility and 10 entities that have privatized trash collection. In most cases, the difference in rates was twice as much for residents of privatized garbage collection. He challenged members of the City Council to find 10 cities that have privatized waste collection for five years or more and have lower rates than the City of Fresno currently has.

Rates of Cities That Do Own Their Trash Collection		Rates of Entities That Have Privatized Trash Collection	
City	Rate	City	Rate
Fresno	25.37	Fresno County	35.36
Bakersfield	25.60	Castro Valley	76.45
Brentwood	40.52	Cupertino	64.83
Clovis	33.32	Daly City	73.00
Merced	31.22	Fremont	45.27
Redding	20.85	Oakland	94.00
Sacramento	36.97	Palo Alto	101.76
Santa Barbara	37.01	Redwood City	78.70
Tulare	20.30	San Jose	94.20
Visalia	27.85	San Mateo	60.54

He also cited two addresses directly across the street from each other on Clinton Avenue: one is in the city and pays \$16.51 per month for waste collection and the other is in the county and pays \$35.36 per month to Allied Waste. He suggested that aside from the difference in standard collection fees, the City of Fresno offers senior citizen discounts, whereas Allied Waste offers none.

In regard to “private for profit” collection, Navarro cited a report by HF8 Consultants, which projected a short-term dip in rates to be followed by a 3% increase within five years and a 6% increase after that. After 10 years, rates would increase 45%.

As for “public no profit” collection, the Utility Advisory Committee and the R3 Consulting Group projected a 3% decrease for the next five years, reaching a total rate decrease of 15% and beyond within 10 years. In fact, the 3% decrease should have taken effect this year, however, according to Navarro, the mayor did not present this to the City Council for a vote.

Another slide showed alleged campaign contributions made since 2008 by Republic Services, Mid Valley Disposal and West Coast Waste Company totaling \$6,400 to City Council member Lee Brand and \$11,500 to City Council member Andreas Borgeas. The obvious point was that these contributions created a conflict of interest, and in the eyes of many audience members, the Council members had “sold their vote.” At a minimum, it created the appearance of inappropriate influence by the private trash haulers.

The presentation by the FCEA was followed by strong statements from Marina Magdaleno, business representative for Operating Engineers Local 39, and Dee Barnes, president of the FCEA. Magdaleno said she was “appalled by Lee Brand and Andreas Borgeas, who sold their vote for \$11,500 and \$6,000 plus.” She went on to cite specific discrepancies in the current proposal, as well as the privatization of the commercial garbage collection. Barnes cited a letter sent to the city clerk and challenged the Council members regarding the consultant’s report in regard to costs to consumers as well as the city. She also expressed similar concerns over the sale of city equipment to private haulers.

Vehicle Cost versus Sale Price				
Vehicles	Year	Age	Cost	Sale Price
1	2011	6 mos.	\$275,448	\$56,336
2	2011	8 mos.	\$258,012	\$62,000
8	2009	2 yrs.	\$258,012	\$56,000–\$62,000
5	2007	4 yrs.	\$230,000	\$56,000–\$62,000
3	2006	5 yrs.	\$223,552	\$56,000–\$62,000
9	2005	6 yrs.	\$217,038	\$56,000–\$62,000
11	2004	7 yrs.	\$199,263	\$56,000–\$62,000
Vehicle: 4 axle LNG front loader			Source: FCEA	

The most glaring discrepancies are the 2011 models, with bare months of service, which were sold for less than 25% of their purchase price. The total balance sheet of city-owned vehicles turned over to private haulers would show a huge net loss if not for the practice of placing a net book value of zero for almost all the vehicles purchased through 2008. However, if you separate the 2007–2011 models, a total of 13 vehicles, the total net book value exceeds \$1.9 million, yet they were sold for \$769,874, or a loss of more than \$1.2 million. Was this the result of standard or “creative” accounting practices?

These statements were followed by a dozen more from members of the audience hitting the Council with valid observations and criticisms of the process and reinforcing the need to take the issue to the electorate. Of the 60–80 members of the community who were present at different times, not one spoke in favor of the motion.

## Council Member Quintero Pushes Back

Before the Council undertook the agenda item, Sal Quintero made a bold move and opened discussion on an option to take the issue to the voters. He thanked members of the community for sharing their thoughts and went on to state that he had been approached by many constituents who are concerned with the economy and that “even 10 dollars more a month; that can drive a family over the edge, as far as I’m concerned. With people watching all their pennies and that type of thing, it’s difficult.”

Reading from his prepared statement, he said, “To me, this is something that will affect every single resident within the city and I would like to let the people decide whether we should pursue this or not.” After acknowledging the upcoming county vote on a similar issue, he concluded, “I feel we should let the public decide if the privatization is something that should be pursued or not.”

He asked for assistance from the city attorney in clarifying the wording of his motion and received a second from Council Member Oliver Baines. Despite several points of clarification and process by the city attorney, Borgeas committed an embarrassing gaffe when he persisted in discussing the RFP. He stated in a dismissive tone, “For purposes, we are not limited to discussing Member Quintero’s ‘thing’; we are going into the substance of the contract.”

Council President Clint Olivier interrupted him stating, “The city attorney just said that we need to keep them separate and do one motion at a time, so since there is a motion on the table right now, the discussion has moved to the process motion.”

Undaunted, Borgeas went on to ask, “Sal, can you restate what the motion is?” After an additional brief explanation by the city attorney, he said, “I’m prepared to vote if my colleagues don’t have anything to say.”

Olivier restated, “The motion is to have the city attorney go and to prepare language on taking the issue of privatization out to the voters in a future election.”

## Conclusion and the Road Ahead

This simple motion by Quintero was a courageous act, one which the community will certainly remember, despite the outcome. The votes lined up as they would for the later motion on the RFP: Council Members Quintero, Baines and Blong Xiong demonstrated their support of the workers and community in

the face of the bare majority represented by Olivier, Borgeas, Larry Westerlund and Brand.

The arrogant attitude of Borgeas represents both the injustice in the process and the reasons for the community’s resistance. It is clear that this proposal has a predetermined outcome, regardless of the concerns voiced by the community or the need for transparency and equity.

Consolidation of city services and departments, such as the police and the sheriff’s office, was one alternative that many feel has not been thoroughly discussed, if considered at all. This was raised by Baines, who also brought up other options, including franchising electricity lines and charging banks for foreclosures that cause blight and require city services. He even suggested a public safety tax. He concluded saying, “Before I am ready to have this discussion, before we in essence cannibalize one of our successful city departments, we need to look everywhere else, we need to operate more efficiently and we need to have a truthful conversation about what a fee and a tax is and where we need to be looking for a savings.”

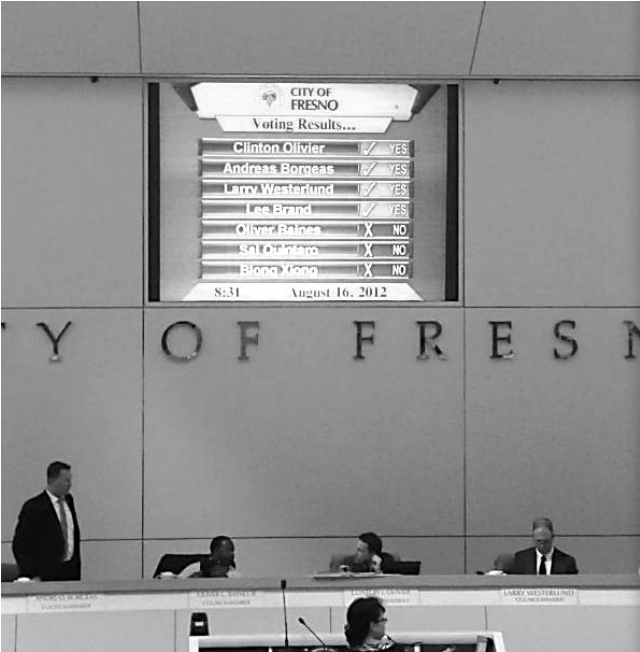
Another observation that received no response from the Council was Ordinance 2012-14, which authorized “the levy and collection of a property tax on taxable property in the City of Fresno for partial funding of the Fresno Fire and Police Retirement System and the Fresno City Employees’ Retirement System for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.” This ordinance was signed by Mayor Ashley Swearingen on July 3, 2012, but has not been referenced in the discussion of the current privatization push.

If this was an option for resolving retirement fund deficits, would a similar initiative not be worth considering in order to alleviate cutbacks in city services, rate hikes and the loss of 173 jobs? On the other hand, is the goal of this initiative really to save money? Or is it part of the nationwide push by conservatives to shrink government, give private enterprise free rein and weaken their greatest opponent: labor unions?

For more information regarding this issue and to sign an online petition in support of city workers, visit [www.fresnotrashscam.com](http://www.fresnotrashscam.com).


\*\*\*\*\*

*Stan Santos is an activist in the labor and immigrant community. Contact him at [ssantos@cwa9408.org](mailto:ssantos@cwa9408.org).*



**Privatization, deregulation and reducing the size of government is the mantra of the right wing today. In this vote, Republican Mayor Ashley Swearengin and a conservative majority on the Fresno City Council pushed their agenda forward by approving funding for a consultant to look into privatizing city residential sanitation workers.**

**POPPY LANE PUBLISHING**



*Elizabeth Peterson*  
(559) 299-4639  
E-mail: [Bette1234@aol.com](mailto:Bette1234@aol.com)  
Fax: (559) 299-4639  
[www.poppylane.com](http://www.poppylane.com)

POST OFFICE BOX 5136  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93755



**PATIENCE MILROD**

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844  
North Van Ness  
Fresno, California  
93728  
559/ 442-3111  
[pm@patencemilrod.com](mailto:pm@patencemilrod.com)



# Scorched Earth Policy

By Mike Rhodes

Last month, the City of Fresno destroyed a long established growth of oleander bushes to remove a couple of dozen homeless people from their encampment on Weber Avenue, between Olive and Belmont avenues. The oleanders provided some beauty for drivers and a haven for the homeless from the scorching temperatures that went significantly above 100 degrees for much of August. Without shade, homeless residents were forced to move to other locations, where they will stay until they are forced to “move on” again.

Several homeless advocates were on Weber Avenue to witness the demolition and asked the question “if not here, where?” Advocates are demanding safe and legal campsites for the homeless.

This demolition was followed by the removal of homeless encampments under and around the Monterey Bridge a couple of weeks before. The city spent about \$1 million to remove the homeless and destroy the bridge. What will be left at that location is a weed-infested vacant lot that will likely be fenced in so the homeless can't live there.

Most of the homeless in Fresno have no safe and legal place to live because there are far fewer shelter beds than are needed. The inevitable result is that homeless people sleep on sidewalks,

behind oleander bushes and anywhere else they can find.

After the City of Fresno destroyed all of the major homeless encampments in downtown Fresno in October and November of last year, those displaced have tried to find new places to live. The city continued a campaign of harassment for a month or two, chasing people from one sidewalk to the next and then in January 2012 seemed to back off. Now, it is on the attack again striking at one encampment after another.

The question the homeless would like to know is “where can we go?” Without a safe and legal place to live (preferably one that provides basic public services like drinking water, trash pickup and a toilet), this pattern of abuse and destruction will likely continue.

If you are tired of the city's current policy on homelessness, contact City Hall. Contact information is at [www.fresno.gov/](http://www.fresno.gov/). For background information about the homeless situation in



**City of Fresno bulldozers destroyed all of the oleander bushes on Weber between Olive and Belmont avenues in an attempt to force one or two dozen homeless people to move on. Wherever these homeless people go, they will need a safe and legal place to live where they have access to drinking water, toilets and trash service.**

Fresno, see <http://fresnoalliance.com/wordpress/?p=1313>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

# McKinney-Vento Turns 25 and Homelessness Continues to Grow

By Paul Boden

Passed in 1987, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was intended to address the emergency needs of homeless people while the federal government worked to restore the funding that had been cut from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) affordable housing programs.

But it didn't work that way. McKinney-Vento has spawned an array of continuum-of-care plans, five-year plans, 10-year plans—an endless system of writing, planning and researching which “best practices” should be used to end homelessness. At the same time, the federal government has continued to defund, dismantle and sell off affordable housing units, thus ensuring that more and more people become homeless. Since 1995, 360,000 Section 8 and 210,000 public housing units have been lost. It is a shameful trade that robs Peter to pay Paul.

McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs have increasingly become a catchall system for people who were once permanently housed by mainstream federal programs such as HUD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Yet even as affordable housing has been decimated (more than 800,000 units lost in 25 years), eligibility criteria for McKinney-Vento homeless assistance have been tightened.

And to add insult to injury, we are seeing a massive PR campaign by federal agencies such as HUD and the Interagency Council on Homelessness to convince everyone—or perhaps to convince themselves—that with just the right coordination, facilitation and cooperation, they will actually end homelessness. This is self-deception. Anyone who has done the math would know. The ongoing new guidelines, new initiatives and newly named target populations suggest that people overseeing this system clearly know it is not working.

To provide a context: In the 25 years since McKinney-Vento passed in July 1987, two major events severely affected the numbers of poor people finding themselves homeless.



**Homeless advocate Nancy Waidtlow protests the scorched earth policy of the City of Fresno by asking where the homeless are supposed to go. Waidtlow has bought property and a house to give some of Fresno's homeless a safe and legal**

The first was the Contract with America during the Clinton administration when in 1998 the Housing Act of 1937 was changed from “remedy...acute shortage of decent, safe and sanitary dwellings” to declaring that “the federal government cannot...provide housing of every American, or even the majority of its citizens.”

The second was in 2009, the last time McKinney-Vento was reauthorized in Congress. Renamed the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, it instructed HUD to create a new bureaucratic definition of who is *homeless*. By implicitly admitting that the McKinney-Vento model has no chance of stopping the growing wave of homeless people, the HEARTH Act instead redefined *homelessness* out of

existence for thousands of families and people without homes. A 105-page HUD memorandum describes who is homeless and establishes welfare-oriented criteria that determine who will qualify. It is particularly hard on families who live doubled up, tripled up or in single-room occupancies (SROs).

Advocacy organizations—be they local, statewide or national—that continue to focus on McKinney-Vento will never be the catalysts of change that we need. Their funding is too contingent on being seen as legitimate by whatever administration is in power, a dependence that moves those in power even further away from the actual lives and experiences of poor and homeless people.

Consulting and research firms have probably benefited the most from McKinney-Vento funding because HUD bureaucrats like justifying their proposals by paying researchers. We need no further consulting or research to understand the direct and obvious correlation between massive affordable housing cuts since 1978, the opening of emergency shelters in the early 1980s, and the continued and growing existence of homelessness today.


In 2006 and updated in 2010, the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) issued a carefully researched analysis on the systemic causes of homelessness called *Without Housing*. Other studies and research done on homelessness must have been able to gather the same information. Had they looked closely at the underlying cause-and-effect issues connected with massive numbers of people without housing, they should have been able to connect the dots. But they seem not to have looked. It's not a difficult correlation, but the dots have been left unconnected.

We need to be honest: Too many organizations and departments, in and out of government, turn away from the simple connection between the absence of affordable housing (cause) and the increasing numbers of homeless people (effect). No amount of coordination or redefinition is going to end homelessness. McKinney-Vento was created to address the effects of homelessness, and it is time for HUD and the USDA to step up and address the cause of homelessness.

If the past 25 years have taught us anything, it is that nothing ends homelessness like a home.

\*\*\*\*\*

Paul Boden is the organizing director of the Western Regional Advocacy Project. Learn more about the project at [www.wraphome.org](http://www.wraphome.org). Contact Paul at [wrap@wraphome.org](mailto:wrap@wraphome.org).



**KRATZER**  
PEDIATRICS

James Kratzer, M.D.  
Mary Graves, PNP  
Debra Piedrafita, FNP

7011 N. Howard Street, Suite 202  
Fresno, CA 93720 • Tel. 559-438-4100

**Editor • Researcher**  
**Thesis • Dissertation**  
for my resume, contact  
**Mike Starry**  
**[jmstarry@comcast.net](mailto:jmstarry@comcast.net)**  
**559-227-9147**

**JOLLEY SMITH LAW OFFICE**

**C. Jolley Smith**  
Attorney/Broker

1265 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 100  
Fresno Ca, 93711  
(559) 320-7028  
FAX: (559) 210-0111

Email: [jolleysmith@gmail.com](mailto:jolleysmith@gmail.com)



**Nature's Nutrients**  
LIZ HERZOG  
Vitamins & Herbs

2047 W. Bullard Ave. Ste. A  
Fresno, CA 93711  
559.432.1424

Free Delivery  
Holistic Health Consultants  
Non Medical  
[www.naturesnutrientsllc.com](http://www.naturesnutrientsllc.com)



**TENANTS TOGETHER**  
California's  
Statewide Organization  
for Renters' Rights

Fresno tenants: protect & expand your rights!

Join a Tenant Action Group today.  
CONTACT 888.495.8020 or [tag@tenantstogether.org](mailto:tag@tenantstogether.org)

[www.tenantstogether.org](http://www.tenantstogether.org)



# Momentum Grows for Renters' Rights in Fresno

By Leah Simon-Weisberg

More than 50% of the residents of Fresno are tenants. This silent majority is about to make some noise.

Tenants Together, California's statewide organization for renters' rights, is working with Fresno tenants to organize and assert their rights to safe, decent and affordable rental housing. The organization has been working in the Central Valley for nearly five years and has a growing base of members.

"We are appalled by the living conditions Fresno tenants are forced to endure," commented Dean Preston, executive director of Tenants Together. "Our message to Fresno's bad landlords is simple: Clean up your act. If you don't, we'll use every tool at our disposal to hold you accountable and protect and empower Fresno tenants."

There are signs of progress. Elaine Robles-McGraw has taken over as community revitalization division manager placing her in charge of code enforcement for the entire City of Fresno. Robles-McGraw has deep ties to the community. We are hopeful that under her leadership she will ensure that the quality of Fresno's rental housing will improve and slumlords will be forced to comply with code requirements for safe, habitable housing.

Assessor/Recorder Paul Dictos, CPA, recently unveiled a new outreach program for tenants and homeowners in properties facing foreclosure. Tenants Together applauds Dictos' efforts and is proud to have worked with the assessor/recorder to make sure tenants know their rights before banks and investors take



July Fresno Tenants Together Meet-Up

over at foreclosure. Educational letters from Dictos started going out in August.

Meanwhile, Tenants Together has stepped up its efforts to educate and empower Fresno renters. Tenants Together has been holding monthly Fresno meet-ups at which tenants can learn about their rights and how to get involved. The meet-ups include a legal clinic, spearheaded by legal director Leah Simon-Weisberg, where tenants can get advice from a lawyer about their rights.

At the July Fresno Tenants Together meet-up, attendees learned about strategies to get necessary repairs completed by their landlord. A code enforcement officer from the City of Fresno Community Revitalization Division spoke about the role of his office. Tenants learned more about the process and how to more effectively work with the City of Fresno to improve their living conditions.

Merced renters came to update Fresno renters on the battle over the just cause for eviction law, reflected in an emerging regional tenant rights movement. Merced Tenants Together members in 2011 successfully advocated for a just cause for eviction law to protect renters from eviction from foreclosed properties. This was the region's first local tenant protection law. In a recent referendum effort to save the law from repeal, more registered Merced voters signed a petition to preserve the law than voted to elect Merced's current, right-wing mayor. Clearly, renters have become a force to be reckoned with in the Central Valley.

Fresno members of Tenants Together are discussing next steps for Fresno. All tenants are welcome to attend the monthly meet-ups. They take place the second Thursday of every month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.tenants-together.org/fresno](http://www.tenants-together.org/fresno). If you have questions about your rights as a tenant, call the Tenants Together hotline at 1-888-495-8020.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Leah Simon-Weisberg is the legal director of Tenants Together. Tenants Together is California's statewide organization for renters' rights.*

## Continuing Saga of "Just Cause for Evictions" in Merced

By Susan Bouscaren

As detailed in the last issue of the *Community Alliance*, the new realtor- and bank-influenced City Council of Merced voted to repeal the Just Cause for Evictions ordinance on May 21, 2012. This ordinance had been approved in late 2011 by the outgoing City Council.

The measure was introduced to protect renters who through no fault of their own face eviction when their home is foreclosed upon due to the owner defaulting on payments. In the first three months of its existence, the measure aided 90 families who would otherwise have been forced to vacate the properties.

In an unprecedented move, renters, Occupy Merced activists and other concerned citizens launched a referendum campaign to garner signatures from 10% of those eligible to vote in the last city election. Their purpose was to force the City Council to reconsider and modify its decision or to force the matter into a public election through the referendum process.

The race was on to get 2,949 signatures within 30 days. Nearly 4,000 signatures were acquired and turned in on July 5 of this year. But that was not the end. The City Council met in a special session just to go forward and give the news about the validation of the signatures on the petitions.

The county recorder agreed with the statewide tenants rights group, Tenants Together, to validate the first 500 signatures and if there were not enough to qualify it for referendum, Tenants Together would be allowed to watch the remainder of the validation and double check the results. In mid-August, the president of Tenants Together was called and informed that the



Tenants Together members and signature gatherers turned in the referendum request to the city administration office.

500 would be the only count and that the petition did not qualify. No validating the remaining signatures. That's it.

The four members of the Merced City Council who voted for the repeal (Tony Dorsetti, Mike Murphy, Mayor Stan Thurston and Josh Pedrozo) caved to the people who financed their campaigns. Sound familiar? Yes, it's being done all over this country, and it can happen anytime, anywhere.

The petitioners are not through yet; they are just figuring out the next step. Be wary and watchful everyone. These concerned citizens thought they were doing something good for a city that has been bought up by large investors and banks during this

foreclosure crisis and has a 60% renter community.

Well there is a moral to this story. You will not be a qualified voter if you have moved and still vote at your old polling place. You will not be a qualified voter if they cannot read your name. You will not be a qualified voter if you have changed your signature. And you will not be a qualified voter if they spelled your name wrong in their database. In other words, they can disqualify you from any petition or not count your vote any time they want.

What will happen next? Well, most of Occupy Merced is still in the struggle, waiting to find out if the count for the sample is correct. A tenants association will also be forming for Merced, joining Tenants Together as a local chapter. That decision was made on Aug. 7, and the fight for justice for those who are afraid to stand alone, or are not sure of the road to pursue, will continue. But to be the most effective, additional voices are needed. Numbers are the most effective way to fight dirty politics. Why do you think the government is so scared of the Occupy movement?

Merced's concerned citizens have not been in this fight alone. The support of some special nonprofit groups such as Central California Journey for Justice and the Merced Organizing Project has been critical. Thank you. And thank you to the three Merced City Council members who never wavered in their decision: Mayor Pro Tem Noah Lor, Mary-Michal Rawling and Bill Blake.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Susan Bouscaren is a member of Occupy Merced, Tenants Together and Merced Prison Reform Advocates. Contact her at [suebatlunch@att.net](mailto:suebatlunch@att.net).*



A "Fire Dyer" rally was held on Aug. 1 to mark Fresno Police Department (FPD) Chief Jerry Dyer's 11th year. According to a press release from the Brown Berets, the group that organized this event, victims of police harassment and brutality, allies, friends and families are calling for a complete restructuring of the FPD's practices and procedures. Their statement said that they are demanding the immediate firing or retirement of Dyer for "continuously violating the rights of and terrorizing the community of Fresno. Jerry Dyer has personally created an institution that encourages racism and sexism to run rampant with no consequences at all; racism and sexism that both himself and his officers have perpetuated."

The rally took place in front of police headquarters on the Mariposa Mall in downtown Fresno. According to the Brown Berets' press statement:

Since August 2001, there have been over 50 individuals fatally shot by on duty police officers that could have been avoided if the procedures and practices of FPD, under the leadership of Dyer, would have changed sooner than later. Additionally, most of those officers involved in the shootings are repeat shooters and are still on duty, 25 to be exact, according to investigative reporter Ali Winston (Fresno Cops Involved in Repeat Shootings Still on Duty, Colorlines, April 26, 2010). There have been no serious consequences for Jerry Dyer's gross lack of leadership which is reflected by the lack of respect shown by his officers to the community of Fresno, in particular low income people and people of color. This has to stop and firing Dyer is the first of many steps.



# Community Group Advocates Recall of Tony Vang

By Mai Summer Vue

The Community United for Education Justice (CUEJ) held a press conference on Aug. 8 to announce a recall campaign of Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) Trustee Tony Vang. Vang currently serves Trustee Area 4, which is primarily the McLane High School area.

“It is sad, shameful and disappointing that we have to go down this road of recall,” said Mai Summer Vue, an organizer of the press conference. “Vang’s action is unlawful, and he has not served the parents and children in his district.”

Attended by more than 20 members of the community, the press conference was particularly notable for Vue and Eva Ruiz, who have been rivals for the presidency of the Fresno Teachers Association (FTA), standing side-by-side in their call for Vang to resign or be recalled.

In a press release submitted before the press conference, the CUEJ noted the following:

- It has been nearly three months since the *Fresno Bee* revealed that Vang did not live in the trustee area he represents, a violation that requires him to step down from his position.
- The evidence that Vang moved out of the McLane area seven years ago is overwhelming.
- Vang bought a \$400,000 house on Goshen Avenue, which is in the Clovis Unified School District, in 2005. He

- purchased the house and signed bank and property records stating that this house was his primary residence.
- Neighbors have told the *Fresno Bee* that Vang has resided in the Goshen Avenue house with his wife and daughter for seven years.
- Vang has voted in several elections using the Goshen Avenue address.
- When Vang registered his daughter at St. Anthony’s Catholic school, he used the Goshen Avenue address.
- When Vang received a traffic ticket and had to register for traffic school, he used the Goshen Avenue address.
- When a *Fresno Bee* reporter visited the Goshen Avenue house during that newspaper’s initial investigation of Vang, it was Vang himself who answered the door.

The CUEJ also alleges an official cover-up by FUSD Superintendent Michael Hanson. The group contends that the FUSD, under the direction of Hanson, has spent taxpayer money and district resources putting forward an elaborate ruse that Vang still lives in the McLane area and was the victim of the nation’s foreclosure crisis. In its official account, the FUSD did not even mention that Vang had purchased the Goshen Avenue home in 2005—a residence that was not only outside his trustee area but also outside the FUSD.

Vang is being asked to step down “because he is illegally representing our community,” according to Javier Guzman, who

serves on the Diversity Committee of the State First 5 Commission. “This situation cannot be tolerated by those of us who care about open and honest government.”

Rev. Floyd Harris, president of the National Network in Action, a human rights organization, says Vang “should be ashamed for illegally serving in public office since 2005. As an educator and school board trustee—note the root word *trust*—he should be a role model for our students, above all else. But lying and covering up are not exactly the lesson we should be teaching our children.”

The CUEJ includes the FTA and numerous citizens who have been involved on the frontlines of trying to reform the FUSD, including members of the recent Graduation Task Force. The FTA already has retained an attorney who is an expert on recall elections and is identifying a political consultant to guide the recall campaign. The intention of the group is to begin gathering signatures in September to recall Vang.

“It is now incumbent upon the citizens of Fresno to end Mr. Vang’s mockery of the law,” states Guzman.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Mai Summer Vue is an elementary school teacher in the Fresno Unified School District and an educational activist who was elected president of the Fresno Teachers Association in May of this year. Contact her at [sunrisevue@yahoo.com](mailto:sunrisevue@yahoo.com).*

## SaveFTA Seeks Justice in Union Election

By Jerome Rice

On May 29, the ballots were counted in the runoff election for president of the Fresno Teachers Association (FTA). Mai Summer Vue defeated Eva Ruiz by 51 votes (more than 5% of the vote).

On June 8, challenges to that runoff were received by the FTA’s Elections Committee. On June 19, the FTA’s Executive Board met to hear the Elections Committee’s ruling on those challenges. The rules governing challenges require the Executive Board to hear the Elections Committee report within 10 days of receiving the challenge, not 11. This rule violation was one of many to follow.

The Elections Committee ruled that the challenges to the runoff had no merit. There was a concerted effort to keep this ruling secret. The Executive Board, however, disregarded the Elections Committee’s ruling and accepted Ruiz’s challenge without citing any reason or justification for doing so. The Executive Board then called for a “re-do” of the runoff election.

Moreover, the legitimacy of the June 19 Executive Board meeting is disputed. The board members violated the most basic requirements to gain authority to make decisions on behalf of the FTA membership. There was no agenda for the meeting, and the doors were to be locked, preventing any non-board members, or witnesses, from attending the meeting—denying FTA members their right to attend the meeting and making this meeting invalid. Decisions, even unanimous decisions, at invalid meetings are null and void according to *Robert’s Rules of Order*, which is a governing document of the FTA.

In a June 16 e-mail, three days before the meeting, the FTA president at the time, Greg Gadams, wrote, “Please be aware that this is not an open meeting where people come and give testimony. In order to enforce this we will not be allowing non-Elections or Non-Board members in. Our Office will already be observing summer hours, so the doors will be locked anyway.” However, the FTA Bylaws state that “Executive Board meetings (regular or specially called) will be open to the members of the Association.”

Gadams had campaigned for Ruiz, sending out endorsement flyers asking FTA members to vote for her. Arguably Ruiz’s biggest supporter, Gadams then played a pivotal role in overturning the Elections Committee ruling and accepting the Ruiz challenge that the Elections Committee had already deemed to be without merit. Gadams reportedly spoke for about two hours regarding the challenge at the June 19 meeting, wearing down the other board members and seemingly breathing new life into the campaign of Ruiz.

Upon learning of this invalid meeting and the resulting actions, several FTA members (including this author) questioned FTA board members seeking acknowledgement of the violations in procedure and a halt to the second runoff election. Those contacted at the FTA ignored or denied the violations prompting contact with the California Teachers Association (CTA) to seek corrective measures at the FTA.

On June 28, the CTA sent a letter to Gadams directing the FTA to halt the second runoff election until a CTA investigation could be concluded and a ruling made on those challenges stemming from the June 19 meeting. A June 29 letter from Gadams stated that the majority of the board had agreed to comply with the CTA directive to suspend the election.

On July 1, the newly elected board members’ terms began, including the new FTA president, Vue. Vue was in Washington, D.C., attending a National Education Association conference along with a dozen or so other FTA members. Vue returned to Fresno on July 8 and went into the FTA office the following day to get started with her new duties.

On July 10, some new board members met secretly (without contacting all board members and excluding the current FTA president) discussing and illegally acting to continue the halted second runoff election as previous planned at the invalid June 19 board meeting. Within days, without the usual supervision or participation of the Elections Committee or its chair, the ballots for the second runoff were sent out. The ballots sported

the CTA logo despite the election being held in defiance of the CTA directive to halt that second runoff election.

On July 27, Ruiz, assisted by FTA staffers and some Executive Board members, took part in a coup of the FTA. Following the vote tally of an unauthorized, corrupted and invalid second runoff election, the locks were changed and the police were called to remove the legitimately elected FTA president, Vue, from the president’s office.

On Aug. 14, after demands to acknowledge the second runoff election as invalid and acknowledge Vue as FTA president went ignored, those then holding power at the FTA closed all avenues for correcting their errors and instead embraced the corrupt practices of the past Executive Board members’ meeting on June 19. At the Aug. 14 meeting, the Executive Board members rejected the challenges to the second runoff election and “validated” a Ruiz victory. Indications are that the Elections Committee was overturned a second time by the board’s actions. At this time, the Elections Committee ruling remains inexplicably secret.

Coming out of the same Aug. 14 meeting, the Elections Committee chair, Charles Pansarosa, was directed to draft a letter sharing the Executive Board members’ decisions regarding the second runoff election. On Aug. 17, such a memo was sent by Pansarosa. It seems an odd practice to have a memo from the Elections Committee chair, a stand-alone committee, reporting only the decisions of the Executive Board members and not reporting the ruling of the Elections Committee itself.

On Aug. 22, the CTA conducted a hearing to investigate the recent FTA elections. Some hope that the CTA will step in and restore proper democratic processes to the FTA and invalidate the corrupted election won by Ruiz.

As of this author’s deadline for publication, those holding power at FTA have done their best to legitimize the July 27 coup. The CTA could overrule the corrupt FTA practices, including the invalid election of Ruiz, as such an outcome is within its authority. This would make for some interesting civics lessons for the students as the new school year begins. Perhaps the best lesson is yet to come, as Fresno teachers unite, or not, to address the corruption of their union’s Board and elections.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Jerome Rice is a long time FTA member, an FHS FTA site representative, and the president of SaveFTA ([www.savefta.com](http://www.savefta.com)). Contact him at [jerome.rice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerome.rice@sbcglobal.net).*

### FLASHPOINT KASHMIR: IS RESOLUTION POSSIBLE?

Noted author/lecturer/radio interviewer David Barsamian will preside over a discussion on the prospects for Kashmir, a hotly contested area between India and Pakistan. Kashmir presents a dangerous situation where a regionally destabilizing war between nuclear-armed neighbors is a real possibility—yet Americans are for the most part uninformed.

Final information about this event can be found at the Alliance’s on-line calendar, or by calling Richard at 266-2559.

DATE: Wednesday, September 26

TIME: 7 p.m.

DISCUSSANTS: David Barsamian and Abdul Quayyum Khan Kundi, a Pakistani politician and businessperson. (We are trying to arrange for a discussant from the Indian community as well.)

PLACE: TBA

ADMISSION: \$5–\$10 donation requested to support the *Community Alliance*

The event is made possible by Mr. Barsamian’s generosity with his time.





# Guelaguetza Regenerating Oaxaqueño Roots in Fresno

By Rosalba Lopez-Ramirez

As a large number of Oaxaqueños have migrated from Oaxaca, Mexico, to California, they continue to embrace their distinctive identity that is tied to their homeland. Various efforts have been undertaken by the community to strengthen the collective and individual identity among Oaxaqueño migrants who have come to call the Central San Joaquin Valley their home. The Guelaguetza, a cultural celebration since pre-Columbian times, takes place in Oaxaca and in cities throughout the United States, particularly where there are high concentrations of Oaxaqueños.

*Guelaguetza* comes from the Zapotec word *Guenda-Lizaa*, which means “friendship,” “sharing” and “helping each other.” In ancient times, the indigenous people would gather at the Guelaguetza to honor their deity by offering her flowers, fruits or any kind of produce from their region. Through the Guelaguetza, they used to reassert their cultural identity as members of their communities would share traditional dances, music, food, drinks or products made with their hands to nourish the participants.

This millenary cultural event will again arrive in Fresno in September. The event does not seek to make a monetary profit and is organized by a volunteer committee of community members and organizations such as Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB) and Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO). The committee spends months to assure that the event provides a learning and educational experience for the community. The magnitude of such an event would not be possible without the volunteers on the day of event, many of whom have volunteered for years.

The 800–1,000 attendees of this annual event enjoy the traditional dances, music, dress, arts and crafts and gastronomy of the Oaxaqueño community. Another element of note has been the active participation of young people within the past few years further enriching the event as they have utilized hip-hop and poetry to express their experiences as first-generation Oaxaqueños born or raised in the United States.

To a large extent, the space has created various meeting points including of different generations of Oaxaqueños and where grandparents, parents and children are able to enjoy their traditions. This is important because it closes the cultural gap commonly seen among immigrant families and their descendants.

With this event providing a space for Oaxaqueños, it has also created an atmosphere that promotes message unity in diversity and has attracted attendees from a wide spectrum of communities. The message of unity and diversity is prioritized, as many Oaxaqueños are very proud of their distinct culture that demonstrates the diversity in Mexico.

Ultimately, the Guelaguetza serves as a bridge to strengthen relations with other immigrant communities and allies in the United States and as a way for Oaxacan immigrants to share their cultural traditions with people from other communities. This year’s event will take place on Sept. 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Roosevelt High School Auditorium (4250 E. Tulare Ave.).

\*\*\*\*\*

Rosalba Lopez-Ramirez is a graduate student at UC Davis and currently interning with Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO). Contact her at [rosalbalr@gmail.com](mailto:rosalbalr@gmail.com).

# GUELAGUETZA

CALIFORNIA

2012

September 30th  
11am- 4pm  
Theodore Roosevelt High School  
Auditorium  
4250 E. TULARE ST.  
FRESNO, CA. 93721

**DONATION:**  
\$ 5.00  
Children under 12 FREE

Info : (559)499-1178

Enjoy traditional Oaxacan foods  
Health & Informational Booths  
Tradicional Arts & Crafts

With the Participacion of:  
Grupo Folklórico Pochtlan  
Grupo Folklórico Nueva Antequera  
Banda Filarmónica Maqueos Music

www.centrobinacional.org



## ARE YOU HOMELESS AND NEED MEDICAL CARE?

You *may* qualify for free or reduced cost quality health care!

Visit any of our clinics in Fresno:

**DIVISADERO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
145 N. Clark St.  
Fresno, CA 93701

**EASTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
5784 S. Elm Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93706

**ELM COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
Dental Services Available  
2790 S. Elm Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93706

**GARLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
3727 N. First St.  
Fresno, CA 93726

**ORANGE & BUTLER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
1350 S. Orange Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93702

**RMC COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
2505 Divisadero  
Fresno, CA 93721

**WEST FRESNO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
Dental Services Available  
302 Fresno St. #101  
Fresno, CA 93706



We can help you:

- Connect to a Primary Care Provider
- Connect to a Behavioral Health Provider
- Apply for Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, WIC, and Social Security Disability!

**40 YEARS OF CARING 1971-2011**

For more information or to make an appointment, call us: **(559) 457-5826**

## Paul E Pierce



559•264•4421  
[paul@paulepierce.com](mailto:paul@paulepierce.com)

Improve the  
**PROCESS,**  
improve the  
**OUTCOME**

Facilitation  
Training  
Speaking  
Coaching

## GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT!!

Advertise in the....

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

**Circulation:**  
12,000 Copies  
Published  
Monthly


*All ads need to be camera ready  
(typesetting, layout and design is extra)  
120 line screen • Black and white only*

*Digital files must be 150 dpi and JPG, TIF or BMP file format*

**Deadline: 15th of month preceding publication**

### Advertising Rates

	One month	Six months
Business Card (2 H x 3½ W) 1/8 Page (5¼/8 W x 4¼/8 H) ¼ Page (5¼/8 W x 8¼/8 H) ½ Page (8¼/8 H x 10¼/8 W) Full Page (10¼/8 W x 16½/8 H)	\$40 \$60 \$120 \$200 \$400	\$150 \$300 \$600 \$1,000 \$2,000



For more information contact:  
Dan Yaseen  
559-251-3361 • [danyaseen@comcast.net](mailto:danyaseen@comcast.net)  
**Community Alliance**  
P.O. Box 5077 • Fresno, CA 93755



# Oakhurst’s Connection to the Rock ’n’ Roll Hall of Fame

By James Martinez

The digital 10th anniversary edition of *Local DJ* is a wild narrative on rock ’n’ roll culture from the late 1950s to the present. A prominently featured DJ in Cleveland’s Rock ’n’ Roll Hall of Fame, Peter C. Cavanaugh was influential on the music over an extended period, pioneering the evolution of FM radio and launching the careers of Bob Seger, Ted Nugent, Alice Cooper and many more. Cavanaugh also unleashed film director Michael Moore upon an unsuspecting public over WWCK-FM in Flint, Mich., in 1980.

While interviewing someone like Cavanaugh, I could not help thinking back to find something I did that was remotely rock ’n’ roll and remembered a lesson that should be applied before reading his book *Local DJ*.

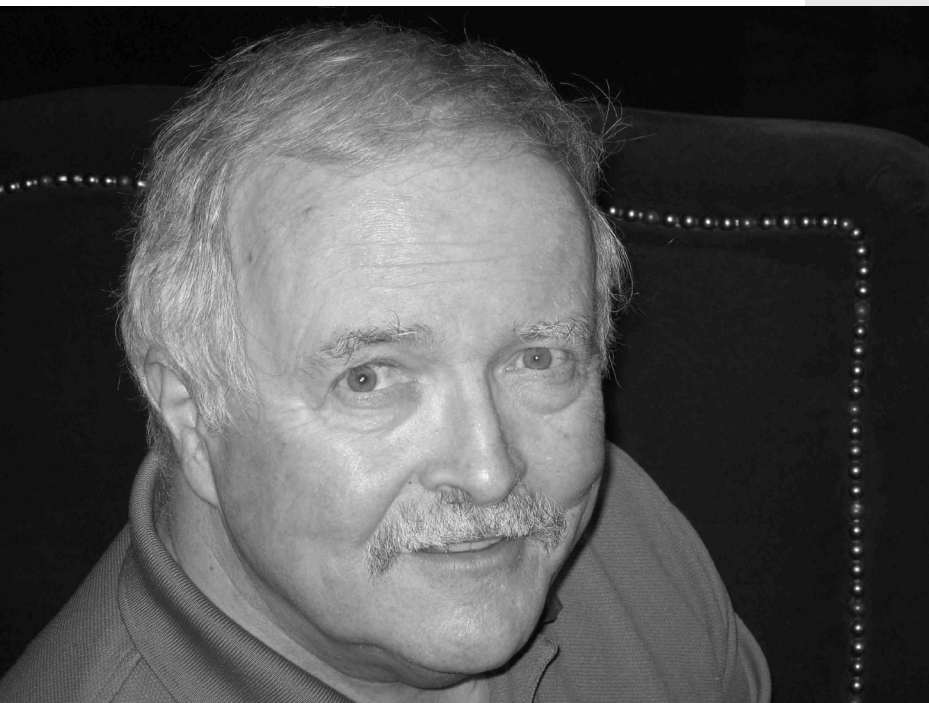
My first semester, in what some would call a fit of identity crisis or a terrible way to impress the college girls, I grew a beard.

Now I know, the old-timers out there are probably thinking, “He was just 18. How big could that beard be?” Well, it was long, thick and ungroomed. At times in history class, I would place my pen in the beard until it was needed for note taking. When reaching for it, my hand never got within five inches of my chin. I shaved the thing over Christmas break after about 400 Grizzly Adams comments from frat boys who had the originality of oxen. (Note: When you see someone with a big beard, you can rest assured they’ve heard “Hey Grizzly Adams” before.)

The other reason for shaving the beard was I sleep on my stomach and the thing pushed my head so far back my neck hurt. I needed a good neck; as an 18-year-old, there was a lot to see at Michigan State University.

What is the connection between Cavanaugh’s book *Local DJ: A Rock ’n’ Roll History* and my beard, besides it representing one of my feeble attempts at rebellion? When I had my beard, I drew constant looks from people who judged me before I opened my mouth.

Police officers watched me assuming I was about to dash behind a corner and light something up. People in stores stepped away in quite obvious fashion like I was Pigpen from Peanuts.



Peter Cavanaugh has written *Local DJ: A Rock ’n’ Roll History*.

Teachers, who chose to hand out papers by calling names from lowest grade to highest, looked confused when I walked up to get my paper last.

So the connection here is, if you read Cavanaugh’s book don’t be turned off by some of the content and vulgar language; there’s a lot of commentary there. The book lives up to the sex, drugs and rock ’n’ roll attitude that made nuns squirm in the 1960s.

**“Of all who had a major influence on me while growing up in the Midwest, none matched the audaciousness, tenacity and gonzo-like behavior of Peter Cavanaugh. He was more than just the rock ’n’ roll guru who gave America its first encounters with the Who, Bob Seger and all the great Detroit bands (e.g., Ted Nugent, Alice Cooper, MC5). He was the one who taught me how to go up against the powers-that-be and live to tell all. Thank you, Peter Cavanaugh, for saving a generation of Flint kids from the likes of Pat Boone.”**  
—Michael Moore, author of *Stupid White Men* and director of the films *Bowling for Columbine*, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *Sicko*

something like this: “History doesn’t repeat itself, but it sure rhymes a lot.”)

The book is probably not a good idea for kids.

I know that’s not a rock ’n’ roll thing to say, but that’s my dis-

claimer. I don’t think it’s going to warp anyone, but parents should be warned.

I’d apply the Marilyn Manson/Guns N’ Roses test (depending on your age) before deciding to read it. If you thought Guns N’ Roses was taking us to hell in a hand basket, don’t pick up the book. If you thought Marilyn Manson was the final sign of the Apocalypse, then run. You won’t be able to appreciate this book for what it is.

We’re heading in a somewhat similar direction facilitated by different circumstances. I’m not sure the great cultural changes socially will be there, but the mistrust of government, growing discontent among youth and a perceived global threat sure are. (You know the saying by Mark Twain that goes

*Local DJ* discusses the evolution of rock music from a front-row seat and shows Michigan’s role in the whole 1960s scene. Many chapters end with little paragraphs putting things into a historical perspective. The plight of early radio being so influential and coming from Flint is also an interesting sidebar as you consider the medium now and the current state of that city.

For more information *Local DJ*, visit [www.wildwednesday.com](http://www.wildwednesday.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and/or [www.smashwords.com](http://www.smashwords.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

*James Martinez is director of communications at the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, having joined the Chamber following several years as a Democratic writer for the Michigan House of Representatives in Lansing. Before that post, Martinez was a staff reporter for the Gaylord Herald Times and the Clarkston News in Michigan, having graduated from Michigan State University in 2003. Contact him at 313-596-0489 or [jmartinez@detroitchamber.com](mailto:jmartinez@detroitchamber.com).*

## Where in the World Is Bertolt Brecht?

By Alfonso Hernandez

Paris in July offers free rock concerts by top world bands and singers in front of City Hall. There are also free and for-pay concerts in churches, museums, theaters and parks; art exhibits in galleries and official museums; movie premieres in cinemas; and theater—plus hundreds of street singers, artists, dancers, gymnasts, mimes whom one can hear or watch just by simply strolling in any direction of the city.

Poetry and novel readings and discussion with famous writers such as in the terrace of the bookstore Shakespeare and Co. Forget the stereotype that all the French leave Paris in July and August.

The first two weeks in July, I spent several hours a day at the Beaubourg Library reading and studying Claude Lanzmann’s memoirs, *Le Lievre de la Patagonie* (The Hare in Patagonia), and other works such as the script for his most famous film, *Shoah*. During the rest of the month, I was at the library of the School of Letters of the Sorbonne reading the plays of an unknown, in the States, French playwright, Luc Tartar, whom I met in June at the International Playwrights Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico. Tartar had time to discuss his works with me during my stay in Paris.

The American public would be interested in knowing this playwright given that his themes have relevance to our current societal concerns. In *Les Arabes de Poitiers* (The Arabs from Poitiers), he presents the difficulties of being an undocumented, clandestine person. *Zero* is a short play about two characters well known to us: a mother who is waiting for her son to come back from the war in Algeria, as there are many mothers waiting for their sons to come back from Afghanistan and Iraq. In Tartar’s play, however, when the two meet, they don’t recognize each

other because of the psychological changes that occur during the three years of absence. The mother has dementia, and the son has been changed from an innocent young man to a seriously traumatized human being.

In *Mademoiselle J’Affabule et les chasseurs de rêves* (Miss J’Affabule and the Dream Hunters), Tartar introduces us to beings who come to earth hunting for the dreams of humans. These extra-terrestrials’ food consists of all our dreams, which we, earthlings, metaphorically speaking, imitate when we stop others from realizing their dreams with bullying, put downs, denials of their potentialities, etc.

*Petites Comedies de la Vie* (Little Comedies from Life), the one called *Abeceaire*, in which the action takes place in an old folks’ home (hospice), reminded me of our own assisted living hotels that we have for our still healthy seniors. We find in Tartar’s play an old woman without family and who never has any visitors; an old man who wants to bed all the pretty females; a rich, high class, always well-dressed, covered-with-jewels woman who tells everyone that she belongs to a higher class.

Many of Tartar’s plays appeal to adolescents, an age Tartar prefers to write for, such as *Chercher Partir* (To Search to Leave), in which one of the characters says that one should leave one’s home to find the sun, gold, love, friends, forgetfulness, remedies, etc., all the conscious and subconscious unfulfilled goals we all have at one time in our lives.

Rhetorically speaking, Tartar uses personification, symbols, metaphors, allusions and especially the unexpected, not the *dens ex machina*, no, the unexpected turn in the plot, fantasy and mystery boarding in science fiction. He writes practically no

## Who Is Peter Cavanaugh?

At the age of 16 in 1957, Peter C. Cavanaugh enjoyed a 58% total audience share on his hometown station, WNDR, in Syracuse, N.Y. Decades later, he has written a book about his adventures promoting and producing literally hundreds of early concerts with the likes of Chuck Berry, the Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, the Who, Bob Seger, Ted Nugent, Alice Cooper, Kiss and so on, as well as running a seven-station radio group that included some of the top-rated rock ’n’ roll stations in America.

Cavanaugh is currently on the Executive Committee of the Democratic Club of Oakhurst. Before moving into broadcast management, he was an active member in Local 46 of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET), organizing and leading strike activity at several Flint, Mich., radio stations in the late 1960s. Later, as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Reams Broadcasting, he produced and narrated the United Auto Workers’ 50th Anniversary Celebration in downtown Flint on Sept. 5, 1987.

During his Flint years, Cavanaugh introduced Academy Award-winning film director Michael Moore to an unsuspecting public over WTAC-AM and WWCK-FM before Moore left Flint to become editor of *Mother Jones* magazine in San Francisco.

Cavanaugh now lives in Oakhurst with his wife, Eileen.

Cavanaugh now lives in Oakhurst with his wife, Eileen.

Cavanaugh now lives in Oakhurst with his wife, Eileen.

Cavanaugh now lives in Oakhurst with his wife, Eileen.

Cavanaugh now lives in Oakhurst with his wife, Eileen.

Cavanaugh now lives in Oakhurst with his wife, Eileen.



**Bertolt Brecht remained a lifelong committed Marxist who, in developing the combined theory and practice of his “epic theatre,” synthesized and extended the experiments of Erwin Piscator and Vsevolod Meyerhold to explore the theater as a forum for political ideas and the creation of a critical aesthetics of dialectical materialism.**

stage directions. In reading, one might think of the theater of Samuel Becket, Eugene Ionesco, Albert Camus, Bertolt Brecht and others. Most of his works are published by Lansman or Lansman Jeunesse in Belgium.

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



# Fresno’s Reel Pride Film Festival

By Kaylia Metcalfe

This month marks the 23rd anniversary of the Fresno Reel Pride Film Festival, which will take place September 19–23, once again in the historic Tower District. This year’s event will showcase 50 LGBT-themed films.

The festival started at Fresno State University, in a classroom, but has grown to become one of the largest LGBT film festivals in the United States. The continuing mission of organizers is to increase awareness of the LGBT community through the exhibition of films that explore LGBT themes.

The criteria for films to be chosen is that they be either made by LGBT filmmakers, feature LGBT actors or have LGBT story-line content and be a first-run film to the Fresno Reel Pride screening area. Most of the selected films meet more than one of the criteria and many meet all of them. Of course, it is not an easy task for the programming staff, as there are always so many great films submitted, but organizers promise this year’s screening audience a quality and varied program.

Again this year, program staff have been able to bring a variety of titles to Fresno. The festival always opens and closes with films intended to get people talking, the “water cooler” movies. The middle three days will feature films that center on a theme

that is showcased with a centerpiece film in the evenings. Films screened include comedies, dramas and documentaries.

In addition to the adult-themed films, every year as part of its outreach program, the festival invites local youth to a specially selected free film screening and pizza party. (Admission is free to this event with valid school ID.)

Attendance is never an issue at this hugely popular cultural event. The average number of attendees usually totals 10,000–12,000. Organizers expect the same turnout again this year, despite the current economic strain.

The collective purse tightening in the Central Valley might not be felt at the ticket office, but it has been felt. Fresno Reel Pride (an official nonprofit) relies on the generous support of the community in order to set up, obtain film rights, promote and run the festival. Thankfully, a dedicated base of members and sponsors who, through financial support as well as volunteers, and donations, have made the commitment to be proactive in ensuring that the festival continues year after year. (A full listing of the 2012 sponsors and members can be found at [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com).)

Organizers also invite you to visit [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com) for a full listing of this year’s selected films (including trailers when available). Hard copies of the 2012 Film Catalogue are available for pick up at the Reel Pride box office at the Tower Theater (815 E. Olive Ave.).

\*\*\*\*\*  
*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).*



## Protest continued from page 1

terms of bodies showing up for or against something can be a powerful tool.

Those things aren’t the only tools in our tool box, and sometimes it is okay to remember that.

Because, despite the reputations and the often heard exclamations of the organizers, there is more than one way to protest, and while public displays, sit-ins, rallies and picketing are all good ways to protest, they aren’t the only way.

We can protest by spreading information and educating our own community and the community at large: handing out fliers, posting on forums, e-mailing, talking, writing articles, working at a phone bank.

We can protest with our wallets and by turning our attention from our foes and concentrating it on our allies, by promoting companies, politicians, publications and businesses that support us. We can be vocal as to why we chose option B over option A: “Yes it is more expensive to buy a General Mills cereal instead of the store brand, but GM has come out in active support of same-sex marriage, and I want to support them.” “I would never eat at Chick-Fil-A; they actively support organizations that are working toward stripping me of what rights I have. Let’s eat somewhere else.”

We can protest by becoming politically active, which starts with voting. We have the ability to affect change by who we allow to represent us, but it goes beyond that. Casting your vote in November is the first step, but after that we have the responsibility to e-mail, call, write and communicate with our elected officials, to tell them that we are watching, that we still care and that we are paying attention to their voting record.

These ways of protest might take more work, they might take more money, they might take more time and energy. But sometimes they are powerful and affect phenomenal change.

No one in our community should be made to feel guilty for choosing one form of protest over another, because no matter how you do it, the point is that you are doing it, that you do care enough to get uncomfortable or to put your money where your mouth is. Whichever way you choose to participate, you are attempting to affect change in the way that works for you, in the way that seems best to you.

Ultimately, no matter what sort of protest you engage in, from standing in the heat with a sign to quietly writing a check to a supportive nonprofit, someone is going to ask you why you bother, what’s the point.

And your answer will be the same: “Because I care enough to do something”

\*\*\*\*\*  
*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).*



# Smog Alerts Too Little, Too Late

By Kevin Hall

Health advocates with the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ) responded critically last month to the San Joaquin Valley Air Board’s announcement of its second year of the agency’s near-useless “Air Alerts” for high smog levels. In a classic instance of too little too late, they kicked off the program with a media event on the third Friday of August, more than four months into the smog season and almost 100 days since the season’s first truly unhealthy air day.

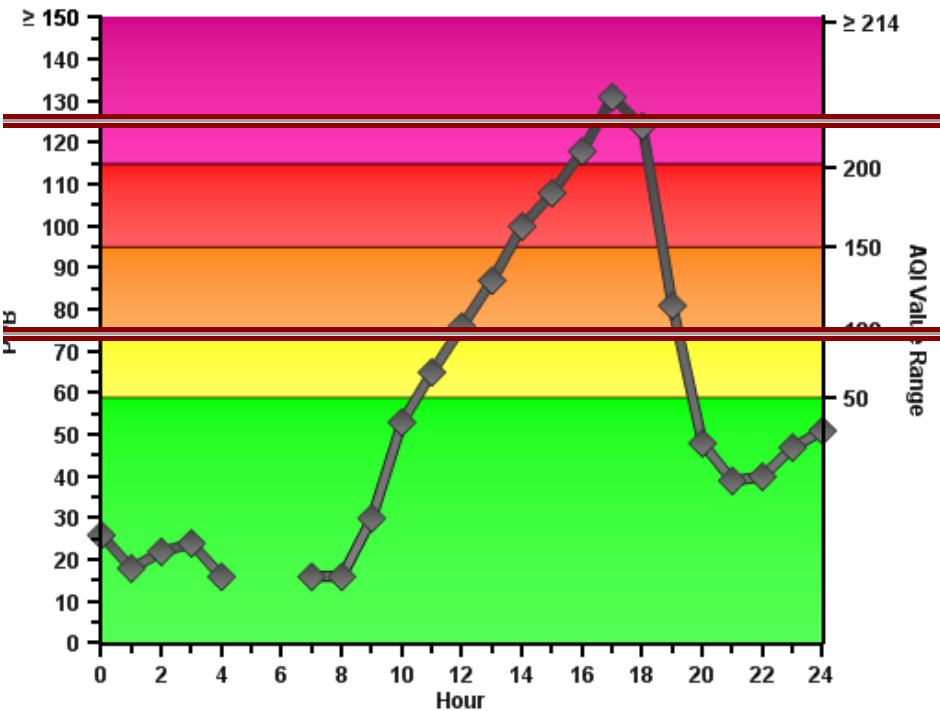
True to form, the Valley Air Board’s official announcement was misleading and misguided from the beginning, starting with its press release titled “Annual program calls for action to keep ozone levels low.” Hardly.

Rather than issue public health alerts when people are at risk, the air board announced its intention to wait until smog is at more than 200 on the Air Quality Index (AQI). We’re well into the purple zone by then, which is more than double the level at which human health is harmed. There’s nothing low about these levels. They are dangerously high. CVAQ members’ response has been a call for air alerts at the orange level or 100 AQI. You know, when people’s health is actually hurt. What a concept. (See the accompanying chart.)

In truth, the air board is simply trying to shave the tip off the iceberg and ignore the enormity of the problem. You see, there is an old federal standard for ozone based on the worst hour only. The Valley was supposed to have eliminated those worst peaks 13 years ago. They have not, and as a result \$29 million in federal fines kicked in last year.

But the bulk of the problem lies in the vast majority of hours and days during which smog is at dangerous levels. As of mid-August, the Valley had already surpassed the more accurate health safety level of 100 AQI on a total of 68 days so far this year. The northern Valley should have had at least 25 safety alerts issued thus far this summer, the central San Joaquin Valley more than 30 and the southern Valley more than 50. Even the inaccurate, ultra-high level used by the Valley Air Board already has been surpassed this year on June 1, July 12, Aug. 10 and Aug. 11.

So, driven by dollars and not by adequate concern for people’s health, the board is focused primarily on ending the fines, and our children are paying the price, and our seniors, and people with asthma, and people with cardiovascular conditions, and people who work outside. In short, everyone is paying the price with their lives.



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. Contact him at [kevin@calcleanair.org](mailto:kevin@calcleanair.org).

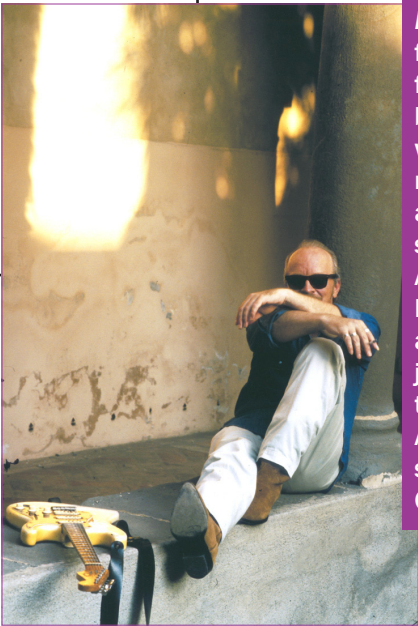
**The Smog Iceberg. This chart shows 24 hours of smog readings at the Clovis monitor on Sept. 29, 2011. Each box represents an hour of the day and the smog level for that hour. The upper horizontal line is the level at which the Valley Air Board issues “air alerts,” and the lower line is at the level when human health is endangered.**



MUSIC AND ARTS CALENDAR

<b>Sundays</b> 11 a.m.— <b>William Morris</b> at Campagnia 6 p.m.— <b>Larry Keyes Band</b> at Bottoms Up 6 p.m.— <b>Ooi Jazz Jam Session with Les Nunes</b> at Ooi Japanese Cuisine	<b>Mondays</b> 7:30 p.m.— <b>Acoustic Open Mic</b> at Starline 7:30 p.m.— <b>Folksinger 101</b> at Brick Wall	<b>Tuesdays</b> 5:30 p.m.— <b>Mike Miller</b> at Santa Fe Basque 6 p.m.— <b>African Dance for Fitness</b> at African American Museum 6 p.m.— <b>Lyons Sings at the Grand Piano</b> at Slates 7 p.m.— <b>Deep Cover</b> at Lamp Post 7:30 p.m.— <b>Silver Dollar Band</b> at Silver Dollar	<b>Wednesdays</b> 5:30 p.m.— <b>Kenny Hall &amp; Friends Old Time Music Jam</b> at Santa Fe Basque 6 p.m.— <b>Larry Keyes Band</b> at Bottoms Up 6 p.m.— <b>Lyons Sings at the Grand Piano</b> at Slates 6 p.m.— <b>Open Mic</b> at Cozy Thai 6:30 p.m.— <b>Virgil Webber</b> at School House 7 p.m.— <b>Jim Schmidt Jazz</b> at Campagnia 7 p.m.— <b>William Morris</b> at Campagnia 9 p.m.— <b>Tommy Delgado</b> at Babylon 10 p.m.— <b>Open Mic Night</b> at Fibber McGee’s	<b>Thursdays</b> 2 p.m.—KFSR-FM 90.7: <b>Jazz Then to Now</b> 6 p.m.— <b>African Dance for Fitness</b> at African American Museum 6 p.m.— <b>Ron Thompson &amp; the Resistors</b> at Babylon 6 p.m.— <b>Steve Ono</b> hosts <b>Open Mic Night</b> at Smugglers 7 p.m.— <b>Open Mic</b> at Shooters 10 p.m.— <b>Reality Sound International</b> at Club Habanos
		<b>2012 Kings River Bluegrass Festival</b> The Kings River Bluegrass Festival will be held Sept. 28–30 in the Beautiful Grove in Sanger. Learn more at <a href="http://hobbs.cbaontheweb.org/index.aspx">http://hobbs.cbaontheweb.org/index.aspx</a> .		

<b>Sunday, Sept. 2</b> 2 p.m.— <b>51 Aces</b> at Elbow Room 4 p.m.— <b>Joe Walton &amp; the Starr Choice Band</b> at Shooters 6 p.m.— <b>Future Islands</b> and <b>xbxr</b> at Audie’s 9 p.m.—Pre-Labor Day Party with <b>DJ Roman, DJ Lostboy</b> and <b>Jason Williams</b> at Starline 9 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring the <b>Craig Von Berg Trio</b> at Tokyo Garden	<b>Monday, Sept. 3</b> 7:30 p.m.— <b>Taize Service</b> (meditative singing) at Big Red Church 9 p.m.— <b>Rehab, Moonshine Bandits, E.Rose</b> and <b>Whisky Row</b> at Fulton 55	<b>Wednesday, Sept. 5</b> 7 p.m.— <b>Brian Vickers</b> at Elbow Room 8 p.m.—An Evening with <b>Bucket-head</b> at Tower Theatre 8 p.m.— <b>Undun</b> at Babylon	<b>Thursday, Sept. 6</b> 5 p.m.— <b>ArtHop</b> 1821 Calaveras <b>Anniversary Exhibition</b> at Fig Tree Gallery Arte Américas Auction Exhibit at Spectrum Gallery (thru Sept. 30) Cal Arts–Severance Clay Mix <b>Glen Delpit</b> at the Glen Delpit Studio, 1753 Van Ness Ave. Jazz at Full Circle <b>Linda Kay Papadakis’s Small Works</b> at Gallery 25 (thru Sept. 30) Works of <b>Sherry McKeever</b> and <b>Marilyn Torchin</b> at Studio 74 6 p.m.—ArtHop with <b>Fleenor &amp; Reap</b> and <b>Las Zunigas</b> at Frank’s Place 6 p.m.—ArtHop with <b>Boxcar Figaro</b> at CMAC 7 p.m.— <b>Defeater, Hundredth, Rotting Out, Silver Snakes</b> and <b>Dependence</b> at CYC 8 p.m.— <b>Jim Schmidt Jazz</b> at Pinot
---	--	--	---



**Dave Alvin and the Guilty Ones**  
*Best pick!* “There are two types of folk music: quiet folk music and loud folk music,” says Dave Alvin. “I play both.” Does he ever. Incorporating a wide range of influences including roots rock, blues, western, country and border music, Alvin makes each song an enticing musical journey. Alvin cut his teeth with the roots-rock Blasters in the 1980s and has had an ongoing country punk project jointly with members of X called the Knitters. But with his own band, Alvin puts on a show that you will not soon forget. Catch Dave Alvin and the Guilty Ones at Fulton 55 on Sept. 26.

<b>Sunday, Sept. 9</b> 1:30 p.m.— <b>Ukulele San Joaquin</b> meets at Sequoia–Tower 2 p.m.— <b>Pamela Henery</b> at Elbow Room 4 p.m.— <b>The Stack</b> at Shooters 6:30 p.m.— <b>Laurie Lewis &amp; the Right Hands</b> at Wolk Garden 8:30 p.m.—Jacuzzi presents <b>Allen Strickland Williams</b> at Fulton 55		<b>Tuesday, Sept. 11</b> 6 p.m.— <b>Mercy Ties, Bubonic Bear</b> and <b>Heavy Medical</b> at CYC 7 p.m.— <b>Tom Scott</b> at Elbow Room	<b>Wednesday, Sept. 12</b> 11 a.m.— <b>Glen Delpit</b> at Farmers Market on Kern St. 8 p.m.— <b>Ape Machine</b> at Audie’s 9 p.m.— <b>Camper van Beethoven</b> at Fulton 55	<b>Thursday, Sept. 13</b> 6 p.m.— <b>A Hope Not Forgotten</b> and <b>Prepare the Bride</b> at CYC 9:30 p.m.— <b>Foreverland: An Electrifying 14 Piece Tribute to Michael Jackson</b> at Fulton 55
---	--	---	--	---

<b>Sunday, Sept. 16</b> 2 p.m.— <b>Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances</b> at Frank’s Place 2 p.m.— <b>Valley Cats</b> at Elbow Room 3 p.m.— <b>The Gold Rush</b> at Tower Theatre 4 p.m.— <b>Ripper Blues Band</b> at Shooters 6 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring <b>Mike Dana</b> & his band at Tokyo Garden	<b>Monday, Sept. 17</b> 8 p.m.— <b>Toto</b> at Table Mountain	<b>Tuesday, Sept. 18</b> 7 p.m.—Jazz at the Library with <b>Larry Honda</b> on <i><b>Japanese-Americans in Jazz</b></i> at Woodward Park Library 9 p.m.— <b>Animal Eyes, Achievement House</b> and <b>Fast Car</b> at Audie’s	<b>Wednesday, Sept. 19</b> 7 p.m.— <b>Under the Bed</b> at Elbow Room 9 p.m.— <b>Blame Sally</b> at Fulton 55	<b>Thursday, Sept. 20</b> 7:30 p.m.— <b>Soul Kitchenette</b> at Brick Wall 9 p.m.— <b>David Dondero, Brother Luke</b> and <b>Niilo Smeds</b> at Fulton 55 The Good Company Players present <i><b>Singin’ in the Rain</b></i> at Roger Rocka’s (thru Nov. 11)
---	--	---	---	---

<b>Sunday, Sept. 23</b> 1:30 p.m.— <b>Ukulele San Joaquin</b> meets at Sequoia–Tower 2 p.m.— <b>Mike Miller Trio</b> at Elbow Room 2:30 p.m.— <b>Irish Jam</b> at La Boulangerie 4 p.m.— <b>Margo Montoya &amp; Beale Street</b> at Shooters 6 p.m.—Tokyo Garden Jazz Jam featuring <b>Andre Bush</b> and <b>David Aus</b> at Tokyo Garden		<b>Tuesday, Sept. 25</b> 7 p.m.— <b>The Kandinsky Effect</b> at Tokyo Garden 9 p.m.— <b>Local H</b> at Fulton 55	<b>Wednesday, Sept. 26</b> 7 p.m.— <b>Marie Wilson</b> at Elbow Room 7:30 p.m.—Legends of the Fall Tour featuring <b>Insane Poetry, Mastamind</b> and <b>Leaders of the Lost</b> at Babylon 8 p.m.— <b>Dave Alvin &amp; the Guilty Ones</b> at Fulton 55	
---	--	--	---	--

<b>Sunday, Sept. 30</b> 2 p.m.— <b>Allen Armundo</b> at Elbow Room 2 p.m.—Octoberfest with the <b>Flatlander Polka Band</b> at Wolk Garden 4 p.m.— <b>Alastair Greene</b> at Shooters				
--	--	--	--	--

1821 Calaveras Gallery & Studios	1821 Calaveras	233-9992	Broken Leg Stage	1470 N. Van Ness	457-9613
African American Historical & Cultural Museum	1857 Fulton	268-7102	California Arts Academy—Blackstone	4750 N. Blackstone	222-6539
ApCal	32749 Avenue 7, Madera	674-9463	California Arts Academy—Severance	1401 N. Wishon	498-3300
Arte Américas	1630 Van Ness	266-2623	Campagnia Restaurant	1185 E. Champlain	433-3300
Auberry Library	33049 Auberry, Auberry	855-8523	Chinatown Youth Center (CYC)	901 F	492-8254
Audie’s Olympic	1426 N. Van Ness	233-3733	Clay Mix	1003 N. Abby	485-0065
Babylon Club	1064 N. Fulton	495-0852	Clovis Veterans Memorial Park	901 5th, Clovis	
Big Red Church	2161 N. Van Ness	227-8489	Club Habanos	6759 N. Palm	449-2447
Bottoms Up	4113 W. Swift	277-0074	CMAC	1555 Van Ness	266-2622
Brick Restaurant	820 Van Ness	264-2561	Cozy Thai	575 E. Divisadero	840-2863
Brick Wall @ JA Photography	2003 N. Van Ness	224-6993	Crossroads	3315 N. Cedar	385-0770
			Dusty Buns Bistro	608 E. Weldon	
			Elbow Room (Fig Garden Village)	731 W. San Jose	227-1234
			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



SEPTEMBER 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.—**Brand-Nu** at Kocky’s

MUSICIANS & ARTISTS

Submit Your Upcoming Events

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

Friday, Sept. 7

6:30 p.m.—Bluegrass in the Park with **GrassKickers** at Clovis Veterans Memorial Park  
7 p.m.—**Electric Grease** at ApCal  
8 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Una Noche Española: curated by Flameco Jucal** at Arte Américas  
8:30 p.m.—**Texas Heat** at Ozzy’s  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***The Groove Session***

Jazz at the Library

For the Sept. 18 Jazz at the Library program, Larry Honda, chair of the Fresno City College Music Department, will give a presentation titled “Japanese-Americans in Jazz.” This program is designed to complement the Fresno County Libraries’ “Big Read,” which features Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston’s book *Farewell to Manzanar*.



Friday, Sept. 14

5:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.—***Take This Waltz*** at Tower Theatre  
5:30 p.m.—**Glen Delpit** at Audie’s  
7 p.m.—**51 Aces** at ApCal  
7 p.m.—**Glen Delpit & the Subterraneans** at Audie’s  
7:30 p.m.—**Jamie Laval** and **Zac Leger** at Brick Wall  
8 p.m.—**Candyland Burlesque** at Full Circle  
8 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Monthly Mariachi Feature** at Arte Américas  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***The Groove Session***  
9:30 p.m.—**Scott H. Biram** and **Restavrant** at Fulton 55  
10 p.m.—**Patrick Contreras, Jay Smith, j2 & the Bizzness** and **Ray Moore** at Audie’s

Friday, Sept. 21

5:30 p.m.—**Glen Delpit** at Audie’s  
7 p.m.—**Rockville** at ApCal  
8 p.m.—**Morgan Hill Band** at School House  
8 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with **Trio Los Vigilantes** at Arte Américas  
8:30 p.m.—B-Movies & Brews! with ***Troll 2*** at Full Circle  
8:30 p.m.—**Margo Montoya & Beale Street** at Yosemite Falls  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***The Groove Session***  
9 p.m.—**Royal Canoe, Fierce Creatures, ssssnake** and **Coast Jumper** at Fulton 55

Friday, Sept. 28

7 p.m.—**Deja Blues** at ApCal  
8 p.m.—Nights in the Plaza with ***Plaza Finale*** at Arte Américas  
8 p.m.—**The Best Damn Cover Band** at School House  
9 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Set Free Radio***  
**Kings River Bluegrass Festival** at the Grove, 14265 E. Goodfellow Ave., Sanger (thru Sept. 30)

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

Saturday, Sept. 1

6:30 p.m.—**Dianne Curry** at The Palms  
7 p.m.—**English Country Dance with Evo Bluestein** at Auberry Library  
7 p.m.—**Jammin’ in Clovis** at Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th St., Clovis  
7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Jazz Shoppe***  
8 p.m.—**Sept. to Dismember** at Full Circle  
8 p.m.—**Tom Scott Band** at School House  
8:30 p.m.—**Lady Zep** (all-female tribute to Led Zeppelin), **Texas Radio, Stagefrite** and **Sex Bomb** at Starline  
9 p.m.—**Brown Mustard Band** at Fibber McGee’s

Saturday, Sept. 8

4 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Soul Kitchen***  
5 p.m.—AIDS Walk Fresno benefit show with **IThe Deceiver, Farooq, Messenger of the Covenant, grow., Gorilla Stomp!, Dreamers** and **Squid Squad** 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***  
7 p.m.—**Whisky Row** at ApCal  
8 p.m.—**Epiphany Tones** at School House  
9:30 p.m.—**Allison Chains** (all-female tribute to Alice in Chains), **Hammerdown Sindrum** and **Trial** at Starline  
9:30 p.m.—Conquering the Night with **DJ Latin Flava, DJ NV** and **5º Elemento** at Fulton 55

Saturday, Sept. 15

3 p.m.—**Sacred Harp Singing @ Linda & Tom Booth’s**, 4822 E. Pontiac Way  
6 p.m.—**Alighieri, Catharsus, Messenger of the Covenant** and **Carcosa** at CYC  
6 p.m.—**English Country Dance** at Cal Arts–Blackstone  
7 p.m.—**Jammin’ in Clovis** at Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th St., Clovis  
7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Underground Railroad/Interstellar Lounge***  
7 p.m.—**Trey Tosh** at ApCal  
8 p.m.—**Mechanical Burlesque** at Full Circle  
8 p.m.—**The Landlords** at School House  
9:30 p.m.—**Back in the Valley** and **Blue Crown** at Fulton 55

Saturday, Sept. 22

4 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Soul Kitchen***  
7 p.m.—KFCF-FM 88.1: ***Saturday Evening Classics***  
7 p.m.—**Run for Cover** at ApCal  
7:30 p.m.—**Scats on the Sly** and **Pieter Moerdyk** at Brick Wall  
8 p.m.—**American Heritage** at School House  
8 p.m.—**Benny & the Vets, Beer Lordz, Beer Wolf, Handlebarz, Final Threat** and **Threat Level Rising** at Babylon  
8 p.m.—**Travis Larsen Band** at Full Circle  
8:30 p.m.—West African Vocational Schools Benefit Show with **Patrick Contreras** and **Lance Canales & the Flood** at Fulton 55  
9 p.m.—**3 Guys Playin’ the Blues** at Sequoia–Tower

Saturday, Sept. 29

8 p.m.—**Lady & the Tramps** at School House  
8 p.m.—**Nate at the Movies** at Full Circle  
8:30 p.m.—**Du Hast** (tribute to Rammstein) at Starline  
9 p.m.—**Karling & the Atomics** at Audie’s



Camper Van Beethoven

Formed in the 1980s, Camper Van Beethoven featured an innovative mix of styles including ska, punk, folk, alternative country, pop and world music. The band, which has continued to tour and record new material, was a major influence on the indie rock movement. During live performances, the band showcases its acoustic, electric, traditional and punky aesthetics with an ability to switch styles—from Balkan folk to psychedelic rock—sometimes even in the same song. Camper Van Beethoven will appear at Fulton 55 on Sept. 12.

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
Ozzy’s Sports Grill	1650 E. Shepherd	434-3040
Palms, The	7550 N. Palm	438-0500
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
School House Restaurant & Tavern	1018 S. Frankwood, Sanger	787-3271
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

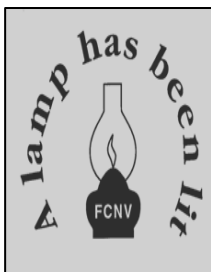
Smugglers Restaurant	3787 N. Blackstone	230-8450
Spectrum Art Gallery	608 E. Olive	266-0691
Starline, The	833 E. Fern	485-5356
Studio 74	1274 N. Van Ness	908-0658
Table Mountain Casino	23736 Sky Harbour, Friant	822-2587
Tokyo Garden	1711 Fulton	268-3596
Tower Theatre	815 E. Olive	485-9050
Wolk Folk Garden	6661 N. Forkner	307-3610
Woodward Park Regional Library	944 E. Perrin	275-8529
Yosemite Falls Café	4278 W. Ashlan	275-6060

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



# 2012 Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2012

"You don't have to be satisfied with America as you find it. You can change it. I didn't like the way I found America some sixty years ago, and I've been trying to change it ever since."



*Upton Beall Sinclair Jr.*

(September 20, 1878 – November 25, 1968)

an American author and one-time candidate for governor of California who wrote close to one hundred books in many genres. He achieved popularity in the first half of the twentieth century, acquiring particular fame for his classic muckraking novel, *"The Jungle"* (1906). It exposed conditions in the U.S. meat packing industry, causing a public uproar that contributed in part to the passage a few months later of the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act

1584 N. Van Ness Ave., 93728 - email: [info@centerfornonviolence.org](mailto:info@centerfornonviolence.org), website: [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org)  
Across from Fresno City College \* SE Corner Van Ness & McKinley \* Entrance on Van Ness Staffed Open Hours: Monday - Friday, 11 AM - 3 PM.   
Organic & Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Chocolate Available (559) 23PEACE, (559) 237-3223

Dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through SIMPLICITY ~ JUSTICE ~ INCLUSIVENESS ~ NON-INJURY



**Saturday September 15**

**Art On The Edge**

Doors open at 6:30pm, auction starts at 7:30pm

*Studio 65*

2965 N. Maroa, (so. of Shields)

For tickets info call Fresno Center for Nonviolence (559) 237-3223,  
[www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org), [info@centerfornonviolence.org](mailto:info@centerfornonviolence.org)  
or <http://facebook.com/fresno.nonviolence>



Join us for what "threatens" to be the most unique event of the social calendar, "Art On The Edge"; a gala and art auction featuring abandoned and discarded fine and *not* so fine art. Our art experts have scoured the country- side selecting only the finest works from yard sales, thrift stores and flea markets. There are, to be sure, some undiscovered masterpieces to be had. Auctioneer for the evening will be the universally unknown art historian, Peter McDonald. He's really art smart. Your \$20.00 ticket brings you hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wine and beverages and the chance to take home a one-of-a-kind work of art. Only 100 tickets will be sold for this "very uppity event." The Fresno Center for Nonviolence wishes to thank the marvelous Guy & Kathy of Studio 65 for the use of their wonderful space. Studio 65 provides dance lessons and all necessary dance supplies and was awarded "Best Hidden Gem in Fresno" by the Fresno Bee.



**Tiaras strongly encouraged.**



FCNV page editor: **Richard Gomez**

**Friday, September 14th**

6 to 9 PM

At the St. Paul Newman Center  
1572 E. Barstow (559) 436-3434



Sabrina Butler was wrongfully convicted, then exonerated and freed from death row in Mississippi. She will speak about her experiences.

**FREE ADMISSION**

**In memorium**

I rise from my coffin and fly away  
leaving mourner's agape.

Circling the room, I swoop  
through the window, play tag  
with the wind.

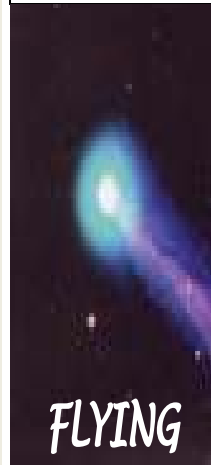
I hum the air with my wings and  
sip nectar from the honeysuckle.

In the long grass I make angels  
and clover chains for my hair.

I dance over the meadow to the  
saffron sounds of sunlight.

I ride the tail of the comet and  
from the interstellar gases create  
myself anew.

--Diane Scott Corbin  
(1931 - 2012)



**FLYING**

**stir It Up**  
Wednesday,  
September 12th



**KFCF**  
88.1 FM  
3:00 pm



Richard Gomez will interview  
John Hussien regarding  
animal rights in  
the Central Valley.  
Call-ins are at (559)266-8888.  
For info call (559)237-3223

**2nd Wednesday Video Series**  
**Wednesday, September 12th**  
12 noon and 7pm at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.  
Potluck at 6:30pm.

A riveting story of transformation and healing, *PEACEABLE KINGDOM: THE JOURNEY HOME* explores the awakening conscience of several people who grew up in traditional farming culture and who have now come to question the basic assumptions of their way of life. Presented through a woven tapestry of memories, music, and breathtaking accounts of life-altering moments, the film provides insight into the farmers' sometimes amazing connections with the animals under their care, while also making clear the complex web of social, psychological and economic forces that have led them to their present dilemma.

Interwoven with the farmers' stories is the dramatic animal rescue work of a newly-trained humane police officer whose sense of justice puts her at odds with the law she is charged to uphold. With strikingly honest interviews and rare footage demonstrating the emotional lives and intense family bonds of animals most often viewed as living commodities, this groundbreaking documentary shatters stereotypical notions of farmers, farm life, and perhaps most surprisingly, farm animals themselves. Video is 78 minutes long.



**wheelchair accessible**



**Fresno Center for Nonviolence**

1584 N. Van Ness Ave.

(SE corner of McKinley & Van Ness Ave.)

Please make a **tax deductible donation** to keep our Center going strong in 2012.

**(559) 237-3223**

[www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org)







## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

*All content paid for by WILPF*

*Graphic by Lincoln Cushing*

### WILPF BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday Sept 13 7PM, at Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness. This meeting is open to all members.

### WOMEN IN BLACK

September 5, 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)

September 26 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

### RAGING GRANNIES

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

### Homeless Project

At the August retreat WILPF will consider whether and how best to help with my homeless project. It consists of .59 acre of land with a 4BR, 2BA house. The main model is the safe and legal campground, but the house will make possible many extras such as classes and space for working on personal or group projects, and communal meals. Details next month, but we need many things: a vacuum, mops and brooms, pots and pans, utensils, fans, including ceiling fans, a freezer, a washer, gardening tools, hoses, water pipes, drip system parts, inflatable beds, inside and outdoor furniture, a ladder or two, lots of lumber and wire fencing to construct our "pads" and shade structures. Call or email me! --- Nancy

### Time to renew your membership

Nora DeWitt, Membership Chair of Fresno WILPF, is happy to report that 50 members have so far renewed their 2012 membership, in response to the letter we mailed out in July to the whole chapter.

If you have been meaning to renew your membership, but have not done so yet, it's never too late! The dues scale ranges from \$15 - \$150 (whatever you can afford). Please send your check to Fresno WILPF, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755. We are also happy to welcome new member, Elaine Rucker, who joined in July.

### Fresno WILPF well represented at Raging Grannies UnConvention

Patty Bennett, Pat Wolk, Betsy Temple, Gioia Frank and Nancy Hatcher, attended the North America Raging Grannies UnConvention last week in Victoria, British Columbia and all five of us joined in voting in favour of this resolution.

VICTORIA, BC, 11 August, 2012 -- Today, the North American Raging Granny movement issued a call to action on the part of all levels of the Canadian and US governments to respond to the loss of our democratic rights around environmental integrity and social equality. Members of the movement from 27 municipalities across North America met for three days at the University of Victoria in

British Columbia and unanimously passed the following resolution:

We the Raging Granny Movement, Senior citizens from across Canada and the US, with long life experience and dedicated to preserving a vibrant world for those generations to come, resolve:

Whereas we deplore that our national governments are pursuing policies which fail to recognize climate change and our democratic rights as major priorities, Whereas there is no excuse in countries as rich as ours that our governments continue to pursue policies that threaten our general well-being. We owe it to future generations to follow policies that maintain long-term environmental integrity and social equality:

We demand that our governments pursue policies that support a sustainable economy and a vibrant democratic and egalitarian society which places our natural world, on which we all depend, in the central place where it belongs.

"Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children." First Nations/Native Americans

### Our outstanding intern at International WILPF

Meghan Walsh from Fresno WILPF is an intern at WILPF International in Geneva this summer. She will be going to the Human Rights Council at the UN in September and we hope to have a full report then. She has inspired a glowing report about Fresno WILPF in the International Newsletter, which you can see online.

### Cuba Solidarity

I'm back from the 23rd Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba. Report-back coming soon! We took tons (literally) of aid but this is just a drop in the bucket compared to the needs and shortages caused by the US blockade of Cuba. What is essential is our solidarity and to end the blockade and normalize relations with Cuba. ----- Leni

## Specializing in California Native Plants

And other low water use plants appropriate for our climate

Organic growing supplies, references & books

Locally made arts & crafts in gift shop

Seasonal vegetable starts & fruit trees

Class schedule posted on our web site

Self-guided native plant garden tour with map & plant list available at front desk.

Located 30 minutes NE Clovis on highway #168  
30443 Auberry Rd, Prather, CA 93651

Hours: Open 7 days a week year round  
Mon. - Sat. 8a.m - 5p.m., Sun. 10a.m. - 4p.m.  
559-855-3113 - Intermountainnursery.com



# INTERMOUNTAIN

nursery



Sara Brown, librarian of the Doris Gates Room, Fresno County Library; WILPF members Ellie Bluestein, Elaine Rucker and Shirley Valett; and Kari Johnson, librarian, Creative Services. WILPF presents Jane Addams Peace Award Books to the Children's Room at the downtown library.

## FRENCH CLASSES

L'ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE FRESNO

### CLASSES ARE FORMING!

Fall Session for Adults: Sept 17-Dec 1  
Fall Session for Children: Sat, Sept 22-Dec 1  
CALL (559) 227-9850



FOR SCHEDULE  
CONTACT  
SCHOOL DIRECTOR  
Camilla Colby  
camillacolby@gmail.com

www.affresno.org



**California  
Gastroenterology  
Associates**  
*Board Certified Gastroenterologists*

*Naeem M. Akhtar, M.D., F.A.C.G.  
Ambreen Khurshid, M.D.  
Jose C. Hernandez, M.D.  
Mikhail Alper, P.A.-C.*

*Excellence in Digestive Disease care for the Central Valley including Colon  
Rectal Cancer Screening, Peptic Ulcer Disease,  
Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Liver Disease.*

**Fresno Office**  
7121 N. Whitney Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93720  
Phone 559.299.9395

**www.CGAFresno.com**

**Madera Office**  
451 E. Almond  
Suite 103  
Madera, CA 93737  
Phone 559.673.4000



# PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

## All Month

Art Show about Fresno’s Homeless. Dixie Salazar is showing a new body of painted collage work titled “...and homeless near a thousand homes I stood.” These new pieces use images from her own photos taken on the streets of Fresno and some borrowed images in collages that draw attention to the current crisis of Fresno’s homeless population. Also on display are photographs from the first bulldozing of the H Street encampments and a collection of work exploring Salazar’s dual heritage. The work is on display at the Fresno Regional Foundation, 5250 N. Palm Ave., Suite 424. For more info, call 559-226-5600. A reception will take place in October, date to be announced.

## Saturday, September 1 • 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.

## Saturday, September 1 • Gates open at 6 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m.

Founders Day Gospel Fest. African American Historical and Cultural Museum, 1857 Fulton St. Concert is behind the museum in the museum park. Tickets \$10 advance, \$15 day of show. For more info, call 559-268-7102.

## Tuesday, September 4 • 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.

## Wednesday, September 5 • 6 p.m.

Democratic National Convention—Nominating Speeches Viewing Party. Guest Speaker: Volunteers for Change Facilitator Paul Pierce. Democratic Party Headquarters, 1035 U St. For more info, contact fresnocountydemocrats@yahoo.com or 559-495-0606.

## Wednesday, September 5 • 6 p.m.

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

## Thursday, September 6 • 6 p.m.

Democratic National Convention—President Barack Obama Acceptance Speech Viewing Party. Guest Speaker: Fresno City Council Member Oliver Baines. Democratic Party Headquarters, 1035 U St. For more info, contact fresnocountydemocrats@yahoo.com or 559-495-0606.

## Friday, September 7 • 5 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

“Bring War \$\$ Home” demonstration in Madera organized by Peace Fresno. Sidewalk demonstration, literature distribution. Near the entrance to the Madera Fair on Cleveland Avenue just west of Highway 99 at the intersection between Walgreens and Walmart. In addition to the antiwar message, the handout will include information about a meeting in Madera for people concerned about issues of war and peace, set for Sept. 11 at Me & Ed’s Pizza from 7 p.m.–9 p.m., 120 Dwyer Ave., Madera. For more info, contact Teresa Castillo at taca\_03@ymail.com or Camille Russell at 559-276-2592.

## Friday, September 7 • 5:30 p.m.

CineCulture presents *Bitter Seeds*. Every 30 minutes, a farmer in India kills himself in despair because he can no longer provide for his family. Micha Peled’s vivid, rich and deep new documentary takes us to an Indian village at the center of the suicide crisis region. Peters Education Center Auditorium, CSUF. For more info, visit <http://cineculture.csufresno.edu/> or contact Dr. Mary Husain at mhusain@csufresno.edu or Narek Avetisyan at avetisyan1@mail.fresnostate.edu.

## Friday, September 7 • 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Reedley Peace Center presents Chris Breedlove, pastor of the College Community Congregation Church in Fresno. Light potluck supper at 6 p.m.; program starts at 6:30 p.m. Free. Fellowship Hall, First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley.

## Saturday, September 8 • 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Screening of *Valor with Honor*, a Nisei veterans documentary. This documentary recounts the bravery of the World War II Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Q&A and DVD signing with director Burt Takeuchi will follow. One in a series of programs and activities presented by the Fresno County Public Library around the book *Farewell to Manzanar* to inspire discussions exploring the meaning of democracy. For more info, visit [www.fresnolibrary.org](http://www.fresnolibrary.org)

## Saturday, September 8 • 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

A new film series, Fast Forward to Fall, begins at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. The first film is *Walkabout*. A teenage girl and her younger brother are abandoned and stranded in the harsh Australian outback and must learn to cope on their own in the natural world. They meet a young Aboriginal man on his “walkabout”—a rite of passage during which adolescent Aboriginal males are initiated into manhood. *Walkabout* is a thrilling adventure, as well as a provocative rumination on time and civilization. Admission free. Wheelchair accessible. For more info contact 559-291-1590 or ggrcalif@sbcglobal.net or visit [www.uufresno.org](http://www.uufresno.org).

## Sunday, September 9 • 7 p.m.

Central Valley Progressive PAC FundRaiser. Meet & Greet Candidates for FUSD Trustee Areas 2 and 5 and State Center Community College District Areas 2 and 7. Music and light refreshments. Free to members, others \$20. 1785 W. Dovewood Lane. RSVP to 559-435-1992. Members may renew or join at the FundRaiser or the Endorsement Meeting. For membership info, visit [www.cvpac.org](http://www.cvpac.org).

## Tuesday, September 11 • 6:30 p.m.

Monthly meeting of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee. Hugh M. Burns State Building, 2550 Mariposa Mall (enter through the loading dock area on the P Street side of the building). All Democrats welcome. Meeting date and time changed for September only. For more info, visit [www.fresno-countydemocrats.org](http://www.fresno-countydemocrats.org).



**Dolores Huerta will be in Fresno on Sept. 21 at 5:30 p.m. as part of the CineCulture film series. This event will take place in the Peters Education Center Auditorium at Fresno State.**

## Wednesday, September 12 • Noon & 7 p.m.

Screening of *Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home*. A riveting story of transformation and healing, this film explores the awakening conscience of several people who grew up in a traditional farming culture and have now come to question the basic assumptions of their way of life. Potluck at 6:30 p.m. before evening screening. For more info, see page 14.

## Wednesday, September 12 • 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.

## Thursday, September 13 • 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Tenants Together holds its Fresno September Meet-Up. Central California Legal Services, 2115 Kern St. The meeting will include a know your tenants’ rights presentation, a discussion of organizing opportunities in Fresno and an opportunity to speak with an attorney regarding individual tenancy-related questions. For more info, contact 415-495-8100 or leah@tenantstogether.org.

## Thursday, September 13 • 7:30 p.m.

From Death Row to Freedom: An Innocent Woman’s Journey featuring Sabrina Butler. United Methodist Church of Merced, 899 Yosemite Parkway, Merced.

## Friday, September 14 • 5:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

Fresno Filmworks presents *Take This Waltz*. This Canadian dramatic comedy, starring Michelle Williams and Seth Rogen, tells the story of a happily married freelance writer who falls in love with a rickshaw driver who lives across the street. Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. Advance tickets \$10 general and \$8 for students and seniors, and are available at the Tower Theatre box office. For more info, visit [www.fresnofilmworks.org](http://www.fresnofilmworks.org).

## Friday, September 14 • 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Reedley Peace Center presents Virginia Madueño, mayor of Riverbank, who will speak on SB 375, the Sustainable Community Strategy. Light potluck supper at 6 p.m.; program starts at 6:30 p.m. Free. Fellowship Hall, First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley.

## Friday, September 14 • 6 p.m.–9 p.m.

Meeting on Ending the Death Penalty in California. Cardinal Newman Hall, St. Paul Newman Center Catholic Church, 1572 E. Barstow Ave. Discussion on how to raise voters’ consciousness on the death penalty and urge them to vote yes on the ballot initiative to bring an end to capital punishment in California. For more info, see page 4.

## Friday, September 14 • 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Screening of *Tracker*, second in the Fast Forward to Fall film series. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. It is 1922 and somewhere in Australia the Tracker, an Aboriginal

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



man, has the job of leading three mounted White police officers across the outback in pursuit of another Aboriginal man accused of killing a White woman. As they move deeper into the bush and further away from “civilization,” tensions arise from the White men’s racist paranoia and the line between savage and civilian is blurred beyond recognition. Admission free. Wheelchair accessible. For more info, contact 559-291-1590 or ggrcalif@sbcglobal.net or visit [www.uufresno.org](http://www.uufresno.org).

## Saturday, September 15 • All day, potluck at 6 p.m.

Occupy Fresno will hold a 24-hour vigil at Courthouse Park. The first vigil is a celebration of the hard work by the attorneys who helped with Occupy’s case and got all 106 arrests dismissed. Anyone who would like to perform, have an information table or has more ideas, contact Bev Fitzpatrick at 559-432-8210, 559-355-9717 or dfitzpatrick26@comcast.net.

## Saturday, September 15 • 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 fort-heinside@hotmail.com.

## Saturday, September 15 • 6:30 p.m.

“Art on the Edge.” Join us for what “threatens” to be the most unique event of the social calendar—a gala and art auction featuring abandoned and discarded fine and not so fine art. For more info, see page 14.

## Saturday, September 15 • 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Grateful Crane, 1940s musical revue. Featuring music and dance, this concert re-creates popular American music of the 1940s especially big band and swing dancing. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. For more info, contact Linda Aragon at 559-600-6226.

## Sunday, September 16 • 3 p.m.

Fresno Filmworks Classics presents *The Gold Rush*. The complete, fully restored 35mm version of the 1925 masterpiece of silent cinema star Charlie Chaplin as his iconic character The Tramp. Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. Advance tickets \$5 general admission and are available at the Tower Theatre box office. For more info, visit [www.fresnofilmworks.org](http://www.fresnofilmworks.org).

## Sunday, September 16 • 2 p.m.–4 p.m.

Progressive Network of Central California 2012 Election Kickoff. Communication Workers of America Union Hall, 4422 E. Ashlan Ave. For more info, see page 1.

## Wednesday, September 19–Sunday, September 23

Reel Pride International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. For more info, see page 11 or visit [www.reelpride.com/](http://www.reelpride.com/).

## Wednesday, September 19 • 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.

## Wednesday, September 19 • 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Travels to the Middle Kingdom—There and Back Again. Sierra Club General Meeting. After six years living and teaching in the People’s Republic of China, Gene Richards will be showing slides and discussing how to overcome Americans’ ignorance of the world and some glimpses into the Middle Kingdom today. UC Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave.

## Thursday September 20 • 6 p.m.

Southeast Fresno Candidate Forum: FUSD Trustee Area 2. Sal Mosqueda Community Center Auditorium, 4670 E. Butler Ave. Sponsored by the Communities for a New California (CNC) Education Fund. For more info, call 559-394-8752.

## Thursday, September 20 • 6:15 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.

## Friday, September 21 • 5:30 p.m.

CineCulture presents *A Better Life*. Directed by Chris Weitz, this candid social drama tracks the relationship and conflicts between Mexican immigrant gardener Carlos and his teenage son Luis. Peters Education Center Auditorium, CSUF. For more info, visit <http://cineculture.csufresno.edu/> or contact Dr. Mary Husain at mhusain@csufresno.edu or Narek Avetisyan at avetisyan1@mail.fresnostate.edu.

## Friday, September 21 • 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Reedley Peace Center presents Paul Gilmore, professor of history at Fresno City College, who will speak on the topic “Which Side Are You On? Being for Labor When Labor’s Flat on Its Back.” Light potluck supper at 6 p.m.; program starts at 6:30 p.m. Free. Fellowship Hall, First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley.

## Friday, September 21–Sunday, September 23

Justice: Past, Present, and Future. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Clovis. Economic, political, racial, ethnic, religious, health and environmental injustice is growing in this

**Continued on page 17**



# The Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative Faith Calendar

Compiled by Susan Orovitz



Isaac Bashevis Singer and His Artists. The Jewish Federation of Central CA. and Temple Beth Israel invite you to attend a Yiddish Festival to celebrate Yiddish culture while viewing illustrations inspired by the writings of Singer. Some of the artists on display include Maurice Sendak, Eric Carle, and Roman Vishniac. **Viewing hours of exhibit: 9/9-11/10 Tues. through Fri. 1-5pm; Sun. 10am-1pm. Closed Sat. and Mon. and Yom Kippur, 9/25-26.**

#### Sat. Sept. 8 - 7pm

Opening Wine and Cheese reception featuring Klezmer music and comments by Prof. Toni Wein of CSUF following by Slichot service.

#### Friday, September 14 - 6 - 9pm

The Fresno Chapter of California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty and the Peace and Justice Ministry of St. Paul Newman Center presents Sabrina Butler who will be speaking at St. Paul Newman Center's Cardinal Newman Hall, 1572 Barstow Avenue. Ms. Butler is the only woman in America to have been exonerated and freed after being convicted and imprisoned on death row. For more info. 264-2934

#### Saturday, September 15 (1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month) 10:00am-12:00 Noon

Bishop Steinbock Homeless Advocacy Committee in the Bishop Scher Room at the Diocese of Fresno Pastoral Center, Fresno, CA 93703. Contact: Bill Simon 227-6565 Bsimon6565@sbcglobal.net Interfaith community is invited.

#### Sunday, September 16 - 3 – 5pm

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

#### Monday, September 17 - 7-9pm

Brahma Kumaris Senior Brother Mike George, from England, will be speaking at College Community Congregational Church, 5550 N. Fresno St., as part of his California tour promoting his latest book, **7 Myths of Love...Actually: The journey from your HEAD to the HEART of your SOUL.** The event is free. All are welcome. For

#### Monday, September 24 • 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.

#### Wednesday, September 26 • 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.

#### Wednesday, September 26 • 7 p.m.

Flashpoint Kashmir: Is Resolution Possible? This is a fundraiser for the *Community Alliance*. Noted author/lecturer/radio interviewer David Barsamian will preside over a discussion on the prospects for Kashmir, a hotly contested area between India and Pakistan. For more info, see the ad on page 8.

#### Thursday, September 27 • 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Reedley Peace Center presents David Barsamian, founder and director of Alternative Radio on the topic “Occupy the Economy: Challenging Capitalism,” which is also the title of his recent book with economist Richard Wolff. Light potluck supper at 6 p.m.; program starts at 6:30 p.m. Free. Fellowship Hall, First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley.

#### Friday, September 28 • 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.

#### Friday, September 28 • 2 p.m.

Presentation by David Barsamian: “Media, Democracy and Elections.” Peters Business 191, CSUF (parking relaxed in UBC lot). Barsamian is a radio broadcaster, writer and the founder and director of Alternative Radio, the Boulder, Colo.-based syndicated weekly talk program heard on some 125 radio stations in various countries. His interviews and articles appear regularly in *The Progressive*, *The Nation* and *Z Magazine*.

#### Friday, September 28 • 5:30 p.m.

CineCulture presents *Inside Job*. From filmmaker Charles Ferguson comes this sobering, Oscar-winning documentary, which was the first film to expose the shocking truth behind the economic crisis of 2008. The global financial meltdown, at a cost of more than \$20 trillion, resulted in millions of people losing their homes and jobs. Peters Education Center Auditorium, CSUF. For more

more info: 435-2212 or BKWSOfresno@gmail.com

#### Wednesday, September 19 - 1-3pm

The Summit Conference on Homelessness for Fresno's religious leaders meets for the 3rd time at Breaking Free Revival Center, 2743 E. Shaw Ave. across from Save Mart Center and next to Bulldog Grill. The hope is the leader of every house of worship in Fresno, or their representative, will be able to participate. Please RSVP to Bill Simon <homelessfr@sbcglobal.net> or 227-6565 by Sept. 9.

#### Friday, September 21 -

International Day of Peace-stay tuned for more info. check w/ IACC <http://www.interfaithalliancecc.org/>

#### Wednesday, September 26, October 31, November 28 - 7-8:30pm

Basic Buddhism Class at Dharma Family Center, 2720 E. Alluvial (between Chestnut and Alluvial). Free. The basic teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha (the historical Buddha) will be taught. And many different Buddhist schools will be examined. For more info.: Rev Kurt Rye or Temple office at 442-4054

#### FAITH RESOURCES

**Interfaith Alliance of Central California:** <http://www.interfaithalliancecc.org/>

**Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative:** For Facebook users, click “Like” on this facebook page and you will receive updates.

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

**Mental Health America-Central Valley** <http://www.mha-cv.org/> (has info. for clergy and faith leaders)

**Multifaith Calendar** <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/multifaith-calendar/>

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

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

**website that lists all religious holidays:** <http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/2011.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

*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).*

## PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

### Calendar continued from page 16

country. Environmental degradation and global warming are exacerbating these interlocking oppressions. Disadvantaged communities are suffering first and worse, but the momentum of our culture assures that the damage is or will be entering your neighborhood. This reality challenges us to build community and to be in solidarity. California Rural Legal Assistance, the Coalition for Clean Air, Fresno Metro Ministries, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry California and others will sponsor several events:

#### Friday, September 21 • 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Panel and Discussion: Environmental justice, environmental and faith groups describe their work for healthy and sustainable communities. Small group discussion followed by the opportunity to report to and question the panel.

#### Saturday, September 22 • 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Working with community representatives, we will visit urban and rural sites to learn about environment and health, what has been done, what is being done and what needs to be done to build healthy sustainable communities. \$20–\$40 on a sliding scale; no one turned away for lack of funds. Lunch included.

#### Sunday, September 23 • 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Earl W. Koteen, consulting minister for climate justice of the UU Legislative Ministry California preaching on justice, community and solidarity.

#### Saturday, September 22 • 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Central Valley Leadership Summit. CSUF. The goal is to educate, inspire and motivate young adults from throughout the Central Valley to take action in their communities, implement voter registration campaigns and other community projects. Organized by ACT for Women and Girls, the American Civil Liberties Union, Fresno Barrios Unidos, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, the CSU-Fresno Central Valley Cultural Heritage Institute, the Gay Straight Alliance, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte and Trans-E-Motion.

#### Saturday, September 22–Sunday, September 23

Manzanar National Historic Site Bus Tour. One of a series of programs and activities to be presented by the Fresno County Public Library around the book *Farewell to Manzanar* to inspire discussions exploring the meaning of democracy. For more info, visit [www.fresnolibrary.org](http://www.fresnolibrary.org).



OPEN MON – SAT  
Bulldog Plaza  
1772 E. Barstow @ Cedar  
FRESNO, CA

**ANTOJITOS MEXICANOS**

Tel. 559.447.5569 • Fax 559.447.5579

## STUDIO 65

*social dance*

**zumba fitness**

*great ways to get moving!!!*

**2965 N. MAROA      240-3200**

**[www.fresnodancestudio65.com](http://www.fresnodancestudio65.com)**



# Elder Financial Abuse in the 21st Century

By Cynthia Benzler

The facts of aging have changed in the United States. In 1910, the average life expectancy was 50.1 years. In 2010, life expectancy had increased to 78.4 years (Centers for Disease Control, University of California at Berkeley). Today's oldest U.S. population is healthier, better educated and wealthier than it has been at any time in history.

They are the first generation to receive Social Security income, have pension plans, own property and have good credit. Seniors now control 80% of the deposits in U.S. savings institutions. And families with a senior head of household command more than 70% of the total net worth of households in the United States. That is \$19 trillion in the hands of seniors (MetLife, U.S. Census).

Because of this accumulated wealth, seniors experience a high risk for financial abuse. The 2011 MetLife Study of Elder Financial Abuse found that 51% of financial abuse is attributable to strangers. Family, friends and neighbors account for 34% of financial abuse. Most perpetrators are men. Most victims are women, particularly women who need some help with daily care or home maintenance.

As the economy worsens and people struggle to survive, seniors begin to look like easy targets. A 2012 survey by the Investment Protection Trust found that elder financial abuse is on the rise. But even as the crime of elder financial abuse is rising, resources are being reduced throughout the criminal justice system.

Three years ago, the Fresno Senior Resource Center boasted two Fresno County elder abuse detectives and two Fresno Police Department elder abuse detectives. The detectives worked side-by-side with Adult Protective Services and Crime Victim Assistance Advocates. Today, one designated sheriff's elder abuse detective remains at the center.

Budget cuts to Fresno Superior Court have led to staff reductions and mandatory furlough days for the remaining staff. The court begins the 2012–2013 fiscal year with a \$5.4 million deficit. All these losses reduce the ability of the Fresno County



Protecting elders from financial abuse is everyone's responsibility.

criminal justice system to meet the needs of victims of elder financial abuse.

One recourse victims have for justice is civil court. Elder law is a rapidly growing field. Fresno attorney Marlene Hubbell has noticed some growth in the number of elder abuse cases prosecuted in civil court, in addition to the small claims court elder abuse calendar.

But, according to Hubbell, "The volume of abuse occurring in our community is far from exposed by the few cases brought to light through civil court proceedings. More and more members of the legal community are seeking out education and resources to address the abuses which pervade our elder population."

Hubbell is a member of the Speakers Bureau for Castle Keep Elder Abuse Prevention, which reaches out to numerous factions of the community to offer education and training in elder abuse laws and prevention.

Another option is justice mediation. Elder Family Issue Conferencing provides a preemptive opportunity to help families experiencing elder transition. Castle Keep refers families to the resources of Fresno Pacific University Mediation Services. FPU Mediation Services can bring families together for facilitated conversation and action plan creation.

"Families who come together discuss issues regarding caregiving, estate use and conservation. This process can prevent elder abuse and family degradation," comments Donald Fischer, program director. "When people have an opportunity to be heard, issues and options are discovered that remedy unmet interests and perceived injustices."

Using the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, Castle Keep is working on elder abuse prevention through education. First and foremost, people must realize that elder abuse happens in Fresno County and it happens to people they know and people they love.

Educational goals include teaching people to recognize the signs of abuse, learning how to respond to that abuse, and most important, learning how to prevent abuse. Castle Keep has developed an 18-hour course on elder abuse prevention taught through Clovis Adult Education. The course, designed for families, caregivers, professional and all age groups provides continuing education credits to registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses and certified nursing assistants. These are the primary mandated reporters of elder abuse in our community.

Through its Speaker Bureau, Castle Keep tailors workshops and seminars for diverse groups. Castle Keep also cosponsors the annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference in Fresno and is the Fresno County partner for the State Department of Corporation's Seniors Against Investment Fraud program.

Through its many programs, Castle Keep teaches community members about elder abuse prevention, but the final responsibility for prevention lies in the hands of the seniors themselves.

Dave Case of Elder Abuse Intervention Consultants has 42 years' experience in law enforcement, 14 of those years working elder abuse cases. "It is unfortunate that our society has reached a point in its growth where elders are not cared for or revered as much as they used to be," Case says, "but unfortunately that is where we are."

"There are many of us out here that are trying very hard to bring awareness to this issue and get society to return to the day when seniors are not quite the target to crooks that they are now. Through awareness done by Castle Keep and other groups, we might reach that goal someday, but, until then, it is imperative that our seniors continually question deals that are too good to believe, new people in your lives that 'only want to help' or the sudden money that is supposedly coming your way for no good reason."

"Seniors must remain vigilant and use the common sense that helped them get this far. They must not 'drop their guard' as there are many that would love to separate you from your money or possessions. Question anything and everything and don't let the crooks separate you from what is yours. You are the 'greatest generation.'"

\*\*\*\*\*

Cynthia Benzler is the executive director of Castle Keep Elder Abuse Prevention, a nonprofit agency. Contact her at 559-978-8825 or castle-keep@comcast.net.



**Perfect Balance Yoga**

NW corner of  
Fresno & Shaw

info1@PBYoga.com  
www.pbyoga.com  
559-222-6212

**5091 N Fresno St | Ste 133 | Fresno, CA 93710**


**Jacob M. Weisberg**  
Attorney at Law

LAW OFFICE OF  
**JACOB M. WEISBERG**  
(559) 441-0201  
844 N. VAN NESS AVE.

**MEDITATION FOR INNER PEACE & HAPPINESS**

Raja Yoga is the most ancient form of meditation. You can learn to maintain stability of mind in stressful situations and gain more control over your life. Both individual and group instructions are available. No charge. Monthly events:

Women of Spirit & World Meditation Day.  
Call Veena Kapoor: (559) 435-2212  
Website: [www.bkwsu.com](http://www.bkwsu.com)



**EDITORIAL SERVICES**

Experienced: 20+ Years  
(including Sage Publications journals)  
**Dissertations • Journal Articles  
Theses • Books**

Edited to Your Preferred Style

**Michael D. Evans**  
evansm@usa.net • 704-975-8874

**YASEEN INSURANCE**

**Dan Yaseen**

**30 years in senior health and life insurance**

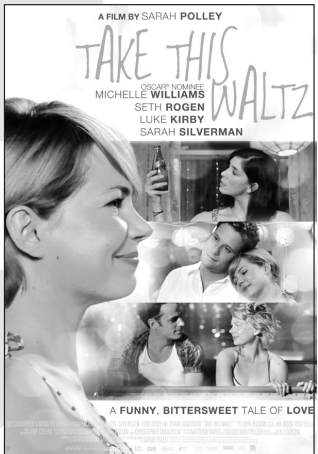
Medicare Supplement Insurance  
Long Term Care Insurance  
Medicare Advantage Plans  
Prescription Drug Plans  
Final Expense Insurance  
Life Insurance

**559-251-3361 danyaseen@comcast.net**  
CA License#: 0600205

**Fresno Filmworks**

Fresno's independent film source

At the historic Tower Theatre,  
815 E. Olive Ave.



Filmworks Presents:  
**Take This Waltz**  
Friday, Sept. 14, 2012  
5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Filmworks Classics:  
**The Gold Rush**  
Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012  
3 p.m.

**Details and tickets online at [FresnoFilmworks.org](http://FresnoFilmworks.org)**



# Hard Work Makes You Rich, Don't It?

By Leonard Adame

The first Labor Day in the United States was held on Sept. 5, 1882. Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and union leader, first proposed the holiday to New York's Central Labor Union in 1882. The purpose was not just celebratory but to discuss how to get better working conditions and salaries.

Flash forward to 1942, to the time of the Braceros, Mexican workers brought to the United States to fill in for the men who'd been taken by the military.

Without Braceros (from *brazos*, Spanish for arms), crops would have rotted in the fields. So we can surmise that the Braceros saved the United States from economic collapse.

My own family worked in the fields: cutting grapes, laying trays and picking cotton. But it was the Mexican Revolution, begun in 1910, that drove my family to the United States. Still, they found only menial jobs that paid the lowest wages possible. My grandfather and grandmother, my future father and uncle, all worked to avoid starving to death.

My family's history has been repeated millions of times over the decades: people leaving Mexico because of war. They also left because plutocrats refused to acknowledge their humanity, forcing the majority of Mexicans to work for free and to make do with a few shards of the food they grew.

I got a taste of working in the fields in the mid-1960s. My father took me to Dinuba to work for my uncle in the packing shed. There, we washed and packed cherry tomatoes. And using a demonic nailing machine that was as loud as gunshots, we assembled flats, little crates that held a few plastic mesh baskets of the fruit. Later, I worked catching watermelons on the back of a moving flatbed truck. The melons came at me from both left and right. At first I thought it was fun, like catching footballs. But footballs don't each weigh 10 or more pounds. My field experience was limited. But luckily, I didn't spend most of my young life beneath the anvil of the summer sun.

However, many children did spend their childhoods caravanning from camp to camp, always arriving just before the gas ran out. Migrants, in fact, had to get up every day at 4 in the morning to drive long, cold miles to the field, a drive during which kids dozed, the entire trip a dream that itself assumed distorted faces until the children awoke amid the furrows, the sun already sneaking above the hills as if sighting them in.

One of the underpinnings of democratic philosophy is that a person in a free society, if he or she is willing to work hard and sacrifice material conveniences, can in fact become successful, if not rich. A person through his or her own efforts can theoretically earn enough bucks to live in a big house, drive a Cadillac, buy a vacation house and retire in Florida to live off of the lard of the land. This may be true, but I've found that it's mostly luck, ruthlessness, and a lack of respect for human rights that have bestowed an endless avalanche of funds upon the wealthy.

Because if all it takes is hard work to fatten up one's bank account, then no one should be richer than a farm laborer. No one.

A field of jewel-like strawberries glistening and reddening in the endless sunlight is a magnificent sight. It's those jewels that have engorged ranchers and farmers endless material goods, as well as vacations and college educations at elitist schools for their children. These landowners have established de facto plantations, making little towns across the San Joaquin Valley subservient to them.

Labor Day will soon be here. And instead of discussing fair wages, health benefits, guarantees of grievance procedures and freedom from workplace discrimination and sexism, most well-off people will simply go away for the holiday. But not those condemned to the fields or construction companies that pay them under the table. Not those who sweat their lives away in kitchens, whether in ritzy restaurants or in backwater dives. No, people who work every day for the least in wages won't have vacations, unless the crops fail or the construction companies go under.

Labor Day has become a ghost, an idea that has drowned in an ocean of lack of concern for workers at the "low end" of the labor spectrum. As long as people get their fruit, have their houses cleaned and their strip malls built, they won't concern themselves with how others live. This I think is America's big-

gest ailment, one that probably will lead to its downfall: worker exploitation, which creates a greater and greater underclass who at some point will no longer agree to be screwed over by arrogant citizens who see them as implements at best.

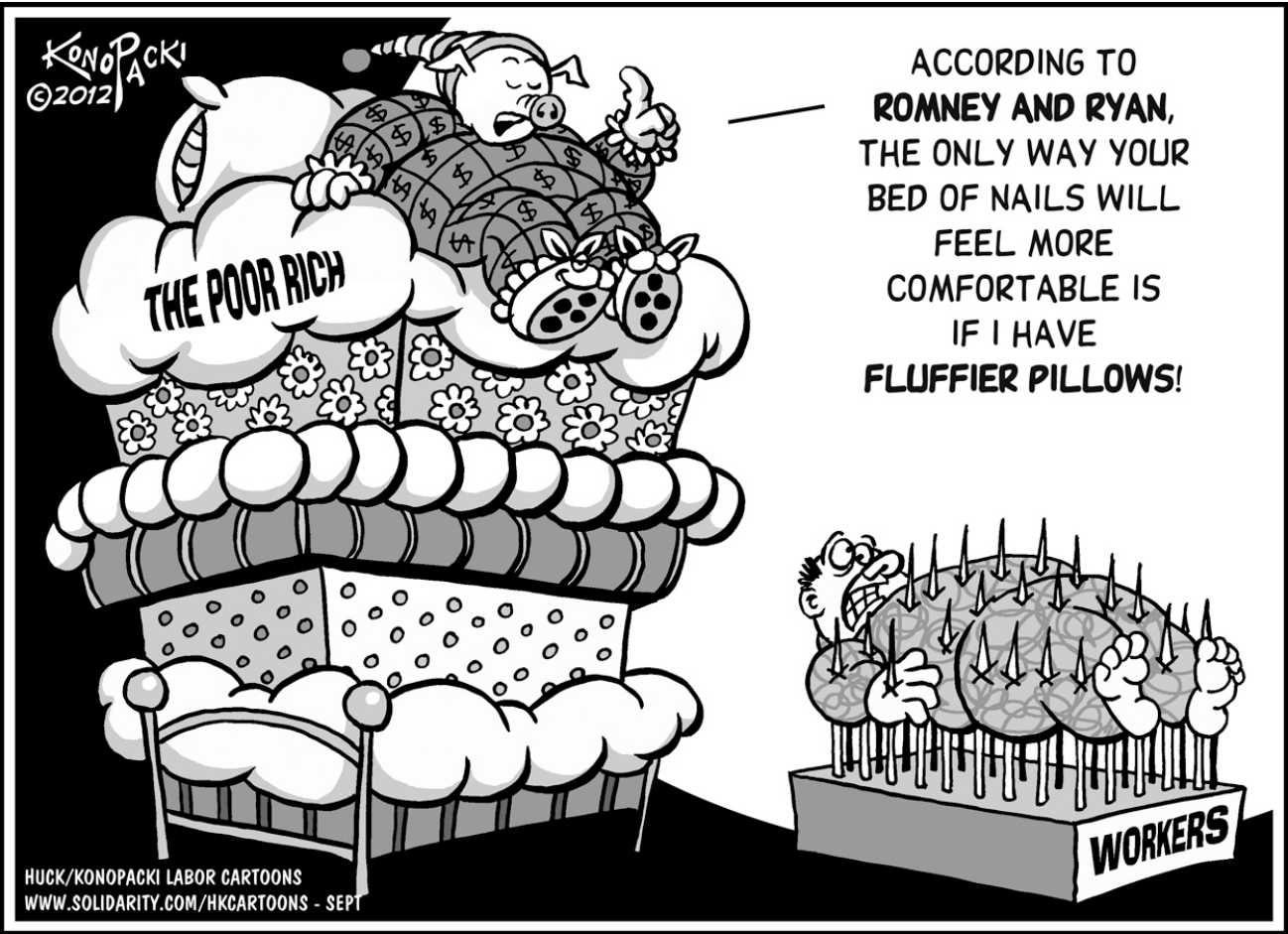
For the people in the photos above, there was no future other than a bleak and perennial journey toward ill health and penury. They lived generations ago. In this 21st century, the underclass, kept from living decent healthy lives, is growing. Yet without that underclass' labor, this country would implode. Without the endless efforts at surviving in a foreign country, immigrants would surely starve.

When we celebrate Labor Day, shouldn't we keep the people whose labor on which this country was built in mind? Shouldn't we reflect on the aims of the first Labor Day, a chance, through unionizing, at the things so many privileged take for granted? Shouldn't all people in a democracy be treated fairly and with dignity and with appreciation for what they have made possible.

I think so.

\*\*\*\*\*

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





**OFFLINE<sup>TM</sup> SOLAR**  
Save Money / Save The Planet!

**Don Lowebug**  
NABCEP® Certified  
PV Installer

**559/877.7080**  
P.O. Box 231 North Fork, CA 93643  
info@offlinesolar.com

**LICENSE NO.**  
661052

**www.offlinesolar.com**

559-485-4787 LDA#200800017


559-485-4788 Fax

**PARALEGAL ASSISTANCE  
UNLIMITED**

Family Advocacy (Help With Any Legal Matter) & DIVORCE  
We are not attorneys. We can provide self-help services at  
your specific direction.

**IRENE ZUPKO**  
255 N. Fulton #107  
Paralegal / Investigator / Notary  
Fresno, CA 93701

irenezupko@aol.com



**Partnerships In  
Composition**

Working with you to plan and  
enhance your memoir, poetry  
or fiction


*First consultation without  
charge or obligation*

**Richard Stone**

Writing Coach/Editor

Tel. 559-266-2559

richard2662559@yahoo.com



**PEACEfresno**  
Action for social justice and alternatives to war

**BRING WAR \$\$ HOME  
DEMONSTRATION IN MADERA**

**Friday, September 7, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

Sidewalk demonstration, literature distribution

Cleveland Ave. west of Hwy 99

Intersection between Walgreens and Walmart

(559) 487-2515 [www.peacefresno.org](http://www.peacefresno.org)

**RIO MESA**

**R M I  
INSURANCE**

**Allied Insurance**  
a Nationwide® company  
On Your Side<sup>SM</sup>  
Service you can  
depend on

Just as you can count on Allied for top  
quality insurance plans, you can count  
on top quality service from Allied and  
your professional Allied agent.  
Whether you're reporting a claim, or  
simply have a question about your policy  
coverage or cost, we're here to help.

Ask your agent about Allied policies for  
your other insurance needs.

- Home • Auto
- Recreational Vehicles
- Boats • Motorcycles
- Personal Umbrella
- Commercial Insurance
- Farm Insurance



**Call ALAN COLES  
Owner/Broker**

3134 Willow Ave., Suite 102 • Clovis, CA

**Office: 559-292-2490**  
**Fax: 559-292-2492**  
Insurance Specialist • License #0608912



# Progressive Voting Guideline for State Propositions

Compiled by Michael D. Evans

	Prop 30	Prop 31	Prop 32	Prop 33	Prop 34	Prop 35	Prop 36	Prop 37	Prop 38	Prop 39	Prop 40
Central Valley Progressive PAC	Yes	—	No	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	No	—	Yes
League of Women Voters	Yes	No	No	—	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
Democratic Party	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	—	Yes
Green Party	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California Labor Federation	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	—	Yes
Republican Party	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes

YOU CAN SEE & DOWNLOAD  
CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS  
By HOWARD K. WATKINS  
go to [www.watkinsphotoarchive.com](http://www.watkinsphotoarchive.com)



You Can Support  
THE HOWARD K. WATKINS PHOTOGRAPHIC  
ARCHIVE PROJECT  
by Sending a Tax-Deductible Donation to the  
Fresno Regional Foundation  
Attn. "HKW Photo Archive Fund"  
5250 N. Palm Ave., #424 • Fresno, CA 93704

LARGEST GROW SHOP IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

**SUPER**  
**Roots**  
*Hydroponics*

**FRESNO**

1330 N. Hulbert #105  
Fresno, Ca 93728

**559-840-0122**  
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**



**[superrootshydroponics.com](http://superrootshydroponics.com)**

## 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.*

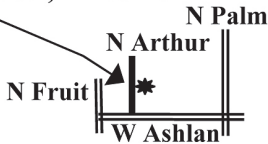
Information: <http://Fresno.humanists.net/>

## QUAKERS



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

**ALL  
WELCOME**



## First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

**2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.** (South of Clinton)  
**559-227-8489**  
*Sunday Worship & School 10:00 am*

*We welcome you...no matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey.*

**The Big Red Church**



2029 E. Divisadero Street  
Fresno, California 93701

559-266-4000  
[fresno@stewardsinc.org](mailto:fresno@stewardsinc.org)  
[www.stewardsinc.org](http://www.stewardsinc.org)

*Love is Our Doctrine.*



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno

"The Greenest Church in the Valley"

Sunday Services with Rev. Bryan Jessup 10:30 a.m.  
Children & Youth Religious Exploration Sundays 10:30 a.m.  
Mid-Week Meditation Wednesdays 7 p.m.

2672 E. Alluvial Ave. Clovis, CA • (between Willow and Chestnut)  
Office 559-322-6146 9-4 p.m. • [www.uufresno.org](http://www.uufresno.org) • **facebook**



## The Center for Creative Transformation

*Where the Behavioral Sciences  
& Spiritual Values Meet*

Psychotherapy  
Pastoral Counseling  
Mindfulness Meditation  
Educational Programs

**David E. Roy, Ph.D., Director**  
Fellow, American Assn. of Pastoral Counselors  
California Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

5475 N. Fresno St., Ste. 109 — Fresno, CA 93710  
559/435-7835 — [admin@cctnet.com](mailto:admin@cctnet.com) — [www.cctnet.com](http://www.cctnet.com)



## College Community Congregational Church United Church of Christ

"Never place a period where God has placed a comma." Gracie Allen

*We are an open and affirming church where you are welcome,  
no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.*

Sundays:  
Classic Worship 9 a.m., Contemporary Worship 11:15 a.m.  
Community Connections and Coffee Hour 10 a.m.

5550 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA 93710  
559-435-2690

[www.communityucc.com](http://www.communityucc.com)





# America: Free to be Green or an Undiscovered Country?

By Richard Gomez

Green Party presidential candidate Dr. Jill Stein is bringing the fight that's going on at the grassroots level—for our homes, jobs, single-payer healthcare, student education, immigration reform and economic sustainability—to the United States. She is addressing the struggles that are actively fought in our communities but denied legitimate representation in electoral politics. We need more than a revolution; we need an awakening of mass consciousness.

Stein is a 62-year-old mother and housewife born in Chicago and raised in Highland Park, Ill. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and Harvard Medicine School. She's been a physician, instructor of internal medicine and a pioneering environmental health advocate regarding human health issues. She continues to lead and be involved in activities to promote sustainable agriculture, clean power, freedom from toxic threats to human health and green local economies.

Recently, she and vice presidential candidate Cheri Honkala spent the night in jail after refusing to leave the regional headquarters of mortgage giant Fannie Mae in Philadelphia. They were there to support two women whose families faced unjust evictions by Fannie Mae, as well as the eight million other families who have faced foreclosure at the hands of Wall Street.

She is more than qualified to win the election and lead our nation. She is currently on the ballot in 32 states, the District

of Columbia and a write-in candidate in three states with potentially enough votes to win the Electoral College and the presidency. She, her staff and other volunteers have collected contributions of more \$5,000 in 20-plus states to qualify for federal matching funds.

Her plan, the Green New Deal, is an emergency arrangement based on the New Deal of the 1930s that would get us substantially out of our depression. It would create 25 million jobs, community jobs and living wage jobs at the same time that it jumpstarts the green economy that can make wars for oil obsolete because it meets our energy needs here at home. It is a bottom-up program that puts communities in charge of finding what jobs they need to be sustainable.

Historically, America's successes have always come from social movements from the grassroots. We must all stand with the politics of courage, not fear, and take



Dr. Jill Stein and Cheri Honkala are the Green Party candidates for president and vice president.

Stein is expected to be in California in mid-October. Contact the author to help create an event to help her and local Greens. Folks who are interested in more information about Stein should visit her Web site at [www.jillstein.org](http://www.jillstein.org).

The Fresno County Green Party meets the second Thursday of each month at the Hugh M. Burns State Building (2550 Mariposa Mall). The next meeting will be Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Richard Gomez is currently a council member of the Fresno County Green Party. Contact him at 559-408-3320, [nate136\\_66@yahoo.com](mailto:nate136_66@yahoo.com) or on Facebook at [richard.gomez.9843@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/richard.gomez.9843).

# Barr-Sheehan 2012: Real Peace, Real Freedom

By Dan Yaseen

On Aug. 4, the Peace and Freedom Party nominated Roseanne Barr for President and Cindy Sheehan for Vice President.

Barr's campaign states:

This is an exciting time for us to vote our values! Roseanne Barr is a mother, grandmother, activist, leader, feminist and successful business woman who is addressing the concerns of the 99%. She is the lone voice of courage and reason who is unstoppable as she holds corporate-funded politicians' feet to the fire.

On Day 1 of #OccupyWallStreet, September 17th, 2011, Roseanne became the first public figure to stand with the occupiers in downtown Manhattan's Zuccotti Park, delivering a speech before the very first General Assembly.



Roseanne Barr and Cindy Sheehan are the Peace and Freedom Party candidates for president and vice president.

The platform of the Peace and Freedom Party states:

The Peace and Freedom Party, founded in 1967, is committed to socialism, democracy, ecology, feminism and racial equality. We represent the working class, those without capital in a capitalist society. We organize toward a world where cooperation replaces competition, a world where all people are well fed, clothed and

housed; where all women and men have equal status; where all individuals may freely endeavor to fulfill their own talents and desires; a world of freedom and peace where every community retains its cultural integrity and lives with all others in harmony.

I contacted Barr and asked her two questions:

DY: Why are you running for President, and why should people vote for Barr-Sheehan rather than Obama-Biden?

RB: I'm running to bring pressure to Obama-Biden to do the right thing for the people. People should vote for Cindy and me because we are not liars, thieves or lobbying whores for banksters.

DY: If Romney wins, what will you tell Democrats who

blame you for Obama's loss?

RB: Stop sucking so bad and then you might win by a larger margin.

The following is from the Peace and Freedom Party Web site ([www.peaceandfreedom.org](http://www.peaceandfreedom.org)):

# The Crockford Files

By John Crockford

## Education Opportunities Online

Coursera ([www.coursera.org/](http://www.coursera.org/)) is "a social entrepreneurship company that partners with the top universities in the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free."

The OpenCourseWare Consortium ([www.ocwconsortium.org/](http://www.ocwconsortium.org/)) is "a worldwide community of hundreds of higher education institutions and associated organizations committed to advancing OpenCourseWare and its impact on global education."

The Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org/](http://www.khanacademy.org/)) has "over 3,200 videos on everything from arithmetic to physics, finance and history and hundreds of skills to practice...to help you learn what you want, when you want, at your own pace."

Academic Earth ([www.academicearth.org/](http://www.academicearth.org/)) "aims to provide everyone with the opportunity to earn a world-class education by offering free online classes and online learning tools."

Wikiversity is "a Wikimedia Foundation project devoted to learning resources, learning projects and research for use in all levels, types and styles of education from pre-school to university, including professional training and informal learning"

iTunes U ([www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/](http://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/)) provides "an easy way to design and distribute complete courses featuring audio, video, books and other content. And students and lifelong learners can experience your courses for free through a powerful new app for iPad, iPhone and iPod touch."

## Educational Textbooks Online

Wikibooks ([www.wikibooks.org/](http://www.wikibooks.org/)) is an "open-content textbooks collection that anyone can edit."

Textbook Revolution ([www.textbookrevolution.org/](http://www.textbookrevolution.org/)) is "a student-run site dedicated to increasing the use of free educational materials by teachers and professors. We want to get these materials into classrooms. On this site you'll find links and reviews of textbooks and select educational resources. Some of the books are PDF files, others are viewable online as e-books, or some are simply web sites containing course or multimedia content."

\*\*\*\*\*

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).


Since 1974 the Peace and Freedom Party platform has been feminist and socialist. We want a socialist economy, one where industries, financial institutions, and natural resources are owned by the people as a whole and democratically managed by the people who work in them and use them. This would be a big change from the present corporate capitalist economy.

As a feminist party, the Peace and Freedom Party actively supports the struggle to eliminate oppression and discrimination based on sex or sexual orientation. Sexual oppression, abuse, and violence in our personal lives are intimately related to authoritarianism and hierarchical institutions, oppression and abuse on the job, and to the violence of war. The struggle against sexism and the struggle for democratic and nonviolent human relations cannot be delayed but must be pursued actively at the same time as the struggle to eliminate oppression and discrimination based on class, race or nationality, age, or physical disability.

Learn more about Barr's presidential campaign, and find out how you can support real change at [roseanneforpresident2012.org](http://roseanneforpresident2012.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

Dan Yaseen is on the Editorial Board of the Community Alliance. Contact him at [danyaseen@comcast.net](mailto:danyaseen@comcast.net) or 559-251-3361.



**Sue Stone MD**  
**Holistic & Integrative Family Medicine**  
**559.435.1650**  
**Fax: 559.435.1471**  
7415 N. Cedar Ave. Suite #101 • Fresno, CA 93720



**Chase Flower Shop**  
(559) 233-8631  
1405 N. Van Ness Ave  
Fresno, CA 93728  
**World Wide Delivery**  
[www.chaseflowershop.com](http://www.chaseflowershop.com)  
Michael Butler  
Floral Design



**COMMUNITY LINK**  
A Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Community Service Organization  
**NEWSLINK monthly newspaper**  
**PINK PAGES**  
**QUEER VOLLEYBALL**  
**GRAY ALLIANCE**  
**BOWL-A-THON**  
**YOUTH ALLIANCE**  
**LAVENDER PROM**  
**FALL GARDEN & TEA TOUR**  
**"IT'S A QUEER THANG" RADIO SHOW**  
**GLBT PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL**  
Questions? Call 559-266-LINK or visit [www.CommunityLinkFresno.com](http://www.CommunityLinkFresno.com)



OPINION AND ANALYSIS FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Arguably the Most Important  
By Ruth Gadebusch



Buried deep in the ballot coming to you in a few weeks will be school board elections. Don't be misled by that placement or by the many who belittle that job as of little consequence.

Even the smallest entity, be it county or district, is challenging. A district like Fresno Unified is at the top of complexity. Yet, we have so many who think it is just a nice little way of getting their name up-front to move on to so-called bigger and better political positions. Certainly in our area, few have successfully moved on but that is another story for another time.

If we expect to have that best education for our children's future, and that of the society, we must pay close attention to the candidates on our ballot. We really should give the public schools more status because all too often resources are allocated by status. Fresno Unified has three positions in this election. Surrounding districts, as well as the Fresno County Board, also have elections.

Voters would do well to give serious consideration before casting their votes. The knowledge and character of incumbents and newcomers should be considered. Attend candidate forums. Question would-be members.

Does s/he understand how much time is required? How acquainted is s/he with the current operation? Has s/he prepared by attending meetings regularly? Does s/he have the time to visit various school sites and the behind-the-scenes operations such as the maintenance yard or the food preparation? Does s/he truly have a full picture of the responsibility for the entire operation? Will her/his personal financial resources allow functioning within the limited remuneration? Is s/he open minded?

Question candidates about his/her prior community service: Sufficient overview of the whole understanding the primary responsibility representing a given area as part of a bigger entity with students crossing borders to accommodate a particular need?

In this complicated world, all political bodies have complex financial sources but nowhere is that more true than with our public schools. Because creativity can take one only so far, it is necessary to understand the finances of the district. At the risk of sounding cynical, I will point out that he who understands the finance wields the power—not for power's sake but for best use of the district's current and long-term health. There will never be enough money to cover all needs, so constant vigilance is necessary to be sure it is being used properly, legally and morally.

Boardsmanship demands acceptance that power comes as part of the body, not the individual; meetings require preparation; arguments are presented in the meeting; board decisions are accepted as belonging to you regardless of how you voted; rules of the body are to be adhered to; and board and professional colleagues are due courtesies.

It is too late to become a candidate for these ever-so-important positions, but it is not too late to be a responsible voter in this and other matters.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Catherine Campbell, attorney**  
PO Box 4470  
Fresno, CA 93744  
(559) 498-8140  
cathsoup@comcast.net

criminal defense, appeals, writs  
lifer hearings  
parental rights/grandparent's rights  
resume upon request  
**30 years experience**

Corporate Wealth Trashing  
Vital Human Needs  
By Doug Page



On Aug. 9, the Fresno County Planning Commission voted 6-1 to approve a corporate agribusiness application that will permanently destroy 880 acres of peach and nectarine farm in the Sanger River Bottom to mine sand and gravel and produce asphalt and cement.

The applicant, Gerawan, the largest grower and shipper of peaches and nectarines in the world with thousands of acres of fruit orchards in the area, persuaded the Planning Commission to ignore more than 100 attendees who opposed the project, that prime food growing land will be permanently destroyed, that air pollution in Fresno County would be made worse and that added truck traffic will adversely affect the safety of schoolchildren and the traveling public.

Gerawan hired a skillful public relations person, Mike Mallery, to prepare the mining proposal. Mallery spent two years assembling a number of mining experts, underground water experts, planning experts and lawyers, who prepared presentations that falsely emphasized the paramount public need for sand, gravel, cement and asphalt as being more urgent than the public need for food, clean air and water and traffic safety. At least 13 such experts appeared at the public hearing, which is required by law. It is estimated that Gerawan spent \$2.5 million persuading the Planning staff, the Planning Commissioners and, probably, the Fresno County Supervisors to approve this mine.

Gerawan's presentation relied on estimates made by the State of California in 2006 that predicted the need for construction gravel for future years. Gerawan and the public planners relied on this old data and not on the conditions that exist now:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared 1,000 counties in 26 states that constitute America's "bread basket" as agricultural disaster areas, adversely affecting the supply and price of corn, wheat and soybeans.
- Drought in Russia, Ukraine and Syria has ruined the grain crops there.
- Fresno already has the seventh worst air quality in the nation, and the dust and diesel fumes will be made worse by mining and cement and asphalt production.

The Planning Commission approved mining in 22 40-acre parcels to a depth of 50 feet, thus exposing more than a square mile of underground water to pollution and evaporation. Gerawan promised that the banks of these many ponds of water would be kept free of grass or other ground cover that would attract birds.

The agricultural land that is being permanently destroyed has prized features that make it some of the best food growing land on earth:

- The river bottom soil is fertile.
- The mild climate is excellent for food growing.
- The highest priority diversion of irrigation water from the Kings River provides almost free water between March and November. (The author knows this because he farms 45 acres two miles downstream on the same ditches. He lives next door to the ditch tender, who schedules his turns for water.)
- There are underground pipes in place to irrigate the crops. All one has to do is to reach down and turn on a valve and the free water flows.
- This 880-acre parcel can produce an immense quantity of vegetables, corn, beans, soybeans, potatoes, sweet potatoes and peanuts in a short time.

Neither the State of California nor Fresno County has any policy or law protecting our food supply. California does have laws that tend to protect agricultural land and farmers but nothing expressly safeguarding food for human beings.

California policies are contradictory. The California Department of Natural Resources established Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) throughout California a few years ago. Shortsighted though it may seem now, the entire 25,000 acres of the fertile river bottom of the Kings River were designated as an MRZ. Those concerned about food security, health and environment label the Kings River MRZ a "sacrifice zone."

Be alert for the next hearing, yet to be announced, before the Board of Supervisors and plan to attend and speak out against this corporate idiocy.

For further information on the adverse effects of the mining project, visit [www.friendsofthekingsriver.org](http://www.friendsofthekingsriver.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

*Doug Page is a former lawyer for unions in the Bay Area, long "retired" and now operating Page River Bottom Farm, which is devoted to sustainable grass-fed cattle, sheep, pigs, meat chickens and laying hens using no chemicals feeding, no GMO grains and no soybeans. Contact Doug [doupage2@earthlink.net](mailto:doupage2@earthlink.net).*

State-Sanctioned Torture  
in Pelican Bay SHU  
By Daniel Treglia



Located just a few miles from the Oregon border is a prison tucked into the redwood forest known as Pelican Bay. It's said that Pelican Bay was designed to house the "worst of the worst," by creating conditions that severely limit, if not completely cut off, all five senses from human contact. Ultimately, time and reality would eventually reflect that the worst of the worst was not the humans it contained in its torture

chambers but rather the conditions it inflicts and those who carry out its infliction.

There is little known to the public about the specific conditions we endure on a daily, yearly and infinite basis in what the "California Department of Corruptions and Revenue" calls the Security Housing Unit (SHU).

Our cells are 8 feet × 10 feet with white painted walls. There are no windows and no fresh air; we can't see night or day. We can't hear wind or life. We can't touch or feel, we can't taste flavors or see people. This is what is known as sensory deprivation. Sensory deprivation is the mechanism used by the state's correctional officers to starve our minds of social progress, as a means to break our minds, hearts and spirits.

Because we are far from home, our family and once upon a time friends become distant and eventually nonexistent in some of our lives. While some have outside contact through mail and correspondence, the vast majority of us (including myself) lose our girlfriend, friends, associates and even family.

Our day consists of taking 20 paces out of our cell to another bigger cell, outside in a cement box, to pace like an animal for one hour a day, in what they call "our yard." We will take the 20 or so paces back to our cell only to be entombed within the four white walls. Everything is cement, and our view is another white wall.

Every 180 days, they escort us in dog chains wrapped around our waist, in handcuffs, to an office. Present is a psych and prison officials. They explain the only way to be released is to debrief (in other words, snitch). They then ask if would you like to debrief; upon your reply to the negative, they state, "You will be retained in the SHU indefinitely and we will see you in 180 days."

This hearing and process has and will occur for thousands of us in California's SHUs until three things happen, or shall I say four. One is snitch, and that means for most telling lies about people they don't like because they have actually nothing to tell. The other is parole. Though I have five years, the vast majority here have life. This leaves the other two choices. Some die through suicide, whereas others die in here of old age. The last one, which is frequent (though not as frequent as debriefing), involves losing your mind because these conditions decompose the brain due to the monotony and sensory deprivation.

So those are the choices—snitch, parole, die or go insane. Because many of us refuse to break under the pressure and tactics once employed on the prisoners of the Korean War of the 1950s, we must endure these conditions forever.

This is why last year the hunger strikes were initiated here in Pelican Bay. To bring our muffled and gagged voices upon all of your ears. To show California, America, what is happening here.

Our protest is far from over. We seek to be treated as humans. Is there anyone out there who will help me spread this word? Is there anyone willing to assist me in bringing light to the eyes of those who don't know? Through the Internet and other outlets? If so, please write to me and ask any questions you have.

There is a saying that "the degree of civilization can be measured by entering its prisons." Is this the society we are?

\*\*\*\*\*

*Daniel Treglia may be reached via mail at the following address: Daniel Treglia T66950, PBSP SHU C2-110, P.O. Box 7500, Crescent City, CA 95532.*

**ANDREA MCDANIEL**  
LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST

1300 W. Shaw Ave., Suite 18  
Fresno, CA 93711

(559) 240-2202  
[andreamcd@comcast.net](mailto:andreamcd@comcast.net)  
MFC 47948

 **California Alliance  
for Retired Americans**  
[www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org)

**Gene Roza**  
Fresno CARA Action Team Convener  
PHONE 559.905.3521  
[c21generoza@aol.com](mailto:c21generoza@aol.com)

Working to improve the quality of life for older adults and their families





Alexey V. Byalko, Ph.D.

# Can We Predict the Global Future? Part 1

By Alexey V. Byalko and George B. Kauffman

The humorous statement, “It is difficult to make predictions, especially about the future,” including its numerous variants, has been ascribed not only to Yogi Berra but also to persons as disparate as

Casey Stengel, Niels Bohr, Mark Twain, George Bernard Shaw, Sam Goldwyn, Will Rogers, Winston Churchill, Benjamin Disraeli, Dan Quayle, Albert Einstein, Victor Borge, Groucho Marx, Enrico Fermi, Woody Allen, Freeman Dyson, Confucius and Cecil B. De Mille (<http://larry.denenberg.com/predictions.html>).

However, we can make a probable prognosis of the world’s development with reasonable accuracy. There are at least three global indicators that can be reliably measured—1) the Earth’s climate, 2) the world’s population and 3) the sum of knowledge accumulated by humanity throughout its entire history. Their time dependencies are different, but all of them are inertial, that is, they cannot change abruptly. Therefore, analysis of the past can provide a prediction of the future.

Now, however, we are faced with an unprecedented situation. We cannot predict the world future for more than one generation ahead. The more distant future depends greatly on our actions in the next decade or two. Reasonable solutions look extremely difficult to carry out economically. However, unless steps are taken soon, the future collapse of our civilization means no future at all.

## Three Views of the Future and Three Bases for Them

People generally have three different opinions about the future—1) the Conservative: “Tomorrow will be about the same as today, but it would be better if it were like yesterday,” 2) the Progressive: “Everything will grow infinitely; human progress is unlimited,” and 3) the Alarmist: “A catastrophe is coming; get ready.”

The conservative view is probably based on the climate stability

that has existed for the past 6,000 years, which coincides approximately with the age of written civilization. The progressive view is based on the actual progress of humanity during this entire period. An example of this prognosis is that of Dr. Michio Kaku, a prominent theoretical physicist, bestselling author and host of the Science Channel TV show, *Sci Fi Science*, and two radio programs. Although Kaku’s prognosis of scientific advances is favorable, his predictions about the environment are decidedly negative—by 2100, several major American cities will be underwater, and others, including New York, will be surrounded by looming seawalls.

The alarmist view is based on quite different reasons. The most obvious one is the inevitability of death. (Because we’re concerned with global development, we’ll dispense with this reason.) There are many global events in life, some of which can lead to catastrophes that are either poorly predictable or completely accidental. For example, earthquakes are both unpredictable and unpreventable. Volcanic eruptions are predictable but still unpreventable. An asteroid impact is possible to forecast decades in advance, but the technology that could influence its trajectory is still far from reality.

differential equation proposed in 1959 by the Austrian-American physicist-philosopher Heinz von Foerster. Because an increase of this magnitude is not observed for other species (either flora or fauna), it is caused by humans.

Because the steep graph of von Foerster’s law is difficult to analyze, let’s look at its inverse variant—the dry land area per person (Figure 1). Here the solid line presents actual data; the dotted line is based on Foerster’s law; and the two dashed lines are approximations, which cross at about the year 2037,

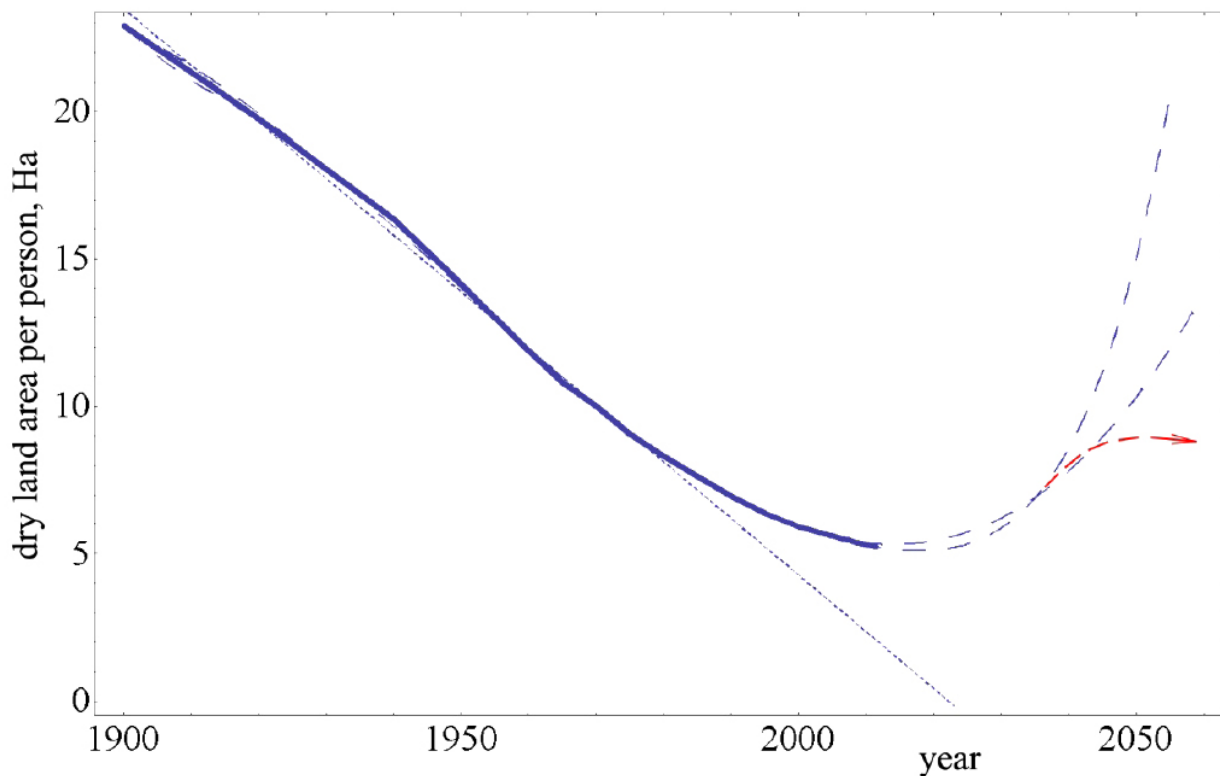
after which our predictions become unreliable. The red line is Byalko’s prediction for the distant future when the world’s population crisis finally ends. Byalko’s prediction has not been proven mathematically.

Because the time scale for population changes is one generation, that is, 25–30 years, our predictions for the future are limited. This is a mathematical argument but yet not purely mathematical because the change of generations is our human reality. However, there is another serious reason for the coming crisis—global climate warming—which we shall discuss in Part 2.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Alexey V. Byalko, Ph.D. in astrophysics and cosmology; associate fellow, Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Chernogolovka, Moscow Region; deputy editor-in-chief of the journal Priroda (Nature) of the Presidium of the RAS since 1993; and author of the book, Nuclear Waste Disposal: Geophysical Safety (CRC Press: Boca Raton, Fla., 1994), and more than 200 articles.*

*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 (ACS) George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education, the Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach and the Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution, as well as numerous domestic and international honors. In 2011, he was appointed an ACS fellow.*



**Figure 1. The world population growth, expressed as dry land area per person. The two extrapolations to the future (dashed lines) are polynomial approximations.**

Finally, there’s another natural cause for the coming global catastrophe—world population growth. This isn’t a problem that is widely discussed. However, because it can influence our minds and decisions, even when not recognized or expressed openly, we’ll discuss it first.

## World Population

The world’s human population has been known with reasonable certainty since the days of ancient Rome. Except for the bubonic plague outbreak (“Black Death”) of the 14th century, this number has increased hyperbolically according to the

and/or Drought Linked to Human-Induced Global Warming”

- “‘When It Rains, It Pours’: Global Warming Brings Increased, Heavier Storms. Report documents increasing and heavier snowstorms and rainstorms since 1948”
- “Scientists Tell Senate Panel: Climate Change Is Here and Disaster Costs Will Be Huge”
- “Stop This Culture of Paying Politicians for Denying Climate Change: Protecting the Environment Requires a Sweeping Reform of Political Funding, Only Then Corporations Will Stop Throwing Big Money at Senators”

In “the most important thing I’ve written since 1989,” Bill McKibben, with 350.org, admitted that the situation was much worse than he had thought: “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math: Three simple numbers that add up to global catastrophe and that make clear who the real enemy is... June broke or tied 3,215 high-temperature records across the United States. That followed the warmest May on record for the Northern Hemisphere—the 327th consecutive month in which the temperature of the entire globe exceeded the 20th-century average, the odds of which occurring by simple chance were  $3.7 \times 10^{-99}$ , a number considerably larger than the number of stars in the universe” [0, followed by 99 zeros and 3.7].

Things are worse than ever. If you’re a pessimist, this is terrible

news. If you’re an optimist, we’ve reached a tipping point, where even the most skeptical will be forced to admit that they were wrong, and something will finally be done. The situation reminds me of the apocryphal story of Emperor Nero’s fiddling while Rome was burning.

A crucial factor is apathy and concern with trivia by the public, the news media and politicians. The reality-TV Kardashian family got 40 times more major U.S. news coverage than ocean acidification, sometimes dubbed global warming’s “evil twin.”

In 2010, U.S. presidential science adviser John P. Holdren said, “Global warming is a dangerous misnomer. It suggests that the changes are uniform, primarily about temperature, gradual, and likely benign. None of these are true.” He suggested the designation “global climate disruption.” Perhaps a name change will help, but I doubt it.

I e-mailed my article to numerous colleagues. One of them, Dr. Alexey Byalko, agreed that 350 ppm for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> was unattainable until 2100, if even then. Our correspondence concerned the possibility of predicting the future and resulted in the accompanying two-part article (of which the first part appears in this issue), based largely on Dr. Byalko’s research and calculations, which appear here for the first time in a popular newspaper in English.

## Background to “Can We Predict the Global Future?”

By George B. Kauffman

In my article, “Connect the Dots: Climate Change and 350.org” (*Community Alliance*, July 2012), I pointed out the need to reduce the limit of atmospheric carbon dioxide to 350 parts per million to avoid runaway climate change. Since then, despite the persistent denial by the well-funded rogue fossil-fuel industry (Have you seen the TV ads for “clean coal?”), the overwhelming scientific evidence for human-caused climate change continues to mount. Here are a few examples. You can get details by Googling the titles:

- “Continuing Drought, Heat Bring Fear of Global Food Crisis”
- “How the Influence Industry Killed Climate Change Legislation”
- “‘Not a Mistake’: NASA in Disbelief over Rate of Melting Ice: Greenland Ice Sheet Melted at Unprecedented Rate during July”
- “Survey: ‘Climate Skeptics’ More Likely to Embrace ‘Free Market’ Ideology, Conspiracy Theories: New Study Shows Correlation between so-called ‘Skeptics’ and Tendency Towards ‘Conspiracist Ideation’”
- “Storms Threaten Ozone Layer over U.S., Study Says”
- “Climate Study Forces Koch-Funded Skeptic to Admit Humans Driving Warming”
- “Extreme Weather Events Linked to Climate Change: Research Shows That Some Episodes of Extreme Heat



# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE



## Accion Deferida: Preguntas Frecuentes

El 15 de junio del 2012, el Presidente Barack Obama anunció una directiva al Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) llamado “acción diferida”. A ciertos jóvenes indocumentados quienes son elegibles bajo el DREAM Act se les dará un tipo de permiso temporal para permanecer en los EE.UU.

La acción diferida será válida por dos años y podrá ser renovada al final de los dos años. El gobierno federal empezó a aceptar solicitudes para la acción diferida el 15 de agosto de 2012.

### ¿Qué es acción diferida?

Acción diferida es una especie de alivio administrativo que previene una deportación y que ha existido desde hace mucho tiempo. Por este, el DHS permite que un ciudadano no estadounidense permanezca temporalmente en los EE.UU. con un estatus migratorio legal.

La persona también puede solicitar un “permiso de trabajo” para el período durante el cual esté bajo la acción diferida. La aprobación de acción diferida es una solución temporal y no ofrece un estatus de residente legal permanente o ciudadanía de los EE.UU.

### ¿Quién es elegible para la acción diferida?

Para ser elegible para la acción diferida, usted debe:

- Haber llegado a los EE.UU. antes de la edad de dieciséis años.
- Haber vivido continuamente en los EE.UU. desde el 15 junio del 2007, hasta hoy en día.
- Estar presente en los EE.UU. el 15 de junio de 2012, y en el momento de hacer su solicitud de acción diferida.
- No haber tenido estatus migratorio legal el 15 de junio de 2012. Esto significa que debió haber entrado a los EE.UU. sin autorización legal antes del 15 de junio de 2012, o, si entró legalmente, que su estatus migratorio se venció a partir del 15 de junio de 2012.
- Tener por lo menos 15 años de edad, si no se encuentra actualmente en proceso de deportación y no tiene una orden de deportación. Si usted está actualmente en proceso de deportación, o tiene una orden de salida voluntaria pendiente, o tiene una orden de deportación y no se encuentra bajo custodia de inmigración, usted puede solicitar acción diferida, incluso si todavía no tiene 15 años de edad.
- Tener 30 años de edad o menos el 15 de junio de 2012 (una persona que no había cumplido 31 años de edad en esa fecha también es elegible).
- Actualmente estar inscrito en la escuela, haberse graduado u obtenido un certificado de finalización de la escuela secundaria (high school), haber obtenido un certificado de educación general (GED), o ser un veterano con descargo honorable de la Guardia Costera o de las fuerzas armadas de los EE.UU. Si usted está inscrito en un programa de GED en el momento de presentar su petición de acción diferida, eso cumple con el requisito de “estar en la escuela”. Véase abajo para más información sobre el requisito de “estar en la escuela”.
- No haber sido condenado por un delito grave (felonía). Una felonía es una ofensa federal, estatal, o local que pueda ser penada con cárcel por un año o más.
- No haber sido condenado por un delito menor (“misdemeanor offense”) “significativo” o tres delitos menores. Véase abajo para obtener más información acerca de los delitos que pueden descalificarlo.
- No representar una amenaza para la seguridad nacional o seguridad pública. (DHS todavía está creando la definición de estos términos, pero ha indicado que incluyen membresía en una pandilla, participación en actividades criminales, o participación en actividades que amenazan a los EE.UU.)
- Pasar una verificación de seguridad que podría incluir antecedentes penales.

### ¿Cómo se solicita la acción diferida y el permiso de trabajo?

Usted puede enviar su solicitud para acción diferida en el formulario I-821D “Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals”. Usted debe presentar este formulario junto con el formulario I-765 solicitando un permiso de trabajo del Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de Estados Unidos (USCIS).

La información sobre los permisos de trabajo está disponible en el sitio web de USCIS en [www.uscis.gov/i-765](http://www.uscis.gov/i-765). Usted tiene que demostrar una necesidad económica para poder obtener el permiso de trabajo.

Las solicitudes de acción diferida y de permiso de trabajo deben

ser enviadas al mismo tiempo a la casilla postal de USCIS. Visite [www.uscis.gov/i-821d](http://www.uscis.gov/i-821d) para obtener más información acerca de la dirección de correo y las instrucciones.

Si el USCIS considera que su solicitud está completa, le enviará una notificación de recibido. Algunas semanas después, USCIS le enviará un aviso de cita para visitar un Centro de Asistencia para Aplicaciones (ASC) para que le tomen sus huellas digitales. USCIS le notificará de su decisión final por escrito.

### ¿USCIS revisará mis antecedentes como parte de mi petición?

Sí. Estos chequeos incluyen la verificación de la información biográfica y biométrica que usted proveerá contra una variedad de bases de datos guardados por el gobierno federal.

### ¿Cuáles son los costos asociados con el proceso de acción diferida?

Usted tendrá que pagar \$465, lo cual incluye una cuota de \$380 para la solicitud de autorización de empleo y una cuota de \$85 para las huellas digitales. No habrá un perdón del pago. Sin embargo, habrá perdones de pago en circunstancias muy limitadas. La solicitud de perdón de pago se debe enviar antes de solicitar la acción diferida y el permiso de trabajo.

### ¿Cómo compruebo que califico para la acción diferida?

Puede presentar documentos como registros financieros (contratos de renta, comprobantes de servicio de teléfono, de cuentas de tarjetas de crédito, etc.), registros médicos, registros de la escuela (diplomas, certificados de GED, reportes de calificaciones, expedientes académicos), registros de empleo, y registros del servicio militar. Si ha sido arrestado alguna vez, debería solicitar una copia de sus antecedentes penales de su estado o de la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI).

### ¿Qué califica como “estar inscrito en la escuela?”

Para cumplir con el requisito de “estar inscrito en la escuela”, usted debe estar inscrito en:

1. una escuela primaria pública o privada, la escuela intermedia o secundaria, preparatoria o secundaria;
2. un programa de educación, alfabetización, o de entrenamiento profesional (incluido el entrenamiento vocacional) que esté diseñado para colocarlo en un programa de educación superior, entrenamiento de trabajo o empleo y en el que esté trabajando para dicha colocación, o
3. un programa de educación que le esté ayudando ya sea en la obtención de un diploma regular de escuela secundaria o su equivalente reconocido bajo la ley estatal (incluyendo un certificado de finalización, certificado de asistencia, o reconocimiento alternativo), o en pasar un examen de GED (“General Educational Development,” o desarrollo educativo general) u otro equivalente autorizado por el estado.

### ¿Qué se considera un delito menor “significativo”?

Un delito menor es un delito para el cual la pena máxima de prisión es de un año o menos, pero más de cinco días. El DHS considera lo siguiente como delitos menores “significativos”:

- Una ofensa de violencia doméstica,
- abuso o explotación sexual, robo (“burglary”),
- posesión o uso ilegal de un arma de fuego,
- distribución o tráfico de drogas,
- manejar bajo la influencia del alcohol o drogas (estos delitos se consideran delitos menores significativos, independientemente de la duración de la pena que se impone).
- Para las ofensas no incluidas en esta lista, un delito menor es aquel por el cual hubo una sentencia de más de 90 días en la cárcel. Esto no incluye una sentencia suspendida.

### ¿Qué tipo de delitos se consideran “tres o más delitos menores” (“misdemeanors”)?

Cualquier delito menor que no se considere un delito menor “significativo” por el cual se impone una sentencia de cárcel de menos de 90 días es considerado un delito menor.

- No se cuenta ofensas menores de tráfico.
- No se cuenta ofensas menores relacionadas con leyes de inmigración estatales, como las leyes en Arizona, Alabama, y otros

## Acción diferida

Suspensión de deportaciones de ciertos jóvenes y estudiantes indocumentados.



estados que han creado leyes criminalizando las actividades cotidianas de personas indocumentadas. Estos crímenes no cuentan como felonías o delitos menores.

DHS analizará todos los factores y las circunstancias de cada caso para determinar si una persona que ha cometido algún delito califica para la acción diferida.

### Si se me concede la acción diferida, ¿cuánto tiempo durará la acción diferida?

La acción diferida se otorgará por dos años. Cuando el período de dos años expire, la concesión de acción diferida se puede renovar, después de que DHS revise el caso individual.

### Si mi período de acción diferida se extiende, ¿voy a tener que volver a solicitar mi permiso de trabajo?

Sí. Si usted solicita y recibe una extensión del período para el cual se le concede la acción diferida, también debe solicitar una extensión de su permiso de trabajo.

### ¿Puedo viajar fuera de EE.UU.?

Si usted sale de los EE.UU. después del 15 de agosto de 2012, no calificará para la acción diferida. Si USCIS aprueba su petición, usted puede viajar fuera de los EE.UU. si solicita y recibe libertad condicional anticipada (“advance parole”) del USCIS. “Advance parole” le permite salir de los EE.UU. por razones humanitarias, de empleo, o educacionales. Verifique con un abogado antes de salir de EE.UU. porque “advance parole” no le garantiza que podrá regresar a los EE.UU.

### ¿Podré obtener una licencia de conducir?

Los requisitos para los inmigrantes para obtener una licencia de conducir y los documentos requeridos como prueba de su estatus migratorio, varían según el estado donde vive. Dado que la concesión de acción diferida aparece en el REAL ID Act (una ley federal que regula a los estados con respecto a las licencias de conducir) como base de la elegibilidad para una licencia que se reconoce para ciertos propósitos federales, existen fuertes argumentos para que los estados concedan licencias de conducir a personas que reciben acción diferida. Puede que haya necesidad de abogar con su estado para asegurar que reconozcan a las personas con acción diferida como elegibles para una licencia.

### Si se me niega la acción diferida, ¿se me pondrá en proceso de deportación?

Si se le niega la acción diferida bajo este proceso, el USCIS remitirá su caso a ICE sólo si ha sido encontrado culpable de algún delito, si se descubre que hubo fraude en su solicitud, o si se le considera una amenaza a la seguridad nacional o seguridad pública. Es contra la política de USCIS el remitir casos a ICE cuando no hay evidencia de fraude, ofensa criminal, o si no se le considera una amenaza a la seguridad nacional o seguridad pública, a menos que haya circunstancias especiales.

Sin embargo, antes de solicitar la acción diferida, es muy importante que primero consulte con un defensor que sepa del DREAM Act, con un abogado de buena reputación, o con un programa de servicios legales—especialmente si alguna vez ha sido arrestado o encontrado culpable por algún tipo de delito.

\*\*\*\*\*

Según el National Immigration Law Center website: <http://www.nilc.org/FAQdeferredactionyouthSp.html>

**Día de la Familia Inmigrante  
Día de Apoyo a Estudiantes y Jóvenes  
Para la ACCION DIFERIDA  
Domingo 9 de Septiembre, 2012, 4:00 p.m.  
CASA UNEI  
620 N Fresno St, Fresno, California  
Estará presente Mark Silverman, abogado del  
Immigrant Legal Resources Center  
Para información: 559 776-6642**