



EN ESPAÑOL  
PÁGINAS 17-20

# Knowledge Is Power

By Paulina Cruz

“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. That’s why we’re standing up for our students and our rights.”—Rey León, mayor of Huron

Hate stems from fear and ignorance; the best lines of defense are knowledge and bravery. We have all heard the saying that “knowledge is power.” Without knowing the causes for things, how can we ever change them for the better?

Throughout American history there have been a plethora of examples of institutionalized racism, where the system has been designed to undermine communities of color. One of many issues with our school systems is how schools in predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods are severely underfunded and underserved.

Huron is a small rural city in west Fresno County with a population of approximately 7,100 (depending on the harvest season), 94% of whom are Hispanic. This primarily immigrant and farmworker community has continued to grow over the past few decades, despite not receiving needed resources.

On Nov. 17, more than 100 people gathered at the John Palacios Community Center for a town hall meeting set up by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, the *Community Alliance* newspaper and Huron mayor León to discuss the need for a local high school and the steps needed to make that dream a reality. Local residents and community leaders from nearby rural communities attended to listen and participate in the discussion.

Arely Arellano, who spoke at the community meeting, is a Huron resident who graduated from Coalinga High School in 2011 with a 4.3 GPA. She was selected as the valedictorian, but the school decided to add another valedictorian, one from Coalinga, to “accompany” her, despite Arellano, now a Huron City Council member, having a higher GPA—a decision considered discrimination.

Asked if she believed Huron kids were treated differently than Coalinga kids at school, she answered, “Yes. The difference is that Coalinga students are familiar with the teachers because they’re their neighbors or parents, friends or related to them.

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Community Alliance Fundraiser  
Saturday, December 3  
Details are on page 3



More than 100 people attended a town hall in Huron to discuss the need for a local high school and the steps needed to make that dream a reality. Photo by Peter Maiden

“In Huron, I noticed that the middle school students converse with their teachers because they’re from Huron, so it’s a different environment. More friendly. More inviting. More relatable. In Coalinga, we are the outsiders.”

Huron established its middle school in 1996, and an elementary school had been built 16 years prior. This rural community is desperate to help future generations receive the

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# Voters of Color and Women Saved the Democrats from Disaster

By Peter White

Despite new laws to keep people from voting and gerrymandering election districts to take away the power of minority communities, the Republican “red wave” that pollsters predicted ahead of last month’s midterm election didn’t happen.

Ethnic Media Services debriefed six experts on their reactions to the election results and what should be done to prepare for the 2024 election.

“Voters of color were very concerned about the state of their lives beyond the economy,” said Sergio I. García-Ríos, assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin and a former director of polling and data at Univision News.

“A second concern in all of our polls was gun safety, and mass shootings and also security along the border.”

García-Ríos said that President Biden’s message about saving democracy resonated with voters of color concerned about rising extremism. But they also sent Democrats a message: “We’re disappointed with both parties.”

That theme was picked up by Christine Chen, executive director of Asian Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote), who says the number of Asian American voters who eschew both parties is growing. APIAVote conducts an annual survey of Asian American and Pacific Islander voters.

“We noticed that there’s an increasing number of independent voters among the Asian American electorate,



People of color and women played a crucial role in the Nov. 8 election in favor of Democrats. In this image, President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Democrat, signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others look on. Several states controlled by Republicans have passed laws limiting the ability of people of color to vote. Photo courtesy of The Commons

35% overall, and the Chinese actually had the largest percentage...at 47%. Even the Vietnamese, who support Republicans at a higher rate than any other Asian ethnic group, are losing party identification to independents,” Chen said.

Many Black women were concerned about safety, said Karma Cottman, who leads Ujima, which focuses on violence targeting women in the Black community.

“Safety for us as women, safety for us as members of the Black community, overlaid with what safety looks like in terms of physical and financial safety so we are able to take care of our families.”

Cottman pointed to down-ballot elections, noting strong support for Black female candidates. “We were voting up and down the ballot for Black women,” she said.

Voter intimidation, meanwhile, did not prove to be a major issue this election, says Gowri Ramachandran, senior counsel of the Brennan Center’s Democracy program. “We

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# Victory for Yokuts Valley

By Bayard Taylor

The old name of Squaw Valley (hereafter S-Valley) is out. The new name for the 93675 zip code is Yokuts Valley.

On Nov. 18, the California Advisory Committee on Geographical Names (CACGN) voted 8-0 to change the name to Yokuts Valley. Its recommendation now goes to the U.S. Board of Geographical Names (USBGN), which will finalize the recommendation in January 2023.

This process began two years ago when Roman Rain Tree, a local Indigenous member of the Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, with long connections to this valley, asked that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors (BOS) conduct impartial hearings on whether the valley should be renamed.

Over the past two years, the BOS has consistently opposed or passively resisted Rain Tree’s request.

Undaunted, Rain Tree did the work of gathering supporters including 35,000 names on a Change.org petition. The Rename S-Valley Coalition consists of local Indigenous people and other California residents; Residents for Renaming, a group of 93675 zip code residents; the ACLU of Northern California; Faith in the Valley; and two dozen other groups.

In November 2021, newly appointed Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Indigenous cabinet-level secretary in U.S. history, issued two orders.

The first, Order 3404, called for the elimination of the word *sq-w* from 650 place names in the United States. The reasons cited were that the word is actually an English word and not recognized by any Indigenous language in the United States; that it was used by White settlers to erase Indigenous names and places; and that it continues to contribute to normalizing the violence, rape and murder of Indigenous women. The word is a racist, sexist slur and has no business being an approved, official name for anyplace in the United States.

The second, Order 3405, created a sub-agency within the U.S. Geological Survey to oversee how new names should be selected. The order prioritized Indigenous

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# Knowledge Is Power

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education that wasn't available to them. Many parents and grandparents shyly admitted that they barely knew how to read and had dropped out of school early in life out of necessity. They work hard in the fields every day, only asking that their children be given a chance to accomplish something they weren't able to. Coalinga High, founded more than 100 years ago, is the nearest high school for kids in Huron to attend. Although the towns are about 30 minutes apart, kids from Huron take an hour-long bus trip to get there. Moreover, the bus doesn't have enough space for all the students, leaving some to sit on the floor the entire time. Some teenage boys joined the meeting, watching the adults in their community talking about their future.

# Voters of Color and Women Saved the Democrats from Disaster

Continued from page 1

had law enforcement leaders in some communities coming out and saying, look, intimidation of voters and of election workers is not going to be tolerated," she said. Exit polls showed Republicans gaining ground in support among African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans. Although support for Democrats remained high among women and young voters, Cottman echoed those who say Democrats spent too much time trying to flip predominantly White districts instead of investing resources in communities of color. While Democrats maintained control of the Senate following a narrow win by Nevada's Catherine Cortez Masto, Republicans took control of the House. Common Cause National Redistricting Director Kathyay Feng says that extreme gerrymandering was a decisive

# Victory for Yokuts Valley

Continued from page 1

input, honoring the very people and names whose ancestors had been murdered and displaced by genocidal bounty hunters and White settlers—for example, in 1863 the State of California paid \$5 per "Indian" scalp. With these federal actions in motion, California Assembly Members James Ramos (D-Highland) and Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) sponsored AB 2022 in January 2022. AB 2022 paralleled and added more detailed instructions to the federal orders, passing unanimously in the Assembly and the State Senate (how often does that happen?), and was signed into law by Governor Newsom on Sept. 23. The renaming processes churned forward in the summer of 2022. By August, nearly all the 650 geographical features in Haaland's federal orders had name changes. Outstanding were seven "populated places," Fresno County's S-Valley among them. After being notified by the CACGN of the impending name change, District 5 Supervisor Nathan Magsig hastily called a community meeting. It was held on Sept. 20 at Bear Mountain Library, in S-Valley, and it was not without controversy. In fact, it was a total fiasco. The overwhelmingly White crowd kept shouting down Rain Tree, not allowing him to speak. Magsig did nothing to rein in the angry and unruly mob. Ken Woodward, a local tribal head, also tried to speak, but Magsig cut him off just as Woodward began documenting the genocide that happened in this region.

Asked about the prospect of having a high school closer to home, one of them nodded, "We really need one, for real. Sometimes I miss the bus, and that means I can't get there so I miss the whole day." Another boy said he dreaded graduating from middle school in May, knowing the struggle getting to school that awaits him in the fall. A few parents such as Jimena Montes spoke of the need for a local high school. A resident and mother, Montes spoke about her own experience raising kids having to travel so far to school. Having lived in Huron for 30 years, raising two daughters and now four grandkids, she is all too familiar with the hurdles that teenagers and their parents face within their school district. She recalled being regularly summoned to Coalinga High whenever her daughters had issues with classmates. She often didn't have a ride to get there and eventually had to ask the principal to stop calling her in unless it was an emergency as going there often was not a possibility for her. She urged everyone in the room to do everything

factor in Republicans' strong showing in states such as Ohio and Florida and was a key to their retaking the House. In red states where the state legislature controls redistricting and Republican governors approve the maps they draw, the fight for fair maps is a David vs. Goliath proposition. But in North Carolina and Minnesota, courts forced district maps to be redone. And in New Mexico, Native Americans threatened to blockade the commission if it didn't redraw the Navajo districts. They did so. Feng, who has been at the center of efforts to challenge partisan gerrymandering through litigation and state-based organizing around ballot initiatives and legislation, says that citizens have been able to get maps drawn fairly where election commissions do the redistricting. "Across the board, we saw many improvements," she noted, pointing to states like California, Michigan and Colorado. In Michigan, voters passed a measure in 2018 to create an independent redistricting commission. It has made a big difference there. State Representative Joe Tate will likely become the first Black speaker of the Michigan House. In Detroit and nearby suburbs, an African American is going to be representing this district for the first time in Washington. And in Michigan's 12th Congressional District, incumbent Democrat Rashida Tlaib, who is Palestinian American, will be representing her newly configured district.

In red states where the state legislature controls redistricting and Republican governors approve the maps they draw, the fight for fair maps is a David vs. Goliath proposition. But in North Carolina and Minnesota, courts forced district maps to be redone. And in New Mexico, Native Americans threatened to blockade the commission if it didn't redraw the Navajo districts. They did so.

Had six or eight sheriff's deputies not been present, violence could have erupted. In mid-September 2022, the CACGN opened an additional 60-day comment period for "populated places." During this time, the BOS made a last futile attempt to thwart the name change by sending out an unscientific "ballot" to 1,400 households in S-Valley with the major "option" being to keep the name unchanged. The supervisors then reported to the CACGN that 87% of the 635 respondents did not want the name to change, implying that their bogus survey represented the feelings of the majority of S-Valley residents. Both public comment periods have now closed. The CACGN has met and approved Yokuts Valley as the new name. The USBGN ratification will be a mere formality. It is long past time to retire the insulting S-Valley and rename this beautiful place after its original caretakers, the Yokuts people.

Bayard Taylor is a proud resident of Yokuts Valley. Contact him at bayardtaylor1@aol.com.

necessary so that their kids could attend a school closer to home where "they belong." "Bring friends, the neighbor, the uncle, everyone!," she said. "We can't let them treat us like trash, we aren't trash."

Paulina Cruz is a fellow with the Community Alliance newspaper. She is a Mexican immigrant currently attending Fresno State. She is currently working on an anthropology major with a minor in psychology. She spends her free time writing poetry or painting.

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 was organized by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, the Community Alliance newspaper and Huron Mayor Rey León.

In Colorado, the Citizens Redistricting Board, meeting for the first time, drew a Congressional district with a 40% Latino population. "And that district, the Congressional 8th, elected for the first time a Latina representative to be part of the Congressional Colorado delegation," Feng said. "It's significant to note that in each of these states there has been tremendous participation by communities of color to come out and talk about where those communities are, to talk about the growth, and to make sure that the lines are truly reflective of those communities," she added. Feng drew a sharp comparison with the growth of Latino populations in Texas and the Black population in Florida. "Those communities were sliced and diced up so that the growth was not represented, or the historic representation was essentially dismantled. So, we see a significant difference between the states that have commissions of some form or another and those that do not," she said. Feng likened redistricting to fixing democracy's clogged plumbing. "You don't want to know what's in there. You don't want to look at it. And when it bursts, it's a mess. And that's why you've got to fix it before you have that disaster...and because so many communities participated in redistricting, this time round, we saw a lot of that plumbing get fixed."

Peter White is an associate editor of Ethnic Media Services.



An ACLU poster

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# To Our Audience

## FROM THE EDITOR

On Dec. 3, the *Community Alliance* will hold its annual fundraiser. See the letter from our executive director and our promotion for the event on this page.

This is an opportunity to help our paper continue operating and serve you, our audience. The process to produce a newspaper, no matter how small, is a hard one and involves several people. We have a dedicated and professional team.

We take the responsibility to produce the *Community Alliance* newspaper seriously, and we keep our content according to our principles. We also check the draft of each edition before going to print to avoid mistakes.

All this requires teamwork and more time than many people can imagine.

Several times during 2022, we went from 20 pages to 24 pages, and even 28 pages, bringing you more stories and information. Each time we produce a “thicker” paper—with more pages, more stories—that means more work and time from us. I am sure you appreciate this effort.

We are asking for your support so we can continue keeping the *Community Alliance* newspaper running.

The fundraising event is also an opportunity to get together, to get to know each other and to chat about—anything. I am sure we are going to have a good time.

See you Saturday.



I’m incredibly honored to have the opportunity to be part of this newspaper. It gives me a reason to get up in the morning and is the most meaningful work I have ever had. To be in the struggle, making this a better world for us all to live in, to amplify the voices of immigrants, the homeless and all the people working for social and economic justice—this is what I want to do.

If you didn’t already know, I have been diagnosed with fourth-stage lung cancer and was told four years ago that I might have a year to live. I could move to Hawaii (or any other place) where life would be much easier. I made a conscious decision to stay in Fresno and help keep this local, independent, progressive newspaper alive.

Don’t let the *Community Alliance* crash and burn. We are currently spending more than we are bringing in. Each month this year, we are running a \$600 deficit. A couple of months ago, our bank balance was so low that we could not pay the printer for the next issue of the paper. We slashed our already meager salaries, delayed paying bills and we had to pull a rabbit out of a hat to keep the wolf from our door.

I’m pleading with you to keep this newspaper alive. If everyone receiving this appeal increased their level of support by just 10%, we would be in great shape. If you can send a larger donation, it would be greatly appreciated.

Another way you can support this newspaper is by attending our **December 3 fundraiser**. Our featured speaker will be **David Bacon**, the world-class photographer of working people and the culture of the San Joaquin Valley. The event starts at 5 p.m.

This fundraiser will be held at SEIU 521, 5228 E. Pine Ave., in Fresno. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. **For advance tickets, visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/440007754037](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/440007754037).**

Mike Rhodes  
Executive Director  
*Community Alliance* Newspaper  
[www.fresnoalliance.com](http://www.fresnoalliance.com)  
[mikerhodes@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:mikerhodes@fresnoalliance.com)  
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PS: If you would like to contribute online, visit <https://fresnoalliance.com/support/>.

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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Eduardo Stanley  
[editor@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:editor@fresnoalliance.com)

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# Results of the Nov. 8 Election

By Community Alliance Staff

The November 2022 midterm election is over. Not all the results are final, so some results might change.

The mainstream media, as well as conservative activists, predicted a “red wave,” with Republicans taking over Congress by a big majority. That will not be the case. Democrats lost the House, but the Senate will be under blue control. Locally, there were a few surprises.

### Statewide Results

- California is Democratic, more than ever. The Central Valley is still a Republican stronghold.
- U.S. Senate: Alex Padilla (DEM) 58.7% vs. Mark Meuser (REP) 41.3%
- Governor: Gavin Newsom (DEM) 57% vs. Brian Dahle (REP) 43%
- Lt. Governor: Eleni Kounalakis (DEM) 57.5% vs. Angela Jacobs (REP) 42.5%
- Attorney General: Rob Bonta (DEM) 57% vs. Nathan Hochman (REP) 43%. Bonta was appointed to the position in 2021.
- Secretary of State: Shirley N. Weber (DEM) 58.1% vs. Rob Bernosky (REP) 41.9%. Weber was appointed to the position in 2020.
- Controller: Malia Cohen (DEM) 53.4% vs. Lanhee Chen (REP) 46.6%
- Treasurer: Fiona Ma (DEM) 56.8% vs. Jack Guerrero (REP) 43.2%
- Insurance Commissioner: Ricardo Lara (DEM) 57.6% vs. Robert Howell (REP) 42.4%
- Superintendent of Public Instruction: Tony Thurmond (DEM) 62.5% vs. Lance Christensen (REP) 37.5%
- State Supreme Court: Voters elected Patricia Guerrero as the first Latina chief justice. She got 69.1% of “yes” votes. Associate Justices Joshua Groban, Martin Jenkins and Goodwin Liu were reelected.

### The Propositions

- Prop 1 (reproductive freedom amendment): Yes 64.7%
- Prop 26 (legalize sports betting on American Indian lands): No 69.7%
- Prop 27 (legalize sports betting and revenue for homelessness prevention fund): No 83.3%
- Prop 28 (more money for arts and music education): Yes 61.4%
- Prop 29 (dialysis clinic requirements): No 69.6%
- Prop 30 (taxing millionaires for electric vehicles): No 59.2%
- Prop 31 (flavored tobacco products ban referendum): Yes 62.1%

### Local Measures

- Fresno County Measure C (use half-cent sale tax to help pay for road and transportation improvements): Yes 58%. However, the threshold to pass the measure is two-thirds so the measure failed.
- City of Fresno Measure M (proposed 0.125% sales tax to provide money for veterans programs and facilities): Yes 59.1%. This measure also fails by falling short of the two-thirds threshold.
- Fresno County Measure E (sales tax to support Fresno State upgrades and sports): No 53.5%

### Fresno Unified School District

- Trustee Area 1 (Edison): Incumbent Keshia Thomas (DEM) 74% vs. Wayne Horton (REP) 25%
- Trustee Area 3 (Sunnyside): Incumbent Valerie Davis (REP) 47% vs. Karl C. Diaz (NPP) 23%, Tammy McMahon-Gorans (REP) 20% and Michael Osmer (REP) 9%
- Trustee Area 4 (McLane): Incumbent Veva Islas (DEM) 43.4% vs. Karen Steed (REP) 40.4% and Michelle Scire (NPP) 15.3%. Islas is the only liberal progressive on the FSUD board.
- Trustee Area 7 (Bullard): Susan Witttrup (REP) 57.7% vs. incumbent Terry Slatic (AI) 26.1%, Jim Barr (DEM) 11.8% and Michael Haynes (NPP) 4.1%

### U.S. Congress

- District 5: Tom McClintock (REP) 60.8% vs. Michael J. “Mike” Barkley (DEM) 39.2%
- District 13: John Duarte (REP) 50.4% vs. Adam Gray (DEM) 49.6%
- District 20: Kevin McCarthy (REP) 67.6% vs. Marisa Wood (DEM) 32.4%
- District 21: Jim Costa 53.4% (DEM) vs. Michael Maher (REP) 46.6%
- District 22: David G. Valadao (REP) 54% vs. Rudy Salas (DEM) 46%

### State Senate

- District 12 (Fresno, Clovis, Tulare and Kern counties): Shannon Grove (REP) 68.1% vs. Susanna Gundy (DEM) 31.9%
- District 14 (Fresno, Merced, Coalinga): Anna Caballero (DEM) 55.2% vs. Amnon Shor (REP) 44.8%



Fresno City Council Member Elect Annalisa Perea, in the red jacket, at an election night party. Photo by Peter Maiden

- District 16 (Bakersfield, Hanford, Dinuba): David Shepard (REP) 52.6% vs. Melissa Hurtado (DEM) 47.4%

### State Assembly

- District 27 (Merced, Mendota, Coalinga): Esmeralda Soria (DEM) 51.2% vs. Mark Pazin (REP) 48.8%
- District 31 (Fresno, Selma, Sanger): Dr. Joaquin Arambula (DEM) 59.1% vs. Dolce Calandra (REP) 40.9%
- District 32 (Visalia, Bakersfield): Vince Fong (REP) ran unopposed.
- District 33 (Hanford, Tulare, Porterville): Devon J. Mathis (REP) 63.1% vs. Jose Sigala (DEM) 36.0%

### Mayoral Races

- Huron: Rey León (DEM) 60.5% of the vote vs. Hilda Plasencia (DEM) 36.5%
- Kerman: Maria Pacheco (NPP) 33.8% vs. Juan M. Villarreal (NPP) 32.8% and Kevin W. Nehring (NPP) 32.2%
- Orange Cove: Diana Guerra (DEM) 61.4% vs. Victor P. Lopez (DEM) 37.6%. Lopez had been mayor off and on for more than three decades.
- Parlier: Alma Beltran (REP) 33.1% vs. several opponents
- Sanger: Frank Gonzalez (REP) 65.4% vs. Eli Ontiveros (REP) 33.3%
- Selma: Scott Robertson (DEM) 48.1% vs. Louis Quintana (REP) 37.1% and Theresa Guzman Salas (REP) 15.1%

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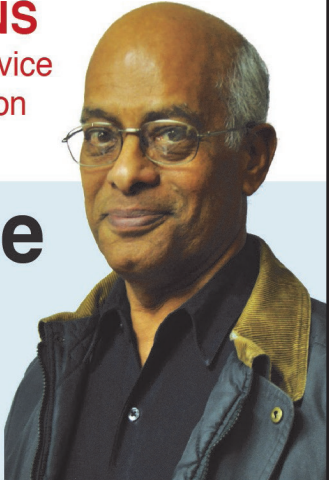
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# 10 Years of Covered California

By Community Alliance Staff

Ten years ago, Covered California started to enroll people to its wide variety of health insurance options. Called a “market of health insurance,” its originality resides in the chance to shop for the best health coverage possible—in some cases, with a low premium to pay. All in a single place.

Covered California is the state version of so-called Obamacare, which is the Affordable Care Act (ACA), enacted in 2010 by then president Barack Obama.

The ACA has three basic goals: make affordable health insurance available to more people, expand the Medicaid health program to cover all adults with income below 138% of the federal poverty level (although not all states expanded their programs) and support innovative medical care delivery methods designed to lower the costs of healthcare generally.

The law was resisted by conservatives both in Congress and in many states. The idea of having affordable health insurance appears to have terrified them. Then, during the Trump administration (2017–2021), Republicans tried to cancel the program without having a plan to replace it. Those efforts failed, and the ACA continues in place.

So the 10th anniversary of the program has a special flavor. “In the last 10 years, millions of Californians enjoyed having health insurance,” said Patricia Izquierdo, spokesperson of Covered California.

On Nov. 16, Jessica Altman, executive director of Covered California, visited Fresno for a brief celebration and to remind those without health insurance to take advantage of the program.

Here’s how it works. If you have employment with health insurance, you can’t apply to Covered California but your dependents can. You must state your income when applying



Assembly Member Dr. Joaquin Arambula spoke at an event for the 10th annual enrollment by Covered California. Photo by Peter Maiden

because the premium you’ll pay for your coverage depends on such income. And Covered California doesn’t accept nonresident applicants. This program is ideally for low- and middle-income people.

# Hebe de Bonafini, Human Rights Champ, Dies at 93

By Eduardo Stanley

Hebe de Bonafini was the leader of Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo (Madres de Plaza de Mayo), the group she co-founded in 1977, one year after the bloody military dictatorship took over in Argentina—with strong support and encouragement from Washington, D.C.

When De Bonafini’s oldest son, Jorge, was arrested and disappeared by the military, she started endless rounds of hospitals, police stations, courthouses and morgues in search of her son. Later, her other son, Raul, also disappeared. The rounds multiplied. She was looking for at least their bodies.

The authorities never produced an explanation about their whereabouts. During those searches, De Bonafini met other mothers also looking for their sons and daughters kidnapped and disappeared.

The de facto government, called “La Junta”—for which its mission was to “eliminate the menace of a leftist revolution” but actually killed thousands of young people, students, union leaders and even religious “dissidents”—banned meetings of more than three people. So the mothers started to walk every Thursday counterclockwise around a clocktower in the center of the Plaza de Mayo, the main square in front of the presidential residence in Buenos Aires.

Their demand was for their children to return home alive.

The Mothers of the Plaza, as they were called by then, began wrapping cloth diapers—symbolizing those once used by their missing children—around their heads. White headscarves became a symbol of the group.

As the Mothers became more active and vocal, the military retaliated. The first president of the group, Azucena Villaflor, was kidnapped and killed, as well as two other Mothers.

De Bonafini became the leader of the Mothers. The group became not just a symbol of resilience, but of bravery. When democracy was restored, in 1982, the Mothers were one of the strongest supporters of taking the military to court.

They later helped to create the Grandmothers of the Plaza (Las Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo). This organization’s mission is to identify the children born from young mothers kidnapped by the military. Those children were given in adoption and their mothers killed.

The Abuelas help to create a DNA bank to help identify those “lost” children. So far, more than 120 grandchildren were identified and “recuperated.”

De Bonafini was active until her last days. She belonged to the more radical wing of the Mothers. She constantly denounced the role of Washington, D.C., in coups d’état and in the right-wing governments in Latin America.

She was also controversial due to her open sympathy and activism in support of the Néstor Kirchner (2003–2007) and Cristina Kirchner (2007–2015) administrations and faced criticism for apparently mishandling funds of her nonprofit organization.



HEBE

A poster dedicated to Hebe de Bonafini, created by Argentine graphic artist Magalí Martínez Barletta

During De Bonafini’s tenure as president of the Mothers, the organization reached international recognition, which helped to create strong international opposition to the widespread human rights violations by the military, which ultimately was of importance to the fall of the junta in 1982.

Under De Bonafini’s leadership, the Mothers became an active and influential human rights organization in Argentina.

Some societies with repressive governments have reproduced the model of the Mothers to demand justice.

Hebe de Bonafini is survived by her only daughter, Maria Alejandra.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



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# DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

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

## Donor Spotlight



Wendy Greenfield is a longtime dedicated Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) supporter. Born to a progressive family in New York, Wendy grew up with an awareness of the need for racial, social, and economic justice.

Wendy's early years of activism began in middle school when along with so many young people she participated in marches protesting United States participation in the Vietnam War. Her passion for social justice continued throughout her high school years as she actively volunteered with political campaigns in her community. While campaigning Wendy came across a flier describing the conditions in the grape vineyards, the workers' strike and their call for a boycott of California grapes. Wendy jumped into action and led her friends to their first picket at a local grocery store that was selling grapes. She dedicated the next three years of high school organizing and leading successful pickets to stop local grocery stores from selling grapes.

Wendy first heard Dolores Huerta speak at the Brooklyn grape boycott headquarters and was so inspired that in March 1971, she drove her sister Julie and two other volunteers across the country to Delano, California, to the United Farm Workers headquarters where they worked as part of the construction crew of the UFW Clinic at 40 Acres in Delano.

Wendy returned to New York in 1973 and was drawn back to the grape boycott where she worked closely with Dolores as an organizer in Manhattan. She experienced Dolores' respectful, encouraging and empowering leadership. "Dolores never expressed doubt in our ability to do our work or that the combined forces of farmworkers and volunteers would ultimately win the contracts we were fighting for. The attitude of '¡Sí se puede!' permeated the boycott office." Wendy remembers dancing along the sidewalks with that sense of empowerment. It was a life-changing experience.

Almost twenty years ago, Dolores told Wendy that she was going to start an organization for grassroots organizing. Wendy not only became one of DHF's first supporters, but also the first community organizer! To this day Wendy is still actively supporting, donating, and volunteering on local organizing campaigns with DHF. This year, she has participated in the 'Let's Green California!' campaign that DHF co-sponsored with the Romero Institute. She has reached out to community organizations to urge them to endorse SB 1230 which was signed into law by Governor Newsom in September 2022. This bill mandates all new vehicles sold in CA by 2030 be electric, with a goal of making CA a carbon neutral economy. The bill will also mandate electric charging infrastructure in low-income communities and fair labor standards for the workers who build them.

An ongoing initiative that Wendy is excited about, is the project to build the Dolores Huerta Peace and Justice Cultural Center in Bakersfield, CA providing the space to continue to train and empower grassroots leadership, while providing health education & outreach, youth leadership development, education equity, and environmental justice. Wendy is always happy to support the work of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and recognizes that no

movement can be built without the contribution of supporters like her. She encourages everyone to support them by joining our Social Justice Network or become a monthly supporter of Give2DHF.org.

## Unhoused Community Care Package Kits



Tulare Liberated for Youth Empowerment (LYFE) organizers collaborated with Voices of the Central Valley (VOCV) to create care package kits for unhoused community members throughout Tulare, CA. VOCV and LYFE organizers worked together to educate youth members about the many and often compounding needs of the unhoused community; and how often challenges such as mental health and addictions are a direct result of becoming unhoused.

VOCV in partnership with the LYFE team created roughly 75 care package kits and distributed them directly to the unhoused living along the railroad tracks near the downtown area of Tulare. Many folks upon receiving their care kit immediately started to use items in the packages to help relieve symptoms they experience as a result of illnesses like Lupus, Covid-19, rashes, cuts, and bruises. Our youth have been moved by the experience and continue to work to support the needs of the unhoused in that area.

Unfortunately, unhoused community members recently reached out to VOCV partners to notify them that they were going to be raided by the Tulare police later that same week. According to the unhoused community members, police officers collected, destroyed, burned, and broke belongings of the unhoused. Many of the unhoused that were impacted by this raid were fortunate enough to be able to take their care package kits with them.

## Get Out The Vote!



The Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) has wrapped up its "Vote 4 Fair Representation" Election Season! DHF Vecinos Unidos, youth and volunteers engaged in get-out-the-vote campaign efforts such as door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, human billboard, candidate forums, and poll watching on election day for the California General Election. In partnership with Million Voters Project and California Calls, DHF volunteers reached thousands of contacts giving a voice to communities that for far too long have been left out of the conversation. We're grateful to our relentless team and dedicated volunteers. Rain or shine DHF has boots on the ground engaging the community in civic engagement and strengthening our democracy.

We are victorious in increasing participation in the electoral process and together, we've accomplished so much. The election is over, but we know that transformative change isn't just about critical moments, it's about a movement. You can grow this movement by supporting this work at Give2DHF.org.

**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**

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY THE DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION



# Newsom Suspends \$1 Billion in Funding for Homelessness

By Bob McCloskey

On Nov. 3, calling the current approach unacceptable, Governor Gavin Newsom immediately halted more than \$1 billion in Homelessness, Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grants to local governments and continuums of care in the state.

The HHAP program is part of a \$15.3 billion multiyear effort to significantly reduce homelessness in California. So far, the state has provided more than \$1.5 billion in flexible emergency aid through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program and the first two rounds of HHAP funding.

Now, to receive further funding, recipients must create a Homelessness Action Plan that addresses, in detail, local actions to prevent and reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness.

This is the first time the state is requiring accountability. Since 2017, the Governor’s Office has given “lip service” to holding local governments and providers accountable for the public dollars they receive from the state. Advocates and critics have long called for it.

In his Nov. 3 statement, Newsom said, “As a state, we are failing to meet the urgency of the moment. Collectively, these [current] plans set a goal to reduce street homelessness 2% statewide by 2024. At this pace, it would take decades to significantly curb homelessness in California...

“This approach is simply unacceptable. Everyone has to do better...cities, counties and the state.”

However, doing better in the current system will not solve the housing crisis. There must be a paradigm shift. Housing must be declared a right, and the real solution, long term, is to implement a social housing approach locally and nationally.

Why do millions of people have housing problems? Why are there hundreds of thousands of unhoused people in the United States? At the beginning of this year, there were 569,334 people nationwide on the streets or in shelters according to the official “point in time count.”

The fundamental cause of homelessness is the failure of governments to implement the human right to housing. Adequate housing was recognized as part of the right to an adequate standard of living in Article 25 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Article 11.1 of the 1966 International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Although the United States has signed on to these international resolutions, housing is treated as a commodity rather than a right. The contradiction between the need for housing and the role of housing as a commodity has created an ongoing affordability crisis.

It is time to recognize housing as a right at the federal, state and local levels. Nationally, there is a shortage of seven million affordable homes. In Fresno County, there is a shortage of 35,000 affordable homes.

Acknowledging housing as a right would be one way to hold entities such as landlords and city governments legally responsible for evictions, a lack of sufficient affordable housing and the criminalization of the homeless. Declaring housing as a right would also provide the necessary budgetary and oversight resources to solve the affordability crisis.

We can build a national movement for housing as a human right. Efforts are already under way.

In June, Reps. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) and Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) introduced the Housing Is a Human Right Act, which is intended to commit funds, services and support to address gaps in housing and homeless services.

In Oakland, Moms 4 Housing has been working to introduce legislation that asserts the right to housing.

In Sacramento, city leaders are discussing how to establish housing as a legal obligation.

If any of these efforts succeed, that could start a trend toward shifting the responsibility for housing production from the market to governing bodies.

Declaring housing as a human right could be a first step to solving the housing crisis, but that must be accompanied with adequate funding, timelines for progress and ways to enforce compliance.

A small number of regions and nations have enacted housing as a human right.

Scotland passed legislation declaring housing as a right, which made local governments responsible for providing housing. There has been a reduction in the unhoused population, but the program has failed to meet its goals due to economic restraints.

France and South Africa have codified the right to housing with varied results, due to the lack of adequate resources and awareness.

Establishing housing as a right can only succeed with necessary start-up funding and by applying a social housing approach.

Social housing is owned and operated by a government or a nonprofit agency. The agency that owns the housing uses revenue from rent and leases to pay for construction costs and maintenance. Social housing provides housing for people of all income levels and is a proven way to provide affordable housing.

There have been successful examples in the United States and abroad in places like Singapore and Vienna, Austria. More than 100 years ago, Vienna began a social housing program to deal with a housing crisis that occurred after World War I.

Now, 73% of Vienna’s residents are renters and more than 60% live in some form of social housing. It is high-quality housing connected to public transportation and many other amenities. Rents are regulated and subsidized for low-income people, and rental agreements have no expiration dates.

In Vienna, there is no visible homelessness, renters have financial security and neighborhoods remain sustainable. The city currently owns, manages and indirectly controls nearly half a million housing units. Social housing is found throughout the city where people of all incomes, backgrounds and identities live in harmony.

Here in Fresno, no new shelter beds are being provided. Shelters remain full, with less than two vacancies per week. The city and county still refuse to provide basic sanitation services to thousands of unhoused persons, with the exception of two mobile shower/restroom units.

The Fresno Police Department continues to criminalize unhoused people. They continue to harass them, force people to move and throw away personal belongings, including basic survival gear such as sleeping bags, blankets and tents.

## Take Action

Contact Fresno’s mayor and City Council members. Demand that they save the lives of our most vulnerable population—the homeless—by opening more warming centers all winter and providing transportation to and from the centers. It is the moral thing to do.

Call 559-621-8000.

## FOLLOW THE MONEY



A campout in solidarity with the unhoused residents of Fresno took place on Sept. 30 in front of City Hall that was organized by We Are Not Invisible. Photo by Bob McCloskey

The 2022 Point in Time Count conducted by the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) identified 4,216 persons experiencing homelessness in Fresno and Madera counties, of which 2,338 were unsheltered. Many, including the FMCoC, consider this to be an undercount.

Most of the unhoused are in the city of Fresno. As winter approaches, Fresno maintains its current practice of opening only one warming center for unhoused people at the Ted C. Wills Community Center in the Tower District. Another warming center is operated by the Fresno Mission near the Poverello House.

Both centers follow the stated policy of only opening when temperatures reach a low of 36 degrees. It is a well-established medical fact that exposure to temperatures well above 36 degrees all night can cause hypothermia and even death, especially among the elderly.

Fresno City Council Member Miguel Arias briefly recognized this fact when, at a recent Council meeting, he proposed to increase the temperature for opening the center to 40 degrees, as well as extending the operating hours. Sadly, he tabled his own motion, calling into question why he brought it up in the first place.

Fresno County, disgracefully, operates no warming centers.

It’s not as if the City cannot afford to operate more warming centers and keep them open all winter. The City has a significant budget surplus of \$40 million and is set to receive more funding for homeless services from the federal government.

The question is not one of money but rather a lack of morality among elected officials in the city and county.

The City of Fresno will receive approximately \$11.7 million of federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development to fund programs and projects to implement the City’s housing and community development strategies to benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

The funds will be sub-awarded to programs and projects operated by City departments or eligible nonprofit organizations to address the most critical community needs outlined in the City’s adopted five-year Consolidated Plan ([www.fresno.gov/housing](http://www.fresno.gov/housing)).

The City’s stated goals for using these funds are as follows:

- Provide assistance for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless through safe low-barrier shelter options, housing-first collaborations and associated supportive services.
- Improve access to affordable housing for low-income and special needs households by partnering with interested developers to increase development of low-income and affordable housing in high opportunity areas, and by promoting the preservation and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units.
- Promote quality of life and neighborhood revitalization through improvements to current public infrastructure and facilities, and by closing gaps in areas with aging, lower quality or nonexistent public infrastructure and facilities.
- Provide services to low-income and special needs households that develop human capital and improve quality of life.
- Provide services to residents and housing providers to advance fair housing.
- Plan and administer funding for community development, housing and homelessness activities with improved transparency, increased community involvement and full compliance with federal regulations.

As we continue to follow the money, we will examine how these public dollars are actually spent.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob McCloskey is an advocate and an activist. Contact him at [bobmcloskey06@gmail.com](mailto:bobmcloskey06@gmail.com).



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# Remembering Unhoused People Who Died on the Streets

By Paul Jackson

In the mid-1980s—at the start of the country’s current wave of homelessness—advocates in Philadelphia and New York City set aside one day a year to remember the people who died homeless there. They chose Dec. 21. Their grassroots organizing efforts have received national recognition since 1990.

Why did they choose Dec. 21? Pagans are as welcome to attend as anyone else who wishes to honor the people who in 2022 died homeless in Fresno County. But Dec. 21 wasn’t chosen because it’s the winter solstice. Rather, it’s the shortest day preceding the longest night of the year, which some people will endure without basic necessities as they do on other, shorter nights.

As the first day of winter, Dec. 21 marks the start of the coldest season of the year, in which people have suffered hypothermia and died of it on the East Coast and elsewhere. Though not as well known, homeless people living in the Central Valley also suffer hypothermia, evident in the swollen flesh surrounding their fingernails.

The bitter cold of northern cities brings to mind stark images of men frozen to bus benches. But hypothermia is possible even when the temperature is in the high 50s. (Yet, the warming centers in Fresno don’t open until the forecast low temperature is 35 degrees, doing little to alleviate cases of hypothermia.)

Besides exposure to the elements, terminal diseases like diabetes and heart disease beset and eventually kill people experiencing homelessness in this country. In fact, the rates of those two diseases among the homeless population are sometimes 3–6 times higher than that of the general population.

The salty and sugary foods served at many nonprofits in Fresno and elsewhere (however popular those foods might be) are suspect. Such “foods” are among many factors conspiring to bring about homeless people’s early demise. (Ours, too, unless we shop for our groceries wisely.)

“The homeless”—a phrase Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer and others convey with a sense of otherness—are really not so different from us. For one thing, diabetes and heart disease are the leading killers of housed Americans, too.

The people we remember on Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day (HPMD) are us, separated by a social condition on which many will judge them and hastily cite alleged personal failure.

We think people experiencing homelessness have a moral obligation to seek recovery from it in any way that doesn’t compromise their self-respect. And if they don’t find a way, which is no small feat, the outcome shouldn’t be a death sentence.

True, a majority of homeless people experience a substance-use issue of some kind. You and I might develop such an issue, too, if we experienced homelessness and endured the many stressors it brings.

Though drawing hundreds, even several thousands of attendees in other U.S. cities, HPMD has barely sunk roots in Fresno. In 2012, a memorial was held at Roeding Park at which Rev. Floyd Harris spoke inspiring words.

Sporadically in past years, the Fresno Diocese and the Poverello House held events on or near HPMD.

Notably, homeless advocate Desiree Martinez has held several vigils for individuals who died homeless and in her friendship, celebrating their lives and grieving the losses.

Wonderful as those vigils are, HPMD is a sad and somber day of commemoration with little room for celebration. Every individual’s premature death is a loss of infinite value. On HPMD, we confront the fact that many people (about 60 in the county or one per week) have died homeless.

We recognize an individual who belongs to a community might not be able to prevent another’s premature death, but a strong community could and should do so. And so for HPMD, we reflect on our shortcomings as a community.

Every year, HPMD is an opportunity to reflect on the fact that the people who, earlier in the year, died homeless in the county were indeed people and so deserve to be remembered.



Encampment sweep on a cold day in January 2022 in Fresno. Photo by Bob McCloskey

Held annually, the event sounds a moral call to respect the worth of every individual, and to build a responsive community reflecting the needs of all its members.

The writer emceed the HPMD event held last December—just three days after the lifeless body of Angel Flores, who’d been homeless at age 27, was found in the Tower District. Four faith leaders spoke at the event and read the names of the 54 people who in 2021 died homeless in Fresno County. Their inspiring talks can be heard in a video in the Fresno Homeless Advocates Facebook group. Search the word “memorial” in the group.

News of Flores’s violent death struck an urgent chord with Caryn Kochergen, who’d recently begun doing homeless outreach in north Fresno. Kochergen was prompted to give more of her time and effort to do such work and on a more regular basis.

Her family being fifth-generation Fresnans who emigrated from Russia, she feels a deep concern about where Fresno is heading nowadays. “We can’t just turn our back on them,” she says.

“We need to walk alongside these people and let them know we do care about them and they matter.”

Her late aunt, who’d give sandwiches to homeless people, has also inspired her to do homeless outreach.

HPMD, says Kochergen, is a “way to remember people who didn’t have a voice. We can hold our own annual event and create awareness. We need to jump on board with other cities who hold this event annually.”

About 100 events are held in the country on or near HPMD, which the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has sponsored since 1990. The NCH suggests six possible HPMD activities:

- Candlelight/Silent march
- Vigil
- Graveside service
- Play/Performance
- Special religious service
- Public policy advocacy event

On Dec. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kochergen will emcee faith leaders who will speak at the Eaton Plaza amphitheater (2400 Fresno St.). As always on HPMD, the floor will then be open to share a memory of the deceased. We are expecting hot beverages courtesy of the Poverello House, and we hope to see you at the amphitheater.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Paul Thomas Jackson prepared the claims that paved the way for the homeless lawsuit against the City of Fresno 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.*

# Our “Right to Know” When Pesticides Are Applied

By Nayamin Martinez

On Nov. 10, the small town of Orosi in northern Tulare County was the setting as more than a hundred residents from various counties across the San Joaquin Valley (Kern, Fresno, Madera, Stanislaus, Tulare) raised their voices to demand the following from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR):

- The exact location where pesticides will be applied.
- Notification to include not only restricted materials but also all pesticides listed in Proposition 65 (which requires businesses to provide warnings to Californians about significant exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm) and others that researchers have found could cause cancer.
- Notifications be made in various languages (Spanish, Mixteco, Zapoteco and other indigenous

languages) and through multiple methods (text messages, e-mails, a website).

Eloquently, for more than two hours, community members huddled with environmental justice organizations that have been fighting the fact that it is primarily low-income people of color who are most burdened by pesticide exposure.

Participants included residents of rural areas who live next to the fields where pesticides are applied, advocates who have fought for decades to free communities of pesticides and even a small Filipino farmer of Orosi, who said “knowing what pesticides are applied is not enough, we need more, we need to stop applying these chemicals that are killing us, making us sick and making big growers richer.”

Overall, the sentiment was the same, we need to know and we need to know now, not until 2024, when the DPR is scheduled to finalize the statewide pesticide notification system.

The development of a statewide pesticide notification pilot began in 2021, when Governor Newsom allocated \$10 million in the 2021–2022 state budget and commissioned the DPR to develop a statewide system that provides information to the public about the pesticides used around them.

Since August 2021, the new DPR director, Julie Henderson, and her team have organized meetings with county agricultural commissioners (CACs), visited counties with

a large ag presence (including Fresno) and huddled with some environmental justice groups.

The DPR hired professionals from the California State University Sacramento Consensus and Collaboration Program to lead a series of focus groups and webinars to listen to multiple stakeholders including residents, other regulatory agencies, community organizations, regulated industries (farmers, professional applicators, registrants, commodity associations) and ag commissioners, among others.

The DPR published on its website a summary of the findings from this first series of virtual focus groups, which evidenced differences of opinions in who should receive the notifications, when they should receive them and how notifications should be made.

The format of the focus groups/webinars was strongly criticized by community advocates because the participation of residents was limited to less than one minute, other stakeholders were given more time to express their opinions and the facilitation was done poorly.

The result of this criticism was that the DPR changed its facilitation team and recruited researchers at UC Davis (Clare Cannon and Bernadette Austin) who seem to have more experience doing participatory projects.

The second round of virtual workshops that the DPR carried out in June 2022 with the assistance of the UC Davis team was better organized, the time given to

participants was more equitably distributed and written comments were accepted in English and Spanish.

Nevertheless, the subsequent decision to organize just two in-person workshops for the entire state and one virtual workshop in the fall of 2022 did not seem appropriate. It was not easy for residents eager to receive a notification system to drive to Orosi or Ventura to join the in-person workshops.

Transportation barriers, obligations picking up children after school or not being able to leave work early in the middle of the week (the Ventura workshop was held on a Monday and the Orosi one on a Wednesday) got in the way of many rural residents who would have wanted to express their opinions.

Also disappointing was the design of the in-person workshops. The DPR had planned a “world-style café” format, with three stations in which participants would 1) go around and learn about the DPR’s work, 2) receive an update on the notification pilots that were implemented in four counties and 3) provide input (for which only one station was provided).

But participants in the Orosi workshop decided otherwise. Community members took center stage and changed the meeting format. They did not rotate to the different stations, instead remaining in one section of the hall and waiting in line to express their opinions.





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Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

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Hang a Full Year of Inspirational Art in your home with the 2023 Peace Calendar. This calendar is an inspiring celebration of peace, social justice, resistance and hope! All for \$20.

Dangerous Women t-shirts: long sleeve or short sleeve in assorted sizes for \$20. (If we don't have the size you need, we will be placing an order soon, so get on our waiting list!)

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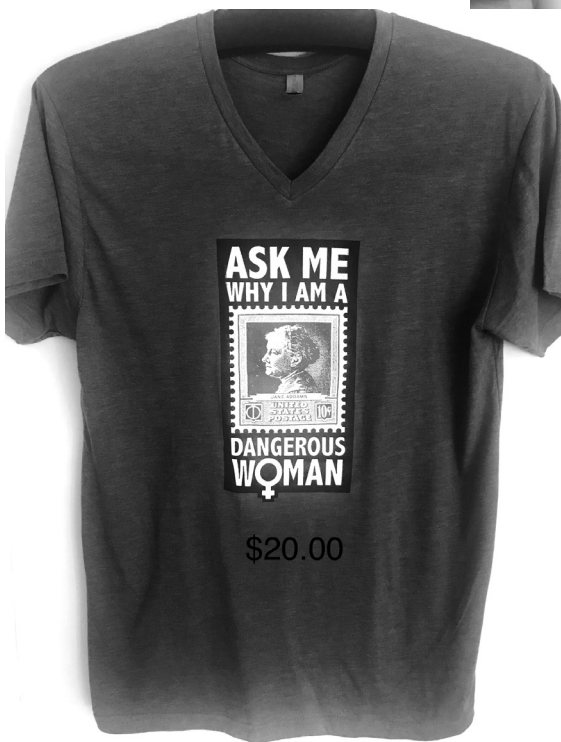
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To order and schedule a pickup time, contact Teresa Castillo at 559-360-8054. Delivery on request.

Also, membership dues can be sent to our branch at P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

Thank you for supporting the important work of Fresno WILPF.



\$20.00



**Trial of the Principal Who Knocked Down a Small Student**

The Vollhardt case is scheduled to be heard at 8:30 a.m. (might start later) on Dec. 6 in Department 12 of the Fresno Superior Court.

Brian Vollhardt, the former principal of Wolters Elementary School and currently vice principal at Tranquillity High School in the Golden Plains Unified School District, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse after he struck a 10-year-old special needs student. The case was continued on Nov. 15, and Vollhardt did not appear.

Many WILPF Fresno members are following this case with concern. Video of Vollhardt striking the child can be seen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f08veOpjx4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f08veOpjx4).

**Medea Benjamin in Fresno on Dec. 2!**

Medea Benjamin will hold a book discussion and signing in Fresno on Dec. 2 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 101 of the Grosse Industrial Tech Building at Fresno State.

Now more than ever, it is important to understand how we got to this place and what we can do to end this madness.

In their new book, *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*, Benjamin and Nicolas J.S. Davies piece together the complex history of conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the role foreign governments have played in the escalation before the illegal and disastrous invasion.

Normon Solomon, executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy, describes the book as a "concise primer" that "gives what U.S. media consumers so rarely get—historical context with balance and compassion.

"The tour is an opportunity to educate the public, to discuss the immediate need for peace and diplomacy and to inspire people to get involved in the nascent but growing movement to end the war in Ukraine."

Co-sponsors: Peace Fresno and WILPF Fresno, along with these Fresno State departments and programs—Africana Studies, Anthropology, Asian American Studies, the Ethics Center, Peace & Conflict Studies, Political Science, Sociology and Humanics.

**United to Support Cuba in the UN Vote: WILPF-Fresno and Friends, the Raging Grannies and the Fresno Brown Berets (and the rest of the world)**

We gathered in the rain—unable to use the sound system or keyboard but undaunted—on the eve of the annual UN General Assembly vote on the resolution: "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba."

The resolution criticizes the United States for its economic blockade of Cuba, saying that it violates both the UN Charter and international law, and calls for the blockade/embargo to be repealed. The next day, Nov. 3, the vote was taken. The results were as follows:

- 185 countries favored ending the blockade
- 2 countries opposed: the United States and Israel
- 2 countries abstained: Ukraine and Brazil

Predictions: 1) Brazil, with newly elected President Ignacio da Silva, will oppose the blockade next year (see the article on Brazil in this issue of the *Community Alliance* newspaper). 2) The United States will continue to defy essentially unanimous world opinion and continue this illegal and immoral blockade.



UN vote demo. Photo courtesy Leni Villagomez Reeves

**WILPF MEETING**

Dec. 8, Thursday, 7 p.m., online for sure and probably also in person at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number. For more information, contact Teresa at [taca\\_03@ymail.com](mailto:taca_03@ymail.com) or Leni at [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com).

**STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM**

Dec. 28, 3 p.m. (fourth Wednesday of each month). Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

**UNPACKING RACISM**

Resumes in January. With Dr. Jean Kennedy. RSVP with your e-mail address to [drjeankennedy@yahoo.com](mailto:drjeankennedy@yahoo.com) or text 559-270-1023.

**WOMEN IN BLACK**

Dec. 7, noon, Courthouse (first Wednesday of each month). Check first with Sue Kern at [skern@netptc.net](mailto:skern@netptc.net) or 559-349-3777.

**MEMBERSHIP**

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](mailto:nhatcher46@gmail.com) or Kyla Mitchell at [kyla.noelle@gmail.com](mailto:kyla.noelle@gmail.com).

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

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Fresno WILPF Cuba Solidarity Committee: [www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/](https://www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/)



## Peace & Social Justice Calendar December 2022

*Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence*

**THU  
01**

**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.

**FRI  
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](mailto:ken.hudson@peacefresno.org).

**SAT  
03**

**Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley** 9 a.m. Marie Callender's, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. Speaker: Rabbi Laura Winer. Topic: Antisemitism. For more info, contact 559-435-4043.

**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](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/440007754037). For more info, visit [www.fresnoalliance.com](http://www.fresnoalliance.com).

**MON  
05**

**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](mailto:ggaston1234@aol.com) or visit [www.dwiafresno.org](http://www.dwiafresno.org).

**TUE  
06**

**National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)** 5:30 p.m. Los Amigo's Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. Holiday Celebration. Bring a donated item for Mollie's House. For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or [joanne@pbyoga.com](mailto:joanne@pbyoga.com).

**WED  
07**

**KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!*** 3 p.m. *Community Alliance* radio show hosted by Daren Miller. For more info, visit [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org).

**THU  
08**

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** 7 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-360-8054 or [taca\\_03@ymail.com](mailto:taca_03@ymail.com).

**FRI  
09**

**Stonewall Democratic Club** 6 p.m. Holiday Party and Fundraiser. Food, drinks, karaoke and festive friends. For location and more info, contact 559-709-8016 or [conantm@aol.com](mailto:conantm@aol.com).

**SAT  
10**

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

**Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples** 9 a.m.–noon. Table Mountain Reading Room, Fresno State Library. Discussion with Native speakers about sacred sites, climate change, boarding schools, the renaming of S-Valley, Native cultures in the Valley, federal tribal acknowledgement, and murdered or missing Indigenous women (MMIW). Featured speakers: Willie J. Carrillo, Tule River Tribe tribal member, Native Star Foundation and Fresno State student; Joannie Suina Romero, board member at National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Pueblo of Cochiti, N.M.; Joshua Lanakila Mangauil, Mauna Kea and Water Project; Audrey M. Osborne, Choinumni tribal elder; Radley Davis, Pit River Nation; and Roman Rain Tree, Seeds of Sovereignty. Panel moderator: Dr. Kenneth Hansen. For more info, contact [hrccentralvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hrccentralvalley@gmail.com) or 559-801-8189.

**MON  
12**

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

**TUE  
13**

**Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC)** 6 p.m. Nielson Conference Center, 3110 W. Nielson Ave. Jingle & Mingle Holiday Membership Drive. Mingle \$25; mingle and membership \$50. For the safety of all guests, masks are required and will be available. For more info, contact 559-287-1308 or [bapacfresno@gmail.com](mailto: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  
14**

**KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!*** 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show. For more info, visit [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org).

**THU  
15**

**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.

**Clovis Democratic Club** 6 p.m. Holiday Party. Guests are asked to sign up to bring tableware, chili, appetizers, desserts, salads or beverages to share. Donations of household items are also welcomed to support WINGS Advocacy Fresno. For more info, contact 559-322-9740 or [jenikren@gmail.com](mailto:jenikren@gmail.com).

**SAT  
17**

**West Fresno Democratic Club** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-930-4909 or [westfresnodemclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfresnodemclub@gmail.com).

**MON  
19**

**California Latina Democrats–Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact [chaircalatinadems@gmail.com](mailto:chaircalatinadems@gmail.com).

**WED  
21**

**KFCF 88.1 FM: *Speaking Truth to Empire*** 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.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. Visit [sierraclub.org/tehipite](http://sierraclub.org/tehipite) to register in advance.

**THU  
22**

**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](mailto:cynthial.cara@gmail.com) or visit [californiaalliance.org](http://californiaalliance.org).

**WED  
28**

**KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!*** 3 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info visit [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org).

Submit upcoming community activities to [calendar@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:calendar@fresnoalliance.com) by the 15th of the month preceding publication.



### Looking for Volunteer Delivery Driver for the Community Alliance:

The Central Fresno route is available. An afternoon a month is all it takes

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### Support Local/Independent Journalism

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. Newsom vetoed the bill the same day. Teresa Romero, UFW President. Photo by David Bacon

### Featured Speaker: David Bacon

Photographer of working people and the culture of the San Joaquin Valley

Saturday, December 3, 2022  
5 p.m.  
at SEIU 521, 5228 E Pine Avenue, Fresno

\$40 in advance and \$50 at the door

For advance tickets, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/440007754037>

For more information, go to [www.fresnoalliance.com](http://www.fresnoalliance.com)



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.*

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# Mykolaiv: Life in a Bunker

By Zarina Zabrisky

Yuri, a small business owner, ran his logistics business and owned a truck and a large garage in Mykolaiv, where he lived with his wife Svetlana, and two daughters, Karina and Alina, 12 and 13, in a comfortable apartment.

The family shared the apartment with a cat, two handicapped parrots they adopted from a rescue center, and two giant snails, a gift to the girls from Svetlana's homeplace, the village of Oleksandrivka near Melitopol.

Yuri and Svetlana met 14 years earlier, and it was love at first sight. The girls loved to accompany their father on fishing trips and visit Oleksandrivka.

On the early morning of Feb. 24, 2022, the family awoke to loud explosions. Russian troops had attacked Ukraine. Yuri and his family hid in the moldy, damp and cold basement of the garage. On the first night, friends joined them and altogether nine people slept in two large and empty rooms, heated by one small oil radiator.

Since then, almost nine months of war have passed. The Albeshchenkos' lives have changed drastically. Yuri and Svetlana turned the basement garage into their own private bunker.

Svetlana's home village was occupied, and no one could visit Oleksandrivka. The girls do schooling online.

Yuri founded the Mykolaiv Volunteer Center and runs it, helping the city's residents suffering from daily bombardments with humanitarian needs and the army with necessary supplies.

Part of the top floor of their new residence has been turned into a warehouse. Yuri fundraises, obtains and delivers to the front warm clothes, blankets and hygiene articles such as toilet paper and soap.

Their new home is roomy, cozy and well-equipped. The oversized Ukrainian flags decorating the walls are covered with the autographs of the territorial defense unit fighters and the military from Mariupol, Donbas, which is currently occupied by the Russian troops.

Instead of just one socket for the whole premises, multiple sockets on both levels are installed to charge phones and other communication devices.

Yuri brought a plastic water container with a volume of 1,000 liters. Another rescue cat, an enormous black one called Borisovich, sleeps on it.

Mykolaiv has been without drinking water since March because the Russian troops deliberately destroyed the water supply system by shelling. The technical water coming out of pipes in apartments is brown and smelly and is not to be consumed. Odesa residents have been collecting and delivering drinking water to Mykolaiv for months.

"We are lucky," says Yuri. "We have a well nearby. The city water inspection ran a test and concluded that the water meets all the safety standards. The full container lasts us a month, about 250 liters a week. We don't cut back—we make tea, wash dishes, wash up."

To take showers and do laundry, the family goes back to their apartment daily. Their pets still live there. Staying overnight is impossible due to almost daily shelling and artillery fire.

Mykolaiv has been under fire almost daily. On the morning of March 29, in a major attack, a Russian missile hit the regional administration building, destroying the central part, killing 37 and injuring 34. Many residential buildings have been damaged by the prohibited cluster munitions that the Russian military has used to destroy Mykolaiv and kill civilians.

In June 2022, the mayor of Mykolaiv, Oleksandr Sinkevich, said that "everyone who wants to stay alive" should leave, adding, "don't be like pharaohs buried in their pyramids."

Recently, Iranian kamikaze drones were used to attack the city of Mykolaiv. In October, a drone hit oil containers of one of the leading exporters of sunflower oil in Ukraine and the oil was flowing down the streets.

Previously, on June 22, the refinery was attacked by a cruise missile. Seventeen percent of the world's exports of sunflower oil pass through this terminal in Mykolaiv.

Still, of the 486,000 in population before the war, 220,000–230,000 people remain despite daily bombardments. As of Nov. 4, in Mykolaiv, 149 civilians had been killed by Russian rockets, including two children, and 698 people seriously injured, of which 10 were children, since the beginning of the war.

On Nov. 11, a five-floor residential building in Mykolaiv was destroyed, and eight people were killed. Roma, 14, lost his mother and stepfather, who died under the rubble.

"One moment I was asleep," Roma said to journalists. "The next moment, there is an explosion. I open the door of my bedroom—and there is no living room or hallway."

In the apartment on the top floor, only one wall with a red carpet was left.

"It is safer in the basement," says Yuri. "It is also romantic. Didn't you dream of building underground passages or tree houses when you were a kid? Now we gotta live it."

"We are doing it for the kids' safety," said Svetlana. "I would like to go back to the apartment. There are rats in the storage room."

The toilet visits are an adventure, too. The outside facility, a simple wooden hut with a hole in the ground and no light, is a good five-minute walk. As there are no lights in Mykolaiv after curfew, nature calls at night present a challenge.

Alina and Karina, karate champions, are used to living in the basement and don't seem to mind the toilet outside or the journalists' visits. They attend their online school, watch movies on a large-screen TV on the wall, play with Borisovich the cat and sleep together on a makeshift bed with many blankets and toys.

Our TV crew stopped by Yuri's garage on the way to liberated Kherson, a city 42 miles south of Mykolaiv. It is not unusual for journalists from all over the world to stay over at the Albeshchenkos.

The door panels carry multilingual messages from international TV crews and war correspondents from Norway, Israel, Australia and the United States. The bunker has appeared in the Italian and French press.

The girls are used to photographers and answer questions about their life during the war with grace and poise. "We like living here," says Karina.

Mykolaiv, the city on the first line of defense in the southern direction, has been protecting Odesa from invasion since the start of the full-scale invasion. If Russians were to seize Mykolaiv, they would be able to curtail Ukraine's access to the Black Sea.

The Kremlin has spoken of its intention to seize Odesa and then Transnistria, an unrecognized breakaway territory of Moldova, controlled by Russia. Putin's lifelong ambition to restore the Soviet Union turned Yuri's family life upside down, but they refuse to leave or give up.

Just like millions of their compatriots, the Albeshchenkos are living for victory and waiting for a day to return back home.

\*\*\*\*\*

Zarina Zabrisky is an American journalist and an award-winning novelist currently reporting on the Russian war in Ukraine. She is a war correspondent for Bywire News (UK); writes a Daily Review column for Euromaidan Press, an online Ukrainian English-language independent newspaper since 2014; and contributes articles and podcasts on information warfare, reports from the sites and interviews with military experts and eyewitnesses for these and other publications, including the Byline Times (UK).

## SCRIPTURES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS: Select Topics and Companion Verses

By [Dr. Jerome E Jackson](#)



### Scriptures at Your Fingertips

Christian counseling is a most challenging and rewarding vocation. At the core of Christian counseling is the affirmation that God is in charge. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). This positive view shared in session after session with client after client is the cornerstone of success in Christian counseling.

The word of God brings comfort and assurance to the troubled and hope to the faint of spirit. In times of trials and sorrow, as well as times of joy God's word strengthens those who put their trust in Him.

This book is a tool designed as a quick reference guide on select subjects. All scripture cited in this handbook are from the Holy Bible, Authorized King James Version. This handy book is a great study source for beginning students, and a wonderful teaching tool for advanced Bible instructors. It is designed for rapid searches and valid answers to practical questions. In about 240 pages the author provides users with a permanent personal supplemental resource for daily devotion, spiritual encouragement, and biblical counseling. Dr. Jackson is the Senior Pastor of the Christian Community Baptist Church, Fresno.

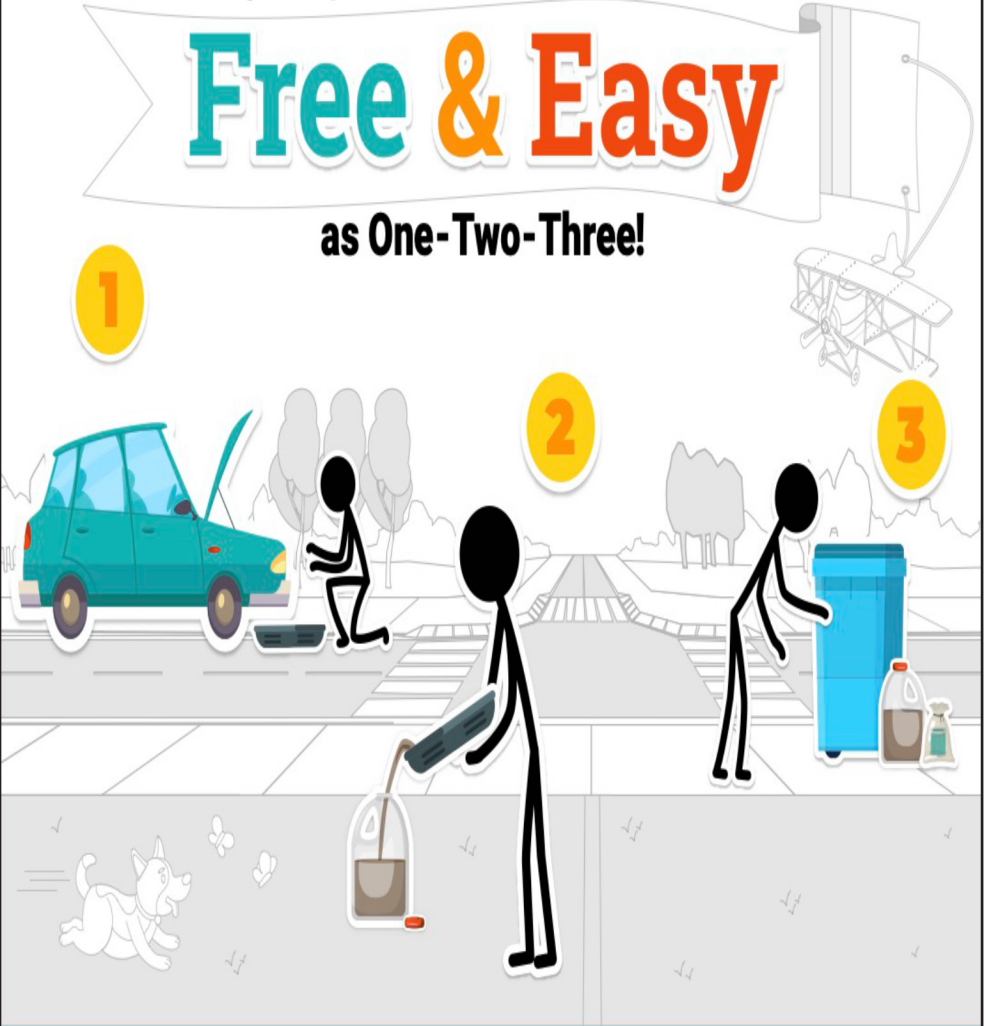
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# Beyond Racism and Resignations

By Ron Wilkins

Recent disclosures that Los Angeles City Council members and a union official racially denounced others compels us to deal with racism, colorism and anti-Blackness interwoven with classism for it reveals that within the Brown community a significant number of light-complexioned persons of color identify color-wise with the White supremacist ruling elite who run this country and dominate the world and are themselves determined to become exploiters.

The criminal dehumanization, rejection and exploitation of their darker, naïve and disorganized relatives is the way it works. Most aspects of this same phenomenon occur among Black people but are less apparent because we are darker genetically.

Listen carefully. With rare and noteworthy exceptions, the Democratic Party politician, not unlike his or her Republican crony, benefits from, promotes and defends a system that does not address your interests.

This means that we’ve bought into a terrible system that is determined to promote white over dark skin nonsense, preserve the status quo and is completely against us. It means too, and history has demonstrated this, that it is entirely possible for an unethical member of one’s own race to get elected to public office, sell out and collaborate with our people’s enemies.

It also means that if we intend to end discrimination, exploitation and govern ourselves, we must end the nonsensical practice of voting for this Democrat over that Republican or Tweedledee over Tweedledum and take all the power away from those who have selfishly mismanaged power since the establishment of this criminal empire, redirect and manage it ourselves. That requires enormous organization and is doable, but that is another discussion.

For the record, the U.S. Census Bureau in 2007 made public that 303 counties out of the 3,141 U.S. counties had a majority of people of color—which were mostly Black and Brown. That’s almost one in 10. Just recently, the government acknowledged that people of color are now the majority population in the entire United States.

The skeptics and naysayers swear that recent events underscore their claim that Black and Brown people always have and will forever be divided against one another. Brother Malcolm X, one of our greatest leaders and teachers, once said, “Of all our studies History is best qualified to reward our research!”

Become familiar with the incredibly beautiful yet hidden history of grassroots Brown and Black solidarity. Know and build upon the many examples of that solidarity so that Black and Brown people can take destiny into their hands, prevail over their class enemies no matter what their color or complexion and determine their own lives.

Examples:

- Olmecs and Egyptians embraced early in 800 BC as evidenced by Olmec’s erecting enormous stone heads resembling Egyptian soldiers, their construction of pyramids and the burying of some deceased persons standing erect—which were Egyptian practices.
- Afro-Mexican military leaders Jose Morelos Pavon and Vicente Ramon Guerrero led Mexico’s fight for independence from Spain from 1810 to 1821.
- Thousands of enslaved runaways during the 1800s were aided by Mexican people escaping south through Texas to freedom in Mexico.
- The Mexican government staunchly refused to enter into “Fugitive Slave Extradition Treaties” with the United States from 1822 to 1865.
- More than 200-plus White pro-slavery defenders of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, which included slaveowners William Travis and Jim Bowie and slavery promoter Davy Crockett, were eliminated by Mexican military forces on March 6, 1836.
- The adoption in 1857 of “Article 13” by Mexico’s Congress declared that “any enslaved person is free the moment he sets foot on Mexican soil.” This sharply contrasted with the wicked behavior of the U.S. Supreme Court toward Dred Scott during the same year by upholding his enslavement and declaring that “Black People have no rights that white people are bound to respect.”
- On May 5, 1862, invading and pro-slavery French forces were defeated at Puebla, Mexico, by determined Mexican fighters (celebrated as Cinco de Mayo).
- Critical military support was given to President Benito Juarez’s government from 1865 to 1867 by thousands of Black Union army soldiers who entered the country at the end of the U.S. Civil War and helped Mexico defeat the French and end their domination.
- The 1910–1920 Mexican Revolution’s great leader was AfroMexican General Emiliano Zapata.

## Oaxaqueños Organize Día de los Muertos in Madera

By Jose Eduardo Chavez

My most vivid moments as a child are of my entire village coming together. A village of approximately 20 families would gather to build, celebrate and mourn. In times of mourning, the community would come together to help.

Everyone had a task. The women prepared the food and coffee. The men cleaned, decorated and performed heavier tasks in general. Us kids, we would help anywhere needed.

Everything came together perfectly: the food, the decorations. Those were gatherings of brotherhood, solidarity and comradeship.

Now, although thousands of miles away from Oaxaca, many of us who left in the 1970s through the early 2000s, first- and second-generation immigrants, are now creating our sense of belonging. We have lived here for decades, and we now feel a bit like home.

In finding belonging, Oaxaqueños are bringing their customs and skills to the Central Valley’s mainstream culture. For many of us, this is the only opportunity we have to share our traditions with the next generation.

There was a time when Oaxaqueños would gather as a community to build infrastructure and together organize large celebrations in honor of their communities’ patron saints. Those are cherished memories for a majority of Oaxaqueños whose undocumented status has prevented them from returning home in decades. Having lived in the Central Valley for so long, Indigenous communities are finding a sense of belonging and are replicating traditional customs here.

### OPINION & ANALYSIS



Victims of the Zoot Suit Riots, where groups of servicemen scoured the streets in Los Angeles looking for and attacking individuals wearing zoot suits (June 1943). The servicemen blamed the Mexican American *pachucos* for numerous unprovoked assaults on their colleagues. Photo by Harold P. Matosian/The Commons

- Mexican businessman Jorge Pasquel bought a Mexican League baseball team and cleverly hired and brought on board Satchel Paige, the celebrated Negro Baseball League (NBL) pitcher, and several other NBL players, and they began to systematically defeat segregated all-white U.S. major league teams.
- Pasquel’s bold and decisive action is what forced the all-White Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 to hire Jackie Robinson and begin the desegregation of Major League Baseball. Sports enthusiasts and others who view the film 42 see Robinson get all the credit for desegregating Major League Baseball while Mexicans, much like the “elephant in the room,” are never mentioned.
- During June 1943, World War II was under way and many Whites were resentful of Brown and Black young men who avoided military service, especially zoot suiters.

Some Long Beach-based racist White sailors who had a history of attacking zoot suiters, who were mostly Brown, put out the word that they and their Marine buddies were going to converge on 12th Street and Central Avenue in Los Angeles (which was where Black people were concentrated during that period) and beat up the Black people.

As they became aware of these threats against Blacks, Mexicans from various street organizations (referred to then and now as gangs) came to Black residents and offered assistance.

When the Whites arrived in U.S. Navy trucks and began attacking the 20 or so Black decoys in the middle of 12th and Central, an estimated 500 fighters from 38th Street, Clanton, Jardin, Jugtown and other neighborhoods launched their counterattack, whipped them badly and forced them to retreat.

A writer for one of the Black newspapers at the time even wrote that “the little Mexican Girls were ferocious—They had much more, they were much more tigers than Negro girls.” The United States placed Los Angeles off limits to all its servicemen.

Beyond anti-Blackness and class divisiveness, there are so many moments of solidarity to be cherished and shared leading right up to the present day such as Brown Hermanos and Hermanas joining with Black Lives Matter activists and more.

The historical intersections are many when our two peoples aided, defended or joined together with one another, which was usually during the worst of times.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ron Wilkins is a Los Angeles-based cross-cultural collaboration specialist and organizer who has focused for many years on helping Black and Brown people learn and build upon their rich yet hidden history of solidarity as a means of preventing conflict and moving forward. His website is [www.blackbrownunity.org](http://www.blackbrownunity.org).



The altar that was built by Oaxaqueños in Madera. Photo by John Tipton

Continues on page 13



# Oaxaqueños Organize Día de los Muertos in Madera

Continued from page 12

In Madera, home to thousands of Oaxaqueños, there is a good example of us finding a sense of belonging and replicating our customs. Here, we are beginning to be involved in all aspects of society. We have even elected the first City Council member of Oaxacan indigenous descent.

We followed agriculture at first, but now we are learning that we are more than just farmworkers. Younger Oaxaqueños have realized that our parents and elders have knowledge that we cannot let go unseen.

We have found community, and we have become what academics call cultural organizers. Cultural organizing is a heavy task, but once we realized we had a chance to share and preserve our people’s culinary knowledge and customs, it took on another meaning.

The Cenpasúchil flower is traditionally used for an altar in Oaxaca. Indigenous people brought the flower to the San Joaquin Valley. Here, Madera resident Abraham Ramírez makes final arrangements to the altar. Photo by John Tipton

On Nov. 1, Oaxaqueños of all walks of life gathered to organize a Día de los Muertos celebration in the community. The organizing took another meaning when Oaxaqueño farmworkers gathered at a local venue to teach younger generations traditional Día de los Muertos bread-making.

Our Oaxacan women gathered and showed their culinary knowledge, making tamales. There was a weekend where a teacher of Purepecha descent showed us the tedious process of making *papel picado* (a traditional decoration made with paper).

The night before the event, a farmworker by day, an arch and altar professional by trade, helped us build the base for our colorful arches.

For a month and a half, young and elder built a community. Everyone brought something to the table; someone would bring materials, ingredients, something to snack on, or full on meals for all of us. There were stressful times, with a lack of resources, but we built brotherhood, solidarity and comradeship and amid the challenging moments we found laughter.

The day of the event, Madera rushed to our altars and joined us to enjoy delicious tamales, coffee, *champurrado* and *posole*. It felt like home, as if we were back in our villages.

We are so proud of our indigenous roots, of our traditions because what we want to do now is not just for love of our families, but for love of the community. Traditional cuisine, our customs, are the soul of our native peoples, of Oaxaca, and being so far from the sky that saw us born that re-creating a little bit of Oaxaca heals our soul.

We hope that our children, younger siblings, nephews, nieces and younger generations fall in love with their indigeneity and when they do—they’ll know what to do because of what we have shown them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jose Eduardo Chavez is a Oaxacan indigenous Mixtec residing in Madera. For more than a decade, he has collaborated with numerous stakeholders to advocate for access to education, healthcare, workers’ rights and better living conditions for Central California residents.



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## SIERRA CLUB TEHIPITE CHAPTER

### NOVEMBER ELECTION UPDATE

In the recent November General Election, two crucial ballot measures that would have **extended urban sprawl** for **decades to come** were **defeated decisively** in Fresno and Madera Counties. Fresno County’s Measure C proposed continuing a half-cent sales tax to fund transportation projects for the next 30 years, while Measure T in Madera County would have extended its sales tax permanently.

The Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter opposed both these measures for the same reasons: *each was essentially locking in our freeway-centric economy for the indefinite future*, long after gasoline engine vehicles are banned from the roads. And each was essentially **written behind closed doors**. This became glaringly apparent when organized input from environmental, environmental justice, and community groups fell on deaf ears.

In a replay of the 2021 effort to redraw Fresno County Commissioner district lines following the US Census, decisionmakers representing powerful special interests recognized the importance of **stonewalling grassroots community members**. BUT THIS TIME, THEY FAILED IN THIS EFFORT. Our activists deserve credit for persisting in building an impressive, inclusive coalition. Their efforts revealed the lengths to which cynical politicians, aligned with powerful real estate development, construction, and agribusiness interests, will go to subvert democratic process.

A broad coalition of more than 40 organizations repeatedly called on local government agencies and committees to take the time to bring the community into discussions and to ensure that the public’s needs were addressed.

This never happened. Our already anemic public transit funding was cut in half by the Measure C drafters, and funding was restricted to road-widening projects, ignoring the mess of our crumbling Fresno County infrastructure. When the coalition was prevented from having even one iota of impact on the

language of the ballot measure, the Tehipite Chapter joined with our coalition partners in opposing Measure C. Supporting the No on Measure C coalition, our campaign met, and in some ways surpassed, expectations.

Both ballot measures are now in the dustbin of history. Each needed a two-thirds majority to pass. Measure C received 58% support. Measure T in Madera County fared even worse, receiving a bare majority: 52% support. Proponents of these measures and our outspoken coalition opponents can go back to the drawing board and work to redesign a 21st transportation system with true community participation. This was a great victory for the environment and for good planning.

What does the defeat of Measure C mean? Sandra Celedon, President and CEO at Fresno Building Healthy Communities had this analysis:

“This unprecedented coalition *is truly reflective* of our valued community groups, Labor groups, and young people who are working for a better transportation system in Fresno County. This defeat of Measure C gives an opportunity for a vision to move forward — to allocate our tax dollars **to move into the future.**”

**“Status quo politicians have done exactly nothing.** As home to California’s fifth-largest city, Fresno County is a power player. We should not accept mediocrity. It’s time that our policies and investments reflect the talent of our diverse community members. We deserve a transportation plan that provides residents with the opportunities that we know they deserve.”



# Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2022



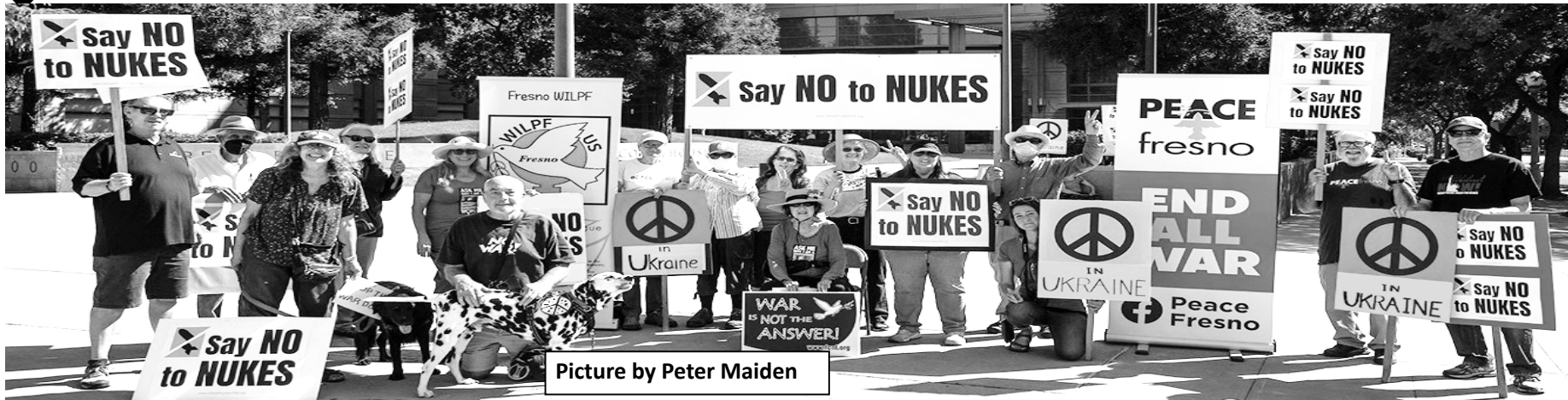
December 2022

Edited by  
Richard  
Gomez

**“Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable. – JFK.**

(War is so profitable to so few that it could have been one of the reasons that they had to kill him.)

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Picture by Peter Maiden

## Warriors for Peace - Richard Rohr

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*For those of us committed to nonviolence, what do we do with the warrior imagery in our religious traditions? Zen priest and activist angel Kyodo Williams writes about living with a nonviolent “warrior-spirit” inspired by the Buddha:*

The man who became the Buddha was known as Gautama, and he was born into a warrior clan known as the Shakyas. But even before Gautama was born as a Shakya warrior, he had been a warrior of another kind. In previous lives, Gautama had been a *bodhisattva*. Bodhisattva means “awakening being” and refers to a person of any culture that is brave and willing to walk on the path of wakefulness. . . . They are awakening warriors that give up floating through life aimlessly and being concerned only with themselves. Awakening warriors live in a way that is of benefit to all, and their work is done here in this world. They see that we must all take responsibility for ending suffering, not just for our own individual freedom, but for that of others as well. What these awakening warriors realize is that in order to live harmoniously and with joy, they must take their natural place in the world.

Does this mean that in order to live with more joy and grace and less fear and anger we need to run out and take up arms or develop aggressiveness and a warlike stance? Not at all. What we want to do is embody the spirit of a warrior and bring that to function in our daily lives. “Spirit” refers to that which gives life. “Warriors” live a life of action and clear direction. We can bring warrior-spirit to the cause of peace and harmonious connection because it is about life and living, not power and aggression. Warrior-spirit is a frame of mind that lets us make a habit of cultivating the qualities and skills that are already available to all of us.

*Valarie Kaur of the Revolutionary Love Project understands her Sikh warrior tradition through a nonviolent lens that asks, “Who will you fight for?” on behalf of justice and peace.*

What does it mean to be a warrior-sage for a new time? Who will you fight for? What will you risk? It begins with honoring the fight impulse in you. Think about what breaks your heart. Notice what it feels like to have your fists clench, your jaw close, your pulse quickens. Notice what it feels like to want to fight back. Honor that in yourself. You are alive and have something worth fighting for. Now comes the second moment: How will you channel that into something that delivers life instead of death? Breathe. Think. Then choose your sword and shield. You don’t have to know the answers. You just have to be ready for the moment when the world says: *Now*.



Well, this has been a long, strange trip of a year for me. Did some time in the hospital, twice, more than I ever did since I was born. Unfortunately, I’m not the only that got hospitalized either. Old age creeps on us like a thief to rob us of our youth. So, 2023 should be an interesting time for these old decaying bones. Whereas the Holidays should be of good cheer and happiness, I will be glad to get a chance to recuperate. Fat chance. From everyone here at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Give Peace a Chance, please, but of course that will only happen if we all want it to be. At least think about it. You will be glad you did. Best of joy, love, caring for others and so much more. We love to see you next year and what we could do to make it better and don’t forget our fury friends, they need love too. May 2023 take us toward peace. Happy Holiday. -RG

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We end the year with our show with our guest host Josh Shurley and his guest to be announced. For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org).

In November, your host Josh Shurley was peace activist and veteran Susann Schnall, current President of Veterans for Peace. The discussion will be of VFP’s campaign to reclaim Armistice Day and of broader issues related to her work and the work of Veteran for Peace, which is to expose the true cost of war and to abolish war as an instrument of national policy. To hear again: <https://soundcloud.com/joshua-shurley>

Inn October, our host Josh Shurley and guest Bernard Navarro, Native American Instructor of Fresno City College. To hear again: [Stream Stir It Up - October 12, 2022 by Dr\\_Shurl | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#)





# Activist Publishes Exposé of Life Inside Radical Valley Politics

By Mike Rhodes

"We found ourselves fighting a war at home and became the people our parents warned us against."

The memoir of former Fresno resident and political radical Joel Eis, *Standin' in a Hard Rain: The Making of a 1960s' Revolutionary*, will be published by World Beyond War (<https://worldbeyondwar.org>), a worldwide peace activist group based in Charlottesville, Va.

The title, *Standin' in a Hard Rain*, is taken from Bob Dylan's song "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall." It refers to the looming struggle as America confronted a moral breakdown, the symptoms of which were its failure in civil rights and a genocidal war in Vietnam.

Subtitled "Lessons from the Last Revolution," the book relates the details of daily life inside the radical politics of the 1960s in the Central Valley and beyond.

"I was followed and informed on," says Eis, with a wry smile. "My phone was tapped. I was shot at. I did some time in jail. My FBI file is as thick as a small city phone book. Even though I've seen it twice, the government claims it doesn't exist."

Eis's particular weapon in the struggle was political theater with such groups as El Teatro Campesino, the San Francisco Mime Troupe and his own theater company.

Eis quipped that "the Feds probably have more pictures of me on stage than I had in my own press kit."

Eis's story sheds light on the changes that political involvement can bring to someone's life. Many of his heaviest experiences were in Fresno.

Even before the 1960s, he found himself in the right place at the right time to be part of history. At age 13, he caused a "prayer in the schools" crisis in 1959 by simply refusing to read the New Testament in his seventh-grade homeroom.

The book already has important pre-publication notices. David Harris, organizer of the National Draft Resistance and a Fresno native himself, and Peter Coyote, activist, movie actor and narrator of Ken Burns' documentaries—including the series on the Vietnam War—are both enthusiastic about the book, along with enough journalists and former activists to be a small demonstration on their own.

Will Durst, comedian and *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist, said, "Somehow Joel was in the right place at

the right time. His book reads like a left-wing Forrest Gump, only it's real!"

Through sheer chance encounters, Eis found himself with the Freedom Riders in the Deep South and on the front lines of the 1968 strike at San Francisco State (the longest, most violent student strike in American history).

He worked with the draft resistance center in Fresno and the grape strike with El Teatro Campesino in the Tower District. He organized and engaged in demonstrations at Fresno State and found himself on the wrong end of a National Guard bayonet at People's Park in Berkeley.

"The Governor had called in National Guard troops from outlying towns, including Fresno, to the People's Park demos," Eis said with a somber look. "The guy with his bayonet right at my throat was a kid I'd been friends with at John Muir Junior High, right here in Fresno."

Eis related the book to the larger picture. "My story is really about all of us, about how we dealt with what the power brokers wanted us to be a part of and our revolution against it."

Eis then related his tale to today. "This generation is facing a cultural conflict more profound, more pervasive and more determined than anything we encountered. The purpose of the memoir is to give some idea of how an ordinary person—from Fresno nonetheless—dealt with it all."

His recounting is more than a "march and tell" saga. Eis recounts an important part of the full story that has never been discussed, "After the war, we had to return to 'ordinary life.' We went through personal disorientation, something like what our soldiers experienced returning to ordinary life."

"Some did not transition well. Extreme drug use and joining arcane cults became commonplace. However, many took the revolution 'underground' and sought to continue the struggle for a country with a heart, becoming teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, activists for environmental causes, journalists and artists."

*Standin' in a Hard Rain* should be out before Christmas in paperback, e-book and audio through Amazon and on the shelves at local bookstores. The book itself will be part of a current political struggle. It's going to be an organizing tool.

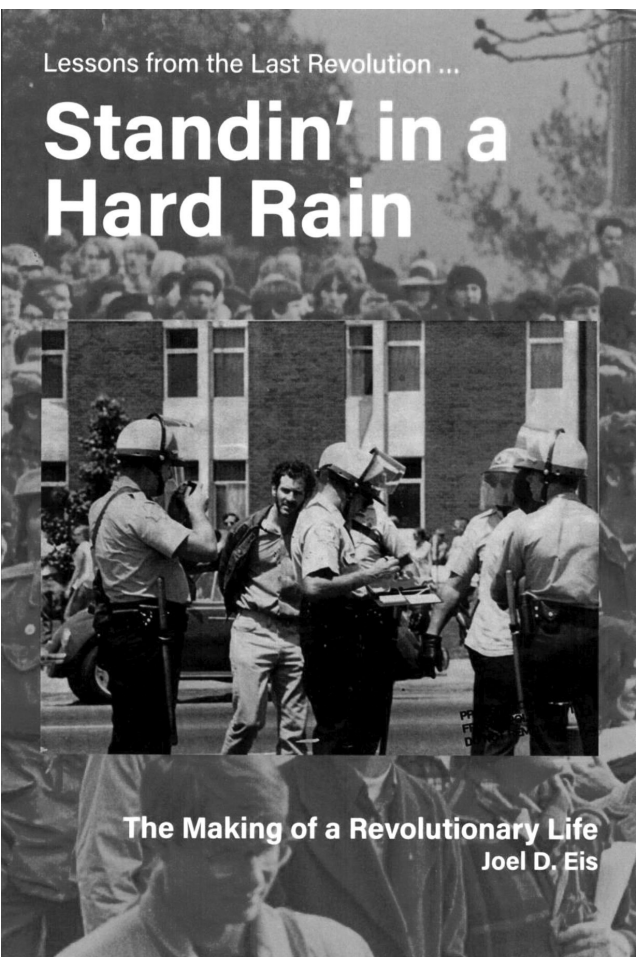
Eis will share the podium at book launch readings with local organizing groups to raise awareness and support. There will be launch events and talks in Fresno and perhaps in other Central Valley towns where bookstores invite him to speak.

In addition, Eis has launched a GoFundMe campaign to support the cost of the project. If you're interested in supporting the project, visit the GoFundMe site and search for "A Project to Publish an Important Memoir." Thank you gifts are offered in exchange for different levels of support.

Eis expressed the importance of young organizers tapping the generation for advice. "With the current onslaught on truth by the right, we're all going to be 'standing in a hard rain' again in a struggle for the very soul of this country. We are still all in this together."

"You can bet the opposition is listening to every old warhorse they've got about how to win. Young folks cannot afford to ignore the experience of those who've been in the battle before."

Asked if the life of an activist was worth the price, Eis responded that "we all have to look at ourselves in the mirror



every day and ask, 'what are we doing with our energy?' I had to be true to myself.

"You can bet that if they could, all those folks in the veterans' graveyards would tell you that history is personal. Your time has come."

For the current generation seeking to know what the pitfalls and victories a life of activism entails, *Standin' in a Hard Rain* serves as a virtual training manual, with honesty and humor.

We still have a lot to do.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mike Rhodes is the executive director of the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at [mikerhodes@comcast.net](mailto:mikerhodes@comcast.net).

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**Q: Do I have to attend meetings?**

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RMI



# Our “Right to Know” When Pesticides Are Applied

Continued from page 8

Although ag commissioners from Tulare, Fresno and Sutter counties were in attendance, as well as two representatives of major ag industry groups (Manuel Cunha, president of the Nisei Farmers League, and Roger Ison, president of the California Association of Growers), none attempted to make public remarks. They quietly observed, perhaps in disbelief that the community had taken over the meeting, disrupting the plans that the DPR and its paid facilitators had envisioned.

It was a powerful moment, especially when residents walked into the room chanting and then waited patiently for their turn to speak.

But the patience of community members is wearing thin. They want the DPR to act faster. If growers in Kern County can receive information from neighboring growers before they apply pesticides and if four counties (Ventura, Riverside, Stanislaus and Santa Cruz) were able to implement a notification pilot this year, why do the rest of the San Joaquin Valley’s residents need to wait until 2024 to exercise our “right to know” that pesticides will be applied near our homes before the applications take place so that we can protect ourselves?

The health and well-being of those who live, work and study near the fields where crops are grown and pesticides are applied are important and those persons deserve to be protected—not only the crops of the growers that insist that pesticide use is necessary to maintain our title as “the food basket of the world.”

California can do better, not only by notifying residents before pesticides are applied but also by reducing the use of pesticides.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nayamin Martinez is the executive director of the Central California Environmental Justice Network.

# Brazil Is Back, Lula Is Back, Marina Is Back

By Leni Villagomez Reeves

“We are back. We are back to help build a peaceful world order based on dialogue and multilateralism.”—Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (Lula)

The president-elect of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (Lula), did not wait for his inauguration on Jan. 1 to take action. On Nov. 16, at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt he stated that “there is no climate security in the world without the Amazon being protected. No one is safe.”

“Climate emergency affects everyone, although the effects fall hardest on the most vulnerable.”

“The world has been ignoring warnings about climate change while spending trillions of dollars on war,” Lula said.

He stated that the international community needed better leadership to address climate change and added that Brazil was ready to rejoin efforts to build a healthier planet. “The fight against climate change will have the highest profile in the structure of my government.”

He spoke specifically about deforestation, which was reduced 83% during his previous administration. “You all know that we are going to undertake a big fight against deforestation.”

This includes plans to grant new protected status to half a million square kilometers (193,000 square miles) of the Amazon rainforest, fight deforestation, subsidize sustainable farming and reform Brazil’s tax code to promote transition to a green economy, imposing higher taxes on polluting industries.

“I would like to say to you all that Brazil is back,” announced Lula.

“Brazil is back to resume its ties with the world and to once again fight hunger in the world. To cooperate once again with the poorest countries—above all Africa—to cooperate with technology transfers to build a better future for our peoples.”

He also reaffirmed his previous announcement that the new Brazilian government would create a Ministry of Indigenous People (Pueblos Originarios) to give First Nations people the opportunity to set public policy.

His first priority will be the mission he has always had—improving the situation of poor people in Brazil. “We can’t accept it as normal that in this country millions of men, women and children don’t have enough to eat.”

The current regime in Brazil, led by Jair Bolsonaro, took office in 2019 after trumped-up charges in a “lawfare” campaign sent Lula to prison for more than a year and a half and prevented him from running in the 2018 election. All

charges were ultimately annulled, due to judicial bias and corruption of the judge overseeing the trial, and Lula was able to run in the 2022 election, defeating Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro was a disaster for Brazil from every point of view, including the environment. He favored an exploitative policy and appointed environmental and forest management officials who shared his opposition to maintaining protected areas for environmental reasons or as indigenous peoples’ territories.

The deforested area in Brazil’s Amazon reached a 15-year high from August 2020 to July 2021, according to official figures, and 2022 will be worse, according to satellite monitoring.

As the Bolsonaro regime leaves office, 33 million Brazilians face acute hunger and 100 million live in poverty, the highest numbers in many years.

Bolsonaro also dismantled the public health system and that, coupled with his pandemic denial and resistance to vaccine acquisition and use, led to Brazil suffering the second highest per capita Covid deaths in Latin America.

The challenges facing the new Lula presidency are severe. They have been widely reported. There is still a powerful ultra-right wing that controls much of the legislature, the judiciary and the military, as well as the economy.

Essential work includes reversing years of neofascist rule, rebuilding the country, restoring regional economic cooperation and recovering from environmental damage so severe that leading Brazilian environmentalist Marina Silva likened it to recovery from war.

Silva, a Goldman Award winner who was appointed environmental minister by Lula in his first term in 2003, resigned in 2008 over policy differences but supported Lula’s candidacy in this election.

In a Sept. 12 press conference with Lula, she said that “hunger is a good example of how we can improve climate performance. We are one of the most important food producers in the world, and we should come up with solutions to provide for international society.

“It’s not only a huge opportunity for Brazil to develop innovative equations to solve development problems and social inequalities but also to share our technology and solutions with other countries, mainly in the Global South.”

Silva is Black, indigenous Brazilian, the daughter of rubber tappers, born and raised in the state of Acre in the



Lula da Silva, the new president of Brazil.  
Photo courtesy of The Commons

Amazon rainforest. Lula is a self-educated son of a poor family who went to work while still a child and rose through union leadership ranks to national and international leadership. They have both achieved what appeared impossible in the past, and they are ready to take this on.

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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/).

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# Covered California

## Cumple 10 Años

### Por Alianza Comunitaria

Hace diez años, Covered California comenzó a inscribir a las personas en su amplia variedad de opciones de seguro médico. Llamado “mercado de seguros de salud”, su originalidad reside en la posibilidad de comprar la mejor cobertura de salud posible, en algunos casos con una prima muy baja a pagar. Todo en un solo lugar.

Covered California es la versión estatal del llamado “Obamacare”, que es la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (ACA, por sus siglas en inglés), promulgada en 2010 por el entonces presidente Barack Obama. Según el sitio web oficial en español (<https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/affordable-care-act/espanol/>), ACA tiene tres objetivos básicos: hacer que un seguro de salud asequible esté disponible para más personas; expandir el programa de salud de Medicaid para cubrir a todos los adultos con ingresos por debajo del 138 % del FPL (siglas en inglés del Nivel Federal de Pobreza), sin embargo, no todos los estados ampliaron sus programas; y apoyar métodos innovadores de prestación



Covered California celebró su X aniversario con un pequeño evento frente al edificio de la alcaldía de Fresno el pasado 16 de noviembre. En el estrado, de izquierda a derecha: Jagdeep Singh, matriculador de Covered California, Jessica Altman, Directora Ejecutiva de Covered California, el Asambleísta Dr. Joaquín Arambula y Kirandeep Sandhu, beneficiario de Covered California. Foto de Peter Malden

de atención médica diseñados para reducir los costos de la atención médica en general.

La ley fue resistida por los conservadores tanto en el Congreso como en muchos estados. La idea de tener un seguro de salud asequible parece que les aterroriza. Luego, durante la administración Trump (2017-2021), los republicanos intentaron cancelar el programa sin tener un plan para reemplazarlo. Esos esfuerzos fracasaron y ACA continúa en su lugar.

Por eso el X Aniversario del programa tiene un sabor especial. “En los últimos 10 años, millones de californianos disfrutaron de tener un seguro médico”, dijo Patricia Izquierdo, vocera de Covered California.

El 16 de noviembre, Jessica Altman, directora ejecutiva de Covered California, visitó Fresno para una breve celebración y para recordarles a quienes no tienen seguro médico que aprovechen el programa.

Cómo funciona. Si tiene un empleo con seguro de salud, no puede aplicar a Covered California, pero sus dependientes pueden hacerlo. Debe indicar sus ingresos al presentar la solicitud porque la prima que pagará por su cobertura depende de dichos ingresos. Y Covered California no acepta solicitantes no residentes. Este programa es ideal para personas de bajos y medianos ingresos.

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# El conocimiento es poder

## Continúa de página 20

cundo Arellano se graduó—ahora ella es concejal del ayuntamiento de Huron—la escuela decidió agregar otro “valedictorian,” de Coalinga, para acompañarla en el mensaje, algo que es considerado como discriminatorio.

Cuando Arellano se graduó, compartió el honor de ofrecer el mensaje con otro estudiante, a pesar de tener un promedio más alto. Cuando le pregunté si creía que los niños de Huron eran tratados de manera diferente a los niños de Coalinga en la escuela, ella respondió: “Sí. La diferencia es que los estudiantes de Coalinga están familiarizados con ella. Instó a todos en la sala a hacer todo lo necesario para que sus hijos pudieran asistir a una escuela más cercana a casa donde ‘pertenecen’, ¡Traigan amigos, el vecino, el tío, todos! No podemos dejarnos tratar como basura, no somos basura.”

*Paulina Cruz es una becaria de Community Alliance. Ella es una inmigrante mexicana y actualmente está estudiando Antropología y Psicología en CSU Fresno. Paulina dedica su tiempo libre a escribir poesía y pintar.*

El aumento de los delitos motivados por el odio en California y en los Estados Unidos ha creado llamados a la acción generalizados, y la Biblioteca del Estado de California proporcionó fondos para esta serie en el marco de la iniciativa estatal Stop the Hate. El ayuntamiento de Huron fue organizado por San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, el periódico Alianza Comunitaria y el alcalde de Huron, Rey León.

La Alianza Comunitaria es una voz independiente para los trabajadores y los grupos progresistas en el Valle Central de San Joaquin. El objetivo de este periódico mensual es construir un poderoso movimiento progresivo que respalde la justicia social, ambiental y económica; derechos de inmigrantes; trabajadores. Buscamos exponer las injusticias sociales y políticas y vincular la diversa red de activistas que trabajan en nuestra comunidad.

**EDITOR**  
Eduardo Stanley  
editor@fresnoalliance.com

**DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO**  
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# Como Una Ciudad Del Valle Planea Sobrevivir a La Sequía

Continúa de página 20

abandonar el centro del Valle de San Joaquín en busca de trabajo, los expertos dicen que los trabajadores agrícolas no quieren dejar sus hogares y, por lo tanto, es poco probable una migración a gran escala de los trabajadores. Por su parte, los dirigentes de la ciudad de Huron pretenden que los “huroneros”, o habitantes de Huron, tengan menos empleos que dependan del agua y más oportunidades económicas. “Somos la ciudad agrícola más resistente al clima, o al menos nos esforzamos por serlo”, dijo el alcalde de Huron, Rey León. De este modo, si la sequía empeora, “hay alguna esperanza de sobrevivencia”, dijo León.

## Huron: el corazón del Valle

Huron—una ciudad a la que se suele llamar la “cornucopia” del Valle de San Joaquín—solía ser un lugar con “abundancia” de trabajo, dijo Ramírez. Los trabajadores agrícolas solían inundar la ciudad durante la temporada de cosecha de lechuga a principios de la primavera y a finales del otoño, cuando el trabajo era abundante. “Hubo un momento en nuestra historia, no hace mucho tiempo, en que solíamos tener 8.000 trabajadores agrícolas migrantes por temporada”, dijo León. Esta afluencia de personas—que necesitaban lugares para dormir, comer y poner gasolina—suspuso un “enorme estímulo económico” para la ciudad, dijo León. “La calle principal era como el centro de Los Angeles, si no es que peor”. Pero todo eso empezó a cambiar hace unos 20 años, dijo León. A lo largo de los años, los agricultores de Huron y otras comunidades del oeste del Condado de Fresno han enfrentado tarifas de agua más altas y la competencia de productos importados más baratos, dijo Philip Martín, profesor emérito de economía agrícola y de los recursos en la UC Davis, en una declaración enviada por correo electrónico a The Bee/FresnoIand. Como resultado, los productores se inclinaron por cultivos de mayor valor, dijo. Algunos de estos cultivos, como las almendras, son menos intensivos en mano de obra y, por tanto, requieren menos trabajadores. Junto con las almendras, los pistachos, los tomates y las uvas son algunos de los cultivos de la región, según un reporte de 2021 del Distrito de Agua de Westlands, la agencia del agua que da servicio a las agroindustrias locales que rodean a Huron. El año pasado, los agricultores dejaron sin plantar más de un tercio de las 563.616 hectáreas del Distrito de Agua de Westlands. León dijo que todos estos cambios significaron que ya no había suficiente trabajo para mantener a miles de trabajadores migrantes además de la población local. “Nuestra realidad es muy diferente ahora”, dijo León. “La economía en Huron no es la misma”.

Huron, con una población de 6.222 habitantes, tenía un 94.5% de latinos y una tasa de pobreza del 41.3% hasta el 2021, según los datos más recientes del Censo. Ana Trejo, miembro del comité de Líderes Campesinas en Huron, una organización sin fines de lucro que apoya a las trabajadoras agrícolas, dijo que la pérdida de trabajo agrícola inducida por la sequía tiene un efecto dominó en el bienestar económico de la comunidad. Algunos residentes de Huron que no trabajan en los campos se ganan la vida vendiendo comidas a los trabajadores agrícolas o dándoles “raítes” a los campos. Los vendedores de comida se estacionan junto a los huertos de pistachos y almendras para vender tacos, fruta fresca—mangos, melones y cocos—y refrescos a los trabajadores agrícolas y otros transeúntes. Trejo, de 64 años, solía trabajar en el campo, pero hoy se gana la vida cuidando a los hijos de los trabajadores agrícolas. Últimamente, ha visto fluctuar su flujo de clientes. “Supuestamente la temporada alta de la cosecha es la mejor época para trabajar”, dijo. Pero los padres trabajadores agrícolas le dicen lo contrario. “De repente, las madres me dicen: ‘No voy a trabajar, los empleadores nos pusieron en pausa hasta nuevo aviso’”.

“Allí es donde yo me doy cuenta (que el empleo ha bajado)” , dijo.

## Un posible ‘Dust Bowl’?

Manuel Cuhna Jr., presidente de Nisel Farmers League, dijo que conoce a agricultores que se trasladaron a otros estados debido a los elevados costos de la mano de obra y el agua asociados a la actividad empresarial en California. A medida que la sequía se prolonga, limitando aún más las oportunidades de empleo agrícola, dice que le preocupa que los trabajadores tengan que conducir cada vez más lejos para trabajar. “Lo que es peor, que pudieran abandonar por completo las comunidades rurales del Valle Central, como Huron. “El lado oeste va a recibir un golpe tremendo porque esa tierra se va a secar”, dijo. “Y, ¿a dónde irán esos trabajadores?”. Cuhna dijo que le gustaría ver más proyectos de almacenamiento de agua, como presas, para ayudar a mejorar el acceso al agua en el Valle Central. Sin eso, dijo, “habrá una migración”. Ian LeMay, presidente de California Fresh Fruit Association, dijo que una migración masiva es el “peor de los escenarios”.

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Melissa Montalvo cubre notas sobre desigualdad económica y mano de obra para The Fresno Bee y FresnoIand. Ella es reportera bilingüe y graduada de la Universidad de Southern California. Cubrió temas sobre la industria alimenticia y agrícola, temas indígenas y cultura Mexico-Americana como free lance para plataformas como L.A. Taco, Civil Eats y otras.

Le May advirtió, sin embargo, que retirar un millón de acres de tierras de cultivo del centro del Valle de San Joaquín en las próximas dos o tres décadas—como algunos han predicho que ocurrirá con SGMA—podría conducir a una “pérdida masiva de empleos” que obligaría a la gente a desplazarse. Dijo que el estado debería “intentar salvar cada acre de tierra que podamos” para evitar que sea retirado de la producción. “Mi familia no sería californiana hoy si no hubiera existido el Dust Bowl en Oklahoma”, dijo en una entrevista con KVPB el 22 de septiembre. “Si no se mitiga correctamente”, dijo, un evento del tipo del Dust Bowl “podría convertirse en una realidad aquí en el Valle Central de San Joaquín”. Sin embargo, los temores sobre una posible migración masiva son especulativos en este momento. Los expertos que estudian la sequía, la agricultura y la mano de obra agrícola afirman que las proyecciones de pérdidas masivas de empleo relacionadas con la sequía están infladas. Josué Medellín-Azua, miembro adjunto del Public Policy Institute of California y profesor asociado de ingeniería civil y medioambiental en la UC Merced, dijo que, según su análisis de las tendencias históricas de la sequía en el empleo, es “poco probable” que el Valle Central sufra despidos masivos o migraciones causadas por la normativa o los fenómenos climáticos. Aun así, dijo, “deberíamos tener cuidado al decir que unos pocos miles de empleos (perdidos) no marcan una diferencia en la economía en general”, dijo. Otros, como Martín, de la UC Davis, señalaron que las proyecciones de pérdidas de empleos relacionadas con la sequía han sobrestimado el impacto de la pérdida de empleos en el pasado. El alcalde de Huron, León, dijo que está haciendo todo lo que puede para asegurarse de que estos temores no se hagan realidad. “Puedo ver que ocurre en (algunas) comunidades”, dijo. “Estoy tratando de prevenir que pase en la mía”. León usa su capacidad como alcalde de Huron y como fundador y director ejecutivo de The LEAP Institute (Latino Equity Advocacy & Policy), una organización sin fines de lucro con sede en el valle, para abogar por una economía más diversa. Su organización sin fines de lucro está pagando para capacitar a personas para empleos en la energía solar. También lanzó un programa verde de vehículos eléctricos ‘raíters’ para compartir viajes. En 2018, León firmó una ordenanza municipal que requiere que las nuevas urbanizaciones en la ciudad usen sistemas de aguas residuales, lo que espera que traiga empleos de plomería a Huron. El espera eventualmente atraer a la ciudad industrias como la manufactura, el ensamble y la tecnología agrícola y la sostenibilidad. Huron necesita una economía, dijo León, que “no dependa al 100% de la cantidad de agua de la que tradicionalmente hemos dependido”. “La gente necesita un lugar donde comer” Bares, taquerías, mercados, una pizzería Straw Hat Pizza y un salón de belleza son algunos de los pequeños negocios que bordean Lassen Avenue, la vía principal que atraviesa Huron. En agosto, aparecieron dos nuevos negocios en Lassen Avenue: La Nueva Segunda, una tienda de segunda mano, y Mariscos del Malecón, una nueva marisquería. Rosa Moreno abrió los negocios en busca de un trabajo menos exigente físicamente. Ha trabajado en el campo desde los 12 años. Hasta ahora, Moreno ha contratado a tres personas para ayudar en sus negocios. Una de ellas es Ramírez, la trabajadora agrícola en busca de trabajo. Por ahora, Ramírez decidió quedarse en Huron, donde trabaja unas dos o tres horas a la semana, clasificando ropa y cobrándole a los clientes en la tienda de segunda mano, para poder llegar a fin de mes. Los miembros y líderes de la comunidad de Huron dicen que confían en que la comunidad resistirá ante el cambio climático. “No importa lo difícil que sea”, dijo el alcalde León, “mucha gente será muy terca y resistirá”. Moreno está de acuerdo. “Hay muchos cambios en Hurón”, dijo Moreno en español. “Y a pesar de los cambios negativos, como la falta de agua, la gente no está realmente convencida de irse”. En lugar de eso, tratan de adaptarse, dijo. “Siguen construyendo casas, apartamentos y haciendo otras cosas para que Huron crezca”, dijo. Para Moreno, este crecimiento es una buena noticia para los negocios. “La gente necesita un lugar para comer”.



# Vuelve Brasil, Vuelve Lula, Vuelve Marina

Continúa de página 20

tecnología para construir un futuro mejor para nuestros

“pueblos”.

También reafirmó su anuncio anterior de que el nuevo gobierno brasileño crearía un Ministerio de los Pueblos Indígenas (Pueblos Originarios) para dar a las personas de las Primeras Naciones la oportunidad de establecer

políticas públicas.

Su primera prioridad será la misión que siempre ha

tenido: mejorar la situación de los pobres en Brasil. “No

podemos aceptar como normal que en este país millones

de hombres, mujeres y niños no tengan para comer”.

El régimen actual en Brasil, encabezado por Jair Bolsonaro,

asumió el cargo en 2019 después de que cargos falsos en

una campaña de “guerra jurídica” enviaron a Lula a prisión

por más de un año y medio y le impidieron presentarse a

las elecciones de 2018. Todos los cargos fueron finalmente

anulados, debido al sesgo judicial y la corrupción del

juze que suplenó el juicio, y Lula pudo presentarse a las

elecciones de 2022, derrotando a Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro fue un desastre para Brasil desde todos los

puntos de vista, incluido el medio ambiente. Favoreció

una política explotadora y nombró funcionarios de gestión

ambiental y forestal que compartieron su oposición a

mantener áreas protegidas por razones ambientales o

como territorios de pueblos indígenas.

El área de forestada en la Amazonia brasileña alcanzó un

máximo de 15 años desde agosto de 2020 hasta julio de

2021, según cifras oficiales, y 2022 será peor, según el

monitoreo satelital.

## Hebe de Bonafini,

## derechos humanos,

## muer a los 93 años

Por Eduardo Stanley

Hebe de Bonafini fue la líder de las Madres de Plaza de

Mayo, el grupo que cofundó en 1977, un año después

de que la sangrienta dictadura militar tomara el poder en

Argentina, con un fuerte apoyo y aliento de Washington.

Cuando el hijo mayor de De Bonafini, Jorge, fue arrestado

y desaparecido por los militares, ella inició interminables

rondas por hospitales, comisarías, juzgados y morgues en

busca de su hijo. Posteriormente, su otro hijo, Raúl, también

desapareció. Las rondas se multiplicaron. Estaba buscando

al menos sus cuerpos.

Las autoridades nunca dieron una explicación sobre

sus paraderos. Durante esas búsquedas, De Bonafini se

encontró con otras madres que también buscaban a sus

hijos e hijas secuestrados y desaparecidos.

El gobierno de facto, llamado “La Junta”—cuya misión era

“eliminar la amenaza de una revolución de izquierda” pero

que en realidad asesinó a miles de jóvenes, estudiantes,

sindicalistas e incluso “disidentes” religiosos—prohibió las

reuniones de más de tres personas. Entonces, las madres

comenzaron a caminar todos los jueves en sentido contrario

a las agujas del reloj alrededor de la torre del reloj ubicada

en el centro de la Plaza de Mayo, la plaza principal frente a

la residencia presidencial en Buenos Aires.

Su demanda era que sus hijos regresaran vivos a casa.

Las Madres de la Plaza, como las llamaban entonces,

comenzaron a envolverse la cabeza con pañales de

tela, que simbolizan los que alguna vez usaron sus hijos

desaparecidos. Los pañuelos blancos en la cabeza se

convirtieron en un símbolo del grupo.

A medida que las Madres se volvieron más activas y

vocales, los militares tomaron represalias. La primera

asesinada, así como otras dos Madres.

De Bonafini se convirtió en líder de las Madres. El grupo se

convirtió no solo en un símbolo de resiliencia, sino también

de valentía. Cuando se restableció la democracia, en 1982,

las Madres fueron uno de los grupos más determinados en

llevar a los militares a los tribunales.

Más tarde ayudaron a crear las Abuelas de la Plaza.

La misión de esta organización es identificar a los niños

nacidos de madres jóvenes—sus hijas—secuestradas

por militares. Esos niños fueron dados en adopción y sus

madres asesinadas.

Las Abuelas ayudaron a crear un banco de ADN para

ayudar a identificar a esos niños “perdidos”. Hasta el

momento, más de 120 nietos fueron identificados y

“recuperados”.

1982.

Bajo el liderazgo de De Bonafini,

las Madres se convirtieron en una

organización de derechos humanos

activa e influyente en Argentina.

Algunas sociedades con

gobiernos represores han



De Bonafini estuvo activa hasta sus últimos días. Pertenece a la más radical de las Madres. Denunció constantemente el papel de Washington en los golpes de Estado y su control sobre los gobiernos de derecha en América Latina.

También fue controversial debido a su abierta simpatía y activismo en apoyo de las administraciones de Néstor

Alfonsín y de Cristina Kirchner (2003-2007) y (2007-2015) y enfrentó críticas por

aparentemente mal manejo de los

fondos de su organización sin fines

de lucro.

Durante el mandato de De

Bonafini como presidente de las

Madres, la organización alcanzó

oposición internacional a las

violaciones generalizadas de los

derechos humanos por parte de los

militares, que en última instancia

ayudaron a la caída de la Junta en

1982.

Bajo el liderazgo de De Bonafini,

las Madres se convirtieron en una

organización de derechos humanos

activa e influyente en Argentina.

Algunas sociedades con

gobiernos represores han



Hebe caminando con otras Madres en Plaza de Mayo, Buenos Aires, 1998. Foto de Eduardo Stanley

Alejandra.

reproducido el modelo de las Madres para exigir justicia.

A Hebe de Bonafini le sobrevive su única hija, María

Eduardo Stanley es el editor del periódico Community

Alliance. Contáctelo en editor@fresnoalliance.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Cuando el régimen de Bolsonaro deje el cargo, 33 millones de brasileños enfrentan hambre aguda y 100 millones viven en la pobreza, las cifras más altas en muchos

años.

Bolsonaro también desmanteló el sistema de salud

pública y eso, sumado a su negación de la pandemia y su

resistencia a la adquisición y uso de vacunas, llevó a Brasil a

sufrir la segunda mayor cantidad de muertes por COVID per

cápita en América Latina.

Los desafíos que enfrenta la nueva presidencia de Lula

son severos. Han sido ampliamente reportados. Todavía

existe una poderosa ultraderecha que controla gran parte

de la legislación, el poder judicial y el ejército, así como la

economía.

El trabajo esencial incluye revertir años de gobierno

neofascista, reconstruir el país, restaurar la cooperación

económica regional y recuperarse de un daño ambiental

tan severo que la destacada ambientalista brasileña Marina

Silva lo comparó con la recuperación de la guerra.

Silva, ganadora del premio Goldman y nombrada

ministra de Medio Ambiente por Lula en su primer mandato

en 2003, renunció en 2008 por diferencias políticas, pero

apoyó la candidatura de Lula en esta elección.

En una conferencia de prensa el 12 de septiembre con

Lula, dijo que “el hambre es un buen ejemplo de cómo

podemos mejorar el desempeño climático. Somos uno de

los productores de alimentos más importantes del mundo,

y debemos encontrar soluciones para brindar a la sociedad

internacional.

“No solo es una gran oportunidad para que Brasil

desarrolle ecuaciones innovadoras para resolver problemas

de desarrollo y desigualdades sociales, sino también para

compartir nuestra tecnología y soluciones con otros países,

principalmente en el Sur Global”.

Silva es negra, indígena brasileña, hija de caucheros,

nacida y criada en el estado de Acre, en la selva amazónica.

Lula es un hijo autodidacta de una familia pobre que

comenzó a trabajar cuando aún era un niño y ascendió en

los rangos de liderazgo sindical hasta el liderazgo nacional

e internacional. Ambos lograron lo que parecía imposible

en el pasado y están listos para asumirlo.

\*\*\*\*\*

Leni Villagomez Reeves es una médica local y activista.

Puede contactarla en lenivillagomez@gmail.com. Chequea

sus comentarios y noticias sobre Cuba en Facebook

(fresnosolidarity/).



# LLAMA A LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

## COMUNITARIA

### El conocimiento es poder

Por Paulina Cruz

“El odio viene en muchas formas. Cuando nuestra juventud no tiene igualdad de acceso a la educación pública, hay falta de equidad y puede optimir y limitar las oportunidades de movilidad y progreso social. Por eso defendemos a nuestros estudiantes y nuestros derechos”—Rey León, alcalde de Huron

El odio surge del miedo y la ignorancia, la mejor línea de defensa es el conocimiento y la valentía.

Todos hemos escuchado el dicho ‘El conocimiento es poder’, creo que no hay frase más cierta. Sin conocer las causas de las cosas, ¿cómo podemos cambiarlas para mejor? A lo largo de la historia estadounidense ha habido una plétora de ejemplos de racismo institucionalizado, donde el sistema ha sido diseñado para socavar las comunidades de color. Uno de los muchos problemas con el sistema escolar es cómo las escuelas en las que predominan los vecindarios negros y morenos están severamente desfinanciadas y desatendidas.

Huron es una pequeña ciudad rural dentro del condado de Fresno. Tiene una población de aproximadamente 7,100 personas (dependiendo de la temporada de cosecha), 94% de agrícolas ha seguido creciendo durante las últimas décadas, a pesar de no recibir los recursos necesarios de nuestro gobierno.

El jueves 17 de noviembre, más de 100 personas se reunieron en el Centro Comunitario John Palacios para asistir a una reunión comunitaria organizada por el periódico Alianza Comunitaria y el alcalde de Huron, Rey León. El plan era reunir a la gente, discutir las necesidades de una escuela preparatoria local—en lugar de tener que asistir a la escuela de Coalinga—y los pasos necesarios para hacer realidad ese sueño. Residentes locales y líderes comunitarios de otras ciudades rurales asistieron para escuchar y participar en la discusión.



Parte de la audiencia de la reunión comunitaria realizada en Huron el 17 de noviembre, 2022, donde los asistentes discutieron planes para la creación de una escuela preparatoria en Huron.

Foto de Peter Maiden

Arely Arellano, de Huron, quien habló en la reunión comunitaria, se graduó de la Escuela Preparatoria Coalinga en 2011 con un promedio general de 4.3. Por tal motivo fue seleccionada “Valedictorian”—el/la alumno/a que se gradúa con el mejor promedio y ofrece el mensaje de despedida (“Valedictory”) en la ceremonia de graduación. Pero

Continúa en página 17

### Cómo Una Ciudad Del Valle Planea Sobrevenir a La Sequía

Por Melissa Montalvo, FresnoIand

Esta nota fue publicada en FresnoIand.org

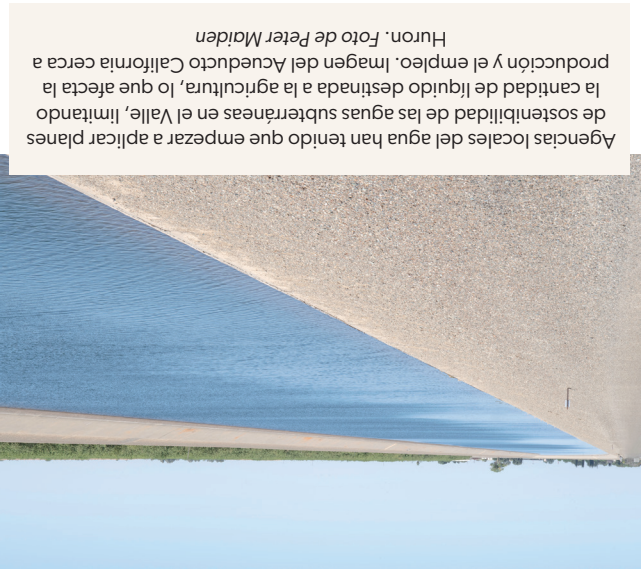
Nohe mi Ramirez ha trabajado durante más de 14 años en los campos agrícolas y en las emparadoras de los alrededores de Huron, una pequeña ciudad rural situada 50 millas al suroeste de Fresno.

Ramirez, una inmigrante de 52 años originaria de Veracruz, México, dijo que Huron es un “lugar perfecto”, donde tiene todo lo que necesita: comunidad, amigos tan cercanos que se sienten como familia, y especialmente, su pasado temporada de cosecha.

Los trabajadores agrícolas del Valle Central ya han enfrentado una serie de cambios en su forma de vida en los últimos años. Ramirez y cuatro trabajadores agrícolas, actuales o antiguos, entrevistados para este artículo dijeron que la sequía—junto con el impacto agravante de una ley de California de 2016 que requiere que los agricultores les paguen a los trabajadores horas extras después de ocho horas, y la pandemia—ha dado lugar a menos horas y menos ingresos.

“Nuestro trabajo y nuestras horas se redujeron; tenemos muchos desempleados”, dijo. “El precio de la comida sube, y el de las casas y los impuestos y todo sube y no para. ¿Y nosotros de qué manera nos vamos a mantener?”.

La industria agrícola de California perdió más de \$1.000 millones en ingresos y más de 8.750 empleos directos, ya que los agricultores, principalmente del Valle Central, sacaron de producción casi 400.000 acres solamente en 2021.



Agencias locales del agua han tenido que empezar a aplicar planes de sostenibilidad de las aguas subterráneas en el Valle, limitando la cantidad de líquido destinada a la agricultura, lo que afecta la producción y el empleo. Imagen del Acueducto California cerca a Huron. Foto de Peter Maiden

La sequía llega en un momento en el que las agencias locales del agua también han tenido que empezar a aplicar planes de sostenibilidad de las aguas subterráneas como parte de la Ley de Gestión Sostenible de Aguas Subterráneas (SGMA) de California de 2014, la ley estatal destinada a proteger los recursos hídricos subterráneos. Esto ha provocado que los agricultores tengan aún menos agua.

Y algunos expertos dicen que las cosas pudieran empeorar.

Economistas de UC Berkeley estiman que, en las próximas dos o tres décadas, es probable que el centro del Valle de San Joaquín sea testigo de la retirada permanentemente de la producción cerca de un millón de acres de tierras agrícolas, es decir, alrededor de una quinta parte de la tierra productiva, lo que supondrá la pérdida de 42.000 empleos directos en el sector agrícola y de servicios.

Estos desafíos ya están presentes en Huron, el hogar de Ramirez y una ciudad mayoritariamente latina. Las comunidades rurales, de bajos ingresos y latinas son las que más riesgo corren en periodos de sequía, según un reporte de la oficina del analista legislativo de 2021.

Ramirez dijo que podría mudarse a Sacramento a buscar nuevas oportunidades de empleo.

“Lo estoy contemplando”, dice. “Estoy esperando el cambio—a ver si hay un cambio”.

Aunque algunos líderes de la industria agrícola dicen que temen que los trabajadores agrícolas se vean obligados a

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“Estamos de vuelta. Regresamos para ayudar a construir un orden mundial pacífico basado en el diálogo y el multilateralismo.”—Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (Lula) El presidente electo de Brasil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (Lula), no esperó a su toma de posesión el 1 de enero de 2023 para actuar. El 16 de noviembre, en la cumbre climática COP27 en Egipto, afirmó que “no hay seguridad climática en el mundo sin que se proteja la Amazonia. Nadie está seguro.

“La emergencia climática afecta a todos, aunque los efectos recaen más en los más vulnerables. “El mundo ha estado ignorando las advertencias sobre el cambio climático mientras gasta billones de dólares en la guerra”, dijo Lula.

Dijo que la comunidad internacional necesitaba un mejor liderazgo para abordar el cambio climático y agregó que Brasil estaba listo para unirse a los esfuerzos para construir un planeta más saludable. “La lucha contra el cambio climático tendrá el perfil más alto en la estructura de mi gobierno”.

Había específicamente de la deforestación, que se redujo en un 83% durante su gestión anterior. “Todos ustedes saben que vamos a emprender una gran lucha contra la deforestación”.

Esto incluye planes para otorgar un nuevo estatus de protección a medio millón de kilómetros cuadrados (193.000 millas cuadradas) de la selva amazónica, combatir la deforestación, subsidiar la agricultura sostenible y reformar el código tributario de Brasil para promover la transición a una economía verde, imponiendo impuestos más altos a las industrias contaminantes.

“Quisiera decirles a todos que Brasil está de regreso”, anunció Lula. “Brasil está de regreso para retomar sus lazos con el mundo y una vez más para combatir el hambre en el mundo. Cooperar una vez más con los países más pobres, sobre todo África, para cooperar con la transferencia de

### Vuelve Brasil, Vuelve Lula, Vuelve Marina

Por Leni Villagómez Reeves