

# A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

THE VOICE OF THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT SINCE 1996



EN ESPAÑOL  
PÁGINAS 28-23

## Hope for Board of Supervisors District 4

By Eduardo Stanley

On Jan 27, Jose Antonio Ramirez, 50, announced his candidacy for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors District 4 seat. He has been the city manager of Orange Cove, Firebaugh and Livingston.

Ramirez was born in Michoacan, Mexico, and came to California at the age of three to join his mother, who was a farmworker in the San Joaquin Valley. The family later settled in Easton, south of Fresno.

"To be a supervisor is public service, and I think I have the experience of listening to the people and implementing solutions," said Ramirez. "I grew up in District 4, [and] I know it very well."

To become a supervisor, Ramirez would need to defeat two-time incumbent Buddy Mendes, a dairy farmer from Riverdale.

Fresno County is controlled by conservative supervisors who refused to redesign the boundaries of their electoral districts taking into account demographic changes over the past 30 years. They want to maintain power and guarantee that they'll stay in office. One of those conservative supervisors is Mendes.

In fact, all five supervisors are male, and only one is not White—Supervisor Sal Quintero—even though Fresno County has a 53.6% Latino majority.

"I am a social entrepreneur, I want to help people to help themselves," said a confident Ramirez.

He studied engineering and has a master's in municipal administration.

"I can listen to different voices, and I want to listen to people from other districts," said Ramirez. "I want to unite, not to divide."

Mendes, on the other hand, has a history of vitriolic rants against those who differ from him.

On Feb. 7, 2018, he shouted down environmental activist Janaki Jagannath during a water prices discussion at a public meeting.

On July 20, 2020, during a joint Fresno County–City of Fresno meeting about Covid-19 and the use of federal funds received to confront the pandemic, Mendes used his power as chair of the Board to cut off presentations and stop the county administrative officer from answering a question regarding the allocation of funds by the supervisors.

The list could go on.

And the list of problems residents of the county face is also a long one.

"Water is an important issue, people want to have drinkable water," said Ramirez. "It is a very complicated issue."

He explains how the pandemic exposed limitations for young students to access the Internet. "In some rural areas, Internet access is very limited and this affects low-income residents."

Ramirez also lists two other issues as important for District 4 and the county at large: affordable housing and public safety.

Regarding the homeless crisis, Ramirez said that there is money available to confront it.

"We need civic participation to discuss creative ideas about the issue; we [have] ignored this topic for a long time," said Ramirez.

The primary election will take place on June 7.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



Jose Ramirez, candidate for the District 4 seat on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Photo by Peter Maiden

## Fresno County Sheriff Mims Retires

By Community Alliance Staff

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims announced on Feb. 18 that she is retiring. But hold the firecrackers; she will retire when her term ends later this year. She was first elected in 2006.

Mims started her career in law enforcement as a police officer in Kerman more than 40 years ago. In 1983, she joined the Sheriff's Office.

Mims has been criticized by immigrant rights advocates for cooperating with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known until 2003 as Border Patrol), transferring detainees without legal residence from the county jail. These detainees then start a long process—sometimes lasting several months or even years—of being deported, usually changing detention centers at multiple privately owned facilities.

Some immigrant rights activists believe the long deportation process is a way to funnel more money to those private detention centers, a cost that is ultimately borne by the taxpayers.

Despite having evolved from a Democrat to a Decline to State and now a Republican, Mims is a Trump supporter, who met with the then-President when he visited California in September 2020. In a previous meeting with Trump, Mims made the case against sanctuary laws, which she



Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims announced during a press conference on Feb. 18 that she will retire at the end of 2022. Photo by Peter Maiden

considers "a disgrace." Sanctuary laws provide some basic human rights protections to immigrants.

In June 2020, Mims stated that her office would not enforce the mask mandates established by Governor Gavin Newsom as a tool to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Last year, the *Community Alliance* newsstand in front of the County Jail (operated by the Sheriff's Office) was stolen a few times. Thanks to a hidden GPS, when the newsstand was stolen on New Year's Eve 2021 it was discovered at a location that was a satellite jail of the Sheriff's Office.

*Continues on page 2*

## GV Wire Sparks School Board Attack

By Kevin Hall

Local politics continued its ugly hard right turn last month as extremists gunned it for Fresno Unified School Board Trustee Veva Islas. Behind the wheel of the busload of anti-vaxxers who skipped their Wednesday night prayer meetings to crowd both February board meetings was GV Wire, the public relations and campaign communications arm of Granville Homes, led by brothers Darius and Farid Assemi.

Islas, the first-term school board member from the McLane area, is up for reelection in November; there is no primary race, so she's their latest political target. In addition to serving as the CEO of Cultiva la Salud, the nonprofit Islas created more than two decades ago, for the past 18 months she has been at the core of the COVID-19 Equity Project.

A small coalition of health advocates created the response effort when local government leaders were still in denial about the pandemic's severity. Islas now oversees dozens of health educators hired and trained directly from the communities in which they now educate and warn residents.

A teasing tweet from Islas in February in which she joked about the "win-win" outcome of temporary sterility among anti-vaxxers who contract Covid-19 "raised some eyebrows around town," according to the lede in an agitprop piece by GV Wire staffer Nancy Price, a former *Fresno Bee* employee. Those eyebrows presumably belong to her current employer, Darius Assemi, because the story lacked a legitimate source.

The surprising connection between Fresno's most prominent Muslim family—the Assemis operate the Waterford Foundation that founded the \$4 million Islamic

*Continues on page 2*

MARCH 2022

WWW.FRESNOALLIANCE.COM



Community Alliance  
P.O. Box 5077  
Fresno, CA 93755

Change service requested

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



@FRESNOALLIANCE @COMMUNITYALLIANCE NEWSPAPER

# Fresno County Sheriff Mims Retires

Continued from page 1

Replying to an inquiry from Mike Rhodes of the *Community Alliance* about what had happened with the newsstand, Mims replied, "Through my inquiry I discovered that jail personnel had removed the newsstand." She went on to say that "at the very least my staff should have contacted you prior to removing the stand, and I apologize for that not being done."

Certainly, Sheriff Mims isn't a defender of the First Amendment.



Some people showed support for the soon-to-be-retired Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims. Photo by Peter Maiden

# GV Wire Sparks School Board Attack

Continued from page 1

Cultural Center in 2004—and the local fascist movement with direct connections to the Jan. 6 Insurrection is found, of course, on Facebook. There, as part of GV Wire, Darius Assemi co-hosts a weekly online talk show with Fresno County Supervisor Steve Brandau and Fresno City Council Member Mike Karbassi called *Unfiltered*.

Brandau came directly out of the anti-Obama Tea Party movement of a decade ago and is strongly supported by local fascists, as reported in the March 2019 issue of the *Community Alliance*. Karbassi, like Brandau, came into office largely due to Assemi's backing and enjoys cycling in matching outfits with his political patron, presumably a preelection gift.

Their appropriately titled show is filled with inappropriate talk. Assemi, Brandau and Karbassi regularly platform fascist speakers, who then return the favor by using GV Wire articles to stir up their followers' anger and donations in the clickbait churn of political televangelism used by right-wing provocateurs to raise funds.

The first wave came at Islas and the school board the same week that the Republican National Committee declared the Insurrection "legitimate political discourse." The Feb. 2 school board meeting opened with a 30-minute public comment period filled with vitriol, misinformation and slurs aimed at "vicious Veva."

The hostile display was interrupted briefly when Facebook fascist organizer Josh Fulfer left the media box

to film advocate Gloria Hernandez in her seat; his camera's tripod bumped into someone standing in the aisle waiting to speak, and voices were raised. Fulfer then spent the remainder of the evening complaining online that police were not charging the man he bumped with assault.

Public comment reopened briefly at the end of the evening, but the meeting was adjourned when Bullard area trustee Terry Slatik proved unable to take criticism as Islas had and disrupted the meeting after just two speakers. A dozen or more anti-vaxxers then waited at both ends of the elevator at Fresno Unified's downtown administration building to harass Islas on her way out, but she and a larger group of supporters peacefully exited by a side door.

Two weeks later, it was a much different scene when the fascist network successfully turned out more ministers' flocks to fill the room, only to find no opposing groups present; a lot of security, including metal wand to enter; and a restructured agenda placing public comment at the end of the meeting. The gathered then enjoyed two full hours of waiting while getting a useful reminder of the complexities of governance. It was an effective set of de-escalation moves.

## First They Came for Immigrants, Unhoused, LGBTQ+, Women and Islas

Local law enforcement has been at the frontline of fascist actions against the general public, beginning with resigning Sheriff Margaret Mims' unconstitutional handling of immigrants detained by her deputies, followed by the Fresno Police Department's continuing assault on unhoused people. Ongoing social media reports from the streets by Dez Martinez and the We Are Not Invisible Coalition show private security firms are now taking extrajudicial actions on behalf of the city.

The contours of such a coordinated Christofascism campaign operating under the color of law emerged shortly after Jerry Dyer took office as mayor just a year ago. National

Lawyers Guild—Fresno Chapter member Mariah Thompson wrote in the *Fresno Bee* in April: "Journalists are being duped as part of a well-oiled public relations campaign to create a platform for hate groups such as the Proud Boys to get air time, recruit new members and slowly move extremism closer to the mainstream."

In early February, Dyer led an anti-abortion rally on the steps of City Hall alongside City Council Member Garry Bredefeld. Dyer's biggest political backer is Darius Assemi, president of Granville Homes and a past California Transportation Commission member. In 2018, the Assemi network spent nearly \$200,000 in a failed attempt to block the Measure P for Parks sales tax with Dyer as their lead spokesperson.

The Assemi family, their companies and their employees contributed more than \$200,000 to local races in Fresno County alone in the 2019–20 election cycle, not including statehouse races or other counties. They use GV Wire to create headlines for political attack ads against politicians unwilling to sign onto their agenda for publicly subsidized sprawl. The Save the Tower Theatre Demonstration Committee officially declared them unwelcome last April:

"The STTDC does not regard GV Wire as a legitimate news organization when they continue to platform violent hate groups. We removed GV Wire from our media list when they profiled the leader of the local Proud Boys last week, and we are greatly disappointed in leaders of our community willing to appear alongside PBs on *Unfiltered*, thus assisting in the legitimization of this hate group in the broader media."

\*\*\*\*\*

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

# A Peek Inside the Community Alliance

By Mike Rhodes

Dan Yaseen, the only advertising director we have ever had, announced last month he will be leaving the *Community Alliance* newspaper. Dan's contribution to the *Community Alliance* has been huge. There have been months when advertising sales made the difference between being able to pay the printer or not. We will all miss Dan and wish him the best in his future adventures.

Fortunately, about the same time Dan announced he was leaving, we hired a new advertising sales associate, smiley Calderón. If you would like to advertise in the *Community Alliance* and help keep the wolf from our door, call him at 714-290-6651.

A longtime staff member of the *Community Alliance*, Michael Evans is taking over the job of business manager (he will continue as our copyeditor) and that move has allowed me to assume the role of executive director. This job had been vacant for several years.

Probably the biggest news to share is that we have formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that will seek funding from foundations



Dan Yaseen is stepping away as advertising director of the *Community Alliance* newspaper. Photo by Peter Maiden

that have an interest in keeping local journalism alive and thriving in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley. Aware of the importance of having a board that reflects the diversity of our area, we have invited Seleny Diaz, Estevan Gutierrez and Jess Fitzpatrick to join us as we keep independent

journalism a vital part of this community. They will be joined on the 501(c)(3) board by Daren Miller, Pam Whalen and Bev Fitzpatrick.

Board member Miller announced last month that he is a candidate for the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools.

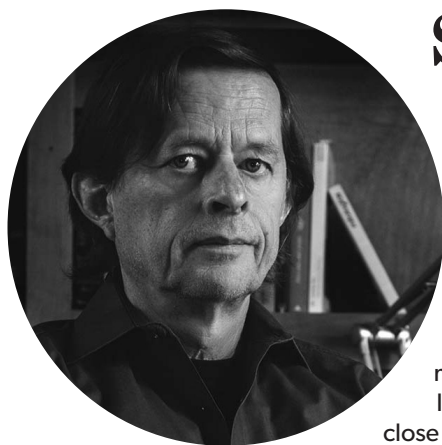
We miss Linda Kobashigawa, who was on our board since 2016 and left in January 2022. Linda, along with her friend and fellow board member Amanda Tripp-Messier, really did hold up half the sky at the newspaper at the exact time we needed it most. After having a baby, Amanda realized having two full-time jobs was enough for any sane person and left the board last year. We miss both of them very much.

Another important development is that we are training new writers from around the Central Valley to write for the *Community Alliance*. At our first Zoom webinar for writers, we planned to train three new writers who we have hired to write for us: Paulina Cruz, smiley Calderón and Emily Garcia. Word got out about the workshop, and we had more than 50 participants, many from small rural towns in the South Valley.

We are optimistic about the future of the *Community Alliance* newspaper and want you to be a part of this great experiment in grassroots independent journalism. Join us today as a subscriber, advertiser, writer or distributor of this paper.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



# Small Changes Bring Encouragement

FROM THE EDITOR

On Feb. 16, the Fresno City Council passed a resolution that could change the name of Kings Canyon Avenue to Cesar Chavez Avenue. The process could take up to two months to become a reality.

In 1993, the same avenue was close to being renamed after the union leader. Following heated public

discussion, though, there were not enough City Council votes to make it happen.

Many cities in California and Texas have named streets and parks after Chavez, so you might wonder why Fresno hasn't. Resentment from those holding power might be the main reason.

Chavez made enemies among powerful growers and conservatives, who never forgave him for drawing attention to the appalling working and living conditions of farmworkers. Even worse, Chavez and the United Farm Workers succeeded in forcing growers to pay a little bit more to farmworkers and provide some basic improvements in the fields.

As far as I know, no grower went bankrupt because of these changes. Yet they cried and threatened that the sky would fall.

Growers didn't change. They still cry when confronted with the need to increase the minimum wage or improve workers' conditions.

Of course, growers aren't the only ones resisting change. In the 1970s, when installing seat belts in cars became mandatory, automakers desperately claimed that car prices would rise to the point people couldn't afford to buy them, sending the auto industry into bankruptcy. That didn't happen either.

Those who make the most are always opposing social and economic changes that could result in sharing a small portion of their fortune,

oblivious to the fact that their wealth derives from the workers. That's why those in power make generous donations to politicians. Controlling the political apparatus guarantees that little or nothing will change.

And we can see that here in the Central Valley. However, there are reasons for optimism. We are seeing more young, college-educated people running for office even in small towns. They bring new ideas and different visions. There is hope for change in the coming years.

The overall balance of power nationwide is going to the right. Let's work together so that does not happen in the Valley. Conservatives and big ag have done considerable social damage.

Changing the name of a street might be symbolic, but it's something. It gives us encouragement.

Till next month.



Ben Benavidez in April 28, 2001, supported naming Ventura/Kings Canyon Avenue in honor of Cesar Chavez. Photo by Mike Rhodes

## Letters to the Editor

### Community Alliance Newsstand Stolen

I am infuriated by the story about your stolen newsstands. My daughter and I met you over 10 years ago back when you had an office across the street from Fresno City College. I had just recently started reading your paper, and I remember talking to you a little about where to find copies of it.

The thought that local law enforcement officers and/or employees are stealing your newsstands is really disturbing. Are they trying to make it harder for the public to read your paper? And why do they even care?

And the library! Too controversial! What?!

Anyway, since I doubt you will get any real action from the Fresno PD have you considered going over their heads so to speak? Like contacting the state attorney general's office or even the FBI? That is the answer to your question and the title of your article "Who

Are You Going to Call When Sheriff's Office Personnel..." I think it is rightfully in the FBI's jurisdiction. It is a federal constitutional matter.

I also wanted to tell you that your story has inspired a renewed commitment to the Alliance in me so now I'm going to go pay for a subscription. Good luck with however you decide to pursue it, and let us readers know how it's going.

Tara Hall  
Via Facebook

### Police Brutality Will Be Put on Trial in Fresno

By Mike Rhodes

Fresno police officers brutalized Lewis Brown while he was living in a homeless encampment near Highway 180 and West Avenue. After being released by the hospital, he was charged with a variety of crimes and spent months defending himself in court. In the end, all but one of the charges were dropped and a jury found Brown not guilty of resisting or obstructing a police officer.

Kevin Little, Brown's attorney, has filed a class-action lawsuit that will attempt to stop the City of Fresno's longstanding and continuing hostility toward the homeless community. Little says that "in a class-action lawsuit, the court has to certify the class proposed in the lawsuit, and that process can take several months at least."

The proposed class is all homeless persons in the City of Fresno since Feb. 21, 2020, who have had or will have laws or initiatives enforced against them based on their homeless status, or who have had or will have their belongings seized and destroyed in a manner that is contrary to the *Kincaid v. City of Fresno* decision and/or in violation of their personal property rights.

Anyone who believes they are part of the class should contact Little's office, which is located at 1225 E. Divisadero St. in Fresno.

This legal action was filed in late February 2022, shortly before the *Community Alliance* went to press. A more detailed account will appear in the April issue.



Lewis Brown shortly after his encounter with Fresno police officers. Photo by Dez Martinez

Read the complete legal document filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, Fresno Division, on the *Community Alliance* website ([fresnoalliance.com](http://fresnoalliance.com)).

\*\*\*\*\*

Mike Rhodes is the executive director of the *Community Alliance* newspaper and author of the book *Dispatches from the War Zone, about homelessness in Fresno*. Contact him at [mikerhodes@comcast.net](mailto:mikerhodes@comcast.net).

The *Community Alliance* is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly newspaper is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental and economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

**EDITOR**

Eduardo Stanley  
editor@fresnoalliance.com  
559-304-3714

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mike Rhodes

**NONPROFIT BOARD**

Michael D. Evans  
Beverly Fitzpatrick  
Daren Miller  
Pam Whalen

**LAYOUT DESIGNER**

Ashley Cortes

**DISTRIBUTION MANAGER**

Peter Maiden

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**

I. smiley G. Calderón  
714-290-6651

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Peter Maiden

**COPYEDITOR**

Michael D. Evans

**TO SUBSCRIBE**

Send \$60  
(progressive movement builder),  
\$40 (regular) or \$15 (low income) to  
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
NEWSPAPER  
P.O. Box 5077  
Fresno, CA 93755  
[fresnoalliance.com](http://fresnoalliance.com)

**SUBMISSIONS**

Deadline:  
the 15th of previous month.  
Articles 800-1,200 words.  
Contact the editor for more details at  
[editor@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:editor@fresnoalliance.com).

**Peace and Social Justice**

Calendar:  
Please submit all activities to  
[calendar@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:calendar@fresnoalliance.com)

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

### YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER:

- Enclosed is \$40 for a one-year regular subscription.
- Enclosed is \$60 for a one-year progressive movement builder subscription.
- Enclosed is \$15 for a one-year subscription (low-income option).
- Enclosed is an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_. I support alternative/independent media and want to see this publication grow.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Angry Youth Protest for Chancellor Castro's Resignation

By Emily Garcia

Fresno State's former vice president of student affairs, Frank Lamas, and California State University (CSU) Chancellor Joseph Castro are experiencing extreme heat. Castro allowed Lamas to continue working at the university from 2014 to 2020 despite allegations that Lamas repeatedly sexually harassed his female colleagues.

Lamas left Fresno State in late 2020 after he and then Fresno State president Castro agreed on a \$260,000 settlement and a letter of recommendation to future employers outside the CSU system.

The goal of this arrangement was for Lamas to leave quietly. Many students speculate that Castro did this to avoid negative backlash against Fresno State, but they are angered nonetheless.

Castro was Fresno State's president for roughly seven years before being named the eighth CSU chancellor in 2020. As chancellor, Castro oversaw all 23 CSU educational institutions.

When news broke of the Lamas arrangement, many sexual assault survivors came together at the corners of Cedar and Shaw avenues for an organized protest. There were around 30 participants on Feb. 5.

"It's crazy because they installed a window in his office so that he isn't alone with other employees and students. And that's terrifying and unfathomable because I couldn't even imagine something like that," says Rami Zwebti, 17, who participated in the protest.

Not only Fresno State students but also high school students and other college-bound individuals were present



Beth Contreras, Devin Prada and Ernesto Galindo are college-bound students who are now worried about their safety in an academic environment. Photo by Emily Garcia

to show their support. The determined group of protestors even inspired a few passersby to join the protest.

The protest was organized in hopes of leading to the resignation of Chancellor Castro. Indeed, Castro resigned on Feb. 17.

When many of the youth at the protest heard what was described as "disgusting news," some admitted to not wanting to attend college anymore, specifically CSUs. They expressed concern that their safety would not be prioritized and anger at the way Castro dealt with the allegations against Lamas.

"For me, it's really scary because this happened so close to home. I live like 10 minutes away and if I walk around here, I can literally see the window that they installed instead of firing him," Zwebti adds.

Another major concern is University High School, which is located on the Fresno State campus. It is a charter school that prepares students for college-level education.

University High students often can be seen walking around campus.

In addition, Fresno State students and faculty wonder what else the university might be covering up.

According to RAINN.org, 13% of all college students are victims of rape or sexual assault. Rape culture is not new or uncommon in college, but it is often ignored.

The university is now moving forward with its own private investigation.

Just a few years ago, Castro was credited with students' academic success, especially freshmen. There was a noticeable increase in their grades all around.

But not too long after Lamas was welcomed into the Bulldog family, the complaints started rolling in. Twelve sexual assault reports were made against Lamas—all of which were ignored.

"To be honest, I got my bachelor's here and it didn't always feel like a safe space. There is just something disturbing about party culture and the campus where abuse is just normalized. And as a woman, I don't like to feel unsafe," says Fresno State student Alexa Schiller, 25.

Some students mentioned feeling betrayed because Lamas' punishment is the equivalent of a pat on the back. No disciplinary measures were taken.

Students heard his sexist remarks when near his office, immediately raising a red flag.

Castro ignored the several emotional and physical red flags regarding Lamas and apparently did not see Lamas' behavior as an issue.

Many within the Fresno State community don't feel that justice has been served.

"You can replace people, but you cannot heal or remove someone's trauma," said Zwebti after expressing the importance of Castro's removal.

Now that these truths have come to light, how will the university be affected? How is Fresno State going to deal with safety issues on campus? And, most important, how is the university going to deal with the pain and suffering of the victims?

\*\*\*\*\*

Emily Garcia is a fellow of the Community Alliance newspaper. She is a journalism and mass communications major at Fresno State. Contact her at emilybvb432156@gmail.com.



Sexual advocate and survivor Xitllai Loya, second from left, and Rami Zwebti, left, lead protestors in taking turns writing their names and #METOO as part of their message. Photo by Emily Garcia

# Vaccine Required to Attend School in California

By Erica Murillo

California was the first state in the nation to implement school masking and staff vaccination measures, and now California could be the first to implement adding the Covid-19 vaccine to the list of vaccination requirements needed to attend school. The proposed bill is called the Keep Schools Open and Safe Act, and it would require children age five and older to get vaccinated to attend school.

The vaccine mandate would take effect in January 2023. Medical exemptions would be allowed.

If the bill passes, it would override Governor Gavin Newsom's statewide mandate. Newsom's mandate requires students in grades seven through 12 to be vaccinated against Covid-19 if they are doing in-person learning. Although Newsom's mandate currently excludes children whose parents don't want them vaccinated, the new bill would remove personal beliefs as an exemption from getting the vaccine.

South Kern Sol asked parents and community members what they think about this new vaccine mandate.



A Covid-19 vaccine. Photo courtesy of The Commons

"I just believe it's unfair to make a vaccine mandatory. I believe it should be optional for the parents and students," said Lizbeth Fernandez, a mother.

"I would say that decision is up to the parents to choose if they want their child to be vaccinated or not," said Gabriela Rios.

"The purpose of the vaccine now is not to stop the spread but rather to make the symptoms not be so severe.

Regardless, the kids are bound to get exposed or even get sick. I do not think it should be a requirement as of now."

"I am against it because it's getting the younger generation used to following the norm and you can still spread Covid if vaccinated," said Antonio Zamudio.

"Kids have been required to be vaccinated against all types of stuff forever and now we are upset about it?" said Fernanda Mendoza, a mother.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that "getting vaccinated against Covid-19 can lower your risk of getting and spreading the virus that causes Covid-19. Vaccines can also help prevent serious illness and death."

In addition, the Covid-19 vaccine creates an antibody response without having to experience sickness.

Currently, the CDC recommends the Pfizer vaccine for those ages five and older and the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine for those 18 and older.

The Pfizer booster is recommended for those 12 and older, and the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson booster is recommended for those 18 and older.

\*\*\*\*\*

Erica Murillo is a project coordinator and reporter at South Kern Sol of Bakersfield. She was born in Bakersfield, and her origin is from Guanajuato, Mexico. She is a first-generation graduate from CSU Bakersfield, where she earned a degree in liberal studies with a minor in English. Her first job was working in the fields picking grapes. She has evolved and continues to grow within her career. Contact her at erica@southkernsol.org.

# A Biblical Case for Renaming Squaw Valley

By Bayard Taylor

This is an appeal to my Christian brothers and sisters, and anyone else who likes Jesus, to get on board with changing the name of Squaw Valley.

The language of the Hebrew Bible is richly metaphorical. For example, the word for God's *glory* is *kabod*, which literally means heavy or weighty. If you want to talk about God's glory, you talk about God's "weightiness."

Jesus used this idea in a dispute with the religious teachers of his day. He named three "weightier matters of the law"—the most important features of religious law.

Those touchstones were *justice*, by which he meant basic fairness and caring for all, including the poor and the outcasts of society; *mercy*, by which he meant kindness and compassion; and *faithfulness*, by which he meant being trustworthy and honoring commitments.

Justice, mercy and faithfulness dovetailed with three other bedrock principles: loving God, loving your neighbor as yourself and the Golden Rule: "Do unto others what you would have others do unto you."

As we contemplate changing the name of Squaw Valley, we have some heavy historical matters to think about.

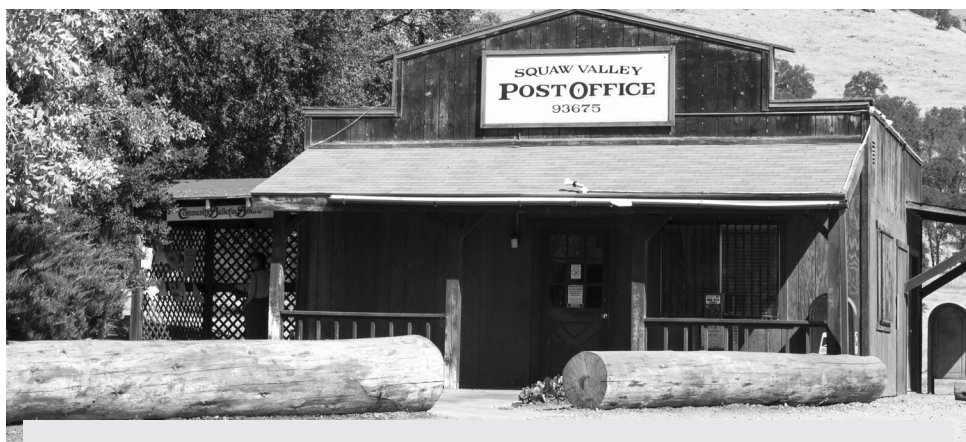
The first is that we non-Natives are total newcomers to the area compared to the local tribes who have occupied this land for something like 10,000 years.

Second, we need to acknowledge that California entered the Union as a "free" state, but, in reality, early California was built on killing, enslaving and preventing "Indians" from participating as citizens. Our first governor, Peter Burnett, declared our state's "final solution" regarding Indians in 1851: "[t]hat a war of extermination will continue to be waged between the two races until the Indian race becomes extinct must be expected."

What California's "final solution" looked like:

- During the Gold Rush, many towns paying bounties for "Indian" heads, scalps and ears.
- The U.S. Cavalry butchering a village of 800 Pomo men, women and children at "Bloody Island" (Clear Lake).
- A group of Tumna women throwing themselves off a cliff to their deaths rather than submit to being captured by the U.S. Army and sold into slavery ("Squaw Leap," Fresno County).
- Banishing and scattering tribes, as happened at Tulare Lake, once the largest body of freshwater west of the Mississippi, which was drained for agriculture (Visalia).
- California officials making "treaties" with Native peoples in bad faith, reneging on promises, then hiding the treaty documents and claiming they didn't exist.
- Reducing the California tribal population so that only 10% were left.
- Tearing Indian children away from their families and forcing them to go to government-funded, church-run concentration camp-like schools.
- Suppressing tribal languages and cultures in those boarding schools.
- Forcing complete subjugation to the dominant culture, as if our ways are the only ways that should be allowed to exist.

It was a deliberate, violent program of physical and cultural genocide. It was erasure on a monumental level. It was all done so that the land and the riches of the land could be taken for ourselves, no matter how much misery we caused.



Post Office in Squaw Valley, August 2018. Photo courtesy of The Commons

How would you feel if some alien invaders who knew nothing about your beliefs and culture "did these things unto" you and your kids?

Regarding this historical record, often non-Native people protest, "I haven't killed or enslaved any Indians. I shouldn't be blamed for what bad people did in the past." Hmm. Yes, but what we're talking about here is not just irrelevant history that has nothing to do with us. It is trauma that carries over for generations.

Big questions: Was this justice? mercy? faithfulness? loving one's neighbor?

Bringing us to the present, we now have the opportunity to do a small thing that could make a big difference. It wouldn't undo the harm done or "make things right." But it would go some distance in healing a terrible rift.

We can choose to rename Squaw Valley.

Why do it? Our Native American friends tell us that the word *squaw* is an insulting, humiliating, divisive, racially derogatory term that denigrates Native American women. Every day, they pass the signs with the name *squaw*, which aggravates their cumulative memory of hurt and loss.

Meanwhile, the arguments against changing the name are extraordinarily lightweight.

- Angry people growling at "outsiders who want to come and tell us what to do." Hmm. Our local Native people "outsiders"?
- "Just look in a dictionary: *squaw* means 'woman,' pure and simple." Hmm. Is it really that 'pure' or 'simple'?
- "We've always called it Squaw Valley." Hmm. Do your people have a history here stretching back 10,000 years?
- "We'll have to change highway signs and our business cards." Hmm. Yes. But won't it be a relatively minor inconvenience compared to what the tribes have been put through?

So whose word should we take as weightier? The word of the naysayers or the word of our Native American brothers and sisters who have survived genocide?

When it comes to changing the name of Squaw Valley, a friend of mine is fond of saying, "What would Jesus do?"

Indeed.

It's a weighty question.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bayard Taylor is a resident of the 93675 zip code, a nature lover, the author of two books, a former English teacher and a master of divinity graduate of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Contact him at bayardtaylor1@aol.com.

## Small Businesses Struggle under Covid-19

By Paulina Cruz

Starting your own business takes a lot of determination and hard work. It can be nerve-racking starting off on your own and not knowing if your blood, sweat and tears will end in success. Moreover, for the past two years, small businesses have faced difficult circumstances completely out of their control.

Although the press has reported that the pandemic has resulted in the permanent closing of 100,000–200,000 more businesses than in a typical year, that fails to recognize the livelihoods affected.

Could things have been much worse? Of course, but that does not take away from the immeasurable stresses families endured starting and losing business during a global pandemic. Not to mention the struggles of people who have managed to push forward, in hopes that things will eventually get better.

Cecilia Gonzales got a taste of both experiences, losing one of her two businesses during the pandemic. In 2019, after gaining her nail technician license, she began a business, Cecilia Nail Artist, out of a spare room in her house in Visalia.

Things started great, and soon she found herself fully booked weeks in advance. With things going so well, she decided to start teaching other people through the same program she took. Between teaching her own students and working from home, Gonzales was sure to beat her first-year goal without much concern. In 2020, Covid-19 shut down the world and Gonzales' business.

Indeed, 2020 was a turbulent year not only for her business but also for her family. Her husband caught Covid-19 at the beginning of the year and was seriously ill. She nursed him, making sure the disease did not spread to anyone else in the house.

Unfortunately, this was not the last time she feared for her husband's life. The following year, he endured two life-threatening accidents at work and was bedridden for months.



Liliana Osorio of Figure Brows attending to a client. Photo by Paulina Cruz

Without her husband working, Gonzales became the primary source of income in her family and she needed her business to succeed. However, she was fully aware of the dangers of reopening given that several of her husband's coworkers had died from Covid early in the pandemic.

"I knew how dangerous it could be, but there wasn't an option. I needed to work, and I was taking every precaution I could to make sure everyone was as safe as possible."

Gonzales was unable to return to teaching, not knowing how to shift to online courses with a subject that was so

hands-on. It was simply impossible for her to continue with that.

"Everything changes; we as humans need to be ready to roll with the punches," she noted as she focused on her first, and now only, business. Sales started slow with some of her regulars tentatively returning. Over time, her business began to pick up again although nowhere near where it was before the pandemic.

Gonzales continues to give it her all, taking English classes at night and working or babysitting her two new grandchildren by day. She smiles optimistically when thinking about the future, "You just have to find a way to keep going and things will fall into place."

Cancer survivor Liliana Osorio opened her beauty studio, Figure Brows, also in Visalia, the week that the lockdown occurred. Osorio was crushed, being stopped before she even had the chance to start. She was desperate to open her business but fearful of getting sick or spreading Covid-19.

While waiting to open, she took more online beauty courses, gaining more credentials for when she could finally open. She explained that her desire to open was fueled not only by wanting her business to succeed but also her financial anxieties. "I was stuck and scared. I was just starting, and I had signed a two-year lease so I couldn't just take it back or give up."

The moment the lockdown ended, Osorio was ready to go, carefully following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. She even required masks at all times, regardless of the state mandates. "There's always a risk of spreading Covid, and I wasn't going to make it worse."

Covid had shut down her business, and she wasn't about to let that happen again. "It's simple: no mask, no service."

Osorio has had her ups and downs. Being new, many people didn't know about her business at first, but she has slowly begun to build clientele. At one point, she caught Covid-19 and had to close temporarily.

"It's hard, but the bills don't stop," Osorio responded as to how she is handling the situation. "Life doesn't stop. So, neither can we."

\*\*\*\*\*

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

# If Roe v. Wade Ends, Women of Color Would Face the Most Severe Impact

By Jenny Manrique

More than 36 million women would lose access to safe abortion if the Supreme Court's conservative majority guts or completely overturns the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision. Experts convened by Ethnic Media Services discussed the repercussions of a decision that the highest court will rule on in the coming months, which would end the freedom that pregnant women have until now to choose an abortion without excessive government restrictions.

Women of color, who will be the majority in the United States by 2060, are the most vulnerable, the activists for reproductive rights argued. In 2021, more than 106 abortion restrictions were approved in 26 states, whereas Texas already applied a ban to abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected, which is at around six weeks. Around 85% of abortions occur after this stage of gestation.

Lisa Matsubara, general counsel for Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, says that "in the four years of the Trump administration, the Senate, led by Mitch McConnell, confirmed 231 federal judges, overwhelmingly White and male. Many of them also hold extremist and hostile views on abortion and access to reproductive health."

"In Texas, SB8 is now in effect and it has effectively banned abortion. What makes this law unique is that any person in the whole country is invited to bring a lawsuit in Texas state court against anyone who provides abortion in violation of the ban. The person who sues is entitled to a \$10,000 bounty."

"If the U.S. Supreme Court overturns or severely guts *Roe v. Wade*, it is estimated that more than one million people will find their nearest abortion provider in California, which is nearly a 3,000% increase from today."

"There are over 80 abortion funds across the country, as well as some in other countries," notes Jessica Pinkney, executive director of Access Reproductive Justice. "We operate a helpline from Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.



The U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Photo by Jarek Tuszynski/The Commons

to 4 p.m., where folks can call and we help with procedural support (money to pay for their procedures) and practical support (transportation, lodging, childcare, food).

"The majority of callers are in their 20s, report being low income or having no income at all and identify as Black, indigenous and people of color. In 2021, we saw callers from 18 states. Should *Roe v. Wade* fall in June, California will be a safe haven for those seeking abortion care."

"If the Supreme Court does overturn *Roe v. Wade*, 5 million Black people, 5.7 million Latinos, 1.1 million Asians and nearly 340,000 Native people of reproductive age are poised to lose access to abortion services in the country."

"You measure a culture of people by how they treat women or how they treat marginalized communities," states Jodi Hicks, CEO and president for Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California:

"We're already seeing things like a state trying to collect a database of pregnant women so they can use it to criminalize or harm. I worry that for an entire generation, our entire values and culture are going to be much different; that I'm leaving something to my daughter much different than what I grew up with."

\*\*\*\*\*

Jenny Manrique is a Colombian journalist living in the United States. She has worked for the Morning Dallas News and Univision, among other media outlets. She has written widely about human rights and immigration. She has received the Neuffer, IWMF (International Women's Media Foundation) and Ochberg fellowships, as well as the Health Journalism fellowship from the University of Southern California.

**TACOS Marquitos**  
Antojitos Mexicanos

Javier Rangel (559) 977-4413    Jesus Ibarra (559) 977-5481

1772 E. Barstow Ave. Fresno, CA 93710  
**(559) 447-5569**

We are located inside the Bulldog Plaza

**KENNEDY CLUB OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY**  
Founder: Lawrence J. Kelly

The Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley  
Meeting and Discussing Democratic Ideas Since 1997

Kennedy Club meets 1st Saturday of each month.  
9:00am to 11:00am. Please Join Us!  
More Information: [fresnocountydemocrats.org](http://fresnocountydemocrats.org)

**PFLAG**  
Fresno Chapter  
PO Box 27382  
Fresno CA 93729

Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month at 2:00 pm. Call us or email for more information or find us on the web.

Information & Support: (559) 434-6540  
Email: [pflagfresno@gmail.com](mailto:pflagfresno@gmail.com)  
Web: <https://pflagfresno.org>  
<https://facebook.com/pflagfresno>

Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son.

PFLAG is a nonprofit organization not affiliated with any political or religious institution.

**Good driver? GREAT RATE!**

MERCURY INSURANCE GROUP    STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND    Allied Insurance    PROGRESSIVE

**RMI**

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

Worker's Comp  
Life Insurance  
LICENSE #0608912 / OC13433

**RioMESA INSURANCE.COM**

**292-2490**

3134 Willow Ave., Suite 102 • Clovis, CA 93612

**Paul E Pierce**

Improve the PROCESS, improve the OUTCOME

Facilitation  
Training  
Speaking  
Coaching

559•246•7236  
[paul@paulepierce.com](mailto:paul@paulepierce.com)

32954 Rd. 222  
North Fork, CA  
(559) 877-8400  
[kernfamilyfarm.com](http://kernfamilyfarm.com)  
[kernfamilyfarm@netptc.net](mailto:kernfamilyfarm@netptc.net)

the gnarly carrot

A local, natural, seasonally changing market

Open M-F 8-7  
weekends 10-6

Helping to Preserve Fresno's Pictorial History

**HOWARD K. WATKINS**  
Fresno's Photo Laureate  
[www.watkinsphotoarchive.com](http://www.watkinsphotoarchive.com)

(559) 355-7040  
[howardkwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:howardkwatkins@gmail.com)

**THE LAW OFFICE OF KEVIN G. LITTLE**  
30+ Years Fighting for the Underdog!

- Civil Rights
- Employment
- Personal Injury
- Medical Malpractice
- Criminal Defense
- Juvenile
- Dependency
- Family Law

1225 East Divisadero Street, Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel. (559) 342-5800, E-Mail: [kevin@kevinglittle.com](mailto:kevin@kevinglittle.com)  
[www.kevinglittle.com](http://www.kevinglittle.com)

# ICE Denies Booster Shots to Inmates, Gets Sued

By I. smiley G. Calderón

In February, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of the District of Columbia took action and sued Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for denying Covid-19 booster shots to five medically vulnerable detainees. ACLU senior staff attorney Eunice Cho wrote that “failing to provide booster shots is irresponsible, cruel and a violation of people’s rights—and that’s why we’re suing” ICE.

The ACLU sees ICE’s failure to provide this crucial medical care as “unconscionable” and “further evidence that our entire immigration detention system is fundamentally inhumane.”

The five plaintiffs have medical conditions that make their detention especially dangerous during the current prolonged Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, they represent the roughly 22,000 people detained by ICE who are at risk. Of these, according to the ACLU, fewer than a thousand had been given the booster vaccine as of the beginning of this year.

Forced to live in crowded housing units as the pandemic continues to rage, detainees are increasingly vulnerable to Covid. The ACLU is demanding that Covid-19 booster shots be administered to the plaintiffs. ICE and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are listed as defendants in the lawsuit.

The treatment and care of undocumented detainees is a reflection of our nation’s values. At least, it should be. And the fact that these civil detainees are being denied critical healthcare is not in line with our American values. In fact, it’s egregious and unacceptable.

Cho, who is also part of the legal team for the case, made it clear: To not provide and administer critical booster shots “is not only irresponsible and cruel, it’s also a violation of their constitutional rights.”

The complaint, filed on Jan. 31, explains how the plaintiffs “fear for their health and their lives” in light of the current Covid surge. It notes that Covid-19 cases in ICE facilities grew “approximately 1,000%” in the 30 days before the filing. It says that the plaintiffs “have requested booster shots, only to be told that none are available or that they should wait an indeterminate time, or their requests have been simply ignored.”

The lawsuit argues that ICE and DHS have “done little to ensure that detained people can receive booster shots.”

“As of this date,” the complaint reads, ICE and DHS “have failed to develop any plan to provide Covid-19 booster shots to people in ICE custody nationwide. Defendants have provided no instruction requiring that the approximately 200 ICE detention facilities nationwide provide Covid-19 booster shots to eligible detained people.”

ICE and DHS have placed their detainees at unreasonable risk of serious illness or death—all while there is a readily available and free, life-saving vaccine booster available. Moreover, the complaint points out that not administering booster shots is actually contrary to ICE’s own official policies: “Defendants’ failure to provide booster shots further violates ICE’s own detention standards on medical care, which require adherence to CDC infectious disease guidelines.”

One of the plaintiffs, whose name is redacted in court documents, is housed in the Central Valley at Golden State Annex, a private prison in McFarland run by GEO Group. He is a 24-year-old man who suffers from asthma. He filed petitions for his booster shots on three separate occasions



Image by Lorie Shaull, Public Domain

and was just put on a waiting list. He eventually tested positive.

Another plaintiff, a 34-year-old woman named Liliana Cardenas Solis, detained at the Aurora Detention Facility in Aurora, Colo., another private prison run by GEO Group, requested her booster shot in December 2021 and was placed on a waiting list. As of the time of the court filing, she had not received any follow-up notice. Solis suffers from anemia and depression.

Another plaintiff, 29-year-old Marvin Hernandez Villalobo, detained at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Ga., a private prison run by Corrections Corporation of America, requested his booster on at least two occasions and was denied. A facility manager simply told him that “he did not have time to speak with him” and another medical unit official just told him that the “booster shots were not available.” Villalobo suffers from obesity and schizophrenia.

Three of the five plaintiffs are detained at private prisons. That makes this dangerous fiasco even more unacceptable. How can we allow private companies to neglect and abuse our civil immigrant detainees? We can’t. We need to hold them accountable.

The lawsuit includes a special section specifically focused on these three plaintiffs. In Claim II of the filing, the ACLU accuses ICE and DHS of violating parts of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and the Accardi doctrine of unlawful agency (in)action, even calling defendants’ actions “arbitrary and capricious” in their neglect of administering booster shots to Villalobo, Solis and the unnamed plaintiff.

In Claim I of the filing, the ACLU argues that ICE and DHS “are violating Plaintiffs’ substantive due process rights under the Fifth Amendment because they knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, medically vulnerable people in ICE detention facilities who have not received a Covid-19 booster shot, face an unreasonable risk to their health and have recklessly disregarded their serious medical need for a Covid-19 booster shot.”

The ACLU also accuses ICE and DHS with having “acted with deliberate indifference towards Plaintiffs.” The officials at these ICE detention centers know how important the Covid-19 booster shot is. They knew but didn’t care. The lawsuit even goes as far as to say that “ICE’s failure to provide

booster shots, therefore, amounts to unconstitutional punishment.” Illegal punishment—that is what withholding life-saving medical treatments is, plain and simple.

But the ACLU doesn’t stop there. In Claim III of the filing, they accuse the defendants of discriminating against persons with disabilities. Indeed, all the plaintiffs are individuals with disabilities and suffer from certain medical conditions that make them more likely than others to suffer severe illness or death from a Covid-19 infection.

Finally, Claim IV addresses the failure of ICE and DHS to provide reasonable accommodation in a reasonable time to persons with disabilities, which is also required under the Rehabilitation Act. ICE and DHS officials violate these provisions every day they unlawfully withhold and unreasonably delay the administering of the Covid-19 booster shot.

The ACLU requested an injunctive relief order forcing the defendants to immediately provide Covid-19 booster shots to the plaintiffs and asked the court to “declare” the failure of ICE and DHS to provide and administer Covid-19 booster shots to the plaintiffs as “unconstitutional” under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

The ACLU is not giving ICE or DHS a pass on their medical neglect of the most vulnerable detainees during such a critical and pernicious pandemic time. Instead, the ACLU is holding the government accountable; disclosing its neglect and abuse; demonstrating how it was not only callous and cavalier with the treatment of disabled detainees but also unconstitutional and unlawful; and demanding that life-saving medical treatment be immediately provided to detainees. Such accountability is crucial for a healthy democracy and nation.

\*\*\*\*\*

*I. smiley G. Calderón is a fellow with the Community Alliance newspaper. He is a Gen X Chicano and lifelong educator who spent a career in academia in Southern California but is most proud of being a father.*



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

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

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

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

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

**Madera Office**  
451 E. Almond  
Suite 103  
Madera, CA 93637  
Phone 559.673.4000



**KRATZER  
PEDIATRICS**

**James Kratzer, M.D.  
Mary Graves, CPNP  
Michelle Dommermuth, CPNP  
Karen Segovia, CPNP**

7501 N. Fresno Street, Suite 104  
Fresno, CA 93720 • Tel. 559-438-4100



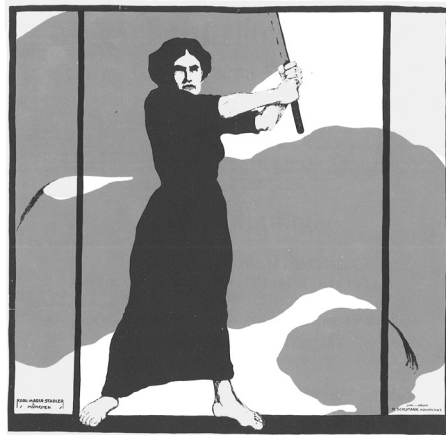
**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM**  
WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8**

International Women's Day is a radical holiday, with its roots in socialist and communist movements. In the United States, the first Women's Day was organized by the Socialist Party in 1909. A Sunday was chosen so working women could participate.

In 1910, just prior to the Second International, an International Socialist Women's Conference proposed an annual Women's Day, and, in March of the following year, more than a million women demonstrated and marched in several countries in Europe, honoring



Heraus mit dem Frauenwahlrecht  
**FRAUEN-TAG**  
8. MÄRZ 1914

March 8: International Women's Day



Rep. Maxine Waters

the fallen martyrs of the Paris Commune, demanding voting rights and protesting discrimination.

In Petrograd, on March 8, 1917, women textile workers began a demonstration for "Peace and Bread" that led to a general strike and inaugurated the revolution; the tsar abdicated seven days later.

It's not an official holiday in the United States, although in 1994 Rep. Maxine Waters (with 79 co-sponsors) introduced a bill to recognize March 8 as International Women's Day. The bill was bottled up in committee and never voted on.

**Unpacking Racism and Understanding Your Blind Spot(s) Is a Call to Action: Part B**

Humility is important to the anti-racism work we are doing in unpacking racism. So why does "humility" play such an important part when it comes to "unpacking racism and understanding our blind spot(s)"? We should not see humility as thinking less of ourselves, but rather thinking less about ourselves and more about others.

Humility is a valuable attribute that helps us to understand our own blind spots(s). How we see each other's race, ethnicity and nationality will reveal itself

through our actions toward others. We can develop humility by being grateful.

Humility does not belittle others. Typically, a person with humility does not display jealousy, rudeness or arrogant behavior, and if she was to do so she would be quick to apologize. I would say that a person with humility seeks to add value to others.

Humility is a great teacher. That's why humility works for some and not for others. If you have it, it can become a valuable attribute. Having humility makes it a little easier to understand one's blind spot(s) to racism. Unfortunately, we often become defensive when racism is presented as a table topic discussion.

"The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify it and describe it—and then dismantle it" (Ibram X. Kendi). Racism creates fear. We are programmed to react toward or against fear (fight or flight), and throughout our country's history, we have seen this far too many times.

Black Wall Street was a "race massacre" that took place on May 31 and June 1, 1921, in Tulsa, Okla. Mobs of White residents attacked Black folks and their properties and intentionally destroyed businesses that provided for their livelihood and generational wealth. That was because of "fear" motivating their racism. Fear led these White attackers to what was perceived as "self-preservation" for White folks. So that is why I say racism creates fear.

Some of my readers might choose to argue this in a philosophical way, and I am okay with that. But I am looking through the lens of an organizational psychologist when I say "racism creates fear."

The real reason for the outrage in the Greenwood district of Tulsa is no different than what took place in Mississippi in 1955 that caused the death of a 14-year-old Black boy, Emmett Till. Racism creates fear.

We also saw this in the recent death of 46-year-old George Floyd, on May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minn. Racism creates fear.

Police officers are trained to recognize their own fears so as to do "no harm" to others, and yet harm was done, because 44-year-old Derek Michael Chauvin ignored the plea of many bystanders/pedestrians who begged him to remove his knee off the neck of a Black man who could not breathe.

It is significant to recognize that between 1921 and 2021 is 100 years, and we are still hearing in our national news of harm being done to Black people. Racial hate crimes are still making national news such as the death of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man killed for simply jogging on a public street.

Unfortunately, hate crimes toward BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) make news because race discrimination remains a motivation for "hate crimes." For that reason, if we as a nation do not eradicate all forms of racism, how can we protect people of color in this country? We must get it right.

We have to unteach racism and advance racial justice. That is why WILPF-US believes it is crucial to have these conversations on the last Sunday evening of each month.

I read an article that stated "when social fear disappears so does racism." I would like to think that is true. But as long as society's stereotype is based on race, the work to dismantle this racism "dis-ease" will certainly continue to challenge us all.

WILPF-US is aware of this and is trying to do our part by having open dialogue on how to dismantle racism, but before we can do the dismantling, we have to do the "unpacking," and before that, we have to be willing to be honest to "understand" our blind spot(s).

A person often can be emotionally and intellectually blinded by the language being used to express our discomfort when discussing racism. However, it is possible to hear through pain, and we must discipline ourselves to learn to "listen." Listen to what is being said as well as what is not said from BIPOC.

Unpacking racism is not going to be done overnight. It took years to create this mess, and it will take time to "unpack." We are not trying to make this an academic experience group either but rather an informed solution focus group (SFG).

We will continue to meet once per month on the last Sunday evening. An invitation is extended to those who read my articles in the *Community Alliance*: Join us as we unpack this painful and horrific "dis-ease" called racism, together. And help support our efforts. We are better and stronger TOGETHER.

I welcome your feedback: 559-270-1023 or drjeankennedy@yahoo.com.

—Dr. Jean Kennedy, PsyD.MOB/O.D.



Breonna Taylor

**WILPF MEETING**

March 10, Thursday, 7 p.m., online. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and call-in number. For more information, contact Teresa at taca\_03@ymail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

**STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM**

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

**MEMBERSHIP**

Send dues to WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

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

WILPF membership is \$35/year. Contact Nancy H. about the low-income rate, sponsored by our contributions above the \$35 of WILPF-US dues.

**COMMITTEES—STILL AT WORK!**

**DISARM COMMITTEE**

Contact Melissa Fry at mjfry2008@icloud.com.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Contact Jean Hays at skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

Contact Cheryl Caldera at grammy44cac@gmail.com.

**EARTH DEMOCRACY**

Contact Jean Hays at skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net.

**CUBA AND THE BOLIVARIAN ALLIANCE**

Contact Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

**ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS/WINGS**

Contact Bev Fitzpatrick at dfitzpatrick29@comcast.net.

**RAGING GRANNIES**

Contact Evonne Waldo at evonnewaldo@yahoo.com.

**UNPACKING RACISM**

Zoom discussion on the last Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

**WOMEN IN BLACK**

March 2 (first Wednesday), noon, at the Courthouse. Check first with Bev at dfitzpatrick29@comcast.net.

**Find us on Facebook!**

- **WILPF Fresno:** www.facebook.com/Wilpf-Fresno-395764603812264/
- **WILPF Fresno Earth Democracy:** www.facebook.com/WILPF-Fresno-Earth-Democracy-497869307089677/
- **WILPF Fresno Library Committee:** www.facebook.com/WILPF-Fresno-Library-Committee-437118029825800/
- **Fresno WILPF Cuba Solidarity Committee:** www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/



# Measure C Redux

By Mary Savala and Kevin Hall

Twenty years ago, Fresno County residents fell into acrimonious debate over transportation, land use and air pollution. Fueling tensions was the process being used to renew Measure C, our countywide half-cent sales tax for transportation, and the strong resistance local leaders were exerting toward smart growth advocates. No major changes were needed, they said, assuring us that the freeway-centric plan from 1986 was doing just fine and that Fresno and Clovis weren't sprawling.

The renewal committee bulldozed a path to the ballot in 2002 but then failed to achieve the two-thirds voter support necessary in the face of the "Got Smog, Got Asthma? No on C" opposition campaign and strong public support for clean air. Four years passed before a grassroots-balanced spending plan succeeded at the polls, but it hasn't worked as well as wished.

Healthy air remains a distant hope, roads are not being maintained, rural communities are falling further behind and sprawl is worsening. The plan approved in 2006 obviously deserves serious reconsideration.

Instead, we are witnessing a repetition of the mistakes of 2002. A new generation of politically effective advocates has emerged with urgent priorities of transportation spending equity and climate resilience, but they are being rebuffed by local leaders in charge of the Measure C renewal process who, like their predecessors, claim the current system needs little change.

Advocates' priorities are being scorned and they've experienced disrespectful treatment. The smart growth coalition gained seats after just one appearance before the Board of Supervisors in March 2001, whereas this coalition of people of color fought with the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) from February to December 2021 for appointments to the renewal committees.

Rather than choosing to engage productively with such community groups last year, the FCTA awarded a \$700,000 no-bid contract to a local advertising agency and proceeded to waste months of precious time and more than \$50,000 on advertising and hastily planned community events, all to get people to hear presentations or complete an online survey.

Fewer than 200 people in total attended seven forums and only 500 surveys were completed, yet these near useless exercises are now being said to count as community engagement by the committee's elected officials, transportation agency staff and their consultants. This is an unnecessary, ill-fated rush to the November 2022 ballot.



Remember, Measure C does not have to be renewed until 2026, and it should take less than 18 months of patient effort to complete a healthy process in a safe manner.

More than two years ago, the FCTA board approved a seven-point plan that, if followed, would have accomplished this already. Staff was directed to contract with consultants, coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce, conduct a voter survey, meet with agencies and stakeholders, form a steering committee, hire a facilitator, and develop and participate in consensus building and public outreach programs, according to the staff report of Aug. 7, 2019. Much energy has gone into the first four activities while the others languish: no neutral facilitator, no community engagement.

In the interest of time and taxpayer dollars, let's restore integrity to the process of developing a \$3 billion spending plan through the year 2047.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of Fresno, Clovis, Fowler and Mendota must direct their representatives on the FCTA to pause the Measure C renewal process: Neutral, professional facilitation is needed urgently; the bifurcated committee structure should be replaced with a steering committee and work groups; and authentic outreach programs should be started.

The community needs to be engaged on Measure C, not have it sold to them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mary Savala currently serves on the Measure C III Technical Working Group on behalf of seniors/ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). She represented the League of Women Voters-Fresno and Kevin Hall represented the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter on the Measure C renewal committees in 2002 and 2006.

## Forever Tax Fail, Introducing FresNoise

By Kevin Hall

### Forever Tax

Madera County's Measure T renewal committee voted last month to recommend making its sales tax for transportation last forever, while Fresno County's Measure C renewal committee learned it lost that option last year.

One of the original California counties to tax itself for transportation, on which Fresno County leaders have spent \$3 billion subsidizing sprawl roads and freeways since 1987, Fresno has its own enabling legislation in state law. Twenty years ago, backers pulled a fast one and remembered to change the legislation from 20 to 30 years before that renewal committee ever met; this crew forgot that trick, and an amendment now would face the insurmountable hurdle of a two-thirds majority of the legislature.

Madera operates under later, more generic legislation without specific lengths. Committee members there did a good job of convincing themselves that their base of conservative voters will support a forever tax.

### Introducing FresNoise

As part of our ever-expanding political coverage of the most critical issues of our time, Guy Sharwood has agreed to join the fight with art and humor through a new comic strip, FresNoise:

"I'm Guy Sharwood. I appreciate the *Community Alliance* and have for years. I love to draw and have been drawing ever since I learned what a crayon is for. People seem to like it so I keep on doing it.

"I also enjoy writing, reading and playing harmonica and spoons. I've lived in Fresno since 1958 (not to be misconstrued as braggadocio). Graduated both City College and Fresno State. Been married to Lynda since 2008."

Welcome aboard, Guy!

# Rural Communities Targeted for Dirty Energy Projects

By Nayamin Martinez

Mendota is a small city in western Fresno County that is known as the "Cantaloupe Center of the World" and for having some of the best *pupuserias* (restaurants specializing in *pupusas*, a traditional dish of El Salvador) in Fresno County. A new project might put Mendota on the map as the first community in California to operate a biomass energy and carbon capture and storage (BECCS) facility. What does that fancy phrase mean? Would this benefit or harm the community?

Biomass facilities are not new in California, and certainly not new for Mendota. According to the Federal Energy Management Program, biomass is a method to generate electricity through the combustion, gasification, pyrolysis or anaerobic digestion of agricultural waste or woody materials (e.g., wood chips, pellets, sawdust).

In Mendota, Coventa operated a biomass facility that burned agricultural waste and dead trees to generate electricity. That facility has been idled for almost a decade, but that might change.

A group of companies—led by Chevron and Clean Energy Systems (CES)—has purchased the old biomass plant and submitted permits to regulatory agencies (including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District) to reopen the biomass facility and add a new component: carbon capture and storage (CCS).

The reopening of the biomass plant should concern residents of Mendota and the entire San Joaquin Valley. Why? Biomass power plants are dirty, inefficient and expensive. They emit large quantities of air pollutants (primarily PM2.5) and more carbon pollution per megawatt-hour than coal plants.

Residents of the mobile home park Capital Mobile Inc.—which is just one-half mile from the biomass site—know that. They recall smoke from the Coventa plant exacerbating respiratory problems and a few babies being diagnosed with asthma.

The San Joaquin Valley is in severe noncompliance with the PM2.5 national standards. PM pollution causes an estimated 1,200 premature deaths in the Valley every year, and ultrafine particles are linked to premature death and serious health problems including heart disease, stroke and aggravated asthma. It therefore makes no sense to allow new sources of pollution that will exacerbate existing air pollution and associated health problems.

Of even greater concern is that the reopened Mendota biomass plant will add technology to capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and store it under the facility. If allowed, the Mendota BECCS will be the first of its kind in the state; in fact, only a dozen such projects have operated anywhere in the country.

The experiences of these projects are another cause for alarm among residents in the host communities. For example, in February 2020 a carbon pipeline ruptured in Yazoo County, Mississippi, requiring hundreds to be evacuated and dozens were hospitalized with symptoms including extreme disorientation, unconsciousness and seizures.

If a similar incident were to occur in Mendota, it would be disastrous. Mendota does not have a hospital; the closest hospitals are in Madera and Fresno, which are 40–50 minutes



A group of companies led by Chevron and Clean Energy Systems (CES) has purchased the old Coventa biomass plant in Mendota and plans to reactivate it, creating concerns among environmental activists and community members. Photo courtesy of The Commons

away. Most residents in Mendota are low-income and uninsured farmworkers. It would be unconscionable to inflict such additional danger to these residents.

Proponents of CCS claim the practice is a climate solution that could help California and the country achieve carbon neutrality goals. Companies operating such projects elsewhere in the United States and abroad promised to capture 80% of the CO<sub>2</sub>, but they have captured only half that amount.

In some cases, the facilities even produced larger amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>! Furthermore, the United Nations' climate body has called out the "risk of carbon dioxide leakage from geological storage" and pipelines.

California has a terrible track record of capping and monitoring abandoned traditional oil and gas wells, which has led to mass amounts of underreported methane leakage. New infrastructure for CCS would present similar risks. Experts have also warned that underground storage of CO<sub>2</sub> might trigger earthquakes and potentially contaminate drinking water.

Despite all these risks, representatives of Chevron and CES sold the project to Mendota City Council members during a November 2021 Council meeting as the best thing that could happen to the community. When questioned about the multiple risks that the project poses to the community, the city attorney stopped the discussion arguing that there would be time for "extensive dialogue and public comments" at a later time.

The U.S. EPA Region 9 office is currently reviewing the permit application and will soon release its draft permit for public comment. This is an opportunity for Mendota residents and everyone who cares about improving the air quality in the Valley to speak up and say, "enough is enough!"

If the BECCS technology is so good, take it to the communities where the owners of these companies live. Don't come and use Valley communities as guinea pigs for new untested technologies. These communities have experienced enough environmental injustices.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

# Money for Lawsuits, No Money for Warming Centers and No Empathy

By Bob McCloskey

As the City of Fresno continues to break up homeless encampments, refuses to keep warming centers open and fails to provide basic sanitation, the mayor, the City Council and the city attorney are spending public resources on ways to further criminalize the homeless and criminalize advocacy.

On Feb. 17, the City Council, rejecting the public comments of a few dozen speakers, voted unanimously for an amendment to cite and/or arrest anyone in an "abatement zone" area when the City is doing encampment "sweeps" or "trash removal." The pertinent sections of the abatement amendment are as follows:

**No person shall obstruct, impede or interfere with any officer, employee, contractor or authorized representative of the city whenever such person is engaged in the work of abatement, pursuant to the provisions of this article, or in performing any necessary act preliminary to or incidental to such work or authorized or directed pursuant to this article.**

(1) To protect the health and safety of the public and city employees while an abatement is in progress, city employees or a retained contractor may designate a restricted area by erecting a barrier or cordon off an area of public or private property where an abatement is taking place. No person shall enter the restricted area without express authorization from city employees or contractor on site conducting the abatement...

(2) ...those persons providing services to the occupants or advocating on their behalf shall be permitted a reasonable time to make contact with the occupants and assist prior to the area being secured...

(3) Unauthorized entry into the restricted area or other violation of this section shall be punishable either as a misdemeanor for intentional violations, or as an administrative citation with administrative penalty of up to \$250.

Below are excerpts from a letter by Anthony Prince, counsel for the California Homeless Union and the Fresno County Homeless Union, on the City's efforts to further criminalize our unhoused brothers and sisters. Unhoused residents of encampments could be cited and arrested.

The City is also doing this to keep advocates out of encampments when the police, code enforcement and other staff are abusing the camp residents. One definite form of abuse is throwing away personal property when these "abatement" sweeps occur.

Excerpts from the letter:

Should the Ordinance pass as proposed, we will pursue all available legal remedies, including application for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction barring its enforcement. We will also seek injunctive relief and a declaratory judgment that the Ordinance, if passed, violates on its face the First, Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States as well as applicable provisions of the California State Constitution.

The cordoning off of areas broadly described as "public or private property where an abatement is taking place," will result in restricting access of those who need or wish to closely observe administrative abatements so as to assist persons whose property may be at risk of seizure and destruction and who may themselves be subject to physical abuse, arrest, ejection and deprivation of due process. Kept at what could be considerably more than "arm's length" distance from such "abatements"—commonly known as homeless "sweeps"—legal observers, members of the media, independent journalists, representatives of those being "swept" and interested members of the community would be unable to observe, let alone provide assistance or representation. In addition, the amendment essentially deputizes civilian employees and private entities to perform what would essentially be law enforcement functions further increasing the risk of arbitrary deprivation of constitutionally protected rights to would-be witnesses, documentarians and legal representatives.

To the extent that individual members of the Fresno City Council may believe that a legislative privilege shields them from individual liability, such immunity only applies when members are performing a legitimate legislative function. In our view, the proposed ordinance is a barely disguised effort to conceal and avoid accountability during the performance of a public function, be it legitimate or pre-textual, i.e., the abatement of an alleged public nuisance. We do not consider consideration and enactment of the proposed amendment to be a legitimate legislative function, and we will hold both the City of Fresno and individual elected officials—who, unlike public entities, may be liable for punitive damages should a jury determine they are appropriate. Again, this letter is only the first and not the last word we will have on this matter.

The recent sweeps laid bare the danger of police excessive force, unwarranted seizure and destruction of personal property belonging to our members and

## FOLLOW THE MONEY



Early morning abatement on F Street in downtown Fresno. Photo by Bob McCloskey

others in the homeless community and a wide range of other illegal abrogations of essential rights. To pass the proposed amendment to Fresno City Code Section 10-616 will only compound, ratify and "codify" such misconduct and will make the City of Fresno, the City Council and the individual members of the Council liable for all harms resulting therefrom. Accordingly, we urge the members of the City Council to reject the proposed amendment.

Instead of wasting resources, time and money on a code section that will be certainly challenged in a costly court battle, Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer and the City Council could use the same resources to provide basic sanitation throughout the city and, at a minimum, to keep the two warming centers open all winter.

The warming centers (at the Fresno Mission and the Ted C. Wills Community Center) closed effective Feb. 8. They were kept open two weeks longer than first announced because of the efforts of the homeless advocates, whose pleas to keep the centers open are now falling on deaf ears.

The City follows the Fresno Mission policy, which is to open the centers on nights when the temperature falls to 36 degrees or lower. This policy is not based on any empirical data or science. A human can suffer hypothermia or even death when the nighttime temperature is 40 degrees or even higher.

## Take Action!

Step up as a community to challenge what the City of Fresno and Fresno County are doing or not doing relative to the homeless in our community. Contact the mayor, your City Council member and your supervisor. It only takes a few minutes.

At the time of this writing, the nighttime temperature ranges from 38 to 41 degrees and is predicted to drop as low as 32 degrees on Feb. 22. As of now, there are no plans to reopen the warming centers.

Several homeless advocates spent three weeks providing rides for unhoused individuals using the Ted C. Wills Community Center to sleep warmly and safely. The center provides socially distanced cots in the gymnasium, restrooms (outdoors) and one or two staff/security persons. The majority are elderly and disabled, and the lack of empathy for them from the City and the County of Fresno is shocking.

Where are the County outreach workers to assess and support them? Why doesn't the City staff up and use community centers for safe sleeping as long as needed? There is Covid emergency relief funding available. There are ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds available. There is still a pandemic, and one has to question the sanity of city leaders when they show complete disregard for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

The unhoused are at risk of suffering exposure and hypothermia. Many of them have no tents, sleeping bags or even blankets, and some have no warm jackets. The most common causes of hypothermia are exposure to cold-weather conditions or cold water. But prolonged exposure to any environment colder than your body can lead to hypothermia if you aren't dressed appropriately or can't control your body temperature.

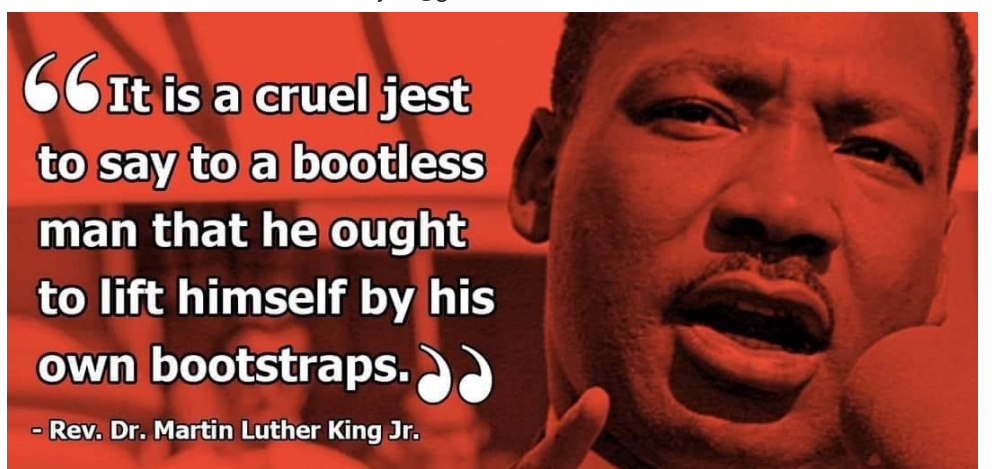
Older adults are more likely to have a cold injury, especially hypothermia, because their normal body temperature might decrease with age, they can't regulate their body temperature as well, they do not produce as much heat energy and have less body fat, their blood vessels do not narrow (constrict) and conserve body heat as easily, they do not shiver as much (shivering warms the body) and their mental awareness of changes in temperatures could change.

Some have medical conditions that increase their risk for hypothermia. Such conditions include arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, heart failure and poor nutrition. Many other medical and health conditions could contribute to cold injury and hypothermia as well.

The issues cited in this article are examples of how the City and County of Fresno deal with our unhoused brothers and sisters. They fail to provide even the minimum necessities to the unhoused, such as warm sleeping centers and restrooms, and they continue to criminalize the unhoused and their advocates.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob McCloskey is a homeless advocate and a volunteer with the Fresno County Homeless Union. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.



“It is a cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps.”

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

# SUNDAYS

## LEFT OF THE DIAL

9 PM to 12 AM  
**NEW TIME!!!!**

[KFCF.ORG](http://KFCF.ORG)

NEW!!!!  
INDIE  
POST PUNK  
DARKWAVE  
ELECTRO BEATS  
ALTERNATIVE

WITH MATT D.

**Visionary  
Activist  
Thursdays  
3 PM**

**Covid  
Updates  
with FCDPH  
Fridays**

Broadcast Times vary

# KFCF 88.1FM

# Coronavirus Kills All: Are We Really in It Together?

By Malik Simba

Jackson Hole, Wyo., has become the flight destination for the extraordinarily rich attempting to find a safe harbor from the coronavirus. However, for those arriving in their private Lear jets with their own ventilators, waiting to greet them in April 2020 were 57 cases of Covid-19 within the local citizenry.

In Teton County, these refugees will huddle with the other one percenters in a county where the average income is about \$22 million a year.

One local working-class resident said, "I can't believe everyone is flocking here to be safe."

Ironically, a certain segment of the bourgeois had spent tens of thousands of dollars on overseas travel, many to China. Others who paid for expensive cruises were left languishing in their quarantined staterooms in February 2020.

In New York City, the class question is submerged with ethnicity, race, age and gender questions. The disproportionate numbers of Covid-19, Delta and Omicron infections and deaths have fallen on the descendants of America's third world populations, both native born and immigrants. Ethnicity, race, class and age are not barriers to a nondiscriminatory deadly virus.

Deaths in New York City made headlines and fell disproportionately on Black and Afro-Rican men and women, who together make up 40% of the city's public transit workers.

However, the virus has been somewhat mollified by a vaccine, developed, in part, by Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett, a viral immunological specialist who is an African American and lead vaccine researcher at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Corbett was an affirmative action Meyerhoff Scholar at the University of Maryland. She was indirectly joined by a second-generation Nigerian immigrant, Dr. Olubukola Abiona, who is a microbiologist protein expert.

Medical specialists aside, nine of 10 nurses are women, and 73% or more of all healthcare workers are women. Half are non-White, and most of them work in nursing homes or affiliated workplaces. These women must budget for costly

childcare services as they work for little more than minimum wage.

One such worker, Crystal Patterson, wryly observed, "As a woman, this is nothing to me. That's how it has always been in this country."

Obviously, the Covid-19 virus and its Delta and Omicron mutations are severely affecting workers in service industries, such as restaurants and those in the "gig economy." With the recent high virus infection rates in the meatpacking industry and the consequent shutdown of plants, incomes declined. The harsh reality for workers is loss of jobs and loss of income because of the pandemic.

Addressing this crisis of worker job loss and to save the American economy, a bipartisan Congress passed the \$2 trillion CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act in March 2020 and followed up with a similar stimulus bill of \$1.9 trillion in March 2021. Both bills attempted to address how the pandemic affected not only the economy but also families and individuals. Multiple millions were doled out to restaurants, corporations, families and workers within the gig economy.

The pandemic has coincided with a hotly contested intellectual and public policy battle over the economy of globalization. The conservative critique of globalization has been an attack on the Democrats, who created the post-World War II capitalist regulatory welfare state.

From Social Security to Medicare and Medicaid to Obamacare and now to federal masks and vaccine mandates, these measures help protect and serve the American people, whereas too many red state governors fight such regulations based on the belief that "we must discipline the working class." That phraseology is code for workers, like slaves, being naturally lazy and who must be disciplined by the lash or by the GOP refusing to extend unemployment benefits.

Coercive work during a pandemic for a less than living wage is a GOP mantra worthy of the infamous Marie Antoinette, who dismissed the urban poor and country peasants by saying "let them eat cake. That option today is reflected in the benign phrase "food insecurity" when the loss of benefits hinders workers from properly feeding their families.

Too many Republicans today have no compassion, mercy or understanding of the social condition or everyday realities of people who use their hands, backs and legs to produce commodities to be sold or exchanged in the falsely termed "free market capitalism." Think, "capitalism and death." A specific example was when the GOP-controlled White House cut "food stamp benefits for 700,000 recipients."

In conclusion, Black folk and people of color live in a type of viral racist ecosystem. This system could be called "capitalism, racism and death." Capitalism and slavery led to the death of millions of Black folk. Capitalism and Jim Crow led to tens of thousands of Black folks' death.

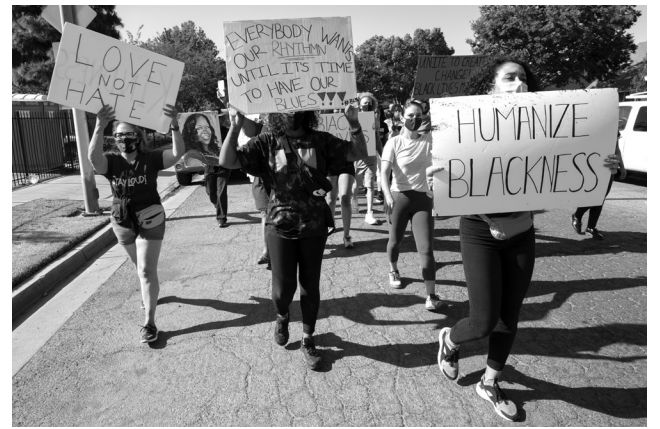
In the New Jim Crow era in which we live today, to say that Black lives matter and must be protected from the virus of racism is to ignore the reality that there is no vaccine and no treatment. White folk have been infected with this deadly virus without a cure.

Take the father and son, Gregory and Travis McMichael of Brunswick, Ga., who chased down a young and healthy Black man, Ahmaud Arbery, and shot him to death with two blasts into his chest from their shotgun. What was not widely reported was that the McMichaels had a Confederate flag emblem on the front of their truck. Arbery's murder was in the same period as the murders of George Floyd on March 22, 2020, and Daunte Wright on April 11, 2021.

Racism is a deadly social virus that is breathing the same air as Covid-19 and Omicron. The noted Black intellectual Kelly Miller, in 1903, observed that "those who become inoculated with the virus of race hatred are more unfortunate than the victims of it." Kelly said that this malignant infection is a poison that "afflicts the mind" or, as one rap song states, racism is not the shark, it is the water.

\*\*\*\*\*

Malik Simba, Ph.D., is an emeritus professor of Africana studies and history at Fresno State.



People protesting over the killing of George Floyd in Fresno on June 6, 2020. Photo by Peter Maiden

# Rogue Festival Returns

By Community Alliance Staff

The Rogue Festival, Fresno's completely uncensored performing arts festival, will return March 4-12. This year's 20th anniversary festival will present more than 100 separate performances of theater, music, dance, comedy, spoken word and magic throughout Fresno's Tower District.

The Rogue Festival began in 2002 when Marcel Nunis had an insane idea to make Fresno, of all places, a worldwide center for fringe theater. After 20 years and thousands of performances from hundreds of performers from all over the planet, the Rogue has succeeded in becoming one of the most well-respected and long-running fringe festivals in

North America with a unique reputation for hospitality and friendly audiences, while remaining a punk rock DIY festival of limitless free expression where anything can happen.

Like many long-running organizations, the Rogue Festival has seen its share of changes over two decades. Narrowly completing the festival's run in 2020 before the Covid-19 lockdown, the Rogue Festival went virtual for the first time in 2021. This year's festival will bring with it several changes in safety operations and health precautions but will offer the same exciting, off-the-beaten-path original performances it is known for.

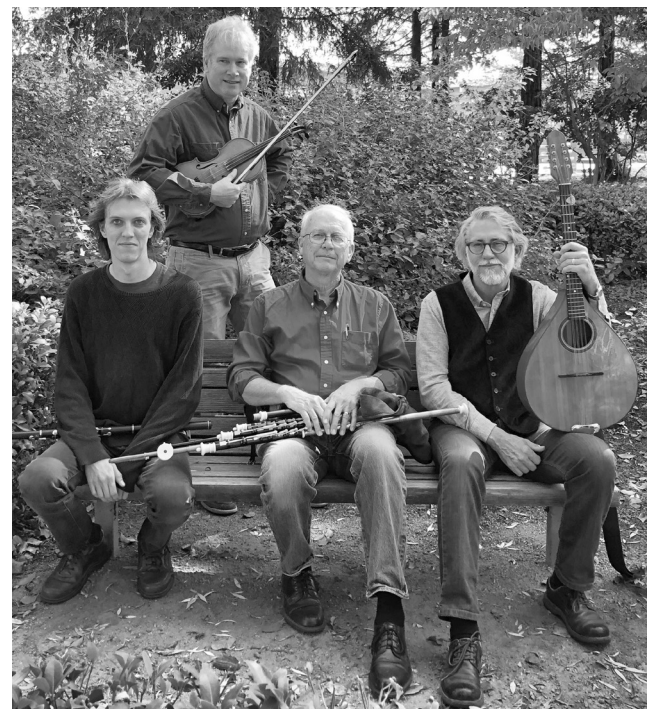
All photos courtesy of the Rogue Festival



This storytelling performance is about William Dorsey Swann. He was a former slave who became the Queen of Drag in the late 1800s. And, of course, being the Queen of Drag had its issues.

"After two years when we've been forced to avoid human contact, live performance is more important than ever," says Jaguar Bennett, president of the Rogue Festival board of directors.

"The essence of live performance is to be in a room with another human being and watch their movements and hear their words as they are performed. Performance is raw, real, intimate, messy, moving, hilarious and disturbing—which is exactly how we want you to experience the Rogue Festival."



Lark is a pan-Celtic musical group. They play music from Ireland, Galicia, Breton, Scandinavia and North America using flute, fiddle, mandolin and uilleann.

The Rogue Festival, like most fringe festivals, does not choose who participates. Performers are chosen by a lottery system, and there are no restrictions on what performers can say or do, outside of safety codes and legal matters.

For the audience, this is the one event in the San Joaquin Valley where they can see raw, uncensored, unmediated performance—and only the audience gets to say what's good or what's bad by leaving reviews and spreading word-of-mouth.

After two decades, the Rogue Festival is now one of the oldest festivals of its kind in the United States and has built a nationwide reputation for Fresno as a city that celebrates the arts. The Rogue Festival will offer shows on March 4-12 at six different venues in the Tower District. Information and tickets to individual shows are available at [fresnoroguefestival.com](http://fresnoroguefestival.com).

For more information or questions about the festival, contact co-producer Heather Parish at [roguefestival.heather@gmail.com](mailto:roguefestival.heather@gmail.com) or 559-272-2793.



The Murray Girls blend voices in blood harmony: the shimmering richness of singing groups with the same familial vocal timbre. Murder ballads, wistful stories set to heartbreakingly beautiful melodies, moms and daughters sing ancient to modern music.

# Punishing Children

By **Morghan Vélez Young**

Institutions have and will continue to fail on multiple levels no matter the mission statement. This is related to our institutions having been designed within the confines of the U.S. cultural investment in racism for which we are all the heirs. Statistical data and storytelling show us this over and over.

In a previous column, "Adultifying BIPOC Children for Punishment," we outlined such data and the life course of DeAndre Rogers. We painted a picture of the ways that institutions, like the juvenile justice system and schools, are not the place for disciplining and supporting children, especially not children from BIPOC communities.

The institutional flaws show up as subtleties and obvious bias against BIPOC children, like in the case of Rogers. There are strategies used by school districts, in terms of subtle flaws, to move out and keep out children who are linked to the juvenile court, improving the district's public appearance around school discipline data.

There are also more grandiose examples such as Judge Mark Ciavarella from Philadelphia who was finally held accountable in the early 2000s when investigations began due to concerned parents. The case was later named Kids for Cash where Judge Ciavarella was found to be taking bribes for moving children into private prisons for minor infractions.

And still, there are damning annual counts of the numbers of children sexually assaulted in juvenile facilities each year. In the most recent 2019 national report from the Department of Justice, 5.8% of youth in custody experience sexual abuse by the adults who are employed there and another 1.9% experienced sexual abuse from peers.

Adultifying children refers to culturally constructing children into adults both legally and conceptually. Children in the United States are legally framed as adults through written laws and their implementation, treating children as if it is "natural" and appropriate for institutional punishment much like adults.

Children are also conceptually framed through the ways we, adults, interact and build relationships with them. For example, while discussions of school arrests often focus on the presence of school resource officers (SROs) on campuses, if schools and, in particular, vice principals did not choose to call the police on matters, then school-based arrests would decrease significantly.

In this regard, school leadership is conceptually relating to children as if the children are adults and in need of institutional punishment by choosing arrest.

The latest research shows that behavioral factors involved in bringing children into the juvenile justice system, and specifically into juvenile detention facilities, include person offenses (37%), public disorder (26%), property offenses (20%) and drug cases (8%).

There is great variability in terms of each of these categories, but researchers over and over advocate for fewer youth arrests as these categories often include minor behaviors that under various contexts would not always result in youth being brought into the juvenile justice system.

Importantly, a 2015 longitudinal study showed that youth at the point of entering the juvenile justice system become 4.4 times more likely to experience an early death. Once linked to the juvenile justice system, children are accelerated into further involvement in behavioral issues and marginalizing stigma from other institutions such as schools.

While there are behavioral support options for school leadership aside from arrest, many schools default to police involvement. Even with SRO involvement such as that in the Fresno Unified School District (FUSD), within the Central Valley, there are several options other than arrest: a citation with or without a referral to youth court, "reprimand and release," and for five campuses there is the option to refer students to restorative practices and restorative justice mediation (i.e., Edison, Fresno, McLane and Sunnyside high schools and Fort Miller Middle School).

And circumscribing these options, there are intelligent and capable adults who can creatively choose possibilities outside of linking children to the juvenile justice system and early deaths.

For FUSD, SRO data are available twice a year through the Student Contact Analysis (SCA) report that comes from the Fresno Police Department. The SCA provides data for each academic semester.

In a recent SCA, covering the spring semester of 2021, the report shows that "66.67% of all crime-related contacts made by SROs during this reporting period [were] diverted from the Juvenile Justice System through alternative resolutions and effective use of restorative practice techniques."

In combination with a June 2021 program evaluation report on the outcomes of the FUSD restorative practices model, we know that a significant portion of students is routed directly to the police rather than being provided the opportunity to access restorative programming. Access to such programming is determined by both FUSD policy and the implementation of the model by FUSD staff.

Furthermore, in Fresno County, there was a gradual increase in placing children in juvenile facilities from 2009 to 2016. The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice provides helpful county-by-county depictions of various data points around locking up children ages 10 to 17. Repeatedly, Fresno County, relevant to this conversation because a central example below stems from Fresno, incarcerates children annually at a higher rate than the state average.

In an interview with the director of the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) at the Fresno-based Community Justice Center, Seya Lumeya, we learn the following about the Fresno County Juvenile Court's current investment in getting children out of the juvenile justice system and into proven, effective community-based options.

For more than a decade, the Juvenile Court and Probation Department have referred children to VORP, including children before or after they are adjudicated for a crime. According to his programming data for fiscal 2020–2021, referrals come from the court about 20% of the time and the remainder of referrals derive from the Probation Department.

Lumeya's programming data also show which children access VORP from across both referral sources. That is, American Indian (3%), Black (9%), East Asian (2%), Latinx (60%), Southeast Asian (4%) and White (22%) children are accessing this option at rates that do not mirror their presence in the juvenile justice system.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) indicates that 2,487 children aged 10 or older were in the Fresno County facility in 2019. By demographics, incarcerated children in county-operated facilities are well known by the OJJDP to be overrepresented by BIPOC children, not reflecting the statistical distribution of Census data for counties across this country. For example, although Black children in Fresno County account for 4.5% of the population, they are overrepresented in the Fresno County juvenile facility and are less able to access VORP than White peers.

Based on a national understanding of the ways that racism factors into the operations of the juvenile justice system, it is not surprising that White children are viewed as appropriate for restorative and healing programs whereas BIPOC children are not. As the data show, White kids are showing up in the VORP program more than they are likely to, even though they are a smaller group within the Fresno County system.

Aside from the well-understood factors of implicit and explicit bias across institutional actors, a Juvenile Court insider shared that for those children without a parent present at court hearings, the Juvenile Court perceives the child as not worth a referral to the restorative option. Note that although the VORP process invites parents and family members into the program, VORP does not require a parent to be active in the restoration process.

Also, when those who have been impacted by the harm are unavailable for the restorative process, Lumeya can include surrogate victims and surrogate supports to engage with the children who committed the harm. These features of VORP show the program's creativity, ensuring a comprehensive experience for repairing the injury.

Research on restorative programming provides insights into the positive impact made for those who create harm and those negatively affected by it. There are many global studies and they focus on programs serving both children and adults.

Most of these studies involve Western countries and ask questions about short- and long-term outcomes in terms of curbing future behavioral issues. However, these questions are not often asked by anyone other than researchers. Moreover, this question on outcomes has not been used for deciding funds for the juvenile justice system.

In restorative justice studies on U.S. children, we learn the most from literature reviews that assess the rigor of multiple studies. We also learn from careful single-site studies like



An incarcerated person writing.  
Photo courtesy of [prisonfellowship.org](http://prisonfellowship.org)

that by Bergseth and Bouffard (2007) who provide various layers of exploration and findings, including that youth who get access to restorative programming are "less likely to experience later police contacts, experienced fewer later contacts, and tended to have less serious later behavior than those referred to traditional juvenile court processing."

These positive findings are shown even within the research context of varying definitions of reoffending, the inability in many studies to control for bias in referrals to restorative programs and the lack of true control groups in many cases. Also, long-term positive outcomes are found for children who committed harm, but beyond the benchmark of four years of follow-up data, there is little known because of the lack of available quantitative data and resulting publishable peer-reviewed content.

The VORP director also shared an example of the ways that the innateness of our flawed institutions unfolds in children's lives.

At 13 years old, one boy received a citation from a police officer, but the boy did not show up for the scheduled court hearing. Two years went by and then, at 15 years old, this same boy was arrested from his home when his mother called the police because he was cursing at her.

He spent 10 days at the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Campus (JJC) and, during this time, the two-year prior "no show" was discovered. The boy reports that he was told that he would not be released from the JJC unless he pled guilty on a 242, battery on his mother. This boy was eventually released and referred to VORP.

Arrests of youth from community and school spaces are rarely the solution if the goal is collective safety. Recall from the monthly articles in this column where we explore decolonizing approaches to safety and champion collective safety, collective safety is community-centered rather than institution-centered. The standards defining collective safety reflect safety for all bodies and the creativity to fashion decolonizing practices.

In colonial settings like the current state of the United States, institutions are the means for establishing formalized and sanctioned activities, resource access and ethical codes. Take, for instance, institutions such as the DMV, hospitals and schools; these are not innate, universal and inevitable.

When we outsource child discipline and support to institutions like the juvenile justice system, we must also acknowledge that we are sending children into flawed systems that will most likely injure the children.

There are many children out there where adults are linking them to the juvenile justice system for institutional punishment when alternatives that actually provide collective safety exist. The visceral harm enacted on numerous children by conceptually adultifying them as appropriate for punishment is beyond words.

\*\*\*\*\*

Morghan Vélez Young, Ph.D., is an educator and researcher focused on transformative opportunities for those involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. She consults and trains through [BROWNGIRLHEALING.org](http://BROWNGIRLHEALING.org) and lectures in the Anthropology Department at Fresno State. Contact her at [mvelezyoung@csufresno.edu](mailto:mvelezyoung@csufresno.edu).

## DESERT RIVER PSYCHOLOGY

Alexia Baca Morgan, Ph.D

Clinical and Forensic Psychologist

[Baca.Alexia@yahoo.com](mailto:Baca.Alexia@yahoo.com)

CA Psy 14911

559-472-8375

For appointment call

559-908-6488

Medi-Cal and most insurances accepted.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



[bigredchurch.org](http://bigredchurch.org)

Every Sunday

9am: Exploration Hour

10am: Worship

*Bold. Proud. Progressive.*

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.

## Mobile Notary

Evangelina Balli



(559) 286-7547

[ballivengie@gmail.com](mailto:ballivengie@gmail.com)

Se Habla **CA Notary Public**  
Español **Legal & Loan Signing**  
**Certified Signing Agent**



# CANCEL COVID

## GET FREE N95 MASKS

The U.S. government is now giving 3 free adult-size N95 masks to anyone that needs them. You can pick up yours at community health centers or pharmacies like CVS, Walgreens, and Krogers.

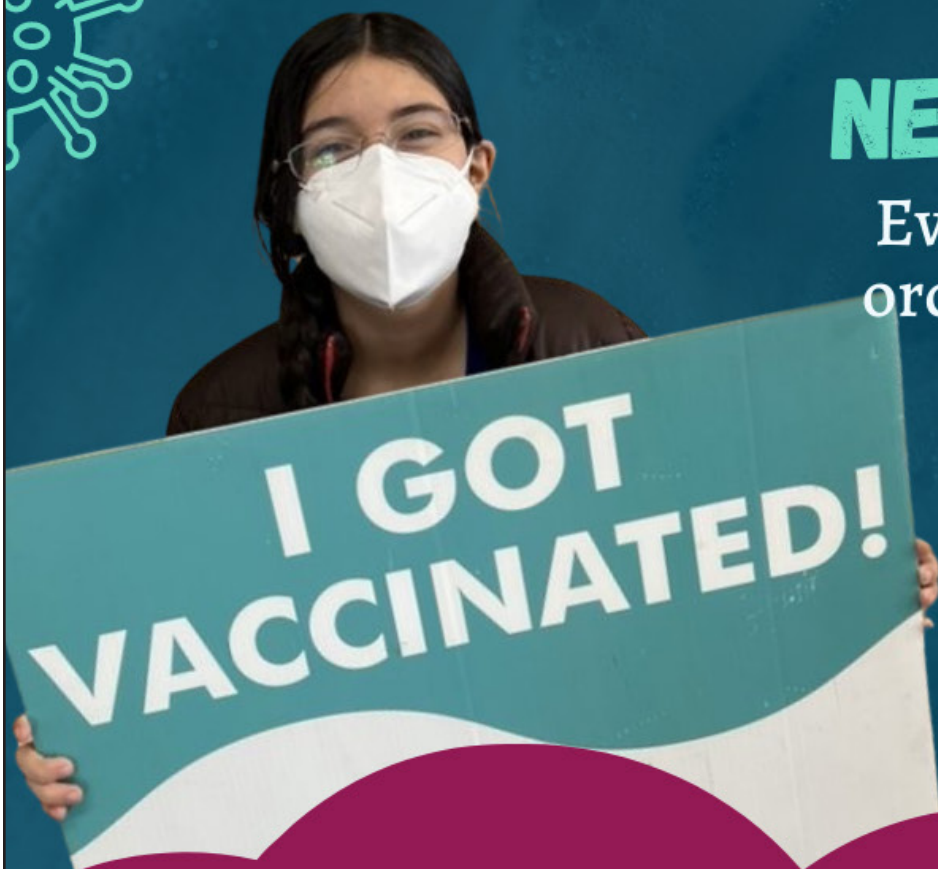
## NEED A COVID-19 TEST?

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order #4 FREE at-home COVID test.

Orders yours at:

[www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov)

[www.special.usps.com/testkits](http://www.special.usps.com/testkits)



## NEED A COVID-19 VACCINE?

FREE COVID-19 vaccines are available to you regardless of immigration or insurance status.

To find a walk-in clinic or make an appointment today visit:

[myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov)



# International Women's Day: Another Day in the Struggle

By Inti Mena Navarro

In May 2015, in Argentina, 14-year-old Chiara Paez, pregnant, was assassinated by her boyfriend, 17-year-old Manuel Ignacio Mansilla Gallegos. He killed her by blows and buried her body in his backyard. Because of this femicide, a group of journalists convened a protest on June 3 in Buenos Aires. Half a million people participated under the hashtag #niunamenos (Not Another One).

The killer was sentenced to life in prison, but recently a court of the state of Santa Fe (where the femicide happened) reversed the conviction because Gallegos was a minor at the time of the crime. Now his sentence is in the hands of a juvenile court, and speculation is that he will get no more than 15 years in jail. The court didn't notify the family of Paez of its decision, which angered many people and sparked complaints.

The "Ni Una Menos" (Not Another One) movement was born seven years ago. It opened room for expression and the exchange of opinions about feminism, which finally could take a central place in the public debate and the politics of Argentine society—and beyond. Even the doors of the government opened up—although not totally—to feminism. It was a period for consolidation of decades-long struggles.

There are rumors of feminist judicial reform, a daunting step to those "feminism-phobics" who get panic attacks thinking Argentina will become a country ruled by Amazons. There were 17 years of campaigning for abortion rights—the movement started in 2005—which was inter-feminist, interdisciplinary and integrally cooperative, resulting in the passage of a bill by Congress on Dec. 30, 2020.

Although the attacks on women's rights are advancing in the United States, in other countries organized women are achieving significant policy victories. That is the case in Argentina, where 2020 legislation made it legal for women to have an abortion until week 14 of a pregnancy. The law



Celebrating victory in front of the Congress in Buenos Aires.



Foto: Inti Mena

The green handkerchief became the powerful symbol of the feminist movement to legalize abortion. In this image, a woman shows hers on Dec. 30, 2020, as thousands of women celebrated in the streets of Argentina the passage of a bill legalizing abortion.

went into force on Jan. 24, 2021. Argentina has allowed therapeutic abortion and abortion in cases of rape since 1921.

A 2005 study by the Argentine Health Department found that there were 370,000–520,000 illegal abortions per year in a country of 45 million inhabitants. According to Dr. Adolfo Rubinstein, the secretary of public health in 2017 and 2018, illegal abortion is the leading cause of female mortality.

Photos by Inti Mena Navarro



"Feminist marches are the best. There is so much harmonic diversity. There is no violence. We dance, we sing, we play music."

In 2018, a bill legalizing abortion was introduced in Argentina's Senate but failed to pass. The struggle was not won at that time, but it was a symbolic knockout. All of society talked about the issue, at home, at the supermarket and even at schools, where students brought in their opinions and concerns.

Some believe that the conservative administration of Mauricio Macri (2015–2019) allowed the introduction of the bill thinking Congress wouldn't pass it and that people would forget about it. He didn't anticipate the consequences of the public debate.

It is difficult to make a vertical analysis of feminism because feminism is transversal. Feminists are all over, on all fronts, defending the good quality of life that women deserve.

Argentine feminists are anti-capitalists and anti-extractive, opposing the exploitation and impoverishment of the earth. They are organized to defend and take care of themselves while at the same time helping humankind. Today, feminism in Latin America is a tool to continue the struggle for emancipation and true independence.

Feminism questions the role assigned to women at all levels: social, economic, legal, domestic, cultural, political and educational. Sorority and solidarity unite with the scope of achieving a better world, without inequalities and without productive systems poisoning the earth.

"Feminist marches are the best," noted an Argentine feminist. "There is so much harmonic diversity. There is no violence. We dance, we sing, we play music. We love these encounters, we dress up, we face-paint ourselves, and we move forward despite the cruelty we face."

\*\*\*\*\*

Inti Mena Navarro is an Argentinian-Chilean photographer. She was born in exile in Bucharest, Romania.

# Frida Café Moving into the Old Fresno Water Tower

By Peter Maiden

The Old Fresno Water Tower at Fresno and O streets was built in 1894. At that time, a canal ran beside it, providing the downtown area with its water supply. Every day exactly at noon, a steam whistle in the tower sounded, and it was heard for miles. People set their watches by it.

The Water Tower will soon be the home of the Frida Café, a coffee bar named after iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo that is owned by Albee Sanchez. The café used to be part of a restaurant called Los Panchos.

According to City Council Member Miguel Arias, he and City Council Member Esmeralda Soria were at the old Frida Café one day about a year ago, discussing the possibility of restoring a downtown building for public use. Sanchez overheard them, and soon the three of them came up with the idea of the Frida Café moving into the Water Tower.

The restoration of the Water Tower is ongoing, at a cost to the city of more than \$1 million. The woodwork, ironwork and paint on the Water Tower are all being restored, and the place will be fixed up to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The café itself is being financed privately. Sanchez says he's looking at a 2023 opening.

Coffee will be served inside with seating on an adjacent patio.

Regarding Kahlo, Sanchez said, "Frida was much about doing her own thing, creating her own way, whether it was with her arts or her political views or her sexuality. She was very, very much on her own path. She walked to the beat of her own drum. I wouldn't dare say defiant, but she was definitely [of] a mind of her own."

"And we need that here. We need someone that's going to push downtown in a very, very new direction, something that's fun and something that's inviting and something that people want to travel to."

"And all of our coffees, of course, are multicolor. So, we have blue coffee, red coffee, green coffee, yellow coffee to represent the different palettes of her color."

"She represents a driving force that has kept me going through this whole process. Because it's been rough."

Sanchez brought reporters who had gathered to hear about the Water Tower around to the back and turned on some large public address speakers. "For anyone who has sensitive ears, be aware, this is gonna be kinda loud," he said.

He tapped his cell phone, and the speakers blasted the sound of the old steam whistle at about 100 decibels. The whistle is going to be heard again, every day at noon. "It's going to act as a reminder," Sanchez said, "that Fresno is going to hold onto its history."

\*\*\*\*\*

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



The Old Fresno Water Tower. Photo by Peter Maiden

**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

...

# RECYCLE

**YOUR USED MOTOR OIL AND OIL FILTERS**

**2 WAYS EASY AND FREE!**

## RECYCLE AT HOME

### RECYCLE AT HOME

1. Call the City of Fresno at 621-1452 to request free program containers.
2. Pour used (and uncontaminated) oil into the program container and place drained oil filters into the program plastic bag.
3. Place used motor oil and oil filters **NEXT TO** your blue cart on your collection day.

### CERTIFIED COLLECTION CENTER

Make sure the center is open and someone is there to accept your used motor oil and filters. Leaving used motor oil unattended is considered illegal dumping!

**QUESTIONS? CALL (559) 621-1111**



Monthly meeting the first Tuesday of the Month. Check the web site or Facebook for details.

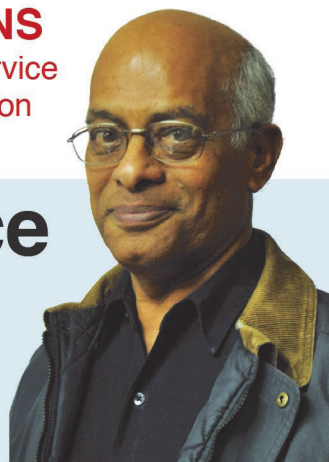
Fresno, National Women's Political Caucus is a pro-choice, multicultural, intergenerational, and multi-issue grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in the political process and creating a true women's political power base to achieve equality for all women.

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

P.O. BOX 5553 • Fresno, CA 93755-5553  
<https://www.nwpcfresno.org> • FB: NWPC Fresno

LIC.NO. 0600205

**MEDICARE INSURANCE PLANS**  
 Insurance Plan Comparisons / Personal Service  
 Medicare-MediCal Plans / Free Consultation



Tanveer "Dan" Yaseen

## Yaseen Insurance

3134 Willow Ave, Ste 102 Clovis CA 93612

**559-251-3361**

danyaseen@comcast.net  
[www.yaseeninsurance.com](http://www.yaseeninsurance.com)

An independent insurance agent specializing in senior insurance in Fresno for 27 years. Licensed to sell Medicare Health Plans offered by major insurance companies.

**Questions? Call Dan 559-251-3361**



Czech pilots use U.S. B-52s in NATO exercises

**International Day of Action to Stop War in Ukraine**  
**Sunday, March 6, 1:30 – 3:00 pm**  
**No War No Sanctions No NATO**  
**Blackstone and Nees Ave, Fresno**

Bring your own sign or hold one of ours

Peace Fresno condemns the Russian attack on Ukraine. It's time to negotiate, not inflame the conflict. We must avoid a military confrontation with Russia. Call your elected representatives and demand diplomacy not war.

More information and resources at  
**[peacefresno.org](http://peacefresno.org) & [facebook.com/peacefresno](https://facebook.com/peacefresno)**  
 Contact Bev Fitzpatrick [president@peacefresno.org](mailto:president@peacefresno.org)  
 For updates [camille.russell@peacefresno.org](mailto:camille.russell@peacefresno.org)

# A Mural with Wings of Change

By Eduardo Stanley

On Feb. 18, a mural was unveiled on the grounds of Stone Soup, a nonprofit organization near Fresno State that is dedicated to serving mainly refugees.

Local artist Hana Luna Her, who is in her early 20s, painted a colorful mural representing a butterfly with colored textures on its wings. In the background are silhouettes of playing children, more butterflies and our planet earth. The mural is titled "Wings of Change."

"The mural helped me to grow as an artist and as an individual," said a smiling Hana. "It also helped me to find love and appreciation for my community and its environment."

Hana, a Fresno native, started painting at an early age as a graffiti artist and this is her first mural.

"I hope the mural inspires people," said Hana. "The textures on the butterfly wings represent different cultures sharing our Central Valley."

May Gnia Her, the executive director of Stone Soup, drew a parallel between the metamorphosis of the butterfly and social metamorphosis—or how some social movements can transform or emerge into a changing stream.

"Ironically, 2022 is the year of the water tiger in the Chinese lunar calendar," says Her. "It is a year of metamorphosis, and this is what today's event means to me. It is an opportunity for us to metamorphose and come together to change for the common good. Like the butterfly, that comes after the metamorphosis of a colorless caterpillar into a beautiful insect."

The unveiling event was streamed due to Covid-19 precautions

As in the mural, many communities were represented at the event. Jerry Her, Hana's father, played a traditional Hmong instrument, the *qeej*. Break dancers BBoyz and Los Danzantes de Yoalztepec—of which Hana is also part of the group—brought their dances and colorful wardrobe.


The mural can be seen at Stone Soup (1345 E. Bulldog Lane).

\*\*\*\*\*

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



The mural "Wings of Change" was unveiled on Feb. 18 at Stone Soup in Fresno. Photo by Eduardo Stanley



**PAC**

## CVPPAC encourages you to VOTE in these elections

<div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;"> <b>Congressional District 22 (Old Lines) Special Election Primary</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>APRIL 5 ELECTION DAY 7 A.M.–8 P.M.</b> </div> <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>Ballots mailed starting March 7</b> <i>You can vote by mail once you receive your ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by April 5.</i></p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>MARCH 7–APRIL 5</b> BALLOT DROP BOXES OPEN         </div> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <b>APRIL 2</b> ALL VOTE CENTERS OPEN 9 A.M.–5 P.M.         </div> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <b>APRIL 5</b> ELECTION DAY WITH ALL VOTE CENTERS OPEN 7 A.M.–8 P.M.         </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;"> <b>DEVIN NUNES HAS RETIRED. HOORAY!</b> </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">We now have a Special Election to replace him for the balance of his term. This election is happening in the current CD22 boundaries.</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">Any candidate receiving more than 50% of the vote wins outright. If not, the runoff will be on the same day as the June Primary.</p>	<div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;"> <b>Fresno Unified School District Trustee Area 5 (Fresno High) Special Election</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>APRIL 12 ELECTION DAY 7 A.M.–8 P.M.</b> </div> <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>Ballots mailed starting March 14</b> <i>You can vote by mail once you receive your ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by April 12.</i></p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>APRIL 9–11</b> ALL VOTE CENTERS OPEN 9 A.M.–5 P.M.         </div> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <b>APRIL 12</b> ELECTION DAY WITH ALL VOTE CENTERS OPEN 7 A.M.–8 P.M.         </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;"> <b>THE CENTRAL VALLEY PROGRESSIVE PAC ENDORSES ANDY LEVINE</b>  <a href="https://www.andy4fresno.com">https://www.andy4fresno.com</a> </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">Fresno Unified School District Trustee Area 5 (Fresno High region) has an open seat due to the passing of longtime trustee Carol Mills. The Special Election will elect a successor to fill the balance of her term. There will be no runoff; the candidate that receives the most votes wins outright.</p>
--	--

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY PROGRESSIVE PAC



# Peace & Social Justice Calendar

## March 2022

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

Note: Contact the organizer for up-to-date information on whether meetings are in person or via Zoom.

**TUE 01** **National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)** 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Program: Luis Santana, Katie Dill and Vivian Sojo from Reading and Beyond. For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or joanne@pbyoga.com.

**WED 02** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. Community Alliance radio show. For more info, visit www.kfcf.org.

**Fresno County Democratic Party** 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-495-0606 or dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org.

**THU 03** **ArtHop Downtown/Tower District** 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit FACarthop on Facebook.

**FRI 04** **CineCulture: Salt of the Earth** 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Written by Michael Wilson and directed by Herbert Biberman, both blacklisted Hollywood filmmakers during the Red Scare for their alleged involvement in communist politics, the film chronicles the true events of a 1951 miners' strike using local people and non-actors to reenact their experiences. This 1954 film was banned in the United States for 11 years. Sponsors: Jewish Studies Program and Jewish Studies Association.

**SAT 05** **Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. Speaker: Roman C. Rain Tree. Topic: Renaming of Squaw Valley. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or claval@comcast.net.

**MON 07** **Democratic Women in Action** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. Program: Fresno Unified School District Trustee Area 5 Special Election Candidates. For more info, contact 559-325-0540 or ggaston1234@aol.com.

**TUE 08** **Stonewall Democratic Club** 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Speaker: Jeffrey Robinson. Topic: Fresno Rainbow Pride. For more info, contact 559-709-8016 or conantm@aol.com.

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

**Covid-19 Booster Shot Phone Bank** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. According to the CDC, among all fully vaccinated adults 18 and older in California, nearly 14% have received a booster shot. Phone bank in our community and help schedule our neighbors for a booster shot. Sponsored by the Fresno County Democratic Party. To sign up, visit mobilize.us/mobilize/event/427493/. For more info, call 530-241-2043.

**Peace Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 Van Ness Ave. In person/via Zoom. For more info, call 559-355-9717.

**WED 09** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show. For more info visit www.kfcf.org.

**THU 10** **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** 7 p.m. For more info, contact 559-360-8054 or taca\_03@ymail.com.

**Trivia Night Thursday!** 6 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. In person/via Zoom. Enjoy a fun night of trivia with fellow Democrats. Bring your competitive spirit. To sign up, visit mobilize.us/mobilize/event/426575/. For more info, contact 530-241-2043.

**FRI 11** **CineCulture: Tazzeeka** 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. French director Jean-Philippe Gaud's first feature film is a delightful and bittersweet dramatic comedy about a young man's dream faced with social realities. Sponsors: French Program and Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.

**SAT 12** **Central Valley Progressive PAC** 3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-978-4504 or simone.rhodes@seiu521.org.

**MON 14** **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)** 5:15 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, call 559-392-8718.

**TUE 15** **Central Valley Partnership** 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-967-1940 or agrariandemocracy@gmail.com.

**Covid-19 Booster Shot Phone Bank** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. According to the CDC, among all fully vaccinated adults 18 and older in California, nearly 14% have received a booster shot. Phone bank in our community and help schedule our neighbors for a booster shot. Sponsored by the Fresno County Democratic Party. To sign up, visit mobilize.us/mobilize/event/427493/. For more info, call 530-241-2043.

**WED 16** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Speaking Truth to Empire** 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit 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. Speaker: Marek Warszawski of the *Fresno Bee*. Topics will include the San Joaquin River Parkway and CEMEX's gravel mining operations, mysteries and lessons learned from the Creek Fire, and the impact of megafires on the giant sequoia groves. Visit sierraclub.org/tehipite to register in advance.

**THU 17** **ArtHop Downtown/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.

**Fresno Move to Amend** 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Support a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not entitled to constitutional rights and that spending money is different from exercising freedom of speech. For more info, e-mail fresno@movetoamend.org.

**Clovis Democratic Club** 7 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-322-9740 or jenikren@gmail.com.

**FRI 18** **CineCulture: Where There Once Was Water** 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Directed by Brittany App, the film takes a look at the driest of places (California and the U.S. Southwest) and the deepest of spaces (our inner worlds). It presents an invitation to change our perspective and heal our relationship with water—one watershed, one meal, one raindrop at a time. Sponsor: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

**Interfaith Scholar Weekend** 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Title: Revisiting Old Covenants in a Time of Plagues. Part of Sabbath Economics: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Crises with Ched Myers and Dr. Elaine Enns. Register at interfaithscholar.org.

**SAT 19** **West Fresno Democratic Club** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-930-4909 or westfresnodemclub@gmail.com.

**Interfaith Scholar Weekend** 10:30 a.m. Via Zoom. Title: Manna vs. Mammon: Are We Building Capital or Community? Part of Sabbath Economics: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Crises with Ched Myers and Dr. Elaine Enns. Register at interfaithscholar.org.

**Women's History Month Celebration** Noon–2 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. In person/via Zoom. Join us for this social to celebrate Women's History Month. Visit mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/442378/.

**Interfaith Scholar Weekend** 1 p.m. Via Zoom. Title: Public Addiction, Ecological Ultimatums: A Call to Recovery. Part of Sabbath Economics: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Crises with Ched Myers and Dr. Elaine Enns. Register at interfaithscholar.org.

**SUN 20** **Democratic Socialists of America** 2 p.m. For more info, visit Facebook @ Democratic Socialists of America, Fresno, CA Chapter.

**Interfaith Scholar Weekend** 1 p.m. Via Zoom. Title: Sabbath as Reparative Justice. Part of Sabbath Economics: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Crises with Ched Myers and Dr. Elaine Enns. Register at interfaithscholar.org.

**MON 21** **California Latina Democrats–Fresno** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-859-6203 or chaircalatinadems@gmail.com.

**TUE 22** **Californians for Retired Americans (CARA)** 10 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 510-663-4086 or cynthial.cara@gmail.com.

**THU 24** **Trivia Night Thursday!** 6 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. In person/via Zoom. Enjoy a fun night of trivia with fellow Democrats. Bring your competitive spirit. To sign up, visit mobilize.us/mobilize/event/426575/. For more info, contact 530-241-2043.

**FRI 25** **CineCulture: The Carer** 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Hungarian director János Edelényi tells the story of a British theater legend, Sir Michael Gifford, who is terminally ill. He is also foul-mouthed, irascible and generally impossible. Into his fraught household comes Dorotty, a Hungarian immigrant, to act as yet another in a long line of badly treated caregivers.

**MON 28** **Fresno County Democratic Women's Club** 11 a.m. Via Zoom. Program: Daniel O'Connell discusses his book, *In the Struggle: Scholars and the Fight against Industrial Agribusiness in California*. For more info, contact 559-960-2292 or ms.keshiathomasvp@gmail.com.

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

### GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT!

Advertise in the



8,000 COPIES PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY

All ads need to be camera ready (typesetting, layout and design is extra)

Submit a black-and-white ad or upgrade to a full-color ad. Deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

### ADVERTISING RATES

	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS	SIX MONTHS	ONE YEAR
<b>Business Card</b> (3.375w x 2h)	\$44	\$99	\$165	\$297
<b>Eighth Page</b> (5.125w x 4.125h)	\$66	\$176	\$330	\$594
<b>Quarter Page</b> (5.125w x 8.25h)	\$132	\$352	\$650	\$1,188
<b>Half Page</b> (10.25w x 8.25h)	\$220	\$589	\$1,100	\$1,980
<b>Full Page</b> (10.25w x 16.5h)	\$440	\$1,177	\$2,200	\$3,960

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

I. smiley G. Calderón | 714.290.6651 | [advertising@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:advertising@fresnoalliance.com)  
Community Alliance | P.O. Box 5077 | Fresno, CA 93755

### MEDITATION FOR INNER PEACE & HAPPINESS

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

Women of Spirit & World Meditation Day.

Call Veena Kapoor: (559) 435-2212

Website: [www.bkwsu.com](http://www.bkwsu.com)



Chase Flower Shop  
(559) 233-8631  
1405 N. Van Ness Ave  
Fresno, CA 93728

World Wide Delivery  
[www.chaseflowershop.com](http://www.chaseflowershop.com)

Michael Butler  
Floral Design



WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME.

5550 N FRESNO ST • FRESNO CA 93710  
559.435.2690 • [communityucc.com](http://communityucc.com)

@DOLORESHUERTAFD



WWW.DOLORESHUERTA.ORG

# DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

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

## DHF Executive Director Camila Chávez receives a 2022 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award

On behalf of the Dolores Huerta Foundation team, volunteers, and supporters, we are honored to announce that DHF's Co-Founder and Executive Director Camila Chávez is a recipient of a 2022 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award. Each year, Irvine's Leadership Awards recognize innovative leaders whose breakthrough solutions to critical state challenges improve lives, create opportunity, and contribute to a better California. In addition to spotlighting exemplary leaders whose work benefits the people of California, The James Irvine Foundation provides each recipient's organization with a grant of \$250,000 to support their work.

The James Irvine Foundation #IrvineAward

Strengthening underrepresented communities by training and inspiring the next generation of leaders

-Camila Chávez, Dolores Huerta Foundation



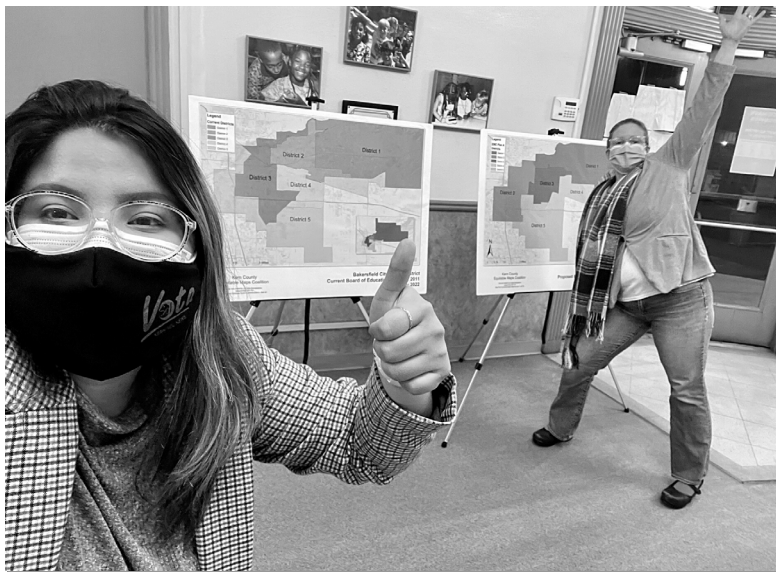
Camila Chávez spent her childhood on picket lines advocating with her mother, iconic labor organizer Dolores Huerta. At a young age she saw how communities are strengthened when people use their voices to demand change. In 2003, Chávez founded the Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) with her mother to engage and train groups of neighbors – primarily Latino, African American, and immigrant residents of Kern, Tulare, Fresno, and northern Los Angeles counties – to collectively advocate for policy changes that improve public infrastructure, schools, and social services. Using the methodical "house meeting model," DHF organizers meet with small groups of neighbors, co-workers, and friends to help them identify shared concerns and recognize that they are the leaders best equipped to make the change they seek. DHF and its members have a notable track record of achieving policy goals including altering school discipline practices, improving local infrastructure, expanding access to health care, and increasing opportunities for political engagement. As DHF's inaugural Executive Director, Chávez continues to honor her mother's legacy while growing the organization to a \$5 million annual budget with 44 full-time staff and more than 100 seasonal canvassers.

### The Fight for Fair Maps!

Over the past year, the Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) has led a Central Valley wide effort for fair and equitable maps. This effort has meant months of education, training, research, data collection, gathering community input and public hearing presentations. Due to a substantial growth in the Latino and Asian population over the past ten years, the old district lines no longer represent the community need but rather the interest of those in power. The 2020 U.S. Census results confirmed what we already knew - our state is increasingly made up of communities of color and it's time that our elected officials reflect that rich diversity of our state.

Our goals were clear, we strived for a fair distribution of political power, districts that aligned with Census data and that met the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The Dolores Huerta Foundation, dozens of organizations and hundreds of residents comprising the Equitable Maps Coalition collected thousands of redistricting surveys, held multiple weekly education and map-drawing workshops, submitted maps to jurisdictions at all levels of government, and gave hundreds of public comments at hearings for well over a year now.

We are proud to share that among Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera and Merced there was a total of 135% increase in VRAs! Without the support of the community at each Public Hearing providing public comments and raising awareness at each march, press conference, and meeting it could not have been accomplished.



Kern	1 VRA	→	2+ VRAs
Tulare	1 VRA	→	3 VRAs
Kings	1 VRA	→	2 VRAs
Fresno	1 VRA	→	2 VRAs
Madera	1 VRA	→	3 VRA
Merced	1 VRA	→	2 VRAs

### New Congressional Districts

**VRA**  
 CD 21: Fresno, Dinuba, Ivanhoe, North Visalia  
 CD 22: Kern, Kings, Tulare  
 CD 13: Rural Fresno Co, Merced, Madera,  
 CD 18: Salinas, Gilroy, San Jose

**"Coalition"**  
 CD 9: Stockton, Manteca, Tracy

**Non-VRA**  
 CD 5: North Fresno, "Gold Country"  
 CD 20: West Bakersfield, Visalia-Tulare Urban Corridor, North Hanford, Lemoore, Clovis, China Lake Naval Weapons Station, Edwards AFB

Along with these Central Valley wins, there are statewide outcomes that have changed to align with the VRA obligations and which now reflect authentic community input. We welcome the new congressional districts that serve the following communities: CD 21 - Fresno, Dinuba, Ivanhoe, & North Visalia CD 22 - Kern, inds, & Tulare CD - 13 Rural Fresno Co, Merced, & Madera CD 18 - Salinas, Gilroy & San Jose.

### Donor Spotlight

Raúl has been a donor and supporter of the Dolores Huerta Foundation for more than 10 years. His family came from Mexico to the state of Texas in 1921 where Raul was born and lived with his mother Jesusita Marrufo, his brother and two sisters. In 1963, at the age of 12, he and his family moved to California. Raúl shared with us that from a very young age he left school to work and help his family. In California he worked in the agricultural fields from the age of 13 to 32. Raul was part of the workers who were negotiating a contract with Cesar Chavez in the Reedley strike. It was there that he met Mrs. Dolores Huerta in 1970. At the age of 32, Raul got a steady job at a bread company and finally retired at the age of 65.



From his time in the field, he says that he felt committed to justice and "I cannot abandon the cause." Realizing that Dolores had founded her own foundation, he began to support her work. The Dolores Huerta Foundation is grateful for his ongoing support. Since 2010, without fail, Raúl sends the foundation his monthly donation by money order. Raul's message to Dolores as she continues to work for justice is, "May God bless her and give her strength and may her fight continue." He asks the community to continue supporting the cause. Thank you Raul, you are an example that our solidarity is our strength!

## We're Hiring! Education Organizer

We are looking for an Education Organizer in Kern, Tulare, Fresno, and Los Angeles Counties. The position will support DHF's program to educate, train, organize, and engage community members to participate in school district advocacy and practice community wellness.

To Apply Visit:  
[doloreshuerta.org/jobs/](http://doloreshuerta.org/jobs/)



**IF YOU HAVEN'T REGISTERED TO VOTE...  
NOW IS THE TIME! VISIT: VOTE.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

# FRESNO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

# NEWS

## Trivia Night Thursday!

Join us for a fun night of Trivia! Bring your competitive spirit and let's see who the Trivia Night Winner is! We will be having this as both an in-person and virtual event. I will reach out and see if you will join us in person or online!

March 10, 6 p.m., Democratic Party HQ (1033 U St.) and virtual  
 March 31, 6 p.m., Democratic Party HQ (1033 U St.) and virtual  
[mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/426575/](https://mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/426575/)



FRESNO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY


## Trivia Night Thursday!

1033 U St Fresno, CA 6:00-7:00 P.M

## COVID Booster Shot Phone Bank!

Join us to phone bank in our community and help schedule our neighbors for a booster shot. We will have a short training before the event to get you ready!

March 8, 6 p.m., virtual  
[mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/427493/](https://mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/427493/)



FRESNO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## COVID-19 Booster Shot Phone Bank

TUESDAYS 6:00 P.M TO 7:00 P.M

## Fresno County Women's History Month Celebration

Join us for this social to celebrate Women's History Month! Speakers to be announced soon!

March 19, noon, Democratic Party HQ (1033 U St.)  
[mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/442378/](https://mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/442378/)



FRESNO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## Women's History Month Celebration

March 19, 2022 12:00 to 2:00 P.M  
 1033 U ST Fresno CA 93727

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

## Precinct Captain Program!

Want to help us win in 2022? Be a precinct captain! Join and become a part of our team! Anytime Action!

[mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/433597](https://mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/433597)



FRESNO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## VOTE BECOME A PRECINCT CAPTAIN!

## Voter Suppression: The Virus of Our Politics

"Sometimes, the vote counter is more important than the candidate." Those words were spoken by the twice-impeached former President two months ago. The quote is often said to be a variation of a statement made by former Soviet Union leader Josef Stalin in 1923.

At that time, Stalin and Leon Trotsky were jousting to determine who would be the undisputed leader of the USSR, to replace the ailing Vladimir Lenin. The original statement dealt with this Communist Party infighting at the time. Preserved by Stalin's personal secretary in 1923-1925, Boris Bazhanov, it reads like this, according to Oxford Essential Quotations: "I consider it completely unimportant who in the party will vote, or how; but what is extraordinarily important is this—who will count the votes, and how."

Fast forward one century to the present. It has been 14 months since Joseph Biden was inaugurated as the 46th U.S. President. Two weeks before that, a violent and deadly insurrection by Trump loyalists to disrupt, and possibly prevent, the peaceful transfer of power, was instigated by Trump and his cronies. The work of the Select Committee to Investigate the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol grinds on with hints that televised hearings will come soon, which will reveal the true scope of the planning and execution of said insurrection.

A sweeping account of the months of planning for the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection by Trump and his loyalists comes from Rep. Jamie Raskin in his new book, *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy*. It all comes down to a strategy by the Trumpists to exploit weaknesses in the decrepit Electoral College in order to throw the election into the House, by denying Biden his legitimately won majority of electoral votes in key swing states which Biden won, in order to produce a 269-269 tie.

This strategy would have triggered the 12th Amendment on that day, which would have immediately required a contingent election by the House, in which each state gets only one vote. Even though the GOP won 27 states, and the Democrats 22 (Pennsylvania was tied), the Democratic state delegations represented more voters. Had a contingent election been triggered, the Democrats' popular vote lead would have no meaning.

How might Trump do this? Raskin says he had three strategies: 1) coerce enough state secretaries of state to overturn actual popular results in key states and then "find" new votes (think: the infamous Georgia phone call); 2) convince GOP-run state legislatures to cancel their popular election results and then appoint Trump electors; or 3) force Vice President Mike Pence to unilaterally declare new powers under the 12th Amendment in order to reject Biden electors in key swing states.

Evidence shows that Trump tried all three. By early afternoon on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump knew none of these moves had worked. Therefore, he incited the crowd at the "stop the steal" rally, and, well, you know the rest of that part of the story.

So, here we are, three months from the California Primary Election and a few short months away from other key primaries. An unmuzzled Trump is endorsing secretary of state candidates in key states who believe the "big lie" and who are committed to distorting the true Presidential election results in an election that is 32 months away to favor the current de facto GOP leader and presumptive GOP Presidential nominee—Trump.

In addition, there are recent revelations by investigative journalists regarding the attempt by Republicans in seven battleground states won by Biden to subvert the 2020 Presidential election by sending bogus slates of electors to Congress. This all reverts to our opening sentence in this column, uttered by the twice-impeached former President.

Meanwhile, GOP-run state legislators continue their voter suppression efforts. According to the Brennan Center, as of early this year, legislators in 27 states have introduced, pre-filed or carried more than 250 bills with restrictive provisions, compared to 75 such bills in 24 states a year ago. That's a tripling of proposals to restrict the vote.

The bills would reduce access to mail ballots, limit or eliminate same-day voter registration, require proof of citizenship to vote or register, or make it harder for people with disabilities to vote.

Equally worrying, lawmakers also aim to increase partisan interference in election administration. Legislators in 13 states have pre-filed or introduced 41 such bills. Some would give the state legislature the ultimate power to reject election results. Others threaten election officials with civil or criminal penalties or place partisan actors in charge of vote counting.

The worst of the worst seems to be in Texas, where a provision passed last year makes it a state jail felony for public officials and election officials to solicit mail ballot applications from voters who are eligible or might be eligible to vote by mail. Let's face it: These heinous efforts to suppress the vote in GOP states are aimed at voters of color.

On the surface, it doesn't seem like the U.S. Justice Department under Attorney General Merrick Garland is doing much to fight voter suppression, although it is suing Texas for its highly gerrymandered U.S. Congressional redistricting based on the 2020 Census. These maps blatantly discriminate against voters of color.

The Freedom to Vote/John Lewis Act would restore Voting Rights Act Section 5 pre-clearance provisions stripped away by the Supreme Court in the 2013 *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*. It would also defend and restore voting rights and democracy more broadly. Although the House has passed the bill, it languishes in the Senate, without enough votes to overcome the antiquated filibuster rule.

According to Jared Evans, policy counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, "American democracy is in a state of emergency." Federal voting rights act legislation must be passed by any means necessary.

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS

1033 U Street • Downtown Fresno • 559-495-0606

[dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org](mailto:dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org) • [fresnocountydemocrats.org](https://fresnocountydemocrats.org) • [facebook.com/FresnoCountyDemocrats](https://facebook.com/FresnoCountyDemocrats)  
[instagram.com/fresnocountydemocrats](https://instagram.com/fresnocountydemocrats) • [twitter.com/fresnocountydms](https://twitter.com/fresnocountydms)



# Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2022

March 2022

*They say that this month should blow in like a former president and weasel out like the current one.*



Edited by  
Richard Gomez.

**Dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through  
SIMPLICITY ~ JUSTICE ~ INCLUSIVENESS ~ NON-INJURY**  
1584 N. Van Ness Ave., 93728 - [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org) - email: [info@centerfornonviolence.org](mailto:info@centerfornonviolence.org)  
- (559)237-3223 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FresnoCenterforNonviolence/>

## What's so funny about Peace. *(Written on February 14, 2022.)*

So much mentioned today, one way or another all throughout the media about Russia invading the Ukraine. No one has asked what if the United States invaded Ukraine first. Oh wait, it has.



We helped changed the country's republic towards a more friendly Neo-Nazi regime to us, maybe not the Ukrainians and armed it to the teeth with all sorts of modern or secondhand weapons of mass destruction. We already have "trainers" in Ukraine, remember Vietnam before the Gulf of Tonkin? Trainers became a euphemism for armed troops but were classified like waiters as office staff members. That probably caused a shiver or two up and down the spine of Mr. Putin.

Of course, ever since the (alleged) end of the Cold War in 1989, when an American leader in NATO (National Atlantic Treaty Organization) promised Putin never to move in on their former Warsaw Pact buddies. Oops, oh well that's what you get when you trust an American diplomat. But despite all that, where is our nationalistic media with its usually duplicitous talking head mindsets.

The media has its own version of the fictitious animal known as the Pushme-pullyou of Dr. Dolittle fame. This creature was supposed to be built like a llama but with two heads leading itself by agreeing to go in same directions. Since the 80's, our media has found itself talking from both side of their corporate faces to give the audience two different extreme views that had nothing to do with the facts but was more about attention grabbing and ratings from unsuspecting viewers. The media version of a Carnival "Freak" shows. Usually, our media would talk as if there are only two points of views; one positive the other negative.

One followed by Satan another followed by Jesus Christ. Right/ Wrong, Left/ Right, Good/ Bad, Democrat/ Republican, Hot/Dry and etc. etc... etc. Spewing out prodigious amounts, only speaking as one for war from both ends. Thus, leaving one to conclude, correctly, that the news media was only interested in ratings and not about content. But in skewering the news, is our corporate owned media prepared to fall over the edge into human annihilation? Surely someone must be actual thinking; Right?

So, what happened to Peace, you know, the opposite of War. Where are the discussions of what to do to resolve the issue peacefully where no one gets hurt or killed? Maybe pull back all the weapons of mass destruction from all sides until an agreement can be reached. Have an independent 3rd party or an adult to listen to all sides and resolve to work towards a peaceful and agreeable goal. Is that so difficult? Unfortunately, right now, we can't even force all sides into the corner of the room until they decide to be reasonable. Yet unlike my daddy's

Wednesday

March 9th

at 3 pm

Stir it, UP!

KFCF

88.1 FM



March is here and our radio show hosted by Josh Shurely with his guest, TBA regarding Women History month. 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 February, Gerry Bill hosted where the discussion was the renaming James K. Polk Elementary school with the Suarez family member who are leading the change of racism. <https://soundcloud.com/user-32180140/stiu020922>.

In January, Josh Shurely was our host with his guest History Professor at Fresno City College, Paul Gilmore regarding Human Rights and more. To hear it again go to: <https://soundcloud.com/user-32180140/stiu011222>.

## We Have Organic Fair Trade Chocolates, Coffee & Teas, OH NY!

We still have Organic Chocolate Bars for \$3 each. From Dark Chocolates to Milk Chocolate such a variety for you if you wish. Plus, Hot Cocoa at \$7. Equal Exchange acquires chocolate from small farms organizations. We also still have Organic Coffee for \$9 each both Decaf and Regular. We still have teas too available at \$4 from all over the world from small farms who must compete large corporate agribusinesses.

Just come on by to the Center when opened from 11-3pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for your tastebuds delight.



# Remembering the Homeless on St. Patrick's Day

By Paul Thomas Jackson

Since the '80s, a homelessness crisis has beset our country—your advice is? Yes, the limerick's a mistake; human lives are at stake and need hearts and minds for what the price is.

Homeless people that seem they're carousing aren't attending a party you're browsing. Though called self-medication, substances risk ruination. A death sentence:— That's life without housing.

Homeless advocates need education if they say Housing First's mere donation. Though the clients pay cheap rent, they are otherwise tenants and meet weekly, their main obligation.

Besides, Housing First isn't effective to house one fifth of them, our objective. While the shortage is glaring, HF is a red herring, a rhetorical tool sans perspective.

But for the great majority, Sam Tsemberis, an authority, knows that Housing First works,— a fact that, while it irks, speaks to its superiority.

For the youth or for families, best practices vary widely in crises. The fact is people have unique needs and ways they'll succeed from their homelessness to back with us.

Homeless advocates need elocution if they say housing is just 'the solution.' They commit negligent homicide since they forget what's the other side: Vital services—no substitution.

Some communities, whose members commend, have brought homelessness to functional end. They have solved it for veterans, ably mending their severance from society; 'chronics,' too, friend.

Homeless advocates need legal training if they say the courts are restraining cities from notifying and then storing the things as they do after public complaining.

One man's trash is another man's treasure. And disrupting one's life, what a pleasure

for housed residents cramped by the people encamped and supposedly living in leisure!

Could your notice of 'cleanup' have chastened disenfranchised, broke people, obeseant? Your 'abatement of nuisance' may not inject translucence in the people whose demise you've hastened.

Being forced to move, how are they 'tramps' when they lack stable, organized camps because we lack the foresight to keep them safe at night and to help by the light of our lamp?

The smug residents shout while they hiccup they're the host of a citywide stickup. (Do you breathe when you shout? How would life be without sanitation crews doing your pickups?)

You would do well to blame unto others (meaning your homeless sisters and brothers), as you'd first blame yourself with perspective on wealth. Then, indulge your dear, cosmetic druthers.

Rich societies have as their mission both to look and be good—our moral omission. And we still have to own it; by no means condone it as society's social condition.

In our country, the crisis persists, despite efforts through those by-name lists. Not all cities, nor 'hotspots,' elect government despots. Some at least let the people subsist.

Courts of law are not advocates' make-believe: Homeless advocates go with the take-and-give. The decision in Boise wasn't dreamt up or noisy; but somewhere, the people shall sleep to live.

Local government comes not from vacuums as some advocates quickly assume. Though its policy's a better choice, across decades still NIMBY's dreader voice drowns the officials in Fresno's club room.

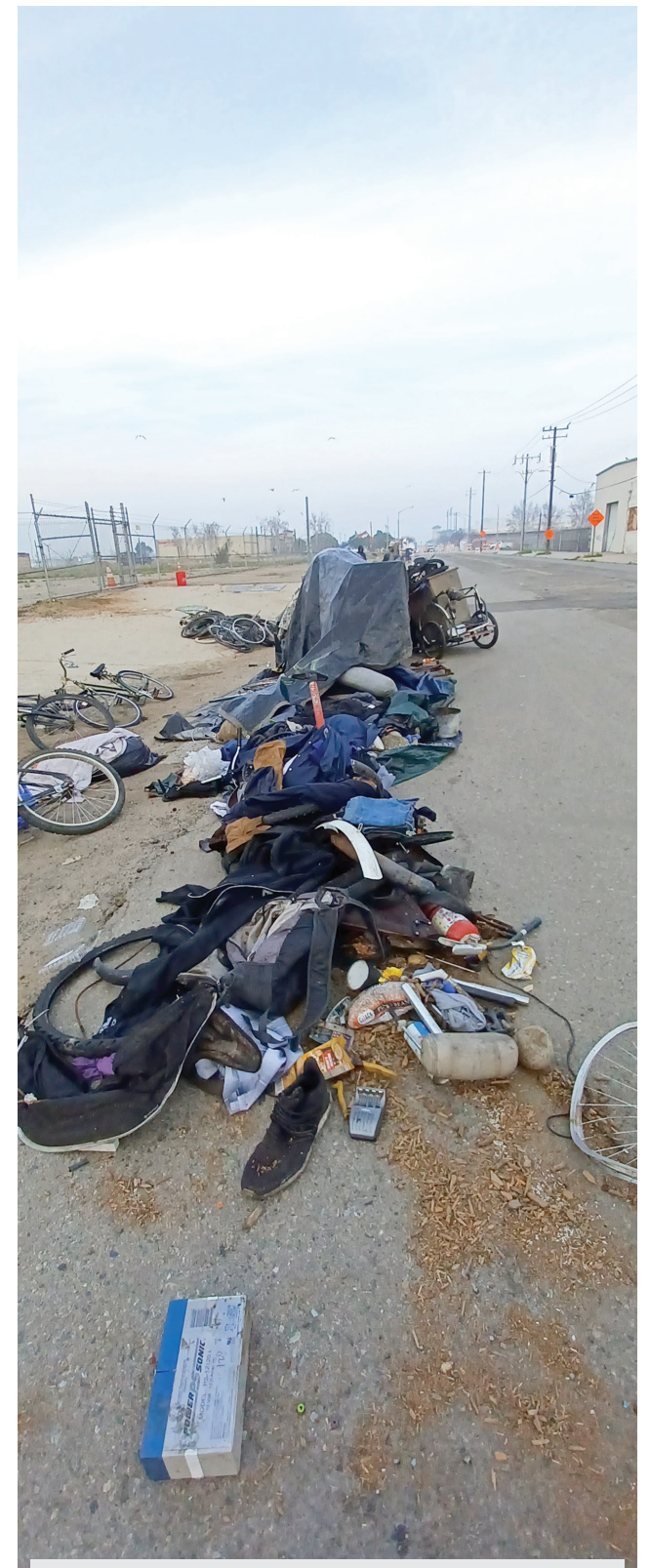
Unlike past decades, the wrongs are few. But how great if the injured is you! So, record those employees, as they handle your properties, for Risk Management or ACLU.

All those unsheltered folks are perceptible. Their condition—but you are susceptible. Question our and their propriety: As a condition of society, this much homelessness is unacceptable.

Living in the shadow and effect of each other, we must learn respect.

Not arrived on the same boat, we now sing our lives, grace notes in concert, note values we strive to protect.

Paul Thomas Jackson prepared the claims that paved the way for the homeless lawsuit that in 2008 settled for \$2.35 million. He is now the secretary of the Fresno Homeless Advocates, which holds monthly meetings online during the pandemic. Contact him at [facebook.com/groups/fresnohomelessadvocates](https://facebook.com/groups/fresnohomelessadvocates).



A homeless camp in downtown Fresno during a recent "cleanup" operation conducted by the City. Photo by Emily Garcia

# A Sonnet for My Friends

By Richard D. Iyall

My friends, I want to share a word with you. I've been around the sun six dozen times and each time taught me lessons that are true. So, listen to my thoughts in words and rhymes. Our hearts are beating like a drum inside to help us keep in tune with Mother Earth. Do what you will. There is no place to hide our thoughts, our deeds, our dreams. From birth to death is just one phase of life. The joy of finding out the truth is great. Our minds are one, a universal tool. Employ your instincts as you live your life. You'll find that there is wisdom deep within. Just be in balance in all things and you'll be free.

Richard D. Iyall is a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe of Longview, Wash. He has lived in Fresno since 1957. He has written and done photography for the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at [riyall1@my.sccd.edu](mailto:riyall1@my.sccd.edu).



Looking for a Volunteer:

Do you live in Madera?

Can you deliver the *Community Alliance*—the "Voice of the Progressive Movement"—to the Madera area?

A few hours a month is all it takes!

Contact Peter Maiden  
Distribution Manager  
[maidenfoto1@gmail.com](mailto:maidenfoto1@gmail.com)

# The Dark of the Valley: Corrections and Connections

By David E. Roy

Regarding the review of the documentary *In the Dark of the Valley* that appeared in the January 2022 issue of the *Community Alliance*, Denise Duffield, associate director for the Los Angeles office of Physicians for Social Responsibility, has provided feedback. While affirming the accuracy of the summary outlining the purpose of the documentary, she had some corrections.

Two of the corrections were technical: 1) The problem with the sound happened only in the initial showing, and it was a software issue with MSNBC that was quickly corrected, and 2) the length of the documentary is an hour and a half, not the three-hour time slot listed.

In addition, the Department of Energy (DOE) is the agency responsible for cleaning the radioactive contamination, not NASA or Boeing. The DOE has not been any more responsive to fulfilling its legal responsibilities than Boeing or NASA.

As for Boeing, coincidentally, ABC 20/20's 90-minute documentary on the Boeing 737 Max tragedy, broadcast on Dec. 17, 2021, laid out in painful detail the deliberate deceptiveness that resulted in two airliners smashing into the ground at full speed, killing 346 people.

Bob Woodruff, the ABC reporter who struggled for years to recover from traumatic brain injury (TBI) suffered in Iraq in 2006, conducted the interviews and did the narration. His solid, steady style allowed the egregiously inhumane calculations to speak for themselves.

The background for the tragedy began when Boeing was competing with Airbus to provide a plane less expensive to operate. Boeing chose to install cheaper to run but larger engines on its existing 737.

Fearing an imbalance could lead to a stall, Boeing created a system to automatically correct the plane if a single mechanical device signaled the plane was due to stall. It lacked redundancy, and there was no way to override it.

Worse, the system was not listed in the pilot's manual so no one knew it was there, and the plane was advertised as



The Department of Energy headquarters in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of The Commons

not requiring any pilot training, something that is a huge expense for airlines. The decision to keep the system hidden was deliberate. While recommended by the engineer in charge of the project, obviously it was signed off on by senior executives. (The only person prosecuted was the engineer.)

Boeing had a long history of engineering excellence that had gained the deep trust of pilots, but the company lost that when money was made the overriding value. This is the same issue with the Santa Susana Field Lab addressed in the *Dark of the Valley* documentary.

Although both radical and highly unlikely, it seems fair that as long as corporations are seen as having the same rights as real people for purposes of contributions to political candidates, they should also be subject to the same types

of consequences if found guilty of felony-level crimes, up to and including murder and manslaughter.

The punishment must be more than or other than financial. The top-level management (president, CEO, the vice presidents, controller, as well as the board) would be the ones to receive the sentences and the punishment. One or two major convictions, and the world would begin to change.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Ordained in the United Church of Christ, David E. Roy is a pastoral counselor and a California licensed marriage and family therapist who directs the Center for Creative Transformation. He has a Ph.D. in theology and personality from the Claremont (California) School of Theology. Contact him at admin@cctnet.com.*

## Where Hope Prevails

By Ruth Gadebusch

While not without its own disappointments and heartbreak, the Olympics have provided us with needed distraction. Watching the clean young faces in dress representing the home countries enter the arena for the opening of the Olympics was truly a moment of joy in a world grown tired of the pandemic, crime, war, climate change and other woes. For us, it might have been a distraction but for them, the participants, just to be a part of this show was an unimaginable accomplishment for which they had devoted a lifetime of effort.

Not as free of politics as we like to think it is but still based on the better instincts of humankind. The Olympics do not always live up to the lofty expectations but are recognition of accomplishment for some and entertainment for us more ordinary folk.

Only a few are born with such potential for physical accomplishment and fewer still are in a position to pursue it. It is complete devotion to a limited although special lifestyle. It demands sacrifice from both the athlete and others in his/her circle. It is by and large expensive for the training and travel to participate. Little is left for interests other than that short bit of glory.

Yes, there are those who abuse the format even here with attempts at enhancing performance with less than honorable methods but mostly it is a show of amazing results of unbelievable dimensions of human contortions and fearlessness. And we get to enjoy it while sitting comfortably at home.

I no longer think of it as a lot of hoopla for a few minutes. I suffer from those who fail to reach the pinnacle of the Gold or the lesser Silver or Bronze. It is especially upsetting when an otherwise sterling performance includes a fall. But as mentioned earlier,

just the idea, the experience of being where few will ever tread is almost beyond comprehension.

For the athletes, it is worth all the pain and sacrifice that it takes. For the rest of us, it is inspiring, maybe giving us just a bit of confidence that we too can use our own different talents to contribute where needed.

Alas, deep disappointment awaits those who don't make it to that last step of winning softened with empathy from the other competitors. While we cheer for the "winners," there are always the "losers" in competition.

I have never been a big sports fan because it so often seems to me that we forget that there are those left behind in every win. I might not know much about a sport, but I cringe every time I learn of a coach being fired because of the percentage of win/lose games.

Don't we understand that for every winner there is the other side? That the results could be reversed in the next round? Sometimes luck as much as skill plays a part.

Of course, reversal in the next round is the expectation, the hope that my turn will be next. Then there is the sadness of the champion knowing that as age and injury take their toll it is her/his last opportunity wanting to go out at the top of the heap but just missing.

Still, they must keep smiling despite an occasional tear. There will be other opportunities in other realms and the joy of having been in the Olympics at all should outshine all disappointment of the moment. There is nothing else to compare.

No matter how many other championships, the Olympics is the ultimate. Arguably, it is the longest standing cooperative of humankind. It is, without doubt, one of the better demonstrations of humankind's better side.

Even when the Olympics' goals do not come to full fruition, it is something to be cherished. It is more than sports. With all its weaknesses, the Olympics remain worth all the effort. We only need to spread its principles among all humankind.

As the planet grows ever smaller with our increased population and technology for moving and mixing, it is more than the Olympics. It is using the planet's resources for respecting each other. It is possible. We can do it. We must do it.

As this is written, there has been no inappropriate expression of political beliefs. There are better places for that although there is probably no larger audience.

I do recognize that expression at this event has a long life, but did it really help the cause be it for needed change or the purpose of the Olympics to overcome the dark side of politics? Is there anything that the world needs more than cooperation, consideration, respect for our fellow/sister inhabitants?

Yes, many times its location in a country known for its oppression of its citizens is hardly the best example of the high ideals of the Olympics, but it is always hopeful that the Olympic ideal might be at least a step in the right direction beyond just the athletic showcase. There is no doubt of its economic role.

## OPINION & ANALYSIS

As much as we might wish otherwise, politics does show up but usually somewhat in more of a limited role than in everyday life. Our differences are put aside as we are inspired by accomplishments. Even the least accomplished is so far above any others that only the hardest of hearts would not be moved.

It is a respite from our daily dose of crime shows, lackluster duties, illness, wars—often between the home countries of these athletes—to see these men and women show us just what talent and commitment can accomplish. It is the better side of life. Long live the Olympics with its hope for a better world.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Ruth Gadebusch is a longtime community activist who was a naval officer and a trustee of the Fresno Unified School District. She is an active member of the Big Red Church and an emeritus member of the Board of the Center for Civic Education.*

*Love Is Our Doctrine*



Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Fresno

Sunday Services with Rev. Tim Kutzmark 10:30 a.m.

Children and Youth Religious Exploration Sundays 10:30 a.m.

UU Buddhist Study and Meditation Wednesdays 2:00 p.m.

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

www.uufresno.org

Un sistema complicado

Los servicios integrales no son nuevos, pero no siempre han sido de fácil acceso ni han estado conectados directamente con la atención médica. Cruzar la puerta equivocada es posible que no obtengas ninguna ayuda. Un paciente sin hogar que sufre de adicción y problemas de salud mental y tiene diabetes tiene que acercarse a tres departamentos diferentes del condado.

Trump y Los Republicanos Aceitan Su Maquinaria De Mentiras

Por Maribel Hastings y David Torres

En el mundo paralelo en que viven los republicanos, su figura central —el expresidente Donald Trump, el rey de las mentiras y de las teorías conspirativas, lanza una plataforma social, irónicamente llamada Verdad (TRUTH Social), tras ser vetado por las tradicionales redes sociales de Twitter y Facebook. Ello, por promover mentiras sobre su derrota en las elecciones generales de 2020.

Con esta especie de oxímoron cibernético ya podemos darnos cuenta de la clase de engendro mediático que le espera a Estados Unidos y de cómo esa plataforma convertirá a la mentira en una "verdad" permanentemente enmascarada. Y en lo que se refiere a inmigración, es seguro que ahí se reproducen todos y cada uno de los ataques que ha lanzado el expresidente contra los indocumentados desde que él apareció en el firmamento político estadounidense. En pocas palabras será un espacio para regocijo, ni más ni menos, de quienes desde la ignorancia que promueven el racismo y la xenofobia pretieren ser engañados a hacer un esfuerzo intelectual para deshacerse del lastre en que se ha convertido un personaje como Trump en la historia nacional, especialmente en el ámbito migratorio.

Es decir, con Trump dirigiendo la orquesta, gobernador Ron DeSantis, quien ha hecho un vergonzoso uso político de los menores inmigrantes al presionar por el cierre de albergues que acogen a menores sin documentos que arriban a Estados Unidos sin sus padres. O al gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, quien en plena campaña por fallido intento de golpe de Estado para impedir

que el Congreso certificara el triunfo electoral de Joe Biden, son, ante los republicanos, "patriotas" que ejercieron "pacíficamente" su derecho a protestar. Trump incluso dijo que, de volver a la Casa Blanca, les concedería perdones presidenciales. Eso es obvio, y no sería descabellado pensar que una de sus primeras campañas mediáticas a través de su nueva plataforma sería, precisamente, promover la idea de que dicha turba de zánganos merece no solo perdón, sino incluso condecoraciones por obedecer ciegamente a un falso líder. En ese mundo paralelo e hipócrita, los republicanos que se atreven a enfrentar a Trump o a cuestionar las mentiras que él y sus seguidores promuevan, se convertirán en traidores que deben ser expulsados de la colectividad. Los congresistas republicanos Liz Cheney y Adam Kinzinger, por ejemplo, fueron sancionados por el Partido Republicano por integrarse al panel que investiga los disturbios del 6 de enero que esa colectividad catalogó de «ejercicio legítimo de discurso político». Ambos congresistas denunciaron activamente a Trump por declarar falsamente que perdió la reelección porque Biden cometió "fraude" electoral.

De hecho, el líder de la minoría republicana de la Cámara Baja, Kevin McCarthy, está apoyando a la candidata Harriet Hagman que se enfrenta a Liz Cheney en la primaria en agosto por el distrito que representa en Wyoming. Hagman es pro Trump. Así, el culto a Trump sigue vivo. El senador republicano de Florida, Rick Scott, quien preside el Comité Senatorial Republicano Nacional, anunció el Plan de 11 puntos para el "rescate" de Estados Unidos, y una de las secciones propone terminar el muro fronterizo y bautizarlo con el nombre de "Trump". Es un ejemplo más de cómo el Partido Republicano sigue recurriendo a la demagogia en el tema migratorio aún después de Trump.

Pero no es el único. Ahí tenemos al gobernador Ron DeSantis, quien ha hecho un vergonzoso uso político de los menores inmigrantes al presionar por el cierre de albergues que acogen a menores sin documentos que arriban a Estados Unidos sin sus padres. O al gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, quien en plena campaña por su reelección en noviembre se ha atrevido

de Servicios de Atención Médica se enfoca en reformar Medi-Cal bajo CALAIM.

Una de esas barreras es garantizar que los pacientes no se pierdan entre sistemas que tradicionalmente no se comunican entre sí. Clanon, que también trabaja como médico en el condado de Alameda, dijo hace unos años que una paciente embarazada y seropositiva necesitaba comenzar un tratamiento contra el VIH, pero había dejado el campamento habitual en el que se alojaba y no podía ser encontrado. Una enfermera pasó más de una hora llamando a los departamentos de emergencia locales, refugios para personas sin hogar y administradores de casos para ver si alguien había visto al paciente, sin suerte. Si el sistema se hubiera integrado, el paciente de Clanon habría sido señalado como necesitada de atención médica crítica cada vez que ingresara a un refugio para personas sin hogar, departamento de emergencia, centro de abuso de sustancias o centro de salud mental. "CALAIM está intentando solucionar el problema de los sistemas de atención dispares entre diferentes condados y entre diferentes partes del sistema de atención médica", dijo Diana Douglas, experta en políticas de salud de Health Access California. \*\*\*\*\*

Kristen Hwang escribe sobre temas de salud para CalMatters. A ella le gusta "humanizar" las notas basadas en datos y analizar la conexión entre la salud pública y la justicia social. Kristen tiene una maestría en periodismo y una en salud pública de UC Berkeley, donde realizó una investigación sobre la calidad del agua en el Valle Central. Antes trabajó como reportera del Desert Sun y Free lance del NY Times.



Parte del muro fronterizo en Nogales, Arizona. Seguidores del ex presidente Donald Trump quieren completar la construcción del muro a lo largo de la frontera con México. Foto cortés de U.S. Customs and Border Protection

nuvamente a usar la misma cantileta de culpitar a la inmigración indocumentada de la delincuencia en su estado, a sabiendas de que en estudio tras estudio se demuestra lo contrario. O incluso el fiscal general de Arizona, Mark Brnovich, quien busca una curul en el Senado federal, ha presionado por que el gobernador de ese estado, Doug Ducey, responda con una fuerza militar contra lo que él llama erróneamente una "invasión" de inmigrantes por la frontera sur. Lo triste de toda esta situación es que a pesar de su demagogia y de sus mentiras, los republicanos siguen apelando a un amplio sector del electorado. Y eso incluye a muchos latinos en estados y distritos clave en las próximas elecciones de medio término este año y en las generales de 2024.

Independientemente de quién sea la figura republicana que emerja, sobre todo para los comicios de 2024, sea Trump, De Santis o cualquier otro, el reto para los demócratas es enorme no solo por sus divisiones internas, sino porque enfrentan una verdadera maquinaria de mentiras republicanas en diversos rubros, incluyendo inmigración, que, sin embargo, gozan de aceptación entre un amplio grupo de electores. \*\*\*\*\*

Maribel Hastings es asesora ejecutiva de America's Voice y David Torres es asesor de medios en español de America's Voice, y publicaron este artículo en www.hispanicla.com.

!SI ME GUSTARÍA SUSCRIBIRME AL PERIÓDICO DE LA ALIANZA COMUNITARIA:

- Adjunto están \$ 40 por una suscripción regular de un año.
Me gustaría ser un sostenedor mensual on la cantidad de \$ \_\_\_\_\_ mensual.
Adjunto están \$ 60 por una suscripción de un año de creador de movimiento progresivo.
Adjunto están \$ 15 por una suscripción de un año (opción de bajos ingresos).
Adjunto hay una contribución adicional de \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

CANTIDAD TOTAL ADJUNTADA \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOMBRE

DIRECCIÓN

TELÉFONO

E-MAIL

CIUDAD

ESTADO

CÓDIGO POSTAL

Envíelo por correo: Community Alliance, P.O. Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755



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

EDITOR

Eduardo Stanley

editor@fresnoalliance.com

559-304-3714

DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO

Mike Rhodes

CONSEJO SIN FINES DE LUCRO

Michael D. Evans

Beverly Fitzpatrick

Daren Miller

Pam Whalen

DISENADORA

Ashley Cortes

DISTRIBUCIÓN

Peter Malden

DIRECTOR DE PUBLICIDAD

I. smiley G. Calderón

714-290-6651

FOTOGRAFÍA

Peter Malden

EDITOR DE COPIA

Michael D. Evans

PARA SUSCRIBIRSE

Envíe \$60

(creador de movimiento progresivo), \$40 (regular) ó \$15 (bajos ingresos) a

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

NEWSPAPER

P.O. Box 5077

Fresno, CA 93755

fresnoalliance.com

APORTES

Fecha límite:

el 15 del mes previo

Límite de palabras: Cartas al editor,

300 palabras o menos.

Artículos 800-1,200 palabras.

Por favor envíe con imágenes o fotos

de ser posible.

Contacta al editor para más detalles en

editor@fresnoalliance.com.

Calendario de Paz y Justicia Social:

Por favor envíe eventos y acciones a

calendar@fresnoalliance.com

El periódico Alianza Comunitaria se

reserva el derecho

para editar todos los artículos

por el espacio y la claridad.

El periódico Alianza

Comunitaria está impreso

en papel reciclado.

# Si Se Prohibe El Aborto, Las Mujeres De Color Sufrirían El Mayor Impacto

Por Jenny Manrique

Más de 36 millones de mujeres perderían el acceso a un aborto seguro si la mayoría conservadora de la Corte Suprema limita o anula por un aborto seguro si la mayoría conservadora de la Corte Suprema limita o anula la histórica decisión Roe v Wade. Expertos convocados por Ethnic Media Services discutieron las repercusiones de una decisión sobre la que el máximo tribunal se pronunciará en los próximos meses, que acabaría con la libertad que hasta ahora tienen las mujeres embarazadas de optar por un aborto sin restricciones gubernamentales excesivas. Las mujeres de comunidades étnicas, que serán mayoría en Estados Unidos en 2060, son las más vulnerables, argumentaron las activistas por los derechos reproductivos. En 2021 se aprobaron más de 106 restricciones al aborto en 26 estados, mientras Texas ya aplica la prohibición después de que se detecta un latido fetal del corazón que es alrededor de las seis semanas. Alrededor del 85% de los abortos ocurren después de esta etapa de gestación. Lisa Matsubara, consejera general de los afiliados de Planned Parenthood en California: “En los cuatro años de la administración Trump, el Senado dirigido por Mitch McConnell confirmó a 231 jueces federales abrumadoramente hombres y blancos. Muchos de ellos tienen puntos de vista extremistas y hostiles sobre el aborto y el acceso a la salud reproductiva”. “En Texas, la SB8 ya está en vigor y efectivamente ha prohibido el aborto. Lo que hace que esta ley sea única es que cualquier persona en todo el país está invitada a presentar una demanda en la corte estatal de Texas contra cualquier persona que realice un aborto en violación de la prohibición. La persona que demanda tiene derecho a una recompensa de \$10,000”. “Si la Corte Suprema de EE. UU. anula o destripa severamente Roe vs. Wade se estima que más de 1 millón



Más de 36 millones de mujeres perderían el acceso a un aborto seguro si la mayoría conservadora de la Corte Suprema limita o anula por completo la histórica decisión Roe v Wade. Foto cortesía The Commons

de personas encontrarán su proveedor de aborto más cercano en California, lo que representa un aumento de casi el 3000%”.

Jessica Pinkney, directora ejecutiva de Acceso a la Justicia Reproductiva: “Hay más de 80 fondos de aborto en todo el país, así como algunos en otros países. Operamos una línea de ayuda de lunes a viernes de 10 am a 4 pm, donde la gente puede llamar y los apoyamos de manera procesal (con dinero para pagar sus procedimientos), y de manera práctica (transporte, alojamiento, cuidado de niños, comida)”.

“La mayoría de quienes llaman tienen entre 20 y 30 años, son de bajos ingresos o nulos, y se identifican como negros, indígenas y personas de color. En 2021 recibimos llamadas de 18 estados. Si Roe v Wade se cae en junio, California será un refugio seguro para quienes buscan servicios de aborto”.

“Si la Corte Suprema anula Roe v Wade, 5 millones de negros, 5,7 millones de latinos, 1,1 millones de asiáticos y casi 340,000 nativos en edad reproductiva podrán perder el acceso a los servicios de aborto en el país”.

# California Quiere Transformar Medi-Cal En Un Ciudadano Integral De La Persona

Por Kristen Hwang

anual de aproximadamente \$133 mil millones de Medi-Cal se gasta en solo el 5% de las personas con necesidades mayores del programa: personas con múltiples problemas de salud complejos agravados por la falta de vivienda, la pobreza, el abuso de sustancias, enfermedades mentales o encarcelamiento, según el Departamento de Servicios de Atención Médica.

Durante los próximos cinco años, el objetivo de CalAIM es abordar los factores que impulsan el deterioro de la salud, como la inseguridad alimentaria y la inestabilidad de la vivienda, en un esfuerzo por reducir las costosas visitas al departamento de emergencias, las hospitalizaciones y las estancias en hogares de ancianos. El rediseño del programa se basa en principios de “cuidado integral de la persona”, que ayuda a las personas a evitar situaciones que empeoren su salud física y mental.

En su presupuesto de enero, el gobernador Gavin Newsom propuso \$8 mil millones durante cinco años para implementar el programa, alrededor del 6 % del presupuesto total de Medi-Cal. Se incluyen pagos temporales a planes de atención administrada para ofrecer una mejor administración de casos y otros servicios.

Historicamente, estos llamados determinantes sociales de la salud no han sido cubiertos por seguros de salud como Medi-Cal. Sin embargo, tienen un impacto enorme en las personas que a menudo luchan contra la inestabilidad económica, la mala nutrición, la discriminación, la violencia y la exposición al aire y al agua contaminada. “Uno de mis pacientes lo llama impedimentos sociales para la salud”, dijo la Dra. Kathleen Clanon, directora médica del condado de Alameda. Ningún otro estado ha montado un programa tan completo que envuelva tantos elementos. La escala médica del condado de Alameda.

Este es un gran problema. California no solo está tomando la delantera, sino que también está sentando un precedente para que otros estados lo sigan”, dijo Anthony Wright, director ejecutivo de Health Access California, un grupo de defensa del consumidor. Los programas piloto en 25 condados ayudan a que CalAIM despegara. Aproximadamente 108,000 pacientes del condado y 15,000 en programas piloto de atención



administrada durante un período de dos años, según un análisis inicial realizado por investigadores de la UCLA. Como resultado del éxito, los funcionarios federales otorgaron una exención permitiendo que CalAIM avance durante los próximos cinco años. En el condado de Placer, David Norris, de 67 años, fue uno de los pacientes que se benefició de los programas experimentales.

Norris terminó en un refugio para personas sin hogar después de que muriera su madre, a quien cuidó durante mucho tiempo. Gana \$900 al mes en Seguro Social y jubilación, pero no es suficiente para el alquiler y los gastos de manutención. En abril, una herida infectada en el pie se agudizó hasta el hueso y le costó la pierna izquierda a Norris. Otra infección resultó en más viajes a la sala de emergencias y cirugías posteriores. Varios meses después, una pierna derecha rota.

Su asistente social, Todd Perbetsky, lo ayudó a inscribirse en Medi-Cal, encontrar un hogar de ancianos para recuperarse y solicitar un vale de vivienda. Ahora está ayudando a Norris a encontrar una vivienda permanente después de dejar el hogar de ancianos. “Estas son definitivamente personas que se están cumpliendo los criterios de algunos programas. Es posible que necesite vinculación con los servicios. Pueden tener toneladas de barreras incluso para activar CalFresh u otros beneficios para los que califican”.

Norris llamó a Perbetsky un “un gran regalo del cielo. Si no conoces los entresijos, simplemente te escupen. No recibe absolutamente ninguna ayuda. Ahí es donde Todd... me ayuda a mí ya la gente como yo a navegar por las aguas ya cuadrar todo”.



# Las Pequeñas Empresas Sufren A Causa del Covid-19

Por Paulina Cruz

Comenzar un negocio propio requiere mucha determinación y trabajo intenso. Puede ser estresante comenzar por su cuenta, sin saber si su sangre, sudor y lágrimas terminarán con éxito. En estos últimos dos años, las pequeñas empresas se han enfrentado a circunstancias difíciles completamente fuera de su control. Aunque muchos periódicos informan que la pandemia sólo resultó en el cierre permanente de 100,000 a 200,000 negocios más de lo normal en un año, no reconocen las vidas que esto impacta. ¿Podrían haber sido las cosas mucho peor? Por supuesto, pero eso no quita el estrés incommensurable que las familias soportaron al iniciar y perder su negocio durante una pandemia mundial. Sin mencionar las luchas de las personas que han logrado seguir adelante, con la esperanza de que las cosas eventualmente mejoren.

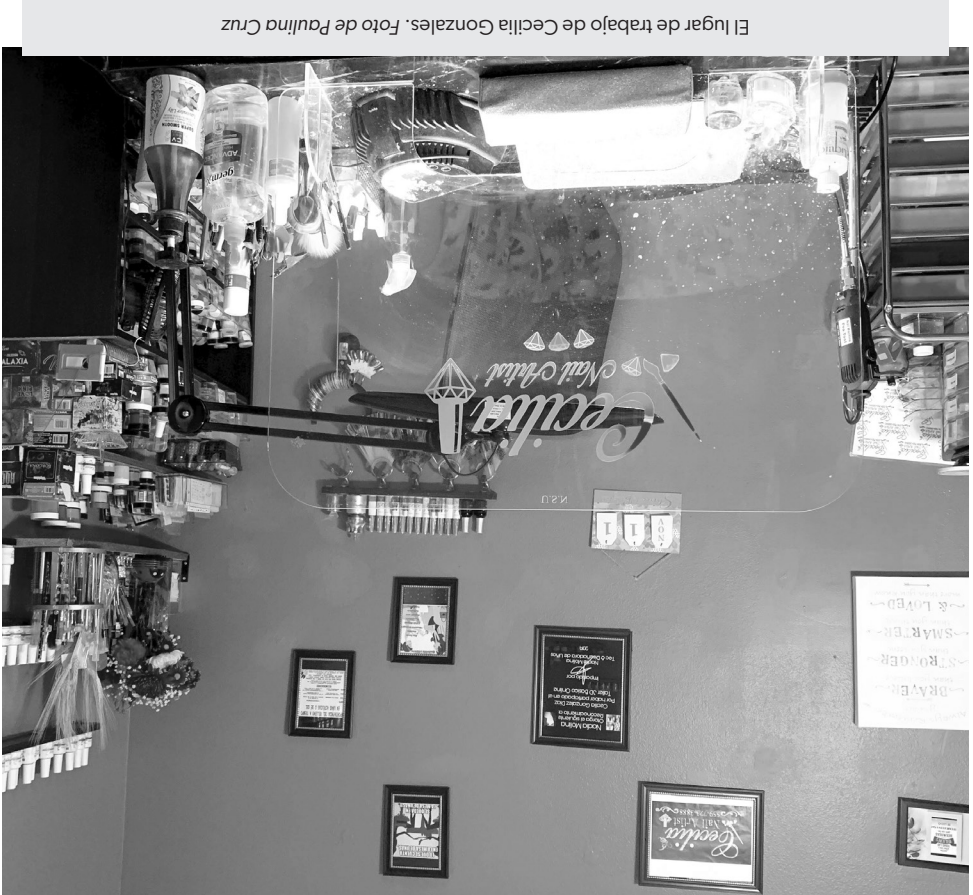
Cecilia Gonzales tuvo ambas experiencias, perdiendo uno de sus dos negocios por la pandemia. En 2019, después de obtener su licencia de técnica de uñas, comenzó su negocio, Cecilia Nail Artist, en una habitación libre de su casa en Visalia. Las cosas empezaron muy bien y pronto se encontró con solicitudes de turnos con semanas de anticipación. Como las cosas iban tan bien, decidió comenzar a enseñar a otras personas a través del mismo programa que tomó. Entre enseñar a sus propios alumnos y trabajar desde casa, la Sra. Gonzales estaba segura de superar la marca del primer año sin mucha preocupación. Sin embargo en 2020, Covid-19 cerró el mundo y obligó a la Sra. Gonzales a detenerse por completo.

2020 resultaría ser un año turbulento, no sólo para su negocio sino también para su familia. Su esposo se contagió de covid-19 justo a principios de año y se enfermó gravemente. Ella lo cuidó, asegurándose de que nadie más se enfermara en su hogar. Desafortunadamente, esta no es la última vez que tuvo temor por la vida de su esposo. Al año siguiente sufrió 2 accidentes laborales que amenazaron su vida y estuvo postrado en cama durante meses. Sin sus esposos trabajando, la Sra. Gonzales se convirtió en la principal fuente de ingresos de su familia, necesitaba que su negocio tuviera éxito. Sin embargo, ella era plenamente consciente de los peligros que traía la apertura, varios de los compañeros de trabajo de su esposo habían muerto de covid al principio de la pandemia. Cuando le pregunté si tenía miedo de traer el Covid-19 de vuelta a su casa, se encogió de hombros: "No, en realidad no. Sabía lo peligrosos que podía ser, pero no había más opciones. Necesitaba trabajar y estaba tomando todas las precauciones para asegurarme de que todos estuvieran lo más seguros posible." No pudo volver a enseñar, no sabía cómo cambiar a cursos en línea con un tema que tenía que ser en persona. Simplemente le era imposible continuar. "Todo cambia, nosotros, como humanos, debemos estar listos para aceptar los golpes", se centró en su



La Sra. Liliana Osorio con una cliente. Foto de Paulina Cruz

**VISITE NUESTRO SITIO WEB**  
**Todo nuestro contenido está disponible en línea para que lo lea**  
<https://fresnoalliance.com/>



El lugar de trabajo de Cecilia Gonzales. Foto de Paulina Cruz

primer y ahora único negocio. Las citas comenzaron lentamente, algunas de sus clientes habituales regresaron a su técnica favorita. A medida que pasa el tiempo, su negocio ha comenzado a recuperarse, aunque todavía no está ni cerca de donde estaba antes de la pandemia. La Sra. Gonzales continúa dándole todo, tomando clases de inglés por la noche y trabajando o cuidando a sus dos nuevos nietos durante el día. Ella sonríe con optimismo cuando piensa en el futuro: "Solo tienes que encontrar la manera de seguir adelante y las cosas van encajando".

La sobreviviente de cáncer Liliana Osorio abrió su estudio de belleza, Figure Brows, también en Visalia, la misma semana en que se llevó a cabo el confinamiento por la pandemia. La Sra. Osorio se sintió golpeada, teniendo que parar antes de tener la oportunidad a comenzar. Estaba desesperada por abrir su negocio pero tenía enfermarse o propagar el Covid-19. Mientras esperaba la apertura, tomó más cursos de belleza en línea, obteniendo más credenciales para cuando finalmente pudiera abrir. Explicó que su deseo de abrir no solo se debía al deseo de que su negocio tuviera éxito, sino también a sus ansiedades financieras. "Estaba atrapada y asustada. Solo estaba empezando y había firmado un contrato de arrendamiento de 2 años, por lo que no podía simplemente retirarme o rendirme".

En el momento en que terminó el encierro, la Sra. Osorio estaba lista para comenzar, siguiendo cuidadosamente las recomendaciones del CDC. Incluso requirió mascarar en todo momento, independientemente de los mandatos estatales. "Siempre existe el riesgo de propagar el Covid y no iba a empeorarlo", Covid había cerrado su negocio y no estaba dispuesta a permitir que eso volviera a suceder. "Es simple: no mascarar, no servicio". Desde que abrió de nuevo, la Sra. Osorio ha tenido sus altibajos. Al ser completamente nueva, muchas personas no sabían sobre su negocio al principio, pero poco a poco ha comenzado a ganar clientela.

En un momento se contagió de Covid-19 e inmediatamente cerró de nuevo. Cuando se le preguntó cómo ha manejado la situación, suspiró: "Es difícil, pero las facturas no dejan de llegar. La vida no se detiene. Entonces, nosotros tampoco podemos detenernos".

*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.*

## Se solicita vendedora/ de medio tiempo

El periódico Alianza Comunitaria está buscando vendedora de medio tiempo. Las responsabilidades incluyen buscar nuevos clientes para el periódico, comunicar a los clientes las diferentes opciones de compra de publicidad y facturación por publicidad.

Contacto: Eduardo, 559-304-3714, eduardostanley@comcast.net



# Se Jubila Margaret Mims, Sheriff De Fresno

Por Community Alliance

La Sheriff del Condado de Fresno, Margaret Mims, anunció el pasado viernes 18 de febrero que se jubila. Pero no prendan los fuegos artificiales todavía porque ella se irá al final de su mandato, a fines del 2022.

Mims empezó su carrera en el Departamento de Policía de Kernan hace más de 40 años. En 1983 ingresó al Departamento del Sheriff.

Ella recibió duras críticas por parte de activistas de los derechos de los inmigrantes porque, argumentan, el Departamento del Sheriff de Fresno colabora con ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, agencia antes conocida como Patrulla Fronteriza), transfiriendo detenidos en la cárcel del condado sin residencia legal en el país. Luego estos detenidos inician el largo proceso de deportación—que demora varios meses, y en algunos casos hasta años—, usualmente pasando de un centro de deportación a otro, que en muchos casos son privados. Estos mismos activistas de los derechos de los inmigrantes aseguran que la razón del largo proceso de deportación es para que los centros de detención privados ganen más dinero, lo cual significa que los ciudadanos pagan este gasto con sus impuestos.

Mims se opone a las leyes de “Santuario” que garantizan algunos derechos humanos básicos a los inmigrantes indocumentados.

Mims es una simpatizante de Trump y se reunió con él en septiembre 2020 cuando el entonces presidente visitó California. En un encuentro previo con Trump, Mims se



La Sheriff del Condado de Fresno, Margaret Mims, informa durante una conferencia de prensa realizada el viernes 18 de febrero, que a fines del año 2022 se jubila. Foto de Peter Maiden

En respuesta a una carta sobre el robo de nuestro puesto de periódico, escrita por Mike Rhodes, la Sheriff Mims escribió que “Sepúes de mi investigación descubrir que personal de la cárcel retiró el puesto del periódico”, y luego agregó que “Al menos mi personal debió contactarse con ustedes antes de quitar el puesto del periódico y le pido disculpas por esto”. Cabe destacar que el puesto fue encontrado por Rhodes en un basurero de la “carcel satélite” del Sheriff.

Sin dudas, la Sheriff Mims no es simpatizante de la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución.

# “Washington Post En Español” Miente Sobre El Presidente De México

Por Agustín Durán

Aclaremos: no es lo mismo el periódico The Washington Post en inglés, aquel diario que nos ha brindado grandes ejemplos de periodismo, que el Washington Post en Español.

Desde su contenido hasta sus colaboradores, el Washington Post en Español deja mucho que desear. Tiene en su plantilla de “opinadores” a varios impresentables que en inglés no tendrían la más mínima oportunidad de un espacio en las páginas de ese periódico.

Mi crítica es sobre el artículo “Mientras los periodistas en México son asesinados, el presidente ataca a los medios”, publicada el 15 de febrero pasado.

Primero, porque desde el primer párrafo desinforma. Decir que Carlos Loret de Mola es “una de las figuras mexicanas más destacadas del país” es una vil mentira. Esto revela que quien escribió ese editorial no conoce México, su opinión pública y mucho menos la trayectoria del personaje al que se refiere. O bien busca manipular a los lectores que por el peso del nombre del periódico piensen que es veraz en todos los sentidos.

Y eso está muy lejos de la verdad. Solo para corroborar lo mencionado, a Loret lo conocen por sus Lordmontajes, porque no ha manipulado la información una vez, sino que han sido múltiples las veces que lo ha hecho, desde que estaba en Televisa.

Todavía tiene un caso pendiente con la justicia por su montaje en el caso Cassez-Vallarta, el cual ha mantenido a Israel Vallarta en la cárcel durante 17 largos años. Tan solo por ese montaje—mientras, un comunicador no podría seguir ejerciendo el oficio periodístico ni un minuto más en otras partes del mundo. Sobre todo en Estados Unidos.

La segunda imprecisión es cuando el texto dice que Loret es un “crítico” asiduo del actual gobierno y quien recientemente publicó un “reportaje” sobre el hijo del presidente de México. Aquí digo imprecisión por no decir mentira; el problema es que en su seudorreportaje—que ha sido criticado incluso por verdaderos periodistas de renombre como Julio Astillero, Fabrizio Mejía Madrid, Alejandro Páez y Jorge Zepeda Patterson, por mencionar algunos— no prueba nada. Son inferencias que saca de su imaginación y su odio hacia el actual mandatario legítimamente electo por la mayoría del electorado mexicano.

Loret se ha dedicado a mentir una y otra vez, igual que lo hizo en los casos de Frida-Sofía (la niña que nunca existió) durante los terribles días del terremoto de septiembre de

2017. También en el de la renuncia de Javier Duarte—que tampoco sucedió—y la detención de El Chapo Guzmán en 2014.

Hablar de Loret sin considerar todos los señalamientos que ha tenido a lo largo de su carrera es un despropósito de The Washington Post en Español.

En el cuarto párrafo, el artículo menciona que el presidente se queja de sus críticos. Pero eso tampoco es verdad.

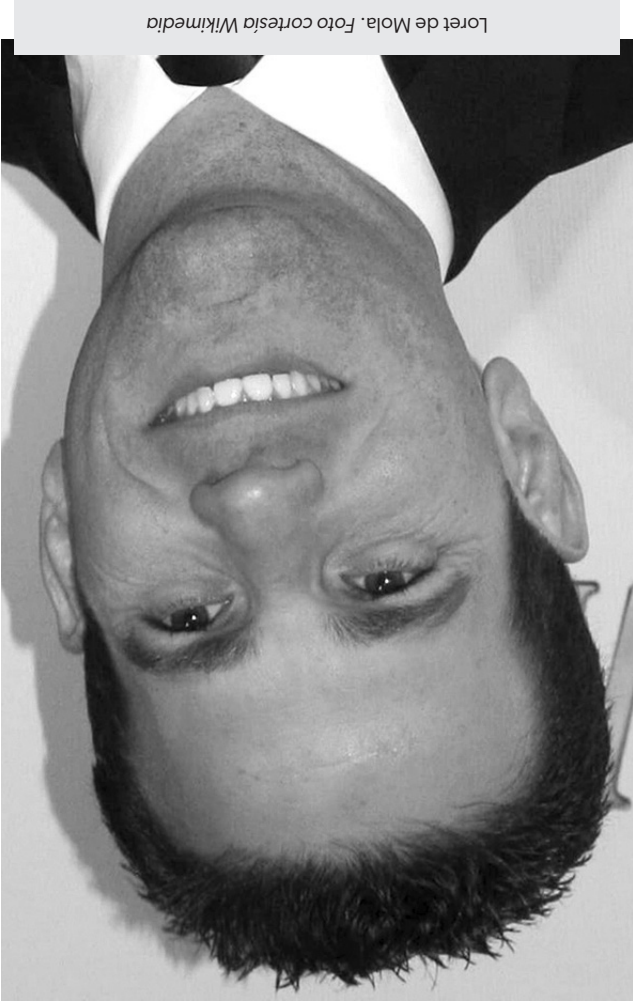
El presidente López Obrador lo ha dicho una y otra vez, se queja de la propaganda que generan muchos de los periodistas y comentaristas de élite que trabajan precisamente en esos medios que se han visto afectados por la falta de dinero que los anteriores gobiernos tradicionalmente pagaban a la prensa. Algunos de los más afectados fueron el diario El Universal, donde Loret también tiene una columna de opinión y donde en forma natural es norma que varios columnistas publiquen información falsa. Es por eso que el presidente López Obrador durante sus conferencias de prensa diarias, conocidas como “Las mañaneras” tuvo que iniciar una sección de “¿Quién es quién en las mentiras” cada semana, para desmentir algunas de las incontables noticias falsas, fuera de contexto, o con ángulos que distorsionan la realidad.

El Presidente usa su derecho a la réplica. Otro de los problemas del artículo es que no hace la diferencia entre los periodistas de a pie, que son los que están siendo asesinados desde mucho antes de la administración de Felipe Calderón, durante cuyo gobierno se recrudeció la guerra contra los medios informativos y contra los verdaderos periodistas que nada tienen que ver con el caso del falso comunicador que es Loret de Mola. López Obrador no critica al reportero de a pie. A quien pone en su lugar es a estos individuos como Loret de Mola que trabajan a sueldo de una clase política—empresarial que ha sido desplazada de sus privilegios y corruptelas. Que ahora quiere regresar al poder a seguir haciendo lo mismo que ha hecho siempre: perjudicar a la nación mexicana y a su pueblo menos favorecido.

Por otro lado, todavía está por verse la procedencia real del dinero con el que se mantiene el medio en el que trabaja Loret de Mola, conocido como LatinUS. Ya se ha dicho, claro, que proviene de dinero corporativo extranjero, del erario de algunos estados y de su rival político Roberto Madrazo, quien aparentemente lucraba con el negocio de las medicinas.

También Madrazo se vio afectado por la administración de López Obrador. Ese monopolio que tenían unas cuantas compañías controlaba los medicamentos, entre otros los destinados a los tratamientos de los niños que padecen cáncer, problema que endilgaron al gobierno de López Obrador, a sabiendas de que escondieron y escasearon los fármacos para golear mediáticamente al presidente.

Es incluso ridículo y penoso que algunos colegas poco informados—o negligentes a informarse bien porque los ciega su odio y su propia ideología—sigan insistiendo en que la Cuarta Transformación “ataca” a los menores enfermos. Como si no supieran de la “guerra sucia” que se inició desde el primer día del actual gobierno.



Loret de Mola. Foto cortesía Wikimedia

Desafortunadamente, uno de los objetivos de ese editorial del Washington Post en Español es parte de esa campaña sucia que busca que la gente piense que López Obrador, al igual que el resto de los políticos, es un funcionario “corrupto” y, de esa forma, dar oportunidad a la oposición en 2024.

Ya se ha subido al movimiento de críticas al presidente mexicano el senador republicano Ted Cruz de Texas. Cruz es uno de los políticos apoya movimientos extremistas, racistas, antiinmigrantes y discriminatorios. Después de su derrota ante Trump por la candidatura presidencial de su partido, siempre apoyó al exmandatario. A un presidente que lanzó una guerra sin tregua contra la comunidad inmigrante y contra los mexicanos en particular. Lamento que este tipo de opiniones sean manejadas tan a la ligera en un diario que ha sabido ganarse la confianza de los lectores en inglés. Pero con ese tipo de opiniones en español lo único que lograrán es manchar el peso periodístico de su publicación hermana, que ha forjado durante décadas.

\*\*\*\*

Agustín Durán es editor de Metro del periódico La Opinión en Los Angeles. Este artículo fue publicado originalmente en [www.hispánica.com](http://www.hispánica.com).

El agua es un tema importante, la gente quiere tener agua potable", dice Ramírez. "Es un tema complicado". Explica cómo la pandemia expuso las limitaciones que tienen los estudiantes de zonas rurales para acceder al internet. "En algunas áreas rurales hay acceso limitado al internet y esto afecta principalmente a familias de bajo ingreso".

Ramírez menciona otros dos temas como "importantes" para el Distrito 4 y para el Condado en general: acceso a la vivienda y la seguridad pública.

En relación a la crisis de las personas sin techo, o desamparados, el candidato mencionó que hay dinero disponible para enfrentarla.

"Necesitamos participación cívica para discutir ideas creativas respecto a este tema que hemos ignorado durante mucho tiempo", aseguró Ramírez.

Las elecciones primarias tendrán lugar el 7 de junio.

\*\*\*\*

*Eduardo Stanley es el editor de Community Alliance. Puede contactarlo en editor@fresnoalliance.com.*



Jóvenes activistas expresan claramente su mensaje. Foto de Inti Mena Navarro



La artista Hana Luna Her. Foto de Eduardo Stanley

Estudió Ingeniería y tiene una maestría en Administración de Municipios.

"Puedo escuchar diferentes voces, y también quiero escuchar a la gente de otros distritos", comenta Ramírez. "Quiero unir, no dividir".

Buddy Mendes tiene una trayectoria de discusiones vitólicas contra quienes difieren con él. El 7 de febrero, 2018, durante una reunión pública sobre los precios del agua, le gritó a la activista ambientalista Janaki Jagannath. El 20 de julio de 2020, en una reunión conjunta del Condado de Fresno y la Ciudad de Fresno sobre el uso de los fondos destinados a la ayuda perjudicados por Covid 19, Mendes usó su autoridad como Presidente de la Mesa Directiva del Condado de Fresno para cortar presentaciones y hasta para evitar que el Oficial Administrativo respondiera una pregunta sobre el uso de fondos enviados entonces por el gobierno federal.

Y la lista sigue.

Y la lista de los problemas que enfrentan los residentes del condado es también larga.



El 30 de diciembre del 2020 miles de mujeres marcharon an Congreso de Argentina para presionar a los senadores para que aprueben la ley que legalizara el aborto. Finalmente la ley fue aprobada. Foto de Inti Mena Navarro

## Hay Esperanzas Para El Distrito 4 Del Condado de Fresno

Continúa de página 28

## 8 de Marzo, Día Internacional de la Mujer: Un día Más de Lucha

Continúa de página 28

en el terreno simbólico. Toda la sociedad habló del tema del aborto al punto de que tuvo que abordarse en las escuelas de todos los niveles porque las y los jóvenes llevaban las inquietudes y las diferencias a las aulas, a los mercados, a los hogares.

Mi especulación es que el gobierno conservador de Mauricio Macri (2015-2019) permitió la discusión de la ley porque pensó que no se aprobaría en el Congreso y todo iba a quedar así, no midió las consecuencias del debate público que generó. Es difícil hacer un análisis vertical del feminismo porque el feminismo es transversal, estamos en todos los frentes en defensa del buen vivir que merecemos, se trata de derechos que no son ignorados por el sistema ya que sometidas y entregando nuestro tiempo (el oro de la humanidad) es como nos consideramos más productivas.

Por esta razón somos anticapitalistas, somos anti extractivistas porque el extractivismo es un mecanismo de explotación y empobrecimiento de la tierra. En lo que nos organizamos para defendernos y cuidarnos entre nosotras también lo hacemos por el resto de la humanidad y hasta hoy el feminismo latinoamericano de los últimos años es la herramienta para seguir luchando por nuestra emancipación y llegar a una verdadera independencia.

El feminismo pone en cuestión todos los presupuestos sociales de nuestro rol como mujeres y los atraviesa desde lo económico, lo jurídico, lo cultural, lo político, lo doméstico, lo pedagógico. La imponenta de la sororidad, de la solidaridad nos aúna en el objetivo de hacer un mundo más justo, sin desigualdades, sin modos de producir que sean el veneno de sus territorios. Las marchas feministas son las mejores, hay tanta diversidad en armonía, no hay violencia, se baila, se canta, se hace música. Amamos los encuentros, nos distraemos, nos pintamos la cara, y así la llevamos a pesar de la crueldad contra lo que nos enfrentamos.

\*\*\*\*

*Inti Mena Navarro es una fotógrafa argentina-chilena que nació en el exilio en Bucarest, Rumanía. Vivió en Chile y actualmente reside en Buenos Aires, Argentina.*



May Gnal Her, directora ejecutiva de Stone Soup. Foto de Eduardo Stanley

## Un Mural Con Alas De Cambio

Continúa de página 28

con la metamorfosis social—o cómo algunos movimientos sociales se pueden transformar, o emerger en una corriente de cambio.

"Ironicamente, 2022 es el Año de Tigre de Agua en el calendario lunar chino, es el año de la metamorfosis, y esto es lo que significa para mí este evento de hoy, es una oportunidad para nosotros de metamorfosarse y unirnos para lograr un cambio positivo. Como la mariposa, que la descolorida oruga se metamorfosaa en un hermoso insecto, la mariposa", dijo Her.

El devaldo del mural se transmitió por internet por precaución debido al Covid 19.

Y como en el mural, varias comunidades estuvieron presentes en el evento. Jerry Her, padre de Hana, tocó el breakdancing Bboyz y los Danzantes de Yozaltepec—Hana es parte de este grupo—trajeron sus bailes y coloridos vestuarios.

El mural se puede ver en Stone Soup, 1345 E. Bulldog Ln, Fresno.

\*\*\*\*

*Eduardo Stanley es el editor de Community Alliance. Contactarlo en editor@fresnoalliance.*

# LAMANZA

## COMUNITARIA

### LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

## Hay Esperanzas Para El Distrito 4 Del Condado de Fresno

Por Eduardo Stanley

El pasado jueves 27 de enero, José Antonio Ramirez, 50, anunció su candidatura para el Distrito 4 de la Mesa Directiva del Condado de Fresno. El fue administrador de las ciudades de Orange Cove, Firebaugh y Livingston.

Ramirez nació en Michoacán, México, y vino a California a los 3 años para reunirse con su madre, quien trabajaba en los campos de cultivo del Valle de San Joaquín. Más tarde la familia se estableció en Easton, al sur de Fresno.

"Ser Supervisor del Condado es un servicio público y creo que tengo la experiencia de escuchar a la gente y de implementar soluciones", dijo Ramirez. "Crecí en el Distrito 4, lo conozco muy bien".

Para llegar a ser supervisor, Ramirez deberá derrotar al actual supervisor, Buddy Mendes, un productor de leche de Riverdale. La Mesa Directiva del Condado de Fresno está controlada por conservadores que ni siquiera quieren rediseñar los límites de los distritos electorales según el Censo 2020. Ellos quieren

Continúa en página 27



José Ramirez anunció su candidatura para la Mesa Directiva del Condado de Fresno, Distrito 4, durante una conferencia de prensa celebrada el 27 de enero. A la derecha de Ramirez, su hija Xitalli Ramirez, a la izquierda Vivian Velasco Paz, una activista comunitaria. Foto de Peter Maiden

## 8 de Marzo, Día Internacional de la Mujer: Un día Más de Lucha

Por Inti Mena Navarro

En mayo del 2015, en Argentina, la adolescente Chiara Paez, de 14 años, embarazada, fue asesinada por su novio, Manuel Ignacio Mansilla Gallegos, de 17 años, quien la mató a golpes y la enterró en el jardín de su casa. El femicidio de Chiara hizo que un grupo de periodistas convocaran por redes sociales a una marcha el 3 de junio de ese año en Buenos Aires. Acudieron 500 mil personas bajo el hashtag #NiUnaMenos. El femicida fue sentenciado a cadena perpetua pero recientemente un tribunal de la provincia de Santa Fe (donde ocurrió el delito) anuló la condena ya que, por ser menor de edad, cuenta con el beneficio de las leyes para menores que no permiten la cadena perpetua como pena. Ahora será juzgado por un tribunal de menores y se especula con que se le dará un máximo de 15 años. El juzgado no notificó a la familia de la víctima, quienes se enteraron del fallo por las noticias, lo que generó desagrado y críticas de amplios sectores de la sociedad.

Hace 7 años surgió el movimiento "Ni Una Menos", con ello se abrió un espacio de expresión, de comunicación para las agendas de los feminismos, las cuales finalmente pudieron ocupar un lugar central dentro del debate público y la política. A los feminismos se les abrió, aunque sea parcialmente, las puertas del estado. Fue una etapa de consolidación de luchas que llevaban décadas.

Ya se murmura sobre una reforma judicial feminista, un título especial para los feministas, ya que excita la imaginación del machirulaje (hermosa palabra que sacó del olvido Cristina Kirchner, vicepresidenta de Argentina) haciéndoles pensar que vamos a transformar a la Argentina en el país de las Amazonas. Fueron 17 años de campaña por el aborto (el movimiento en favor del aborto surgió en 2005), 2017 y 2018, el aborto clandestino era la primera causa de mortalidad materna. En 2018 el proyecto de ley a favor del aborto se presentó en el congreso argentino pero no fue aprobado entonces. No ganamos la batalla en ese momento pero les hicimos un knock out



La legendaria activista por los derechos de las mujeres de Argentina, Nina Isabel Brugo, hablando frente al Congreso argentino el 30 de diciembre, 2020. Foto de Inti Mena Navarro

Continúa en página 27

## Un Mural Con Alas De Cambio

Por Eduardo Stanley

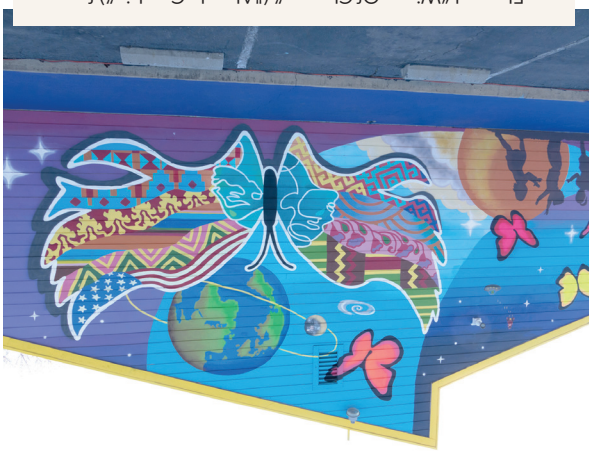
El sábado 18 de febrero, se develó un mural en el estacionamiento de Stone Soup, una organización no lucrativa dedicada a servir principalmente a refugiados del área de Fresno. La joven artista local Hana Luna Her pintó un mural representando una mariposa con coloridas texturas en sus alas. En el fondo, más mariposas, siluetas de niños jugando y nuestro planeta tierra. El título del mural es "Wings Of Change" ("Alas De Cambio").

"El mural me ayudó a crecer como artista y como persona", dijo una sonriente Hana. "También me ayudó a encontrar amor y respeto por mi comunidad y su entorno".

Hana, nacida en Fresno, empezó a pintar desde niña, dedicándose al graffiti. Este fue su primer mural. "Ojalá que este mural inspire a la gente", dice Hana. "Las texturas en las alas de la mariposa representan diferentes culturas que comparten nuestra Valle Central".

May Gnai Her, directora ejecutiva de Stone Soup, hizo un paralelismo entre la metamorfosis de la mariposa

Continúa en página 27



El mural "Wings Of Change" ("Alas de Cambio") fue develado el 18 de febrero. Foto de Eduardo Stanley