

Fascism versus Democracy in the November Election

By James Mendez

Elections are always about the future. The party that wins tries to mold the future to their values and ideals. Some current issues America faces include the climate crisis, voter suppression, conspiracy theories, inflation causing higher prices, the risk of a recession, rising gas prices, abortion and LGBTQ+ rights. Those issues will all be affected by the outcome of the upcoming election.

To a large extent though, those are actually minor issues. In the midterm election, the main issue Americans will be voting on is whether America remains a democracy or becomes a complete fascist state. Since at least October 1805, Americans have heard the phrase, "This election is the most important of our lifetimes." This year it is true.

On Aug. 25, President Biden referred to the MAGA philosophy and the support of Trump as being "like semi-fascism." Many Republicans took offense at being linked to fascism. There are valid reasons to call Republicans fascists.

The terms *fascist* and *fascism* have been cited in dictionaries since 1919 when Benito Mussolini first conceived the term *fascism* to describe his Italian political movement.

Some authors believe the tenets of fascism in America go back to the 1850s' "Know Nothing" movement, which was a nativist, anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic, antisemitic movement. In any case, fascism has been a presence on the American political landscape since the 1920s.

In the 1930s, there were several prominent Americans who were Nazi sympathizers (e.g., Father Coughlin, Charles Lindbergh, Henry Ford and *Los Angeles Times* publisher Norman Chandler). There were also organizations, such as the German American Bund, espousing fascist ideology. They were considered a small but vocal minority of Americans.

After World War II, proponents of fascism receded from the American political scene although some of its right-wing tenets, such as White supremacy and anti-immigrant policy, remained in organizations like the John Birch Society of the 1950s.

The revival of fascism in America began slowing after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Southern Democrats who advocated for White supremacy left the Democratic Party.



A woman holds a sign at a protest in Fresno marking the first anniversary of the Jan. 6 insurrection. Photo by Peter Maiden

As part of Nixon's "Southern Strategy," they began to join the Republican Party. By 2009, under the influence of its Tea Party, the Republican Party had grown a strong White nationalist wing.

Starting in 2011, the first of numerous articles began to appear on how the Republican Party was becoming a cult. Cults are often an integral part of fascism. With the election of Trump in 2016, the Republican Party met almost all the criteria to be called a cult.

In 2018, Trump had assumed complete control of the Republican Party. At the same time, the Republican Party assumed most of the characteristics of fascism. No longer were Republicans voting based on a candidate's ethics, integrity, morals, voting history or legislative accomplishments. They were voting solely on the basis of loyalty to Trump and Trump's Republican Party.

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Fake News Kicks into High Gear

By Peter White

As the midterms approach, voters are being bombarded with disinformation in multiple languages.

People who are addicted to fake news get it from sources they trust. Trouble is, people who produce it know they are lying.

"This information has always existed," says Vanessa Cárdenas, deputy director of America's Voice and a policy expert on political disinformation. During an Ethnic Media Services press call last month, Cárdenas said that there's a lot more fake news out there and it spreads quickly.

"What's different is the way in which we are consuming information has changed, and that has created this monster that we are not able to control, and many times the platforms are not able to control," she said.

News that misleads reaches millions via Facebook and Twitter. When Fox News peddles conspiracy theories, they play to an audience that wants to believe the message regardless of whether it is true.

Cárdenas said that false narratives about immigration, crime and the economy are flourishing on Fox News, and its viewers see them repeated constantly as the midterm elections approach. She said the right has created an echo chamber that reinforces and amplifies negative stereotypes about immigrants or repeats the "big lie" that Donald Trump won the 2020 election.

"We see that candidates, Republican candidates, are taking a lot of these themes and are using them in their ads," Cárdenas said.



"America's Voice has been tracking TV ads for campaigns across the country, and we see hundreds and hundreds of ads. We see hundreds and hundreds of e-mails that come from these campaigns touching on these themes."

Disinformation creates a feedback loop that amplifies false messages to voters, and politicians use them to win elections.

"It's a political tactic. There's no policy substance. It's not a factual conversation. It's not a solution-oriented conversation. It's all about giving red meat to their base," she said.

Added to the slew of misinformation are a raft of newly enacted restrictive voting laws. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, after the 2020 election 21 states passed 42 restrictive voting laws.

Mekela Panditharatne with the Brennan Center's Democracy Program noted that these laws "target or disproportionately impact Latino and Black voters. And we found that newly registered voters are most likely to be Latino."

Many of these new voters are being bombarded with misinformation on Spanish-language platforms.

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OPINION & ANALYSIS

Board of Supervisors Out of Touch

By Bob McCloskey

At the Oct. 11 meeting of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors (BOS), the supervisors showed how out of touch they are with the demographics of the county and seemingly out of touch with reality. The reality is that U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has declared the term *squaw* (hereafter, "the 's' word") offensive and derogatory and removed and replaced it in more than 650 geographic place names on federal lands.

Seven unincorporated "populated" places across the country, including S-Valley 93675, are still under federal review. However, California Assembly Bill 2022, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on Indigenous People's Day, mandates that the name be replaced everywhere in the state by 2025.

Nonetheless, on Oct. 11, the BOS voted 3 to 1 to send a message from a minority of S-Valley residents against the name change to state and federal authorities. Supervisor Sal Quintero voted against the measure, and Supervisor Brian Pacheco was absent.

The BOS meeting room was full with the crowd overflowing into the lobby. During the public comment on the item, 17 people spoke in support of the name change (many were residents of S-Valley) and 14 people spoke against it.

Those favoring the name change allowed the opposition to go first. Unfortunately, many of those opposing the name change, and some of the supervisors, employed the disinformation strategies of denial and deflection. Against all evidence, they denied that the "s" word is a slur.

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Fascism versus Democracy in the November Election

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What is fascism? Historians, political scientists and other scholars have written many books and articles trying to define the core tenets of fascism. However, there is no universally accepted, easy-to understand and clear definition of fascism.

On June 22, 1995, the *New York Review of Books* published a classic article on fascism by cultural theorist Umberto Eco. Eco listed 14 general properties of fascist ideology.

Eco listed “features that are typical of what I would like to call Ur-Fascism, or Eternal Fascism.

“These features cannot be organized into a system; many of them contradict each other, and are also typical of other kinds of despotism or fanaticism. But it is enough that one of them be present to allow fascism to coagulate around it.”

Eco’s premise is that not all the traits are needed for an individual, a political party or a country to be labeled a fascist.

Almost all authors agree that fascism is difficult to describe. It includes the presence of an authoritarian dictatorship; after that, there is no unifying definition.

Fascism has taken different forms based on the country in which it is growing (e.g., Italy, Germany, Spain). Similar to what U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart said of obscenity in 1964: “I know it when I see it.” Or what Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said in November 1998, “This seems to me to be an application of the well-known elephant test. It is difficult to describe, but you know it when you see it.”

Rather than try to define *fascism*, the following is a list of characteristic features generally found in fascist parties and countries. In addition to having an authoritarian demagogue (such as Trump), the tenets of American fascism include the following:

- Fascism embraces the cult of tradition and looks to a national mythical past of greatness as a guide to present and future actions. The Make America Great Again (MAGA) slogan is an example of looking to a grand mythical past.

This common mythical past is what the followers of the demagogue see as binding the nation together. Being born as part of this glorious mythical past separates the leader’s followers from other lesser individuals, the outsiders, who are not accepted as members of their nation.

- Fascism is racist by definition, and that is a mainstay of fascist political parties. Fascists believe there is a natural social hierarchy of White supremacy and the need for racial purity. Xenophobic and anti-immigrant policies develop from the White supremacy.
- Extreme militaristic ultranationalism (“America First”) is based on an obsession with conspiracies by both internal and external enemies to destroy the nation. As a result, there is glorification of war. The nation must have a large and strong military that is always preparing for war or is at war.
- Violent oppression of all opposition. Disagreement is seen as a sign of diversity and a loss of racial and national purity.

Fascist political parties oppose diversity and disagreement. They grow and “seek consensus by exploiting and exacerbating the fear of difference.”

Fascist governments suppress opposition voters through violence, propaganda and control of the media. Often, the violence is perpetrated by paramilitary groups

loyal to the leader (e.g., Mussolini’s Black Brigade; Hitler’s Sturmabteilung, aka “Brown Shirts”; Trump’s Proud Boys and Oath Keepers).

- Fascism rejects modernism and liberal democracy. Liberal democracy means the presence of free and fair elections; the separation of judicial, legislative and executive powers; the rule of law for all; free speech; a free press; freedom of religion; freedom of association; human rights; civil rights; and a free market.
- Fascists look to a mythical past not only for glory but also for guidance. Fascists despise the diversity of new ideas, new forms of expression and new ways of doing things.
- Fascism requires that individuals relinquish their complete autonomy to the state. The leader knows what is best for the people. It is this cult behavior that eliminates personal reflection. “Thinking is a form of emasculation.”
- “Crony capitalism.” Some fascist governments might control industries and national resources. Private companies remain in business only as long as they remain in favor of the fascist leadership.
- In America, White Christian nationalism has become the political ideology that most clearly merges the feeling of humiliation and the xenophobic need to expel foreigners.
- The so-called real and true people of the nation (White, heterosexual Christians) feel besieged and humiliated by perceived plots against their leader (Trump) and the nation. These plots could be an economic crisis or feelings of their country being taken over by outsiders.
- The goal of American Christian nationalists is to make the United States a White Christian theocracy by destroying the separation of church and state while at the same time persecuting and removing foreigners.
- Regimentation of society is fundamental to fascism. There is no abortion. There are no books that contradict the glory of the mythical past. History is censored. Science education is censored. If religion is tolerated, there is only one national religion.
- There is persecution of the “other” who do not fit into the regimentation such as immigrants, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Just as in George Orwell’s 1984, the different dictators of fascist states all create and speak Newspeak. Words don’t mean what they used to mean. Fascists use terms as Kellyanne Conway did in her interview with Meet the Press on Jan. 22, 2017, when she spoke of “alternative facts.”

Another example is the description by the Republican National Committee (RNC) of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol being patriots exercising “legitimate political discourse” rather than an insurrection.

Newspeak extends to the schoolbooks students use in the classrooms. Schoolbooks use a limited and elementary vocabulary to limit complex and critical reasoning.

Since the 1970s, the Republican Party has been leaning into fascist policies. Republicans are now defending some of the most basic fascist principles with their rejection of democratic ideals, their White Christian ultranationalism, their xenophobia, their contempt for the legality of the rule of law and their acceptance of the cult of violence.

In this election, if one is voting for members of the Republican Party, one is voting for a future fascist nation.

James Mendez came to Fresno in 1977 for his medical residency training at what was then called the Valley Medical Center. He stayed to practice medicine and raise a family. He is now a retired physician and a community activist.

Fake News Kicks into High Gear

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Spanish-language radio is the news media of choice for Latinos in states like Florida and Texas. Factchequeado, a Spanish fact-checking platform, calls out fake news in Spanish-language news media by using WhatsApp, a cross-platform instant messaging service popular in Latino/a communities.

Factchequeado started in April with support from the Google News Initiative and is modeled after two similar operations, Maldita.es in Spain and Chequeado in Argentina. It has 30 large and small media partners who collaborate as fake news watchdogs.

“We are seeing a lot of disinformation similar to the past election,” says Factchequeado Managing Editor Tamoa Calzadilla, former director of fact checking at Univision, the largest Spanish-language TV network in the United States.

Allegations of fraud in the 2020 election are common, along with other false narratives directed at Latino/a communities. Calzadilla cited one fake story circulating on radio stations in Florida that claimed the Internal Revenue Service bought ammunition to attack people in their homes and steal their money.

Two other false narratives circulating widely in Spanish-speaking communities are “the border crisis” and race replacement theory that says U.S. immigration authorities are letting “illegals” come into the country to replace Whites.

Calzadilla said that both parties spin the news but that the tidal wave of disinformation about crime, and especially

immigration, comes from conservatives. When radio announcers call undocumented immigrants “illegals,” they are making a political statement and spreading a false narrative, too.

The hard truth is that the country is polarized and hungry for news that both influences their opinions and reinforces what they already believe. Immigration is a top issue with Latinos now, and ideologues are exploiting that.

Some Latinos see Dreamers and new asylum seekers as immigrants just like themselves. Others with legal status, or waiting for it, see new arrivals as cheaters trying to jump the queue.

While both parties are responsible for the current dysfunction in our immigration system, Republicans are putting all the blame on President Biden and the Democrats, a strategy that appears to be working as reporting shows GOP gains among Latino/a voters since 2020.

Disinformation is also prevalent within the Chinese-speaking community, says Rong Xiaoqing, a reporter for the Chinese-language *Sing Tao Daily* in New York who monitors Chinese social networks.

“The most popular one among Chinese is WeChat,” Xiaoqing said, adding a lot of these discussions happen in private groups, making them difficult to trace.

While the Chinese government censors WeChat, its intrusion into messaging around Covid was “relatively clean,” Xiaoqing explained. “It’s in the Chinese government’s interest to vaccinate people and to fight against Covid-19.”

Misinformation related to U.S. politics is another story. “It’s running rampant on WeChat because it is in the Chinese government’s interest to portray that the U.S. and its democracy has been collapsing,” she said.

There is also overlap on WeChat with narratives being peddled in Spanish. “The Biden administration is issuing

a temporary green card to illegal immigrants. That’s their exact words, ‘illegal immigrants,’” Xiaoqing noted.

“What they are actually referring to is an ID card that Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) plans to issue to immigrants coming to the border in order to help them quickly access their file and book immigration related hearings.”

For those Chinese immigrants applying for green cards via the official process, it’s a message that can resonate. “When they see that...someone is getting it before me via a shortcut, they will not be happy.”

Earlier this year, the nonprofit Chinese for Affirmative Action launched the fact-checking website Piyaoba.

“They do index fact checking in Chinese. Not only will they tell you ‘Oh, here’s a piece of misinformation that’s circulating on Chinese-language social media platforms,’ but they also dig into the arrangement of the message and its evolution through the years,” Xiaoqing said.

Peter White is an associated editor at Ethnic Media Services.

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Several states are passing bills making it more difficult for minorities to vote and limiting—even banning—abortion rights.

Not surprisingly, these moves are led by old White Republican men.

They want to go even further; they want to eliminate the separation of state and church. Governing a country by religion would be like going back to medieval times. And behind this isn't just a religion but a way of thinking, an ideology that justifies class separation, capital control by a few, racism and sexism.

We are living in dangerous times. Vote. And help others to vote. Only a massive presence at voting sites can stop this neo-Nazi wave.

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

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

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A fundraiser for the *Community Alliance* newspaper

United Farm Workers members and supporters march to demand that Governor Newsom sign a bill providing absentee ballots for farmworkers in union elections with UFW President Teresa Romero leading the way. *Photo by David Bacon*

Featured Speaker: David Bacon

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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

NOVEMBER 2022

Climate Quest Begins Anew

By Kevin Hall

“I don’t know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve.”—Bilbo Baggins

As American democracy slips further into a darkness that consumes more than minds, where the distracting mayhem of violence and idolatry obliterates rational thought, climate activists must brace for the worst and prepare to work harder than ever.

Short of a miraculous “Roe-vember” in which a surge of young female voters across the country proves pollsters wrong, the U.S. House of Representatives will again fall under the control of the Trumpublican Party. The 2024 presidential race will begin on Nov. 9 with too many liberal Americans stuck on endless cable TV loops of red versus blue political commentary devoid of meaning and substance.

Meanwhile, the planet continues to burn. Badly. California’s record 2020 fire season emitted double the amount of all greenhouse gasses the state reduced in the preceding 17 years, according to a recent study by Dr. Michael Jerrett, with funding from the UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions, “Up in smoke: California’s greenhouse gas reductions could be wiped out by 2020 wildfires.”

Despite that stunning performance, the gasses from 4.2 million acres of wildfires still came in second to a single year’s emissions from the transportation sector. Apparently, every year our tailpipes emit more than double the atmosphere-damaging carbon and methane than total reductions achieved from 2003 to 2020. We’re just not getting there, folks. The irreversible tipping points triggered by a 1.5°C increase in global average temperature are upon us and unavoidable.

So, like Bilbo setting out to defeat Smaug, those taking on the climate crisis must face overpowered dragons sitting atop plundered riches and fight armies of orcs mindlessly attacking civilization in service to their masters. These archetypes are more than fiction; they reflect our nature, our history and our future.

Any real progress on climate resiliency will have to be accomplished at the local level, against long odds and with great courage. The opposition is unthinking, uncaring.

For example, progress won’t consist of worthless assurances of “carbon neutral” pollution while seeking to justify increased smog in sacrifice zones such as the unfinished neighborhoods of South-Central, Southeast and West Fresno. Unfortunately, City Council Member Miguel Arias is leading the Fresno City Council as it seeks to greenwash pollution-increasing projects using such language, as reported by Brianna Vaccari in the Oct. 13 *Fresno Bee*, “California’s top cop urges Fresno City Council to reject ‘likely unlawful proposal.’”

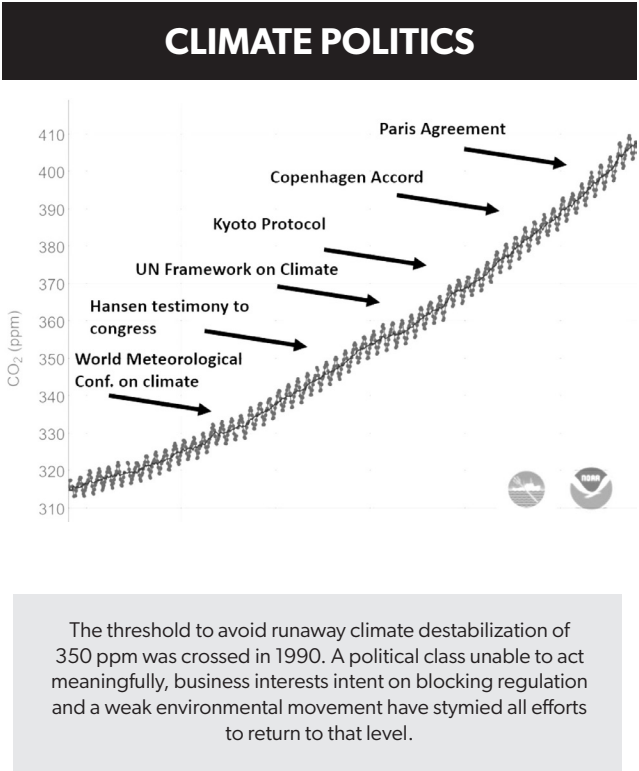
Vaccari wrote that Arias “also said he believes the change will allow certain facilities to access the necessary capital to eventually become carbon neutral facilities.” Like his colleagues, predecessors and no doubt successor, Arias is controlled by status quo forces of party politics, corporate interests and their resultant shallow political philosophy. There is no carbon neutral. Not any more.

As the planet’s temperatures soar and weather impacts worsen, it is the height of political cynicism to wrap a gross-polluting project found in one of the state’s most impacted neighborhoods in such language. The “necessary capital” would be state cap-and-trade dollars, and the polluter is Mid Valley Recycling, a company that gives politicians so much it has to file as an Independent Expenditure Committee with contributions to everyone from Arias and Assembly-bound Esmeralda Soria to the “victory fund” of arch Trumplicans Lindsey Graham (R–S.C.) and John Kennedy (R–La.).

Elected Democrats’ inability to hold tension with our community’s worst players is a feature, not a glitch, of our local political system. The same is true for much of labor. Bad bosses are calling more and more of the shots, and few people are pushing back.

The VoteNoMeasureC.com coalition organized by Sandra Celedon of Fresno Building Healthy Communities and Veronica Garibay of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability is one healthy example. Carpenters, Ironworkers and Fresno Teachers are standing with the community, as are dozens of community-based organizations, politicians and health experts.

Their focus on the transportation sector and a sales tax proposal that wouldn’t end until 2057 is right on target. Like Measure T in Madera County, which is proposed to never end, Fresno County’s Measure C ignores all consideration



of electrification and communication technologies, calls for vastly underfunded transit systems and prioritizes funding for sprawl roads. Once these taxes are defeated at the ballot on Nov. 8, which appears likely, an entirely new debate opens up.

This is when and where the work begins. Anyone concerned about the climate and life beyond 2040 should concern themselves with the future of these tax measures. Voting no now is a useful block to a terrible process, but direct engagement in policy making is the responsibility of all with the time and ability to help. That comes next.

Kevin Hall hosts Climate Politics on KFCF 88.1 FM every second and fourth Friday, 5 p.m.–6 p.m. He tweets as @airfresno and @sjvalleyclimate, coordinates an informal network of climate activists at www.valleyclimate.org and can be contacted at sjvalleyclimate@gmail.com for presentations and information.

Stopping Hate Crimes in the San Joaquin Valley

By Estevan Gutierrez and Mike Rhodes

The *Community Alliance* newspaper’s campaign to stop hate crimes is starting with a town hall in Huron on Nov. 17 that will address institutional racism. Why is it that this country can spend trillions of dollars on wars around the world, but when it comes to providing educational opportunities to the children in Huron, right-wing opportunists swear they can’t find the money?

Hate comes in many forms. When our youth do not have equal access to public education, there is a lack of equity and it can oppress and limit opportunities for social mobility and progress.

The city of Huron has been systematically and institutionally oppressed with limited local public high school education. Students and families are disenfranchised but determined to win a public high school in Huron.

The local community experiences include the following:

- Transportation is a major barrier to quality public education.
- Without a high school in the community, students are bused 1.5 hours one way for the nine-month school year (500 hours!).
- Sitting in the bus for the three-hour roundtrip and walking to bus stop locations can impact health and cause learning challenges.
- Students have “farmworker hours,” waking up at 4 a.m. and arriving home after dinner time.
- Students sacrifice family time and afterschool activities due to the transportation barrier.
- The school district’s reasoning for not having a high school in Huron is “we don’t have the money.”
- The city of Huron already received a 50-acre commitment from a local farmer to donate the land for a high school once an agreement is in place.
- A local high school grows jobs and small businesses, improves property values and creates more opportunities to develop students for a brighter future.

Huron demographics (Census data):

- Population of 7,100; 94% Hispanic. Primarily an immigrant and farmworker community. The population fluctuates during harvest season.
- 94% speak a language other than English at home.

- 27% of adults age 25 and older have a high school or higher degree.
- 41% of the population experience poverty.

Hermena Ybarra, a parent and community activist in Huron, says that her “kids have to get up really early. My son gets up at 5:30 a.m. to catch the bus at 6:54. School starts at 8 a.m.” She said that when he gets to school he is already hungry and tired.

Simon Gomez, a community activist who is pushing for a high school in Huron, told us that “we would have a sense of pride if we had our own high school. It would lift up the whole town.

“Now they make fun of us. People from bigger towns look down on us. This is particularly hard for kids.

“We as parents could also participate in the school activities such as plays and games.”

We encourage you to join the fight for a high school in Huron by attending the Nov. 17 town hall at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the John Palacios Community Center (16846 4th St., Huron). Speakers will include Rey Leon, the mayor of Huron; Emilio Huerta from the Dolores Huerta Foundation; and others.

This town hall will be primarily held in Spanish with English interpretation available upon request. There will also be food and childcare available.

The *Community Alliance*, in conjunction with the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, will host additional town halls throughout the San Joaquin Valley addressing various hate crime issues. Current plans include town halls in Madera, West Fresno and Reedley. There is also the issue of hatred against this land’s first inhabitants, including the struggle to rename S-Valley to something less racist, like the Yokuts Valley.

The rise in hate crimes throughout California and across the United States has created widespread calls for action, with funding provided for this series by the California State Library under the statewide Stop

the Hate initiative. The Huron town hall is being organized by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, the *Community Alliance* newspaper and Huron Mayor Rey Leon.

Estevan Gutierrez is a creative storyteller, a foodie, a heavy consumer of music/art, a politico and a labor activist in the Central Valley. He supports local journalism. Follow him on Twitter @stevg18.

Mike Rhodes is a writer for the *Community Alliance* newspaper and author of the book *Dispatches from the War Zone*, about homelessness in Fresno. Contact him at mikerhodes@comcast.net.

Join the Fight for a High School in Huron!



María Cabrera, with a sign saying “Equal Education,” applauds a speaker at an event for a Huron high school. Photo by Peter Maiden

What: Stop the Hate Town Hall Meeting
When: Thursday, November 17, at 5:30 p.m.
Where: John Palacios Community Center, 16846 4th St., Huron CA

Featured Speakers
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<div><div></div><div>SHIRLEY N. WEBER</div><div>Party Preference: Democratic Appointed California Secretary of State</div></div>
CONTROLLER Vote for One
<div><div></div><div>MALIA M. COHEN</div><div>Party Preference: Democratic California State Board of Equalization Member</div></div>
TREASURER Vote for One
<div><div></div><div>FIONA MA</div><div>Party Preference: Democratic State Treasurer/CPA</div></div>
ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for One
<div><div></div><div>ROB BONTA</div><div>Party Preference: Democratic Appointed Attorney General of the State of California</div></div>
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER Vote for One
<div><div></div><div>RICARDO LARA</div><div>Party Preference: Democratic Insurance Commissioner</div></div>
UNITED STATES SENATE Vote for One
<div><div></div><div>ALEX PADILLA</div><div>Party Preference: Democratic Appointed Unites States Senator</div></div>
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Vote for One
<div><div></div><div>TONY K. THURMOND</div><div>Superintendent of Public Instruction</div></div>

STATE PROPOSITION 1 Vote Yes or No
Codifies in the California Constitution a women’s right to choose to have an abortion and access contraceptives.
<div><div></div>YES</div> <div><div></div>NO</div>
STATE PROPOSITION 26 Vote Yes or No
Allows in-person sports wagering in California’s tribal casinos, bolstering local tribal self-reliance.
<div><div></div>YES</div> <div><div></div>NO</div>
STATE PROPOSITION 27 Vote Yes or No
Would allow out-of-state online gambling companies to expand into California with over 90% of the profits going to those out-of-state gambling companies.
<div><div></div>YES</div> <div><div></div>NO</div>
STATE PROPOSITION 28 Vote Yes or No
Guarantees an estimated \$1 billion in music and arts education funding for K-14 schools with more funding dedicated to schools with high proportions of students from low-income households.
<div><div></div>YES</div> <div><div></div>NO</div>
STATE PROPOSITION 29 Vote Yes or No
Would make California dialysis clinics have certain reporting requirements and at least one physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant on-site while patients are being treated. Supported by labor.
<div><div></div>YES</div> <div><div></div>NO</div>
STATE PROPOSITION 30 Vote Yes or No
Would increase income taxes to fund programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build infrastructure for Zero Emission Vehicles. Supported by Lyft. Opposed by California Teachers and Governor Newsom.
DHAF IS NEUTRAL
STATE PROPOSITION 31 Vote Yes or No
Protects the current law that bans the sale of flavored tobacco and vape products and marketing to kids.
<div><div></div>YES</div> <div><div></div>NO</div>

FRESNO
MEASURE C Vote for One
<div><div></div>NO, OPPOSE</div>
CA STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 31 Vote for One
<div><div></div>DR. JOAQUIN ARAMBULA</div>
CA STATE SENATE DISTRICT 14 Vote for One
<div><div></div>ANA CABALLERO</div>
SANGER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 Vote for One
<div><div></div>EVE CASTELLANOS</div>
FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AREA 4 Vote for One
<div><div></div>GENOVEVA ISLAS</div>
MAYOR OF HURON Vote For One
<div><div></div>REY LEÓN</div>

TULARE
U.S. CONGRESS DISTRICT 22 Vote for One
<div><div></div>RUDY SALAS</div>
CA STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 33 Vote for One
<div><div></div>JOSE SIGALA</div>
TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT 4 Vote for One
<div><div></div>EDDIE VALERO</div>
VISALIA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 Vote for One
<div><div></div>EMMANUEL SOTO</div>
VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE AREA 6 Vote for One
<div><div></div>RANDY VILLEGAS</div>
WOODLAKE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Vote for Two
<div><div></div>FLORENCIO GUERRA</div> <div><div></div>GEORGE SANCHEZ</div>

NOTICE TO VOTERS

This is not an official ballot or an official county voter information guide prepared by the county elections official or the Secretary of State.

Paid for by the Dolores Huerta Action Fund
P.O. Box 2244, Bakersfield, CA 93303 Tel. (661) 877-9977 info@dhactionfund.org
Not authorized by any candidate or a candidate’s committee.



DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

INSPIRING AND ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES TO BUILD VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS
EMPOWERED TO PURSUE SOCIAL JUSTICE.

BCSD Votes NO to the CAAT Petition!



The Bakersfield City School District voted NO on the Central Academy of Arts and Technology (CAAT) petition to build a charter school in Bakersfield. Dolores Huerta Foundation's Vecinos Unidos and Liberated Youth for Empowerment (LYFE) members attended the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD) board meeting on August 23rd to provide public comment in opposition of the CAAT Petition. Vecinos Unidos and LYFE members provided 26 public comments encouraging BCSD funding and resources be spent on dual-immersion and after school programs. After extensive research and community support the CAAT petition was ultimately denied as it presented unsound educational programs for English learners, students with disabilities, and socio-economically disadvantaged students demonstrating a lack of understanding of surrounding communities, schools, and district demographics. The fight for public education will continue. **¡Sí Se Puede!**

70 Years in the Struggle



Photo Credits to @roadtosacramento

Our fearless leader, co-founder, and president Dolores Huerta - 70 years in the struggle. It has been 56 years since the historic march and Dolores continues to march for the right of laborers to unionize without fear of intimidation urging Governor Newsom to sign the Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice Act (AB 2183). The bill will give California's agricultural workers greater opportunity to organize and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. A community united will never be divided!

Celebrating Our 100th COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

We've hit our 100th COVID-19 vaccine clinic! The pandemic isn't over but with your support, we have been able to provide our communities with FREE COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots. DHF and our partners continue to work together to ensure every eligible person is vaccinated. We stand together and protect each other. We want to celebrate the 100th United Against COVID Vaccine clinic held in Arvin, CA!



We want to give a HUGE shout-out to our partners:

- Building Healthy Communities
- All Of Us Or None
- Lideres Campesinas
- Unidad Popular Benito Juarez
- South Kern Sol
- Vision y Compromiso
- Community Action Partnership Kern

As well as the countless organizations, staff, and volunteers that made this possible!

Get Out The Vote!



Election season is almost over! Our democracy depends on people power - it depends on YOU. As we get ready to wrap up our General Election season on **November 8th** we have attached below a voter guide for you to review with friends and family!

HOW TO FILL OUT YOUR BALLOT:

1. FILL OUT YOUR BALLOT

Use black or blue ink. Fill the circle completely.

2. SEAL IT

Put the ballot inside the provided envelope.

3. SIGN IT

Sign the back of the ballot envelope. your signature must match the one on your driver's license/state ID, or the one you signed when you registered to vote.

4. RETURN IT

- By mail - Make sure your ballot is postmarked by November 8, 2022. No stamp needed! put your ballot in your mailbox.
- In person - Drop your ballot off at a secure drop box, polling place, vote center, or county elections office before 8pm on November 8, 2022.

5. TRACK IT

Sign up at: WheresMyBallot.Sos.Ca.Gov for alerts by text (SMS), email, or voice call on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot.

Resources:

For more voter support please visit: doloreshuerta.org/2022vote

For more information on how you can join the Vecinos Unidos® contact 1-833-564-6343 or 1-833-JOIN-DHF
To support the organizing work of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, please visit Give2DHF.org

Lack of Toilets for Homeless a Public Health Crisis

By Paul Thomas Jackson

By age 40, Jack Sim had gotten rich off the construction industry in Singapore. (No, life “didn’t end” for him then.) At 41, he founded the restroom association in that sovereign nation-state that lies on an island in southeast Asia.

Then on Nov. 19, 2001, Sim, 43, founded what we might call “the other WTO,” that is, the World Toilet Organization. It comprised 15 members and has since grown to 151 member organizations in 53 countries.

The WTO recognized the need for an international day to draw global attention to the sanitation crisis—and so established World Toilet Day (WTD) on Nov. 19. The name “World Toilet Day” was chosen over “World Sanitation Day” for use in mass media, but toilets are the first stage of sanitation systems.

Since 2013, the United Nations has observed the day. And to meet the goals by 2030 of ending open defecation and supplying adequate sanitation facilities for everyone in the world who lacks them, work must be done at four times the current rate, according to the WTD’s website (worldtoiletday.info).

Meanwhile, in many parts of the world, a lack of facilities results in both public health and environmental issues. Every year, about half a million children under the age of five perish from diarrhea due to the lack of such facilities.

Locally, the issue is on many residents’ minds. Some broach it in conversation and start to scold unsheltered people merely for having bodies that function as yours and mine do. The crucial factor, of course, is they lack proper facilities.

They didn’t simply abandon jobs and housing, and those things aren’t simply waiting for their return. They are displaced, shut out.

In the years following the 2008 record-setting \$2.35 million settlement of a homeless lawsuit, homeless advocate Mike Rhodes persuaded City of Fresno officials to support the provision of sanitation facilities to serve unsheltered people who congregated on the street by the Poverello House.

In 2021, such official support having withered as the pandemic subsided, Gordie Ochiner-Bermudez rose to the occasion. She pedaled her bicycle 470 miles on a “Porta-Potty for Dignity Ride,” thereby raising public awareness and funds for this cause.

In July of this year, the City of Fresno used CARES Act funding to get a restroom-furnished trailer up and running. The trailer supplements the sparse shower facilities of the Poverello House.

By next April, the City is expected to get another restroom trailer. To be sure, some showers are better than no showers. Even with two trailers each equipped with four bathrooms, those eight will serve a population of some 4,000 people. The state’s building standards code sets the maximum toilet users at 25. Here, there will be one toilet to serve 500 people.

Almost all restrooms in the city of Fresno, both public and private, are kept locked as tight as a drum. In a cruel irony, the response human society gives its neediest members is to keep failing them. It seems they’re easier to ignore, to slink into smug indifference



In many parts of the world, a lack of facilities results in both public health and environmental issues. The use of porta-potties is popular, including at public events such as music concerts. Yet, homeless people don’t have access to them in cities such as Fresno. Photo courtesy of The Commons

to their plight or rationalize it as if it’s their just fate, than to face the people and the moral responsibility we owe them.

With restrooms inaccessible to unsheltered people, they have no alternative but open defecation. In this predicament, they face the possibility of being charged with the crime of indecent exposure and the heavy consequences that follow conviction for a sex crime. Of particular concern is the vulnerability of unsheltered women to attack.

Your participation counts, whether you have the mayor’s ear or are a long-distance bicyclist. You can be a constructive part of this issue just by attending an event scheduled Nov. 19 at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (1584 N. Van Ness Ave.).

At this event, we will hear from Rhodes and Ochiner-Bermudez. We will look back at the history of California’s toll bathrooms, at March Fong Eu’s inspiring campaign for greater access and will seek to understand where we’ve come.

We will view short video clips of other communities’ experiences in providing or trying to provide porta-potties for use by their unsheltered residents. We will gain insight from viewing and discussing a video of homeless advocates in Berkeley who’ve striven to provide sanitation facilities for theirs. Finally, we will do likewise from the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council’s video on provision of showers for people experiencing homelessness.

The Nov. 19 event is an opportunity to focus our attention on this particular issue. Through education and continued efforts to seek justice, you might make history as Jack Sim has. The event begins at 2 p.m. at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. RSVP to fresnohomelessadvocates@gmail.com.

Paul Thomas Jackson prepared the claims that paved the way for the homeless lawsuit that in 2008 settled for \$2.35 million. He is now the secretary of the Fresno Homeless Advocates and one of the moderators of its Facebook group.

The Central Valley Progressive PAC has endorsed the following candidates for the November 8 Election



Genoveva Islas

Genoveva Islas is the incumbent in the Fresno Unified School District Trustee Area 4 and has been a strong advocate for progressive values on the school board.



Magdalena Gomez

Magdalena Gomez is the incumbent and is running unopposed in the State Center Community College District Trustee Area 4. The CVPPAC endorsed her in 2018 when she won this position.



Joe Hebert

Joe Hebert is the only Democrat running for a seat on the Clovis City Council. Clovis does not have district elections, giving Joe an advantage as the nine Republicans/Independents will split conservative votes.



Rey Leon

Rey Leon is the current Mayor of Huron and is running for re-election. He supports environmental justice, a living wage for workers and building a high school for the youth in this community.



Gilbert Felix & Robert Fuentes are candidates for the State Center Community College District Trustee Area 5. We like them both so much we decided on a dual endorsement.



Destiny Rodriguez

Destiny Rodriguez is the CVPPAC endorsed candidate for the State Center Community College District Trustee Area 1.



Eve Castellanos

Eve Castellanos is a candidate for the Sanger City Council. She supports a living wage, is pro choice and believes in police accountability.



The Central Valley Progressive PAC urges you to Vote NO on Measure C

New Guidance County Plans Might Not Help Unincorporated Communities

By Radley Reep

(Editor’s note: Radley Reep, who for decades has reviewed Fresno County’s General Plan, submitted a letter to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors regarding its new Guidance Document for Community Plans, which is supposed to help update antiquated unincorporated community plans for disadvantaged communities such as Biola, Caruthers, Del Rey, Easton, Lanare, Riverdale and Tranquillity. Excerpts from the letter are presented here.)

This communication is a comment upon the County’s Guidance Document for Community Plans (Guidance Document) dated August 2022.

- I have these eight requests:
- The draft Guidance Document explains the relationship between community plans and the General Plan:
“Community plans are part of the General Plan. Since the General Plan is required to be internally consistent, the provisions of a community plan must be consistent with all other provisions of the General Plan.”
This new process to review and update community plans, with the Guidance Document as its cornerstone, is entirely separate from the process now employed by the County to update the General Plan Policy Document. In practice, this means that important policy and environmental discussions pertinent to the update of community plans are separated from public review of the update of the General Plan Policy Document.
The significance of this schism becomes apparent with the realization that public review of the County’s land-use plans for disadvantaged communities will be separate from public review of the County’s Land Use Element and the County’s new draft Environmental Justice Element.
Community plans must align with the General Plan Policy Document. *I therefore ask that the review and update of community plans be folded into the current review and update of the General Plan Policy Document.*
 - The REAP grant application enumerated the main reasons for drafting the Guidance Document. They were 1) to create a more streamlined and cost-effective process for updating community plans, 2) to expedite the update of several community plans and 3) to expand residential capacity and commercial development in unincorporated communities.
The Guidance Document doesn’t address these matters head-on. Instead, the document focuses more on the applicability, content, amendment and adoption of community plans and addresses, as well, General Plan consistency issues and factors supporting the creation of new community plans.
I ask that the Guidance Document be revised to include a discussion of the purposes outlined in the grant application.
 - In developing the Guidance Document, it appears the County failed to satisfy some grant requirements. For example, the Guidance Document does not acknowledge that plan updates must include current sustainability standards. In addition, according to the project description in the grant application, all updated community plans must contain strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
I ask that strategies for environmental sustainability be included in the Guidance Document.

- At the Zoom meeting held Sept. 8 for public discussion of the draft Guidance Document, County staff stated that the Board of Supervisors would simultaneously approve the Update Prioritization Criteria and the scoring results. This is not logical.
Since the authorization of scoring criteria must precede the actual scoring of community plans, *I ask that the board review the scoring criteria prior to staff scoring and ranking community plans.*
 - *I also ask that County staff test the workability of the scoring criteria before taking it to the board for approval.*
 - I heartedly recommend that the County include in the Guidance Document a short study of the Laton Community Plan update, which took place in 2012. It is the only operational community plan update since the General Plan was updated in 2000.
It would be a perfect case study for measuring how well or to what degree plan updates benefit communities. It is my understanding that while the 2012 update added a small amount of acreage to Laton for recreational and commercial uses, it added over 100 acres for future residential development.
The update also brought community plan policies and objectives into alignment with those in the General Plan. Since the update has been in effect for a decade, the County would benefit greatly by studying the extent to which the update enhanced growth and improved the lives of those living in that community.
It would make good sense to study the benefits and detriments that resulted from that update prior to launching into an effort to update other unincorporated community plans.
 - As I understand it, County staff does not know of any funding to update more than one community plan. That’s a big problem. As everyone knows, without funds, there can be no updates. Some of these plans are so old—such as the community plans for Lanare, Tranquillity and Shaver Lake, which were last updated in 1982, 1984 and 1986, respectively—that, according to the County, they may no longer be valid.
A statement from the County’s 2000 General Plan Background report reads as follows: “The target date or buildout timeframe for many of these [community] plans has passed or is fast approaching...which raises concerns about whether they are still valid.”
If these antiquated plans are no longer valid, then it follows, logically, that the community plan component of the General Plan is also no longer valid. Therefore, *I ask that the County conduct, as part of the development of the Guidance Document, analyses of funding sources and of the validity of existing community plans.*
 - There are two statements in the draft Guidance Document that I would like staff to review. The statements are these:
“An amendment to a community plan, including updates to existing community plans, may or may not require an amendment to the General Plan, depending on the scope of change.”
“Although the area covered by a regional plan may surround the area covered by a community plan, the community plan area is carved out from the regional plan area. This means that the regional plan does not apply to the community plan area.”
I do not understand how a community plan, which is part and parcel of the General Plan, can be amended without also amending the General Plan, and I don’t understand how regional plan policies are not applicable to a community plan that lies within it.
Surely, all components of a General Plan must align with one another. Therefore, *I ask that the County either revise these two statements or provide more in-depth discussions of these matters in the Guidance Document.*
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
- *****

Radley Reep is a retired teacher with the Fresno Unified School District. For the past 10 years, he’s been engaged in research for the League of Women Voters of Fresno in the area of land-use planning focusing primarily on the implementation of the Fresno County General Plan. Contact him at radleyreep@netzero.com.

Rumor Has It That...

By Mitch Cantwell

Donald Trump recently stated, “I will do whatever I can to help the country.” A suggestion was made by several million people that admitting himself into a mental institution for the criminally insane and subjecting himself to a padded cell with an Armani-designed straightjacket and medicines with shock treatment would be a good start.
When asked by news reporters, “Why does Rudy Giuliani continue to support Donald Trump, who has committed so many egregious crimes against America and its people?,” his psychiatrist responded, “The brown hair dye Giuliani so

regularly uses had soaked through his scalp and caused his brain to be dangerously discombobulated.”
After learning about the raid by the FBI on his house at Mar-a-Lago, Trump became so incensed and outraged that his family advised him to see a doctor to calm his nerves. His doctor, Mehmet Oz, advised him to “stimulate those phagocytes, release that flatulence and use more Preparation H.”
The Nike company says that it will give Senator Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) a new pair of tennis shoes as it believes his old ones were burned out during his escape run on Jan. 6, 2021.
Some time back, Fox News host Tucker Carlson was sued for slander on his show. The judge determined that “he could not be sued for slander because everyone who watches him knows he is lying.” Everyone who watches does not know he is lying, and the judge appears to be ignoring the fact that Carlson’s slanderous lies do indeed hurt people.

Why don’t we ask Congress to pass a law requiring TV slanderers to post a disclaimer on screen pointing out that “these claims are bald-faced lies and must be ignored?” The letter size should cover at least one-fourth of the TV screen during the entire period.
Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene’s (R-Ga.) recent foray into religious fanaticism might well be the result of her muscle-building routine having gone to her head. In a recent speech, she invoked the end times and said that “it’s time for Christians to stand up...We need God back at the center of our country.”


POLITICAL HUMOR

She also said that Jesus would return after a period of great suffering and that she would be delighted to serve as Jesus’s “escort.”
During Trump’s deposition hearing, the former POTUS continued to do nothing but repeat his defense of the Fifth Amendment more than 500 times. What was most significant, though, were the actions of his two defense attorneys. One was nodding his head and whispering while peering with his right eye directly into Trump’s left ear, while the other was nodding his head and mumbling while peering with his left eye through Trump’s right ear.... It makes one wonder.

Now in All Seriousness...Regarding Kevin McCarthy
According to Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: “No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress...or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress...to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof.”
This section of the 14th Amendment states that anyone who swears an oath to the Constitution and then participates in an insurrection is disqualified from holding state or federal office. House Minority Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), along with Senator Lindsay Graham (R-S.C.), are staunch supporters of Trump.
Trump obviously supported the Jan. 6 insurrection attempt. McCarthy has been defending Trump’s actions and verbally attacking federal law enforcement agencies, not only for the insurrection attempt but also for their lawful recovery of stolen classified documents found at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago residence.
McCarthy’s conspiratorial rhetoric impugning the motives of the Justice Department and the FBI runs the risk of inciting threats of violence and actual attacks, fears that already have proven warranted.

Continues on page 14

Love is Our Doctrine



Unitarian Universalist
Church of Fresno

Sunday Services with Rev. Tim Kutzmark10:30 a.m.

Children and Youth Religious ExplorationSundays 10:30 a.m.

UU Buddhist Study and MeditationWednesdays 2:00 p.m.

2672 E. Alluvial Avenue
(between Willow and Chestnut)
Fresno, CA 93720
(559) 322-6146 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
www.uufresno.org



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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

WILPF Fresno—Moving Forward



Photo by Sandra Iyall



Raging Grannies. Photo by Sandra Iyall



Nancy Waidtlow and Kyla Mitchell



Connections. Photo by Leni Villagomez Reeves



Joan Poss and Ann Carruthers with a poster of Jane Addams

WILPF Fresno had our Annual Retreat on Oct. 15. Our ideas and plans for action and connection, growth and diversity will lead us forward into a future of struggle but also of sisterhood and mutual reliance. It was beautiful to see each other, many of us now the wise elder women we have always needed.

It will take all of us—and more—to do the work that has to be done. We each have our own experiences and lived reality, ready to contribute to the enormous tasks ahead. There’s no “retreat” in this group.

We heard the fabulous Raging Grannies sing, we introduced ourselves and our passions and welcomed new members, held our election for officers—congratulations to new Corresponding Secretary Nancy Hatcher—and explored our ideas.

The results will depend on our actions. We’re ready.

“There will always be a remedy for wrong and injustice if we only know how to find it.”

—Ida B. Wells

The COVID-19 Play

There’s a new video of *The COVID-19 Play* by Teatro de la Tierra, in Spanish with English subtitles, and you can see it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wFTQq_nu9k.

The COVID-19 Play was written during the height of the pandemic in 2020 as it swept through cities and states, infecting communities and hitting farmworkers and workers in food processing industries especially hard, causing significant fatalities in the Central Valley and throughout the country. As the pandemic raged, it was the labor of farmworkers and low-wage workers that kept the country alive, yet they were given no protections. This play was written so that their sacrifices will not be forgotten.

The play is about a small farmworker family living in the outskirts of town; a family member comes down with COVID, catching the family completely off guard. Knowing nothing about the virus that invades and threatens their lives and facing an uncertain future, the family must depend on the leadership, vigilance and guidance of the mother and her son, as they scramble for information and help as to how to protect themselves from the deadly grip of the virus.

Directed and written by Agustín Lira and Patricia Wells; cast members: Dahlia Vasquez, Ernesto Vasquez, Angel Vasquez, Patricia Wells, Cristino Vasquez and Yuritzah Vasquez.



Yuritzah Vasquez plays Rocio de la Cruz in *The COVID-19 Play*. Photo by Chris Schneider

National Day of Action to Defuse Nuclear War

It’s been 60 years since the Cuban Missile Crisis, and Russia’s war on Ukraine has brought a dire global threat of nuclear war. What is wrong with our global powers and why isn’t there outrage?!

In solidarity, we joined 40+ other U.S. cities in Roots Action’s call for a National Day of Action to Defuse Nuclear War on Oct. 14. Members of WILPF Fresno, Peace Fresno and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence held a demonstration in front of the Federal Building to bring attention to the current threat of nuclear war and the U.S. involvement with the escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine.



Photo by Peter Maiden



Ken Hudson, Teresa Castillo, Jean Hays, Aide Denise Sahatdjian, Camille Russell and Peggy Davis at Senator Dianne Feinstein’s office. Photo by Bernadette Planting

A small contingent then went up to Senator Dianne Feinstein’s office. We sat down with her aide, Denise Sahatdjian, to express our expectations that our elected officials take serious measures to de-escalate tensions between nuclear powers, revive negotiations for nuclear weapons treaties, support diplomacy and disarmament, and end the increased funding and development of nuclear weapons—redirecting the funding to human and environmental needs.

We provided copies of our WILPF US Disarm/End Wars petition with 180

signatures showing that we, the people, support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and believe the United States should ratify it as 122 other countries already have done. We believe our President, with the support of the Senate, should support humankind’s future, not the perpetual destruction of life and annihilation of it.

—Peace ~ Teresa Castillo, WILPF Fresno Branch Chair

Unpacking Racism and Discovering Your Blind Spot

I really appreciate you for taking the time to join our Zoom discussion group on the last Sunday of each month, at 6.30 p.m. The vision moving forward for our discussion group will be to support our issue groups and our community at large.

We want to continue to support the inclusion of all ethnic groups, not just African Americans. Of course, we want to better understand and practice “inclusion diversity.” It sounds like an oxymoron,

but to appreciate all people around us, and to understand the impact that racism has on our smaller and larger communities at large, we must be comfortable enough to include “ALL” to help unpack racism and to understand our blind spots toward individuals who are different from ourselves.

So we plan to do more collaboration with our other issue groups, as well as being more visible within our own communities. We welcome all to participate in our last Sunday of the month discussion group.

Here is a question you can answer in the privacy of your own homes: Here in America, if you had to choose between being “White” or being American, what would you choose?

If you feel like sharing your reason for selecting your answer, I welcome that. E-mail me at unpacking_racism2022@yahoo.com or drjeankennedy@yahoo.com.

—Dr. Jean Kennedy, PsyD.OD

WILPF MEETING

Nov. 10, Thursday, 7 p.m., online. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number! For more information, contact Teresa at taca_03@gmail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Please renew if you haven’t already. Send dues to WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

For questions and information updates, e-mail Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

WILPF-US membership is \$35/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20.

STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

Nov. 23, 3 p.m. (fourth Wednesday of each month). Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

UNPACKING RACISM

Nov. 27, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. With Dr. Jean Kennedy. RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

Nov. 2, noon, Courthouse (first Wednesday). Check first with Sue Kern at skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777.

Find us on Facebook!

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WILPF Fresno Earth Democracy: www.facebook.com/WILPF-Fresno-Earth-Democracy-497869307089677/
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Fresno WILPF Cuba Solidarity Committee: www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/

Peace & Social Justice Calendar November 2022

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

TUE
01

National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC) 5:30 p.m. Los Amigo’s Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. Speaker: Torella McAlister Minor. Topic: What’s New at Mollie’s House. For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or joanne@pbyoga.com.

Joint Community Workshop on Housing 6 p.m. Mosqueda Neighborhood Center, 4670 Butler Ave. Provide input on the Fresno Annual Action Plan and the Fresno Housing Element update. The City of Fresno is joining 13 other jurisdictions in Fresno County to produce a Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element for the planning period of 2023–2031. For more info, contact michelle.zumwalt@fresno.gov.

Community Meeting: Let’s Talk about Vegetative Barriers 6 p.m. Tehipite Middle School Cafeteria, 630 N. Augusta St. Tree Fresno has planted five vegetative barriers in Fresno County as part of a California Air Resources Board Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), called Fresno TREES. The project is designed to reduce pollution from busy roadways. Learn more about Tree Fresno’s work building vegetative barriers. For more info, contact info@treefresno.org.

WED
02

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!* 3 p.m. *Community Alliance* radio show hosted by Daren Miller. For more info, visit www.kcf.org.

West Fresno Community Engagement Meeting 5:30 p.m., Edison High School Cafeteria, 540 E. California Ave. Learn about existing services at the West Fresno Regional Center, share feedback on how to improve services and hear from community leaders. Join online at bit.ly/nov2022westfresno.

THU
03

ArtHop Downtown/Tower District 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit FACarthop on Facebook.

Cultural Arts Plan Meeting 6 p.m. Pinedale Community Center, 7170 N. San Pablo Ave. Thanks to Measure P funding, the City of Fresno is developing a new Cultural Arts Plan for the city. Share your input. For more info, contact prac@fresno.gov.

FRI
04

CineCulture: *The Lunchbox*. 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Discussant: Professor Joan Sharma. Middle-class housewife Ila is trying to add some spice to her marriage, this time through her cooking. She prepares a special lunchbox to be delivered to her husband at work, but, unbeknownst to her, it is mistakenly delivered to another office worker, Saajan, a lonely man on the verge of retirement. This begins a series of lunchbox notes between Saajan and Ila, and the mere comfort of communicating with a stranger anonymously soon evolves into an unexpected friendship. They each discover a new sense of self and find an anchor to hold on to in the big city of Mumbai that so often crushes hopes and dreams. Link to view the film posted 3–5 days earlier at cineculture.csufresno.edu. For more info, contact mhusain@csufresno.edu.

SAT
05

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-435-4043.

MON
07

Democratic Women in Action 6 p.m. Marie Callender’s Restaurant, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, contact 559-681-3140 or ggaston1234@aol.com or visit www.dwiafresno.org.

TUE
08

Election Day Polls open 7 a.m.–8 p.m. For more info, visit fresnovote.com.

Stonewall Democratic Club 5:30 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. For more info, contact 559-709-8016 or conantm@aol.com.

Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC) 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-287-1308 or bapacfresno@gmail.com.

Peace Fresno 7 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 Van Ness Ave. In person/via Zoom. For more info, call 559-355-9717.

WED
09

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!* 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show hosted by Josh Shurley. Members of Veterans for Peace discuss Armistice Day. For more info, visit www.kcf.org.

Youth-Oriented Community Meeting 4:30 p.m. Ted C. Wills Community Center, 770 N. San Pablo Ave. Thanks to Measure P funding, the City of Fresno is developing a new Cultural Arts Plan for the city. Share your input. For more info, contact prac@fresno.gov.

Joint Community Workshop on Housing 6 p.m. Teague Elementary School, 4725 N. Polk Ave. Provide input on the Fresno Annual Action Plan and the Fresno Housing Element update. The City of Fresno is joining 13 other jurisdictions in Fresno County to produce a Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element for the planning period of 2023–2031. For more info, contact michelle.zumwalt@fresno.gov.

THU
10

City of Fresno Local Housing Trust Fund Public Meeting 10 a.m. Via Zoom. The City of Fresno wants your help deciding which types of housing projects will be prioritized. Discussion includes the following: What is a Local Housing Trust Fund? What are the different LHTF housing project priorities? Voting on housing project priorities. The virtual meeting will discuss the outcomes from the Oct. 25 in-person meeting and receive more feedback from the community through a virtual voting option. For the access link or more information, contact hcdd@fresno.gov.

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) 7 p.m. For more info, contact 559-360-8054 or taca_03@ymail.com.

SAT
12

Central Valley Progressive PAC 3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-978-4504 or simone.rhodes@seiu521.org.

MON
14

Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) 5 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact swgamble@aol.com.

TUE
15

Central Valley Partnership 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-967-1940 or agrariandemocracy@gmail.com.

WED
16

Maddy Associates Speaker Series Noon. Via Zoom. Speakers: Dr. Ellen Hanak, Dr. Andrew Ayres and Dr. Alvar Escriva-Bou from the Public Policy Institute of California’s Water Policy Center. To register or for more information, contact mkeppler@csufresno.edu.

Joint Community Workshop on Housing 2 p.m. Ted C. Wills Neighborhood Center, 770 N. San Pablo Ave. Provide input on the Fresno Annual Action Plan and the Fresno Housing Element update. The City of Fresno is joining 13 other jurisdictions in Fresno County to produce a Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element for the planning period of 2023–2031. For more info, contact michelle.zumwalt@fresno.gov.

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Speaking Truth to Empire* 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit www.kcf.org.

San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, call 559-312-3925.

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter 7 p.m. Via Zoom.

Speaker: Shirley Spencer. Topic: Mountain Men of the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Nevada was the last monumental barrier for the westering mountain man. But this rocky range offered an alluring fascination for the rugged trappers due to the abundance of beaver in the numerous rivers. Hear stories of some of the intrepid adventurers who first pioneered across the slopes of our local Sierra Nevada. Visit sierraclub.org/tehipite to register in advance.

THU
17

ArtHop Metropolitan/Fresno Metro Area 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit FACarthop on Facebook.

Stop the Hate Town Hall Meeting 5:30 p.m. John Palacios Community Center, 16846 4th St., Huron. Join the fight for a high school in Huron. Speakers: Huron Mayor Rey Leon and Emilio Huerta of the Dolores Huerta Foundation. For more info, contact mikerhodes@fresnoalliance.com.

Clovis Democratic Club 6 p.m. Seven Bar & Grill, 25 Shaw Ave., Clovis. For more info, contact 559-322-9740 or jenikren@gmail.com.

FRI
18

CineCulture: *The Benefit of the Doubt* 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Discussant: TBA. This Belgian film tells the story of a happy young father married to a wife he loves, two adorable young children and a tight-knit tribe of friends he and his family always go away with on holiday. However, on returning from their last trip away in the Vosges in eastern France, near its border with Germany, he is taken in for questioning by the police as part of a murder investigation. Before long the investigation reveals that all is not what it seems behind the happy and respectable facade of David’s life. Link to view the film posted 3–5 days earlier at cineculture.csufresno.edu. For more info, contact mhusain@csufresno.edu.

SAT
19

West Fresno Democratic Club 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-930-4909 or westfresnodemclub@gmail.com.

World Toilet Day 2 p.m.–5 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. Reflect on past efforts to meet the sanitary needs of people living without a home in Fresno, and learn about recent efforts in Fresno and other homeless hotspots. Human progress depends on basic sanitation. Speakers: Mike Rhodes, author of the book *Dispatches from the War Zone*, about homelessness in Fresno, and Gordie Ochintero-Bermudez, who biked 470 miles on her “Porta-Potty for Dignity Ride.” For more info, contact fresnohomelessadvocates@gmail.com.

SUN
20

Democratic Socialists of America 2 p.m. For more info, visit Facebook @ Democratic Socialists of America, Fresno, CA.

MON
21

California Latina Democrats–Fresno 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact chaircalatinadems@gmail.com.

WED
23

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!* 3 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info visit www.kcf.org.

MON
28

Fresno County Democratic Women’s Club 11:30 a.m. Marie Callender’s Restaurant Garden Room, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. \$25/person. For more info, contact 559-905-1836 or patrbarr73@gmail.com.

TUE
29

California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) 10 a.m. SEIU 521, 5228 E. Pine Ave. For more info, contact 559-360-5955 or cynthial.cara@gmail.com or visit californiaalliance.org.

WED
30

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Speaking Truth to Empire* 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. Guest: Media Benjamin, a peace activist, co-founder of CODEPINK and author. For more info, visit www.kcf.org.

DEC
02

Ukraine and Threat of Nuclear War 12:30 p.m. Room 101, Grosse Industrial Tech Building, Fresno State. Speaker: Medea Benjamin, a peace activist, co-founder of CODEPINK and author. Benjamin is on a book tour for *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*, which she co-authored with Nicolas J.S. Davies. For more info, e-mail ken.hudson@peacefresno.org.

DEC
03

Community Alliance Fundraiser 5 p.m. SEIU 521, 5228 E. Pine Ave. Support local/independent journalism. Featured speaker: David Bacon, a photojournalist, author, political activist and union organizer. \$40 in advance; \$50 at the door. For advance tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/440007754037. For more info, visit www.fresnoalliance.com.

National Women’s
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Monthly meeting the first Tuesday
of the Month. Check the web site
or Facebook for details.

Fresno, National Women’s Political Caucus is a pro-choice, multicultural, intergenerational, and multi-issue grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women’s participation in the political process and creating a true women’s political power base to achieve equality for all women.

NWPC Fresno recruits, trains and supports pro-choice women candidates for elected and appointed offices at all levels of government regardless of party affiliation.

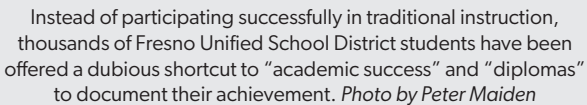
P.O. BOX 5553 • Fresno, CA 93755-5553
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Submit upcoming community activities to
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By Steven Roesch

But diploma downsizing results from more than mere grade inflation. A second factor, as FUSD Trustee Terry Slatc explained in a radio interview in July 2022, has to do with



They'll sit in front of computer screens for a matter of days or weeks, read and answer questions on their screens, and in most cases "earn" credits for courses like American

* * * * *

Steven Roesch is a retired bilingual teacher who has lived in Fresno since 1985.

By Leni Villagomez Reeves

- Pressuring the Bank of Ireland to stop handling Cuba's accounts at a time when Cuban medical volunteers were in West Africa fighting Ebola. It was many weeks before

- As Covid began damaging and killing people worldwide, the U.S. corporation Vyaire Medical purchased IMT Medical and Acutronic, makers of ventilators, then announced that they would cut all commercial links with Cuba, so that Cuba could no longer purchase ventilators.
- Again, at the start of the Covid pandemic, Jack Ma, a Chinese entrepreneur and founder of Alibaba, sent a donation of masks, rapid diagnostic kits and ventilators to 24 Latin American countries. The shipment to Cuba was blocked by the United States, which threatened the shipping company with sanctions under the Helms-Burton Law, which establishes an economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. The shipment never arrived.
- Most recently, cryptocurrency company Bittrex has been fined \$29 million for allowing Bitcoin transactions in Cuba and other countries.

Continues on page 15



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The Enemy Within When Racists Are Your Own People

By Eduardo Stanley

In early October, during so-called Hispanic Heritage Month, the Reddit Internet account released an audio file in which four Latinos can be heard making racist remarks about indigenous immigrants from Oaxaca, Mexico, and Blacks. The file was later reproduced by other outlets.

The initial surprise became disappointment and even anger when the identity of those individuals was exposed: Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez, Los Angeles City Council Members Kevin de León and Gil Cedillo, and Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President Ron Herrera.

The comments were made—and recorded—during a meeting that took place on Oct. 18, 2021, at the LA County Federation of Labor, which later declared that the leaked tape was part of a security breach at multiple offices within the organization.

Martinez can be heard saying that Oaxacans are “feos” (ugly people), and asking ironically, while laughing, “what villages are they coming from?” De León and Cedillo added their own derogatory comments about Oaxacans.

The recording included racist comments about other minorities as well: “F...k that guy, he is with the Blacks,” said Martinez about District Attorney George Gascon.

Also, Martinez made fun of the adopted Black son of Los Angeles City Council Member Mike Bonin, “He looks like a ‘changuito’ (little monkey).” She went even further saying that “this kid needs a beatdown. Let me take him around the corner, I’ll bring him right back.”

Cedillo jokes about the height of “Oaxacan Koreans” (?). Oaxaca is a southern state of Mexico and home of a large indigenous population—16 communities in total, with Mixtecs, Zapotecs and Triquis identified as the main ones. These groups started to immigrate to the United States in the mid-1980s and currently are the main workforce in most of California’s fields. They bring their ancestral agricultural knowledge and skills as well as their culture, including their languages and sophisticated cuisine.

In the recording, to make things worse, the three Council members can be heard planning to modify a city district to



Hundreds of Oaxacan residents in the Los Angeles area marched several times asking for the resignations of City Council Members Kevin de León and Gil Cedillo. Photo courtesy of CIELO

deprive a rival Council member of an important area, as well as talking about appointing to a seat a Council member of their political preference.

The outrage of the Oaxacan community in Los Angeles—and elsewhere—got traction with several protests at Los Angeles City Council meetings.

Martinez resigned first her position as president of the Council and then from her Council seat. Herrera also resigned, but both Cedillo and de León have been reluctant to follow that path. De León recently said during an interview with a Spanish TV station that he won’t resign “because there is still much to do.”

“These are not incredible comments for us; we hear them daily,” said Odilia Romero, founder and executive director of CIELO (Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo—Indigenous Communities on Leadership). Romero is of Zapotec origin.

“It’s not a surprise to us. They show their scorn toward indigenous people at work...Cedillo had been even violent against Guatemalan street vendors in his district.”

For Romero, these comments incite hate and violence.

“Martinez resigned, but she still thinks the same, and the other two, I guess they are thinking people will forget about this incident,” said Romero. “They have hard skin.”

Romero points out that Blacks and indigenous people have been discriminated against for generations and that her community will continue to press Cedillo and de León to resign.

“When I learned about the content of the audio, I felt enraged, I felt like a blow, because our community went through a lot over the centuries, since the conquest...I needed to talk to my mom about it,” said Jose Eduardo Chavez, a 29-year-old Mixtec living in Madera.

“It is unacceptable that we are still getting these racist remarks. We know what is going on, we know what happens with the ‘Whitexicans’—mixed-race Latinos who want to differentiate themselves from indigenous people and brag about having lighter skin—but we didn’t expect this from people who claim to be leaders and have a certain political background.”

To Chavez, these comments are racist and could motivate violence. He expressed support for the indigenous communities in the Central Valley and those marching in Los Angeles seeking the resignations of Cedillo and de León.

The city of Arvin in Kern County and the city of Madera are known for having the largest indigenous populations in the Central Valley. Last year, Elsa Mejia, 33, of Mixtec origin, was elected the first indigenous City Council member in the Valley (in Madera).

However, several Latino organizations don’t agree with asking the Council members to resign and question who would replace the disputed leaders. Their suggestion is to “move on.”

“White Latinos have a long history of discrimination and racism against our people,” said Chavez. “However, this level of hypocrisy isn’t very common, and yes, this is inciting to racial violence.”

Several years back, while working as a reporter for a Spanish TV station in Fresno, the author asked an Oaxacan farmworker if he ever felt discriminated by White people. He responded with an expression of curiosity and said, “I barely see White people here, but I can tell you those who discriminate against us, those who constantly screw us up are the *mestizos* (mixed race) Latinos.”

Little has changed in all these years.

(Editor’s note: This report is part of the Stop the Hate Campaign. “The Stop the Hate campaign is made possible with funding from the California State Library (CSL) in partnership with the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA). The views expressed in this article and other materials produced by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance or the Community Alliance newspaper do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the CSL, the CAPIAA or the California government. Learn more at capiiaa.ca.gov/stop-the-hate.”)

Eduardo Stanley is the editor of the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at editor@fresnoalliance.com.

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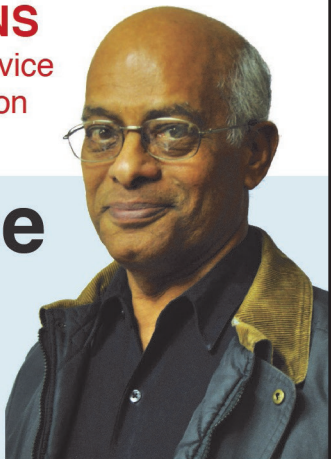
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Statement from the Local Central Labor Council

It is with immense disappointment and equal determination that we write this statement in the wake of the shocking conversations that were privately recorded inside of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor building in 2021.

While much of the Labor Movement and political world has already reacted to the racist and dehumanizing language used by the elected leaders in question, there must be a response from all of our organizations, in every jurisdiction and a further resolve to end discrimination and racism wherever we operate.

The Labor Movement’s core principles are about equality in the workplace, where every union member is equally represented, compensated and respected. But each of the leaders in this movement know that many of our unions are still working to eradicate racist and sexist views within our membership. It is an ongoing mission that clearly requires additional commitment. We freely admit that.

The national AFL-CIO and the California Labor Federation have done significant work to end discrimination and have built policies to make sure that a majority of attendees at our decision-making conventions are women and people-of-color. That is why the shock is so

great in this situation, where such a prominent figure was participating in and condoned such vile hate speech.

As we go back to the drawing board on how to educate ourselves, our leaders and our members on the fundamentals of human decency and absolute respect for each other regardless of race, gender, sexual preference or national origin, we want to offer ourselves as students and as protectors to those communities in the Central Valley that have been harmed by discrimination, either from this event or others.

We are not a movement of hollow words. We are a movement of diversity and collective empathy. As leaders in the movement, we are recommitting to the many different communities of the Central Valley, that we will hold accountable ourselves, our allies and the promoters of discrimination wherever it happens.

To the Black, Indigenous, Punjabi, Hmong, Armenian, Latino, LGBTQ+ and all other marginalized communities, including women, those with disabilities and people of all genders, faiths and backgrounds, the Labor Movement in the Central Valley will never seek to divide or minimize your voices. Further, we will stand with you during times of discrimination and harassment.

Please maintain faith in our collective work and call upon us when we may honor our commitments.

Executive Board
Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Counties Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Madera Proclaims Indigenous People’s Day

By Community Alliance Staff

Madera is the first city in the Central Valley to issue an Indigenous People’s Day proclamation. The historic event took place on Oct. 5 during the regular City Council meeting before an emotional audience. Madera is home to a large indigenous population from southern Mexico—Mixtecs, Zapotecs and Triquis from Oaxaca state and Purepechas from Michoacan state—and local Native Americans.

The proclamation, which was signed by Madera Mayor Santos Garcia, established Oct. 10 as Indigenous People’s Day.

“The idea of a proclamation came up after meetings with local residents, and I introduced it to the City Council a

month earlier. They all agreed,” said Madera City Council Member Elsa Mejia.

She is the first indigenous person to be elected in the Central Valley. Mejia, of Mixtec origin, was born in Fresno and has lived in Madera all her life.

Mejia presented the proclamation to Rosa Hernandez, a Mixtec and mother of four who worked in the fields for several years before becoming a small business owner. Hernandez is considered a culture bearer and a storyteller.

Hernandez was a key in organizing the Dia de los Muertos at the Madera Courthouse Park on Nov. 1, an event strongly supported by Mejia and other Madera Council members.

Indigenous people from Oaxaca started to emigrate in large numbers to the United States during the 1980s. Currently, they represent the main workforce in the agricultural fields of California and other states.

There are no exact numbers of how many Oaxacans are in California. Los Angeles is home to thousands of Oaxacan immigrants. In the Central Valley, Madera and Arvin (in Kern County) are known for their large numbers of indigenous residents.



A big audience attended the Oct. 5 meeting of the Madera City Council at which the Council proclaimed Oct. 10 as Indigenous People’s Day. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

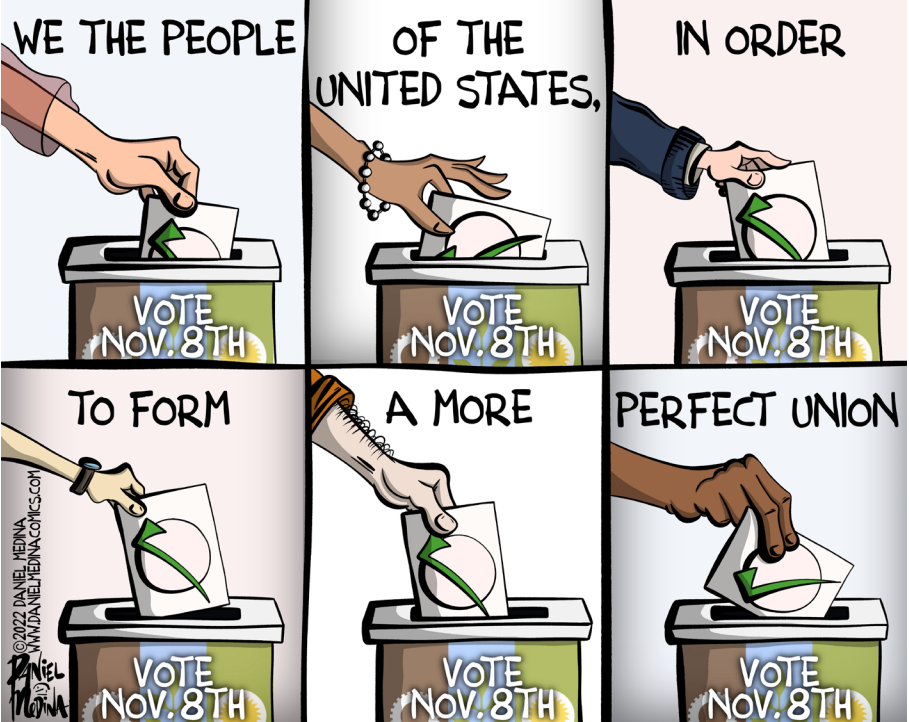
2022 Ballot Measure Endorsement Grid

Note: For the blank cells, the entity made no endorsement in that race or we were unable track down the information.

	DEM	REP	Labor	Chamber	LWV
State					
Prop 1: Reproductive freedom	Yes	No	Yes	—	Yes
Prop 26: In-person sports betting in tribal casinos	—	No	—	—	—
Prop 27: Online sports betting	No	No	—	—	—
Prop 28: Funding arts & music education	Yes	No	Yes	—	—
Prop 29: Kidney dialysis clinics requirements	Yes	No	Yes	No	—
Prop 30: Income tax on millionaires for electric cars	Yes	No	—	No	—
Prop 31: Banning flavored tobacco products	Yes	No	Yes	—	Yes
Fresno County					
Measure C: Transportation improvements transaction & use tax extension	No	No	—	—	—
Measure E: Fresno State transaction & use tax	—	No	—	—	—
City of Fresno					
Measure M: Veterans support transaction & use tax	—	No	—	—	—

DEM: California Democratic Party & Fresno County Democratic Party
REP: California Republican Party & Fresno County Republican Party
Labor: California Labor Federation & Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council
Chamber: California Chamber of Commerce
LWV: League of Women Voters

Vote!



Get your friends, family, partners or whoever to vote. This year, we will not only be voting for the governor and our Congressional members but for city council and school board members, statewide propositions and local ballot measures. These elected officials determine policies that affect our everyday lives. Do your research, know the candidates and get involved.
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The Great Game in Ukraine Is Spinning Out of Control

By Jeffrey Sachs

Former U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski famously described Ukraine as a “geopolitical pivot” of Eurasia, central to both U.S. and Russian power. As Russia views its vital security interests to be at stake in the current conflict, the war in Ukraine is rapidly escalating to a nuclear showdown. It’s urgent for both the United States and Russia to exercise restraint before disaster hits.

Since the middle of the 19th century, the West has competed with Russia over Crimea and, more specifically, naval power in the Black Sea. In the Crimean War (1853–1856), Britain and France captured Sevastopol and temporarily banished Russia’s navy from the Black Sea.

The current conflict is, in essence, the Second Crimean War. This time, a U.S.-led military alliance seeks to expand NATO to Ukraine and Georgia, so that five NATO members would encircle the Black Sea.

The United States has long regarded any encroachment by great powers in the Western Hemisphere as a direct threat to U.S. security, dating back to the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, which states: “We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those [European] powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety.”

In 1961, the United States invaded Cuba when Cuba’s revolutionary leader Fidel Castro looked to the Soviet Union for support. The United States was not much interested in Cuba’s “right” to align with whichever country it wanted—the claim the United States asserts regarding Ukraine’s supposed right to join NATO.

The failed U.S. invasion in 1961 led to the Soviet Union’s decision to place offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba in 1962, which in turn led to the Cuban missile crisis 60 years ago last month (October). That crisis brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

Yet America’s regard for its own security interests in the Americas has not stopped it from encroaching on Russia’s core security interests in Russia’s neighborhood. As the Soviet Union weakened, U.S. policy leaders came to believe that the U.S. military could operate as it pleases.

In 1991, Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz explained to General Wesley Clark that the United States could deploy its military force in the Middle East “and the Soviet Union won’t stop us.” America’s national security officials decided to overthrow Middle East regimes allied to the Soviet Union and to encroach on Russia’s security interests.

In 1990, Germany and the United States gave assurances to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that the Soviet

Union could disband its own military alliance, the Warsaw Pact, without fear that NATO would enlarge eastward to replace the Soviet Union. It won Gorbachev’s assent to German reunification in 1990 on this basis. Yet, with the Soviet Union’s demise, President Bill Clinton reneged by supporting the eastward expansion of NATO.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin protested vociferously but could do nothing to stop it. America’s dean of statecraft with Russia, George Kennan, declared that NATO expansion “is the beginning of a new cold war.”

Under Clinton’s watch, NATO expanded to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in 1999. Five years later, under President George W. Bush, NATO expanded to seven more countries: the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), the Black Sea (Bulgaria and Romania), the Balkans (Slovenia) and Slovakia. Under President Barack Obama, NATO expanded to Albania and Croatia in 2009, and under President Donald Trump, to Montenegro in 2019.

Russia’s opposition to NATO enlargement intensified sharply in 1999 when NATO countries disregarded the United Nations and attacked Russia’s ally Serbia, and stiffened further in the 2000s with the U.S. wars of choice in Iraq, Syria and Libya. At the Munich Security Conference in 2007, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that NATO enlargement represents a “serious provocation that reduces the level of mutual trust.”

Putin continued: “And we have the right to ask: against whom is this expansion intended? And what happened to the assurances [of no NATO enlargement] our Western partners made after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact?”

“Where are those declarations today? No one even remembers them. But I will allow myself to remind this audience what was said.

“I would like to quote the speech of NATO General Secretary Mr. [Manfred] Woerner in Brussels on 17 May 1990. He said at the time that: ‘the fact that we are ready not to place a NATO army outside of German territory gives the Soviet Union a firm security guarantee.’ Where are these guarantees?”

Also in 2007, with the NATO admission of two Black Sea countries, Bulgaria and Romania, the United States established the Black Sea Area Task Group (originally the Task Force East).

Then in 2008, the United States raised U.S.-Russia tensions even further by declaring that NATO would expand to the very heart of the Black Sea, by incorporating Ukraine and Georgia, threatening Russia’s naval access to the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. With Ukraine’s and Georgia’s entry, Russia would be surrounded by five NATO countries in the Black Sea: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.

Russia was initially protected from NATO enlargement to Ukraine by Ukraine’s pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovych, who led the Ukrainian parliament to declare Ukraine’s neutrality in 2010. But in 2014, the United States helped to overthrow Yanukovych and bring to power a staunchly anti-Russian government.

The Ukraine War broke out at that point, with Russia quickly reclaiming Crimea and supporting pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas, the region of eastern Ukraine with a relatively high proportion of Russian population. Ukraine’s parliament formally abandoned neutrality later in 2014.

Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists in the Donbas have been fighting a brutal war for eight years. Attempts to end the war in the Donbas through the Minsk Agreements failed when Ukraine’s leaders decided not to honor the agreements, which called for autonomy for the Donbas.

After 2014, the United States poured in massive armaments to Ukraine and helped to restructure Ukraine’s military to be interoperable with NATO, as evidenced in this year’s fighting.

The Russian invasion in 2022 would likely have been averted had Biden agreed with Putin’s demand at the end of 2021 to end NATO’s eastward enlargement. The war would likely have ended in March 2022, when the governments of Ukraine and Russia exchanged a draft peace agreement based on Ukrainian neutrality.

Behind the scenes, the United States and the United Kingdom pushed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to reject any agreement with Putin and to fight on. At that point, Ukraine walked away from the negotiations.

Russia will escalate as necessary, possibly to nuclear weapons, to avoid military defeat and NATO’s further eastward enlargement. The nuclear threat is not empty but rather a measure of the Russian leadership’s perception of its security interests at stake.

Terrifyingly, the United States was also prepared to use nuclear weapons in the Cuban missile crisis, and a senior Ukrainian official recently urged the United States to launch nuclear strikes “as soon as Russia even thinks of carrying out nuclear strikes,” surely a recipe for World War III. We are again on the brink of nuclear catastrophe.

President John F. Kennedy learned about nuclear confrontation during the Cuban missile crisis. He defused that crisis not by force of will or U.S. military might, but by diplomacy and compromise, removing U.S. nuclear missiles in Turkey in exchange for the Soviet Union removing its nuclear missiles in Cuba. The following year, he pursued peace with the Soviet Union, signing the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

In June 1963, Kennedy uttered the essential truth that can keep us alive today: “Above all, while defending our own vital interests, nuclear powers must avert those confrontations which bring an adversary to a choice of either a humiliating retreat or a nuclear war.

“To adopt that kind of course in the nuclear age would be evidence only of the bankruptcy of our policy—or of a collective death-wish for the world.”

It is urgent to return to the draft peace agreement between Russia and Ukraine of late March, based on the non-enlargement of NATO. Today’s fraught situation can easily spin out of control, as the world has done on so many past occasions—yet this time with the possibility of nuclear catastrophe. The world’s very survival depends on prudence, diplomacy and compromise by all sides.

Jeffrey D. Sachs, professor of sustainable development and professor of health policy and management at Columbia University, is director of Columbia’s Center for Sustainable Development and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has served as special adviser to three UN secretaries-general. His books include The End of Poverty, CommonWealth, The Age of Sustainable Development, Building the New American Economy and, most recently, A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism.

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Rumor Has It That...

Continued from page 8

McCarthy swore an oath to uphold the Constitution. He is obviously in contempt of that oath. As an active supporter of Trump’s recent treasonous acts against our government and its peaceful transfer of authority, McCarthy should be considered an accessory to Trump’s acts of treason and should be held legally responsible.

As a fellow patriotic citizen of the United States, I urge everyone to take this into consideration when going to the polls to cast your vote.

Regarding the Abortion Debate

Recently, a male Baptist minister, Rep. Danny McCormick (R-La.), introduced a bill stating that “a woman who receives an abortion should receive the same criminal consequences as one who drowns her baby.”

Under this bill, a pregnant woman could face murder charges even if raped or if doctors determined the procedure

was needed to save her life. Doctors who attempted to help patients conceive through in vitro fertilization could also be locked up for destroying embryos, and certain contraception methods would be banned.

These lawmakers also wish to make having an abortion punishable by the death penalty. Lawmakers such as McCormick do not take into consideration the fact that many young women were not responsible for their pregnancy and are indeed victims of male depredation.

Young women who have not reached physical maturity will likely have their pelvic structure and lower abdominal organs damaged during the act of delivery, leading to severe malformations or even death. The truly evil and unthinking ideas of these overly religious and pompous politicians are leaning on the Old Testament’s punishment-oriented philosophies without forethought as to the feelings or physical situations of the victims.

Because of the overly aggressive actions of these lawmakers, abortion advocates should become equally aggressive. Bills should be introduced requiring any lawmaker who passes laws punishing those who receive or perform abortions, or those involved in enforcing those punishments



A crowd of Trump supporters marched on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, ultimately leading to the building being breached and several deaths. Photo courtesy of *The Commons*

be, in turn, indicted and prosecuted for the crimes of manslaughter if the mother should die, maiming or contributing to the maiming of the mother, and in addition, if the mother and child survive, should be held responsible for the health and maintenance of mother and child until the

child has reached at least the minimum of age 18. After all...that’s only fair.

Mitch Cantwell, Ph.D., is a resident of Dunlap, a retired anthropology professor and a member of Kings Canyon Indivisible.

UN Says “the U.S. Blockade of Cuba Is a Crime That Has to End”

Continued from page 11

The United States carries out siege warfare against Cuba. The United States pressures other governments, banking institutions and companies throughout the world, as well as obsessively pursuing any sources of hard currency transactions for Cuba. The intention is to cause an economic collapse. This is considered an act of war by international law. Bringing about hunger, desperation and overthrow of the government. Here is the infamous Mallory memo from April 6, 1960, written by Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Lester Mallory. It states the original, unchanging, unvarnished reasons for the decision to blockade Cuba. “The only foreseeable means of alienating internal support is through disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship.

“It follows that every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba. If such a policy is adopted, it should be the result of a positive decision that would call forth a line of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of [the] government.” When U.S. government sources say that the welfare of the Cuban people is a concern and that their motivation is to protect human rights, no one believes this cynical and dishonest pretext. What best illustrates the real motivations of the U.S. government is its conduct during the Covid-19 pandemic. When the international community called for compassion and cooperation, the United States decided to take advantage of the opportunity to strengthen the blockade, adding 243 additional measures by executive action, making it more difficult for Cuba to obtain medicines, medical equipment and supplies, and materials for the production of vaccines and medicines. The additional blockade measures put in place by Trump have been maintained by the Biden administration, despite campaign promises to the contrary. Cuba does not belong on the U.S. terrorist list. As Trump was leaving office, his regime placed Cuba on the U.S. List of State Sponsors of Terrorism, which creates even greater difficulties for transactions and financing.

What are the pretexts for placing Cuba on this list? Assata Shakur is one pretext. Shakur was a U.S. political prisoner who was granted asylum by Cuba in 1984 after she experienced COINTELPRO persecution and prosecution. Another is that Cuba supports the elected government of Venezuela. Also, after the Havana peace talks between the Colombian government and ELN (National Liberation Army) rebels failed, Cuba followed the international agreements regarding all negotiating parties, permitting the ELN representatives to remain in Cuba until safeguards for their return to Colombia were put into place. Rather than being evidence of “terrorism,” these actions are evidence of the ethical nature of Cuba. A more pragmatic, less idealistic state would have treated Shakur and the ELN representatives as bargaining chips. It is to Cuba’s credit that even under the extreme conditions created by the pandemic, natural disasters such as Hurricane Ian and the blockade, it has refused to make deals with their lives.

Leni Villagomez Reeves is a local physician and activist. Contact her at lenivreeves@gmail.com. Check out her news and views about Cuba on Facebook (fresnosolidarity/).

Provide feedback. E-mail editor@fresnoalliance.com.

2022 November Election Endorsement Grid

	DEM	REP	Labor	FCDWC	Stonewall	CVPPAC
U.S. Senate	Padilla	Meuser	Padilla	Padilla	Padilla	—
Governor	Newsom	Dahle	Newsom	Newsom	Newsom	—
Lt. Governor	Kounalakis	Jacobs	Kounalakis	Kounalakis	Kounalakis	—
Secretary of State	Weber	Bernosky	Weber	Weber	Weber	—
Attorney General	Bonta	Hochman	Bonta	Bonta	Bonta	—
Treasurer	Ma	Guerrero	Ma	Ma	Ma	—
Controller	Cohen	Chen	Cohen	Cohen	—	—
Insurance Commissioner	Lara	Howell	Lara	Lara	Lara	—
Supt. of Public Instruction	Thurmond	Christensen	Thurmond	Thurmond	Thurmond	—
Board of Equalization	Altamirano	Gaines	Altamirano	Altamirano	Murphy	—
Congressional District 5	Barkley	McClintock	Barkley	Barkley	—	—
Congressional District 13	Gray	Duarte	Gray	Gray	—	—
Congressional District 20	Wood	McCarthy	Wood	Wood	Wood	—
Congressional District 21	Costa	Maher	Costa	Costa	Costa	—
Congressional District 22	Salas	Valadao	Salas	—	—	—
State Senate District 4	Robertson	—	Robertson	—	—	—
State Senate District 12	Gundy	Grove	Gundy	Gundy	Gundy	—
State Senate District 14	Caballero	Shor	Caballero	Caballero	Caballero	—
State Senate District 16	Hurtado	Shepard	—	Hurtado	—	—
State Assembly District 27	Soria	Pazin	Soria	Soria	Soria	—
State Assembly District 31	Arambula	—	Arambula	Arambula	Arambula	—
State Assembly District 33	Sigala	Mathis	Sigala	Sigala	—	—
SCCCD Area 1	Rodriguez	Miranda	Rodriguez	Rodriguez	Rodriguez	Rodriguez
SCCCD Area 5	—	—	Felix/Fuentes	Felix	Felix	Felix/Fuentes
Fresno County BOE Area 4	—	—	—	Masumoto	—	—
Fresno USD Area 1	Thomas	Horton	Thomas	Thomas	—	—
Fresno USD Area 3	—	McMahon-Gorans	—	—	—	—
Fresno USD Area 4	Islas	Steed	Islas	Islas	—	Islas
Fresno USD Area 7	—	Wittrup	Wittrup	—	—	—
Central USD Area 1	—	—	Sellers	Sellers	—	—
Central USD Area 2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central USD Area 4	Kherfan	—	Kherfan	Brooks	Kherfan	—
Central USD Area 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clovis City Council (at-large)	Hebert	Basgall	Hebert	Hebert	—	Hebert
	—	Bessinger	—	—	—	—
	—	Pearce	—	—	—	—
Sanger City Council District 2	Castellanos	—	—	Castellanos	—	Castellanos

DEM: California Democratic Party & Fresno County Democratic Party Labor: California Labor Federation & Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council Stonewall: Fresno Stonewall Democrats BOE: Board of Education SCCC: State Center Community College District USD: Unified School District Note: For the blank cells, the entity made no endorsement in that race or we were unable track down the information.



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Our Ukraine Coverage

By *Community Alliance Staff*

Several of our readers expressed concerns with some of the content in “A Word about the Azov Regiment: Yaroslava’s Song” by Zarina Zabrisky in the October issue of the *Community Alliance* newspaper.

- Those concerns are as follows:
- “The Azov battalion is a known Nazi spinoff regiment of the Ukrainian army... Covering this battalion and not calling out their Nazi ties is something I’d expect of the mainstream media, not from the *Community Alliance*...Azov has been known for years as being ruthless Nazi gangster murderers.”
 - “Good sources of information [on the Nazi connection] are Aron Maté, Max Blumenthal, the Grayzone, *Democracy Now*, Katie Halper [and] Jeffrey Sachs.”
 - “There’s a tremendous and sophisticated propaganda machine about Ukraine, probably dating back to before the 2014 coup that overthrew the government to install the U.S. chosen leadership there, but certainly coming into prominence during that period.”
 - “‘The Azov regiment has disassociated with the ultra-right movement.’ Yeah right! We’ve been played for suckers, and I resent this.”

The author, Zarina Zabrisky, was asked to respond. A summary of her response follows: Unfortunately, these persons might be victims of Kremlin propaganda. I recognize several Kremlin narratives in the comments.

What happened in 2014 was not a coup d’état. It was the will of the Ukrainian people who got rid of Viktor Yanukovych, a corrupt politician installed by the Russian government and promoted by Paul Manafort, the same political consultant who served as an adviser to Donald Trump. Yanukovych fled to Russia, and he is still there.

I have been fighting Putin’s mafia state since 2012. I come from Saint Petersburg, and I know Putin’s background. The gang that took over the Russian Federation is responsible for hundreds of thousands of lives.

[Regarding Azov], I have contacted and interviewed several experts on the subject. One of the detailed accounts is currently forthcoming from Euromaidan Press. A personal side to the story: I am a Russian-Ukrainian Jew, and my great-grandparents were shot by the Nazis in Baby Yar. I am particularly careful with this subject.

Film Review: *Mr. Malcolm’s List*

By *Homer Gee Greene Jr.*

Mr. Malcolm’s List is a love story in the genre of the *Bridgerton* series. I really liked the portrayal of a multiracial 19th century England without the stench of White supremacy, White racism and White skin privilege.

There were class distinctions, but women could marry into any class. There was some class prejudice, but love conquers all class prejudices in the telling of this love story.

I liked the themes of having dreams and pursuing them, development of character, jealousy, parental love and male and female friendships. Race never played a part in any of the relationships, hence telling a story that is completely foreign to an American audience.

The movie had a fairy-tale ending in which all the personalities found love either within their class or outside

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

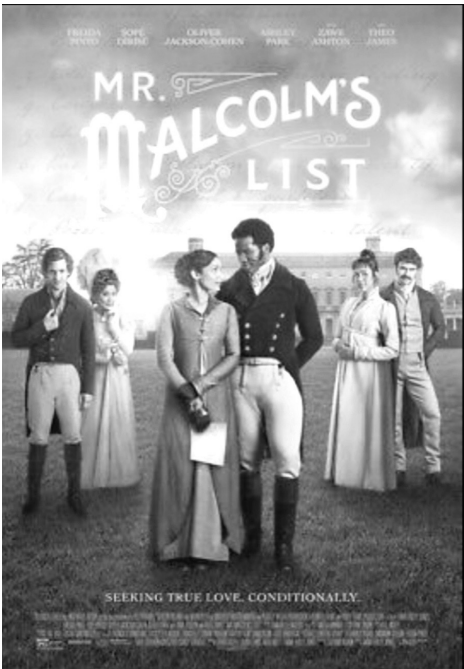
of their class. Mr. Malcolm’s mother had a pivotal role in keeping the love of her son and the object of his desire from falling apart. She also personified a regal presence when she entered into the narrative.

Mr. Malcolm’s personal list is a metaphor of the shields we put up to protect ourselves from decisions we have to make that are life altering.

I really liked the artwork that appears at the end of the movie during the scrolling of the individuals who participated in the making of the movie. The art outlined the futures of all the characters in the telling of this delightful cinematic narrative.

I highly recommend this movie. It is definitely a date night movie!

Homer Gee Greene Jr. is a freelance writer and photographer, documentarian for the Clark Bonsai Collection and founding partner and business manager for the start-up tech company ScholarDev LLC. He is retired from Fresno City College.



Fresno Peace Activists Say Stop Nuclear War Now!

By *Linda Tubach*

Oct. 16 marked 60 years since the Cuban missile crisis, the closest our world has ever been to nuclear war, and here we are again according to the experts. The United States is arming the war in Ukraine, which is so dangerously escalating that both Russian and U.S. leaders are actually talking about using nuclear weapons. These weapons are now on hair-trigger alert in both countries.

First use, followed by retaliations, will destroy all life in the targeted areas immediately, and then a nuclear winter will stop plant growth and end animal and human life on the planet.

On Oct. 14, dozens of longtime Fresno peace activists gathered in the hot noonday sun to picket in front of the Federal Building, as part of a national month of action to Defuse Nuclear War. In 40 cities across the country, informational picket lines formed at the local offices of House representatives and U.S. senators to demand that they take immediate action to de-escalate tensions between nuclear powers, facilitate a ceasefire and negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, and rejoin the nuclear weapons ban treaties.

The Fresno picket line was organized by Peace Fresno, WILPF (Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom) Fresno and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (FCNV), and was followed by a meeting with Senator Dianne Feinstein’s staff. The colorful “No Nuclear War” and “Negotiations Now” signs and banners received many positive reactions from pedestrians and drivers honking as they passed by.

“It’s tremendously important for people to understand what nuclear war means, that we cannot live through a

nuclear war,” said Agustin Lira, peace activist since the Cuban missile crisis, Teatro Campesino co-founder and National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow.

Patricia Wells, who co-wrote *The Covid-19 Play* with Lira about a farmworker family in 2020, says, “I hope being here will help the younger people understand, and I’m here to represent the people who can’t be here because they are working.”

“I think people just aren’t understanding how close we are to nuclear war,” intoned Peggy Davis.

Jennifer Crow agreed, pointing out that “the normalization of talking about nuclear strikes should scare everyone.”

“We want to pressure our government to facilitate negotiations, because this is just too dangerous,” said Gerry Bill, co-founder of the Dakota EcoGarden and an FCNV board member.

“Our country needs to lead by example,” said WILPF member Kayla Mitchell.

“War is not the answer,” added Bernadette Planting, “it’s time for revolutionary love in this world.”

Just before the scheduled meeting with Senator Feinstein’s staff, Camille Russell of Peace Fresno addressed the picketers, declaring that “we’re here today to remind people of what atomic war means, to ask our government to begin negotiations leading to the end of war in Ukraine and to call for an end of U.S. policies and actions since the 1970s that make nuclear war still possible.”

The delegation also included Peace Fresno president Ken Hudson and member Davis; Teresa Castillo, branch chair of WILPF–Fresno; and Jean Hayes, legislative chair of WILPF–Fresno, who presented 178 constituent signatures on the nationwide petition launched by WILPF to U.S. President Biden and the U.S. Senate to support the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

Hudson reported that the delegation is awaiting confirmation of a meeting with Senator Alex Padilla’s local office. He said that Senator Feinstein’s staff person was genuinely receptive to the information the delegation presented about the nuclear danger and will convey the

On the subject of me being right-wing propaganda, apart from having a good laugh, please take a look at my coverage of the right-wing neo-Nazis and so on in the United States. I have been personally threatened by both Russian security and American neo-Nazis.

On a personal note: I just came back from the Izium mass burial exhumation and torture chambers in the Kharkiv region. I spoke with dozens of Ukrainians who lost loved ones, were tortured and lost their homes. I lived under the daily Russian bombardments for six months, and I owe it to Ukrainians to bring the truth to the world and not take personal offense. There are real mass graves and real bodies of civilians killed by the Russian military in Izium.

This is what I have been dealing with and writing about for the last 10 years. It is easy for left-minded Americans to make the mistake of siding with voices pushing anti-American narratives. The Kremlin knows that and exploits it.

Regarding the referenced “good sources” of information:

- Aaron Maté is an RT (Russia Today) talking head who has tried to prove that Manafort and Yanukovych are not Putin’s puppets.
- The founder/editor of Real News, Paul Jay, is much loved and quoted on RT and other Russian media at least since 2010. He admires Putin and whitewashes Russian military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, as well as Putin’s crimes in Russia. He describes the USSR with nostalgia (he didn’t live there; I did).
- Max Blumenthal has often contributed to broadcasts on RT. In an interview with Tucker Carlson on Fox News in November 2017, Blumenthal defended RT against “the charge that it’s Kremlin propaganda.” Blumenthal founded the Grayzone website within a month after his visit to Moscow. In an October 2019 article for *New Politics* magazine, Gilbert Achcar wrote that Blumenthal’s Grayzone, along with the World Socialist website, has “the habit of demonizing all left-wing critics of Putin and the likes of Assad by describing them as ‘agents of imperialism’ or some equivalent.”
- Katie Halper does a show *Useful Idiots* with Matt Taibbi, another Trump and Putin apologist.
- Jeffrey Sachs has an openly pro-Putin stance.

On Oct. 10, peaceful civilians were killed in downtown Kyiv. I was right there. There were missiles landing in the middle of the children’s playground: 14 civilians killed, 87 wounded. More bombs and drones exploded over my head.

Action Item

Demand that your Congressional representative and U.S. senators support efforts to decrease the risk of nuclear war. Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Support H.Res. 1185 for Congressional action to avert nuclear war.

Learn more and get involved at defusenuclearwar.org.



Protesters gathered at the Federal Building on Oct. 14 to call for an end to the threat of nuclear war. *Photo by Peter Maiden*

message to Senator Feinstein. The staffer added that the Senator’s office in Fresno seldom receives calls about international issues.

As Nancy Waidtlow, founder of the Dakota EcoGarden, said, “It doesn’t get better and won’t until more people demand change.”

Linda Tubach is a retired high school civics teacher living in Yokuts Basin 93675.



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TOP REASONS TO VOTE NO:



Higher Taxes.

Politicians are rushing voters to lock in higher sales taxes for the next 30 years. Measure C is just one of the many new taxes politicians and special interest groups want to impose on Fresno taxpayers this year alone. The current Measure C doesn't even expire until 2027. We have time to get it right. Vote NO on Measure C.



Makes it harder to pay for basic needs.

Inflation is already hard enough on families. We are in the middle of dealing with surging prices for gas, food, rent, and everyday expenses. Measure C will just make it harder to pay for basic needs. It's time to reign in out-of-control spending by politicians. We cannot afford to pay for more political slush funds.



Backroom Deals.

Measure C was written behind closed doors by the same politicians and bureaucrats who, for 35 years, have failed to keep their promises to fix our broken streets and clean our air.



After more than three decades, our neighborhoods still have Broken Roads because of Broken Promises.



Leaves existing neighborhoods behind & ignores the safety of our children.

Measure C renewal is more of the same. The expenditure plan DOES NOT guarantee sidewalk and road repairs in existing neighborhoods, fails to adequately fund safe routes to schools, and focuses investments on major road expansions that will cause uncontrolled sprawl and make our air quality worse.



Measure C explicitly limits funding from being used to pay for crosswalks, streetlights, and adding and repairing sidewalks with curbs and gutters in existing neighborhoods.



Lack of real oversight and transparency.

There is no actual oversight on how the \$7 billion will be spent. Their Citizens Advisory Committee is only advisory, only meets once a year, and has no authority to veto decisions to borrow against future revenues or Plan amendments.



Measure C lets politicians borrow against future tax dollars and leaves a \$7 Billion dollar bill for our grandkids to pay.



Rushed Process.

A broad coalition of advocates from every sector of our community repeatedly called on the Measure C renewal committee to take the necessary time to bring Fresno County residents into the discussion to ensure all transportation needs were identified and properly prioritized. Instead, politicians and bureaucrats rushed through the process and left taxpayers out of the conversation.



Fails to clean our air and address the growing climate crisis.

We are facing many challenges - a growing housing crisis and a worsening climate crisis. While we have some of the worst air quality in the nation, politicians only want to invest 2% of Measure C toward improving air quality, despite transportation being the largest source of pollution.



Fails to invest in neighborhoods that need it most.

Measure C fails to prioritize communities with the worst road conditions and highest needs.



Fails workers and the local economy.

Measure C doesn't guarantee local workers jobs and training programs.



Cuts public transportation.

Measure C cuts public transit by 50%, making it harder for vulnerable residents without cars to access essential services and medical care.



Fails to help get our fair share of federal and state transportation dollars.

Measure C fails to draw down state and federal funds to support public transit and transit-oriented development that could help build affordable housing along transit corridors in existing communities.



Lacks vision.

Measure C does not provide the transportation system we need for our future. Measure C does not include funds for electric charging stations, light rail, new technology and solar generation.



Works for the rich, taxes the poor.

Measure C makes taxpayers pay for road and infrastructure improvements that benefit developers and their pet projects



Leaves rural and unincorporated communities behind.

Measure C leaves rural and unincorporated communities without robust regional transportation options and fails to plan for future growth and transportation needs in our region.



Cuts programs for seniors and people with disabilities.

Measure C eliminates existing funding for senior transit, farmworker van pools and services for people with disabilities.

Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2022



Daylight Savins Ends



November 2022

At this time of writing, a demonstration is being held at the Federal Building in downtown Fresno. Various groups being led locally by Peace Fresno is demanding the United States stop supplying weapons to all warring states like Ukraine and negotiate and end to the possibilities of all out nuclear war. Why is that considered so controversial to our leaders?

Edited by
Richard
Gomez.

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This unabridged article is of Human-Carbon Nature by Wes Jackson and Robert Jensen. The entire contents can be seen at <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/09/16/human-carbon-nature/>.

Who's To Blame For Climate Destabilization and the many other ecological crises driving us toward collapse?

Looking for the villains in the story is understandable, given the depth of human suffering and the extent of environmental destruction. Judgments of individual and institutional failures are necessary as we develop not only new policies but different economic and political systems. Penalties are just, and reparations are justified. But changing the trajectory of the human relationship to the larger living world—that is, imagining new living arrangements consistent with the necessary worldwide down-powering—requires going beyond the obvious targets. We must acknowledge that the dense energy of fossil fuels makes our lives easier in many ways that most people enjoy and will not want to give up, and that no combination of renewable energy sources can replace the work that coal, oil, and gas do for us. That doesn't mean all our uses of energy are necessary, nor is this an argument against renewable energy. But we must accept the dramatic changes coming, a just and sustainable human future requires living within limits much more severe than affluent societies have experienced, and more severe than most people would choose.

That simply means that every organism has a genetic endowment that makes some things possible and some things impossible. There are parameters within which all organisms, including we humans, operate. That said, everyday experience reminds us that human nature produces widely variable behavior and that there is little we can predict with certainty about any specific human's behavior in a particular situation. Take the example of whether violence is a part of human nature. There is no reason to believe that any human society has been completely aggression-free. We are a species capable of violence toward one another. It's likely that all humans—even those who may never have been violent in their lives, if such a human has ever existed—have the capacity for violence against others. Under what social conditions is violence more or less likely? What individual differences, interacting with those social conditions, might increase or decrease the likelihood of violent action? Socialization shapes the expression of human variation, and there are patterns in how people respond to that socialization. We never know as much as we would like to know about these kinds of questions and are usually left to act on informed hunches based on limited evidence. Our focus here is on what we call our human-carbon nature, a phrase borrowed from our colleague Bill Vitek to remind us that we are carbon based like all other life on Earth. Our answer for purposes of this conversation is one that Jackson has been offering for some time: "Life is the scramble for energy-rich carbon." It is our human nature to seek out energy-rich carbon. Over time, humans have gotten exceedingly good at tapping into five major carbon pools—soils, forests, coal, oil, natural gas—and maximizing the extraction of all the carbon we can get our hands on. Our greatest success as a species has become our most profound failure, given the many negative consequences of all that carbon grabbing. Understanding and changing our response to our human-carbon nature is a new challenge for which we have no road map. With nearly eight billion people on Earth, no existing ideology or culture is going to provide us with a template for dealing with what lies ahead, a world of fewer people consuming less energy.

Renouncing First-World dominance is a start, as in imagining a world beyond capitalism's obsession with growth and consumption. The end of those systems is a necessary but not sufficient condition for change. We agree with the eco-socialist goal "system change not climate change," but we disagree with that network's claim that "the current ecological crisis results from the capitalist system, which values profits for a global ruling elite over people and the planet." The current ecological crisis is shaped by, but not the result of, capitalism. Human degradation of ecosystems predates capitalism and will continue after capitalism, unless we develop a deeper understanding of the crisis. As one scholar of collapse puts it, "History suggests that complexity most commonly increases to solve problems and compels increase in resource use." The end of capitalism won't necessarily disrupt that pattern. Placing our hopes in non-capitalist complexity will not magically reduce resource use. We have to not only reject capitalism but also confront our own carbon-seeking nature. If we start with an awareness of the scope of the change needed and the lack of a plan for dealing with human-carbon nature, we can at least be clear about the direction in which we need to move. And that requires committing to being the first species that will have to impose limits on itself, which means a collectively imposed cap on the carbon we use and rationing to ensure fairness. This will be harder than most people acknowledge, perhaps harder than anyone can imagine. Reducing wealth concentration and eliminating uses of energy that most everyone agrees are wasteful would be only the first in what will have to be many more reductions. These observations require us to acknowledge the existing disparities in the distribution of wealth and the need to pursue redistribution policies. We also must find ways to reduce dramatically our aggregate consumption. It's one thing to support the idea of a down-powering, quite another thing to power down, to give up all those uses of dense energy. But to put it as bluntly as possible: Any policy that does not understand and account for the temptations of dense energy will fail. Human-carbon nature matters.

On November 19th, World Toilet Day, from 2 to 5 pm. Come and Reflect with Us on Past Efforts to Meet the Sanitary Needs of People Living with a Home in Fresno, and to Learn About Recent Efforts Here and in Other Homeless Hotspots. Human Progress Depends on Basic Sanitation and on You Understanding the Facts. Speakers are Mike Rhodes, Gordie Ochinerio-Bermudez with Q & A after each. A cadre of homeless advocates will read aloud reading aloud from the article at: <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/toilet-urination-disability-access/tnamp/> . A YouTube video playlist (2 hrs.), accompanied by handout to promote deeper understanding of homeless advocacy bearing on this public health issue with breaks. For more information contact: fresnohomelessadvocates@gmail.com



KFCF 88.1 FM Stir it, UP! Wednesday November 9th at 3 pm



This month's show with your host Josh Shurley will be talking about Armistice Day with members of Veterans for Peace. For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at www.centerfornonviolence.org

In October, our show was with host Josh Shurley with guest Bernard Navarro, Native American Instructor at Fresno City College.

The World Is Burning

By Ruth Gadebusch

The planet is burning—figuratively, not literally. Although it is more literal than we like to admit.

As we approach the anniversary of the unexpected attack on Pearl Harbor bringing us into that last “world war,” let us recognize there is no such thing as a nice war, even when a nation must defend itself. Both the victor and the defeated suffer in unmeasurable ways well beyond the traditional focus of men and boys—as if that were not enough!

All wars are caused by greed on the part of someone, someone who thinks his/her group is due more than those others with whom the planet is shared.

From the beginning of time we have had invasions of someone else’s territory simply because the aggressor desired it for one reason or another, be it land or the demand that all must worship and live as s/he does.

Most of us know many of the stories in the Holy Bible, the source of various religions with seemingly as much or more conflict than love. This latter is difficult or impossible to explain except with the idea that I have seen the light and am compelled to help you be saved in the same manner. All in the name of serving you.

As a disclaimer, let me assure that I am not speaking of the missionaries who in their approach have made life better for many around the world. Unfortunately, that does not apply to all who cross borders.

Avoiding the power part is in the approach. There are those who seem to be born with a sense of entitlement, and there are those who developed it within the living situation in which they find themselves. Of course, the purpose of religion is to prevent such greed, but as hinted above it often does not have that result despite its good intentions.

It is some eight decades since the bombing of Pearl Harbor that so many of us still remember. I don’t believe there has been a day since that somewhere on this planet hasn’t had conflict.

Just as in what has become known as WWI we thought that humankind seeing the horrors of war would forever more be committed to finding a better way to deal with disagreements. Alas, we are currently seeing a different story as we stand on what many fear is the beginning of ever more horror, devastation to come.

None of us can ignore the fighting we now see in Ukraine. Between Pearl Harbor and now, my generation has lived through Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and countless other less widespread military involvements. Those are just the ones we were directly involved in.

In that time, we have developed bigger and better weapons, not to mention bigger and better communication that we hoped would help us solve problems. Alas, bad spreads as easily as good.

Our nation scuttled the League of Nations but has strongly supported the United Nations. We don’t know if it would have thrived had we supported the League of Nations, but we still strive with the United Nations, which without doubt has been better than nothing. It is our hope. Still we are far short of the promise, the dream of ongoing peace.

At this time, we live with the threat of the use of nuclear weapons by one man in his lust for power in the glories of a past Russia. While much of the world desperately tries to quell this conflagration, it is by no means certain that the fire can be put out.

Granted, we developed and used the first nuclear weapon, but I believe we had no choice. One must defend. Nevertheless, the horrors are present in endless ways.

Despite the many contracts/treaties of mutual restraint of nuclear use, the tragedy remains and in the ever more threat of the ability to deliver there is the prospect, not just possibility but probability, of total destruction. The terror is beyond imagination.

To go on to another kind of fire, in the western United States there are the ever-increasing flames of fire due to the drought of climate change that many refuse to recognize despite the scientific evidence. In that category is also the increased strength of hurricanes. Humankind finds it difficult to take the steps necessary to manage climate change while we still can.

Of a different nature yet is the attempt of Jan. 6, 2021, to overthrow the government of this nation that for all its wrongs is the best the world has to offer. As this is written, we have a political campaign that instead of a candidate offering his/her own qualifications for a vote exaggerates and exacerbates the faults of the opposition when, in fact, a little bipartisanship could be extremely valuable for the nation.

Not to be forgotten is the abundance of personal weapons in this nation. Yes, they are used for recreation, which is one thing if for food but another if for trophies. The claims for protection all too often result in tragedy with an innocent family member being mistaken for an intruder or law enforcement shooting the wrong person in fear and haste.

Worse yet, there is no denying those weapons used for one kind of crime or another from theft to mental illness and pure unexplained anger. The rash of mass killings is near epidemic; still, we tolerate it as a personal right to bear arms.

Whatever the source of the fire, it is not serving us well. Can we change sufficiently to overcome the bleak picture?

As we condemn actions of the past, doesn’t it occur to us that future generations will judge us by their changing standards? We cannot change the past, but we can take responsibility for the present.

Remember that fire consumes no matter its source. We have a limited planet to be consumed. It is time to consider our own

ONE WOMAN’S VIEW



role, our own firefighting on this planet we share.

Isn’t there a better way to use our resources? That old adage to treat others as we want to be treated is still valid.

Ruth Gadebusch is a former naval officer, Fresno Unified School District trustee and member of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. She is an emeritus member of the Center for Civic Education and retains an active interest in various other educational and community endeavors.

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Medea Benjamin

Peace Activist, Co-founder of CODEPINK and Author

A presentation on

“Ukraine and Threat of Nuclear War”

Friday, December 2, 2022, 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Fresno State University

*Grosse Industrial Tech Building, Room 101

*FREE Admission & FREE Parking (with code below)



Benjamin is on a book tour for *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*, which she co-authored with Nicolas J.S. Davies. The book was published in October and will be sold and signed at her Fresno presentation. It can be purchased now for \$17 + shipping and tax from CODEPINK at <https://bit.ly/buy-war-in-ukraine-book>

*Grosse Industrial Tech Bldg. is just east of Cedar on Barstow Ave. Best parking in Lots P23 & P24; any Yellow Lot is OK. With a code, free parking is available from the permit dispenser outside the Campus Police Station on the SE corner of Barstow and Jackson Ave. Email ken.hudson@peacefresno.org for the code.

Campus map at <https://bit.ly/Campus-Map-FresnoState>

Dan Yaseen to interview Medea Benjamin on

Wednesday, November 30, 3:00 – 3:30 pm

On local, independent radio station KFCF, 88.1 FM

HOWARD’S HOPEFULS

Here are my November 8, 2022, primary election voting recommendations. Most are clear choices, some are very close calls. I hope you find this list useful. However you choose to vote, PLEASE VOTE! Thank you.!Howard K. Watkins [Updated 10/19/22}]

- FEDERAL
U.S. Senator PADILLA (both full & partial terms)
Congress Dist. 5 BARKLEY
Congress Dist. 13 GRAY
Congress Dist. 20 WOOD
Congress Dist. 21 COSTA
STATE
Governor NEWSOM
Lt. Governor KOUNALAKIS
Secretary of State WEBER
Controller COHEN
Treasurer MA
Attorney General BONTA
Insurance Comm. LARA
Supt. of Pub. Instr. THURMOND
St. Bd. of Equal. #1 ALTAMIRANO
State Senate #12 GUNDY
State Senate #14 CABALLERO
State Senate #16 HURTADO
State Assembly #8 None
State Assembly #27SORIA
State Assembly #31ARAMBULA
State Assembly #33SIGALA
Supreme Ct. Justices YES on All
Court of Appeal 5th Dist. YES on All
State Props 1, 28, 30–31 YES
State Props 26, 27 & 29 NO
FRESNO COUNTY
County Bd. of Educ. #1 Tapscott-Munson
County Bd. of Educ. #4 MASUMOTO
St.Ctr.Com. Col. Dist. 1 RODRIGUEZ
St.Ctr.Com. Col. Dist. 4 GOMEZ
St.Ctr.Com. Col. Dist. 5 FELIX
Central Unified Dist. 4 KHERFAN
Fresno Unified Dist. 1 THOMAS
Fresno Unified Dist. 3 DAVIS
Fresno Unified Dist. 4 ISLAS
Fresno Unified Dist. 7 WITTRUP
Measure C NO
Measure E YES
CITY OF CLOVIS
Clovis City Council HEBERT
Measure B YES
CITY OF FRESNO
Measure M YES
CITY OF SANGER
City Council Dist. #2 CASTELLANOS

Board of Supervisors Out of Touch

Continued from page 1

Many of those opposing the name change did not speak to the moral issue at the heart of this dispute, the continued use of a derogatory word, which many consider a racist and sexist term. Instead, they referred to the Fourth Amendment (due process) and the 10th Amendment (states' and local communities' rights over the federal government). Some spoke of the danger of "wokeness," the "communists" among us and "erasure." Others spoke of "cancel culture" as if the dominant White culture could be canceled by federal decree.

A woman mentioned "forced assimilation," an ironic claim, given that for hundreds of years Whites have forced non-Whites to assimilate to their culture. Some speakers said that it's going to be inconvenient to change addresses and documents and that there might be costs associated with that, which is true. It will be inconvenient and there could be costs, but it is the right thing to do.

Listening to public testimony, it appears that the "no name change" people are reacting with extreme anger, lack of evidence and spurious arguments to a moral issue. Supervisor Nathan Magsig said that he wanted to keep the meeting "constructive." He said "opinions were exchanged" at the Sept. 20 meeting of the BOS. (In fact, there was no honest "exchange of ideas" at that meeting but rather an atmosphere of threats and barely concealed violence.)

Supervisor Steve Brandau said that it's "not proven to me [that the "s" word] is a terrible word." He also said that now "power has been taken from us by the feds and the state" and "outsiders are telling us how to live."

Yet, he also claimed that he's "more neutral on the name change" and that the majority of residents should decide. Brandau also said (accurately) that the informal "survey" on the name change would not be recognized legally.

All the supervisors and the county attorney agreed that the BOS, who some call "The Five Little Kings," are powerless to do anything about the federal and state mandates to change the name, with Magsig even admitting that "the Board of Supervisors, on its own, cannot stand on top of or pass a law which pushes aside the state or federal governments."

Yet, the BOS still voted 3 to 1 to accept the results of a flawed survey, for which the final results were based on "ballots" returned from only 15% of S-Valley residents. Brandau said that the BOS wants to send a message to the state and federal governments that there is "dissension" on the name change.

Furthermore, showing how brazen and ignorant they are, two of the supervisors encouraged a lawsuit and called for a special election on the matter—both of which would be paid for by Fresno County taxpayers. "The courts might say AB 2022 and the feds have overstepped," Magsig said. Indeed, there should be a special election—an election to recall Supervisors Magsig and Brandau.

The 17 people speaking for the name change spoke with passion and honesty. Delaine Bill, of Mono/Yokut heritage, called the "s" word racist, sexist and demeaning. He said that "my father and other elders spoke against the name and were not listened to. The [continued] use of the word is the County's fault, it's racial."

Gloria Hernandez, a longtime human rights defender, told Magsig, "You didn't hold a public hearing, and you held a meeting that was announced only on your Facebook page. That's not 'local control'—that's your control!"

Bayard Taylor, an S-Valley resident, said that "the White settlers committed genocide and land theft, then put bounties on the heads of Indigenous men and named the area S-Valley. It's time to make amends."

Another S-Valley resident, Ronan, said, "I loved growing up here. But now I'm too embarrassed to say the name of my town. Even if [the "s" word] hurts only one person, that is too much harm done and we're still allowing official names to contain hurtful and derogatory words.

"It's not about 'the woke agenda.' It's about understanding and acknowledging our history."

Linda Tubach, an S-Valley resident, criticized the survey process as flawed. She also said that "the first recorded settler in Yokuts was Simpson Drake in 1868, after the area was depopulated by bounty hunters."

Some locals say that when the first settlers arrived, the majority of the population was women, thus S-Valley. At the time, there was a \$5 bounty on the heads of Indigenous men so that might be the reason.

Others spoke to the issue of the rampant violence against Indigenous women throughout the United States and how the dehumanizing "s" word contributes to the rape, kidnapping and murder of Indigenous women.

A young man named Ron mentioned "the humanity of people" and how shameful it is that so much race-baiting was going on. He described the "s" word as "racist, sexist and dehumanizing."



Supporters of renaming S-Valley gather before making public comments at the Fresno County Board of Supervisors meeting. Photo by Bob McCloskey

He added that "people say, 'This is the woke generation.' This generation should be woke! What's offensive to one should be offensive to all. People should be woke. People should be offended by predatory, racist, sexist words directed at one group of people."

A young man named Ronni said that "the native people from S-Valley, they are my elders. In this urban setting, we the two-spirit people, LGBTQ people in your culture, say [the "s" word] is like calling me a 'fag.' I am a proud Indigenous person. My existence is my resistance. We will fight [the use of] the s- word until the end."

Rieka Raintree, addressing Magsig, said, "You received a letter from my husband [Roman] telling you that our lives were threatened at the meeting in S-Valley. You replied that it wasn't true and called us liars. We have it all recorded, and it is true.

"As I speak right now, in the Facebook group that you say nothing happened in, there are threats against us. Your fake ballot doesn't reflect the views of the community.

"The men up here [the supervisors] are one demographic and need to be replaced. You don't reflect the demographics of this county, you don't respect all of the people of S-Valley and it's time for you to go."

Many other thoughtful comments were made by supporters of the name change. In the end, the BOS, even though they voted 3 to 1 for a nonbinding resolution that exposed their biases, incompetence and undemocratic tactics, lost.

Bob McCloskey is a member of Residents for Renaming S Valley.

Regarding the "S" Word

By Bob McCloskey

Delaine Bill, a 58-year-old Mono/Yokut resident born and raised in Dunlap, attended the Oct. 11 Fresno County Board of Supervisors meeting. He and his ancestors have lived in the S-Valley area (now renamed Yokuts Basin by the federal government) for at least 7,000 years, and possibly as long ago as 50,000 years according to the Fresno County Historical Society.

"I'm from everywhere," says Bill, "and here is where my people are buried, in S-Valley, my grandfathers, my aunties, my grandmothers, my cousins....I was told [Highway] 180 pushed through our cemetery on the flats through S-Valley.

"This ["s" word], I don't know where it came from. I don't believe that a tribe gave the right to use it. I believe it came from Fresno County. It's gone on for decades, not taking responsibility for the consequences of the ["s" word].

"As Indian people, we have to drive through every day and look at that sign that belittles us, every day, to look at that sign on businesses that say [the "s" word]. Some people don't understand that word is offensive. Maybe it's because they have never been offended.

"You get an ugly feeling that makes you sick and belittles you as a citizen of this country. The Board of Supervisors should have changed it long ago.

"I am here for my grandma, my aunt, my sister, my daughters and my granddaughters. They are having to grow up being called this.

"Supervisor [Nathan] Magsig is not willing to talk about the name being offensive. He just wants to hear from those who want to keep the name. He needs their vote."



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A Year of the Central Valley Fuego Football Club

By Peter Maiden

Around five years ago, I was speculating on what would be the most fun subject to photograph. It came to me: soccer!

When I was young, soccer was my favorite sport, and I played varsity in high school. It is called “the beautiful game,” and I thought I would create photos that would convey the beauty.

To my surprise, in 2018, pro soccer came to Fresno! The Fresno Foxes played two seasons at Chukchansi Stadium and then dissolved. But then in 2022 pro soccer was back, and the Central Valley Fuego Football Club (Fuego FC) played their inaugural season at the Fresno State soccer stadium.

In this story, I want to address the year for Fuego FC and “soccer photography.”

Nehemias Blanco, known as “Nini,” is vice president of Fútbol of Fuego FC. He oversees the soccer side of things and some of the business aspects, including scouting and signing players. He is often the spokesperson for the organization. We spoke as the 2022 season wound down.

Blanco told me that his parents are both immigrants from El Salvador to Fresno. He started playing soccer at the age of three. Beginning at age 15, he played with the original Fuego, the sensational amateur team that represented Fresno from 2003 to 2017. He also played at Fresno Pacific University and later signed on with a team in the Salvadoran First Division.

Several Fuego FC players had their formative experiences with the original Fuego, Blanco pointed out, including Christian Chaney, Diego Casillas, Renato Bustamante and Nathan Smith.

Back in the day, the Fuego had some special moments. One was going up against Major League Soccer’s L.A. Galaxy at an all-levels tournament. After starting out a goal ahead, they lost that game 3-1, but wow, what excitement!

Fans remember the original Fuego well. Blanco said, “There’s a tradition, there’s a love for the shield.”

What equipment does it take to photograph a soccer game? In 2016, the Nikon company introduced its new flagship camera for the Brazil Olympics, the D5. I purchased one the next year, and I’ve been taking 10,000 pictures a year with it ever since.

For soccer, I use a compact telephoto lens, with a converter to extend its reach. To avoid fatigue, and keep the camera aimed correctly, I use a carbon fiber monopod, which is basically a one-legged tripod.

Many hoped the original Fuego would go professional, but instead the Foxes, owned by Frank Beshoff, became Fresno’s first professional team, playing in the United Soccer League (USL). The USL is a level below Major League Soccer. MLS teams on the West Coast are the L.A. Galaxy, the San Jose Earthquakes, the Portland Timbers, the Seattle Sounders and the Vancouver Whitecaps. The Whitecaps sponsored the Foxes.

Problems for the Foxes—including not playing in a stadium dedicated only to soccer, which was only allowed by the league for two years—led to their starting over in Monterey and becoming the USL team Monterey Bay FC. They play in the

dedicated soccer stadium at CSU Monterey Bay, which is built on the site of the Army’s old Fort Ord.

Fuego FC is a USL1 team, which is one level down from the USL. The team management is interested in moving Fuego FC up to the USL but wants to take it slow. They don’t want to jump in the USL and only last a couple of years, as did the Foxes. Permanence is the issue.

“When it comes to community,” Blanco said, “I think the only way that you could have a professional team survive is when you’re in touch with the community and when you show the community that this professional team is here for them, and we’re not going anywhere.”

A strong development for the community on the part of Fuego FC is the Regional Training Center that former Foxes coach Adam Smith has organized. It is an academy for players ages 16 to 19, with facilities in Fresno, Bakersfield and Merced. If they are good enough, players in the academy can integrate into Fuego FC.

Also searching for new talent, Blanco’s been doing some globe-trotting. He recently came back from a scouting trip to Spain, France and South Africa. He saw a lot of games.

“You’re just like, man, these guys just need a bit more structure and play every day and they’ll be incredible footballers!,” says Blanco. “So [we’re] opening doors and networking.”

The Foxes and Fuego FC played at night under lights. Fortunately, my camera is extremely sensitive in low light. Remember, with film, you could get a rating of ASA 100 or 400? Now, I sometimes shoot at a rating of 25,600! The image quality is such that I can make a large print and have the picture be clear.

With sports in mind, the camera has a separate computer just for the focus—it can follow players through quick moves and keep them sharp, while shooting 12 frames per second.

The map of USL1 teams shows that they are based mainly on the East Coast. Blanco said, “It’s tough flying to the coast. We’re getting there no earlier than 11 p.m. to 12 midnight and playing the next day.”

There is expansion going on in the West, however. New teams are starting out in Santa Barbara and Spokane, and there are others in the works.

New professional teams just about always run in the red. Fuego FC’s owners, Juan and Alicia Ruelas, are supporting financial losses for now. In time, the organization, of course, wants to break even or turn a profit.

The process of getting a good shot is simple, although it isn’t easy. I wait until players are at a distance from me where their figures fill the frame in the viewfinder, roughly in midfield. Hopefully the ball is in the frame. I lock focus on the key player and start firing, and I keep firing until the ball is kicked away. I want to see the players’ faces and show more than one player at the same distance from the camera.

The Fresno State soccer stadium holds about 2,500 fans. Fuego FC shares it with the Fresno State men’s and women’s soccer teams, who in their seasons practice there during the day. The Fuego FC games are on Saturday evenings, or sometimes on Wednesdays.

Fuego FC only sold out two games this season, the first and the last of their home games. There’s a special feeling when the stands are full. Monterey Bay FC fills the stands with regularity. Blanco says Fuego FC will do what it can to see that happen in the coming year.

Standing close to the field has its risks. Once, at Chukchansi Stadium photographing a Foxes game, a player from the other team



In a Sept. 21 game, Fuego FC’s Alexis Cerritos jumps over a player from the opposing team, Forward Madison FC of Madison, Wisc. Photo by Peter Maiden

was frustrated by a call, and while play was stopped, he kicked the ball off the field. It came right at me and hit me in the stomach. It hurt, but I was glad it didn’t hit my camera! He came up to me a few minutes later and apologized. I thought that was sporting, and I forgave the guy.

Chris Estep is a Fuego FC super-fan and leader of the Skulk, a supporters’ organization. The supporters are members of several organizations, also including the Vigilantes and the Esquadrón. They wear team gear, play drums and light smoke bombs when Fuego FC scores. Estep attended nearly every game this season, banging a drum and singing throughout.

He appreciates the quality of the team. He said, “Christian Chaney has done well. Diego Casillas can play well. [Villyjan] Bijev has been one of the best in the USL over the past several years. And then we had a bunch of other people who came in and did well.”

However, Estep was outspoken about the downside of the changes transitioning from Foxes games at Chukchansi to Fuego FC games at Fresno State.

“It was a big transition I think, in a couple of different ways,” he said.

“For one, the team is in a lower league. It’s one level down from the Foxes. So, there were a lot of people who kind of felt like it dropped a level, a big level, in the product that we were getting.

“Also, with the [original] Fuego, and then with the Foxes, there was kind of a longstanding tradition of gathering before the matches and after the matches at [breweries like] Tioga, Sequoia or other places in downtown that were available. That wasn’t possible at Fresno State.

“There, there wasn’t anywhere nearby that could host that kind of gathering. We had pre-match tailgating in the parking lot, which didn’t really turn out to be much.

“It was expensive to park (\$20), and so not a lot of people showed up for those. Plus, the heat, it was always really hot out there. There’s no shade.”

Estep also complained about the high prices charged by the concessions, for which the profits he said went to Fresno State: “Bottles of water were \$5 and, you know, in the heat of Fresno, a \$5 bottle of water just seems cruel.”

Estep’s complaints should be a caution to Fuego FC. Life is not all peaches and cream. The fans have their feelings, and they need to be respected.

The last Fuego FC home game of the season, I was not getting lucky. I didn’t feel I had any good shots. I checked each one on the back of my camera. Nothing! This had never happened before. I always had something.

I steadied myself and told myself, “That’s soccer!” But when I put them on the computer days later just to see what went wrong, frame 390 out of 413 was a real keeper!

I had simply been fatigued when checking it out and missed its significance. It’s the photo that you see with the Spanish version of this story. Now that’s the beautiful game! I can’t wait until next year...

Peter Maiden is the photo editor of the Community Alliance newspaper.

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Un año del Club de Fútbol Central Valley Fuego

Por Peter Maiden

Hace unos cinco años, especulaba sobre cuál sería el tema más divertido

para fotografiar. Se me ocurrió: ¡Fútbol!

Cuando era joven, el fútbol era mi deporte favorito y jugué en el equipo principal en la escuela preparatoria. Se le llama el juego bonito, y pensé en crear fotos que transmitieran esa belleza.

Para mi sorpresa, en 2018, ¡el fútbol profesional llegó a Fresno! Los Fresno Foxes jugaron dos temporadas en el Chukchans! Stadium y luego se disolvieron. Pero luego, en 2022, el fútbol profesional regresó y el Central Valley Fuego Football Club (Fuego FC) jugó su temporada inaugural en el estadio de fútbol de Fresno State.

En esta historia quiero abordar el año de Fuego FC, y la fotografía de fútbol.

Nehemías Blanco, conocido como "Nini", es vicepresidente de fútbol del Fuego FC. Supervisa el aspecto futbolístico de las cosas y algunos de los aspectos comerciales, incluida la exploración y contratación de jugadores. A menudo es el portavoz de la organización. Hablamos mientras terminaba la temporada 2022.

Blanco me dijo que sus padres emigraron de El Salvador a Fresno. Empezó a jugar al fútbol a los tres años. A los 15 años jugó en el equipo Fuego original, el sensacional equipo amateur que representó a Fresno de 2003 a 2017. También jugó en Fresno Pacific University y luego fichó por un equipo de la Primera División salvadoreña.

Varios jugadores de Fuego FC tuvieron sus experiencias formativas con el Fuego original, señaló Blanco, incluidos Estephan Chaney, Diego Casillas, Renato Bustamante y Nathan Smith.

En ese tiempo, Fuego tuvo algunos momentos muy especiales. Uno de esos momentos fue jugar contra L.A. Galaxy, de la Major League Soccer en un torneo de todos los niveles. Después de empezar con un gol de ventaja, ese partido lo perdieron 3-1, pero ¡guan, qué emoción! Los fanáticos recuerdan bien al Fuego original. Blanco dijo: "Hay una tradición, hay un amor por el escudo".

¿Qué equipo se necesita para fotografiar un partido de fútbol? En 2016, la empresa Nikon presentó su nueva cámara insignia para los Juegos Olímpicos de Brasil, la D5. Compré una al año siguiente y desde entonces he estado tomando 10,000 fotos al año con ella.

Para el fútbol, utilizo un teleobjetivo compacto con un convertidor para ampliar su alcance. Para evitar el cansancio y mantener la cámara apuntada correctamente, utilizo un monopie de fibra de carbono, que es básicamente un trípode de una sola pata.

Muchos esperaban que el Fuego original se hiciera profesional, pero los Foxes, propiedad de Frank Beshoff, se convirtieron en el primer equipo profesional de Fresno, jugando en la United Soccer League (USL). La USL está un nivel por debajo de la Major League Soccer. Los equipos de la MLS en la costa oeste son L.A. Galaxy, San Jose Earthquakes, Portland Timbers, Seattle Sounders y Vancouver Whitecaps. Los Whitecaps patrocinaron a los Foxes.

Los problemas para los Foxes—incluido el hecho de no jugar en un estadio dedicado únicamente al fútbol, algo que la liga solo permite solo durante dos años—los llevaron a comenzar de nuevo en Monterey y convertirse en el equipo de la USL Monterey Bay FC. Juegan en el estadio de fútbol exclusivo de la Universidad Estatal de California Monterey Bay, que está construido en el sitio del antiguo Fuerte Ord, del ejército.

Fuego FC es un equipo de la USL, que está un nivel por debajo de la USL, pero quiere tomarlo con calma. No quieren saltar a la USL y solo la USL, La gerencia del equipo está interesada en trasladar Fuego FC a

"Cuando se trata de la comunidad", dijo Blanco, "creo que la única manera de que un equipo profesional sobreviva es cuando estás en contacto con la comunidad y cuando le muestras a la comunidad que este equipo profesional está aquí para ellos, y no se va a ninguna parte." Un importante desarrollo para la comunidad por parte de Fuego FC es el Centro de Entrenamiento Regional que ha organizado el ex entrenador de los Foxes, Adam Smith. Es una academia para jugadores de 16 a 19 años, con instalaciones en Fresno, Bakersfield y Merced. Si son lo suficientemente buenos, los jugadores de la academia pueden integrarse en Fuego FC.

También en busca de nuevos talentos, Blanco ha estado haciendo algunos viajes por el mundo. Recientemente regresó de un viaje de exploración a España, Francia y Sudáfrica. Vio muchos juegos. "Es como, hombre, estos muchachos solo necesitan un poco más de estructura y jugar todos los días y serán futbolistas increíbles! Así que [estamos] abriendo puertas y creando redes".

Los Foxes y Fuego FC jugaron de noche bajo luces. Afortunadamente, mi cámara es extremadamente sensible con poca luz. ¿Recuerdas que con las películas la sensibilidad era de 100 ó 400 ASA? ¡Ahora, a veces disparo a un nivel de 25,600! La calidad de la imagen es tal que puedo hacer una impresión grande y la imagen es clara.

Con los deportes en mente, la cámara tiene una computadora separada solo para el enfoque: puede seguir a los jugadores a través de movimientos muy rápidos y velos nitidamente, mientras dispara 12 cuadros por segundo.

El mapa de los equipos de la USL muestra que se basan principalmente en la costa este.

Blanco dijo: "Es difícil volar a la costa. No llegaremos antes de las 11 p.m. o las 12 de la noche y al día siguiente tenemos que jugar."

Sin embargo, se está produciendo una expansión en la costa oeste. Se están creando nuevos equipos en Santa Bárbara y Spokane, y hay otros en preparación.

Los nuevos equipos profesionales casi siempre están en números rojos. Los dueños de Fuego FC, Juan y Alicia Ruelas, por ahora aguantan las pérdidas. Con el tiempo, la organización, por supuesto, quiere alcanzar el punto de equilibrio o lograr ganancias.

El proceso de conseguir una buena toma es sencillo, aunque no es fácil.

Espero hasta que los jugadores estén a una distancia de mí donde sus figuras llenen el cuadro en el visor, aproximadamente en el mediocampo.

Ojalá la pelota esté en el cuadro. Sello el foco en el jugador clave y empiezo a disparar, y sigo disparando hasta que patean la pelota. Quiero ver las caras de los jugadores y mostrar a más de un jugador a la misma distancia de la cámara.

El estadio de fútbol de Fresno State tiene capacidad para unos 2500 aficionados. Fuego FC lo comparte con los equipos de fútbol masculino y femenino de Fresno State, quienes en sus temporadas practican allí durante el día. Los juegos de Fuego FC son los sábados por la noche o, a veces, los miércoles.

Fuego FC solo logró la capacidad máxima en dos juegos esta temporada, el primero y el último de sus juegos en casa. Hay una sensación especial cuando las gradas están llenas. Monterey Bay FC llena las gradas con regularidad. Blanco dice que Fuego FC hará todo lo posible para que eso suceda el próximo año.

Pararse cerca del campo tiene sus riesgos. Una vez, en el estadio Chukchans!, fotografiando un juego de los Foxes, un jugador del otro equipo se sintió frustrado por una llamada de atención que recibí y, mientras el juego estaba detenido, pateó el balón fuera del campo. Vino directamente hacia mí y me golpeó en el estómago. Me dolió, ¡pero me alegré de que no golpeará mi cámara! Se acercó a mí unos minutos más tarde y se disculpó.

Pensé que era deportivo y lo perdono.



Diego Casillas, de Fuego FC's, disputa el balón en los últimos minutos del partido contra Northern Colorado Hailstorm FC, el 1 de octubre. Foto de Peter Maiden

Chris Estep es un superfanático de Fuego FC y líder de Skulk, una organización de seguidores. Los simpatizantes son miembros de varias organizaciones, incluyendo también los Vigilantes y Escuadrón. Visten la indumentaria del equipo, tocan la batería y encienden bombas de humo cuando el Fuego FC anota. Estep asistió a casi todos los juegos de esta temporada, tocando un tambor y cantando todo el tiempo.

Valora la calidad del equipo. El dijo: "Estephan Chaney ha jugado bien. Diego Casillas puede jugar bien. [Villyjan] Bijejv ha sido uno de los mejores de la USL en los últimos años. Y luego tuvimos un montón más de jugadores que cuando les tocó jugar lo hicieron bien". Sin embargo, Estep habló abiertamente sobre la desventaja de los cambios en la transición de los juegos de Foxes en Chukchans! a los juegos de Fuego FC en Fresno State.

"Creo que fue una gran transición en dos aspectos", dijo. "Por un lado, el equipo está en una liga inferior. Está un nivel por debajo de los Foxes. Entonces, hubo muchas personas que sintieron que se bajó un nivel, un gran nivel, respecto al producto que estábamos obteniendo.

"Además, con el [original] Fuego, y luego con los Foxes, había una especie de larga tradición de reunirse antes y después de los partidos en [cervecerías como] Tloga, Sequoia u otros lugares en el centro que estaban disponibles. Eso no fue posible en Fresno State.

"Allí, no había ningún lugar cercano que pudiera albergar ese tipo de reunión. Tuvimos seguimiento previo al partido en el estacionamiento, para eso. Además, el calor, siempre hacía mucho calor ahí fuera. No hay sombra.

Estep también se quejó de los altos precios cobrados por las concesiones, cuyas ganancias dijo que iban a Fresno State: "Las botellas de agua costaban \$5 y, en el calor de Fresno, una botella de agua de \$5 parece cruel."

Las quejas de Estep deben ser una advertencia para Fuego FC. La vida no es todo color de rosas. Los fanáticos tienen sus sentimientos y deben ser respetados.

Durante el último partido en casa de Fuego FC de la temporada, no estaba teniendo suerte. No sentí que tuviera buenas tomas. Revisé cada suceso antes. Siempre tenía algo.

Me tranquilicé y me dije: "¡Eso es fútbol!". Pero cuando las puse en la computadora días después solo para ver qué salió mal, ¡la toma 390 de 413 estaba realmente buena!

Simplemente estaba cansado cuando las revisé y no pude apreciar su valor. Es la foto que pueden ver en la versión en español de esta nota. ¡Ese es el juego bonito! No veo el momento de que empiece la próxima temporada...

Peter Maiden es el editor de fotografía de Community Alliance.

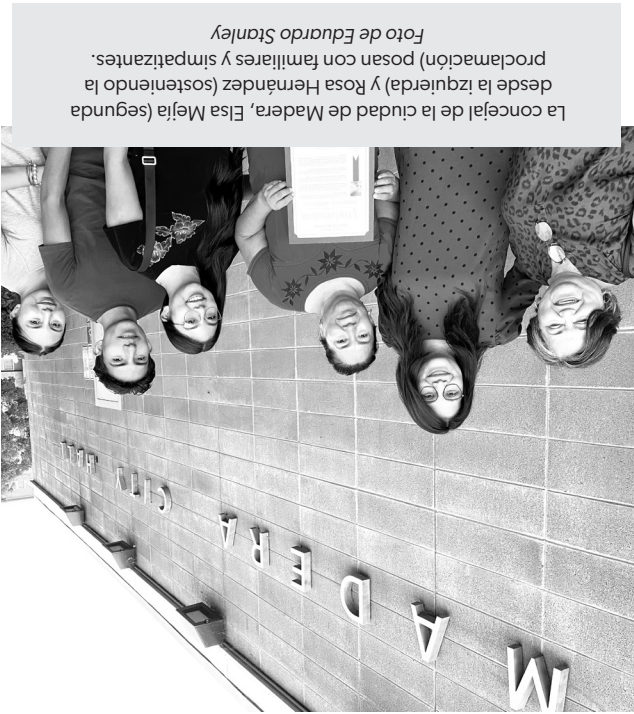
golpe, porque nuestra comunidad pasó por mucho a lo largo de los siglos, desde la conquista... Necesitaba hablar con mi mamá sobre eso", dijo José Eduardo Chávez, un mixteco de 29 años que vive en Madera. "Es inaceptable que sigamos recibiendo estos comentarios racistas. Sabemos lo que está pasando, sabemos lo que pasa con los 'whiteicans', latinos mestizos que quieren diferenciarse de los indígenas y presumir de tener la piel más clara, pero no esperábamos esto de personas que dicen ser líderes. Y tener cierta formación política". Para Chávez, estos comentarios son racistas y podrían motivar violencia. Expresó su apoyo a las comunidades indígenas del Valle Central a quienes marcharon en Los Angeles pidiendo las renuncias de Cedillo y De León. La ciudad de Arvin en el condado de Kern y la ciudad de Madera son conocidas por tener las poblaciones indígenas más grandes del Valle Central. El año pasado, Elisa Mejía, de 33 años, de origen mixteco, fue elegida la primera concejal indígena del Valle en Madera. Por su parte, varias organizaciones latinas no están de acuerdo con pedir la renuncia de los concejales y preguntan quién reemplazaría a los líderes en disputa. Su sugerencia es "seguir adelante". "Los latinos blancos tienen una larga historia de discriminación y racismo contra nuestra gente", dijo Chávez. "Sin embargo,

Eduardo Stanley es el editor de Alianza Comunitaria. Puede contactarlo en: editor@fresnoalliance.com.

este nivel de hipocresía no es muy común, y si, esto incita a la violencia racial". Hace varios años, mientras trabajaba como reportero para un canal de televisión en español en Fresno, le pregunté a un trabajador agrícola oaxaqueño si alguna vez se sintió discriminado por los blancos. El respondió con una expresión de curiosidad y dijo: "Aquí casi no veo gente blanca, pero te puedo decir que los que nos discriminan, los mestizos mexicanos". Poco ha cambiado en todos estos años. Nota del editor: este informe es parte de la campaña "Stop the Hate". La campaña Stop the Hate es posible gracias a los fondos de la Biblioteca del Estado de California (CSL) en asociación con la Comisión de California de Asuntos Estadounidenses de las Islas Asiáticas y del Pacífico (CAPIAA). Las opiniones expresadas en este artículo y otros materiales producidos por San Joaquín Valley Media Alliance o el periódico Community Alliance no reflejan necesariamente las políticas oficiales de CSL, CAPIAA o del gobierno de California. Obtenга más información en capiaa.ca.gov/stop-the-hate." *****

Aunque ambos partidos son responsables de que el sistema de inmigración sea disfuncional, los republicanos le están culpando al presidente Biden y a los demócratas, una estrategia que parece estar funcionando ya que los informes muestran una ventaja del partido Republicano (GOP) entre los votantes latinos/as desde 2020. La desinformación también prevalece dentro de la comunidad de habla china, dice Rong Xiaoqing, un reportero del Sing Tao Daily en idioma chino en Nueva York, que monitorea las redes sociales chinas. "El medio social más popular entre los chinos es WeChat", afirma Xiaoqing, quien añade que muchas de estas discusiones se producen en grupos privados, lo que dificulta darles seguimiento. Aunque el gobierno chino censura WeChat, su irrupción en las conversaciones en torno a COVID fue "relativamente limpia", explicó Xiaoqing. "Al gobierno chino le interesa vacunar a la gente y luchar contra la COVID-19". La desinformación relacionada con la política estadounidense es otra historia. "Se extiende por WeChat porque al gobierno chino le interesa hacer creer que Estados Unidos y su democracia se están derrumbando", dijo. También hay narrativas que se difunden a través de WeChat en las que hay una coincidencia con las narrativas que se difunden en español. "El gobierno de Biden está emitiendo una tarjeta verde temporal a los inmigrantes ilegales. Esas son sus palabras exactas, inmigrantes ilegales", señaló Xiaoqing. "A lo que se refieren en realidad es a una tarjeta de identificación que el Servicio de Aduanas e Inmigración (ICE) planea emitir a los inmigrantes que lleguen a la frontera para ayudarles a acceder rápidamente a su expediente y reservar audiencias relacionadas con inmigración". Para los inmigrantes chinos que solicitan la tarjeta verde a través del proceso oficial, es un mensaje que puede resonar. "Cuando vean que... alguien lo consigue antes que yo mediante un atajo, no estarán contentos". A principios de este año, la organización sin fines de lucro, Chinese for Affirmative Action, lanzó el sitio web de comprobación de hechos *Fiyaboda*. "Hacen una verificación de información en chino. No sólo te dicen 'Oh, aquí hay una información errónea que está circulando en las plataformas de medios sociales en chino', sino que también investigan sobre la disposición del mensaje y su evolución a lo largo de los años", dijo Xiaoqing.

Peter White es editor asociado de Ethnic Media Services.



La concejal de la ciudad de Madera, Elisa Mejía (segunda desde la izquierda) y Rosa Hernández (sosteniendo la proclamación) posan con familiares y simpatizantes.

Foto de Eduardo Stanley

Madera proclama Día de los Pueblos Indígenas

Por Community Alliance

Madera es la primera ciudad en el Valle Central en emitir una proclamación del "Día de los Pueblos Indígenas". El evento histórico tuvo lugar el 5 de octubre durante la reunión regular del Concejo Municipal ante una emocionada audiencia. Madera es el hogar de una gran población indígena del sur de México—mixtecos, zapotecas y triquis del estado de Oaxaca y purépechas del estado de Michoacán—y nativos americanos locales. La proclamación, que fue firmada por el alcalde de Madera, Santos García, estableció el 10 de octubre como el "Día de los Pueblos Indígenas".

"La idea de una proclama surgió después de reuniones con los residentes locales y la presente al Concejo Municipal

un mes antes. Todos estuvieron de acuerdo", dijo la concejal de la ciudad de Madera, Elisa Mejía. Ella es la primera indígena en ser electa en el Valle Central. Mejía, de origen mixteco, nació en Fresno y ha vivido en Madera toda su vida. Mejía entregó la proclamación a Rosa Hernández, una mixteca madre de cuatro hijos que trabajó en el campo durante varios años antes de convertirse en propietaria de una pequeña empresa. Hernández es considerada como una reconocida historiadora oral y promotora de la cultura indígena. Hernández fue clave en la organización del Día de los Muertos en el Parque de la Corte el 1 de noviembre, un evento fuertemente apoyado por Mejía y otros miembros del Concejo de Madera. Los indígenas de Oaxaca comenzaron a emigrar en gran número a los Estados Unidos durante la década de 1980. Actualmente representan la principal fuerza laboral en los campos agrícolas de California y otros estados. No hay cifras exactas de cuántos oaxaqueños hay en California. Los Ángeles es el hogar de miles de inmigrantes oaxaqueños. En el Valle Central, Madera y Arvin (en el condado de Kern) son reconocidas por su gran número de residentes indígenas.

La radio en español es el medio de comunicación preferido por los latinos en estados como Florida y Texas. *Fatchequeado*, una plataforma de verificación de información en español, reporta las noticias falsas en los medios de comunicación en español utilizando WhatsApp, un servicio de mensajería instantánea multiplataforma muy popular entre las comunidades latinas. *Fatchequeado* comenzó a funcionar en abril con el apoyo de la iniciativa de noticias de Google y sigue el modelo de dos operaciones similares, *Malidita*, es en España y *Chequedo* en Argentina. Cuenta con 30 medios de comunicación grandes y pequeños que colaboran como vigilantes de las noticias falsas. "Estamos viendo mucha desinformación similar a la de las pasadas elecciones", dice la directora de *Fatchequeado*, Tamoia Calzadilla, ex directora de comprobación de hechos en Univisión, la mayor cadena de televisión en español de Estados Unidos. Las acusaciones de fraude en las elecciones de 2020 son comunes, junto con otras narrativas falsas dirigidas a las comunidades latinas. Calzadilla citó una historia falsa que circula en las emisoras de radio de Florida que afirma que el Servicio de Impuestos Internos (IRS) compró munición para atacar a la gente en sus casas y robar su dinero. Otras dos narrativas falsas que circulan ampliamente en las comunidades de habla hispana son "la crisis fronteriza" y la teoría del reemplazo racial que dice que las autoridades de inmigración de EE.UU. están dejando que los "ilegales" entren en el país para reemplazar a los blancos. Calzadilla dijo que ambos partidos dan vueltas a las noticias, pero que la oleada de desinformación sobre la delincuencia y especialmente sobre la inmigración, proviene de los conservadores. Cuando los locutores de radio llaman "ilegales" a los inmigrantes indocumentados, están haciendo una declaración política y difundiendo también una narrativa falsa. La dura verdad es que el país está polarizado y hambriento de noticias que influyan en sus opiniones y refuercen lo que ya creen. La inmigración es un tema importante para los latinos en este momento y los ideólogos lo están explotando. Algunos latinos ven a los Dreamers y a los nuevos solicitantes de asilo como inmigrantes igual que ellos. Otros con estatus legal, o que lo están esperando, ven a los recién llegados como tramposos que intentan saltarse la cola.

La noticias falsas ahora se distribuyen a mayor velocidad

Continúa de página 24

Aportan sus conocimientos y habilidades agrícolas ancestrales, así como su cultura, incluidos sus idiomas y su cocina sofisticada. En la grabación, para empearoar las cosas, se puede escuchar a los tres miembros del Ayuntamiento planeando modificar un distrito de la ciudad para privar a un miembro rival del Ayuntamiento de un área importante, además de planeear el nombramiento de un concejal de su preferencia política para un curul vacante. La indignación de la comunidad oaxaqueña en Los Ángeles, y en otros lugares, cobró impulso con varias protestas en las reuniones del Concejo Municipal de Los Angeles. Martínez renunció primero a su cargo como presidenta del Concejo y luego a su escaño en el Concejo. Herrera también renunció, pero tanto Cedillo como De León se han mostrado reacios a seguir ese camino. De León dijo recientemente durante una entrevista con un canal de televisión en español que no renunciará "porque todavía hay mucho por hacer". Martínez renunció primero a su cargo como presidenta del Concejo y luego a su escaño en el Concejo. Herrera también renunció, pero tanto Cedillo como De León se han mostrado reacios a seguir ese camino. De León dijo recientemente durante una entrevista con un canal de televisión en español que no renunciará "porque todavía hay mucho por hacer". Martínez renunció primero a su cargo como presidenta del Concejo y luego a su escaño en el Concejo. Herrera también renunció, pero tanto Cedillo como De León se han mostrado reacios a seguir ese camino. De León dijo recientemente durante una entrevista con un canal de televisión en español que no renunciará "porque todavía hay mucho por hacer".

"Estos no son comentarios increíbles para nosotros; los escuchamos a diario", dijo Odilia Romero, fundadora y directora ejecutiva de CIELO (Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo). Romero es de origen zapoteco. "No es una sorpresa para nosotros. Muestran su desprecio hacia los indígenas en el trabajo... Cedillo fue inclusive violento contra los vendedores ambulantes guatemaltecos en su distrito". Para Romero, estos comentarios incitan al odio y la violencia. "Martínez renunció, pero ella sigue pensando lo mismo, y los otros dos, supongo que están pensando que la gente se olvidará de este incidente", dijo Romero. "Tienen la piel dura". Romero señala que los negros y los indígenas han sido discriminados por generaciones y que su comunidad seguirá presionando a Cedillo y De León para que renuncien. "Cuando me enteré del contenido del audio me sentí enojado, sentí como un

Somos Nuestros Propios Enemigos, Cuando Los Racistas Son Tu Propia Gente

LLAMA A LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996



Cientos de oaxaqueños del área de Los Angeles marcharon exigiendo la dimisión de Cedillo y De León. Foto cortesía CIELO

Cedillo bromea sobre la altura de los “coreanos oaxaqueños” (?). Oaxaca es un estado del sur de México y hogar de una gran población indígena con 16 comunidades, siendo las mixtecas, zapotecas y triquis como las más numerosas. Estos grupos comenzaron a emigrar a los Estados Unidos a mediados de la década de 1980 y actualmente son la principal fuerza laboral en la mayoría de los campos de California.

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Somos Nuestros Propios Enemigos, Cuando Los Racistas Son Tu Propia Gente

Por Eduardo Stanley

A principios de octubre, durante el llamado Mes de la Herencia Hispana, la cuenta de Internet Reddit difundió un audio en el que se puede escuchar a cuatro latinos haciendo comentarios racistas sobre los inmigrantes indígenas de Oaxaca, México, y los negros. El archivo fue reproducido más tarde por otros medios.

La sorpresa inicial se convirtió en desilusión e incluso enojo cuando se expuso la identidad de esas personas: la presidenta del Concejo Municipal de Los Angeles, Nury Martínez, los miembros del Concejo Municipal de Los Angeles, Kevin De León y Gil Cedillo, y el presidente de la Federación Laboral del Condado de Los Angeles, Ron Herrera.

Los comentarios se hicieron y se grabaron, durante una reunión que tuvo lugar el 18 de octubre de 2021 en la Federación Laboral del Condado de Los Angeles, que luego declaró que el audio fue filtrado debido a fallas de seguridad en varias oficinas dentro de la organización.

En ese audio se puede escuchar a Martínez decir que los oaxaqueños son “feos” y pregunta irónicamente, entre risas, “¿de qué ranchos vienen?”. De León y Cedillo agregaron sus propios comentarios despectivos sobre los oaxaqueños.

La grabación también incluía comentarios racistas sobre otras minorías: “Chin...su ma...ese tipo, él está con los negros”, dijo Martínez sobre el fiscal de distrito George Gascon. Además, Martínez se burló del hijo adoptado del concejal de la ciudad de Los Angeles, Mike Bonin, “Parece un changuito”. Fue aún más lejos diciendo que “este niño necesita una paliza. Déjame llevarlo a la vuelta de la esquina, y lo traigo de regreso al rato”.

La noticias falsas ahora se distribuyen a mayor velocidad

Por Peter White, Ethnic Media Services

A medida que se acercan las elecciones intermedias, los votantes son bombardeados con desinformación en múltiples idiomas.

Las personas adictas a las noticias falsas las obtienen de fuentes en las que confían. El problema es que quienes las producen saben que están mintiendo.

“Esta información siempre ha existido”, dice Vanessa Cárdenas, subdirectora de La Voz de las Américas y experta en desinformación política. Durante una conferencia de prensa de Ethnic Media Services la semana pasada, Cárdenas dijo que hay muchas más noticias falsas y que se propagan rápidamente.

“Así que eso es, creo, lo que es diferente, la forma en que estamos consumiendo información ha cambiado. Esto ha creado este monstruo que no somos capaces de controlar y muchas veces las plataformas tampoco son capaces de controlar, dijo.

“Las noticias que engañan llegan a millones de personas a través de Facebook y Twitter. Cuando Fox News vende teorías conspirativas, se dirige a una audiencia que quiere creer el mensaje sin importar si es cierto o no”.

Cárdenas dijo que las falsas narrativas sobre la inmigración, el crimen y la economía están floreciendo en Fox News y sus espectadores las ven repetirse constantemente a medida que se acercan las elecciones de mitad de período. Dijo que la derecha ha creado una cámara de eco que refuerza y amplifica los estereotipos negativos sobre los inmigrantes o repite la “gran mentira” de que Donald Trump ganó las elecciones de 2020. “Vemos que los candidatos, los candidatos republicanos, están tomando muchos de estos temas y los están usando en sus anuncios. La Voz de las Américas ha estado rastreando los anuncios de televisión de las campañas en todo el país y vemos cientos y cientos de anuncios. También se distribuyen cientos y cientos de correos electrónicos que provienen de estas campañas que tocan estos temas”, dijo Cárdenas.

La desinformación crea un ciclo de retroalimentación que amplifica los mensajes falsos a los votantes y los políticos los utilizan para ganar elecciones.

“Es una táctica política. No hay sustancia política. No es una conversación basada en hechos. No es una conversación orientada a la solución. Se trata de darle algo sabroso a sus seguidores”, dijo.

A esta gran cantidad de desinformación se suma una serie de leyes recientemente promulgadas que restringen el derecho al voto. De acuerdo con el Centro Brennan para la Justicia, después de las elecciones de 2020, durante el 2021 fueron aprobadas 42 leyes restrictivas del voto.

Mekela Panditharatne, del Programa de democracia del Centro Brennan, señaló que estas leyes “se dirigen a los votantes latinos y negros o tienen un impacto desproporcionado sobre ellos. Y encontramos que los nuevos votantes registrados tienen más probabilidades de ser latinos, dijo.

Muchos de estos nuevos votantes están siendo bombardeados con información errónea en plataformas en español.

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Marta Cabrera, con un cartel que dice “Equal Education” (Igualdad Educativa), aplaude a uno de los presentadores durante un evento en favor de la construcción de la escuela preparatoria en Huron. Foto de Peter Maiden

Qué: Reunión Comunitaria Contra el Odio

Cuándo: Jueves, 17 de noviembre, a las 5:30pm

Dónde: Centro Comunitario John Palacios, 16486 4th St., Huron

Presentación especial: **Rey León, alcalde de Huron**

!Pizza gratis!

!Rifas!

El aumento de violencia de odio a través de California y de EE.UU. ha despertado un amplio llamado a la acción gracias a fondos proveídos por la Biblioteca de California, bajo la iniciativa “Stop the Hate” (“Detengamos el Odio”). Este evento esta organizado por el periódico *Community Alliance* y por el alcalde de Huron, Rey León.