

FREE

VOL. 30 NO. 8 | AUGUST SPECIAL 2026

A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

THE VOICE OF THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT SINCE 1996



EN ESPAÑOL
PÁGINAS 6-8

The Humble History of Fresno's Only Progressive, Print Newspaper

BY MICHAEL EISSINGER

In California's Central Valley, where agriculture drives the economy and political battles shape daily life, one newspaper has spent three decades amplifying voices often ignored by mainstream media.

This is the story of the *Community Alliance* newspaper in Fresno—a publication born from labor activism, sustained by volunteers and dedicated to social justice, community organizing and independent journalism.

From immigrant rights to homelessness, environmental justice to police accountability, *Community Alliance* became more than a newspaper. It became a movement.

The paper began in September 1996. Back then, it was called *Labor/Community Alliance*. According to longtime editor Mike Rhodes, the publication began as a project of the Frank Little Chapter of the Labor Party during a period of national political frustration.

Labor activists, anti-war organizers, environmental advocates and community groups all shared a common concern—they felt invisible in mainstream media.

The goal was simple but ambitious: build unity between organized labor and progressive community organizations throughout Fresno.

The first edition of the paper was just six photocopied pages. A few hundred copies were printed and distributed through unions, activist groups and community organizations. Volunteers assembled many of the early editions by hand around kitchen tables.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, newspapers across America were consolidating under large corporate ownership. Independent journalism was shrinking. But in Fresno, *Labor/Community Alliance* was growing.

Why? Because it covered stories many larger outlets overlooked.

The paper focused on issues like immigrant rights, homelessness, environmental justice, LGBTQ+ equality, labor organizing, healthcare access and police accountability.

It also created a community calendar highlighting peace and social justice events happening across Fresno. That calendar became one of the publication's defining features and connected activists who often worked separately from one another.

Environmental groups discovered labor rallies. Peace organizations connected with immigrant rights advocates. Community organizers learned about local art and culture events. The newspaper helped break down silos. As Rhodes later explained, the hope was to "show solidarity with other progressive causes and efforts."

And it worked. As readership grew, the newspaper expanded. What started with a few hundred copies eventually became thousands.

By 2004, the publication evolved into the *Community Alliance* newspaper in the format still recognizable today.

The redesign was practical as much as symbolic. Switching to tabloid newspaper printing reduced costs and increased efficiency. Instead of volunteers hand-stapling issues together, the paper was now professionally printed in large quantities.

Circulation jumped dramatically. At first, five thousand copies. Then ten thousand. Eventually as many as fifteen thousand copies were distributed throughout Fresno neighborhoods.



The *Community Alliance* being printed at Mineral King Publishing in Sanger. Photo by Peter Maiden

Distribution itself reflected the newspaper's values. *Community Alliance* hired unhoused individuals to help deliver papers throughout the city. Newsstands appeared at bus stops, community centers and neighborhoods often ignored by traditional media distribution systems.

The paper wasn't just talking about marginalized communities—it actively involved them.

Over the years, *Community Alliance* tackled controversial and difficult topics and became known for reporting on homelessness long before the issue received broader public attention.

Rather than treating unhoused people as statistics or nuisances, the paper approached homelessness as a human-rights issue.

The paper also covered environmental problems affecting the Central Valley: air pollution, water access, pesticide exposure and climate impacts on farmworkers.

It highlighted immigrant communities and labor struggles in one of America's most important agricultural regions and it consistently challenged local power structures.

One notable example involved a special investigative section written with assistance from Fresno State students that helped influence public policy discussions about conditions at Fresno County Jail.

The *Community Alliance* also became deeply involved in documenting local activism: anti-war protests, Black Lives Matter demonstrations, labor organizing campaigns, LGBTQ+ advocacy, healthcare access fights and education funding debates.

For many readers, the paper became the historical record of Fresno's progressive movement.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about *Community Alliance* is that it survived.

Independent newspapers across America struggled through the 2000s and 2010s. Advertising revenue collapsed and local journalism disappeared in many communities but *Community Alliance* endured.

In part because it relied heavily on volunteers and grassroots support. Partly because it developed a loyal readership. And partly because its mission to be "the voice of the progressive movement" remained clear.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, print distribution temporarily paused, but the publication continued online while asking readers for donations and subscriptions to survive financially. Like many independent publications, survival re-

quired constant adaptation.

No history of *Community Alliance* is complete without recognizing the people who sustained it.

For decades, Mike Rhodes served as one of the paper's central figures—he has served as editor, organizer, writer, executive director and public advocate. The paper always depended on a larger network of volunteer writers, photographers, artists, community organizers, editors, distributors and activists.

Contributors documented stories from neighborhoods often ignored by larger outlets. The paper also provided opportunities for emerging writers and activists to develop their voices.

In many ways, *Community Alliance* functioned as a training ground for civic participation. Not just for journalism, but democracy itself.

Today the newspaper continues publishing in Fresno, the focus remaining on social and economic justice issues throughout the Valley. It operates as a 501c4 non-profit overseen by an editorial and nonprofit board and has expanded digitally while continuing monthly print editions.

In recent years, the organization expanded through the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, a 501c3 nonprofit aimed at increasing media attention to underserved communities.

As the paper approaches three decades of publication, it represents something increasingly rare in America—a surviving independent local newspaper with a clearly defined civic mission.

At a time when local journalism continues to decline nationwide, *Community Alliance* remains rooted in the belief that communities deserve media created for and by the people who live there.

The story of *Community Alliance* is ultimately a story about persistence. A small newspaper started by activists in Fresno survived economic downturns, technological change, political controversy and the collapse of much of independent local journalism. Through it all, it continued asking difficult questions.

Whose stories matter? Who gets heard? And what role should journalism play in building a more just community?

For thirty years, *Community Alliance* has answered those questions one issue at a time.

Michael Eissinger Ph.D., is a Fresno City College lecturer of History and host of the KFCF radio show *The Struggle*.

AUGUST 2026

WWW.FRESNOALLIANCE.COM



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WEST FRESNO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Upcoming Events



Chukchansi Park
1800 S Tulare St.
8/8/26 9AM-1PM



Open community event and school supply giveaway for students!

Child must be present
While supplies last

Join West Fresno Family Resource Center for a **FREE Parent Education Workshop [Date TBD]:** Preparing Your Child for a Successful School Year

Food Distribution

New Kingdom Church
1825 S Delno Ave, Fresno CA
Every Thursday! 1PM-3PM

Wellness Wednesday

Annadale Commons
1515 E Annadale Ave, Fresno CA
8/12/26 - Arts & Mental Health
8/19/26 - Emergency Preparedness
10AM - 11AM

Good Times Are Back

Fink White Park
535 S Trinity St, Fresno, CA
8/12/26 5PM - 8PM



Family Matters

Contact Daniel Perez
(559)939-1376
8/12/26 - Home Safety
5PM - 6PM

Online Educational Session

Family Reading Night

Kirk Elementary School
2000 E Belgravia Ave, Fresno CA
8/20/26 5:30PM-7:30PM



Saturday,
September 5

Check In: 7AM
Individuals: \$125
Foursomes: \$500

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From the Editor



Thank you once again for picking up this issue of *Community Alliance*. If you are new, welcome; if you are returning, welcome back. September marks the official 30th anniversary of this publication. We have a lot planned for the coming month and we want to make this milestone special. I am excited for you to see what we have in store. You may have noticed that this issue is lighter than you are accustomed to. I won't sugarcoat it—this is largely due to budget constraints. We are a small publication that depends almost exclusively on the generosity of our readers, which is why you will find our donation boxes throughout this paper. If you love *Community Alliance*, please help us keep it going for another 30 years. The paper, much like the world it reports on, is in a state of flux. Things are visibly changing around us. I think the questions remain: will we adjust to the new status quo the ruling class intends for us? One of genocide, oligarchy and environmental destruction, even more blatant than it has been in years past? Or will we stand up as a community and say that this is not the will of the people, that this will not stand, that we deserve more. I truly believe that we deserve more than this and while I wish we could fill the paper with good news, I hope it serves as a wakeup call to us here in Fresno and beyond. As always, I hope that this paper inspires you to be a part of the change in the Central Valley that our founders intended nearly thirty years ago. **Enrique Little**

From the Executive Director

It is truly amazing what the *Community Alliance* newspaper has accomplished in 30 years. You did that—the paper would not exist without community support. From Xerox machines to tabloid newspaper, the work, relationships and heart put into making *Community Alliance* a success and a staple to the progressive movement in Fresno and the larger Central Valley is humbling and inspiring. As an explicitly and unapologetically progressive paper, we cannot rely solely on foundation grants. They are not guaranteed, are highly competitive and the applications take an ample amount of time away from our small staff. We'd like to tend to our mission to amplify the voices of the progressive movement in our home, the Central Valley. If everyone who supports the newspaper and wants to see it succeed donated, we would be in a good place; to be blunt, we are not in a good place at this moment in time. True to the Alliance's spirit, we will continue to evolve to keep the paper alive. You can help sustain this important historic news source with a monthly contribution of \$10/\$25/\$50/\$100+ (choose a tier that works for your budget). If you are unable to budget anything at the time, the paper will be free as long as we continue printing it. If you can pay a little more, your contribution helps keep our print publication alive. **mars santos, M.Ed.**



From the Advertising Manager



Today I want to highlight our advertisers and sponsors. Please take a moment to look at the advertisements you see in this paper you are holding. Now, ask yourself: how many do you recognize? When was the last time you visited a local taco shop or befriended one of the groups, like Peace Fresno and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, that advertise with us? We have plumbers and lawyers, insurance agents and therapists—and a whole host of other businesses and nonprofits—that share our progressive social justice values. We are thankful for their partnership and support and want our readers to get to know them too. Join me in thanking them by patronizing their businesses and getting to know the clubs and organizations we promote. Go out there and make some new progressive friends and enrich our community with your presence. And, of course, always consider advertising your businesses or initiatives with us. I know I don't have to tell you, we are one of the few vestiges of print media alive in California today and we reach thousands of dedicated readers and committed supporters just like you each month. 'Community' is in the name of our paper because community is at the heart of our struggle and success. When we come together as a community, you know we can do extraordinary things, like this paper that you're reading right now has been doing for three decades. We are looking forward to many more. **I. Smiley G**

From the Distribution Manager

Our slogan for this year's December fundraiser is "pages against the regime." This is in recognition of the importance of our presence as a paper news source. We are currently distributing over 7,000 copies monthly. Those are mailed to subscribers, placed in newsstands and set on countertops of businesses and organizations around town. Over a dozen volunteers deliver the paper each month, from Caruthers to Coarsegold. Our reach with the paper edition is greater than our online audience (although we are building our online presence at fresnoalliance.com and on social media). Many weekly and monthly papers around the country have shut down. Keep us on our mission of providing progressive coverage of the Fresno area and donate now if you can. Especially important is becoming a monthly sustainer, for \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 a month! **Peter Maiden**

July Corrections: 1. In "A Point in Time," the number of arrests was misstated. There were over 2,000 arrests, not 20. 2. In "Voter's Analysis," Fuentes led 37.43% to 36.20% at press time. Following the full count, Singh leads and the two face off in the November general election.



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To become a sponsor or make a tax deductible donation, email newspaper@fresnoalliance.com
To put an ad in the paper advertising@fresnoalliance



3

COMMUNITY
ALLIANCE

Since 1996, the *Community Alliance* has been an independent progressive voice for the Central San Joaquin Valley. The *Community Alliance* advocates for

- Racial, social, environmental and economic justice
- Equal rights for all, including immigrants, the unhoused and the LGBTQ+ community
- Access to a free quality public education for all
- Access to healthcare for all
- A living wage for all people

Our goal is to expose racial, social, environmental, economic and political injustices. We will help to build a powerful progressive movement that will make all our communities safer, healthier, more equitable and more livable.

EDITOR

Enrique Little
editor@fresnoalliance.com
Yo también hablo español

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SUBMISSIONS Deadline:

15th of the previous month.
Articles 800–1,200 words.
E-mail editor@fresnoalliance.com

Peace & Social Justice and Arts & Culture Calendars:

Please submit all activities to calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th of the previous month, or you can post anytime online at fresnoalliance.com (select Calendar)

Letters to the Editor

E-mail editor@fresnoalliance.com.
Up to 200 words.

The *Community Alliance* newspaper, a 501(c)(4) entity, reserves the right to edit all articles for space and clarity. It is printed on recycled paper.

The *Community Alliance* newspaper is published monthly by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, located at 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA 93728. The *Community Alliance* newspaper is distributed free of charge, or by subscription. Subscriptions are \$40 per year, \$60 per year for a movement builder subscription or \$15 per year for a low-income subscription.

30 Years of Pages Against the Regime!

Join us along with special guest, Dolores Huerta, for our annual fundraiser.

December 5, 2026 | Fresno City College

30 Years of Pages Against the Regime

BY MIKE RHODES

September 2026 is our thirtieth anniversary. We started as a small newsletter responding to the AFL-CIO national office's call to build a labor and community alliance to support immigrant workers, see them as allies and help organize the unorganized.

This publication worked to break through silos that kept progressive activists apart. We distributed the paper in union halls and to the members of community groups.

The peace and social justice calendar helped build unity. It showed what organized labor was doing in Fresno and immigrant rights groups gave labor activists insights into other initiatives happening in Fresno. The silos began to crumble.

From Information To Policy Change

The first breakthrough article in *Labor/Community Alliance* was about the horrific working conditions of sheepherders in Fresno County. Alliance photographer Chris Schneider connected us with the workers and journalist Scott Moore wrote an article that earned a New California Media Award for Central Valley Reporting. After this information reached Sacramento, new rights for sheepherders were passed.

In 2006, a series of investigative articles about homelessness helped lead to a victory for the class action lawsuit *Kincaid v. City of Fresno* providing compensation to the victims and a change in public policy.

The wrecking crews of the city were no longer able to take and immediately destroy peoples' property. This was a huge victory for people experiencing homelessness, giving them the dignity and respect they deserve and forcing the city to uphold their Constitutional rights.

This was followed by an investigative piece called "Freefall into Madness" written by Fresno State journalism students and published in *Community Alliance* in 2013. They uncovered that the Fresno County Jail regularly denied inmates with mental health issues their doctor-prescribed anti-psychotic drugs or substituted them for a cheaper alternative that did not address their symptoms.

As a result, many inmates lost their ability to defend themselves in court and were transferred to a state mental hospital where they were given the correct medication. However, when they returned to the Fresno County Jail, they were again denied their prescribed medication and so the cycle continued.

The ramifications were obvious and dangerous to everyone involved. The courts agreed and *Hall v. County of Fresno* resulted in a remedial plan overseen by the federal courts. The medical director was removed and her jail security pass revoked and the chief psychiatrist faced medical board discipline including five years of probation.



Mike Rhodes recovering a newsstand stolen by the Sheriff's Department of Fresno County. He is holding the GPS device that located the stand in a dumpster at the Satellite Jail.
Photo by Pam Whalen

The Dark Side Of Printing Progressive News

Printing these types of stories comes with many challenges. Among them, was when our newsstand in front of the Fresno County Jail kept disappearing. After replacing it multiple times, we eventually put a GPS tracker inside and soon discovered an inconvenient truth—the Sheriff's department was stealing our newsstands and putting them in dumpsters.

One was found on the Sheriff's department property in the old industrial section of downtown Fresno. Sheriff Margaret Mims had a deputy show me video surveillance of the crime.

Eventually we won and the newsstand is back in front of the Fresno County jail, now bolted to the sidewalk. But the question remains—who are you going to call when it is the Sheriff's department stealing from you?

We have also been banned, believe it or not, from the Fresno County Library for being "too controversial." When it was pointed out that the library has *Mein Kampf* and the *Communist Manifesto* on their shelves the argument began to crumble.

The library's second line of defense was that we endorse political candidates which was incompatible with their use of public space. It was pointed out that The Fresno Bee endorses candidates but copies of The Bee are always available.

Community Alliance does not endorse candidates. We do run articles about candidates' positions on issues of public concern and we publish a grid showing what groups have endorsed which candidates. We provide information from the Republican Party, the Chamber of Commerce, The Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood and more giving readers an opportunity to see who their values align with and decide for themselves who to vote for. The Fresno County Library relented and our paper is back on the shelves.

Keep The Free Press Alive

You know the value of independent, local and progressive news and without your support we will cease to exist. If you appreciate the work that Community Alliance is doing in this community, now is the time to support us in our fundraising drive—30 Years of Pages Against the Regime. Help keep the Free Press alive!

Mike Rhodes is a founder of the Community Alliance newspaper. He has also been editor and executive director over the past 29 years. Contact him at mikerhodes@comcast.net

Support our mission to help build a progressive movement in the Central Valley by becoming a monthly sustainer. Use the sign up form below or online at fresnoalliance.com/support



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- ☐ Enclosed \$15 - Low Income rate.
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We are located inside the Bulldog Plaza

Peace & Social Justice Calendar
August 2026

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

WEEKLY

KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro (Tuesdays; Spanish) 7 p.m.–8 p.m. News, commentaries and music with a Latino touch hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.
Fresno Bridge Brigade (Fridays) 7 a.m.–9 a.m. Shaw Ave. & Highway 41, Fresno. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.
Kings County Bridge Brigade (Fridays) 7:15 a.m.–8:15 a.m. 19th Ave./ Highway 198 interchange, Hanford/ Lemoore. For more info, contact karlacialbear@gmail.com
No War, No ICE, Free Palestine! (Saturdays) 5 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Shaw Ave. and Fresno St. For more info, contact danyaseen@comcast.net.
Visalia Bridge Brigade (Sundays) 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Mooney Blvd. at Highway 198 overpass, Visalia. For more info, contact resist@withvisalia.org.
“ICE Out for Good” Protests (Sundays) 2 p.m. Mooney Blvd. & Caldwell Ave., Visalia. For more info, contact resist@withvisalia.org.
My Homie’s Kitchen Free Meals (Sundays) 5 p.m.–7 p.m. 744 P St. #101, Fresno. Connect as a community through free, full course, Native-ingredient meals. For more info, contact 559–300–9337.

SAT 1

Reedley Peace Center Protest/Visibility Event 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Corner of Buttonwillow and Manning avenues, Reedley. For more info, contact reedleypeacecenter.com.
Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley 9 a.m.–11 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or claval@comcast.net.

TUES 4

Know Your Rights: For Youth by Youth 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Location given upon RSVP. Contact youth@sirenim-migrantrights.com Learn about your rights, how to act in different scenarios and how to better protect and prepare your loved ones! Free.

WED 5

California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) 1 p.m. Via Zoom. Regional meeting. Link: us06web.zoom.us/j/2284684729.
"Women in Black" Protest 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. 2500 Tulare St., Fresno. WILPF protest for justice and against war.
KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up! 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence hosts the 2nd Wednesday edition of Stir it Up! For more info, visit kfcf.org.
Mixer with the LGBTQ+ and Ally Committee 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Sequoia Brewing, 777 E. Olive Ave., Fresno. Fresno Chamber of Commerce affinity group to strengthen inclusion, visibility and connection in the business community. For more info, contact info@fresnochamber.com.

THURS 6

Soup for My Family Gathering 3 p.m.–8 p.m. LGBT EOC Sanctuary, 1252 Fulton St., Fresno. Potluck and community meet-up for nourishment of mind, body and soul.
Tulare Democratic Club 7 p.m. For more info, contact tularedemocraticclub1@gmail.com.

SAT 8

World Indigenous Peoples' Day 10 a.m.–2 p.m. West Fres-

no Center-FCC, multi-purpose room, 600 E. Church Ave. Celebrate world's Indigenous cultures of Fresno. Free.

SUN 9

PFLAG Fresno 2 p.m. Fireside Room, Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 E. Barstow Ave., Fresno. Supporting, educating and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families. Contact pflagfresno@gmail.com.

MON 10

Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) 5 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St., Fresno. For more info, contact swgamble@aol.com.
Tulare County Stonewall Democrats 6 p.m. Me-n-Ed's Pizza, 1331 W. Henderson Ave., Porterville. For more info, contact tcstonewalldems@gmail.com.

TUES 11

Kings County Democratic Central Committee 6 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 621-A N. Irwin St., Hanford. For more info, contact 559-858-0852.
Black American Political Association of California (BA-PAC) 6 p.m. Via Zoom. Contact bapacfresno@gmail.com.
Porterville Democratic Club 6 p.m. Pizza Factory, 879 W. Henderson Ave., Porterville. For more info, contact contactportervilledems@yahoo.com.
Fresno Stonewall Democrats 6:30 p.m. Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. For more info, contact info@fresnostonewalldemocrats.org.

WED 12

KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up! 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show hosted by Josh Shurley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.
Drinks & Democracy 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Sequoia Brewing Company, 777 East Olive, Fresno. A no-host bar and food event.

THURS 13

KFCF 88.1 FM: Valley Rising 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Central Valley Partnership radio show. For more info, visit kfcf.org.
Womxn's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) 7 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. Online/in person. For more info, contact taca_03@yahoo.com.

FRI 14

Immigration Workshop 4 p.m.–7 p.m. 2037 W. Cleveland Ave., Madera. For DACA recipients and others. Call to schedule an appointment 559-499-9891. Free.

SAT 15

Free Thrift by Fresno Resource Network 7 a.m.–11 a.m. Einstein Park, 3566 E. Dakota. All are welcome to attend to snag some items at our free thrift store.

MON 17

Free Food Distribution 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Hinton Community Center. 2385 S. Fairview Ave., Fresno. Hosted by the Hinton Center Board and the Fresno Food Bank. For more info, contact 559-287-1308.

TUES 18

Central Valley Partnership 5:30 p.m.–OAB 251, Fresno City College. For more info, contact admin@centralvalley-partnership.org.
Kings County Jimmy Carter Club 6 p.m. Lemoore. For more info, contact kcjimmycarterclub@gmail.com.
Protest Rep. Vince Fong noon–2 p.m. Corner of Herndon and Clovis avenues, Clovis. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.

Wed 19

KFCF 88.1 FM: Speaking Truth to Empire 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

STOP SEDA: Planning Commission Meeting 6 p.m. Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street, Council Chambers or online. A public hearing to consider the draft Southeast Development Area Specific (SEDA) Plan. Submit e-comments to PublicCommentsPlanning@fresno.gov
San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club 6:30 p.m. Round Table Pizza, 3710 W. Shields Ave., Fresno. For more info, contact sjvdemclub@gmail.com.

THURS 20

Clovis Democratic Club 6 p.m. Seven Bar & Grill, 25 Shaw Ave. Contact clovisdemocraticclub@gmail.com.
Tulare County Democratic Central Committee 7 p.m. In Tulare and via Zoom. Contact tcdccsecretary@gmail.com.

FRI 21

KFCF 88.1 FM: It's a Queer Thang 5 p.m.–6 p.m. Covering local and national LGBTQ+ issues and events. Hosted by Chris Jarvis and Kaylia Metcalfe Armstrong. Visit kfcf.org.
4th Annual Queer Housing Summit Fresno City College, 1101 E. University Ave. Over two days we explore how queer and trans communities build connection, safety and collective power beyond the systems and barriers that divide us. General \$35, Students & Elders \$20.

SAT 22

Reedley Peace Center Protest/Visibility Event 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Corner of Buttonwillow and Manning avenues, Reedley. Bring your signs with whatever is on your mind this week. Contact reedleypeacecenter.com.

MON 24

Fresno County Democratic Women's Club 11 a.m. 1 p.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant Garden Room, 1781 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno. Also via Zoom. For more info, contact claval@comcast.net.

TUES 25

Guerilla Girls at Fresno State! 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Phebe Conley Art Gallery, Fresno State, 5241 N. Fresno Ave. Exhibit of work by an anonymous group of artists devoted to fighting sexism and racism in the art world for 40 years. Free. Parking pass required.

WED 26

KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up! 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info, visit kfcf.org.
Visalia Democratic Club 5:30 p.m. Amigos Restaurant, 5113 W. Walnut Ave., Visalia. For more info, contact coliji-afeliz@gmail.com.
Central Valley Indivisible 6 p.m.–8 p.m. The Big Red Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. Meet like-minded people and take action. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.
John Robert Lewis Democratic Club 7 p.m. Wesley UMC, 1343 E. Barstow, Fresno. Contact ibedam@gmail.com.

THURS 27

Peace Fresno 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting to plan antiwar strategies. Contact president@peacefresno.org.

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PO Box 5553
Fresno, CA 93755-5553
nwpcfresno.org

Contact: Cathy Brass 559-225-5433 (home) or 559-288-8973 (cell)

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El periódico *Community Alliance* (*Alianza Comunitaria*) se publica mensualmente por San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, ubicada en 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA 93728. El periódico *Community Alliance* (*Alianza Comunitaria*) se distribuye gratis o por suscripción. Las suscripciones son de \$40 por año; \$60 por año para activistas; y \$15 para personas de bajos ingresos.

Desde 1996, *Alianza Comunitaria* ha sido una voz progresista independiente para el Valle Central de San Joaquín. *Alianza Comunitaria* aboga por

- la justicia racial, social, ambiental y económica;
- Igualdad de derechos para todos, incluidos los inmigrantes, las personas sin hogar y la comunidad LGBTQ+;
- Acceso a una educación pública gratuita y de calidad para todos;
- Acceso a la atención sanitaria para todos;
- Un salario digno para todos los trabajadores.

Nuestro objetivo es exponer los problemas raciales, sociales, medioambientales y económicos e injusticias políticas. Ayudaremos a construir un poderoso movimiento progresista que hará que todas nuestras comunidades sean más seguras, más sanas, más equitativas y más habitables.

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Cartas al Editor:
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El periódico Alianza Comunitaria se reserva el derecho de editar los artículos por razones de espacio y claridad. Alianza Comunitaria se imprime en papel reciclado. Alianza Comunitaria es una entidad 501(c)(4).

Del editor



Gracias una vez más por tomar este número de Community Alliance. Si es la primera vez que nos leen, bienvenidos; si ya nos leían, bienvenidos de vuelta. Septiembre marca el 30 aniversario oficial de esta publicación. Tenemos mucho planeado para el próximo mes y queremos que este hito sea especial. Me emociona que vean lo que les tenemos preparado. Quizá notaron que este número está más delgado de lo acostumbrado. No lo voy a endulzar: se debe en gran medida a limitaciones de presupuesto. Somos una publicación pequeña que depende casi por completo de la generosidad de sus lectores, y por eso encontrarán nuestros recuadros de donación a lo largo del periódico. Si quieren a Community Alliance, ayúdenos a mantenerlo vivo otros 30 años. El periódico, igual que el mundo del que informa, está en un estado de cambio constante. Las cosas están cambiando de forma visible a nuestro alrededor. Creo que las preguntas siguen ahí: ¿nos vamos a acomodar al nuevo statu quo que la clase dominante tiene planeado para nosotros? ¿Uno de genocidio, oligarquía y destrucción ambiental, todavía más descarado que en años pasados? ¿O nos vamos a levantar como comunidad y decir que esta no es la voluntad del pueblo, que esto no se va a quedar así, que merecemos más? De verdad creo que merecemos más que esto y, aunque quisiera poder llenar el periódico de buenas noticias, espero que sirva como un llamado de atención para nosotros aquí en Fresno y más allá. Como siempre, espero que este periódico los inspire a ser parte del cambio en el Valle Central que nuestros fundadores imaginaron hace casi 30 años. **Enrique Little**

De la directora ejecutiva

Es verdaderamente impresionante lo que el periódico Community Alliance ha logrado en 30 años. USTEDES lo hicieron: el periódico no existiría sin el apoyo de la comunidad. Desde las copadoras Xerox hasta un periódico en formato tabloide, el trabajo, las relaciones y el corazón que se han puesto en hacer de Community Alliance un éxito y un pilar del movimiento progresista en Fresno y en todo el Valle Central son motivo de humildad y de inspiración. Como periódico explícitamente progresista, y sin pedir disculpas por serlo, no podemos depender únicamente de las subvenciones de fundaciones. No están garantizadas, son muy competidas y las solicitudes le quitan bastante tiempo a nuestro pequeño equipo. Preferimos dedicarnos a nuestra misión: amplificar las voces del movimiento progresista en nuestra casa, el Valle Central. Si todas las personas que apoyan al periódico y quieren verlo salir adelante donaran, estaríamos bien; para ser francos, en este momento no lo estamos. Fieles al espíritu del Alliance, seguiremos evolucionando para mantener vivo el periódico. Les pedimos que nos ayuden a sostener esta importante fuente informativa histórica con una contribución mensual de \$10/\$25/\$50/\$100+ (elijan el nivel que se ajuste a su presupuesto). Si por ahora no pueden destinar nada, el periódico seguirá siendo gratuito mientras lo sigamos imprimiendo. Si pueden aportar un poco más, su contribución ayuda a que siga siéndolo. **mars santos, M.Ed.**



Del director de publicidad



Hoy quiero destacar a quienes se anuncian con nosotros y a nuestros patrocinadores. Tómense un momento para ver los anuncios que aparecen en este periódico que tienen en las manos. Ahora pregúntense: ¿cuántos reconocen? ¿Cuándo fue la última vez que visitaron una taquería local o que se acercaron a alguno de los grupos que se anuncian con nosotros, como Peace Fresno y el Fresno Center for Nonviolence (Centro de Fresno por la No Violencia)? Tenemos plomeros y abogados, agentes de seguros y terapeutas, y toda una variedad de otros negocios y organizaciones sin fines de lucro que comparten nuestros valores progresistas de justicia social. Agradecemos su alianza y su apoyo, y queremos que nuestros lectores también los conozcan. Acompañenme a darles las gracias apoyando sus negocios y conociendo los clubes y las organizaciones que promovemos. Salgan a hacer nuevas amistades progresistas y enriquezcan nuestra comunidad con su presencia. Y, por supuesto, consideren siempre anunciar sus negocios o iniciativas con nosotros. Sé que no hace falta decírselos: somos uno de los pocos vestigios de la prensa impresa que siguen vivos en California hoy en día y cada mes llegamos a miles de lectores dedicados y simpatizantes comprometidos como ustedes. "Community" está en el nombre de nuestro periódico porque la comunidad está en el corazón de nuestra lucha y de nuestro éxito. Cuando nos unimos como comunidad, ya saben que podemos lograr cosas extraordinarias, como este periódico que están leyendo ahora mismo, que lleva tres décadas haciéndolo. Esperamos que vengan muchas más. **I. smiley G.**

Del director de distribución

Nuestro lema para la campaña de recaudación de diciembre de este año es "páginas contra el régimen". Esto es en reconocimiento de lo importante que es nuestra presencia como fuente noticiosa impresa. Actualmente distribuimos más de 7,000 ejemplares al mes. Se envían por correo a los suscriptores, se colocan en puestos de periódicos y se dejan en los mostradores de negocios y organizaciones por toda la ciudad. Más de una docena de voluntarios reparten el periódico cada mes, desde Caruthers hasta Coarsegold. Nuestro alcance con la edición impresa es mayor que el de nuestro público en línea (aunque estamos construyendo nuestra presencia digital en fresnoalliance.com y en redes sociales). Muchos periódicos semanales y mensuales de todo el país han cerrado. Ayúdenos a seguir cumpliendo nuestra misión de brindar cobertura progresista del área de Fresno y donen ahora si pueden. Es especialmente importante que se vuelvan donantes mensuales, ¡con \$10, \$25, \$50 o \$100 al mes! **Peter Maiden**



Join us at our weekly protest! Let's talk about actionable change. Every Saturday 9:30-11am Shaw Ave & Fresno St

Our monthly meeting is open to everyone! We'll save you a spot. Every 4th Thursday (Next mtg is 8/27) 6:30pm Fresno Center for Nonviolence 1584 N Van Ness Ave @ McKinley

To receive our emails: president@peacefresno.org www.peacefresno.org 559-513-0199

Correcciones de julio:
1. En "Un punto en el tiempo" se indicó incorrectamente el número de arrestos. Fueron más de 2.000 arrestos, no 20. Lamentamos el error.
2. En "El análisis", Fuentes encabezaba con 37,43% frente a 36,20% al cierre de edición. Tras el conteo completo, Singh encabeza y ambos se enfrentarán en las elecciones generales de noviembre.

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ALIANZA COMUNITARIA

LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

30 años de páginas contra el régimen

POR MIKE RHODES

Septiembre de 2026 marca nuestro trigésimo aniversario. Empezamos como un pequeño boletín que respondía al llamado de la oficina nacional de la AFL-CIO para construir una alianza laboral y comunitaria que apoyara a los trabajadores inmigrantes, los viera como aliados y ayudara a organizar a quienes no estaban organizados.

Esta publicación trabajó para romper los silos que mantenían separados a los activistas progresistas. Distribuíamos el periódico en los sindicatos y entre los miembros de grupos comunitarios.

El calendario de paz y justicia social ayudó a construir unidad. Mostraba lo que estaba haciendo el movimiento obrero organizado en Fresno y los grupos de derechos de los inmigrantes les daban a los activistas laborales una mirada hacia otras iniciativas que ocurrían en Fresno. Los silos empezaron a desmoronarse.

De la información al cambio de políticas

El primer artículo que marcó un antes y un después en Labor/Community Alliance fue sobre las condiciones de trabajo espantosas de los pastores de ovejas en el Condado de Fresno. El fotógrafo de la Alliance, Chris Schneider, nos conectó con los trabajadores y el periodista Scott Moore escribió un artículo que ganó un premio New California Media por reportaje en el Valle Central. Después de que esta información llegó a Sacramento, se aprobaron nuevos derechos para los pastores.

En 2006, una serie de artículos de investigación sobre la falta de vivienda ayudó a lograr una victoria en la demanda colectiva Kincaid v. City of Fresno, que dio compensación a las víctimas y cambió la política pública.

Las cuadrillas de demolición de la ciudad ya no pudieron llevarse y destruir de inmediato las pertenencias de la gente. Fue una victoria enorme para las personas sin hogar, porque les devolvió la dignidad y el respeto que merecen y obligó a la ciudad a respetar sus derechos constitucionales.

Después vino un reportaje de investigación titulado "Freefall into Madness" ("Caída libre hacia la locura"), escrito por estudiantes de periodismo de Fresno State y publicado en Community Alliance en 2013. Descubrieron que la cárcel del Condado de Fresno les negaba habitualmente a los reclusos con problemas de salud mental los medicamentos antipsicóticos recetados por sus médicos, o se



Mike Rhodes recupera un expendedor de periódicos robado por el Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Fresno. Sostiene el dispositivo GPS que permitió localizarlo en un contenedor de basura del Satellite Jail (cárcel satélite). Foto de Pam Whalen

los sustituía por una alternativa más barata que no atendía sus síntomas.

Como resultado, muchos reclusos perdieron la capacidad de defenderse en la corte y fueron trasladados a un hospital psiquiátrico estatal donde sí recibían la medicación correcta. Sin embargo, al regresar a la cárcel del Condado de Fresno se les negaba de nuevo su medicamento recetado, y así continuaba el ciclo.

Las consecuencias eran obvias y peligrosas para todos los involucrados. Las cortes estuvieron de acuerdo y el caso Hall v. County of Fresno resultó en un plan correctivo supervisado por las cortes federales. La directora médica fue destituida y se le revocó su pase de seguridad a la cárcel, y el psiquiatra en jefe enfrentó sanciones de la junta médica, incluidos cinco años de libertad condicional profesional.

El lado oscuro de imprimir noticias progresistas Publicar este tipo de historias trae muchos desafíos. Entre ellos, cuando nuestro puesto de periódicos frente a la cárcel del Condado de Fresno desaparecía una y otra vez. Después de reemplazarlo varias veces, terminamos poniéndole un rastreador

GPS adentro y pronto descubrimos una verdad incómoda: el departamento del sheriff se estaba robando nuestros puestos y los tiraba a los basureros.

Uno apareció en una propiedad del departamento del sheriff, en la vieja zona industrial del centro de Fresno. La sheriff Margaret Mims mandó a un ayudante a mostrarme el video de vigilancia del delito.

Al final ganamos y el puesto está de vuelta frente a la cárcel del Condado de Fresno, ahora atornillado a la banqueta. Pero queda la pregunta: ¿a quién le hablas cuando quien te está robando es el departamento del sheriff?

También nos han prohibido, aunque cueste creerlo, en la Biblioteca del Condado de Fresno por ser "demasiado controversiales". Cuando les señalamos que la biblioteca tiene Mein Kampf y el Manifiesto Comunista en sus estantes, el argumento empezó a caerse.

La segunda línea de defensa de la biblioteca fue que nosotros respaldamos candidatos políticos, lo cual era incompatible con el uso de un espacio público. Se les hizo ver que The Fresno Bee respalda candidatos pero que siempre hay ejemplares del Bee disponibles.

Community Alliance no respalda candidatos. Sí publicamos artículos sobre las posturas de los candidatos en temas de interés público y publicamos una tabla que muestra qué grupos han respaldado a qué candidatos. Damos información del Partido Republicano, la Cámara de Comercio, el Partido Demócrata, Planned Parenthood y más, para darles a los lectores la oportunidad de ver con quién se alinean sus valores y decidir por sí mismos por quién votar. La Biblioteca del Condado de Fresno cedió y nuestro periódico está de vuelta en los estantes.

Mantengamos viva la prensa libre. Tú conoces el valor de las noticias independientes, locales y progresistas y sin tu apoyo dejaremos de existir. Si valoras el trabajo que Community Alliance hace en esta comunidad, este es el momento de apoyarnos en nuestra campaña de recaudación de fondos: 30 años de páginas contra el régimen. ¡Ayúdanos a mantener viva la prensa libre!

Mike Rhodes fue fundador del periódico Community Alliance. También ha sido su editor y director ejecutivo durante los últimos 29 años. Contáctalo en mikerhodes@comcast.net.

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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

30 años de páginas contra el régimen

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5 de diciembre 2026 | Fresno City College

