

# A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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## DEMOCRACY NOW!

By Mike Rhodes

Democracy Now!, the national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez is now on Fresno TV. KNXT-TV ch 49 (ch 9 on Comcast cable) is broadcasting the show M-F at 6 PM. Fans of the show have been able to listen to Democracy Now! for years on KFCF 88.1 FM at 6 and 9 AM.

Democracy Now!'s War and Peace Report provides listeners and viewers with access to people and perspectives rarely heard in the U.S. corporate-sponsored media, including independent and international journalists, ordinary people from around the world who are directly affected by U.S. foreign policy, grassroots leaders and peace activists, artists, academics and independent analysts. In addition, Democracy Now! hosts real debates—debates between people who substantially disagree, such as between the White House or the Pentagon spokespeople on the one hand, and grassroots activists on the other.

Why Independent Media?

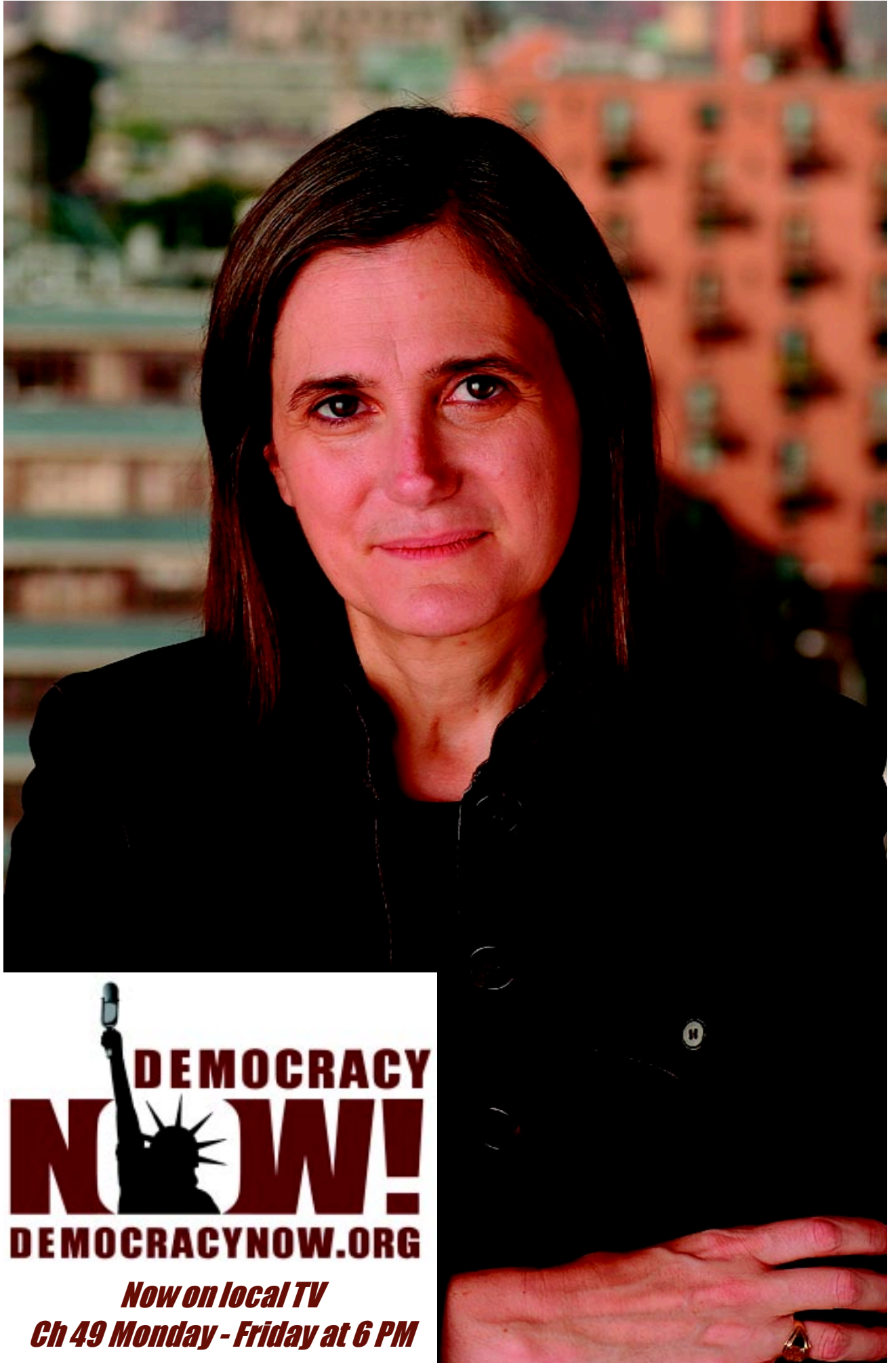
For true democracy to work, people need easy access to independent, diverse sources of news and information.

But the last two decades have seen unprecedented corporate media consolidation. The U.S. media was already fairly homogeneous in the early 1980s: some fifty media conglomerates dominated all media outlets, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines, music, publishing and film. In the year 2000, just six corporations dominated the U.S. media.

In addition, corporate media outlets in the U.S. are legally responsible to their shareholders to maximize profits.

KNXT-TV is also a rare entity. It is the only full-power Catholic TV station in the nation broadcasting 24/7, with the potential to reach 2.4 million viewers in the San Joaquin Valley. Channel 49 has been supported for more than 20 years by the Diocese of Fresno and recently has embarked on a courageous plan to generate most of its revenue from its viewing audience and underwriting. The KNXT mission is to explore and affirm the best in human and spiritual values through family programming and alternative entertainment. In continuing their dedication to fair, equitable and value-based TV, KNXT is proud to air Democracy Now! for all TV viewers in the San Joaquin Valley.

Amy Goodman, independent journalist and host of Democracy Now!, will be in Fresno on Tuesday, April 29. Amy will be here with her brother David Goodman to talk about their new book, *Standing Up to the Madness: Ordinary Heroes in Extraordinary Times* which will be coming out in early April. KFCF, the event's sponsor, will have plenty of books for sale there for Amy and David to sign. The event will take place at the new, green Unitarian Church, 2672 E Alluvial Avenue (between Chestnut & Willow).



APRIL 2008

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**

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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, & economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

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## Guest Editorial The Topic of Immigration is the Republican Life Preserver By Eduardo Stanley

The conservative ideologue Victor Hanson, in his weekly column published on January 13, 2008 in the Fresno Bee, asserted that the possible presidential candidates from the various parties with flexible positions regarding immigration (Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, John McCain and even Rudy Giuliani) had to modify their positions faced with the possible voter pressure.

"The people want action (against undocumented immigration) and the candidates are looking to react," he writes. Further on, he adds, "Those who defend maintaining open borders lost that debate a long time ago. The majority of Americans want them closed - Now!"

Hanson is trying to make it look as if the great majority of the population agrees with him - or that he represents their points of view.

Regardless, some statistics show that these opinions vary. For example, in the survey in the Los Angeles Times on December 6, 2007, 60 percent of those surveyed said that those who are undocumented who are not criminals should have the opportunity to obtain their legal residence. In terms of the importance of the issue of immigration in the political campaigns, it takes fifth place after Iraq, the economy, protecting the nation against terrorism and public health. In other words, the citizenry is less given to radical and highly topical positions like those predicted by Hanson, a retired professor of classical studies for California State University Fresno - a rural institution known more for the scandals and conflicts in its sports department rather than for its academic quality.

Hanson is the author of the book "Mexifornia," published in 2003 by Encounter Books, which is part of the conservative organization "Encounter for Culture and Education". In this book, the author dedicates pages and pages to describe the filth and sickness of Mexicans, their responsibility in terms of increasing drug addiction, theft and chaos in the United State. Even so, Hanson assures that he is no "racist." But his writings appear to be more of a recycling of old insults aimed at different ethnic minorities - especially blacks - according to the different historical stages. It's only a matter of interchanging "blacks" for "Mexicans."

Hanson is looking to convince his audience that "all" of the United States rejects the possibility of granting residency to millions of undocumented workers who enrich local companies, who pay taxes and social security - which they will not be able to receive in their old age because they lack legal residence - and they also pay taxes when they make purchases, they generate businesses such as the creation of new schools, rural transportation, the sale of "ethnic" foods, money wiring, etc.

Hanson's insistence is not ingenuous. He, like other conservative ideologues, wants to impose his anti-immigration agenda on the candidates and the party platforms.

But not just this. The insistence of the immigration issue arrives at a time in which public opinion is questioning the Iraq war more - created for the benefit of corporations close to the Bush administration - and the lack of creativity in which the government is dealing with the current economic crisis.

Even though the issue of immigration has to be dealt with, there are others that are urgent, but the conservatives want to distract public opinion because it would affect their plans to maintain the White House in November.

In the meantime, what better topic to discuss than immigration instead of the disaster in Iraq and the thousands of millions of dollars the government is wasting for the benefit of private companies - at the same time that President Bush vetoed IN TWO OPPORTUNITIES the proposal that would have established health insurance for children, or isn't it better to talk about immigration when the country is facing a profound economic recession generated by the voracity of the corporations that got "risky" buyers involved in mortgage loans for their own benefit, summed up in the fiscal deficit and the "exportation" of jobs to Asia.

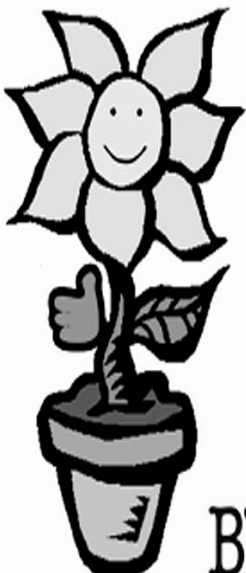
The conservative ideologues don't want the people to realize Bush's incompetence when it comes to dealing with these issues. The President doesn't know what to do. That's why Hanson and his friends look for excuses and for "scapegoats."

Nothing is more simple, then, to speak about the emotional issue of immigration. We need to distract the people. Because there are elections. It looks like there is still a bit of the cake that needs to be passed out. Sssshhhh! Don't let anybody hear it, we'd better talk about "illegal" immigration.

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# Living Earth Day Every Day in the Greenest Neighborhood in the Central Valley!—A Free Community Event

by Lorenzo Bassman

Imagine an intergenerational, safe neighborhood that's Earth friendly. That's Fresno Cohousing, the Greenest Neighborhood in the Central Valley! And on Saturday, April 19, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 2672 East Alluvial Avenue, La Querencia, Fresno's first Cohousing community, will host a free Earth Day event. The presentation will include site tours of the developing community led by our architect and members of the community (hard shoes and long pants are required to enter the construction site), and a panel discussion about energy-efficient sustainable design and community living. The panel is scheduled to include current cohousing residents, representatives of the Fresno Green Project, the Fresno Planning Commission and City Council, and the general contractor for La Querencia, Byldan Construction, designers of sustainably-built homes such as the award-winning Sunset Magazine Demonstration Home. There will be informational display tables representing some of the greenest local businesses and agencies, and refreshments will be served and supervised children's activities will be provided. There will also be screenings of the award-winning film *Kilowatt Ours, A Plan to Re-Energize America*.

La Querencia/Fresno Cohousing, the host of this event, is a group of families, couples and individuals creating an Earth-friendly intergenerational neighborhood of 28 beautiful homes custom-designed by the residents themselves with a commitment to using less of the Earth's resources. The 2-, 3-, 4- and 5 bedroom homes range in price from the mid \$300,000's to the high \$400,000's, and will be ready for move-in this summer. Solar panels, Energy Star appliances and high quality construction are standard for every home, exceeding California energy requirements by 35% and minimizing energy bills. Homebuyers will receive a solar rebate of \$3,149 after move-in. State-of-the-art internet access makes this truly a community designed for the 21st century.

The community will cluster privately-owned, self-sufficient homes around common facilities to provide an old-fashioned neighborhood feel where neighbors know each other and kids run and play in between the houses.

The shared facilities will include children's play areas, a workshop, a pool, spa and exercise facility, a teen hangout, and a beautiful common house with gourmet kitchen, large dining room for community dinners and other gatherings, a sitting area, guest apartment, kid's room and a shared laundry facility. The homes will be among the most energy efficient in the Valley and will also feature bright, naturally daylit rooms and low-toxicity building materials, shared organic gardens and edible landscaping, a bicycle storage facility, and proximity to schools, parks, shopping, restaurants and bicycle paths.

La Querencia will be a supportive, intergenerational community, with an emphasis on including families with young children as well as every other kind of family. In addition to the obvious social advantages of living near friends, residents will have more free time because many of the routine activities of life will be shared such as meal preparation and yard work. Expensive or rarely used tools and recreational equipment owned by the group will be available to all. Car-pooling and childcare will be easier to arrange. As in any healthy community, people will be tolerant and respectful toward others. Members value privacy as well as social contact, and our neighborhood design reflects a respect for each other's needs for privacy.

Each independent home will include its own kitchen, dining and living rooms, bedrooms and baths, large front porches, and individual back yards. Our architect has worked with us to maximize efficiency of space and energy, and you will see evidence of sensitivity toward the natural environment including reduced home size, sharing of resources and community recycling. By giving careful consideration to the placement of residences, parking, walkways, swimming pool, play and garden areas, open spaces, and the common house, cohousing maximizes opportunities for neighbors to cross paths throughout the day. The private residences will be clustered on the site leaving more shared open space, the dwellings will face each other across a courtyard, and cars will be parked on the periphery allowing for pedestrian walkways and gathering spots between the homes.

Inspired by the search for something better than what was being offered in the area, the future residents teamed with a nationally recognized, award-winning design and building team known for their energy-efficient communities. Through decades of experience creating sustainable neighborhoods, this team knew how to get our homebuyers the highest value that will withstand the test of time. The National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) recently awarded McCamant & Durrett Architects, designers of La Querencia, the Silver 2008 Energy Value Housing Award for another recent project. The NAHB searches for the best in the country for top honors in energy-efficiency, design, and innovation. Upon receiving the award, firm principal, Chuck Durrett responded, "We are honored to have been selected from a field of 500 other projects. The irony is that we don't even know how to build homes that aren't green-built and sustainable. It's what we have been doing since the 1980s." Durrett continued, "We combine beautiful, livable design with sustainable features. And with cohousing we can take sustainable design to new heights because of the way future residents are involved in the process." John Suppes, president of Byldan Corporation, recently pointed out that "nobody builds to this high of spec in the Valley!...You are getting a level of quality and sustainability that has not been built in attached housing in the Central Valley since the Native Americans were building."

If you are concerned about the future of the planet and are interested in hearing about one community's plans to address this issue, please join us. Our Earth Day presentation will take place Saturday, April 19, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 2672 East Alluvial Avenue (between Willow and Chestnut Avenues). Admission is free, the location is wheelchair accessible, and supervised children's Earth Day activities will be provided. For more information, call (866) 246-7717, email [info@fresnocohousing.org](mailto:info@fresnocohousing.org), visit [www.fresnocohousing.org](http://www.fresnocohousing.org), or drop by our Community Meeting Space in front of our construction site, 2658 East Alluvial Avenue, any Sunday between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.



## Earth Day Events in the Fresno Area

### Saturday, April 19 • 1 - 4 PM

Earth Day Celebration - held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 2672 E Alluvial Avenue (between Chestnut & Willow). Looking for an intergenerational, safe neighborhood that's Earth friendly? Concerned about the future of the planet? Interested in hearing about one community's plans to address these issues? Refreshments served. Wheelchair accessible. For more information see the story above, or: [info@fresnocohousing.org](mailto:info@fresnocohousing.org), 866-246-7717, [www.fresnocohousing.org](http://www.fresnocohousing.org)

### Saturday, April 19 • 2 - 4 PM

Community garden Ribbon cutting - Corner of 4th and Lake Street in Madera Celebrate Earth Day...Help us dedicate our community garden, which will provide delicious fruits, herbs, and vegetables as well as a beautiful outdoor setting for the entire community to enjoy. Fun, free activities, snacks, and seedling planting! All are welcome! Sponsored by: Madera youth leaders, Madera Coalition for Community Jus-

tice, the City of Madera, Parks & Community Services. For more information, contact: (559) 232-1698 [www.calcleanair.org](http://www.calcleanair.org) or [www.maderacoalition.wetpaint.com](http://www.maderacoalition.wetpaint.com)

### Tuesday, April 22 • 7 PM

Earth Day - the film: *Kilowatt Hours* will be shown at Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 2672 E Alluvial (between Chestnut & Willow). What would you find if you traced the wires from your light switch to the energy source? Come find out in this lighthearted yet serious documentary about America's voracious appetite for coal-generated energy and the toll it takes on the Earth and its inhabitants. Leaving the devastation behind, the story turns to hope-filled examples of conservation, efficiency and renewable power projects in progress across our country. After the 1hour film, we'll have a lively discussion about creative energy conservation and generation projects in our area. See a brief clip of the movie at <http://www.kilowattours.org/energy-conservation-film.php>. For more info, call Connie Young at 225-2547.

### Saturday, April 26 • 9 AM - 2 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Green Hope Veterans Earth Day Picnic and Art Show at the Woodward Park Lakeview Shelter. Guest speakers on: Energy Conservation, Ecotourism, Recycling, Homeless Veterans. For more information call 559 496-0794.

### Sunday, April 27 • 10 AM - 5 PM

Earth Day Event in North Fork. This event is sponsored and supported by the local Mono tribe Rancheria. Booths will be located at the NF School but additional art and nature venues are planned for other NF locations as well. This year's theme is: Reverence for Earth and all Life. They are seeking local artists who would like to help organize the music and arts program as well as a couple of people to help put together the environmental education activities. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact: Naomie Poran [nporan@aol.com](mailto:nporan@aol.com) 559-682-3006

# Amy Goodman Interview

By Elizabeth DiNovella

[Editor's note: This article first appeared in the February 2008 Issue of *The Progressive* magazine. See: <http://www.progressive.org/>]

Amy Goodman is one of the leading journalists of our time. She is executive producer and host of Democracy Now, a daily, independent radio and television news program broadcast on 650 stations around the world.

"I've always been surprised that people say it's a hopeful program because we deal with such difficult subjects," she says. "But I think it's hopeful because of the people we interview. They are both the analysts and those that are doing something about it, wherever they might be."

Many people, including myself, have relied upon Amy Goodman's reporting on the Bush Administration. She's the left hook to the rightwing Administration's assault on our civil liberties. She doesn't flinch from tough topics like torture, and she interviews people other media neglect, such as Mohamed Farag Ahmad Bashmilah, a Yemeni national who was a victim of the CIA rendition program. She scrums with the likes of Lou Dobbs. And her coverage of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq goes beyond retired generals and Beltway pundits. Unlike other news programs, anti-war voices get their say on Democracy Now.

She has a missionary zeal and calls journalism "a sacred responsibility." Goodman started out as a volunteer at WBAI, the Pacifica radio station in New York City. She went on to become WBAI's news director. She launched Democracy Now as a radio show on the Pacifica network in 1996 and eventually it evolved into a television program.

She's done her share of international reporting, too. In 1991, Indonesian soldiers beat her bloody and fractured the skull of Allan Nairn in East Timor as they followed a memorial procession. She and Nairn survived the Santa Cruz massacre, though 270 Timorese were killed. Goodman and Nairn were thrown out of the country and produced *Massacre: The Story of East Timor*, a documentary about the Indonesian and American involvement in the Southeast Asian nation. They won numerous awards for their reporting, including the Robert F. Kennedy Prize for International Reporting, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Award, the Armstrong Award, the Radio/Television News Directors Award, as well as awards from the Associated Press, United Press International, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. She returned to East Timor for live coverage in 2002 when the nation gained its independence.

In 1998, she and then-Democracy Now producer Jer-

emy Scahill traveled to Nigeria and documented the collusion between Chevron Oil company and the Nigerian Navy's killing of two local environmental activists and other human rights abuses. *Drilling & Killing* won George Polk and Project Censored awards.

She is a rock star at places like WORT-FM, the community radio station in Madison, Wisconsin, which broadcasts her program weekdays. WORT is one of the many small stations Goodman visits and lends support to. "Independent media has been the hope for the last few years," she says.

Reporting runs in the family. With her brother David, she has co-authored two books, *Static* and *Exception to the Rulers*. She somehow finds the time to write a weekly syndicated newspaper column.

I met up with Goodman in mid-December in New York City. It was 7 p.m. when I arrived at a locally owned cafe in Hell's Kitchen. Goodman was in a meeting with her producers.

At fifty, she still dresses like she's in radio. Wearing black jeans and black sweater, her brown hair showing shades of gray, she lacks the power suits and shiny mane sported by most television anchors.

She ordered a cup of coffee, a chocolate biscotti, and a plate of fruit. She told me she is a procrastinator. If it were up to me, she says, I would put things off until tomorrow. But with the show, when the tape rolls, and the countdown begins, you have to start.

Question: Talking to people who are the target of U.S. foreign policy is a hallmark of your show. How did that happen?

**Democracy Now! Can be heard on KFCF 88.1 FM M-F at 6 & 9 AM. The show is now available in Fresno on KNXT-TV ch 49 (ch 9 on Comcast cable) M - F at 6 PM. Amy Goodman and her brother David will be in Fresno on Tuesday, April 29.**

Amy Goodman: We have a special responsibility as American journalists. We live in the most powerful country on Earth. Yet there is probably a level of ignorance about our effect in the rest of the world because the media doesn't bring it to us. It's much more difficult for people at the target end to forget, to be oblivious, because they are right there living it every day. We have a responsibility here to understand what it feels like, because we are the ones who are creating that situation, whether we like it or not.

We're constantly hearing from the small circle of pundits in Washington who know so little about so much, explaining the world to us, and getting it so wrong. Every network is the same. Unfortunately, sometimes public broadcasting sounds the same way.

The United States has the potential to have tremendous power for good. Right now, it just doesn't have

that position. But there are many, many people who make up a pro-democracy movement in this country, just like in other countries, people who really do deeply care. If we want to be safer here, we have to extend those voices to the rest of the world. That's going to increase our national security.

Q: The FCC just relaxed media ownership limits. What's your response to that?

Goodman: We've got hundreds of channels with fewer and fewer owners and it's a very big problem. There's the illusion of diversity but what matters is who owns these channels. That's why regulations are so important.

The media is the place where we have a discussion with each other. We can't know everyone individually. We do it through the media. When the kitchen table that we all sit around is controlled by a very few, they are deciding who comes to the table, and that can determine the decisions that are made, when we go to war and when we don't.

Q: What do you think was the mainstream media's biggest failing regarding the Iraq War?

Goodman: Simply that it beat the drums for war. As Noam Chomsky says, the media manufactures consent, and they did it for war. There were so many people all over the globe who were protesting the war. In February 2003, millions of people marched, yet the Bush Administration went forward, enabled by the Democrats.

The media act as a megaphone for those in power, the Democrats and the Republicans. When the spectrum of debate between them is very small, that's as far as the media will go. In the lead up to the invasion, the Democrats joined with Republicans in authorizing war. The media overwhelmingly presented that point of view, that pro-war position, even though most people in this country were opposed to the war.

And now the latest news we find is that the Democratic leaders like House Speaker Pelosi, Jay Rockefeller, and former Senator Bob Graham were briefed for years on waterboarding, on torture. Where was the protest?

On Democracy Now, we've just spoken to Henri Alleg, the French journalist who was in Algeria, now in his eighties, who describes waterboarding as if it were yesterday. Because when you yourself are tortured, you never forget. He described what it meant to feel like he was suffocating, not "simulated drowning" but actually drowning.

Q: Immigration is such a big issue in this election but there doesn't seem to be any real debate.

Goodman: We just did an hour with Lou Dobbs, who could probably be compared to Father Coughlin, though he denied that. I did the interview with my co-host Juan Gonzalez, who writes for the *New York Daily News*, a great journalist. We tried to stick to the facts.

We asked Dobbs about assertions he continually repeats, like a third of our prisoners are illegal aliens. Well, it's just not true: 6 percent of prisoners in the state and federal systems are immigrants. And that's divided between legal and undocumented, well below their representation in the population. If you keep hammering away that a third of the prisoners in this country are illegal aliens, then people are going to feel that they shouldn't be here.

It's the litany of misinformation, of lies, that really makes people afraid and turns fear into full-blown hate. I think that has to be exposed.

The beauty of community media is that we break the sound barriers, that we open up the microphones for people to speak for themselves. And then it's harder to call people labels. I think it's an epithet to talk about illegal aliens. They don't sound human. You can set any kind of policy on a population when you don't talk to them as human beings.

This drumbeat against immigrants has really turned many Republican Latinos against the Republican Party. They feel like this debate has crossed the line to anti-immigrant and racist, as opposed to a legitimate debate on what we should do about immigration.

Q: More and more people, especially young people, are getting news from "fake news" programs. What do you



**Amy Goodman and her brother David are returning to Fresno on April 29. They will be speaking at the Unitarian Church and promoting their new book *Standing up to the Madness*.**

think of that?

Goodman: Well, since the main news programs are filled with falsehoods, at least they are laughing at them and they are making you see. I think it is teaching media literacy. It's challenging the mainlining of lies.

Q: Why did you become a journalist? What inspired you?

Goodman: I saw it as a way to deal with issues of social justice. Even from when I was a little kid, I was inspired by my younger brother David, whom I write the books with. David had Dave's Press when we were younger, and there were these little signs in our house up to his room that said Dave's Press. He had this old Xerox machine, and you'd have to put all your weight on it to burn an image onto the paper. It was sort of a glorified family calendar. He would say things like, "Mom spanked Amy." My mother would say, "You're not airing any dirty laundry." And then he would cry censorship. But he really cried, because he was a kid. And he had letters to the editor. My grandfather would write in and disagree with him on war. "I love you very much but I have to disagree with you." David would write back, "Dear Grandpa, thank you so much for being my first subscriber, but you are being stupid about the war." And then my great-uncle would write in. That's where we would debate the political issues of the day.

In junior high school and high school, I was on our school newspapers, and they were holding the principal accountable. Then I just went on to a bigger stage. But it's important to hold people in power accountable, whether it's parents or principals or what's happening in the world.

Q: You and David have a new book coming out in April, Standing Up to the Madness. What's it about?

Goodman: The idea of how people make a difference. People make up movements in every continent. Every action we engage in really does matter, whether it's kids trying to put on a school play and being told they can't talk about war. It's about dissident soldiers and officers who say no. Even when the trend is going the other way, what it means to find that strength inside and say, "I cannot live with this." This determines what direction we go in and defines history.

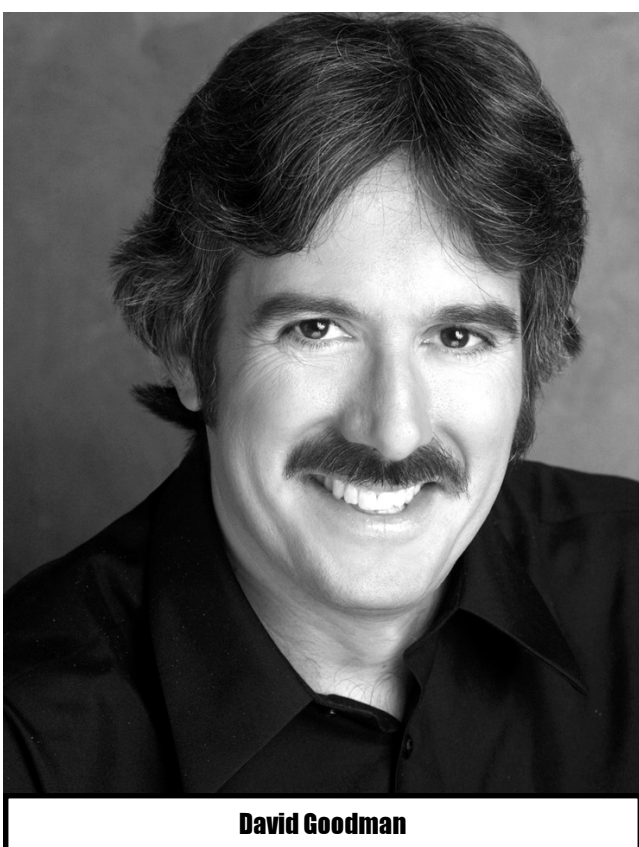
Q: You travel around the country a lot. What do you see as being the pressing issues right now?

Goodman: War is the defining issue. We cannot take the focus off of that because we are determining who lives and who dies.

In Iraq, the population is just decimated, displaced, killed. We have destroyed a civilization. It's horrifying. And as long as that is going on I think it is our responsibility to show that. Then people can make up their own minds. But as long as it falls off the front pages of the newspapers, people can think, "Well, it must not be that bad." It's our job to make sure it's front and center.

Q: What do you think of what's being called the new "citizen journalism"? After all, community media has been around for decades.

Goodman: It's a very big deal for the corporate media to define the idea that people other than the anointed few can write about or broadcast what's going on in the world. The Internet has forced them into this [defensiveness] because there's this explosion of different



David Goodman

writers, viewpoints, and coverage from all different perspectives.

Q: Do you ever get discouraged by your work?

Goodman: The more difficult the issue, the more amazing people are in dealing with it. That's where I find the hope. Even in places like East Timor, people had hope that in this terrible slaughter for a quarter of a century, they would see the end of it. They would be independent, a new nation would be born. It's just astounding.

But in the midst of it, it was hard to believe. And yet the people whose families were being killed, they were the ones who were saying there was hope. You find that in some of the most difficult situations, whether it's in another country or right here.

There are a lot of hopeful people who think that things can be better. We need to broadcast those voices. The most hopeless, cynical voices are those we hear or watch on television. And that can be very depressing. It generates apathy.

Q: Your critics say you are too much of an advocate. How do you respond?

Goodman: I don't really know what that means. I care deeply about what I cover. And I think we have a tremendous responsibility as journalists to expose what's going on in the world. When you see suffering, you care. We never want to take that out of our work.

Advocating for more voices to be heard? I plead guilty. Opening up the airwaves, joining people around the world in a global discussion about what should happen? I plead guilty.

As for advocacy journalism, I think the corporate journalists are the best model of that. We

# STANDING UP TO THE MADNESS

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Amy Goodman, independent journalist and host of Democracy Now!, will be in Fresno on Tuesday, April 29. Amy will be here with her brother David Goodman to talk about their new book, Standing Up to the Madness: Ordinary Heroes in Extraordinary Times which will be coming out in early April. We will have plenty of books for sale there for Amy and David to sign. The event is to take place at the new, green Unitarian Church located at 2672 E. Alluvial Ave (between Chestnut & Willow). For more information, see: [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org)

know their points of view. We know how important they felt it was to invade Iraq. We knew what it felt like to be in a tank or helicopter and to ask the pilot or the soldier to show how the gun was shot or how the helicopter flew. We learned all that from them. We learned who they thought was important to interview, and who was silenced, and that was the majority of people. Those who are for peace are not a fringe minority. They are not a silent majority, but a silenced majority, silenced by the corporate media.

Q: Do you ever take any time off? Do you ever go on vacation?

Goodman: Sitting on my couch late at night is like being on the Riviera. After twenty minutes, I feel like I've taken a month's vacation.

Elizabeth DiNovella is the culture editor of The Progressive and a volunteer at WORT-FM, Madison's community radio station.



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## CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

IGNACIO C. GARIBAY I am Mexican, and I've been in this country since 1977, married and have two children. My family and I are active Charismatic Christians. I am an immigrant from Mexico and in 1997 became a U.S citizen. We must remember that the U.S. has a rich history of being built by immigrants. I have lived in Fresno for over 30 years. I worked in Agriculture for approximately 10 years, pruning vines, cultivating cotton, alfalfa, almonds and operating heavy equipment. I have been an independent businessman for almost 18 years and lately I've been working in Hispanics Realty Inc. as a REALTOR.

I have been serving the Fresno community as a civil rights activist and human rights activist during the last five years. Serving the community by defending the rights of my brothers and sisters is of the outmost importance to me. I believe that individual humans deserve respect, honesty, equal justice regardless of race, color, religion, or their personal beliefs. With my experience as an activist and independent business owner I feel I have the foundation and building blocks to serve my community as a City MAYOR of Fresno I Have the vision and the wisdom of GOD, UNITED in HIS NAME WE CAN MAKE the difference. Building a New FRESNO Foundation bringing transparency, Respect for ALL, on any Government office. Together we can make a positive change for our community as follows:

- PROPERTY TAX EXCEPTION FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS.
- HOMELESS NEEDS REAL HOUSING AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. And open the road for public access.
- FRESNO POLICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR.
- Renovate and keep the Fulton Mall Open. It is a great part of our history and once was the cornerstone of Fresno. We must not erase our past and remember where we came from as wisdom teaches us.
- WE NEED LOTS OF NEW CHANGES IN DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCCION, every body deserve a faithful treatment, and community have to be informed and advance time for any mayor issue affecting or benefiting community.
- We must support small business as they are the backbone of our economy and employment base.
- Restore the Hotel Fresno to help seniors, the homeless and low income families
- JUSTICE FOR ALL, Stop Eminent Domain, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chance, No more Impounds because you drive with no license.
- Provide musical instruments and other after school programs for our children to maximize their potential and keep them off of the street gangs and drugs.
- CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL, all individuals' rights, human dignity and respect must be preserved and they should be protected by the law and applied equally to every individual regardless of race, color, religion or personal beliefs.
- We need free parking spaces as we are taxpayers and are entitled to free parking.

As your City Mayor, the doors to my office will always be open for everyone in our community to ensure that everyone's concerns are heard. We can work together to find the best solution and answer to your needs and concerns. I will treat your concerns to such a degree as to make take them personally and make them my own. I will be our voice in our town that will ring out social justice in our community. I invite every individual, families and businesses in our community to become involved and participate in social justice renovation and prosperity in our community. Our community once flourished and was a beacon to businesses throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Let us become that beacon once again.

I ask you for your support and your prayers & vote on June 3 2008 to bring about these changes and social justice to our community: Respect, Civil Rights & Human Rights I invite you to become involved and join us so that together you and I can make a difference. IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST, everything is possible, YES WE CAN, yes we can. VOTE FOR ME, IGNACIO C. GARIBAY FOR CITY MAYOR.

Please feel free to contact me through my e-mail [ignacio\\_garibay\\_for\\_mayor@yahoo.com](mailto:ignacio_garibay_for_mayor@yahoo.com) or- by telephone at 559) 916-7348 by mail at 2533 N. Knoll Ave, Fresno, CA. 93722

God Bless You.  
 Sincerely Yours,  
 IGNACIO C. GARIBAY

**REMEMBER, UNITED WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, VOTE JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> 2008.**

# Hospital Workers Push for Union Representation

## Two Reports: Community Hospital and Saint Agnes

### Community Hospital Workers Want Free & Fair Elections

By Mike Rhodes

A long anticipated report from the Fresno Fair Election Commission was made public on March 13. The commission made recommendations based on investigations over the last six months of the union organizing drive and election process at Community Hospital. Employees at the hospital are organizing and gathering signatures of co-workers in an effort to get the Service Employee International Union - United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW) to represent them.

*"Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions."*

*International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Ratified by the United States of America in 1992*

The Fresno Fair Election Commission found that the process leading to a union election at Community Hospital is not going well. The following information is taken directly from their report. Finding number one is that beginning in late August 2007, Community Hospital employees were frequently called away from their patient care duties for mandatory company meetings, at which management discouraged workers from supporting unionization. At one meeting, employees were warned they would lose evaluation points if they missed management's "labor education" meetings. Workers were told they would be written up for failing to attend these mandatory anti-union meetings.

Lydia Martinez, a licensed vocational nurse at the Children's Health Center, was ordered by her boss to attend a mandatory "labor education" meeting in September - despite having a patient with a knee laceration in need of immediate care. "They can pull us off the floor and make us go to meetings, and we have no choice in the matter."

Finding number two: Despite clear laws against such practices, Community Hospital management has, according to numerous employees, engaged in aggressive intimidation tactics to discourage union organizing efforts. Hospital managers have photographed and otherwise monitored pro-union employees, threatened sanctions against staff

who fail to attend mandatory anti-union meetings, and unlawfully ordered workers not to hand out union information fliers.

In several documented cases, Community Hospital senior managers and security guards have threatened workers with arrest for distributing union fliers, despite constitutional rights protecting such activity. Meanwhile, management has widely disseminated anti-union materials, including fliers and e-mails, during work hours. Employees also note a pattern of harassment, in which managers have spread disparaging rumors about pro-union employees and abruptly changed pro-union workers' schedules despite knowing they had doctors appointments and other conflicting commitments.

According to the report, management has created an atmosphere of anti-union intimidation, regardless of the workers' legally protected rights to discuss and support unionization.

In a subtler form of intimidation, Community Hospital managers have repeatedly interrogated employees about their sentiments regarding unionization. This tactic has included trick questions to determine an employee's opinion about the union; offers to help staff remove themselves from union petitions; and questions to staff about their pro-union sentiments. In a number of cases, managers asked workers directly if they had signed the union petition and told employees they were keeping a list of staff who signed. Supervisors also repeatedly probed workers to find out who was signing or distributing petitions.

Community Hospital workers and the Fresno Fair Election Commission are calling on the hospital to agree to hold Free and Fair elections. The recommendations from the report are that Community Medical Centers should engage in dialogue with the Com-

mission, the Union Organizing Committee and SEIU-UHW to develop a mutually respectful relationship. Community Medical Centers should end its use of anti-union consultants and refrain from using them in the future. In addition: Community Medical Centers should agree to the following Free and Fair Election Principles:

- Equal opportunity to access and present factual information
- No campaigning that attacks the motives of management or the union
- No mandatory one-on-one or group meetings to persuade employees to support or oppose forming a union
- No use of hospital resources on outside consultants to persuade employees to support or oppose forming a union
- No harassment, intimidation or discrimination against employees or management because of support for, or opposition to, forming a union
- Quick and effective enforcement of election conduct by a neutral third party
- Secret-ballot elections conducted and certified by the National Labor Relations Board

The Fresno Fair Election Commission will be presenting their report to community groups throughout the Fresno/Clovis area over the next several months. To read the complete report, go to: <http://www.fresnocmcworkersunited.org/>



**Bill Bates, a Respiratory Care Practitioner at Community Hospital, spoke at the Fresno Fair Election Commission public hearing. He said "tonight's briefing was exciting and pointed out that we aren't alone because the community is behind us."**



**Registered nurses at St. Agnes Medical Center in Fresno announced on March 17<sup>th</sup> that a large majority of the hospital's RN's have signed cards indicating they want union representation by the state's premier nurses' organization, the California Nurses Association.**



**Registered Nurses at Saint Agnes Deliver Petition**

### Nurses Organize at St. Agnes

By Mike Rhodes

Registered nurses at Saint Agnes Hospital in Fresno announced on March 17<sup>th</sup> that they were turning in a petition to join the California Nurses Association (CNA). According to Don Nielsen, a representative for CNA, a majority of nurses have signed the petition to join the union. There are about 900 RN's at Saint Agnes.

Standing in front of the hospital, some of the RN's talked about why they are joining the union. "We are committed to our patients and our community to deliver the best care possible," said Stacey Nelson, RN. "Having the CNA as our union will help us to achieve that. Since

Trinity took over, Saint Agnes is no longer what it used to be. It's our hospital and we are taking it back."

"Patient safety is my primary reason why I called CNA for help," said Wayne Hart, RN. "The safety of our patients are compromised almost every day. I have raised this issue to management but it has fallen in deaf ears. Our only option now is to win a voice at work by having a union so we can take care of patients the way we should with enough time and help that we need."

"In telemetry," said Beth Legaspi, RN, "the safe staffing ratios are constantly being violated and we have less nursing assistants to help the RN's. We want CNA so that we will have a mechanism to enforce the staffing ratio law."

"I have committed in my profession to heal and provide excellent patient care for people of the central valley community, not to make profits," said Susan Whitfield, RN.

"Trinity Health through our CEO made the announcement recently of layoffs and said that we have to reduce our expenses. However, management is wasting patient care resources to labor consultants whose sole task is to dissuade us from supporting our union."

About 50 nurses and their supporters tried to deliver the petition to Matthew Abraham, Chief Operating Officer of Saint Agnes Medical Center. Security guards scrambled to stop the group from entering the hospital. After negotiations, four nurses were escorted to his office. Not surprisingly, Abraham was not available to meet with the nurses. A rally was later held in front of the hospital.

CNA is the nation's largest and fastest growing organizations of RN's with 80,000 members from coast to coast, and also the largest organization in Catholic hospitals across the U.S. representing 17,000 RN's in 38 Catholic hospitals. For more information, see: [www.calnurse.org](http://www.calnurse.org)

# Credo

By Richard Stone

Stan and Joan Poss are fixtures in Fresno's progressive community, counted on for their support of worthy causes and (as age inflicts its limitations) judicious involvement in organizations and events. Their calm presence and knowledgeable comments (including frequent letters in *The Bee*) are familiar. But when I thought to interview them for *Credo*, I was surprised to realize how little I knew about them. It was time to find out.

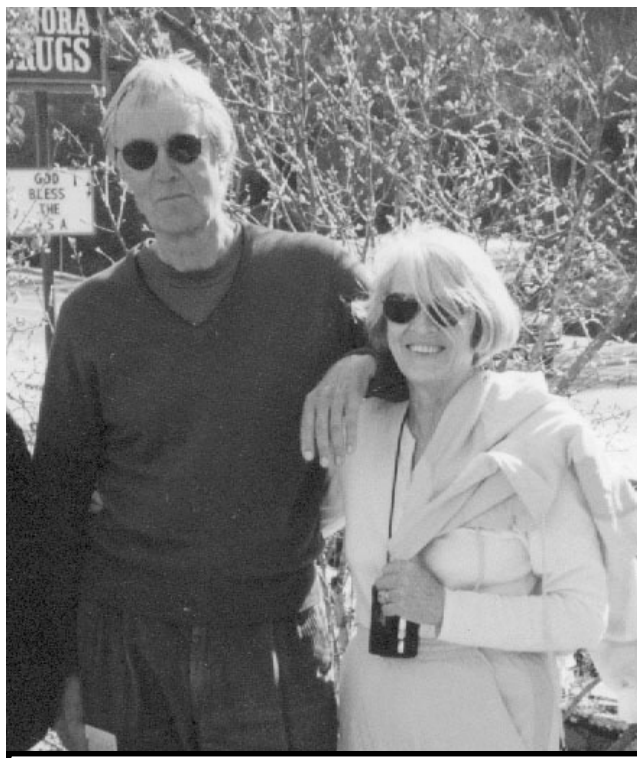
After our long and leisure conversation, what stayed with me most was how their political maturation—from decidedly a-political or even conservative roots—had occurred as a couple. Stan and Joan have somewhat divergent interests and involvements, but it has been the listening to, supporting of and learning from each other that has given them both scope and confidence in their positions.

Stan grew up on a farm in Missouri in a strict Baptist household and a mother "who thought I could do no wrong." These were not politically promising beginnings, but were a source of rectitude, self-esteem and a readiness to venture into the world intrepidly. His political views began to change by osmosis through college associations with less orthodox folks, e.g. fellow jazz musicians who were into African American culture, a roommate whose sardonic comments mocked authority, Tom Lehrer and other social parodists of the era. "It gradually dawned on me that I didn't have to vote for Eisenhower."

Joan was raised by a father who was a bona fide hero in World War II and a career military man.



Stan Poss in Trinidad March 2000



Stan and Joan Poss

Paradoxically, he was not a militarist. "He did what his situation called on him to do, but without relish. He was no supporter of U.S. power, and was by nature a conciliator. I learned more from his peace-making instincts than his association with the Navy." Looking back on her upbringing, Joan is most grateful for the freedom of choice her father inculcated. "I remember being in a class with twenty or so women and discovering I was the only one who had not been drilled to believe my highest priority was to find a good man to marry." Joan's development was, instead, fostered by women teachers, and later by a Jungian analyst (Marianne Woodman) who she herself chose as a mentor.

Luckily, drawn together in part by their mutual love of literature, Joan did find a good man to marry, and he found a job as English professor at C. S. U. F. And there is where their political road veered sharply to the left, during the crazy days of the Free Speech Movement, Viet Nam War protests, and the expulsion of dissident students and faculty alike.

"We talked at length with—and stood up for—students and colleagues who were threatened by the administration," Stan recalls. "And of course there was the real possibility that our oldest son would be drafted. When Fresno's Free College Foundation was formed, and KFCF initiated, we were right there."

Another instructive influence has been the sabbatical trips to Europe the Posses have taken. Joan says, "We

were amazed at how the U.S. was depicted in European media, the information we're never given here" (ed. note—except on KFCF and the Alliance.) And Stan speaks reflectively about a Fresno State colleague, John Marica, another whose ironic insights caught Stan's appreciative ear for witty critique. "I remember John's amazement to learn we weren't members of the ACLU, as if it were a given for any intelligent person." Stan and Joan were shaken to discover, returning from a summer trip, that John and his family had emigrated to Canada, having lost all faith in the United States.

These days Stan (now retired) is most deeply involved with the Fresno Filmworks; and Joan with WILPF and the monthly vigils of Women in Black whose silenced witness, she says, "feeds my soul." But you can find one or both of them often at Peace Fresno demonstrations, KFCF and Alliance fundraisers, supporting Rev. Harris in West Fresno: wherever a liberal voice (or dollar) is needed. As part of these interviews I ask if there is a representative writing or quote that can be used. Stan (whose inspiration comes as much from music as literature) chose this from Joyce's *Ulysses*: "I fear those big words that make us so unhappy." Joan picked up her ready copy of Rumi's poetry and opened at random to this: I called through your door, "The mystics are gathering in the street. Come out."

"Leave me alone.  
I'm sick."

"I don't care if you're dead.  
Jesus is here, and he wants to resurrect somebody."



Joan Poss - March 2000

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# QUEER EYE

## Double-Edged Sword?

by Dan Waterhouse

Some events prove to be a double-edged sword.

The violent death of Oxnard gay student Lawrence "Larry" King may turn out to be a case in point.

The 15-year-old King was shot and killed by a 14-year-old schoolmate in a classroom at their middle school on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Oxnard authorities said there had been "bad blood" between the two for awhile and they had confronted one another the day before the fatal shooting.

According to some of his friends, King self-identified as gay, sometimes wore make-up and feminine jewelry, and was the target of ridicule by some of his classmates. The shooting was investigated as a possible hate crime, and a hate crime enhancement was added to the murder charge.

Now, the story is even more unclear. Was the shooting a hate crime, or not?

According to news reports, King told friends in the weeks before he was killed that he was being teased by fellow students because he was gay. Friends said King was taunted and other kids threw wet paper towels at him in the restroom. A friend told the Ventura County Star that King "didn't just take it. If kids didn't want to have contact with a

gay person, Larry would chase after them."

One student said she repeatedly heard the shooter calling King derogatory names the week before the killing. Days before the shooting, friends say that rumors about King "hitting" on his killer and that the boy must be gay if King was doing that were growing. The day before King was shot, a fellow student says he saw King looking at the shooter and saying he liked him. The student told reporters that the shooter told King to "f— off: before walking away. Other students say at lunch the same day King went up to a table where the shooter was eating and asked to sit down. The shooter and his friends ran away, mocking King as they left.



Larry King

Many in the Oxnard community, already stunned by the school violence, view what happened as two kids harassing one another, and one ultimately snapping. Some see the incident as a case of "sexual harassment" and the failure of the school to put a stop to all of it.

There were immediate calls for more school safety and diversity training legislation following Larry King's death.

In a press release issued shortly after the murder by the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, the

Transgender Law Center, and Equality California, "advocates caution the violence at the Oxnard junior high is more aptly characterized as a tragic example of widespread homophobia in our schools. Every day young people are subject to bullying or harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

"While there were reports of the victim receiving support at school due to the bullying he endured, no other bullying prevention efforts have been reported. This terrible event sheds light on the need to provide better education for all students about respect for diversity and differences.

"With young people coming out at younger ages, our schools – especially our junior highs and middle schools – need to be proactive about teaching respect for diversity based on sexual orientation and gender identity," said Carolyn Laub, executive director of Gay-Straight Alliance Network. "The tragic death of Lawrence King is a wake-up call for our schools to better protect students from harassment at school. As a society, we can prevent this kind of violence from happening."

King's death may prove to be a double-edged sword for the activist community. On one hand, it may doom on-going efforts by anti-gay groups to dismantle the school safety laws by state constitutional initiative. The activists can now argue, "See, even with the laws we have in place, look at what can happen. Think of what could happen if these laws are repealed."

On the other hand, it may have provided the ammunition school districts have been looking for to keep sexual orientation issues off their campuses. Many school administrators strongly feel the issue is disruptive to the schools' mission of education and should not be allowed in any form (including Gay-Straight Alliance clubs) on campus. Now they can say that the subject is so divisive that it's led to a dead kid and another facing a first-degree murder charge. Student safety may end up trumping the Equal Access Act.



## Sixth Annual Rally in the Valley for Peace and Justice ... Now!

Peace Fresno organized the Rally in the Valley, which was held on March 15. Below are two photos from the event taken by Simone Whalen-Rhodes.

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

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

**1st Friday of every month  
4:30-6:30 PM**

Peace Fresno is at Shaw and Blackstone Avenues to protest the occupation of Iraq and other harmful domestic and foreign policies of the Bush administration. Peace Fresno advocates alternatives to war and social and environmental justice.



# Sammy Galvan Wrongful Death Lawsuit Dismissed What Went Wrong?

By Mike Rhodes

On March 14 a Federal jury delivered their verdict in the Sammy Galvan wrongful death lawsuit. The jurors unanimously agreed to dismiss the lawsuit, agreeing with the defense that the officers who shot and killed Sammy Galvan, were justified and did so because they believed their lives were in danger. The assault and battery charges against the Modesto Police Department, for their treatment of Sammy's father, were also dismissed.

In his final arguments, Modesto Deputy City Attorney James Wilson told the jury his version of what happened at the Galvan home on August 22, 2004. Wilson said that police work "routinely involves stupefying hours of boredom punctuated by moments of sheer terror." He used that framework to set the scene of a domestic disturbance call gone horribly wrong. Wilson said that when the police were called by Susan Galvan, Sammy's mother, officers Lyndon Yates and Mirl Morse were dispatched to the scene.

According to Wilson, when officers Yates and Morse arrived at the backyard cottage that Sammy lived in, they shined their flashlights through the open front door. They saw Sammy laying on his bed (it was 1 AM in the morning) and when the lights hit him he stood up. The officers said he had a knife in each hand and began to move towards them in an aggressive manner. Wilson said Sammy was told to "drop the knife" and seconds later officers Yates and Morse fired eight rounds. Four out of eight 45 caliber hollow point bullets hit and killed Sammy Galvan. Hollow point bullets, if used by the military in a time of war, would be a violation of the Geneva Convention.

Attorneys for the Galvan family argued that things did not happen as the defense claimed. Walter Riley, in his closing statement, said the shooting was "not a lawful use of force." Riley argued that Sammy Galvan did not present an immediate threat to the officers and they should have used less than lethal force to deal with the situation.

The defense (City of Modesto) claimed that Sammy Galvan was about to throw one of the two knives they said he held. An expert witness, brought in by the Galvan family's attorneys, testified that Sammy could not have been throwing a knife. This testimony was based on the autopsy report which showed where he was shot and the trajectory of the bullets in his body. Wilson countered that "all they (police officers) had to do is to reasonably believe that this deadly threat is about to come to fruition, to act as a police officer."

Wilson also presented a new theory during his closing argument that the officers were acting to prevent a "hostage situation" from occurring. He claimed that Yesenia Perez, Sammy's girlfriend, was in the room and they were afraid that Sammy might take her hostage. There had been no evidence in the trial to suggest such a scenario.

In his final arguments Riley discredited officer Yates testimony that he saw Sammy move his left leg back and assume a fighting stance by pointing out that Yates could not see Sammy's feet because there was a table and TV in front of him. Riley said that even if, as the defense argued, that Sammy said "Shoot me Mother Fucker, Shoot Me Mother Fucker" that you can't kill someone because they say that. Yesenia Perez, who was in the room at the time, testified that Sammy never said anything. Is it possible that Sammy was awakened in the middle of the night, thinking someone was breaking into his house, and he grabbed a knife for self protection? The jury didn't think so.

Riley also argued that the crime scene had been disturbed and it was impossible to determine where things ended up after the shooting. A number of people I talked to believed the police planted the knives to justify the shooting. Wilson said that was not true and that Sammy took the knives from the kitchen and was laying with a knife in each hand, waiting for the officers to arrive. But, Wilson also admitted that the crime scene had been disturbed. "These things happen," he said.

The only person Wilson called for the defense was officer Yates who talked about the knives he said were in Sammy's hands. Yates said Sammy had a knife with an 8 inch blade and a black handle in his right hand and a brown handled knife with an 8 inch blade in his left. Officer Yates saw this detail in a poorly lit room, within seconds, when he thought his life was in danger, and in spite of the fact that the handles (if he was holding them) were covered by Sammy's hands. Yates in previous testimony claimed Sammy was 5 feet away from him when he was shot. However, unless officer Yates had entered the cottage without a search warrant, he had to be at

least 10 feet from Sammy when he shot him to death. How could Yates have been so certain about the color of the knife handles, yet so wrong about his distance from Sammy? Several people I spoke with said they thought he was lying.

Walter Riley asked Yates why he had refused to give a statement on the shooting to either the Modesto Police Internal Affairs Department or to Detective Blake, who was investigating the shooting for the Modesto PD. Yates said he refused to cooperate in the investigation on the advice of his legal counsel. He said "it was under advisement by my attorney not to give a statement."

The jury rejected the evidence provided by the Galvan legal team and unanimously returned a verdict in favor of the city. Why did that happen and what does it mean for future police accountability cases in the Central Valley?

Several observers of the trial were pessimistic about the outcome of the trial. They said that the jury pool in the Federal Court system (particularly in Fresno) is very conservative. At least 15 out of the 20-25 people in the jury pool had law enforcement connections - family members were police officers, they worked in one of the many valley prisons, etc. There was not one black person in the jury pool. Furthermore, they observed, that it is very difficult to get a jury to believe a poor Latino family (like the Galvan's) and not believe police officers who have extensive training in how to testify in a courtroom.

According to Aggie Rose-Chavez, another member of the Galvan family's legal team, the verdict will not be appealed. In fact, Rose-Chavez says she expects attorneys for the defense to get a legal order to force the Galvan family to pay for all the City of Modesto's legal expenses in this case. If that happens, it will certainly send a message to poor families to think twice before you stand up for your constitutional rights.

For more information, see:

Sammy Galvan Wrongful Death Trial Comes to Fresno <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2008/01/22/18474152.php>

Sammy Galvan Wrongful Death Lawsuit Gets Under Way in Fresno (Day 1) <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2008/03/10/18484955.php>

Day 2 in the Sammy Galvan Wrongful Death Trial <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2008/03/11/18485128.php>

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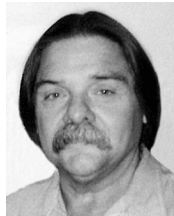
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# The Shell Game Fuzzy Prison Numbers

By: Boston Woodard



In a recent attempt to bring himself into favor with the public, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR) James Tilton proffered a tiny press release in guise of a letter to the editor in a February issue of the Sacramento Bee.

In his letter, Tilton declared that "The progress being made speaks for itself when considering current (prison) population trends." Tilton further blurts that "Today's prison population has decreased from a record high of 173,479 inmates in October 2007 to the current population of 170,746 inmates - a reduction of nearly 3,000 inmates, or enough to house one full prison."

Secretary Tilton went on to brag that the CDCR has made "tremendous progress managing its inmate population." Using the talents of a skilled street corner hustler, Tilton's insubstantial try at conning the public into believing that his industrial complex is reducing the prison population by thousands is a bald face lie.

The CDCR's prisoner population was indeed 173,479 in October of 2007 as Secretary Tilton spewed in his letter to the Sacramento Bee. According to Tilton's letter, California has forcefully transferred "more than 2,500 inmates" to out-of-state private prisons. The number of transferred prisoners to date is closer to 3,000 which means that California's prison population hasn't gone down at all since October of 2007 as proffered by Tilton.

When prisoners are transferred from California prisons to out-of-state ones thousands of miles away, they are still charges of California's prison system. The tax payers of this state foot the bill to the tune of \$43,000 plus for each citizen they lock up whether that prisoner is in Solano State Prison in Vacaville California or the Dixie-Doodle sweat farm in Deliveranceville Mississippi.

The \$43,000 goes up for additional medical costs and transportation to-and-from the out-of-state prisons. All the prisoners transferred Tilton refers to must be flown back to California where they will be paroled by law.

While Secretary Tilton boasts about the terrific job he is accomplishing in "reducing" the prison population, 3,000 prisoners are being hidden in Arizona, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Mississippi - out of sight, out of mind. Again, they are still California prisoners being housed by California tax payers and will all eventually be brought back to this state - every single one of them are coming back to California! Has the prison population really gone down? No!

Let's factor in a few more numbers. In Los Angeles county alone, there are more than 20,000 prisoners waiting for a state prison bed. The average Califor-

nia state prison holds approximately 4,000 prisoners which means that there are about five prisons worth of warm bodies (just in L.A.) ready for warehousing in California, or one of the many contracted private prisons throughout the country. Then there are the thousands of others waiting captivity in county facilities all over the state waiting their turn for space in the warehouse.

Buried deep in the typical fuzzy math dished out by Secretary Tilton and company is the truth, and truth be known, California's prison population is what it has been for quite some time - overcrowded. The annexation of California's prison warehouse system in far away private prisons, is proof in and of itself that nothing substantial is being done to solve California's massive prison overcrowding problem.

When Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB-900 into law, the \$7.4 billion dollar bill (of borrowed money) was earmarked for the "upgrade (of existing) prison facilities" of "53,000 additional prison beds." In light of those facts, the powers that be, from Schwarzenegger and Tilton on down, will look you straight in the eye and tell you that they are bringing California's prisoner population down. Why build 53,000 new prison beds, why not place a population cap (as originally planned) on the system and use the newly opened beds for medical and mental health services? Oh yea, that would be too much, like right. It's all fuzzy math - don't believe it.

If they were seriously interested in bringing the prisoner count down they would be looking at revamping sentencing laws, modifying the money sucking

Three-Strikes catastrophe, or how about letting the nearly 10,000 life prisoners out who have served their time (in many cases) decades beyond the prescribed sentence. Let's not forget that lifers after prison have the lowest recidivism rate of all categories of paroled prisoners combined.

In reality, the more people locked up in complexes, the more money the prison system, private prisons across the country and the mental health, food, security services and in these industrial the guards union, multitude of medical more receive from California tax payers. All this to foot the massive corrections bill which now exceeds \$12 billion annually.

It becomes even more scandalous when the children of California have to suffer the loss of educational funding for important services during this fiscal crisis, while those involved with corrections load their pockets and coffer until they split at the seams.

The California prison system, a never ending shell game.

###

Boston Woodard is a prisoner/journalist who wrote for The San Quentin News, The Soledad Star and edited The Communicator. Boston is not serving a life sentence.

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# No Bodily Harm

By Maria Telesco

Crime victims and their families describe feelings of hysteria, anger, hatred, outrage, fury, vengefulness, paranoia, murderousness, fear of shadows or any unexpected noise or movement, uncontrollable trembling, "having a nervous breakdown," unquenchable urge to harm the criminal, and some words that are unprintable. Now I understand why. The other night I had a horrifying experience. All shook up. I'm still just one blink from total meltdown. Breathing too fast, adrenaline spurting a gallon a minute, uncontrolled shaking.

After a meeting at church, I didn't feel like going right home, so I dropped by a friend's house for tea and chit-chat. Then I headed to the old homestead, a safely gated SE Fresno senior citizens' community. It was late. The streets, via Olive to Chestnut, were bare and eerie. A car behind gave me an irrational notion of being followed. Spooked, I made sure both doors were firmly locked. Pulled into the Village about 11:55. All was still. Never enough lights to suit me, but sufficient that it's not pitch dark.

Nosing into my usual spot, before the key was turned, I was startled by a dark shadow looming at my window. More curious than scared, I thought it was a neighbor wanting to help with my *impedimenta*, but no. Too late, nearly midnight. None of the neighbor gentlemen anywhere near so tall. Who was this? Where had he come from?

Over six feet, slender, somewhat darkish complexion, full lips, Dark clothing. Zippered jacket. Hands pocketed. Not overtly threatening, but my caution meter was buzzing. Hood pulled up, covering baseball cap. Age 20-ish, smooth complexion, no facial hair. No foreign accent, voice soft yet commanding.

Hard to Identify with certainty. Eyewitness ID is the least accurate evidence, so whom was I kidding. Standing to my left, the street light behind him glared into my eyes without illuminating his features. Crime at night, inadequate lighting, fear, confusion – all work against getting good ID. Defense attorneys shudder when prosecution witnesses swear "That's him."

A well known Texas case (Gary Graham) was won by prosecutors with flimsy ID: very dark night, no moon, raining pitchforks. Witness in car about 40 feet from where someone was shot and killed by a mugger whose jacket hood was pulled up, covering his features. She said she saw the shooter "clearly" for "a fraction of a second," would "never forget that face," and was "absolutely certain" it was Graham, age 17. He was later executed. I was mad as a hornet, but still wouldn't want it on my conscience if I identified the wrong person. I saw him, but not well enough for absolute certainty.

He kept saying he needed help. "My grandma's having a heart attack. She's over there," pointing vaguely over his shoulder. "Come with me. Help me. Tell me what's wrong with her. She's having a heart attack. She's dying" He sounded upset, but maybe not enough, so his words didn't ring true. Where is she, I asked. He repeated "Over there. Please come with me." I asked what apartment, he said 291. Doesn't exist. I said, If you think she's dying, why haven't you called 911? No phone, he claimed.

By then mine was open and in my hand. I'll call the police for you, I said. At that point he said he would go back and see how "Grandma" was doing, loped off and disappeared. Later I realized I had, with incredible stupidity, partially opened the door when I could not hear him clearly. By luck, he was behind the door, with the door between him and me. If he had been between me and the door – disaster.

Throughout the encounter I remained seated, ensconced in the protective "cave" of my car, presenting a larger and perhaps more threatening body mass than I would have vertically. My small car was a lifesaver; nobody could get behind me into the back seat without climbing over me first, making himself vulnerable. The fleet of walkers, canes and junk back there were just waiting to trip him.

I managed to retain control. Proof: I won, he lost. He tried to coax me out of the car. Had he succeeded, I would have been in an untenable defensive posture. *Au contraire*, I appeared calm. Hysteria had not yet set in. My persistent and very firm use of womankind's most powerful word, "NO," spoken loud and clear, not weakened by whining, gave me an edge. Maybe white hair influenced him – as a grandma, did I represent authority? He had used all his ammo, and didn't know what to say next that would have persuaded me to do his bidding, so he just gave up and fled.

What I knew that he didn't is the extent of my disability. I don't know if he saw the blue placard, but yay or nay, he seemed scittish. Maybe this was his first foray into his chosen profession. Had I been idiotic enough to get out, I'd be doomed. He could at once have seen that I was not steady on my feet and that I'd need a walker or cane to remain vertical. It takes a while to get the walker out and set up, so I'd have used the cane. He could have grabbed it and used it against me long before I could have used it against him. Being taller and stronger than I, it would have been slam-dunk: Criminal 1, Old Lady 0.

Much to my benefit, I was clear-headed and alert. I had been given prescription pills for muscle spasms in my back. They didn't do much for the spasms, but they made me groggy and confused, so I quit taking them weeks before the incident. By then they were well out of my system, and I was thinking clearly again.

All this took place in about one or two minutes, much less time than to write or read it. I must have been thinking, though not consciously so. I wasn't particularly afraid at the time, but "spooked." He didn't appear to have a weapon, although his concealed hands could have cradled one.

I punched 911. The dispatcher's calmness was contagious. She said she'd have a police car there "in a minute." I took that too literally and got jumpy when 55 seconds had passed. I told her I'd wait in the car. For sure, I wouldn't walk to my apartment alone. She told me to put my flashers on so the police would recognize my car.

While waiting I phoned the private security officer, and he came quickly. He had been out behind my house, where he said three sedans had windows broken within the last 10 to 15 minutes. Their insides were ransacked. I gave him the description and he headed in the direction where I pointed to look for the guy. I got back into my car, locked it, put the flashers back on.

In a moment, another dark figure approached my driver's side window. He had a weapon – a huge maglite. Whew! He was police. The officer got me calmed down. When I started to speak, I got all shook up, and started to cry. After I give him information, he wanted to get back in his car and go looking for the security man and the suspect. I was halfway back into my car again, when a second patrol car arrived, this one with two cops. So the officer said he would walk me home in a few minutes. I felt safe and secure with him.

They couldn't find the suspect, and didn't find "grandma" lying dead, either. I was 99% certain she was fictional, but just in case there was a woman *in extremis* I felt it was morally incumbent to call for help. By the time I realized the "grandson" was faking, I still thought there could have been an outside chance some woman lay dying. I wondered, if she did exist, had he killed her? Rhetorical question.

I frequently work with convicts in my prison ministry, within the relatively safe confines of a correctional facility. The prisoner I'm with is not in the process of committing a violent crime while we visit, so he/she poses no threat. Some prisoners give even the toughest guards goose bumps, but I never meet them, anyway. Most times when I visit, I go away thinking he/she is a very nice man/woman who wouldn't swat a fly. I'm not experiencing the crime, so I see this person as who he/she is now, not the person who harmed another human being in the distant past.

This is the first, and I hope last, time I experience a criminal plying his/her trade. Walking to my apartment, I said to the officer "Gee, I almost became a crime victim tonight." The officer said I already was one. I argued "There was no physical contact, no bodily harm." He responded "Are you scared and upset." Yes. Yes. Yes. "Then you are a victim of violent crime." OK, I guess so.

I know the victim of some horribly violent, disfiguring crime would emphatically disagree. Sometimes, too, in a parking lot, someone with disabilities far more challenging than mine will say "You don't look disabled to me." They are both right, and both are wrong. I'm disabled, and I'm a crime victim, albeit small fry. I'm violated. I'll never trust a stranger again. I'll always look behind doors and in bushes before I venture anywhere. When I come home late, I'll call Security to walk me to my door. I'll always look over my shoulder, and check door and window locks five times apiece before I go to bed.

If violence demands bloodshed and broken bones, then I'm disqualified. My mind, heart and soul are ripped asunder. Faith that I'm living in a safe world is destroyed. I'm damaged. I feel like a squooshed bug . . . dirty . . . roadkill . . . contaminated. If my trauma was even one percent of what victims of major crimes experience - I don't know how they survive, emotionally even moreso than physically. He never laid a hand on me nor threatened me in any overt way, never even said a harsh word – and on the inside I'm all bruised, bloody and banged up.

In a naïve attempt to quantify violent crime via a point system, I'll arbitrarily call murder 100. Rape 99. Severe beating 90. Armed robbery 80. Burglary 50. Barroom brawl 40. Pickpocketed 10. Having the hell scared out of me, a paltry "one." Still, I'd like to grab him, tear him to shreds, throw him into a cage of starving lions, and laugh while they devour him. Just for starters. And that's for just an itty-bitty "one" with no physical contact or bodily harm. What I'm experiencing is maybe a paltry one percent or less of what murder victims families have to deal with.

Now I understand why victims' families would like to catch the criminal who killed or hurt their loved one and strangle him with their bare hands. And I say that with deepest humility, respect, and compassion for victims and their families. I ask their forgiveness for having the audacity to compare my infinitesimally miniscule crime-victimhood to theirs. There is no comparison.

I keep on repeating that phrase – "no physical contact, no bodily harm" – to convince myself I'm OK, it's OK, the world is OK, and this, too, shall pass. Meanwhile I'm still scared silly.

Some say "A Liberal is a Conservative who's been arrested; a Conservative is a Liberal who's been mugged." I'm an old lady who got just a small taste of being victimized by crime. I'm still against the death penalty and endless prison terms and abuse of prisoners. And I'm still scared out of my wits. I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy.

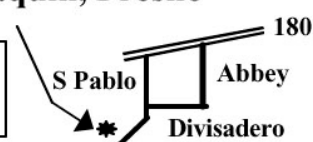
And there was no physical contact, no bodily harm, no blood, no broken bones – and it scared the hell out of me.

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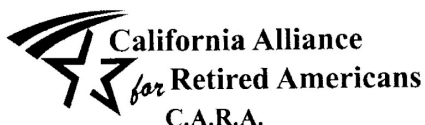


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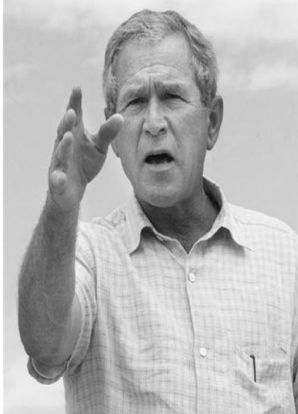
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★ **City Services:** The quality of city services defines the quality of life in a neighborhood. When the services are not adequate, the neighborhood is not meeting the needs of the citizen. We should not have drivers speeding through our neighborhoods, unkempt vegetations or unaddressed blight. I will work with law enforcement, public works and code enforcement to eliminate these problems.

★ **Customer Service:** My family owns a small business in District 2 and I have worked there most of my life. If this strong business background has taught me one thing it is that quality customer service does more to improve customer satisfaction, loyalty and pride than anything else. It is the key to a successful business. Why should government be any different? That is why I am dedicated to providing the residents of District 2 with quality service.

★ **Economic Development:** We need to reverse the trend of losing our young knowledgeable workers to other cities by creating jobs and affordable housing. Our empty nest seniors would also benefit from revitalizing our downtown, which would rejuvenate our city core and stem the sprawl that threatens our environment. I will bring the political will and leadership to accomplish these goals.

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# Filmworks enters its seventh year with an expanded, diverse festival

By Jefferson Beavers

FRESNO, Calif. (March 17, 2008) — A homeless teen is forced into prostitution in Fresno. Bee brokers balance the rising costs of beekeeping with the global demands of Big Agriculture. A young Black man in an interracial relationship faces his future Mexican in-laws for the first time. And a Laotian family flees its war-torn home only to encounter a deeper battleground in America.

These are just some of the themes that will be explored at the 2008 Fresno Film Festival, which will run April 18-20 at the historic Tower Theatre. The festival is presented by Fresno Filmworks, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing first-run independent, experimental, and international movies to the central San Joaquin Valley.

The fourth annual festival, which will feature 29 films from nine different countries, marks Filmworks' entry into its seventh year of programming. Filmworks continues to offer a multicultural, international film experience that most Fresno-area moviegoers cannot regularly get at commercial theaters.

The group's president, John Moses, said that the Filmworks run has been surprising. Audiences have been consistently responsive to the Filmworks mission of providing Fresno with an alternative cinema source, he said, and the all-volunteer board is proud to be entering its seventh year.

"Commercial theaters, whether in response to us or just by happenstance, are offering more art films than ever before on a sustained basis," Moses said. "That has been one of our biggest challenges lately. The pool of films we've looked to has gotten somewhat smaller. Films we might have asked to book — like *Juno*, *The Savages*, or *Persepolis* — we're not getting."

Some local multiplexes, like the recently opened and regionally owned Sierra Vista theater in Clovis or the old Clovis UA theater that's now owned by the Regal Entertainment conglomerate that controls what plays on a majority of Fresno-area screens, are now slipping in (and slipping out) more smaller films and more global films — but often quickly and quietly.

"A number of other films that are highly acclaimed are also on our list but we've had zero chance because they were coming to the commercial theaters," said Moses, who also teaches classes in film studies and English at Fresno City College. "When that happens, there's no reason for us to program it. Our mission is to bring new, first-run films, rather than simply to replicate what the commercial theaters are doing. We're now sometimes looking to littler films that our audience hasn't yet heard of."

Filmworks' push toward smaller films has ultimately led to even more diversity on the big screen for Fresno moviegoers, Moses said. The expanded Fresno Film Festival — originally modeled after successful film festivals in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, and elsewhere — is another way that Filmworks tries to push its programming past what commercial theaters offer.

"[The multiplexes] aren't doing the festival thing. They aren't looking to festival circuits for unusual films that



**A Cambodian refugee paints graffiti murals to cope with his anger and confusion in the short film *Underpass*.**

aren't picked up by big commercial distributors," Moses said. "That allows us to show these unusual and important films and shorts."

At least eight of this year's festival films have connections to Fresno and the Valley.

Los Angeles-based director David Sauvage directed the 21-minute short film *Carissa*, the story of a 12-year-old homeless girl who is forced into being a sex worker on Fresno's motel row. The film's protagonist, Carissa Phelps, survived the ordeal and is now earning a law degree and an MBA degree from UCLA.

Bay Area filmmakers Singeli Agnew and Joshua Fisher directed the 26-minute short film *Pollen Nation*, the story of a third-generation beekeeper who drifts from the



**The feature film *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* based on the remarkable true story of a magazine editor whose sudden stroke permanently alters his life.**

honey harvest on the High Plains to the warm winter-feeding grounds of Central California. Parts of the film were shot in and around Fresno.

Tyrone Huff, a former Fresno State student and now Los Angeles-based director, directed and wrote the screenplay for the 15-minute short film *Chiles*, his autobiographical story of navigating language barriers and cultural indifference between a young Black man and his Mexican girlfriend's parents.

And Sundance award-winning cinematographer Ellen Kuras joined Laotian

co-director Thavisouk Phrasavath to make the feature film *The Betrayal* (*Nerakhoon*), the story of Phrasavath's youth, his escape from persecution and arrest in Laos, his family's reunion and their journey as immigrants to America, and the second war they had to fight on the streets of New York City. Parts of the film were shot in Stockton.

Other films with ties to Fresno and the Valley include:

- *Hotel Fresno*, directed by Fresno's Teresa Flores, whose first film, *Joy*,

screened at last year's festival. This new short film is a visual interpretation of local writer Dixie Salazar's poem "Hotel Fresno."

- *Parachute*, shot by award-winning LA cinematographer and Fresno native Damian Acevedo, whose credits include *The Fourth*, a short film that screened at last year's festival. This new short film is about a precocious boy who plays with toy paratroopers in his yard and unexpectedly witnesses a man and woman engaged in an extramarital affair.

- *Underpass*, with production design by Fresno native Akkara Srauy. The short film, directed by USC film school graduates, is about a young man in San Diego who survived Cambodia's killing fields and who copes with his anger and confusion by painting elaborate and violent graffiti murals.

- *Waiting On Fountain*, edited by Darrin Navarro, who has worked on major Hollywood productions and whose father, Bob, is a Fresno-based attorney. The short film is about a little kid who waits for the bus on the first day of camp, and his conversation with an old woman who sits with him.

Moses said that Filmworks has been driven to expand its annual festival for the same reason at the heart of the group: to encourage the screening of films that speak directly to a diverse and multicultural audience.

The Filmworks board selected 17 out of nearly 150 submissions for its short films category this year. This compared with six selections out of around 20 submissions last year. The high number of submissions — and the high quality of those submissions — has led to two programs of submitted shorts, greatly increasing the breadth and number of films at the festival.

"We want to screen films that do not have an opportunity to be seen by people in theaters anywhere else in the Fresno area," Moses said. "Not everyone likes experimental cinema, but especially with the shorts, we'll give our audience a good taste of what some smaller filmmakers are doing."

Filmworks hopes to expand the festival in future years, Moses said, as well as continue to screen films on the second Friday of each month at the Tower Theatre. The group's original goal of developing a permanent indie theater has — for now — faded into the background, due to finances and locations.

Moses said, though, the group's slow and steady development of its offerings would continue.

"The financial resources to start up and keep going a full-time theater, at a time when the commercial theaters are creating more competition, has not seemed right," Moses said. "Plus, a permanent art house in a different location might not nearly be as grand as the Tower Theatre, especially loyalty wise. We appreciate our audience."

Visit [FresnoFilmworks.org](http://FresnoFilmworks.org) for more information about Fresno Filmworks or for more details on the 2008 Fresno Film Festival.

Jefferson Beavers is a freelance writer based in Fresno. He teaches in the Mass Communication and Journalism department at Fresno State and is a Fresno Filmworks board member.

**See the Schedule of Events on the next page.**



**The short film *Carissa* tells the story of how Carissa Phelps survived her time as a teenage prostitute on Fresno's motel row.**

# 2008 Fresno Film Festival

Presented by Fresno Filmworks  
April 18-20 at Fresno's historic Tower Theatre

## Filmworks announces lineup for fourth annual festival

FRESNO, Calif. (March 17, 2008) — The 2008 Fresno Film Festival will feature 29 films from nine different countries, including six feature-length films and 23 shorts. The fourth annual festival, which runs April 18-20 at the historic Tower Theatre, is presented by Fresno Filmworks, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing first-run independent, experimental, and international movies to the central San Joaquin Valley. Following is the full festival schedule.

### ■ Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m.

**Feature film:** *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*

Director: Julian Schnabel. France (2007). 112 minutes. Rated PG-13.

The remarkable true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby (Mathieu Amalric), the successful and charismatic editor of French Elle, who believes he is living his life to its fullest when a sudden stroke leaves him in a life-altered state. While the physical challenges of Bauby's fate leave him with little hope for the future, he begins to discover how his life's passions, his memories and his newfound imagination can help him achieve a life without boundaries. (In French, with English subtitles.)

### With short film: *Light Years*

Director: Richard Martin. USA. 15 minutes.

Four relationships spanning the four corners of the globe are put to the ultimate test when these people learn the world may end in eight minutes — the duration of time it takes light to travel from the sun to the Earth.

### Opening night reception

At the conclusion of *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, join the Fresno Filmworks board in welcoming visiting filmmakers and the public to the fourth annual Fresno Film Festival. Admission to the reception is included with admission to the opening film.

### ■ Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m.

**Feature film:** *Modern Times*

Director: Charlie Chaplin. USA (1936). 87 minutes. No rating.

A Depression masterpiece has been newly restored in this revival film for all ages. Playing a tramp struggling to survive in a modern industrial society, Charlie Chaplin created in this film one of the most elaborate cinematic critiques of the effects of mass production on 20th Century life. With his usual charm and bad luck, Chaplin's most famous character, The Tramp, executes some of his most famous slapstick routines around massive and glorified machines, he accidentally ends up in the middle of a Communist rally, and he falls in love with a street waif played by Chaplin's then real-life partner Paulette Goddard.

### With short film: *Simulacra*

Director: Tatchapon Lertwirojkul. USA. 4 minutes.

In the vast universe, there is a robot planet on which everything is machine and robot. One day, a robot finds there is one organic life existing on his world. He decides to get that piece for himself.

### ■ Saturday, April 19, at 1:30 p.m.

**SHORTS PROGRAM NO.1**

**Fresno Film Festival short film category**

*The Cave: An Adaptation of Plato's Allegory in Clay*

Director: Michael Ramsay. USA. 3 minutes.

An excerpt from Plato's *Republic*, the "Allegory of the Cave" is a classic commentary on the human condition. The story is adapted and brought to life by shooting more than 4,000 still photographs of John Grigsby's claymation.

*Lullaby*

Director: Kevin Markwick. UK. 15 minutes.

The story of a mother's love for an unborn child and how the time has come to leave the memories safely behind and move on.

*Underpass*

Director: Rain Breaw. USA. 15 minutes.

It's San Diego, 1992. Sann, who survived Cambodia's Khmer Rouge as a boy, is still tormented by his memories of the killing fields. He copes with his anger and confusion by painting elaborate and violent graffiti murals on a city underpass.

*PK-Grammy*

Director: Jo Meuris. USA. 2 minutes.

A man on a bicycle mugs a little old lady. When the lady realizes that there is no one around to help her,

she takes matters into her own hands. It's a good thing Granny knows parkour!

*Agnieszka 2039*

Director: Martin Gauvreau. UK. 12 minutes.

Joy and pain go hand in hand when an angelic being is delivered the box of eternity and is subjected to the fateful decision of the gods.

*Yasin*

Director: Betty Lee Kim. USA. 13 minutes.

Until 9/11, Yasin Zaki, 10, lived an ordinary life with his Jordanian-born parents in Southern California. After the attack, Yasin's life is turned upside down when the FBI arrests his father in a terrifying early morning raid. Yasin's misfortunes are compounded when he is tormented at school.

*Pollen Nation*

Directors: Singeli Agnew and Joshua Fisher. USA. 26 minutes.

This film follows the journey of one commercial beekeeper — third-generation beekeeper Jeff Anderson — from the honey harvest on the High Plains to the warm winter-feeding grounds of California. It also explores the history of human interaction with bees, a story that reflects the development of agriculture. In ancient Egypt, beekeepers floated their clay hives down the Nile to some of the first irrigated fields; in the 21st Century, professional bee brokers balance the rising costs of maintaining hives with big demand from big agriculture.

### ■ Saturday, April 19, at 4:30 p.m.

**Feature film:** *The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)*

Directors: Ellen Kuras and Thavisouk Phrasavath. USA (2008). 87 minutes. No rating.

A Lao prophecy says, "A time will come when the universe will break . . . piece by piece . . . the world will change beyond what we know." That time came for the small country of Laos with the clandestine involvement of the United States during the Vietnam War. In a remarkable collaboration spanning more than 20 years, Kuras and Laotian co-director Phrasavath, the main subject of the film, tell the story of Phrasavath's youth, his escape from persecution and arrest in Laos, his family's reunion and their journey as immigrants to America, and the second war they had to fight on the streets of New York City. (In English and Lao, with English subtitles.)

### With short film: *Papiroflexia*

Director: Joaquin Baldwin. USA. 3 minutes.

*Papiroflexia*, which in Spanish means "origami," is the animated tale of Fred, a skillful paper folder who could shape the world with his hands.

### ■ Saturday, April 19, at 8 p.m.

**A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS**

**Academy Award-nominated Shorts**

*Even Pigeons Go To Heaven*

Directors: Samuel Tourneux and Simon Vanesse. France. 9 minutes.

A priest tries to sell an old man a machine that he promises will transport him to heaven. (In French, with English subtitles.)

*Tanghi Argentini*

Directors: Guido Thys and Anja Daelemans. Belgium. 13 minutes.

A man who must learn to dance the tango in two weeks asks an office colleague for help. (In French, with English subtitles.)

*Peter & The Wolf*

Directors: Suzie Templeton and Hugh Welchman. UK and Poland. 27 minutes.

A young boy and his animal friends face a hungry wolf in Prokofiev's classic musical piece. (Silent film.)

*Il Supplente (The Substitute)*

Director: Andrea Jublin. Italy. 17 minutes.

The arrival of an unusual newcomer galvanizes the students in a high school classroom. (In Italian, with English subtitles.)

*I Met the Walrus*

Director: Josh Raskin. Canada. 5 minutes.

In 1969, 14-year-old Jerry Levitan snuck into John Lennon's hotel room with his tape recorder and persuaded him to do an interview.

*Le Mozart des Pickpockets*

Director: Philippe Pollet-Villard. France. 31 minutes. A pair of unlucky thieves finds that their fortunes have changed when they take in a deaf homeless boy. (In French, with English subtitles.)

### ■ Sunday, April 20, at noon

**Feature film:** *Jellyfish*

Directors: Etgar Kerret and Shira Geffen. Israel and France (2007). 78 minutes. No rating.

Poignant, often witty and exceedingly cinematic, the film tells the story of three very different Tel Aviv women whose intersecting stories weave an unlikely portrait of modern Israeli life. Batya, a catering waitress, takes in a child apparently abandoned at a local beach. Batya is one of the servers at the wedding reception of Keren, a bride who breaks her leg escaping a locked toilet stall, ruining her chance at a dream Caribbean honeymoon. And attending the event with an employer is Joy, a non Hebrew-speaking domestic worker who has guiltily left her son behind in her native Philippines. As this distaff trio separately wends their way through Israel's most cosmopolitan city, they struggle with issues of communication, affection and destiny — but at times find uneasy refuge in its tranquil seas. The film won the Camera d'Or Prize at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. (In Hebrew, with English subtitles.)

### With short film: *Carnival Daring-Do*

Director: Carla Poindexter. USA. 9 minutes.

In this animated short, inevitably propelled characters journey into fields of energized micro and macro space, in a mind-expanding reverie touching on current philosophic preoccupations, cosmic homesickness, and lyrical emotions.

### ■ Sunday, April 20, at 2 p.m.

**SHORTS PROGRAM NO.2**

**Fresno Film Festival short film category**

*Parachute*

Directors: Lucas Fleischer and Paul Grellong. USA. 12 minutes.

A precocious young boy plays with toy paratroopers in his yard and witnesses a man and woman engaged in an extramarital affair. He confronts the man and after an awkward beginning — and a little adventure — they develop an unlikely friendship.

*Papiroflexia*

Director: Joaquin Baldwin. USA. 3 minutes.

*Papiroflexia*, which in Spanish means "origami," is the animated tale of Fred, a skillful paper folder who could shape the world with his hands.

*Patience*

Director: Robert Hackett. UK. 7 minutes.

In beds next to each other but separated by a screen, Constance has a view of a park and Vera listens to descriptions of what is happening outside. Although entertained, Vera is envious of this view of the outside world and eventually the desire for her own window becomes overwhelming.

*Waiting On Fountain*

Director: Evan Wasserstrom. USA. 4 minutes.

While a little kid waits for the bus on the first day of camp, an old woman sits with the kid, discussing her experiences from what seem to be her camp days.

*Chiles*

Director: Tyrone Huff. USA. 15 minutes.

The dinner table is set as Randal, a young Black man, attempts to impress his future Mexican in-laws. Add a side of language barriers, a helping of cultural difference, and a bowl of Chiles, and this table heats up.

*Hotel Fresno*

Director: Teresa Flores. USA. 4 minutes.

A visual interpretation of local writer Dixie Salazar's poem "Hotel Fresno."

*Carissa*

Director: David Sauvage. USA. 21 minutes.

Today, Carissa Phelps is earning a law degree and an MBA from UCLA. But when she was 12, she was homeless and forced into prostitution in Fresno.

### ■ Sunday, April 20, at 4:30 p.m.

**Feature film:** *Kenny*

Director: Clayton Jacobson. Australia (2006). 103 minutes. No rating.

From the biggest festival to the smallest church social, Kenny Smyth delivers porta-loos to them all. Ignored and unappreciated, he is one of the cogs in society's machinery: a knight in shining overalls taking care of business with his faithful "Splashdown" crew. Follow Kenny as he tackles every septic challenge that comes his way, culminating in a pilgrimage to the Interna-



tional Pumper and Cleaner Expo in Nashville, Tenn. — or as Kenny affectionately calls it, “Poo HQ.”

**With short film: PK-Granny**

Director: Jo Meuris. USA. 2 minutes.

A man on a bicycle mugs a little old lady. When the lady realizes that there is no one around to help her, she takes matters into her own hands. It's a good thing Granny knows parkour!

**n Sunday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Feature film: Starting Out in the Evening**

Director: Andrew Wagner. USA (2007). 111 minutes. Rated PG-13.

Though he has spent most of his career as a character actor in supporting roles, Frank Langella gives the lead performance of a lifetime in this adaptation the novel by Brian Morton. Flanked by actresses Lili Taylor and Lauren Ambrose, Langella is the central piece in a film that focuses on its characters. The film begins with aging writer Leonard Schiller, a man who feels as obsolete as the typewriter he is pounding away at. Though he has four novels to his credit, he has been working on his fifth for a decade.

**Ticket prices**

\$45 for a festival pass.

\$15 for the opening night film program and reception.

\$10 general and \$8 students/seniors for all other individual programs.


**Ticket locations**

Tower Theatre box office, 815 E. Olive Ave.

JA Photography, 2003 N. Van Ness Ave.

Via PayPal at FresnoFilmworks.org

For more details, visit FresnoFilmworks.org or call (559) 221-0755.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90.7 KFSR</li> <li>• ConAm</li> <li>• Donaghy Sales</li> <li>• European Auto Service</li> <li>• Fresno Jewish Film Festival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry T. Perea, Councilmember, District 7</li> <li>• JA Photography</li> <li>• Myles, Sears, Eanni Law Firm</li> <li>• Soenke Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Print and Mail, Inc.</li> <li>• Jet Print &amp; Copy</li> <li>• Valley Public Radio</li> <li>• Valley Public Television</li> <li>• Whole Foods Market</li> </ul>
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Supported in part by a Community Enrichment Grant, administered by the Fresno Arts Council. Another community project supported by Jeffrey Scott Advertising.



**The African American March for Justice took place on March 1 in West Fresno. Over 100 people marched, bringing demands of homeless rights, ending the war in Iraq, police accountability, and an end to city officials calling African American youth terrorists, to the streets of West Fresno. At the conclusion of the march a program was held where community activists were honored, music was performed, and food was served.**

*At a time when experience and  
dedication are needed most*



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**ELECTION DAY JUNE 3rd**

# The Central Valley Progressive PAC Lives

By Lydia Flores

Five years ago, Ellie Bluestein sent me the minutes of a new organization in Fresno that was forming with the objective to turn things around. Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee did not have a name yet when I inquired about it. Immediately I saw danger in joining. For to dig into the goings on in the city and county, which were covert, could be dangerous. How entrenched were the powers here in Fresno?

I knew very little about politics and the workings of the city or county. I learned much when the PAC studied the structures of the city council, the Board of Supervisors, as well as the Board of Education. It identified who had the money, the influence, and who was running things in the area. It certainly was not the citizenry!

It was a waste of time to read Board of Supervisors and the city council minutes. Complete motions that had been made were not found. Most are notations of how many yeas and nays. That is it. Reference to environmental studies before developers were given an okay to build, were negligible. Are not minutes to be transparent?

When the CVPPAC interviewed candidates for office, it learned who were aligned with the concerns of the PAC. Those who would move Fresno into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as a viable agricultural city were considered. Those who care about the human and civil rights of all the Central Valley residents were important. The issues that concern the PAC of living wage, clean air, public safety, affordable housing, adequate public transportation, bike paths, police accountability, improved education, and health care for all were the objectives. The CVPPAC supports candidates who are informed and stand up with courage to vote with the citizens in mind. They will not be influenced by the tactics of the city folk who intimidate.

The three main bodies of the city need our help. I invite you to join this non-partisan CVPPAC and lend a hand. If you have an interest in any part of the workings of

the city or county, come aboard to help us study what can be done. Our council members do not seem to have the time to review all the proposals or update the policies. Join the CVPPAC to change the course of the community. It will take many hands. We can no longer allow developers to control where houses are built. It is we who must take care of the agricultural belt. Privatization might seem an efficient way to go, but many cities have found it deadly. Privatization of water should not be allowed. Water is not a commodity. Everyone needs to have clean, pure water. Crime will be reduced not by surveillance apparatus and more police but by appropriate and good education with high expectations for all children. Most of all we need you to help bring Fresno into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century NOW either by money or effort. June 3, 2008 will be a pivotal election for our community. Please come to our Candidates Forum and our Meet-and Greet Fun-raiser Reception to

meet and hear from the candidates for Fresno City Council, Mayor, Judicial Race #10, and Fresno County Board of Supervisors. By joining the CVPPAC, you can have a voice in deciding whom we endorse and support for election/ re-election.

These are my words and do not reflect the thoughts of all the members.

###

Lydia Flores is immediate past chair of the CVPPAC. Lydia is retired with 40 years of teaching from Fresno Unified School District. Today Lydia is legislative chair for the Fresno County Democratic Women's Club and holds the same position for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She may be reached at [lflores566@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lflores566@sbcglobal.net)

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



For breaking news and information, see:  
<http://www.indybay.org/centralvalley/>

## Poetry Corner

[Editor's note: The following lines have come to us from Laneesha Senegal, out of West Fresno, hoping to find a place on our pages. That much of Ms. Senegal's wishes we can fulfill, would that the rest could be as easily granted.]

### I have hope

Part 1

I have hope that one day we the people would all unite

I have hope that West Fresno will soon be alive again and thriving as a heart beats

I have hope that the 3% of West Fresno kids that own at least one computer in the home will increase to over 80%

I hope that those who believe West Fresno has no problems will open their eyes and pray that they hope

I hope all of our mothers and fathers will dream again

I hope for a better tomorrow for the homeless in these dying streets

I hope that all kids can walk down every hood and see the peace sign thrown up

I hope that one day we will be able to have our summer youth jobs program back

I hope the next time a child thinks of joining a gang a mentor will intervene

I hope that every church on every corner will come to the streets

I hope that we will learn our neighbors

I hope that all grass root organizations will have the support they need to build a better community

I hope the next time our city gets a \$2 million grant it will help to sustain over 100 people with a job

I hope I hope I hope

I have hope or so I "have" hope in our political system to do what's right for the people

I have hope that more movers and shakers will "shake" more instructions on how to become a mover and shaker

### I have hope

Part 2

I have hope that the dream that is burning inside is burning within others

I have hope that my Beverly's, Colemans, G-Waynes, Harris', will keep hope alive

I have hope that we will stop pointing fingers at each other and just work together

I have hope that as I write my hopes that you are listening

I hope our kids could have a high school and middle school they can call their own

I hope more of our kids could read before they passed the third grade

I hope the dope man will see that he is killing my family

I hope that my high school sisters will learn that prostitution is not a date to brag about

I hope the brothers we call pimps will wake up because they are ugly inside

I hope our politicians will keep their promises and stop talking so darn fast

I hope we could stop letting our kids vagabond in these streets

I have hope that we will have more \$\$ for intervention programs

I have hope that our kids will stop dropping out of school

I hope someone will take a special care and find out where all of the stars have gone

I hope you hear my voice

I have so many hopes but yet nothing that can't happen

I have hope that we will just speak up and hope and speak up and hope

I have hope

Share your hopes on May 22, 2008 as we the community unites for West Fresno Hope



# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

WILPF Fresno, PO Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

All content paid for by WILPF

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

March was a busy month for WILPF. Here are some of our activities.

WILPFer Dr. Jean Kennedy Receives Honor On Thursday, Feb. 28. Our own Building Beloved Community Chairman, Jean Kennedy was inducted into the Wall of Honor at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum. The Wall is sponsored by State Center Community College District and recognizes the contributions of outstanding African-Americans. Dr. Kennedy teaches at Fresno City College, Fresno Pacific University, West Hills College, and CSUF. Besides her regular teaching schedule, Dr. Kennedy produces and hosts a radio show on KFCF called, "Health Comes At a Premium", on the 3rd Monday of each month from 8:00-10:00 p.m. She is also a public speaker who addresses the HIV/AIDS epidemic within the African American community at large. Dr. Kennedy's philosophy about community involvement is: "People make up communities. It is crucial that we provide better and more ethical ways to encourage economic development, quality education, quality health care, and preserve our natural resources so that we leave a rich heritage and legacy for our children." The Fresno branch of WILPF congratulates Dr. Jean Kennedy on this great honor. We are very proud to have her as a member of our organization.

International Women's Day Celebrated by Fresno Branch Saturday, March 8 WILPF Fresno Branch hosted a very successful luncheon at the Old Spaghetti Factory honoring International Women's Day. More than 60 men and women were in attendance. The guest speaker was Dr. Loretta Kensinger, a branch member who teaches in the Women's Studies Department at CSUF. Her topic was Radical Lessons: Thinking about Emma Goldman in Conservative Times. Dr. Kensinger in collaboration with Dr. Penny Weiss has gathered

various essays about the life and philosophy of Emma Goldman and presented them, along with their own thoughts and ideas, in a book entitled Feminist Interpretations of Emma Goldman (Pennsylvania State University Press). The event was a truly collaborative effort. The idea came from Elizabeth Swearingen, branch secretary. Marilyn Byrne secured the location and worked very hard to publicize the event, as well as working out the many details. Meta Schettler, branch treasurer, supplied the beautiful table decorations, and Jan Slagter coordinated attendance by CSUF students. The branch extends a huge "thank you" to these amazing women. It has been decided that this will be a yearly event.

### Intern's Report

As a California State University Fresno MSW intern for WILPF I was given the wonderful opportunity to participate in the 2nd Annual African-American March for Justice in West Fresno. The number participating in the march was small but the message was huge. "No Justice, No Peace" was chanted as participants marched through the neighborhoods, demanding justice, a stop to police brutality and an end to the war. It was amazing to see the citizens in the community come out of their homes and look out of their windows acknowledging and agreeing with the words that were being chanted. Although it was an African-American March, it was a march that represented all humanity, as the diversity among participants ranged from members of non-profit organizations and coalitions in the community to women pushing their children in strollers. The participant's efforts towards spreading the message of peace, civil rights and social justice did not go unheard. That dedication and conviction was felt and has motivated me to stand up and fight for what is right. I encourage community members and students to speak up and share your ideas for social justice. Christina Bachicha, WILPF Intern

### Dates to Remember:

**April TBA - Branch celebration of Jane Addams birthday.**

**April 12 - WILPF co-sponsors the Pace e Bene Workshop on Nonviolence at the Islamic Cultural Center. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**April 28 - Next WILPF branch meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. 6:30 p.m.-dessert-sharing. 7:00 p.m.- meeting.**



WILPF member Dr. Jean Kennedy speaking at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum. Photo by Howard Watkins.

# ARE YOU SICK?

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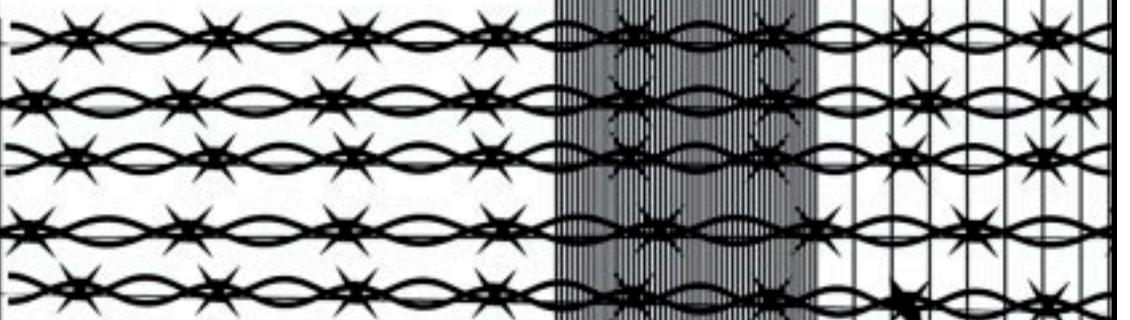
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# Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: Youth, Terrorists and Feminists

By Roksana Badruddoja, Ph.D

The "war on terror" has placed large and pressing questions of the relationship between the extant systems of nationhood, border control, and the nation-state and the mass movement of diasporic populations into national jurisdictions at the center of intellectual and political debate in much of the world. Here, it is comforting for most "Americans" to talk about clash of cultures and civilizations, helping many of us to grapple with issues that extend well before and after the events of September 11, 2001. But what has been missing from mainstream discourse about U.S. policy both before and after 9/11 is a critical analysis of the U.S. as a nation-state, including notions of nationhood and border control.

To encourage an ongoing process of interdisciplinary imagination, dialogue, critique, and revisions, on Thursday, April 10, 2008, The Women's Studies Program at California State University, Fresno will host a campus- and community-wide event to examine additional and unacknowledged dimension of 9/11 with Dr. Sunaina Maira, an Asian American Studies professor at University of California, Davis. Dr. Maira's talk, entitled "'Good' Muslim, 'Bad' Muslim: Youth, Terrorists and Feminists," will be presented from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 10 in the Alice Peters Auditorium within the University Business Center (5245 N. Backer Avenue) under the sponsorship of the Women's Studies Program at CSU-Fresno.

Dr. Maira won the American Book Award in 1997 for co-editing "Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America." Her current book project is on South Asian Muslim immigrant youth and issues of citizenship and empire after September 11, 2001. Research for the book, funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, forms the basis for her talk at Fresno State.

"Dr. Maira's talk focuses on the experiences of Muslim youth from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, living in the U.S. after September 11, grappling with issues that extend well before and after the event. Her research, on which her talk is based, explores the meaning of national belonging and citizenship for South Asian Muslim immigrant youth in light of U.S. reaction to the September 11 attacks in New York and at the Pentagon, the war on terror, and American ethnocentrism. Maira situates her talk in the larger context in which these experiences are embedded, that of a particular moment of U.S. empire," said Dr. Roksana Badruddoja, an assistant professor in the Women's Studies Program at Fresno State who is coordinating Dr. Maira's visit.

The attacks on September 11, 2001 and in the wake of President George W. Bush's war on terror, giving rise to ethnocentric government programs such as the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology, calls into question a set of particular concerns; What has been missing from mainstream discourse about U.S. policy both before and after 9/11 is a critical, not just rhetorical, analysis of U.S. empire, and it is restoring this notion to the center of discussion that is one of the aims of this talk. Dr. Maira says, "We need to insert the category of empire, in a critically defined way, into debates about youth, citizenship, and South Asian, Muslim, and Arab American experiences after 9/11, and more generally, into discussions of the 'war on terror' at home and abroad."

Dr. Maira's linkage between young people's experiences and theoretical analysis will make her talk accessible to undergraduate as well as graduate students. Her talk will have a topical focus resonating with pressing contemporary issues. Its mix of theoretical critique, political analysis, and young people's stories lends itself to general interest audiences as well. According to Dr. Badruddoja, "Dr. Maira's talk speaks to some of the most widely discussed political and cultural questions of the moment."

Dr. Maira's talk will be of importance to scholars, students, social critics, and community members whose interests lie in tracking the relationship between the American nation-state and the movement of human populations across national borders.

For more information, please contact the Women's Studies Program at Fresno State at (559) 278-2858.

# Creating a Balance in Your Garden

By Judy Stege

We have heard that 2008 is the year of change. Change happens whether we like it or not, but when we plan and work toward new ways of doing our life story, we can welcome change happily. Annie Joseph is a model of change to create a healthier environment in her home and yard. Her life story includes a professional change from marketing pesticides to working with the award winning pollution prevention program, "Our Water, Our World" to reduce pesticide runoff in California creeks and rivers. Annie Joseph will be in Fresno April 16 to encourage homeowners to "Create a Balance" with healthy gardening practices.

Annie Joseph was a partner recipient of the 2005 Pesticide Environmental Stewardship award given by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and also a co-recipient of an annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Innovators Award given by the California State Department of Pesticide Regulation. She teamed up with "Our Water, Our World" in 1997, when scientists and environmentalists began noticing that pesticides were killing wildlife and accumulating in the earth and water, including the Arctic Ocean. Since 2000, medical scientists have been studying the "body burden" of toxic chemicals in humans around the world and have been documenting the relationship between these chemicals (from pesticides and manufacturing) and diseases affecting young children.

Fresno must learn to conserve water because it is a limited resource and dependent on weather patterns for rain or drought. Because of new housing and busi-

ness developments in Fresno, we lack enough water for both urban and agricultural use. The Fresno Metropolitan District has alerted customers of pesticide runoff and asked homeowners to use fewer chemicals in their yards. Water companies throughout the United States will be demanding higher rates in order to clean up our water for safe home use. By changing to healthier gardening practices, homeowners can prevent pollution in Fresno's underground water and in the rivers which run to the Pacific Ocean.

"Our Water, Our World" assists consumers in managing home and garden pests using alternatives to pesticides. This year Americans are aware of the disappearing bees which are absolutely necessary to all plant reproduction and our agricultural economy in California. Scientists do not know the cause, but pesticide applications are one possible contributor. We can have beautiful yards and lawns without harming bees and all other pollinating insects. Annie Joseph knows about garden pests and how to safely control them. She will explain why we need to coexist with garden bugs, and how we can make our yards a beautiful habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

The "Our Water, Our World" website (<http://www.ourwaterourworld.org/>) provides fact sheets about common garden pests and listings of products considered to be safer alternatives to pesticides. There is information about pesticide pollution in water and pesticide residue in foods. Consumers can use this website to help make healthy choices.

Annie Joseph's visit is sponsored by The Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP), The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Fresno County Master Gardeners, and Grandma's All Natural Nursery on Olive in Fresno.



**Creating a Balance in Your Garden" Learn how to manage pests and diseases in your gardens without harming birds, beneficial insects, your pets and families.**

**Free samples of less toxic products and door prizes too!**

**Join Annie Joseph  
April 16, 2008**

**UC Merced Center, 550 E Shaw in Fresno  
6 p.m**



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# Word on the Street

By Francine Ramos

A recent proposal regarding Fresno's Hacienda motel near Clinton and Highway 99 has ignited a storm of protest from members of the community. Hacienda, once a home for seniors sits on over 18 acres of developed land, will, if Fresno officials have their way be converted into a correctional and rehabilitation facility. It will house Fresno First an alcohol and substance abuse treatment program, as well as, women and children from the Transitional Supportive Housing Program. The most controversial element of the site is the plans for a Female Rehabilitation Community Correctional Center facility. The FRCCC will come complete with erected 8' walls, restrained inmates, a slew of correctional and mental health staff- all in the midst of a neighboring community of families, restaurants, schools and shopping centers (clearly a disturbing thought). A question regarding the Hacienda proposal

was asked to random people throughout Fresno and here is what they had to say...

**Q. Should the Hacienda Hotel at Clinton and Highway 99 be converted into a privately run correctional facility/drug rehabilitation center?**

"Yes, I am waiting for it to get approved, to go there. I have been a part of Fresno First for seven months and it is a really good program. I have been clean 2 years. People that have been at Fresno First and gotten out are doing really well. They got jobs and are productive members of society. It is not going to be a prison. It's going to be a recovery for women. It's for those that have been out of prison and for people that are pretty much done with their sentence and they come out into a program like the one that is going to be at Clinton/99. I feel that we should be allowed in that part of Fresno. And to be honest before I went to prison that was the area I used to be in. I was negative in that community and I used to sell drugs in that area.

Now it makes me feel better, it makes me feel good knowing that I'm going to go back in that area and be doing positive things and it makes me feel good to know that I'm gonna go over there and do good things in an area where I used to do bad things." Rochelle Maywell

"I don't know. I guess it depends on what they did. You know what type of crimes they committed. I heard somebody talking about it. But I don't have enough information about it to really give an opinion." Jada Marshall, West Fresno

"No, not at all. I don't agree. We shouldn't be putting more bad people in an already bad area." John McSorley

"I think they could find a better place to put it. Rehabilitation programs work, I myself came out of Christ-centered program. But any type of rehabilitation home is missing a key element for success if it doesn't place Jesus Christ at its center." -Gina Loera



Rochelle Maywell



Jada Marshall



John McSorley



Gina Loera

## Be the Change You Wish to See in the World!

- "It is only when the individual becomes peaceful that the world will become peaceful. *Engage* is the way to transform the self." — ARUN GANDHI, PRESIDENT, MK GANDHI INSTITUTE FOR NON-VIOLENCE
- "This book, *Engage*, is a toolkit for salvation. Beta-tested in the laboratory of hundreds of workshops, it spans the whole field of necessary knowledge to save the world, from the loftiest reaches of theory to how to use a flipchart. No doubt there will be many more handbooks like it in the years to come, but at present this is the only one I know of, and every community should have one." — MICHAEL NAGLER, FOUNDER, PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES, UC BERKELEY

Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions?

- How can I be more compassionate with myself?
- How can I sustain my work to improve my community without burning out?
- How can I work together better with my colleagues so I can be more joyful and fulfilled?
- How can I get through conflicts safely without getting hurt or hurting others who I am in conflict with?
- How can I be more understanding and compassionate towards others, especially those I most dislike or disagree with?
- How can I respond more effectively to violence or injustice?
- Where can I find more effective tools and strategies to make change in my community or in society?
- If you have answered yes to any of these questions,

you might like to take a workshop offered by Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service!

Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service (pronounced pah-chay bay-nay) was established originally as an agency of the St. Barbara Province of the Franciscan Friars of California in 1989, and became an independent non-profit 501(c)3 organization in 2001. Pace e Bene means "peace and all good" in Italian and was an expression used by St. Francis of Assisi as a greeting and as a means of proclaiming the way of nonviolence in the midst of a violent world.

The mission of Pace e Bene is to foster peace and justice through nonviolence education, community-building, and action. We achieve our mission by conducting retreats, trainings, and workshops and creating resources for individuals and communities. We take a holistic and integrated approach in our work, exploring nonviolence at the personal, interpersonal, communal, and institutional levels. We believe all these levels interact with and influence each other.

*Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living* and *From Violence to Wholeness* are small-group processes that invite participants to cultivate the groundwork for nonviolent living and offer tools for putting this into practice in their everyday lives and in their communities. Both processes uses various interactive learning styles, personal and small group reflection, stories, historical and contemporary experience, creative nonverbal activity, music, journaling, role-plays, centering practices, and community-building.

Pace e Bene's has four main commitments that we try to model internally while we emphasize them in our trainings. They include: diversity and multiculturalism, relationship and community-building, spiritual practice, and taking action for peace and justice.

Pace e Bene has led over 500 *Engage* and *From Violence to Wholeness* workshops with over 25,000 participants.

We have sold over 16,000 *Engage* and *From Violence to Wholeness* curricula. *From Violence to Wholeness* has been translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Italian, and *Engage* is being translated into Spanish. Pace e Bene works locally, nationally, and internationally, especially in Latin America.

Pace e Bene works with a wide diversity of groups, including community groups, schools, organizations, and churches. We have led trainings with many churches, peace and justice groups, in prisons, with homeless advocacy organizations, community organizing groups, etc.

A recent workshop graduate said, "I have been waiting my whole life for a tool such as this workshop. I now feel like I have options to avoiding violence and my own violent behavior that I would have never dreamt possible." Another participant commented, "Pace e Bene teaches skills that can heal our society."

For more information, see our website, [www.paceebene.org](http://www.paceebene.org), or contact Ken Preston-Pile at the Oakland office at 510-268-8765, [kenpreston@paceebene.org](mailto:kenpreston@paceebene.org).

Pace e Bene will offer a one-day nonviolence workshop on Saturday, April 12, 9 am-4 pm at the Islamic Cultural Center, 2111 E Nees Avenue, Fresno. For more information call 439-0280.

**Jacob M. Weisberg**  
Attorney at Law

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# Fresno Center for Nonviolence



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dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through  
SIMPLICITY – JUSTICE – INCLUSIVENESS - NON-INJURY

## On Tibet: The Time to Break Silence is Now

By Brandon Hill

"There is a tendency in Washington to make a China exception," says John Tkacik of the right wing Heritage Foundation. A tendency in large part due to China's economic clout and influence. With Tibetan frustrations boiling over into large protests and in some cases violence the time has come for us to take away China's get out of jail free card. As China tries to polish its image for international viewers in the run up to the Olympics the U.S. government as well as the American left can no longer take the convenient route. While fighting against policies in Sudan and other countries are worthy causes, we must step out of the comfort zone to challenge a power which we have the clout to influence, a power which is nearly omnipresent in all of our daily lives.

As monks and laypeople began protesting in early March they were swiftly met with arrests and violence. Less than a week later an estimated 80 or more were dead (as estimated by the Tibetan government in exile: China put the toll at around a dozen). With the foreign media and tourists ushered out of the region and communication stifled within Tibet one can only imagine what is happening now to the hundreds arrested and those who may try to protest despite strict curfews and a heavy police presence. To highlight China's control of the media, some reports have suggested that even neighboring regions within China do not have a good grasp of what has taken place in Tibet over the past several weeks.

The response to this from the West has been muted with numerous calls for little more than restraint. Instead of a meek call for restraint, how about a call for justice and the rights Tibetans have been stripped of for over half a century? For decades Tibetans have seen their right to practice their religion and their way of life chipped away with the Chinese government inserting itself into daily practice and expending more resources to demonize those who would want greater autonomy for Tibet than to improve the lot of Tibetans. Much of China's response to recent criticism has been focused on blaming the Dalai Lama for trying to sabotage China's Olympic Games coming out party. Despite China's economic boom, Tibet has been left behind with widespread illiteracy, poverty, and malnutrition at a rate much higher than the rest of China. Tibetans also seem to be losing control of their own affairs due to a Chinese policy of encouraging immigration into the region which has resulted in fewer Tibetans in government positions.

Some are calling for a boycott of the Olympic games; while this is tempting, it is hard to see how much good such a boycott would do. However, a boycott of the opening ceremonies by American politicians as well as pressuring China to enter into a constructive dialogue with the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan leaders to address the underlying causes of Tibetan frustrations may prove worthwhile. The former might show the world, if only for a day, that America does not approve of Chinese policies. However, for this to happen the progressive community and others must step forward and hold Washington as well as Democratic presidential candidates accountable. At a point in time where China is trying to improve its image perhaps our efforts could pay off.

### The FCNV is a Host Organization

to many non-profit groups in the Fresno community. We provide a safe meeting place and media resources to the groups using our facility, including:

- Youth Link
- Project: Male
- CVAAS
- CVPPAC
- Teatro Immigrante
- Peace Fresno
- WILPF
- CVCRC
- CCCJC
- Community Alliance

### Pace e Bene: Engage Workshop

The Engage workshop is a program for learning, practicing, and experimenting with nonviolent options for our lives and for a sustainable, just, and peaceful world.

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>: 8-5p.m.

Islamic Cultural Center – Details:346.1680

### Save the Date!

FCNV Anniversary Celebration with speaker  
David Barsamian

Chocolate dessert reception to follow

June 29<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m. - Location TBA

### STRIP IT UP

Richard Stone and Jean Hayes will be discussing the upcoming  
Pace e Bene workshop  
Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 3 -3:30PM,  
KFCF 88.1 FM

## Manufactured Landscapes

Edward Burtynsky is internationally acclaimed for his large-scale photographs of nature transformed by industry.

**Manufactured Landscapes** - a stunning documentary by award winning director Jennifer Baichwal - follows Burtynsky to China, as he captures the effects of the country's massive industrial revolution. This remarkable film leads us to meditate on human endeavour and its impact on the planet.

*Nominated for Grand Jury Prize -  
Sundance Film Festival 2007*

Wednesday, April 9th

Noon @ the Fresno Center for Nonviolence  
(1584 N. Van Ness, SE Corner of McKinley/Van Ness)  
6:30 p.m. Downtown Library

# PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Wednesday, April 2 • 5 PM

Downtown issues will be the focus of a mayoral candidates forum at Bankers Ballroom, 1060 Fulton Mall (formerly Security Bank Building). This forum is sponsored by seven community organizations that are concerned about Downtown Fresno.

If you want to find out what's going on with the candidates, go to [www.fresnofusion.com](http://www.fresnofusion.com) and submit your questions. The questions you submit may be included in those asked the candidates. Also, there will be a period for questions from the audience.

## Thursday, April 3 • 6 PM

Our Healthcare System is Broken. But there's a solution. A Quality Care Forum will be held at the Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall - Diamond Room, 848 M Street. For more information, go to: [www.qualitycare2008.org](http://www.qualitycare2008.org)

## Friday, April 4 • 5:15 PM

Cineculture Club presents: Muhammed: A Legacy of a Prophet (2002). Directors: Omar Al-Qattan & Michael Schwarz. 116 min. English. Tells the story of the seventh century prophet who changed world history in 23 years, and continues to shape the lives of more than 1.2 billion people. The film takes viewers not only to ancient Middle Eastern sites where Muhammad's story unfolds, but into the homes, mosques and workplaces of some of America's estimated seven million Muslim to discover the many ways in which they follow Muhammad's example.

This film will be shown in McLane 121. Parking is relaxed after 4:30 PM on Fridays in area parking lots. Check the campus map to see which parking area is most convenient. <http://www.csufresno.edu/univrelations/map/>

## Friday April 4th

Full Circle Brewing Co Presents Happy Hour with Wayne Damron 5-7pm No Cover. Full Circle Brewing Co 8th Anniversary Party Featuring Suicide Lounge. 8pm \$5 Cover 620 F St. Downtown Fresno 559-264-6323 [www.fullcirclebrewing.com](http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com)

## Tuesday, April 8 • 7:30 PM

Through the Landowner Stewardship Program, Audubon works with private landowners to conserve and restore wildlife habitat on farms and ranches in a manner compatible with existing agricultural operations. The program aims to enhance and restore riparian, oak woodland and grassland habitats, improve forage qual-

ity, improve water quality and reduce erosion. The program has initiated restoration projects on over 50,000 privately held acres in California. Join program director Vance Russell as he discusses the program. This event will be held at the UC Center, 550 Shaw Ave (Across from Fashion Fair Mall).

## Wednesday, April 9 • 12 Noon & 7:00 PM

Monthly Every Second Wednesday Video Presentation - Free.. "Manufactured Landscapes," striking new documentary on the world and work of renowned artist Edward Burtynsky, internationally acclaimed for his large scale photos of quarries, recycling yards, factories, mines and dams. The film follows him through China, as he shoots the evidence and effects of that nation's massive industrial revolution, an "almost endless factory." The film has won numerous awards. 81 minutes. The 12 noon showing will be at the Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness. The 7:00 PM showing will be at the Downtown Library, so it can be seen on a large screen. For info call 237-3223

## Wednesday, April 9 • 4 PM

Circle of Peace and Justice will meet at Dr. Rezapour's office: 6769 N. FRESNO. ST #204 in Fresno.

## Wednesday, April 9 • 5 PM

Downtown issues will be the focus of a Fresno City Council candidates forum at Bankers Ballroom, 1060 Fulton Mall (formerly Security Bank Building). This event is sponsored by seven community organizations that are concerned about Downtown Fresno.

If you want to find out what's going on with the candidates, go to [www.fresnofusion.com](http://www.fresnofusion.com) and submit your questions. The questions you submit may be included in those asked the candidates. Also, there will be a period for questions from the audience.

## Wednesday, April 9 • 6 PM

Marxist/Anarchist Discussion Group: A reading and discussion group on Marxism and Anarchism will take place the second Wednesday of every month at 6 pm at the infoshop. The first meeting was in February. The March 12th topic is the "Communist Manifesto" (please bring along a copy if you can). For April, we are reading and discussing Ernest Mandel's introduction to "Das Kapital." May's topic will be determined tonight. Topics range from critiques of capitalism and the state to understanding social revolution. If Francis Fukuyama is right, we have

reached the end of history with the advent of representative democracy (so-called) and the capitalist marketplace. Marxists and anarchists alike reject this argument. There are both fundamental similarities and differences in how Marxists and Anarchists see the future, and bringing these to light is the main goal of this group. There is no prerequisite for this discussion group (laughing), just a willingness to participate in an open forum in which divergent views are encouraged. This event will be held at CAFE Infoshop, 935 F. St. China Town Fresno

## April 10, 11 & 12

The Love Song Artist Community Website is hosting their first Art Show of 2008 on. Our theme is "Saving Mother Earth," April is Earth Day month! Appropriate art can depict the

beauty or destruction of nature, "Going Green" poster art & slogans, Native American & Indigenous themes, fantasy Art w/nature spirits, etc. All media welcome! Showing and attending is free, there will be a tip jar for the performing artists and a donation box to Support the Longest Walk

To register contact Bill Redondo via email or phone 559 304-9404. If Bill isn't familiar with your art it would be good if you could email him a sample image or go by and show him what you'd like to show.

Also Green/environmentalists/activists are welcome to bring educational materials to display! For more information see the Love Song Artist Community Website: <http://lsac.50webs.com:80/>

## Thursday, April 10 • 6 - 8 PM

The Women's Studies Program at California State University, Fresno will host a campus- and community-wide event to examine additional and unacknowledged dimension of 9/11 with Dr. Sunaina Maira, an Asian American Studies professor at University of California, Davis. Dr. Maira's talk, entitled "'Good' Muslim, 'Bad' Muslim: Youth, Terrorists and Feminists," will be presented in the Alice Peters Auditorium within the University Business Center (5245 N. Backer Avenue) under the sponsorship of the Women's Studies Program at CSU-Fresno. For more information call (559) 278-2858.

## Thursday, April 10 • 7 PM

Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative monthly meeting will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Al-luvial, Clovis. All are welcome.

## Friday, April 11 • 5:15 PM

Cineculture Club presents: Bombies (2001). Director: Jack Silberman. 57 min. Between 1964 and 1973 the United States conducted a secret air war, dropping over 2 million tons of bombs and making tiny Laos the most heavily bombed country in history. Millions of these 'cluster bombs' did not explode when dropped, leaving the country massively contaminated with 'bombies' as dangerous now as when they fell 30 years ago. Bombies examines the problem of unexploded cluster bombs through the personal experiences of a group of Laotians and foreigners and argues for their elimination as a weapon of war. Unfortunately they are still a standard part of the US arsenal and were dropped in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. Golden Gate Award, San Francisco International Film Festival.

This film will be shown in McLane 121. Parking is relaxed after 4:30 PM on Fridays in area parking lots. Check the campus map to see which parking area is most convenient. <http://www.csufresno.edu/univrelations/map/>

## Saturday, April 12 • 9 AM - 4 PM

Pace e Bene will present a nonviolence workshop in Fresno at the Islamic Cultural Center. The workshop "Engage" is a program for learning, practicing, and experimenting with nonviolent options for our lives and for a sustainable, just, and peaceful world. The "Engage" workshop offers us a way to learn, study and practice the nonviolent options available to us. It provides tools for individuals and groups to take action for justice and peace in the midst of war and injustice. For more information call 439-0280. Also, see page 22 for more details.

## Saturday, April 12 • 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Meet and Greet the Candidates Fun-Raiser reception at the home of Howard and Chris Watkins, 1785 W. Dovewood Lane, Fresno (near West & Bullard). Cost: \$20 donation requested; free to members and those who join CVPPAC. RSVP to (559) 435-7360. For more information, visit [www.cvppac.org](http://www.cvppac.org) or call 559-435-7360.

## Monday, April 14 • 7-9 PM

Central Valley Progressive PAC (CVPPAC) Endorsement meeting at the Fresno Center for Non-Violence. This meeting is limited to CVPPAC

members current in their dues. We will determine which candidates and local races we will endorse and support.

## Wednesday, April 16 • 5-8 PM

Fresno Works for Better Health Advocacy Center invites you to attend "Worlds Apart, Futures

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# PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED

Together" Mayoral Forum on Poverty Slated at the Saroyan Theater. The forum will be moderated by Dr. Manuel Pastor, author and professor at the University of Southern California, where he directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity. The mayoral candidates will be questioned on what they see as a specific, realistic platform to address chronic poverty and health disparity in the City of Fresno. The forum will provide a thoughtful discussion to help determine which candidates are capable and willing to provide the leadership required to make amelioration of poverty a top priority. Refreshments will be served and the audience will have the opportunity to meet with the candidates following the question and answer component.

### Wednesday, April 16 • 6 PM

"Creating a Balance in Your Garden" Learn how to manage pests and diseases in your gardens without harming birds, beneficial insects, your pets and families. Free samples of less toxic products and door prizes too! Join Annie Joseph at the UC Merced Center, 550 E Shaw in Fresno. Her life story includes a professional change from marketing pesticides to working with the award winning pollution prevention program, "Our Water, Our World" to reduce pesticide runoff in California creeks and rivers.

### Thursday April 17 • 7:30 PM

MARLEY'S GHOST Back in Fresno by popular demand. They will be performing at the Unitarian Church of Fresno 2672 Alluvial (between Chestnut & Willow). Tickets: Advance \$20; \$25 at door. Available at Patrick's Music, National Hardware, Online at [www.fresnofolkconcerts.com](http://www.fresnofolkconcerts.com) or phone 431-3653.

"...Marley's Ghost achieves the seemingly impossible. If you think a reach of reggae, bluegrass, gospel, folk country, Cajun, and Scottish bagpipes tunes is a bit much, you'd be wrong. Here, it's perfect." - Richard Dorsett, Victory Music Review-

### Thursday April 17 • 8 PM

Inner Ear Poetry Jam \$3 to participate \$5 to watch. Full Circle Brewing 620 F St. Downtown Fresno 559-264-6323 [www.fullcirclebrewing.com](http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com)

### Friday, April 18 • 5:15 PM

Cineculture Club presents: Bombies (2001)

Director: Jack Silberman. 57 min. Between 1964 and 1973 the United States conducted a secret air war, dropping over 2 million tons of bombs and making tiny Laos the most heavily bombed country in history. Millions of these 'cluster bombs' did not explode when dropped, leaving the country massively contaminated with 'bombies' as dangerous now as when they fell 30 years ago. Bombies examines the problem of unexploded cluster bombs through the personal experiences of a group of Laotians and foreigners and argues for their elimination as a weapon of war. Unfortunately they are still a standard part of the US arsenal and were dropped in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. Golden Gate Award, San Francisco International Film Festival.

Post-screening discussants: Lao Student Association

This film will be shown in McLane 121. Parking is relaxed after 4:30 PM on Fridays in area parking lots. Check the campus map to see which parking area is most convenient. <http://www.csufresno.edu/univrelations/map/>

### April 18-20

Fresno Filmworks presents the 2008 Fresno Film Festival at the Tower Theatre. The festival will feature 29 films from nine different countries, including six feature-length films and 23 shorts. Spotlighted programs include "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" and "Starting Out in the Evening," as well as "A Night at the Oscars," a selection of Academy Award-nominated short films. Festival passes cost \$45; opening night film tickets, which include a reception, cost \$15 general; and tickets for all other individual programs cost \$10 general and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office, 815 E. Olive Ave.; at JA Photography, 2003 N. Van Ness Ave.; and at the door. Tickets can also be purchased online through PayPal at [www.FresnoFilmworks.org](http://www.FresnoFilmworks.org). For details, visit [www.FresnoFilmworks.org](http://www.FresnoFilmworks.org)

or call (559) 221-0755.

### Saturday, April 19 • 8 AM-6 PM

Alternatives to Violence Project workshop. Enjoy a hands-on experiential, conflict resolution workshop where you'll connect deeply with others, laugh, share, listen while learning ways to reduce conflict in your world, your classroom, your family, or at work. This event will be held at 1055 N Van Ness Ave Suite D in Fresno on two consecutive Saturdays (April 19 & 26). For more information and to reserve your spot, contact Pat Hardy 800 905-6765.

### Saturday, April 19 • 1-4 PM

Earth Day Celebration - held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 2672 E Alluvial Avenue (between Chestnut & Willow). See page 3 for more information.

### Saturday, April 19 • 2-4 PM

Community garden Ribbon cutting - Corner of 4th and Lake Street in Madera Celebrate Earth Day. See page 3 for details.

### Tuesday, April 22

Earth Day

For information about the origin of Earth Day, see: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day)

### Tuesday, April 22 • 7 PM

Earth Day - the film: Kilowatt Hours will be shown at Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 2672 E Alluvial (between Chestnut & Willow). See page 3 for details.

### Thursday, April 24 • 12 Noon - 1 PM

Women in Black will hold a silent vigil at the CSUF free speech area. Women in Black is a world-wide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence. As women experiencing these things in different ways in different regions of the world, we support each other's movements. Co-sponsored by: POWER, Campus Peace & WILPF. Please call Meta Schettler 278-4593 or email [mschettl@csufresno.edu](mailto:mschettl@csufresno.edu) for more information or see [www.womeninblack.org](http://www.womeninblack.org) to learn more about Women in Black worldwide.

### Friday, April 25 • 5:15 PM

Cineculture Club presents: Fuerza y Coraje (Strength and Courage) (2003). Director: Federico Velasco. 52 min. Spanish w/English subtitles. A film that centers around disability and the Olympics in Mexico.

Post screening discussant: director, Federico Velasco

This film will be shown in McLane 121. Parking is relaxed after 4:30 PM on Fridays in area parking lots. Check the campus map to see which parking area is most convenient. <http://www.csufresno.edu/univrelations/map/>

### Saturday, April 26 • 9 AM-2 PM

1st Annual Green Hope Veterans Earth Day Picnic and Art Show at the Woodward Park Lakeview Shelter. See page 3 for details

### Saturday, April 26 • 8 - 10 PM

A Concert for Peace in the Middle East. A Muslim family and a Jewish family are sponsoring a concert for peace in the Middle

East. Kamal & Aimee Abu-Shamsieh and Paul Pierce & Patience Milrod are inviting you to attend and support: A Time for Peace: ZAMAN EL SALAM,

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno 2672 E. Alluvial Ave (between Chestnut & Willow) Clovis, CA 93611

Limited Seating / Ticket \$ 25.00

Presenting: The Yuval Ron Ensemble

The Concert will benefit The Interfaith Youth Alliance / IFYA and will feature the stunning young Palestinian singer Najwa Gibran, Aziz, the authentic Whirling Dervish of the Mevlavi Sufi Order - and led by Oscar winning composer and Israeli peace activist Yuval Ron. An evening of Sacred Sufi music from the Turkish, Egyptian and Pakistani traditions and devotional music from the Moroccan-Jewish and Yemenite-Jewish music heritages. Join us as Friends of the Concert for an additional \$35.00. Details (559) 244-9360 [www.ifya-net.org](http://www.ifya-net.org) Email: [shamsieh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shamsieh@sbcglobal.net). Reserve Tickets: Mail a check payable to IFYA to: P. O. Box 26134 Fresno, CA 93729

### Sunday, April 27 • 10 AM - 5 PM

Earth Day Event in North Fork. See page 3 for details.

### Sunday April 27 • 5 - 9 PM

Full Circle Brewing Co Presents Roger Perry opening for Duck Baker Blues Guitarist on tour from London England. \$10. 620 F St. Downtown Fresno 559-264-6323 [www.fullcirclebrewing.com](http://www.fullcirclebrewing.com)

### Tuesday, April 29 • 7 PM (doors open at 6 PM)

Amy Goodman, independent journalist and host of Democracy Now!, will be in Fresno. Amy will be here with her brother David Goodman to talk about their new book, Standing Up to the Madness: Ordinary Heroes in Extraordinary Times which will be coming out in early April. We will have plenty of books for sale there for Amy and David to sign. The event is to take place at the new, green Unitarian Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave (between Chestnut & Willow). For more information, see: [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org)

**Homeless and need tax help?  
See Paul Jackson at 12:30 p.m. on  
Saturday in Roeding Park, alongside  
Food Not Bombs, just north of  
Storyland.**



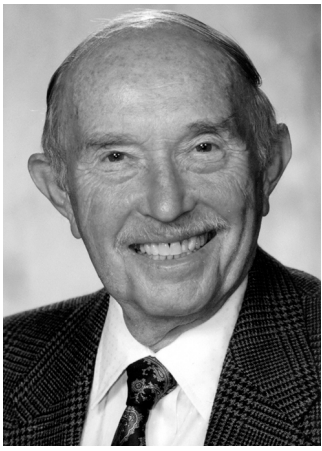
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## From The Greenhouse

by Franz Weinschenk



Okay, so for ninety dollars we bought a "Solar Cascade Fountain." It pumps water from a basin at its bottom into a pot about 18 inches above it. From the pot, the water flows into the first of three bowls, each one a couple of inches above the one below it and then back down into the basin. No extension cords, plugs, or batteries. The whole thing is powered by a 6 inch square solar panel

that sits on top of our patio cover. Once the sun comes up in the morning, it starts bubbling. Great! And now a family of finches have made a home of it; they dart in and around the bowls occasionally taking a drink as they chirp away. I love going out there in the mornings with the paper and a hot cup of decaf.

A couple of weeks after we got it, we had a computer technician over to fix the lap top. Nice guy. After he finished, I asked him if he'd like to come out to see the fountain. "Sure," he says, but after looking at it for a while, he turns kinda serious and a little sour and asks, "But aren't you afraid you'll use up the sun's energy with this thing?" — Duh!

You have to wonder if people like that ever realize that regardless of whether or not there's a solar panel on anybody's roof, the sun is gonna' shine anyway. And isn't it absolutely wonderful that we can generate renewable energy from solar panels like that without having to burn fossil fuels like coal, oil, or natural gas—which remain public enemy numbers one, two, and three (in that order) as far as global warming is concerned. That's because the chemical process of burning fossil fuels releases mainly carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It's because we've been pouring so much of that stuff out into our atmosphere ever since the start of the industrial revolution—for roughly 150 years—that it hangs out there around the earth like a giant insulation blanket holding in some of the sun's warmth that used to radiate out into space. It's that CO<sub>2</sub> insulation blanket that causes most of our global warming problems.

I will say this. Since scientists started ranting and raving about the threat of global warming, the opposition has shifted somewhat. Now-a-days they no longer dispute the fact that g.w. is for real—that the world's average temp is up, that oceans are rising and climate patterns are changing. Now they simply insist that "Humans don't have anything to do with it!" While they admit that burning fossil fuels releases CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, they simply deny that all the coal, gas and oil we've burned in the last 150 years to heat and cool our homes, to power our factories, to run our transportation systems and fight our wars has had any effect on anything. — Duh!

So now let's go out to the middle of the Pacific Ocean and meet mild-mannered Kessai Note, the President of the Marshall Islands which is an independent democracy with a population of 60,000. During the forties and fifties these people survived 66 nuclear bomb tests including the largest hydrogen bomb ever detonated by the US.

President Note likes to think of himself as our friend. He thanks us for helping his people regain their island culture which is based on living close to the land and the sea. Unfortunately, now his country appears to be doomed because of a more insidious threat than even nuclear bombs—the ascending ocean which has already risen 7.8 inches since 1975 clearly caused by global warming. "Our situation is already critical," he says. "We have seen the sea coming in and destroying our coastal areas. So much of our land is being washed away .... It is so hard to now see it coming right into our homes. We have had to relocate people already. We have tried building sea walls, but that has limited success on an island that is two feet tall. Global warming causes more frequent and powerful storms that fly over us and destroy what little margin we have to keep our noses above water. The US is responsible for 25% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions," he continues. "How can it drown my nation and not do something about that?"

Good question. So the next time my computer buddy comes over I'll ask him, and he'll probably tell me that it's all the fault of guys like me for setting up solar fountains in their back yards and using up the sun's energy. — Duh!

###

Franz Weinschenk has been a teacher and school administrator in Fresno for over fifty years. He can be contacted by e-mail at [franzie@SCCCD.org](mailto:franzie@SCCCD.org)

## Abolish Solitary Confinement: The Terrance Hampton Story

By Fraser Shipman

On 4/19/06 at 1:41 PM in the Ten Block of Walpole Prison a patient's head bashed into my face with such force that I was lifted out of my chair and driven back three feet. For the next two minutes I was being body slammed and then violently kicked. My attacker belted, "I will find you and I will hurt you every time I find you!...You have not seen the beginning of hostility and aggression!!" It took five strong guards to pull my attacker off of me. Walpole is in Massachusetts and is comparable to CA's Pelican Bay. I was serving as the acting medical director of the prison for a UMass Medical School program. I was seeing Terrance Hampton for a medical emergency.

Ten days after the attack, the Prison police stated: they had judged my attacker no real threat; he was scheduled for release in 14 days. I thought differently. The following two years have been a crash course in self advocacy; learning to live as a victim; learning to accept many defeats and losses. When your interests run up against the interests of the prison industrial complex, you are in for lots of hard lessons.

I kept Terrance Hampton in prison until May of last year. I kept trying to get him moved to a specialized psychiatric facility after I found that he suffers from severe mental illness and has almost certainly suffered brain damage. Both of these conditions are the result of ten years of extreme suffering in solitary confinement. Research has shown that prolonged solitary confinement that begins in adolescence causes structural changes in the brain and prolonged mental illness. What did a teenager do to deserve this? He, a black teenager, allegedly punched a white guard in the nose. He received virtually no legal representation and no trial. He allegedly pled guilty to a felony charge and waived his right to a juvenile proceeding. He was labeled a danger to society and moved to the Walpole DDU (Disciplinary Detention Unit, in CA a SHU or Special Housing Unit). He spent the next ten years in the DDU and the Ten Block. The Ten Block received special attention in a MA congressional investigation in the 1980's (see "Walpole State Prison and Exercise in Torture" at [www.brianwillson.com/awolwolpole.html](http://www.brianwillson.com/awolwolpole.html)). It is probably a bit less violent now. In the two years around the time of my attack, four of the sixty men in the Ten Block successfully hanged themselves. The prison authorities finally let Mr. Hampton out in May of last year, so I ran away to CA. Based on my research, I predicted in court that he would do a potentially lethal violent act within 90 days. Mr. Hampton made it 70 days before allegedly assaulting and battering with a deadly weapon three times (based on oral communication to me from my Victim Assistance Advocate). He is back in jail and faces three separate court cases (based on written communication from the Victim Assistance Program).

The evidence compellingly supports the need for an insanity defense for Mr. Hampton. The public defender system is not able to provide an adequate defense for a case of this complexity. Without proper defense, he is almost certainly headed back to the Walpole Ten Block. Any reader with any idea of how to get Mr. Hampton a better defense, please email me.

What does this have to do with you here in Fresno? You are at the epicenter of the massive CA prison industrial complex. There are probably at least ten persons like Mr. Hampton within 100 miles of here. The magnitude of CA's prison problems is very difficult to grasp. Allowing oneself to feel the pain being generated by these problems for even a moment is intolerable. Golden Gulag (R. Gilmore, 2007, U.C.A. Press) documents CA's massive prison creation project from 1984 to 2007. On

page four this disturbing quotation appears, "...the biggest prison building and filling program in the history of the world..." At this moment, an average first world nation has about 75 prisoners per 100,000 persons; CA has about ten times more. The largest single project funded from CA's general fund is the prisons. Citizens of CA owe investors 5 billion dollars at high interest rates for about 50 huge prison projects. All of the painful details are in the Golden Gulag.

What is to be done? At just about the same time that I was being assaulted, a hopeful and positive thing was happening right here in CA. An experienced prison issue activist was publishing a guideline for change, Beyond Prisons (L. Magnani, H. Wray, Fortress Press, 2006). This important American Friends Service Committee book lists twelve steps to begin moving away from our very dangerous imprisonment mistake. Two stand out for me: first, abolition of prisons is the most logical response to accumulating evidence from all over the first world; second, abolishing solitary confinement is also essential.

You say, "But the local TV, newspaper and radio has almost nothing critical to say about the prisons." The citizen hopes, "If it was so bad, it would get attention." I have found that you will not see this topic in public media. My efforts to get media attention have been unsuccessful over fifty times. The prison industrial complex is growing toward the size of its big brother, the military industrial complex. The two share many similarities. The owners of the media are heavily invested in this very high return and rapid growth government mistake. Therefore, the mistake will not be criticized in the main stream media.

In summary, Terrance Hampton's attack on me began a two year immersion into the problems of our prisons. I know Terrance Hampton is in need of compassion, long term in-patient mental health care in a highly specialized facility. He unquestionably should not be on trial to be sent to be punished further in the Ten Block. No one should. All "Control Units" are human rights violations. They do not help anyone and they create massive suffering.

Please let Terrance Hampton be an individual victim who can change the way you see our prisons. Let his story help you decide to at least read the last chapter of two books: Beyond Prisons and Golden Gulag. Let these important books guide you to take at least one brief trip to one of the seven major prisons within a hundred miles of Fresno. If you would like to try to help Mr. Hampton, please email me. Anything is possible with enough compassion, understanding, love, and time: even the eventual abolition of prisons and control units.

###

C. Frazer Shipman, MD, is a locum tenens family physician working temporarily in the San Joaquin Valley. He is board certified in family medicine and geriatrics. Email: [shipmanf@gmail.com](mailto:shipmanf@gmail.com).

## Five Years and Counting

By Ruth Gadebusch



The "glorious" war that was supposed to take about five days, and certainly no more than five weeks, has now reached five long years. To make matters worse we have a presidential candidate speaking of staying in Iraq for one hundred years. Most incredible is that the candidate has a very harsh war experience in his background...from another war that should not have been.

We could assume it to be ridiculous campaign talk except that the president — of the same political party — is busy making secret commitments regarding the future with his chosen Iraq government as the United States continues to build the largest embassy in the world in Baghdad. Of course, this goes on with the president loudly proclaiming that his ordered surge is bringing success. To rational people success means leaving

this nation so rashly invaded five years ago, but not to this president and his minions.

After a hiatus of sorts, the death count of American military is climbing and will reach 4000 shortly. Needless to say, that does not begin to take into consideration the deaths of thousands and thousands of citizens of that beleaguered nation and nothing of the destruction of its ancient civilization, its crumbling infrastructure and the fear of just walking on the streets. It will come as no surprise to know the "green zone" where that infamous embassy is being built does have the marks of civilization such as working water, electricity, functioning sewers and food stores.

Without doubt, certain American businesses are profiting wildly from this ill conceived war, from both legitimate activities and corruption. Granted, some of their employees are also paying the ultimate price. They, as well as our military, have suffered some of the atrocities of a culture of which we have little understanding. Just in time for the 5 year anniversary the severed fingers of several of these employees held hostage for the past year were delivered, presumably as proof that they were still alive.

Not a good omen, Admiral Fallon, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East, has resigned citing differences with the president. This turn of events leads to speculation that he disagrees with General Petraeus, who in lockstep with the president, rouses great fears that the intent is "on to Iran." That intent, denied by all that's holy, falls into the category of actions speak louder than words to many of us.

As if the damage to that part of the world is not bad enough, our own treasury has been high-jacked. Our social needs and our infrastructure are being gravely neglected, not just for our time, but for generations to come as the nation struggles to return to its principles.

In short, this war is wrong, wrong, wrong but the solution comes in the political domain, not in denigrating the military. I am distressed by demonstrations and efforts to stop military recruiting. The current problems belong to the civilians who have misused the military in this unjust war. Granted, no war is good, but some defensive ones are necessary.

Our current military is comprised of those who choose to join. Yes, some do so out of economic necessity, part of which can be attributed to this misbegotten war. Some do so out of deeply held beliefs that a strong military is the best defense. Some do so as a way of achieving maturity. All do so from choice at this point of no draft. It ill behooves those of us who consider ourselves progressive to deny their choice, when we demand that we be allowed to make our choices of medical care, worship, voting, freedom of speech and on and on.

The Berkeley resolution banning recruiting in their city rightfully earns the moniker of "Beserkley. The antics of "Code Pink" and other such groups in attempting to shut down the military, from the ROTC programs in our schools to adult recruiting (we consider these young persons adults for other purposes so it is disingenuous to say they don't understand what they are signing up for), are not in keeping with American principles of political solutions, not infringement of the rights of others.

It is time to put the blame where it belongs: this administration with its neocons in the Pentagon and the congress that allowed, and continues to allow, this horrible over reaction to the tragedy of 9/11. Few in the military look for war for they know better than anyone the devastation. The military, under the command of the president, exists to protect the rights that we citizens of this nation have.

Let us salute the military and demand that our civilian government find a political solution that serves the needs of the Middle East and our own United States of America. Five years of this war is too much. One hundred years is inconceivable.

###

Ruth Gadebusch is a former naval officer, 13 years as a Fresno Unified School District Trustee, Vice-President of the Center for Civic Education, Community Activist.

**Clovis Rodeo: Cruelty for a Buck?**

**Amanda Pjerrou**

I never really cared for meat growing up. I was one of those kids who often picked it off my plate, feeding it to the dog under the table, so I could go outside to play. Not too long ago, I saw a documentary on the horrors and injustices of animals bred for food. I saw this cruel practice for what it was, and I have been a vegan since then. I joined a couple of animal activist groups who have further educated me on the plight of these poor creatures.



I recently learned of the injustices of the rodeo. I am a Clovis resident and the glorification of this practice is particularly distressing to me. The rodeo is advertised as man conquering the wild beast, but the truth is this is only animal abuse masked as entertainment. It is appalling. This sort of thing would not be allowed under any other circumstances. Much hype is surrounded when a dog or cat is tortured or exploited in illegal fights; I see no difference when it comes to the cattle that are forced to participate in these shows.

Typical rodeo procedures include bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling and barrel racing among many other things. The animals used by the rodeos are captive performers. These animals are not willing participants and are physically provoked into displaying wild and aggressive behavior to make the cowboys look brave. Rodeo association guidelines are not successful in avoiding injuries and are not rigorously enforced. In addition, penalties are not severe enough to deter abusive treatment.

Rodeo bulls are fitted with straps that irritate them, causing them to buck. Sometimes these poor animals

are spurred, tasered, and there have been recent documents of steroids used to cause animals to act out and buck. Calf roping is an even more incorrigible act.

On the range, calves are roped to protect them from danger. When it comes to the rodeo, calves are endangered for amusement. After having its tail twisted and pulled over the fence rail, the calf runs out of the chute at top speed to escape the torment. The calf is captured with such force that it becomes airborne before it slams into the ground. This process can break the calf's neck, back or legs.

I have made it a mission of sorts to be a voice for the voiceless. This cruelty should not be allowed. Granted, I do not expect to stop the rodeo in one shot. However, I do hope to raise awareness on this issue and hope that others will have a broader perspective on the consequences on their actions when it comes to animals.

I invite you to join me and support my cause. I will be there all four days of the rodeo.

The following is my itinerary:

April 24	6pm
April 25	6pm
April 26	1pm
April 27	1pm

For those of you who are not big on animal rights, I invite you as well. Perhaps you would like to help others and me in our effort to practice the freedom of speech. If you wish to learn more of the cruel nature of this practice, please visit the following resources:

- <http://www.rodeoabuse.com/beaten.asp>
- <http://www.sharkonline.org/?P=0000000349>
- [http://www.peta.org/mc/factsheet\\_display.asp?ID=69](http://www.peta.org/mc/factsheet_display.asp?ID=69)

I hope to see you there.

###

Amanda is a criminal justice major with University of Phoenix. She works full time as a receptionist for OfficeTeam and lives in Clovis with her fiance and two dogs. She can be contacted at [pjerroua@hotmail.com](mailto:pjerroua@hotmail.com)

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Our healthcare system is broken.



California's healthcare system is in crisis. Costs are climbing beyond the reach of many families. Patients experience huge differences in cost and quality of treatment. Funding cuts threaten our safety-net hospitals. And millions are living without any health insurance at all.

The state's hospitals and nursing homes can play a central role in addressing these challenges. But only if those facilities confront their own workforce crisis. Soaring turnover rates and mass shortages of healthcare professionals are undermining the public's access to care.

**There is an answer to these problems.** This year, more than 75,000 hospital and nursing home workers are engaging in a historic campaign to improve their ability to provide the highest possible quality of care. We'll be taking our plan to the legislative arena and the bargaining table, where negotiations have already begun. Join us as we help build the healthcare system that California deserves.

But there's a solution.

## Quality Care Forum

**Panelists:** State Senator Dean Florez  
Fresno County Supervisor Susan Anderson  
Former Assemblymember Sarah Reyes  
Gene Roza, California Alliance for Retired Americans  
Richard Yanes, Fresno Metro Ministry  
Rev. Shane Scott, Saints Rest Baptist Church

**When:** Thursday, April 3, 6 p.m.

**Where:** Fresno Convention Center  
Exhibit Hall - Diamond Room  
848 M St., Fresno  
(validated parking at Inyo Street lot)

