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Federal Court Victory for the Unhoused

By Bob McCloskey

On May 24, in a major victory for the unhoused community, advocates and the press, U.S. District Court Judge Dale Drozd granted a preliminary injunction blocking the implementation of Fresno's abatement ordinance. The claim for injunctive relief was filed by the ACLU on behalf of plaintiffs Fresno Homeless Union, advocate Dez Martinez, Faith in the Valley and myself.

The court order means that the City will not be allowed to restrict areas around abatement zones, including encampments and other areas on public property.

The unconstitutional ordinance was authored by City Council members Miguel Arias and Luis Chavez. The City might try again, but we plan to leverage this win as much as possible to get the City to stop wasting taxpayer dollars and abusing their power. The Court describes the draconian nature of the law:

"The ordinance appears to grant the city and its private contractors the unfettered authority to establish an indeterminate barrier surrounding an encampment that completely severs the public from the unhoused community and their belongings, thus preventing the public and the press from being able to meaningfully observe defendant's actions during a sweep."



The City of Fresno conducted a "clean-up" operation in April 2022 at a homeless encampment in south Fresno. The City tried unsuccessfully to ban the media and homeless advocates from observing such operations. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

The Court ruled that the ordinance likely violates the First Amendment as an unreasonable "time, place and manner" restriction and likely violates substantive due process because it's completely unclear how the ordinance will operate in practice. The Court also found two major faults with the ordinance: it does not advance a "substantial interest" and is not "narrowly tailored." The Court stated:

"Although defendant now argues that the amended ordinance is intended to protect the public by fully clearing out abatement zones prior to a sweep and the asserted dangers accompanying those sweeps, both the language of the ordinance itself, as well as the reasoning presented by defendant, contradict this advanced interest. Instead, the

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Women's Fight for Rights, Dignity

By Paulina Cruz

Almost 50 years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that women had the fundamental right of choice when it came to having an abortion. Abortions were not always illegal; in fact, the first state to impose a medicinal abortion ban was Connecticut in 1821, 45 years after our country was founded.

Over the years that followed, nearly half the states in existence added bans and restrictions. Even then, many of the bans still allowed abortions up until what was referred to as "quickening," essentially when the woman begins to feel movement (typically when close to 14-16 weeks pregnant, although sometimes until 20 weeks for a first baby).

Since the ruling of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, misogynists have worked hard to spread ignorance and misinformation in order to limit women's rights. Unfortunately, it seems these champions of forced birthing have succeeded in reversing the little progress this country has made.

Twenty-two states, including Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana, have "trigger" laws that will immediately take effect when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. Most of these laws will criminalize abortions past six weeks, without consideration for rape or incest cases.

On May 14, people across the nation rallied in support of the people who will be severely affected by the Supreme Court's forthcoming decision. In Fresno, hundreds of people joined the Women's March at the intersection of Blackstone and Nees avenues.

People of all ages, genders and backgrounds chanted "We will not go back" and "My body my rules." Most



On May 14, hundreds participated in Fresno in a protest to the possible banning of abortion by the Supreme Court. Photo by Paulina Cruz

protesters held signs for passing cars to see with messages such as "We are not incubators" and "Keep your rosaries off my ovaries!"

Rep. Jim Costa (D-Fresno) spoke with various protestors and gave a brief speech emphasizing the importance of *Roe v. Wade* and the protection it has offered not only to women but also to everyone in America. He encouraged the participants to vote in the coming election, pointing to the current makeup of the Supreme Court as being a direct result of the 2016 presidential election.

Women's March-Fresno co-founders and coordinators Lorelee Bergdall and Samantha Snow expressed their

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Primary Voting Information

By Community Alliance Staff

California's statewide primary will occur on June 7, but early voting is already under way. Every registered voter should have received a ballot in the mail. You can return that ballot by mail, via a dropbox, at the Registrar's Office (2221 Kern St.) or at any vote center.

The 11-day vote centers opened on May 28 and will remain open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., through Election Day. On June 4-6, all vote centers will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Election Day 7 a.m.-8 p.m. For dropbox and vote center locations, and other election-related information, visit VoteFresnoCounty.com. Spanish-language assistance is available at all vote centers.

Key Local Races

The Primary ballot includes races for the U.S. Senate, all statewide constitutional offices, U.S. Congress, the Board of Equalization and the state legislature, as well as the countywide races, two Board of Supervisors seats and the odd-numbered Fresno City Council districts.

A few of the key local races are outlined below. Each of these highlighted races will be decided in June if any candidate receives more than 50% of the vote.

Fresno County Board of Supervisors District 4: Buddy Mendes (Republican), the controversial two-term incumbent from Riverdale, faces two challengers. Jose Ramirez (Democrat) resides in Selma and has served as city manager of three Central Valley cities: Orange Cove, Firebaugh and Livingston. Daniel Parra (Democrat) is a Fowler City Council member who ran unsuccessfully for this seat in 2014.

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools: With incumbent Jim Yovino stepping down, this open seat has attracted three candidates. Daren Miller (Democrat) has worked in a variety of educational positions and previously served

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NEWSPAPER

Federal Court Victory for the Unhoused

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amended ordinance and the arguments made in support of its application suggest that the intention of the ordinance is in reality simply to avoid public scrutiny.”

The Court also completely rejected the City’s argument that allowing it to cordon off areas will make its abatement work easier. As the Court observed, the City’s “interest in efficiency cannot outweigh the constitutional interests at stake.”

And as we’ve emphasized throughout this case, you and other members of the public have significant constitutional interests at stake here. As the Court emphasized, the City simply failed to explain “how the amended ordinance could go into effect without drastically infringing on both the plaintiffs’ and the general public’s First Amendment rights.”

This is an important victory that was successful because of the collaboration and hard work of the plaintiff organizations, the attorneys, the investigators and the unhoused community and supporters on the front line. Special congratulations to lead plaintiff advocate Dez Martinez, whose efforts led to this victory.

Bob McCloskey is a prisoner and inmate rights advocate and a homeless advocate. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

Women’s Fight for Rights, Dignity

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concerns.

Bergdall explained that the right to abortion, birth control and LGBTQ+ marriage are all protected by previous interpretations of the 14th Amendment.

“Our biggest concern here today is that we know this is not going to stop abortion,” she stated.

“We’ve already seen states like Louisiana and Ohio begin to legislate contraceptives. Louisiana just passed a bill that would essentially ban and criminalize Plan B and IUD.”

“Our generation is very vocal, [and] we demand our rights,” said Snow, speaking on behalf of young people. “We are of voting age now. They have to confront us, and we will vote out these bills.

“I want to urge everyone to get out there and vote, register, and do what you need to do to protect your rights.”

Three days later, Planned Parenthood held the first public stop for its “Say Abortion” bus tour at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno. This tour traveled throughout California and ended May 25 in Long Beach, aiming to tackle the stigma around abortion.

Various community leaders and Planned Parenthood representatives spoke and answered questions before listening to abortion stories from guests in a private setting.

Fresno Rabbi Laura Novak Winer spoke on the need for church leaders to speak out in support of LGBTQ+ and women’s rights, stating that “a woman’s right to choose and a woman’s right to healthcare” are fundamental.

Fresno City Council members Nelson Esparza and Esmeralda Soria also attended to emphasize their support for both women’s rights and Planned Parenthood’s work.

Soria spoke of her support of women’s access to safe healthcare, noting that 77% of Americans believe abortion should stay legal.

Esparza explained that Fresno would support Planned Parenthood in any way it could, knowing that California will soon see a wave of women traveling here to receive abortions.

Jodi Hicks, CEO of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, and Stacy Cross, CEO of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, shared how essential it is for women to be able to make decisions over their bodies with dignity and to not be shamed for a medical procedure. They explained



Planned Parenthood’s statewide “Say Abortion” bus tour stopped in Fresno on May 17. The tour aimed to tackle the stigma around abortion. Photo by Paulina Cruz

how Planned Parenthood has begun to prepare for the increasing number of out-of-state patients, including the purchasing of land to build new facilities.

Looking at those who so strongly seek to remove women’s reproductive rights, their self-designation of “pro life” is comical. “Pro lifers” are not pro life. If they were, they would focus on helping the lives that already exist.

These pro-birthers offer such solutions as giving up the baby for adoption, ignoring the 430,000 children who currently overwhelm the foster care system. In fact, 23,000 children age out of the foster care system without being adopted every year and 20% of those will become instantly homeless.

If truly pro life, they would care about the mother’s life and the thousands of women who will die from unsafe procedures when abortion becomes illegal in their states.

If pro-birthers truly cared about the potential lives of these fetuses, they would push legislation to support single mothers, as most women who have abortions already have living, breathing children and are well below the poverty level.

If pro-birthers wanted to avoid abortions, they would push for comprehensive sex education and more accessible contraceptives. Instead of helping people who are actually in need, pro-birthers spend their time shaming and judging women for a simple medical procedure.

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.

Primary Voting Information

Continued from page 1

as a Fresno County Board of Education trustee. Eliseo Gamino (Democrat) also has a vast background in diverse educational positions and currently serves as a Firebaugh-Los Deltas Unified School District trustee. Michele Cantwell-Copher (Democrat) works in the Educational Leadership and Development Division of the superintendent’s office.

Fresno County Sheriff: Another rare opening at the county level with Margaret Mims opting to retire has seen two candidates step forward. Mark Salazar (Democrat) is currently the Fresno Police Department’s deputy chief of investigations. John Zanoni (Republican), an assistant sheriff, is Mims’ handpicked successor.

Fresno City Council District 1: With incumbent Esmeralda Soria terming out, four candidates are vying to replace

her. Annalisa Perea (Democrat) is an urban planner who currently serves as a State Center Community College District trustee. Cary Catalano (Democrat) is a business owner who ran unsuccessfully for this seat in 2014. Mike Briggs (Republican), a realtor who also operates an online TV station, previously served on the City Council and seeks to return. Jeremy Preis (Republican) is a former police officer and a small business owner.

Oddities

We have two oddities in this primary election.

First, for the U.S. Senate race, you need to vote twice. One vote is for the full term of six years. The second vote is to confirm the appointment of Governor Gavin Newsom for the balance of the current term vacated by Kamala Harris when she was elected vice president in the 2020 election.

Second, in the old Congressional District 22, the seat from which Devin Nunes resigned to run Donald Trump’s failing media company, there is a runoff election between Connie Conway (Republican) and Lourin Hubbard (Democrat), who advanced from the March primary. If you live in any part



A traditional sign indicating where people can vote. Photo courtesy of The Commons

of the old CD22, you will be voting in two Congressional elections: the seat to fill the balance of Nunes’ term and the full-term seat for a different district. The old CD22 is now split into multiple new Congressional districts.



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A Victory and a Tragedy

In a violent and convulsive world, any good news is welcome. And Fresno got good news on May 17 when Judge Dale Drozd announced his judgment regarding a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on behalf of Dez Martinez, the Fresno Homeless Union, Faith in the Valley and Robert "Bob" McCloskey (a writer for the Community Alliance newspaper) against the City of Fresno.

The legal action was in response to a municipal ordinance authored by Fresno City Council members Miguel Arias and Luis Chavez and approved 6-0 on Jan 27.

The ordinance aimed to ban media and homeless advocates from being present during the City's "clean-up" operations on homeless encampments. The ordinance went into effect on March 31.

In the introduction of his judgment, the judge stated that "public scrutiny is a powerful antidote to the abuse of power. It is also essential to accountability. This lawsuit seeks to enjoin the recent efforts by the City of Fresno to hide from public view, intensify its misconduct, and then avoid liability for wrongdoing.

"Fresno, one of many places plagued by a severe housing crisis, has a long history of mistreating its unhoused community. Despite the lack of available shelter, the City deems

homeless encampments a 'public nuisance' and targets these locations for frequent dismantling, or 'sweeps.'"

A lapidary and unobjectionable opinion. If I was a City Council member who voted for this ordinance, I wouldn't dare go into the public view for a while out of shame. Or, if I had a bit of dignity, I would resign.

Interestingly enough, this repressive, antidemocratic ordinance brought all the City Council members together, united for a "yes" vote. As somebody pointed out, would the City of Fresno misuse taxpayers money (again!) to appeal the judgment? Nothing would surprise us at this point.

And the bad news is, again and again, a school shooting with several young kids slaughtered by a gunman who easily purchased semiautomatic guns. Nineteen students and two teachers were killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24. The killer was 18 years old.

Yet, instead of tackling the issue at its roots and putting limits on the purchase of such deadly weapons, Republicans are calling to "arm the teachers to defend themselves and the students." The bizarre got even worse.

School shootings are becoming "normal" in this country, flooded as we are with guns and

FROM THE EDITOR

a perverse attitude by politicians. conservative politicians—mostly Republicans.

While conservatives claim they protect life by banning women's reproductive rights, they make it easier for lunatics and terrorists to get guns they use to go out and kill innocent people.

People's frustration with our government is understandable. We can't just sit and watch this tragedy repeat itself. The least we can do is to vote out these elected officials—even at the local level: city halls, school districts. The problem is, where are the good replacements?

Of course, we can and should express our outrage about school shootings. Enough is enough. On June 11, several organizations and human rights activists are organizing a national day of protest ("March for Our Lives") against the relaxed laws allowing the purchase of deadly semiautomatic rifles and the NRA lobby that promotes opposition to weapons' restrictions. Local community organizations and concerned citizens are working to make Fresno part of this protest. As details are known, the Community Alliance will share the details on our website, www.fresnoalliance.com. Stay tuned.

Till next month.

Letters to the Editor

Holding Supervisors Accountable

After years of seeing media go after the City of Fresno, while the [Fresno] County Board of Supervisors has slipped past the radar of the media—and while County Board meetings are frequently filled with long chains of right-wing public commenters and only a handful of commenters from the left—it is good to see these [recent] pieces holding the County Board's feet to the fire. We need more of this in our community, both in print and in the Board meetings themselves.

B.P.
Online

War in Ukraine

In response to your "War in Ukraine Exposes Much" editorial (April 2022), I would like to point out that the ongoing Russian genocide against the Ukrainian nation has exposed the warmongering of Russia's leaders, emboldened by a successful testing of a hypersonic missile in 2018 that equipped our adversary with means to challenge the United States' global leadership, push Anglo-American powers off the European continent and reshape the world order a la Russe.

It has also exposed the hypocrisy of the UN Security Council, whose permanent members are former colonial empires with histories of genocides committed against ethnic or national groups. These permanent members are also members of the nuclear club.

Ukraine is not Iraq or Afghanistan. It is a vibrant democratic state that faces existential extermination by Russian President Vladimir Putin's dictatorial regime, equipped with nukes, rockets, bombs, cluster munitions, chemical and biological weapons, used in conflicts in Chechnya, Georgia and Syria.

And there is the Azov Sea and Black Sea ports blockade. The blockade prevents shipment of Ukrainian wheat and sunflower oil to starving people in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The Russian military shells Ukrainian grain storage facilities and steals grain to exacerbate the global food crisis.

The Russian security services with the support of the military have unleashed a cycle of violence rooted in the denial of the Holodomor genocide, the rehabilitation of Stalinism and revision of the past. Eighty days after the invasion, this genocide against the Ukrainians must stop!

Dr. Victoria A. Malko
Fresno State

Perspective on Crime

"Gang sweep today, more crime tomorrow" infers that regardless of the gang sweep (a massively expensive operation) there is still more crime the next day. This is an inherent flaw; we cannot invest primarily in policing.

Policing is not prevention.

Policing as a strategy cannot and will never address the root cause of social or economic distress. Without changing the material/lived conditions of the people and the communities they call home, we will continue to manifest the symptoms of survival. Fresno's police and judicial systems are overly resourced addressing crime.

The Fresno Police Department is well provided for; it holds 40% of the City's current budget.

I think we've all heard the phrase "hurt people hurt people"; this root "cause" is what I'd like Fresnoans to consciously and openly sit, feel and rethink.

Hurt people hurt people. A simple phrase with a lot of truth. People who are causing harm to self/others often do so because they are acting out of their own pain, fear and suffering. In my clinical experience, time and time again, this is the common narrative I hear from my clients.

Thoughtful compassion, choices and boundaries belong together. Compassion and boundaries do not require us to be dormant.

What happens when hurt people lead hurt people? What happens when people and the systems respond from their own unresolved trauma to sweep crime away? What heals/helps people and communities? What harms people and communities?

Gidai Maaza, LMFT
Fresno

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

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Are Community Needs a Priority?

By Michael D. Evans

An impromptu survey of local community leaders revealed the following priorities for our county.

- Affordable housing
- Clean drinking water
- Clean air quality
- Climate change
- Economic development/career development
- Sheriff's Office accountability re jail-related issues
- Spending state and federal money in accordance with priorities related to health, climate and transportation

Notice a common theme? These don't seem to be the same priorities for the current Fresno County Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Take the May 3 meeting of the BOS. After the perfunctory recognitions and proclamations, the meeting lasted less than 20 minutes. Less than 20 minutes! And part of that time was spent praising former Raiders' quarterback Daryl Lamonica.

And there was no mention of how the BOS plans to address the Attorney General's concerns with the county's General Plan.

"All of this continues because of supervisors' lack of responsiveness to their constituents and the issues facing them," said one of the survey respondents.

The supervisors' work ethic improved somewhat at the May 17 meeting, largely driven by more than one hour of public comment, which forced adjournment to closed session past noon.

Supervisor Buddy Mendes pulled an item from the Consent Agenda relative to a housing initiative so that "we can at least talk about what we do." Mendes referenced an event he had attended where someone told him the county did not do anything for housing.

Mendes then gave time to staff to discuss some housing units being provided through funding from No Place Like Home, a state program that eventually will create more than 500 units locally for permanent supportive housing for those in need of mental health services who are experiencing homelessness, chronic homelessness or are at risk of chronic homelessness.

Kudos to the BOS for letting staff move forward with this initiative, unlike the funding to study the effect of climate change on challenged communities that the BOS refused to accept.

Public comment at the May 17 meeting was particularly lively, lasting more than an hour. Three topics were prominent.

- Fresno County Public Safety Association Unit 2 workers, which includes juvenile correctional officers, adult correctional officers and county security guards,

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

lobbed for a pay raise. The unit took a 9% cut during the Great Recession and has yet to get that compensation back. Many of these workers are referred to as "the forgotten" because they work behind walls and are not visible to the public.

- Several residents from Cantua Creek expressed concern about the cost and quality of their water; one resident said her bill is \$225 per month. Also, the community has incurred debt relative to its water supply. Residents asked that the debt be waived by converting it to a loan with the County then forgiving the loan using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.
- "Election integrity" folks resurfaced (see sidebar). They demanded a "forensic audit" while making non-specific accusations of election fraud.

Overall, the supervisors seem to have some misconception about their role, that is, being elected officials in government office. For example, with no sense of irony, Mendes said that "when it comes to government there's no such thing as common sense." And in reference to a recycling mandate from the state, Supervisor Steve Brandau said sarcastically that "government's going to pat itself on the back for another great job." Uh, wake-up call. You are the government. And until you start bringing solutions to the table, yes, you are part of the problem.

Michael D. Evans is a political activist, editor and writer. Contact him at evansm@usa.net.

"They're Back!"

By Michael D. Evans

Election deniers, under the guise of "election integrity," were back in full force at the May 17 meeting of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Largely absent in recent months, they seem to have been reinvigorated by a recent movie release, *2000 Mules*. This film alleges that an elaborate network of paid operatives violated election laws in the 2020 election by employing at least 2,000 "mules" to illegally collect ballots.

Speakers during public comment called for a "forensic audit" and made such claims as "the graveyard comes alive every election time" and "mail-in ballots were definitely a way of cheating in the election." No evidence of any voter fraud—local or nationally—was provided aside from references to the film.

"The election of 2020 haunts the American mind," says the filmmaker, Dinesh D'Souza, also a far-right commentator. "There is a wide swath of people who know in their gut that there was coordinated, massive fraud."

That gut feeling and the film's "evidence" have been widely discredited.

According to Politifact, the film "furthers the myth that something sinister occurred with mail ballots during the 2020 election. D'Souza told Fox News that 'mules' delivered 400,000 illegal votes. Experts say the evidence D'Souza points to is inherently flawed."

Ali Swenson of the Associated Press says that *2000 Mules* used "a flawed analysis of cell phone location data and ballot drop box surveillance footage to cast doubt on the results of the 2020 presidential election nearly 18 months after it ended." He further tackles, and refutes, several claims made in the movie.

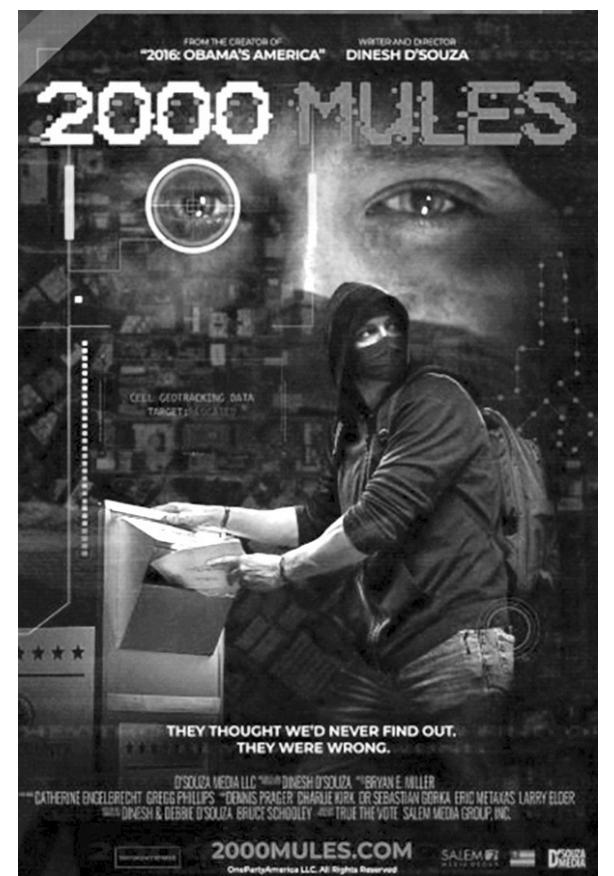
And an analysis by Philip Bump in the *Washington Post* says that the film "offers the least convincing election-fraud theory yet."

"At its heart, *2000 Mules* is a triumph of capitalism," states Bump. "There's huge demand for proving that Trump didn't lose in 2020, and this film provides just enough of a veneer of authority to let people collapse comfortably into that belief."

"That it doesn't survive even mild external scrutiny is as irrelevant as pointing out contradictions in a religious text to its recent converts: They want to believe what they want to believe."

This return to the "election integrity" discussion leads us to ask the most obvious question about the 2020 election: How did Donald Trump get 11.2 million more votes than he got in 2016?

Michael D. Evans is a political activist, editor and writer. Contact him at evansm@usa.net.



Local election deniers have been reenergized by the film *2000 Mules* even though the film's accusations have been widely discredited. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

Community Slows Tax Renewals

By Kevin Hall

Sales tax renewal efforts in Fresno and Madera counties hit historic roadblocks in May and have no chance of success at the ballot this year. Running on 20th century plans for the future, the renewal committees for Measure C and Measure T have refused to engage with the community. Instead, they have tried to push through plans that prioritize road subsidies for leapfrog residential development and massive trucking warehouse zones over public transit and road repair.

In more than a year of staff-driven meetings, neither committee received a presentation on the transportation sector's contribution to climate change or sought to define equity in transportation spending. Neither has discussed the need for electrification on a massive scale. Both counties have nearly identically structured expenditure plans; only the proposed percentages differ. Both expire in 2027.

In their latest offering, Fresno planners propose to cut transit spending in half, taking it from 24% of the current Measure C pie down to 12% for the next 30 years. Madera County proposes only 2% for transit—forever, no sunset clause. But all debate over the percentage splits appears to be academic—moot—in light of the overwhelming levels of organized opposition that have emerged on both sides of the river.

Last month saw ads placed in local papers, press conferences held and official letters submitted, all calling on transportation planning agencies to open up the process to the community and stop the rush onto the November

2022 ballot. This represented the fourth community letter of concern submitted about the poor public process since February 2021. Each time, the list grows longer.

For Fresno, a letter signed by 36 entities from every sector of society is an unprecedented show of strength. Madera's 12 entities were equally significant in a county with just two incorporated cities and 156,000 residents compared to Fresno's 15 cities and population of 990,000.

The reaction from Clovis Mayor Pro Tem Lynne Ashbeck, co-chair of the Measure C Renewal Executive Committee, was swift and harsh. She told *Fresno Bee* reporter Gregory Weaver in a May 17 article, "I don't think (Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability and Building Healthy Communities) ever engaged in a constructive fashion to move anything forward except to tell us why it was wrong."

Despite her apparent skill set as a \$423,000 per year executive vice president as Valley Children's Healthcare and Hospital's community impact officer and long-serving Clovis City Council member, Ashbeck clearly was not up to the task and bears the greatest responsibility for the breakdown.

She argued against including advocates on the steering committee from February to November 2021, and as its chair she is biased, consistently silencing and pushing aside all calls for reform. The cost in people's time and the more than \$1 million in public money wasted on unreliable consultants would justify Ashbeck's removal from future committee efforts.

Swinging to the bitter end, she further told the *Bee* she was opposed to the delay. "So I just think it would be two more years of what we have right now...I haven't seen any real engagement or constructive help to this point," she said of the community-based organizations, adding that the ad published in the *Bee* last month was not an "authentic kind of conflict resolution." She said, "Do I think they would ever be satisfied? I don't know."



In Madera County, the people appear to have already spoken. Support for a 2022 ballot measure has dropped to 68% among likely voters, just two points above the two-thirds supermajority needed for approval, according to the committee's latest survey.

Fresno committee members were not shown the complete results of their latest publicly funded survey, the second one to be kept secret, although their polling consultant tried in early May to convince them they were at 80% support. Madera posts their complete survey results online.

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

Catastrophic Climate Change While Being Unhoused

By Bob McCloskey

It's already deadly on the streets of Fresno. It's deadly, in part, because it is Fresno City policy to continue encampment sweeps and because of its refusal to support safe camps. Women, the elderly, the disabled and other vulnerable human beings are being forced to scatter around the city on a regular basis, leaving them on their own and subject to attack, accidents and exposure.

Tragically, three unhoused residents of Fresno recently lost their lives. There was the death of Monique Contreras, 29, who was killed in a horrific hit and run on May 13. On May 12, an unidentified man was found deceased in front of the B.F. Fisk Courthouse on O Street. On May 10, an unidentified elderly man was found dead in front of the 7-11 at Bullard Avenue and Fresno Street.

How many more human beings will perish on the streets of Fresno this summer when excessive killer heat sets in? Catastrophic climate change is already here. The City and County must take immediate action to prevent further loss of life this summer by supporting safe camps, providing an adequate number of cooling centers and establishing water stations throughout the city.

Polls show that 70% of Americans understand that climate change is happening, however, most don't think it affects them. Here in the Central Valley, it affects everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

In an average year from 1971 to 2000, the Central Valley region experienced about five days of extreme heat above 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Climate projections show that within the next 30 years there will be 30 days annually with extreme heat conditions. Alarmingly, in 2021, areas around Bakersfield, Fresno and Merced experienced 27, 36 and 17 days of extreme heat, respectively.

People such as outdoor workers and those who are unhoused face a greater risk of heat stroke and other heat-related health effects.

Increasing temperatures also dry out the vegetation, increasing the risk of fires. Climate change has dramatically increased the number of major wildfires in the region.

Wildfire smoke settles in the Central Valley, which decreases the already poor air quality of the region, resulting in increased respiratory disease, heart disease and other health conditions, particularly for the unhoused community that live outside 24 hours every day.

Another immediate impact of climate change is a phenomenon known as climate migration. In 2019, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center calculated that weather-related disasters, many of them linked to climate change, displaced 24 million people worldwide.

These disasters included two Level 4 hurricanes that devastated Central American countries in 2020, displacing 600,000 people. In Honduras, 80% of all agriculture was destroyed by the storms. The United Nations estimates that 3.5 million people in the region have faced food insecurity due to recurring droughts driven by climate change.

In 2019, 2.2 million people in Central America lost their crops, with 1.4 million needing urgent assistance. From 1994 to 2013, climate risk affected Honduras more than any other country in the world. Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala are all among the top 15 countries affected by climate risk. (It should be noted that the region produces less than 0.8% of net global emissions.)

As the region's temperature increases, more drought is predicted. More drought means more climate refugees migrating to the United States.

Many immigrants who arrive in the United States to earn a living cannot earn enough for housing and are homeless. Homeless immigrants are unseen, a shadow population among the unhoused, and uncounted.

Many are reluctant to seek services or to go to shelters. Their lack of legal status in the United States makes them hesitant to seek assistance. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for federal housing subsidies or food stamps and experience what other unhoused people experience: rents are too high and wages are too low.

As the climate catastrophe ahead of us continues to unfold, we can expect more unhoused climate refugees on the streets of Fresno. Being a climate refugee must be added to the causes of homelessness.

Another cause of homelessness is low wages. While the cost of living increases, wages don't. In the United States, the minimum wage has gone up around 350% since 1970. The Consumer Price Index (measurement of inflation) has increased by 480%. Recent high inflation will further increase poverty.

While low wages contribute to homelessness, unemployment is also a significant factor. Reasons for unemployment vary, and some regions have higher rates than others. Once persons are unemployed for a time, they can easily slip into homelessness. Research shows that most unhoused people want to work but face obstacles such as not having a permanent address.

Lack of affordable housing is another major cause. Vacancy rates remain at less than 1% in Fresno. Without affordable housing, people find themselves with fewer options. It becomes harder to find housing near a place of work or in a safe area.



A typical homeless encampment on a "heat island" in Fresno shortly before being swept by the City. Photo by Bob McCloskey

Another factor that contributes to homelessness is the lack of affordable healthcare. Healthcare is expensive, and many people are uninsured or underinsured.

This means spending large amounts of money on healthcare while struggling to pay for rent, food and utilities. It can also mean neglecting routine checkups and procedures, leading to higher medical costs in the future. One serious injury or accident could push an individual or family into homelessness.

We know that poverty is one of the most significant root causes of homelessness. Stagnant wages, unemployment, and high housing and healthcare costs all play into poverty. Being unable to afford essentials such as housing, food, education and more greatly increases a person's or family's risk. To address homelessness effectively, we must address poverty.

The lack of mental health and addiction treatment services contributes as well.

The connection between mental health, addiction and homelessness is clear. In the United States, around 30% of "chronically homeless" people have mental health conditions. In 2017, the National Coalition for the Homeless found that 38% of homeless people depend on alcohol and 26% depend on other substances.

Having a mental illness or addiction makes a person more vulnerable to homelessness and makes it more difficult to find permanent housing. A lack of stable housing also exacerbates mental health and addiction issues. Without treatment services, it's difficult for someone to break the cycle.

Another major factor that is rarely discussed among elected leaders is racial inequality.

In the United States, racial minorities experience homelessness at a higher rate than the White population. According to research from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Black Americans are three times more likely to lose housing. Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Latinos and Native Americans are also minorities disproportionately affected. The reasons why are based in racial inequalities such as racial discrimination in housing and incarceration.

Domestic violence is another societal problem that increases the unhoused population.

Women and children are especially vulnerable to violence-triggered homelessness. To escape domestic violence, people will flee their homes without a plan. If they don't have a place to stay, they can end up living in cars, shelters or the street.

Even for those who stay, the toll that domestic violence takes makes them more vulnerable to homelessness in the future. This is because trauma often leads to mental health issues and substance abuse.

Closely related to domestic violence, family conflict can also lead to homelessness. This is especially true for the LGBTQ+ community. Coming out is risky. Families can kick out the individual or make the home environment dangerous.

According to the True Colors Fund, 1.6 million young LGBTQ+ people end up homeless each year. This population is also at an increased risk for homelessness at a younger age.

Systemic failure is perhaps the greatest cause of homelessness in the United States. While homelessness can occur because of an individual's or family's circumstances, we cannot ignore the systemic failures.

Homelessness occurs when the government and society fail to identify and support people at risk of becoming unhoused.

We have failed in areas such as our criminal justice system, healthcare system, child welfare system and in the continuum of care approach, preventing a Housing First approach.

We have failed to address racial inequalities, increase wages and provide affordable housing.

We, the people, can change this record of failure by being active, demanding change from our elected leaders, and by building solidarity with other activists and movements.

You can also help this summer by donating and distributing water to our unhoused brothers and sisters. Visit the Project H2O Facebook page to get involved. Water is life!

Bob McCloskey is a prisoner and inmate rights advocate and a homeless advocate. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.



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Endless War and an End to Your Civil Liberties

By Bob McCloskey

While the war in Ukraine rages on and U.S. foreign policy might provoke World War III, most Americans seem oblivious to a clear and present danger—the end of all life on the planet. Nuclear destruction can happen by mistake or design, and no one will survive it. They are also unaware of the threat to our civil liberties at home, as inevitably the war machine brings the war to our cities.

By sending billions of dollars in military equipment (\$13.5 billion already with \$40 billion more about to be approved by Congress), the United States has entered into a dangerous proxy war. An immediate ceasefire with negotiations now is the only sane solution.

NATO and Ukraine must make concessions, and Russia must stop military action. Compromise is possible but will not occur unless we, the American people, demand that the United States stop arming Ukraine and NATO.

This might not be possible because the massive profits to be made off this war are too great. The military industrial complex is in full control of all elected leaders and the media who cheerlead for all wars. The proposed “defense” department appropriation for 2023 is \$813 billion, the largest ever proposed.

With so much money to be made on foreign wars by the military industrial complex corporations, it’s still not enough. Now they want to sell surplus military equipment to your city police department! First, your federal taxes pay for the manufacturing of this equipment, then the war profiteers sell it back to you, as you are paying for it again with your city and county taxes.

Take Action!

If you value life and civil liberties, contact the mayor and the Fresno City Council members about the militarization of local police. Tell them to say no to purchasing any surplus military equipment.

Call 559-621-8000

- Mayor Jerry Dyer
- Esmeralda Soria (District 1)
- Mike Karbassi (District 2)
- Miguel Arias (District 3)
- Tyler Maxwell (District 4)
- Luis Chavez (District 5)
- Garry Bredefeld (District 6)
- Nelson Esparza (District 7)

At the May 12 Fresno City Council meeting, the Council approved, by unanimous vote, the Military Equipment Funding, Acquisition & Use Policy to comply with the provisions of Government Code § 7071 and the obligations required by California Assembly Bill 481. This policy establishes guidelines for the acquisition, funding, use and reporting of “military equipment.”

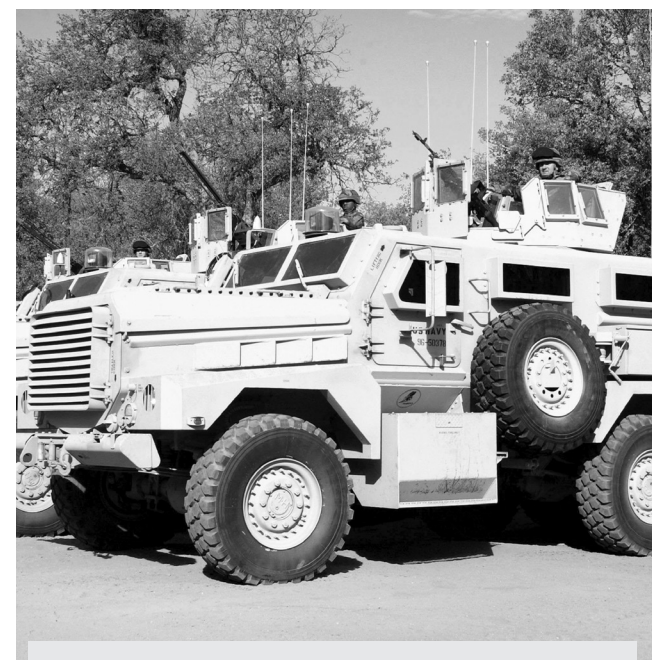
State obligations include seeking approval on specific items deemed to be military equipment and requirements related to use, compliance, annual reporting, cataloging and complaints regarding military equipment items.

Military equipment categories include the following:

- Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles
- Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers
- High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), two-and-one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached
- Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants
- Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units
- Weaponized aircraft, vessels or vehicles of any kind
- Battering rams, slugs and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature; does not include a handheld, one-person ram
- Firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater, excluding standard-issue shotguns and standard-issue shotgun ammunition
- Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including firearms and accessories identified as assault weapons in Penal Code § 30510 and Penal Code § 30515, with the exception of standard-issue handguns
- Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles
- Noise-flash diversionary devices and explosive breaching tools
- Munitions containing tear gas or OC (oleoresin capicum), excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray
- TASER® Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons and long-range acoustic devices (LRADs)
- Kinetic energy weapons and munitions
- Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight

The policy also states that the acquisition of military equipment and its deployment in our communities could impact the public’s safety and welfare. The public has a right to know about any funding, acquisition or use of military equipment by local government officials, as well as a right to participate in any government agency’s decision to fund, acquire or use such equipment.

Decisions regarding whether and how military equipment



A mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicle. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy

that is funded, acquired or used should give strong consideration to the public’s welfare, safety, civil rights and civil liberties, and should be based on meaningful public input. However, the policy on use simply states the following:

The military equipment acquired and authorized by the Department is

- Necessary because there is no reasonable alternative that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety.
- Reasonably cost effective compared to available alternatives that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety.
- [to be used only] by a Department employee only after applicable training, including any course required by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, has been completed, unless exigent circumstances arise.

The use policy, as written, might not meet the requirements set forth by the state. The policy is brief, overly broad and would allow the Fresno Police Department to use these deadly weapons indiscriminately. In addition, the policy is weak on public accountability as it only requires only one public meeting a year and an annual report.

Of course, the big question is, why is the City even considering the use of these deadly weapons? Why is the mayor and the City Council considering the use of “crowd control” weapons?

Bob McCloskey is a prisoner and inmate rights advocate and a homeless advocate. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

Saving a Cultural Icon and a Neighborhood

By Vic Bedoian

After an excruciating period of bargaining, the Fresno City Council voted to purchase the Tower Theatre, which has been at the center of controversy and a culture-war conflict for more than a year. During that time, Adventure Church, a right-wing evangelical group, held services there and tried to buy the theater. But the deal fell through due to numerous pitfalls.

The 1930s-era art deco movie palace has for decades been a notable film and performance theater and is the centerpiece of a unique neighborhood featuring arts, entertainment and social diversity.

Jaguar Bennett is an actor and performance artist. He’s been a leader of the movement to save the iconic Tower Theatre and the character of the equally iconic neighborhood that bears its name.

Perhaps it was Bennett’s fate. Back in the 1960s, his father founded the legendary Café Midi, which was Fresno’s gathering spot for folkies and hipsters in the Tower District. And he’s been a resident there for some 15 years.

After months of tense stand-offs every Sunday with Proud Boy supporters of Adventure Church, Bennett wore a smile at the Sunday rally following the fateful decision and reflected on what had gone down.

“We are very, very pleased with this decision and with the leadership that the City Council has shown in protecting and preserving the Tower Theatre as an architectural, cultural and economic asset for the entire Central Valley.”

The path to victory was beset with complications stemming from disputes over City zoning laws. Until recently, Tower Theatre owner Lawrence Abbate insisted on selling to Adventure Church.

When that deal wasn’t completed, Abbate turned to the City for a deal. After prolonged negotiations and hours of public comment, the City Council voted narrowly to buy the theater for \$6.5 million.

Adventure Church pastor Anthony Flores is threatening to file lawsuits.

But Bennett points out that the church has no standing to sue because it never owned the theater. “The City attorney has been incredibly cautious throughout this entire process in a way that I’ve actually found very frustrating.

“But in this case, the City attorney’s office...would not have stuck their necks out on this deal if they did not think it could be completed legally. So, I think we stand on very firm ground. I think this is a good step forward.

“We have some concerns about how the Tower Theatre will be managed under City ownership, but we feel that City ownership is the right step to resolving this issue and healing the Tower District community.”

Bennett says there are still issues to resolve such as how the purchase will be financed and who will manage the theater. He hopes that it will be a local nonprofit arts organization rather than a Hollywood entertainment company.

He promises that community watchdogs will continue to keep their eyes on the prize. “We want to maintain the economic and cultural vitality of this community, and we are going to continue to watch things closely.

“We will vigorously represent the interests of the community. It may not take the shape of a weekly protest that goes on forever, but we will still be here.”

The fight over the Tower Theatre brought together caring people from all over Fresno in a sustained effort to preserve and protect the values of cultural and societal diversity. Bennett suggests there is a message in this for other communities as well.

“If you can organize, you can resist. You don’t have to take the actions of fascists lying down.

“We have faced an attempt to take over our neighborhood by a radical right-wing church. We’ve had our streets endangered by radical, right-wing, fascist counter-protestors.



Save the Tower activist Jaguar Bennett at Fresno’s iconic Tower Theatre. Photo by Vic Bedoian

“We withstood it all through peaceful, democratic citizens’ action. And I think that’s the lesson here. At a time when democracy is threatened on all fronts, it is more important than ever to be an engaged citizen and to make the democratic process work.”

Beyond its communal value to Fresno, the Tower Theatre, along with the adjacent vibrant neighborhood art venues and businesses, generates employment and millions of dollars a year in revenue for the local economy and the city’s tax base.

Bennett communicates the palpable sense of relief everyone feels over its preservation and the future, “Well, the party is going to go on and on and on uninterrupted.

“We have a pride parade coming up. The theaters are presenting shows. The live music venues are presenting bands. People are eating and drinking.

“The Tower District is open for business, and we want people to come down and have a good time.”

Vic Bedoian is an independent radio and print journalist working on environmental justice and natural resources issues in the San Joaquin Valley. Contact him at vicbedoian@gmail.com.

Systemic Racism on Display

By Kevin Hall

Nothing upsets people faster than to suggest they're reinforcing institutionalized racism, regardless of their race. Consider the elected officials and community leaders of the Fresno Council of Governments (COG), the Fresno County Transportation Authority and the agencies' joint effort known as the Measure C Renewal Executive Committee.

Tony Boren, CEO of "the COG," is just that, a cog in the wheel that is local transportation planning. He has spent his career at the countywide agency overseen by a board comprising all 15 city mayors and one county supervisor, currently the often absent Sal Quintero. Fresno's Jerry Dyer, Kerman's Gary Yep, Mendota's Rolando Castro and so on, they're all there, too.

So when Boren told *Fresno Bee* reporter Gregory Weaver in early April, "Those of us in the business have known that these folks are going to oppose it," referring to the sales tax renewal, he was accusing committee members such as Sandra Celedon of Fresno Building Healthy Communities, Veronica Garibay of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Nayamin Martinez of Central California Environmental Justice Network and Cynthia Arriaga of Youth Leadership Institute of participating under false pretenses—of lying.

Had this theoretically neutral civil servant said the same of fellow White members Scott Miller of Gazebo Gardens and president of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce; ag sector representative Lorna Roush of Schultz Ranch Inc.; or renewal committee consultant Bruce Batti, head of Jeffrey Scott Agency and operating on a \$700,000 no-bid contract, according to the *Bee*—Boren would have been lucky to have kept his job.

Instead, silence. Not a single member of either Boren's board at the COG or on the renewal committee has rebuked him for his comments, much less called for an apology. Note that Boren defines himself as part of a clique in the know about the motives of these women of color. That clique is the institution he heads: the Fresno Council of Governments.

Please also note that these women and their organizations were the driving force behind the creation and passage by citizens' petition of the historic Measure P for Fresno parks in 2018. In truth, they represent the sort of excess of democracy that local power brokers fear most and that their pawns—and cogs—feel free to attack.

Fossil Fools. The hits just keep coming. The Fresno City Council voted unanimously in April to spend a million bucks on fossil fuel methane infrastructure for its transit buses. Genius. And, true to form, they did it in silence. Again.

As the world burns, Council members Miguel Arias, Garry Bredefeld, Luis Chavez, Nelson Esparza, Mike Karbassi, Tyler Maxwell and Esmeralda Soria ignored a critical vote on climate in September as they passed without comment a near-useless update to the city's greenhouse gas reduction plan, a state requirement they treated as just another item on their paperwork checklist.

Just to round out the disaster, Soria and Arias joined Mayor Dyer and Soria's heir apparent, Annalisa Perea 3.0, for a greenwashing event with Producers Dairy. The operation has added two electric trucks to their fleet of more than 300 fossil fuel ones while receiving permission to double their megadairy herd west of Kerman from 10,000 to 20,000—all with generous state subsidies.

Sadly, they were joined there by one member of the California Air Resource Board, despite the environmental injustice being wreaked on people from Mendota to the Tower District.

"The deployment of two zero-emission battery-electric trucks at Producers Dairy's Fresno-based manufacturing facility shows how companies can make innovative, real-world steps to improving air quality in the Central Valley region," Tania Pacheco-Werner, Ph.D., told Volvo Trucks USA. She represents the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District on the statewide air board.

CLIMATE POLITICS



Miguel Arias @MiguelArias_D3 · Apr 12

Dan Ranquillo Drive in west Fresno has been cleared. Thank you to Code Enforcement and Poverello House for helping house 25 homeless residents and clearing out tons of trash.



9 6 22

Fresno City Council Member Miguel Arias trolled homeless advocates on Twitter with this salted earth shot taken after the City destroyed Camp 180 in West Fresno, the first attack under his "anti-Dez" ordinance, now the subject of a civil rights lawsuit. Photo courtesy of Twitter

"I applaud the project partners for their collaboration on getting these fully electric trucks on the road and look forward to seeing Producers Dairy utilize the lessons learned from this deployment to scale up its battery-electric fleet and charging infrastructure in the future."

Unfortunately, that future is too short for such methane-charged infrastructure, yet the state agency's latest greenhouse gas reduction plans call for much more of the same. An older generation of leaders, who pretended they had until 2100 to fix things, crafted deadly compromises tied to carbon credit trading, and a new generation is now handcuffed to the controls of this runaway train headed toward a steep cliff: a 2030 deadline to cut emissions by half worldwide to avoid irreversible climate tipping points, regarded by many as already blown.

Arias Aerial Assault. Following clearing of the Highway 180 encampment, as reported on by Bob McCloskey in the *May Community Alliance*, the Fresno Police Department issued drone footage of the bare earth left behind. Arias was pouring salt in the wound with his proud flaunting of the Carthage-like destruction when he tweeted the overhead shot of plowed earth, the former campsite of a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the city. One observer called it "Fresno's Ukraine." Others called it simple revenge.

And when a homeless 13-year-old, who carries her mother's ashes in an urn with her, went to City Hall with homeless advocate Dez Martinez and others to plead for compassionate treatment, they were first rebuked in the foyer of the Council members' offices by Karbassi, who coldly told the group he preferred to deal with professionals after first trying to slip by them unnoticed.

Karbassi then joined Arias at the next City Council meeting in rebuking Martinez and homeless advocates from the dais with false descriptions of events. The city is now the subject of a First Amendment lawsuit filed by the ACLU on behalf of Martinez, McCloskey and Faith in the Valley. A broad-based media coalition has filed an amicus brief, according to Brianna Calix's reporting in the *Fresno Bee*.

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

Al Williams, Presente!

By Community Alliance Staff

Al Williams passed away on May 1, 2022. Williams spent many years as a homeless person on the cruel streets of Fresno in the Roeding Park, Highway 99 and Olive Avenue area. He worked to feed homeless people with Food Not Bombs and spoke out frequently against the unjust treatment of his homeless brothers and sisters.

In recent years, Williams had housing at Renaissance Park Grove through a program to help homeless veterans get off the streets. Williams was a veteran and felt strongly about getting all vets off the streets and into decent affordable housing.

Williams also played an important role in helping the *Community Alliance* newspaper understand the reality of homelessness in Fresno. He was on the newspaper's editorial board for six years (2007–2013) giving us invaluable insights for the series of articles we wrote about homelessness at that time.

Those articles resulted in changes in public policy, a victory for Fresno's homeless people in federal court and gave the homeless hope that change was possible.

After homelessness ends and we only read about it in history books, we will remember how Williams and the many advocates like him struggled to bring dignity and respect to all the members of this community.

Al Williams, Presente!

Al Williams and partner Sherri arguing with the police outside a McDonald's restaurant where Sherri was detained and cited for using the restroom. Photo by Mike Rhodes



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Dolores Huerta Receives Certificate of Recognition

We are humbled and honored to accept the Certificate of Recognition on behalf of Founder & President Dolores Huerta from the California Department of Education in appreciation and celebration of Dolores' unwavering and lifelong devotion to improving the lives of migrant workers and the LGBTQ+ community, while advocating for civil and women's rights. We will continue to lead our organization with those values and methods to champion for underserved and misrepresented communities through our grassroots organizing work. Pictured to the right is DHF's Executive Director (& Dolores' youngest daughter) Camila Chávez.

Youth Spring into Action



The Dolores Huerta Foundation Youth Program "Liberated for Youth Empowerment" (LYFE) concluded their youth retreat with a total of 98 members in attendance. Two sessions were provided, in-person and virtually, to allow students who were unable to participate in person to get the lessons, activities and team building exercises that are crucial to their development and growth in the program. Each session consisted of learning about the School-to-Prison Pipeline, Local Control & Accountability Plan (LCAP), various activities such as sports, trivia, a scavenger hunt, and creating art with a social justice and political advocacy lens. DHF Youth Organizers shared the importance of the Pipeline concept and LCAP to allow students to be aware of the systemic pushout of black & brown kids and how they can make recommendations for LCAP that can prevent such discriminatory practices from happening in their school district. Throughout each activity, youth members had the opportunity to work with each other to build on their team working skills, communication and trust with one another. DHF Youth member Katherine, (she/her/hers) Age 16, said, "I was able to meet youth I haven't seen before, it helped reunite youth who have been on zoom for so long. During the end of the retreat, we had a picnic, painting, listening to music and other youths were playing soccer. It felt like I was at a picnic with my friends or family." The youth program aims to increase civic engagement participation among low-income, disenfranchised youth and their families to reduce racial and socio-economic disparities through evidence-based practices. Some of these methods include retreats, whereas afterwards the youth come out refreshed and ready to spring into action. Currently their focus is LGBTQIA+ Rights and the elections. As they continue to navigate through their program some youth members are excited about upcoming events. Emma (she/her/hers) Age 12 says, "I am looking forward to the Pride Prom in June!" To learn more about their upcoming events or efforts, please visit doloreshuerta.org/youthprogram

May Day March



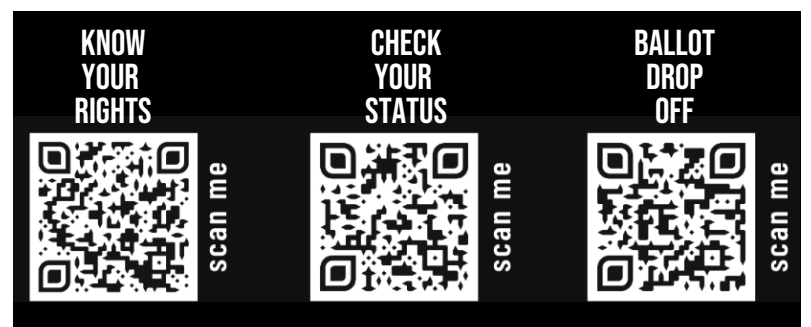
In honor of May Day the Dolores Huerta Foundation, in collaboration with SEIU, United Farm Workers and other community organizations, marched the streets of Fresno & Tulare standing in solidarity with Workers & Immigrants around the world. May Day is not recognized as a holiday in the United States, however, DHF will continue to honor and commemorate the efforts and victories of blue collar workers, their struggles and plight for rights and living wages.



Get Out The Vote!



As a community organization, the Dolores Huerta Foundation hosted numerous door-to-door canvassing, Candidate Forums and voter engagement outreach throughout the Central Valley, Antelope Valley & Los Angeles County to encourage voters to power to the polls. During these events, community members, youth and Vecinos Unidos members had the opportunity to ask questions, get to know their candidates and learn about the importance of their vote. Some folks even joined these efforts as a "Democracy Defender" by volunteering to get the vote out to their neighbors! Now is the time to exercise your power to vote. The California Primary Elections is June 7th. Find your nearest polling place, check your status or track your ballot by scanning the following codes.



CANCEL COVID-19



DHF's COVID-19 Education & Safety Team continues to inform community members and provide options for professionally administered vaccines. As of May, we are proud to report that we've co-hosted 90 Vaccine Clinics where a total of 7,407 vaccines were administered! Together we can overcome the pandemic. Call 661-383-2588 or visit myturn.ca.gov to find your nearest clinic today.

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

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

Fresno-Madera Area No. 1 in the Nation for Worst Air Quality

By Genevieve Amsalem and Nayamin Martinez

According to the 2022 State of the Air Report, which is published by the American Lung Association every year, the Fresno-Madera area took the lead as the most polluted city in the country for fine particle pollution, also known as PM2.5. For the last decade, that record was held by Bakersfield, but Fresno is now leading the charge.

Regardless of this change in the ranking, the Fresno, Bakersfield and Visalia metro areas have the three highest annual concentrations of PM2.5 in the country. Again, our area ranks top in the nation for unwanted traits.

Particle pollution kills. PM2.5 (particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller in diameter) can evade our natural defenses and infiltrate deep into our lungs.

PM2.5 is associated with a range of respiratory impacts, the development of respiratory diseases and premature death. Furthermore, fine particles can enter the bloodstream causing inflammation in the brain and heart. PM2.5 is also associated with heart attack, heart disease and stroke.

So what are our local and state regulators doing to address this imminent public health crisis? It's a mixed bag.

On one hand, Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno) is pushing a bill that would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB), our state-level air regulator, to



Daily pollution in Fresno. Photo taken traveling eastbound on McKinley Avenue near the Fresno Yosemite International Airport. Photo by Genevieve Amsalem

Take Action!

With Fresno recently being named the most polluted city in the country for fine particle pollution, what can you do about reversing that situation?

- Call your state legislators and let them know that you support AB 2550, which would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to circumvent the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District by developing new air pollution regulations for industries in areas where local regulators have failed to meet clean air standards on time. The bill faces an uphill battle.
- Join the public hearing at the CARB on June 23 at 9 a.m. to engage in the conversation about carbon capture and storage. Visit ww2.arb.ca.gov/events for more information.
- Join the last public workshop on the Valley air district's ozone plan on June 1 at 4 p.m. For more information, visit ww2.valleyair.org/. Click on Public Participation on the left panel and then select Workshops & Hearings.

have a more active role in developing clean-air strategies for our region if we fail yet again to reach an attainment deadline.

This bill, if passed, could really help clean up the air basin, but opposition is already strong from local governments worried about losing "local control."

On the other hand, as our state-level legislators and agencies are rushing to solve the climate crisis, they might be throwing our Central Valley communities under the bus.

The CARB, in its Draft 2022 Scoping Plan, which is attempting to chart a path to carbon neutrality by 2045, proposes relying on 80 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, the climate-warming gas, to be captured by massive industrial facilities and piped underground for permanent storage.

This process is referred to as carbon capture and storage (CCS), and while it seems like a good climate strategy (we have too much carbon in the air!), it's a parasitic technology that expands our already existing polluting facilities.

The European Environment Agency found that, because the CCS equipment requires a lot of energy to run, local air pollution increased by up to 25%! So we might be pulling down carbon, but we're releasing more fine particles and smog into the San Joaquin Valley.

Seems like a win-lose situation, especially for breathers in the most polluted city in America. The piping and storage of carbon dioxide in the ground is also poorly regulated, and risks include dangerous leaks and contamination of drinking water.

Lastly, the state and our local Air District are in the process of developing a plan to solve our ozone pollution. We have upcoming attainment deadlines of 2031 and 2037. Will we make it?

The state is proposing an array of new rules and regulations, including a first-in-the-nation rule to electrify short-haul trucks (!), while our Air District seems to be sitting back and hoping the state will do all the work. As of yet, no new programs have been developed by the Air District to speed up our attainment of ozone standards.

The fate of our air and climate hangs in the balance. Get involved so residents of the most polluted city in America get a say in our own destiny. If we don't stand up for Fresno, who will?

Genevieve Amsalem is the research and policy director for the Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN) and formerly led the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition. Nayamin Martinez is the executive director of the CCEJN.

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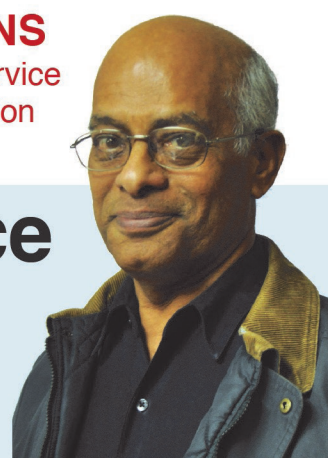
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Ukrainians Gather to Welcome War Refugees

By Vic Bedoian

Ukrainians gathered under a canopy-covered matrix of picnic tables at Selma Layne Park in north Fresno on May 14. Some have been living in the Valley for 20 to 30 years. Some are newly arrived. They're refugees from an unprovoked war that has engulfed their nation and their lives.

Signs displayed the Ukrainian word *razom*. In English, it means together, and it perfectly expresses the mood. It's a peaceful scene with people sharing food, talk and laughter while children run around and play games.

Pavlo came to the United States in 2009 fleeing a different traumatic situation, "We came from Ukraine as a refugee, too, but we came by a religious way. We felt persecution when I was in school and persecution by religion.

"And now we invite people. We receive people from Ukraine as refugees from the war. It's Russian interaction in Ukraine. And we came here to support people, to help them, to protect them, to provide for them."

His grandmother, two aunts and uncle and cousins are still in Ukraine and unable to leave.

Like most people, Pavlo is taken aback by the suddenness and brutality of the Russian invasion, "I'm Ukrainian. And I know there are no Nazis, there are no fascists in Ukraine.

"There are just people who would like to live in Ukraine, build their country. They would like to be independent from others.

"As I see it, there are many people, my friends, who stand and want to defend their country, their motherland. And it's a crazy situation. I don't know why it happened.

"In Ukraine, people never, never fight. Never. They are very peaceful. They like to work hard. But that's what happened."

The war is all too real for Viktor, too. He came here 14 years ago and has family in Ukraine's war zone. He watches the news and is in almost daily contact with his family back in his birth country, showing us a chilling phone video of one of the many Russian jet planes flying over his family home. He's here to support those who have made it to safety.

Pavlo works for the Community Covenant Church, whose congregation includes numerous Slavic families in the city. Through the church, he's part of a network that has been helping people who are leaving Ukraine get to the Valley. Once here, refugees are given a guiding hand to find housing, work, human services and other necessities of survival in a strange land.

Ukrainians who are already established in the Valley organized a major effort to provide families a pathway for getting to the United States through Mexico. Andrew was one of those involved. His parents came here as religious refugees in 1989 following the jailing of his grandfather by Soviet authorities. Andrew was born here and now aids new refugees.

"I was in Tijuana three times; we helped out. There were over 20,000 Ukrainians that went through Tijuana the past few months. And then they closed the border.

"Now it's a sponsorship program. A lot of people came here during that time through Tijuana. So, I met a family on the border and they had no friends, no family. And I invited them to come to Fresno. So now they're here with us, and we're helping them out. They have an apartment."

Among the families being welcomed at the party were Yana with her husband and two young children. They left their Ukrainian hometown of Chernivtsi near the borders of Moldova and Romania in late February when the war began.

Yana, an intelligent, articulate and thoughtful observer, shared her experiences and sentiments about the impact of hostilities. Her city itself was not bombed, but nearby salvos kept everyone in underground shelters and life at home became unsustainable.

"First, we went to Europe. We were there for some time, and then when we discovered this program for Ukrainians, that they can go through Mexico. We made our way from Brussels, from Belgium. So, we fly from Brussels to Cancun, from Cancun to Guadalajara, from Guadalajara to Tijuana. And there we cross the border to San Diego."

Yana's family had church friends in Sacramento who hosted them until they could be on their own in Fresno.

Of course, Yana and her family can't help bearing the weight of sadness and concern for those back home. "Some people, they lost everything, you know? And they lost their family members. They lost their houses.

"And in 2014, when Russia invaded that part of Ukraine, they moved to Kiev and now Russia bombed Kiev. So, they lost their houses in Kiev. And then they moved to the west of Ukraine and somewhere else.

"So, I really feel sorry for all those people. I feel sorry for every family that is broken, for every mother that lost a son or daughter, I mean, there is no explanation to this war and, and it seems like it's not a war. It's like a genocide because they're destroying everything and they're killing women and kids. So, we have no future and it really breaks my heart."

Yana says her family is flooded with mixed emotions, "We feel safe here, but of course our heart is there, so it's not like, oh, I'm safe, I'm fine.

"So yeah, it's not easy to be in a new country and to learn so many new things, but every day we can see how God is caring for us. We have a place to sleep. We have food to eat where, well, we can see the sunshine and the blue sky over us. So, we are grateful for what we have, but of course we pray for our country."



A Ukrainian refugee named Yana brushes away a tear as she tells her story. She was at a picnic at Selma Layne Park in Fresno on May 14 where local Ukrainians were meeting with recent arrivals. Photo by Peter Maiden

It's fitting that Ukrainians escaping the horrors of war have a home here, whether it's temporary or permanent. Looking at a satellite image of Ukraine, you see much that is familiar. A vast quilted patchwork of farmland coming in all shapes and sizes, splattered with cities and woodlands. People there, like people here, amid a historic conflict to maintain democracy and dignity.

Vic Bedoian is an independent radio and print journalist working on environmental justice and natural resources issues in the San Joaquin Valley. Contact him at vicbedoian@gmail.com.



People in the Fresno area's Ukrainian community posed with recent refugees from the war in Ukraine. At the right, our reporter Vic Bedoian. Photo by Peter Maiden

On Ukraine, World Majority Sides with Russia over the United States

By John V. Walsh

The year 2014 saw two pivotal events that led to the current conflict in Ukraine.

The first, familiar to all, was the coup in Ukraine in which a democratically elected government was overthrown at the direction of the United States and with the assistance of neo-Nazi elements that Ukraine has long harbored.

Shortly thereafter, the first shots in the present war were fired on the Russian-sympathetic Donbass region by the newly installed Ukrainian government. The shelling of the Donbass, which claimed 14,000 lives, has continued for eight years despite attempts at a ceasefire under the Minsk accords that Russia, France and Germany agreed upon but Ukraine, backed by the United States, refused to implement. On Feb. 24, 2022, Russia finally responded to the slaughter in the Donbass and the threat of NATO on its doorstep.

Russia Turns to the East

The second pivotal event of 2014 was less noticed and is, in fact, rarely mentioned in the Western mainstream media. In November of that year, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), China's GDP (gross domestic product) surpassed that of the United States in purchasing power parity terms (PPP-GDP).

(This measure of GDP is calculated and published by the IMF, the World Bank and even the CIA. Students of international relations such as economics Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz, Graham Allison and many others consider this metric the best measure of a nation's comparative economic power.)

One person who took note and who often mentions China's standing in the PPP-GDP ranking is none other than Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

From one point of view, the Russian action in Ukraine represents a decisive turn away from the hostile West to the more dynamic East and the Global South. This follows decades of importuning the West for a peaceful relationship since the Cold War's end. As Russia makes its pivot to the East, it is doing its best to ensure that its western border with Ukraine is secured.

Following the Russian action in Ukraine, the inevitable U.S. sanctions poured onto Russia. China refused to join them and refused to condemn Russia. This was no surprise; after all, Putin's Russia and Xi Jinping's China had been drawing ever closer for years, most notably with trade

OPINION & ANALYSIS

denominated in ruble-renminbi exchange, thus moving toward independence from the West's dollar-dominated trade regime.

World Majority Refuses to Back U.S. Sanctions

But then a big surprise. India joined China in refusing to honor the U.S. sanctions regime. And India kept to its resolve despite enormous pressure including calls from Biden to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a train of high-level U.S., U.K. and EU officials trekking off to India to bully, threaten and otherwise attempt to intimidate India. India would face "consequences," the tired U.S. threat went up. India did not budge.

India's close military and diplomatic ties with Russia were forged during the anti-colonial struggles of the Soviet era. India's economic interests in Russian exports could not be countermanded by U.S. threats. Now India and Russia are working on trade via ruble-rupee exchange.

In fact, Russia has turned out to be a factor that put India and China on the same side, pursuing their own interests and independence in the face of U.S. diktat. Moreover, with trade in ruble-renminbi exchange already a reality and with ruble-rupee exchange in the offing, are we about to witness a renminbi-ruble-rupee world of trade—a "3R" alternative to the dollar-euro monopoly?

Continues on page 13

Ukraine War Raises Threat of Nuclear Conflict

By Peter Schurmann and Jenny Manrique

The world is confronting the threat of nuclear-armed conflict the likes of which has not been seen since the end of the Cold War. Although the war in Ukraine has escalated the threat, its antecedents can be traced to a shift in U.S. military posture years earlier.

That's the consensus of a group of experts who spoke recently during a briefing organized by Ethnic Media Services.

"How real is the threat of nuclear war," asked Daryl Kimball, executive director of the nonpartisan Arms Control Association and publisher and contributor for the organization's monthly journal, *Arms Control Today*. "It is all too real."

According to Kimball, Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent rhetoric highlights the grave risks associated with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Describing Putin's statements—including a Feb. 24 warning that interference by outside powers in Ukraine would invite "consequences...such as you have never seen in your entire history"—as "unprecedented," Kimball notes this marks the first time that the former Cold War adversary has made explicit nuclear threats.

Although some have interpreted Putin's words as bluster intended to stave off direct U.S. and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) assistance to Ukraine, Kimball says both Russian and U.S. military doctrine leaves open the option to deploy nuclear weapons against non-nuclear targets.

What does that mean in practice? From the purview of Moscow, if the tide of war appears to be turning against Russia, tactical, short-range nuclear weapons could become an increasingly attractive option to gain back the upper hand. And, says Kimball, "once nukes are used, there is no guarantee that the other side won't respond."

Kimball is quick to point out that to date U.S. intelligence has seen no signs that Russia—which maintains an arsenal of some 100 tactical nuclear warheads—has begun to prepare for such an attack. Observers also took note of Putin's Victory Day speech, delivered in Moscow on May 9 to commemorate Russia's defeat of Nazi Germany, which left out any such escalatory threats.

But with the war in Ukraine now stretching into its third month, Kimball warns that its continuation increases the

danger of nuclear conflagration. "The longer the Ukraine conflict continues," he says, "the higher the risk. We are in a heightened state of danger."

Michael Klare is professor emeritus and director of the Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies at Hampshire College. According to him, the current threat of nuclear war dates to a decisive shift in U.S. military posture in 2018 that turned away from the War on Terror to focus instead on what its authors described as the "Great Power competition."

Under this new strategy, articulated by former Secretary of Defense James Mattis, America's armed forces would turn away from small-scale conflicts in the Global South that defined much of the War on Terror to focus on larger wars with "near-peer powers," namely Russia and China.

For leaders in Moscow and Beijing, that shift brought with it a heightened and unacceptable threat from newly deployed U.S. conventional weapons targeting their countries' respective military capabilities and infrastructure.

Whether this was the driving factor in Putin's decision to invade Ukraine is something for "future historians to decide," says Klare, adding, however, that the resulting situation has "triggered anxiety" in both Russia and China, prompting the latter to expand its nuclear capabilities.

As for what comes after Ukraine, both Klare and Kimball agree the picture remains decidedly precarious.

"After the war in Ukraine, this process of all three powers building capabilities for conventional and nuclear war is bound to accelerate," says Klare.

"In Europe, after the war...we're going to see a new Iron Curtain, except this line will lie closer to Russia than the one during the Cold War," with both Finland and Sweden now considering NATO membership.

In the Asia Pacific, potential confrontation over Taiwan—which U.S. leaders have sworn to prevent from becoming "another Ukraine"—again points to the possible deployment of nuclear weapons.

The "nuclear fire break," says Klare, "becomes much narrower, increasingly to disappear."

In the meantime, fighting continues in Ukraine, with Russia's war aims remaining vague, from what began ostensibly as an effort to topple the current government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to more recent proclamations of taking control over eastern, Russian-speaking portions of the country.

For Andrew Nynka, editor-in-chief of the U.S.-based *Ukrainian Weekly* newspaper, Putin's nuclear threats are part of the broader information war being waged over Ukraine.

"Putin is using the question of nuclear war to divide his enemies," says Nynka, adding that absent this threat the situation in Ukraine would look very different. "The only thing stopping Western aid is the threat of nuclear weapons."

CSCR peers. Several scholars exploring this topic show the cultural assignment for the punishment of the CSCR, who are mostly BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color), is frequently embodied by faculty and administration across college campuses.

Some might read these studies as articulating the unfolding of bias and discrimination against the CSCR. We would argue that these studies show something more insidious. The punishment fixation, most significantly led by the legal system, is extended into higher education institutions via college actors.

In my recent study, we learn more about the ways that the CSCR decolonize among themselves, which offers refreshing possibilities for CSCR-led groups across the state as well as higher education allies who would like to experiment with decolonizing options.

For one year, 10 California community college students participated in frequent interviewing, weekly journaling and life course mapping. They provided historical insights across four areas of their lives: education, health, relationships and workforce. While many similarities existed across their life paths in these four areas, where their lives diverged surrounded their participation, or lack thereof, in CSCR-led groups.



Several scholars exploring the topic of college students with criminal records (CSCR) show the cultural assignment for their punishment is frequently embodied by faculty and administration across college campuses, as well as non-CSCR peers. Photo courtesy of The Commons

College Students with Criminal Records

By Morghan Vélez Young

In my recent study of California college students with criminal records (CSCR), we are invited to bear witness to one way that decolonizing practices can unfold in higher education institutions.

In this study, CSCR-led groups, informally designed and operated, showed the ways that their comradery, support for one another and advocacy efforts in the community countered White supremacist assumptions in higher education about who the supposed appropriate students are for attending college as well as debunked the supposed workforce-based purpose of higher education degrees.

Decolonizing approaches inside and outside of institutions share indigenous knowledge (IK) values such as relationality, reciprocity and interdependency. These approaches also reflect practices that place limits on force, hierarchy and, certainly, oppression. Hence, decolonizing practices veer strikingly away from normative White supremacist practices that dominate U.S. institutions, as pointed to by Tema Okun, such as defensiveness, paternalism and power hoarding.

The U.S. cultural fixation on punishment grows legs and seeks the approved population for exercising its fixation on punishment. We can see this easily in statistical evidence of the disproportionate representation of those who are arrested and incarcerated in this country. We can see this fixation entrap specific populations through trial studies that show that skin color and facial features drive sentencing implementation.

The U.S. cultural fixation on punishment also, somewhat more quietly, grows roots into various institutions that are not primarily tasked with punishment but act as proxies for fulfilling the White supremacist and colonizing practices of the U.S. legal system.

The emerging body of literature that explores experiences of the CSCR shows the ways that punishment is performed by college faculty, administration and non-



Russia's RT-2PM2 Topol-M space intercontinental ballistic missiles, cold-launched, three-stage, solid-propellant, road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles with thermonuclear warheads. Rehearsal for Victory Day Military Parade in Moscow, Russia. Photo courtesy of The Commons

But even Nynka acknowledges that getting into the mind of Putin, a "master of misinformation and disinformation," is a fool's errand.

For Gabriela Iveliz Rosa Hernández, research associate at the Arms Control Association, that uncertainty has defined much of Russia's strategy—or apparent lack thereof—for much of the war. "You have broad and unclear aims...Russia is uncertain of what it is trying to do."

Hernández notes that whatever its current goals, the use of nuclear weapons by Russia is just as likely to push those aims farther out of reach, hardening resistance both in Ukraine and in the international community. Which suggests the fighting could continue with no clear end in sight.

"I do not see a ceasefire any time soon," says Hernández.

Both Kimball and Klare agree that communication and a tamping down of escalatory rhetoric are critical and that both Russia and the United States need to return to the disarmament table prior to the expiration in 2026 of the New START Treaty, which called for both nations to draw down their nuclear stockpiles.

But with tensions at historic levels, a return to such talks appears unlikely, says Kimball.

At which point, he warns, we will be "living in a world with no restrictions on the world's largest nuclear arsenals. This is a world we have not seen."

Peter Schurmann is a reporter and communications strategist with Ethnic Media Services.

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.

However, CSCR-led groups are organized, funded and managed by the CSCR; no college involvement exists. This approach allows them to implement IK values, intentionally or not, in a White supremacist space such as higher education.

The presence of relationality, reciprocity and interdependency in the CSCR-led groups was a stark contrast to the students' experiences in general college life and much of their advocacy activities. For example, student experiences with non-CSCR peers, college administrative documents and campus police intersected with students' post-traumatic stress (PTS) responses such as hypervigilance and agitation.

In their CSCR-led groups, they were met with peer mentoring and coaching to process both the PTS and the triggering experiences of engaging in college life. Furthermore, the CSCR were active in advocacy efforts that involved directly serving persons in the community who were linked to the legal systems as well as statewide reform projects.

The purpose of completing a college degree was framed as an act of reform. That is, the CSCR were intentionally editing the oppressive trajectory of the U.S. criminal justice system by completing degrees. Both the mentoring and alternative framing of degree completion illuminate the Western knowledge framework that promotes a popular notion that only certain types of students are supposed to be on campuses and the supposed positionality that students' degree completion is purposeful only for their future workforce identities.

Ultimately, through their IK-informed groups, the CSCR illuminated the establishment of punishment culture components in higher education institutions through demonstrating the presence of a kaleidoscope of White supremacy norms on the campuses. Fortunately for us, the CSCR also illuminate paths for decolonization in institutional spaces whether or not they are welcomed there.

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 and lectures in the Anthropology Department at Fresno State. Contact her at mvelezyoung@csufresno.edu.

Sheriff's Department Stole Our Newsstands: What's Next?

By Mike Rhodes

Everyone has heard law enforcement's slogan that they exist to "serve and protect." But what happens when law enforcement employees are the thieves stealing your property?

We know for a fact that someone in the Fresno County Sheriff's Office stole several *Community Alliance* newsstands in front of the jail. We saw the surveillance video of their truck pulling up next to our newsstand and a Sheriff's Office employee throwing it into the back of one of their trucks, and we watched our GPS track that truck to the Sheriff's Office Satellite Jail on Townsend Avenue in the old industrial section of downtown Fresno. The newsstand was unceremoniously thrown into a dumpster.

Sheriff Margaret Mims admits that someone from her office did the dirty deed. Assistant Sheriff Steve McComas showed us the video of the theft taking place. But when asked if the Sheriff's Office was going to hold the culprit accountable, the answer was basically no. McComas politely explained that this was a personnel issue and that they would handle it internally.

When asked if charges would be filed against the person(s) responsible, McComas said that the crime did not happen in their jurisdiction. It happened on the sidewalk in front of the jail, and that is within the jurisdiction of the Fresno Police Department (FPD).

A complaint was filed with the FPD, and other than acknowledging receipt of the complaint there has been no further response. McComas said that the FPD had not talked with him or asked to see the video.

Frustrated by the lack of interest in this case by local law enforcement, we explained the situation to the Fresno Grand Jury to see if it would use its investigative power to look into this situation. The *Community Alliance* is interested in the equal justice under the law aspect of this crime, and we would like to be compensated for the four newsstands stolen in front of the jail (all within the last year).

The bigger issue is the violation of our First Amendment right to a free press. The fact that law enforcement is stealing newsstands, resulting in our readers not having access to the *Community Alliance* newspaper and them not being held accountable for this crime is outrageous. We heard back from the Grand Jury but only to tell us our information had been received.

Our next step was to complain to the office of the Fresno County District Attorney (DA) in the hope that it would follow up on this crime. Nope. On May 12, Randy Kavorkian, a special investigator in the DA's office, called to say that the office only takes complaints for possible prosecution from agencies such as the FPD and the Sheriff's Office.

This is the defense mechanism used by law enforcement to protect their own. It is obvious that law enforcement in Fresno is not interested in pursuing this case, which leads this newspaper to seek outside intervention.

As local law enforcement in Fresno cannot or will not hold their own accountable for crimes committed against members of this community, it has become necessary to present our case to California Attorney General Rob Bonta. A letter was sent to Bonta in mid-May.



We will continue to update our readers on this issue as developments happen.

Mike Rhodes is the executive director of the *Community Alliance* newspaper and an advocate for freedom of the press. Contact him at mikerhodes@comcast.net.

Abolish the S-Word in Place Names

By Linda Tubach

In 2019, in remembrance of Hanna Harris, the U.S. Senate designated her birthday, May 5, as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Harris was just 21 and a single mom of a 10-month-old baby boy when she left the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana to go to a nearby town for July 4 fireworks.

She never came home, and when her family reported her disappearance, local law enforcement failed to take immediate action. A team of volunteers found her body four days later, and testimony from the perpetrators confirmed she was raped and beaten to death.

Locally, Melissa Montalvo revisited the issue in a May 10 *Fresno Bee* article entitled "Suspicious Fresno Case Remains Unsolved on MMIW National Remembrance Day." Bessie Walker, a 27-year-old indigenous woman from Auberry, was reported missing on Aug. 8, 2021. Like Harris in Montana, she was found by a volunteer search party 13 days later.

The failure of authorities to value the lives of indigenous women by taking urgent action is reflected in the media coverage.

"When Bessie went missing, it was the same time Gabby Petito went missing," said Morningstar Gali, director of Restoring Justice for Indigenous People, in her interview with Montalvo.

Petito, a 22-year-old White woman from Blue Point, N.Y., went missing in Grand Tetons National Park and inspired extensive media coverage and a national manhunt to find her, and then her boyfriend. The family of Walker was left to their own devices, only to find Bessie too late to help her. The family is still waiting for answers, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Office is offering a \$10,000 reward for information.

Tragedies like this continue. The National Crime Information Center reported that in 2016 alone, there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls. California has among the highest numbers in the United States.

Native women face murder rates more than 10 times the national average, and 70% of the violence is committed by persons of a different race. In California, just 9% of murder cases involving Native women are solved compared to the statewide average of more than 60% solved.

Why? Violence accompanied the displacement and colonization of indigenous people living in the Americas. Today, the dehumanization and degradation of indigenous women in particular is normalized by daily public use of the word "squaw" (hereafter referenced as the s-word) in place names throughout the United States, such as S-Valley in Fresno County.



Consultation with local indigenous leaders has produced a consensus to replace S-Valley with a new name, Yokuts Valley. However, Fresno County's Board of Supervisors, the local governing body for S-Valley, has opposed sponsoring a public meeting to discuss the name change—except for Supervisor Sal Quintero. Photo courtesy of *The Commons*

Take Action!

Contact your State Assembly member to support AB 2022, which would require the term "squaw" to be removed from all geographic features and place names in the state.

- Jim Patterson (District 23): 916-319-2023
- Joaquin Arambula (District 31): 916-319-2031
- Frank Bigelow (District 5): 916-319-2005
- Devon Mathis (District 26): 916-319-2026
- Rudy Salas (District 32): 916-319-2032

Call the Fresno County supervisors at 559-600-4000 and/or e-mail them (see below) to support changing the name of S-Valley to Yokuts Valley.

- Brian Pacheco (District 1): district1@fresnocountyca.gov
- Steve Brandau (District 2): district2@fresnocountyca.gov
- Sal Quintero (District 3): district3@fresnocountyca.gov
- Buddy Mendes (District 4): district4@fresnocountyca.gov
- Nathan Magsig (District 5): district5@fresnocountyca.gov

To participate in a postcarding campaign on the name change, e-mail renamesquawvalley@gmail.com.

The s-word is not found in any California tribal language and has no tribal origin west of the Mississippi River. It is a word created by White settlers for indigenous women and has historically been used in a derogatory and sexually suggestive way, as an offensive racial and sexist slur.

In November 2021, the first Native American Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, formally declared the s-word to be a derogatory term and ordered a task force to find replacement names for all geographic sites on federal lands that use the word.

However, her orders will not affect non-federally-held lands and will not lead to the removal of the s-word from all place names in California. For this reason, Assembly Member James Ramos (D-San Bernardino) has introduced AB 2022 to remove the s-word from all geographic features and place names in the state.

Local governing bodies will be required to identify each place and in formal consultation with tribes and input from local residents will propose a replacement name. The state will reimburse local governments for the cost of those name changes.

The legislation is modeled after laws and resolutions passed in South Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Maine, Minnesota and Montana. At this point, AB 2022 has passed unanimously in committee and is headed to the Assembly floor.

The ship has sailed, and it's time for the residents of S-Valley in Fresno County to embrace a replacement name. Consultation with local indigenous leaders has produced a consensus on a new name, Yokuts Valley. This name honors the legacy and continuing presence and culture of local indigenous groups.

At the same time, Fresno County's Board of Supervisors, the local governing body for S-Valley, has opposed sponsoring a public meeting to discuss the name change (except for Supervisor Sal Quintero). Supervisor Nathan Magsig, who represents S-Valley, has been particularly hostile to the name change and appears in his video updates to constituents with a prominent "Apache" team insignia behind his head.

Linda Tubach is a high school teacher and resident of S-Valley. Contact her at ltubach.cbep@project@yahoo.com.

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On Ukraine, World Majority Sides with Russia over the United States

Continued from page 10

Is the world's second most important political relationship, that between India and China, about to take a more peaceful direction? What's the world's first most important relationship?

India is but one example of the shift in power. Out of 195 countries, only 30 have honored the U.S. sanctions on Russia. That means about 165 countries in the world have refused to join the sanctions. Those countries represent by far the majority of the world's population. Most of Africa, Latin America (including Mexico and Brazil) and East Asia (excepting Japan and South Korea, both occupied by U.S. troops and hence not sovereign; Singapore; and Taiwan) have refused. (India and China alone represent 35% of humanity.)

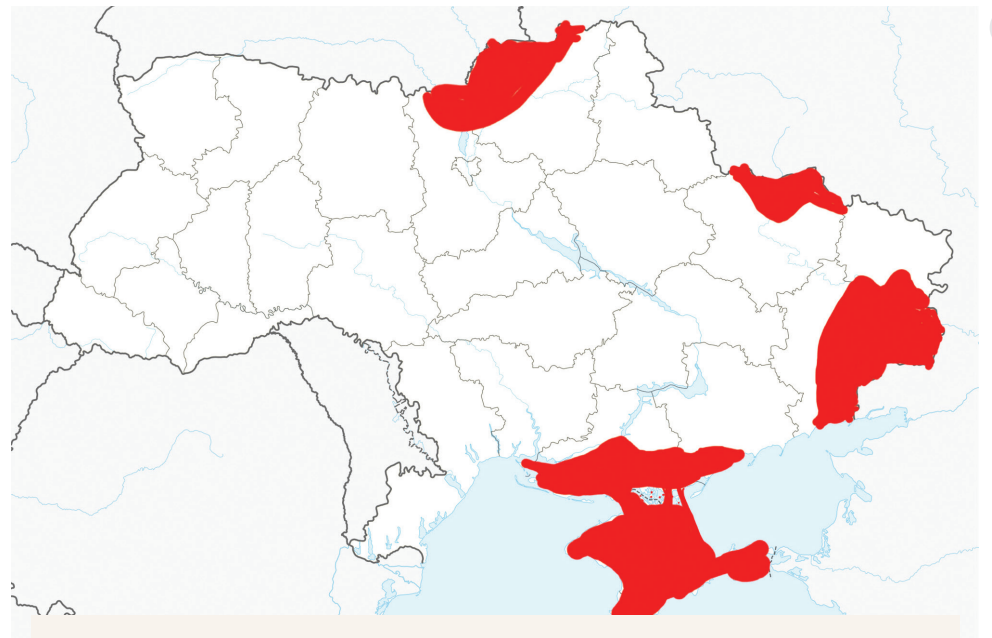
Add to that the fact that 40 different countries are now the targets of U.S. sanctions, and there is a powerful constituency to oppose the thuggish economic tactics of the United States.

Finally, at the recent G-20 Summit a walkout led by the United States when the Russia delegate spoke was joined by the representatives of only three other G-20 countries, with 80% of these leading financial nations refusing to join. Similarly, a U.S. attempt to bar a Russian delegate from a G-20 meeting later in the year in Bali was rebuffed by Indonesia, which currently holds the G-20 presidency.

Nations Taking Russia's Side No Longer Poor as in Cold War 1.0

These dissenting countries of the Global South are no longer as poor as they were during the Cold War. Of the top 10 countries in PPP-GDP, five do not support the sanctions. These include China (No. 1) and India (No. 3). So the first and third most powerful economies stand against the United States on this matter. (Russia is No. 6 on that list, about equal to Germany, No. 5, the two being close to equal, belying the idea that Russia's economy is negligible.)

These stands are vastly more significant than any UN vote. Such votes can be coerced by a great power, and little attention is paid to them in the world. But the economic interests of a nation and its view of the main danger in the world are important determinants of how it reacts economically, for example, to sanctions. A "no" to U.S. sanctions is putting one's money where one's mouth is.



This map shows the areas of Ukraine occupied by Russia. Courtesy of The Commons

We in the West hear that Russia is "isolated in the world" as a result of the crisis in Ukraine. If one is speaking about the Eurovassal states and the Anglosphere, that is true. But considering humanity as a whole and among the rising economies of the world, it is the United States that stands isolated.

And even in Europe, cracks are emerging. Hungary and Serbia have not joined the sanctions regime and, of course, most European countries will not and indeed cannot turn away from Russian energy imports crucial to their economies. It appears that the grand scheme of U.S. global hegemony to be brought about by the United States move to WWII Redux, both cold and hot, has hit a mighty snag.

For those who look forward to a multipolar world, this is a welcome turn of events emerging out of the cruel tragedy of the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine. The possibility of a saner, more prosperous multipolar world lies ahead—if we can get there.

John V. Walsh, until recently a professor of physiology and neuroscience at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, has written on issues of peace and healthcare for the Asia Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, the EastBayTimes/San Jose Mercury News, the LA Progressive, Antiwar.com, CounterPunch and others. Contact him at john.endwar@gmail.com.

Fresno Starbucks Store to Unionize

By Community Alliance Staff

On May 12, Starbucks workers and their supporters conducted a brief rally in front of the store at Marks and Herndon avenues explaining their desire to unionize. That

day, workers announced their intention to Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz.

Workers mentioned assaults by customers, understaffing and other issues as the basis for the unionizing efforts, joining a nationwide movement.

Understaffing means that each worker has to work harder without proper compensation.

In 2021, the first Starbucks store unionized. After that, many others followed. Two stores from Santa Cruz were the first in California. Currently, more than 170 stores in about 30 states are planning a vote to unionize.

It is particularly difficult to unionize in the food service industry, in part due to the high rate of turnover and an easily replaceable workforce, which allows corporations to fire those leading unionizing efforts.

No date has been established yet for the Fresno election.

During the rally, representatives of the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council and United Students Against Sweatshops were present.

Workers expressed enthusiasm about having better working conditions and better salaries as a result of joining a union.



Monica Duarte, a member of SEIU 1015, shows her support of Starbucks workers. Photo courtesy of Chris Schneider

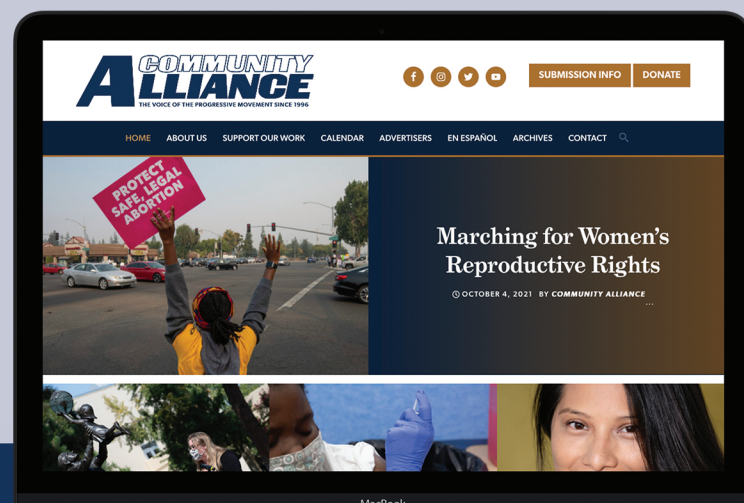


Several activists attended a rally in front of the Starbucks store located at Marks and Herndon avenues in Fresno. Photo courtesy of Chris Schneider

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

All of our content is available online for you to read

<https://fresnoalliance.com/>



As Cuba Moves Forward, the United States Moves Backward

By Leni Villagomez Reeves

In the United States, attacks on reproductive rights and freedoms and other aspects of healthcare for women are increasing sharply, and the courts, which for a brief period provided some protection for these rights, are showing indications that this protection will cease.

These attacks on the rights of women are accompanied by attacks on the rights of all others who are not White heterosexual men. This coordinated wave of attacks, which includes challenging voting rights and the accurate teaching of history and current events in schools, is particularly focused on that most vulnerable segment of society—transgender youth.

What are some of the other implications of the concept that “unenumerated rights” to privacy or autonomy in general have no constitutional grounding?”

This is the beginning. If the rule of law is going to be that we have only those constitutional rights formulated and specifically enumerated by White men in the late 18th century, then the rights to access contraception and to same-sex marriage will also be lost.

As voting rights continue to be lost through voting restrictions and gerrymandering, policies supported by a powerful minority who are anti-woman, anti-BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) and bizarrely hostile to homosexual, trans and non-binary people will be enforced.

These policies, including those that force people to remain pregnant and give birth against their will, are cruel and immoral. Their impact will fall disproportionately on poor people and people of color. These same ultra-right-wing forces that oppose reproductive rights also oppose funding for prenatal care or healthcare of any kind, parental leave and childcare.

Anti-abortion policies harm women, children and families of all races and

ethnicities, but Black women and children will be most harmed.

Nationwide, Black women are more likely to have high maternal mortality—to die as a result of pregnancy and childbirth—and Black babies are more likely to die before their first birthdays. This is the result of poverty; lack of healthcare, especially inadequate prenatal care; and lack of access to birth control.

Black women are also more likely to need abortions. If there were really a pro-life movement, rather than a movement to control and subjugate women, then their focus would be on better care for women and children, and for people in general.

The states that already have laws in place to deny women autonomy over their own bodies as soon as the Supreme Court permits them to do so are Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Texas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio and South Carolina.

These are states in which the health indicators for all people are worse than the national average, but the disparity is even worse for Black people in these states. It is also worse for Mexican American/Chicana women, who also have less access to healthcare and more need to seek abortion compared to the White population.

What We Want

People in the United States and globally are striving for alternatives to violence, the end of poverty and discrimination, and an emphasis on human development that includes the rights to healthcare, housing, education and reproductive freedoms that provide the material conditions for full social, cultural and political participation for all.

We want not only access to contraception and full reproductive healthcare, including abortion, but also the ability to have children and to parent and care for them in an environment free from violence, including state and police violence, in communities that support healthy families of all kinds.

Contrasts: Cuba and the United States

Abortion. Cuba legalized abortion in 1965. When you read about this, the usual phrasing is that “Cuba was the first country in Latin America and the Caribbean to legalize abortion.” True, but that understates the truth. Cuba legalized abortion eight years before *Roe v. Wade* in the United States in 1973. It was 23 years before Canada’s equivalent Supreme Court decision.



Women in the United States are concerned about losing their reproductive rights at the hands of the White male conservative dominant Supreme Court. Photo by Leni Villagomez Reeves

Cuba was the first country in the western hemisphere to allow women control over their own bodies. It wasn’t even close.

Within the Cuban free universally accessible community-based healthcare system, termination of pregnancy is a medical procedure available to women without restriction.

Birth. Women who choose to have children are supported by this system with excellent prenatal care and community support that have reduced Cuba’s infant mortality rates below those of the United States. The difference is even more marked for Black infants; according to maternal and child health expert Kathryn Hall-Trujillo, Cuba is the best place on the planet for a Black infant to be born.

Parental leave. Parental leave rights are also guaranteed. Cuba meets the UNICEF standards for parental leave, the only country in Latin America to do so. The United States does not meet these standards.

Protection against discrimination. In 1979, the UN General Assembly approved the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Cuba immediately ratified it. Although President Jimmy Carter signed for the United States in 1980, the United States has never ratified the CEDAW.

Even prior to this, all discrimination against women had been outlawed by the Cuban Constitution. These protections have only been strengthened and increased in subsequent Cuban constitutions, most recently in 2019. The Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has never been adopted, as state-by-state

ratification was required with a deadline.

The legal system. Cuba is now creating a revised legal code that includes the protection of the right of all people to form a family without discrimination; updates the legal definition of *family institutions* with inclusive rather than strictly heteronormative models; establishes the right to a family life free from violence; treats children as the responsibility of their parents rather than as possessions; and centers the values of love, affection, solidarity and responsibility.

In the United States, our rights are under attack by a Supreme Court with a large number of right-wing justices appointed by right-wing presidents who were “elected” by the Electoral College after losing the popular vote.

Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett are Trump appointees. Samuel Alito and John Roberts were appointed by George W. Bush, also a popular vote loser, who was “appointed” by the Supreme Court, which refused to count the Florida votes.

It has long been evident that the right-wing strategy has nothing to do with democracy or majority rule, as they focus not on winning votes but on disenfranchising those who will vote against them. Their focus has been on power, not democracy, and it has been successful.

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

International Workers Day Celebrated in Fresno

By Mike Rhodes

May Day was celebrated in downtown Fresno on May 1. The theme was immigration reform, and about 300 people enjoyed the march, music and camaraderie with family and fellow workers.

International Workers Day is a celebration of the working class, and marches are held in cities throughout the world. Achievements such as the eight-hour workday, the end of child



A clarinetist plays during the May Day march. Photo by Peter Maiden

labor, the ongoing effort for every worker to earn a living wage and immigrant rights are featured.

The march went through downtown Fresno stopping briefly at the Fresno County Jail, where Gloria Hernandez spoke about the injustice of the criminal justice system.

In solidarity with the thousands of poor and working people incarcerated in the jail, marchers continued through Fresno and stopped again at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility. Speakers denounced the separation of families and the importance of immigrant rights.

Chanting “the people united will never be defeated” (in Spanish) the marchers returned to Fresno City Hall where they had begun.

This event was organized by the May 1 Coalition. Groups at the march included the United Farm Workers (UFW); the Dolores Huerta Foundation; the Service Employees International Union (SEIU); the Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN); We Are Home Action; Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB); and Reedley Social Services Inc.

Mike Rhodes is the executive director of the Community Alliance newspaper and has attended most of the annual May Day celebrations in Fresno.



May Day marchers on Fresno Street. Photo by Peter Maiden

Some Thoughts on the Abortion Issue

By Norman Lambert

Basically, abortion or anti-abortion is a religious concept. Many anti-abortionists claim that a soul is present immediately upon conception. Many of those who favor abortion do not believe that there is such a thing as a soul.

Scientists in the past even went so far as to weigh people before and after death to see if the soul was physically present. They thought that there would be a measurable loss of weight after death. There wasn't. This, of course, is extreme.

Trying to prove that souls exist or do not exist is impossible. That argument cannot be won or lost. Therefore, having an abortion is considered murder by many Christians, whereas it is meaningless for many abortion supporters.

That means that abortion cannot be made legal or illegal because there is no factual evidence as to whether the soul exists. No law should be made on an issue for which there is no concrete evidence that could be supported in court.

Our laws are supposed to be enacted to cover acts that can be seen, touched and measured. There is nothing measurable about a soul.

Court proceedings depend on evidence of some kind, not something that can't be seen, touched or measured. That means that abortion is okay if you believe it is okay, and it is not okay if you believe it is not okay.

What this should mean is that whether abortion is right or wrong is up to the individual and therefore cannot be the subject of a law. The U.S. Constitution specifically says that the government cannot rule on religious issues, as that is the government endorsing one religion over another religion or those with no religion at all. That is the separation of church and state, which was a big issue for the writers of the Constitution.

We know a murder has been committed because a human being's life is taken. It is measurable because a person was alive until murdered and after the murder, that person is no longer alive. The person is dead. How was a soul murdered when we cannot see or touch the soul to know if it was even there?

Delving into whether abortion is morally objectionable brings up another moral issue. Is it morally acceptable to

deny an abortion to a woman who does not want the baby? What are the consequences to the baby, the family, the community and society?

Forty-five percent of pregnancies in the United States are "unintended." Of those, 27% are unwanted at the time (mistimed), and the remaining 18% are unwanted at any time.

How many are unloved? Child psychology research literature is clear. Statistically, the fate of children raised unloved is a disaster for the babies. Statistics show that in poor families the financial burden of an unwanted additional baby can cause havoc with the family, resulting in malnutrition, inadequate clothing, family breakup and even homelessness.

Seventy-two percent of those seeking an abortion are poor single adult mothers, and 40% of them fall below the poverty line. A large minority of unwanted babies remains unloved. Raised by uncaring adults, abused, shifted from one family to another, enormous suffering and harm are done to those children.

In Fresno, there are regular stories in the news about children being murdered by their mother, their mother's boyfriend or the child's father. What is the difference between being born unwanted and ending up dead in a few years and the painless abortion preventing their being unwanted and abused to death?

The unloved, unwanted child who grows up after this takes that uncaring childhood to become unloving and uncaring teens and adults. All of society pays a price for the unwanted baby. How moral is that?

Now to the statement heard regularly, "God loves all babies just as he loves all adults." Now assuming that every human fertilized egg is immediately infused with a soul then what about the overwhelming number of natural abortions that occur?

Science says that up to 60% of all impregnated eggs are aborted naturally and the woman never even knows that she was briefly pregnant. If God loves all fetuses, then why does he kill off more than half of them? Why is it illegal for a pregnant woman and her doctor to perform an abortion but it's ok when God does it?

And if God loves us so much, why is it he approves of or calls for the murder of so many human beings? How can we view the God of Christians and Jews as a gentle, loving, caring father when in the Bible he shows himself to be a bloodthirsty tyrant, as described in Numbers 25:8-13, Numbers 31:13-18, Kings 8:6-10, Deuteronomy 13:6-10 and Exodus 22:28-30.



Forty-five percent of pregnancies in the United States are "unintended." Of those, 27% are unwanted at the time, and the remaining 18% are unwanted at any time.
Photo courtesy of The Commons

Moreover, there is not one word against abortion in either the New Testament or the Old Testament even though hundreds of things are prohibited in the Bible under the penalty of death.

Why in Exodus 21:22-25 is the miscarriage caused by an attacker not treated as murder? And how do we explain Hosea 9:14, in which the prophet asks the Lord to punish the wayward people of Israel by giving their women "a miscarrying womb and dry breasts." Or the fetuses that perished in Hosea 13:16 when "their little ones shall be dashed to pieces, and their pregnant women shall be ripped open."

Where in the Bible does it say one becomes a sacred, soul-bearing human at conception? Nowhere. The Bible consistently associates the arrival of spirituality, of the soul, with one's first breath (at birth).

And, if we are to be persuaded that the New Testament revoked all those horrible backward codes of the Old Testament, why does the New Testament and Christ himself maintain silence on abortion?

Norman Lambert is a native Californian, a former small business owner, a writer, a Democratic Socialist and a secular humanist. He participated in antiwar activities, the farmworker movement, boycotts and picketing. He is accustomed to being on the losing side a lot.



Mural Unveiled at Jaswant Singh Khalra Park in Fresno

By Peter Maiden

In the photo to the left, a Sikh man captures a mural being unveiled at Jaswant Singh Khalra Park in West Fresno on May 22. The cost of the mural was covered by the James Irvine Foundation as part of an award package for Naindeep Singh for the work he has done with the Jakara Movement.

The Movement has supported Sikh families through the Covid-19 pandemic and addresses their economic, educational and cultural issues. Singh was one of seven Californians given the Irvine Leadership Award, which includes a \$250,000 prize.

Sixteen figures in human rights activism from around the world are included in the mural: (from left to right) Russian Natalia Estemirova, Kashmiri Jalil Andrabi, Mexican Benito Juarez, Turkish-Armenian Hrant Dink, Mexican Digna Ochoa, Honduran Berta Cáceres, South African Steven Biko, Punjab Sikh Jaswant Singh Khalra (for whom the park is named), Brazilian Marielle Franco, American Viola Gregg Liuzzo, American Fred Hampton, Hmong Touby Lyfoung, American Harvey Milk, Salvadoran Oscar Romero, Filipino Benigno Aquino, Jr., and Finn Jyri Antero Jaakkola.

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

Peace Fresno

After three months of war, the US has given \$53 billion to Ukraine. THIS IS INSANITY! A vote to give \$40 billion to Ukraine flew through the House of Representatives with a 368-57 vote. All 57 opposed to this extravagant expenditure were Republicans. This money will extend the length and intensity of the war and likely expand it geographically.

Propaganda abounds in the media and censorship of alternative views is underway.

Suggestions for reading, listening and viewing beyond mainstream media and even popular alternative media.

antiwar.com
raymcgovern.com
consortiumnews.com
registremblay.com
rt.com

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Richard's Soliloquy (Blank Verse Poem)

By Richard Iyall

Sometimes I feel I just cannot go on.
 I want to stop and let my spirit be.
 The forces in this world want more and more.
 They make demands upon my very soul.
 So, where's the freedom in this life of mine?
 I do my best, and yet, it's not enough.
 There's so much that I feel that I must do,
 I wonder if I'm going to make it through.

I get so stressed from centralized control that takes from life until there's nothing left. The government is, yes, the worst of all. They take and watch and listen to our words, recording everything we say and do. They strive to censor independent thought, then try to make us think they know what's best. Yet underneath it all they're nothing more than tyrants trying to win our hearts and minds. They use the media so well. They lead the masses with their empty promises, deceiving people with hypnotic ways. Their use of politics is shrewd. They clamp on weaknesses with laws that grab and claw at people like a giant steel trap. They pass more laws unread. As long as they enslave us more with their control they care not what the details are. They try to make us all forget the laws endowed to us by God. Our health care choices are

POETRY CORNER

for us to choose; not them. Intelligent Design is found in nature more than drugs. So, let the system fail, as it is flawed when sacred rights are swept aside. The end result is very bad, but worse for those who blindly trust their lies and follow them.

So, if I want to really find my peace,
 I'll have to find it looking from within.

Richard 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.scccd.edu.



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

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

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

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The Central California Progressive PAC Endorses These Candidates in the June 7 Primary Election

We want

- Social Justice
- A Living Wage
- An End to Homelessness
- Environmental Justice
- Police Accountability
- Immigrant Rights

If you share these core progressive values, join us as we vote for these candidates on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.



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 CANDIDATE FOR FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
www.electdarenmiller.com



JOSE RAMIREZ
 CANDIDATE FOR FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT 4
<https://ramirez4supervisor.com>



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<https://miguelariasforcouncil.com>



LUIS CHAVEZ
 INCUMBENT (RUNNING FOR REELECTION) FRESNO CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 5

Peace & Social Justice Calendar

June 2022

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

THU 02 **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.

SAT 04 **Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. Speaker: Rep. Jim Costa. For more info, contact 559-435-4043.

Pride Parade and Festival 10 a.m.; parade begins at Olive and Palm avenues, ends at Maroa Avenue; festival at Fresno City College. Theme: "In Pride" in honor of Jeffery Robinson. Festival tickets: \$5/person. For more info, e-mail bryancauwels@yahoo.com.

TUE 07 **National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)** 5:30 p.m. Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. Speaker: Dr. Kat Fobear. Topic: LGBTQ Housing Experiences and Barriers in Fresno. For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or joanne@pbyoga.com.

WED 08 **KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!*** 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show. For more info, visit www.kfcf.org.

THU 09 **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** 7 p.m. For more info, contact 559-360-8054 or taca_03@ymail.com.

SAT 11 **Fresno Center for Nonviolence 30th Anniversary** 2 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave. Guest speaker: Bill McKibben, an environmentalist, author and journalist. Also, Our Way of Peace Awards will be given. Admission: \$20; \$10 low income. For more info, contact 559-237-3223 or info@centerfornonviolence.org.

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

MON 13 **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, call 559-392-8718.

TUE 14 **Stonewall Democratic Club** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. 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.

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

WED 15 **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. Denny's Restaurant, 1110 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, call 559-312-3925.

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Speaker: Kirsten Andrews-Schwind. Topic: Community Choice Energy and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). CCAs are an effective policy tool for communities to reach their climate and economic goals. CCAs purchase clean energy and develop economic programs on behalf of their residents and businesses and reinvest revenues in the community. Visit sierraclub.org/tehipite to register.

THU 16 **Juneteenth Opening Ceremony** 4 p.m. African American Museum, 1857 Fulton St. For more info, visit fresnojuneteenth.com/.

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

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 17 **Juneteenth Dance Explosion** 4 p.m.–8 p.m. Fresno Fairgrounds, 1121 S. Chance Ave. For more info, visit fresnojuneteenth.com/.

SAT 18 **West Fresno Democratic Club** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-930-4909 or westfresnodemclub@gmail.com.

Juneteenth Jubilee Celebration Noon–7 p.m. Valdez Hall, Convention Center, 702 M St. Performances, vendors, music, dance, food and more. For more info, visit fresnojuneteenth.com/.

Juneteenth School Yard Rap Talent Show 6 p.m. Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. For more info, visit fresnojuneteenth.com/.

SUN 19 **Juneteenth Inspiration Jubilee** Noon–7 p.m. Valdez Hall, Convention Center, 702 M St. Pastor's Choice, Father's Day Honors, Buffalo Soldiers, African Fashion Show, Continental Choir, Purpose to Praise and Drum Show. For more info, visit fresnojuneteenth.com/.

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

MON 20 **Juneteenth Freedom 2.5 Run/Walk** 8 a.m. Dry Creek Park, 885 N. Clovis Ave., Clovis. For more info, visit fresnojuneteenth.com/.

Juneteenth City Hall Flag Raising Noon–2 p.m. City Hall, 2600 Fresno St. For more info, visit fresnojuneteenth.com/.

Juneteenth Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce 3 p.m.–7 p.m. Cultural Arts District Park, 1615 Fulton St. Final Celebration. For more info, visit fresnojuneteenth.com/.

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

TUE 21 **Central Valley Partnership** 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-967-1940 or agrariandemocracy@gmail.com.

MON 27 **Fresno County Democratic Women's Club** 11 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-960-2292 or ms.keshiathomasvp@gmail.com.

TUE 28 **California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)** 10 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 510-663-4086 or californiainalliance.org.

Submit upcoming community activities to calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

2022 Primary Election Endorsement Grid

	DEM	REP	Labor	Chamber	Green	Stonewall	CVPPAC
U.S. Senate	Padilla	—	Padilla	—	Parker	Padilla	—
Governor	Newsom	—	Newsom	—	Rodriguez	Newsom	—
Lt. Governor	Kounalakis	—	Kounalakis	—	Arif	Kounalakis	—
Secretary of State	Weber	—	Weber	—	Blenner	Weber	—
Attorney General	Bonta	—	Bonta	—	Kapelovitz	Bonta	—
Treasurer	Ma	—	Ma	—	Adams	Ma	—
Controller	Cohen	—	Cohen	—	Wells	Galperin	—
Insurance Commissioner	Lara	—	Lara	—	Hirzi	Lara	—
Supt. of Public Instruction	Thurmond	—	Thurmond	—	—	Thurmond	—
Board of Equalization	Murphy	Gaines	—	—	—	Murphy	—
Congressional District 5	Barkley	McClintock	Barkley	Magsig	—	—	—
Congressional District 13	Gray	Giglio	—	Gray	—	—	—
Congressional District 20	Wood	McCarthy	Wood	McCarthy	—	Wood	—
Congressional District 21	Costa	Maher	Costa	Costa	—	Costa	—
Congressional District 22	Salas	Valadao	Salas	—	—	—	—
State Senate District 4	Robertson	—	Robertson	—	—	—	—
State Senate District 12	Gundy	Grove	—	—	—	Gundy	—
State Senate District 14	Caballero	Shor	Caballero	—	—	Caballero	—
State Senate District 16	—	Shepard	—	—	—	—	—
State Assembly District 27	Soria	Fleming	Soria	Karbassi	—	Soria	—
State Assembly District 31	Arambula	—	Arambula	—	—	Arambula	—
State Assembly District 33	Sigala	Mathis	Sigala	—	—	—	—
State Assembly District 35	Perez	—	Perez	—	—	—	—
Fresno County Sheriff	—	—	Salazar	Zanoni	—	—	—
Superintendent of Schools	—	—	—	Cantwell*	—	—	Miller
Board of Supervisors District 4	Ramirez	Mendes	Ramirez	Mendes	—	Ramirez	Ramirez
Fresno City Council District 1	Perea	—	Perea	Perea	—	Perea	Perea
Fresno City Council District 3	Arias	—	Arias	—	—	Arias	Arias
Fresno City Council District 5	Chavez	—	Chavez	Chavez	—	Chavez	Chavez
Fresno City Council District 7	Esparza	—	Esparza	Esparza	—	Esparza	—

DEM: California Democratic Party; Fresno County Democratic Party

Labor: California Labor Federation; Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council

Green: Green Party of California

Stonewall: Fresno Stonewall Democrats

REP: California Republican Party; Fresno County Republican Party

Chamber: Fresno Chamber PAC

CVPPAC: Central Valley Progressive PAC

Note: As of April 16, 2022. A dash means that either the organization did not endorse in that race or that our capable staff could not track down the entity's endorsement.



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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

WILPF-Fresno Donates Jane Addams Peace Award Books

"The Jane Addams Children's Book Award annually recognizes children's books of literary and aesthetic excellence that effectively engage children in thinking about peace, social justice, global community and equity for all people. A national committee of members with passion for and expertise in children's literature and social justice is responsible for making the choices each year."

The Jane Addams children's book awards have been presented annually since 1953. The Library Committee of the Fresno Branch of WILPF has celebrated this annual literacy event by gifting several county libraries and schools with sets of the winning books as part of our commitment to building better communities.

This year's donation of the winners and honor awards of the Jane Addams Books for Children 2021 was presented to six Fresno County library branches and the library of Jane Addams Elementary School in the Fresno Unified School District.

Cheryl Caldera, chair of the Library Committee, and Sandra Iyall, past president of WILPF, presented the books



Thomas Wood (collection development librarian) with WILPF Library Committee representative Sandra Iyall and chair Cheryl Caldera. Photo by Cheryl Caldera

to Clarisa Bernabe, supervising librarian of Collection Development and Special Collections; Thomas Wood, collection development librarian, who is responsible for selecting books for children and teens; and library staff Dave Dhesi, Erwin Bantugan, Isariya Locke, Mike McDermott and Maurice Johnson at the Doris Gates

Children's Room at the Fresno County Library Central Branch.

After they are cataloged, the book sets will be received by six Fresno County branches: Sunnyside, Gillis, West Fresno, Betty Rodriguez, Mosqueda and the Central Branch.

The 2021 Jane Addams Children's Book Award winner for Older Children was *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat, and the award for Younger Children was presented to *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade.

To complete the donated sets, the Honor Books award winners were *Black Is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy and Ekua Holmes, *Ocean Speaks* by Jess Keating and Katie Hickey, *Land of the Cranes* by Aida Salazar and *Finish the Fight!* by Veronica Chambers.

WILPF-Fresno purchases the books from Petunia's Place with monies from donations and fundraising activities of the Fresno Branch of WILPF.

For more information about the Jane Addams Children's Book Award, resources and activities, visit www.janeaddamschildrensbookaward.org/book-award/.

To support this annual literary event, you may donate to Fresno WILPF, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

—Cheryl Caldera

WILPF Celebrates the Earth at San Joaquin River Gorge

WILPF's recent adventure to celebrate the Earth took place on April 7 with a journey to the San Joaquin River Gorge. There, we were met by Anita Lodge of Friends of the Gorge and Tracy Rowland, the newly retired manager of the San Joaquin Gorge, Bureau of Land Management.

They showed us around and told us all about the wildlife. There were many native spring species of wildflowers blooming. They explained the layout of the land, the river's course and Millerton Lake, the hydroelectric plant and underground tunnels conveying the water.

The area was beautiful with live oak and blue oak and many other native trees. All of it would have been lost had the Temperance Dam been built.

If the dam had been constructed, every tree would have been clear-cut from the hillsides—thousands of trees, feed and wildlife habitat destroyed, historical Indian sites lost and the completed basin would probably have remained dry and barren much of the time due to not enough rainfall and snowmelt to fill it with our unpredictable weather and changing climate patterns. Water is a finite resource; it does not grow with our dreams.

All in all, we had an enjoyable morning, a healthy walk and a great learning experience.

—Melissa Fry



Jean Hays looking out at the San Joaquin River Gorge. Photo by Melissa Fry

Support the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

Write or call (202-224-3121) your Congressional representative today!

With the Ukrainian War under way, now is the time to encourage and persuade our Congressional representatives to sign on to the Legislative Pledge drafted by ICAN (International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons) to show support for the signing of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which became international law in January 2021 and has already been signed by 89 nations and ratified by 60.

Let your representatives know that you are committed to a world without nuclear weapons and that you call upon the President to sign and the Senate to consent to ratify this treaty.

WILPF International is a founding member of ICAN.

For more information, visit <https://wilpfus.org/our-work/disarmend-wars> or www.icanw.org.



Photo by Chris Schneider

—Melissa Fry, chair, Disarm/EndWar Committee



The Raging Grannies show up to defend our rights.

Photo by Jim Curnyn Photography

WILPF MEETING

June 9, Thursday, 7 p.m. online. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number. For more information, contact Teresa at taca_03@gmail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

STIR IT UP-WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

June 22, 3 p.m. (fourth Wednesday of each month). Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

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

May 4, noon (first Wednesday of each month), Courthouse. Check first with Sue Kern at skern@netptc.net or 559-439-3777.

Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2022

June 2022

Happy 30th. We are still standing
 We're still standing, Yeah, yeah, yeah.
 We're still standing, Yeah, yeah, yeah.
 – Elton John.



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 - email: info@centerfornonviolence.org
 - (559)237-3223. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FresnoCenterforNonviolence/>

Award-winning author,
 activist, educator,
 Bill McKibben
 to speak at the Unitarian
 Universalist Church in
 Fresno on Saturday,
 June 11th from 2-4pm.

AT THE DOOR.

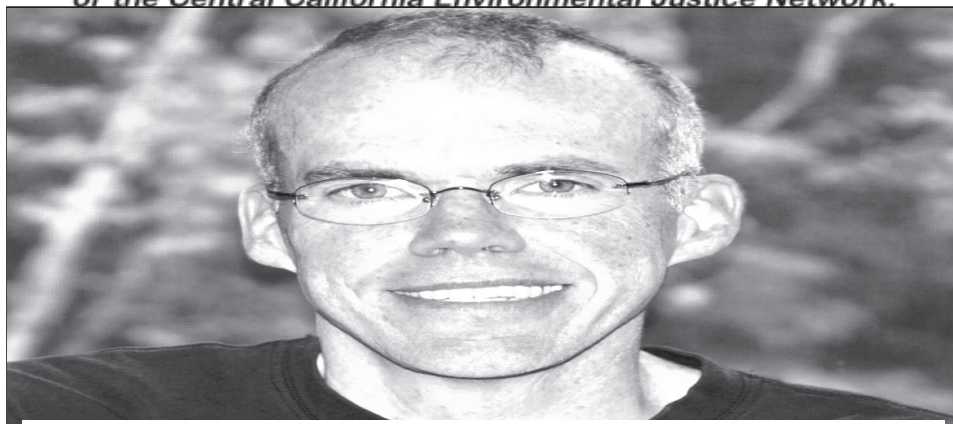
Entrance fee \$20,
 \$10 low income.

Seating is limited so please
 get here early to get good
 seats.

Parking is available

COVID Vaccinated Only

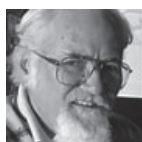
Bill McKibben speaker for FCNV 30th Anniversary
 Special Introduction by Nayamin Martinez: Executive Director
 of the Central California Environmental Justice Network.



Co- sponsored by
 Earth Day Fresno,
 Climate Citizen Lobby and
 the Women's League of
 Peace and Freedom
 His latest book will be
 available for sale.

THE FLAG,
 A Graying American Looks Back
THE CROSS, and the
 at his Suburban Boyhood and
STATION WAGON
 Wonders What the Hell Happened
BILL McKIBBEN

Our Way of Peace Award Recipients, Adults:



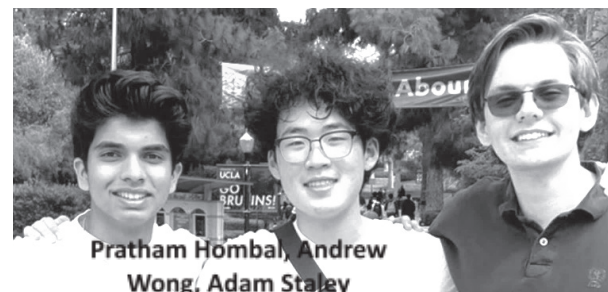
Ron Martin: Born an anti-war activist, Conscientious Objector to the Vietnam War, strong advocate for nature, environmental ethics, and philosophy Ron leads our list of Way of Peace Awardees. This former librarian is a member of the local Sierra Club, founder, and President of "Fresnans Against Fracking," fighting for our life as well as his. We are honored to present him with this award.



Ann Carruthers: She retired from teaching in Bay Area and moved to Fresno in 2006 where she became a longtime activist for Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) 2019 Ann helped establish & became Chair of WILPF Fresno Library Committee. She expanded annual gifts of sets of Jane Addams Peace Association books to four County libraries. (Downtown, Gillis, West Fresno, Betty Rodriguez) She would eventually establish a library of 800 books for after-school program. Over the years, we probably visited the Center a dozen times, becoming involved in their activities such as Fiesta Day.

Youth Award -Pratham Hombal - an incoming freshman at Stanford University. He is the co-founder and Executive Director at The Ecolibrium Project. He co-leads the Youth Action Team at the Citizens' Climate Lobby and serves as a representative on the National Youth Action Team where he has helped organize lobbying projects and speak to local officials regarding climate change. Pratham has been awarded the Yale Bassett Award Honorable Mention, Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and the General Motors and Ashoka STEM for Changemaking Award.

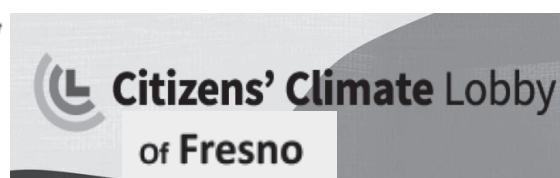
Andrew Wong - a senior at Buchanan High school and is a cofounder of the Ecolibrium Project where he has helped coordinate events and donation drives. He co-leads the CCL youth action team where he has worked to lobby Congressional members staff about a carbon fee and dividend. Andrew also attended the Fresno County Leadership Summit organized by the Civic Education Center is fervent about environmental issues and is working towards a career in business and environmental science.



Pratham Hombal, Andrew Wong, Adam Staley

Adam Staley - a senior at Buchanan High school and is a cofounder of the Ecolibrium Project where he has helped connect with local environmental clubs and coordinate volunteering. He also attended the Fresno County Leadership Summit organized by the Civic Education Center. He is passionate about climate change but also hopes to pursue a career in finance. He hopes to continue his education by majoring in economics at UC Berkeley in the fall.

Organizational Award – The Climate Citizen Lobby is one of the leading groups in the Central Valley fighting for action on climate change. They are busy promoting public events and raising community awareness about the existential crisis we are facing because of Earth's rapidly changing climate. The focus of CCL in recent years has been on a bipartisan proposal for a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend, which they believe would effectively address carbon emissions without relying on a complex regulatory approach. Disastrous changes in the earth's climate are happening now at an accelerating pace. Since 2014 local CCL members have had 225 letters to the editor published in The Fresno Bee. They frequently contact our elected leaders, promoting their message that we must act now.



KFCF 88.1 FM

Stir it, UP!

Wednesday June 9th at 3 pm



Our June radio show will be hosted by Josh Shurley whose guest will be Ron Martin, Ann Caruthers, and other Way of Peace Awards recipients. For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at www.centerfornonviolence.org

In May, our radio show will be hosted by Joshua Shurley with his guest Nayamin Martinez of the Central California Environmental Justice Network. To hear it again:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-32180140/051122-fcnv-stir-it-up>.

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- economic development



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**MARCH/
RALLY
AGAINST
GUN
VIOLENCE
IN FRESNO**

JUNE 11

**LOCATION
AND TIME
TBD**

HOWARD'S HOPEFULS

Here are my June 7, 2022 primary election voting recommendations. Most are clear choices, some are close calls. I hope you find this list helpful. However you choose to vote, PLEASE VOTE! Thank you.

Howard K. Watkins

FEDERAL

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| U.S. Senate (2x) | Padilla |
| Congress #5 | Barkley |
| Congress #13 | Arballo |
| Congress #20 | Wood |
| Congress #21 | Costa |
| Congress #22 | Hubbard |

STATE

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Governor | Newsom |
| Lieutenant Governor | Kounalakis |
| Secretary of State | Weber |
| State Controller | Cohen |
| State Treasurer | Ma |
| Attorney General | Bonta |
| St. Ins. Commissioner | Lara |
| St. Supt. Pub. Instr. | Thurmond |
| St. Bd. Of Equal. #1 | Murphy |
| St. Senate #12 | Gundy |
| St. Senate #14 | Caballero |
| St. Senate #16 | Hurtado |
| St. Assembly #27 | Soria |
| St. Assembly #31 | Arambula |
| St. Assembly #35 | Sigala |

FRESNO COUNTY

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Supt. Pub. Instr. | Copher |
| Assessor/Recorder | Dictos |
| Aud. Controller/Treas. | Garcia |
| County Clerk | Kus |
| District Attorney | Smittcamp |
| Sheriff | Salazar |
| Bd. of Supes. #1 | Pacheco |
| Bd. of Supes. #4 | Ramirez |

CITY OF FRESNO

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| City Council #1 | Perea |
| City Council #3 | Arias |
| City Council #5 | Chavez |
| City Council #7 | Esparza |

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Integrity

By Ruth Gadebusch

Integrity! What a beautiful word. Not the word. Its meaning.

Random House Dictionary: "soundness and adherence to moral principle and character: uprightness: honesty." I believe without integrity all else is compromised.

Citizens have watched with increasing fear the many breaches of integrity in our government, but never was such expected from the Supreme Court. Undiluted discussion can develop thoughtful modifications necessary if the court is to discern the exact meaning of the law.

Secret sessions hiding egregious action are never acceptable, but there are appropriate occasions including court deliberation. Remember in World War II the admonition "loose lips sink ships"?

It is common for those "unauthorized to speak" to leak information that they think makes them important but is more likely to cause some sort of damage to a strategy designed to protect the nation from danger. We have communication technology that sends misinformation, be it by design or accident, to reach a massive audience increasing the harm. It would appear this leak from the court was purely an unacceptable action meant for political influence.

When I was a naval officer working in cryptography, it was ingrained in us that we did not even indicate we had knowledge of important matters that some enemy might find valuable because such knowledge made us vulnerable to blackmail. I have often wondered just what I would do with classified information on action that I deemed seriously detrimental to the principles of our nation.

How and why do we decide just what "the public need to know" is? How do we justify revealing secrets, and are we willing to pay the price of disclosure? Does one person have the right to overrule the wisdom of the group? What is the role of a journalist?

In recent years, we have had many serious breaches of integrity in our government with many having thought that we had

reached about as far as we could go with the Jan. 6 Insurrection. Unfortunately, it has now come from the Supreme Court with an unprecedented leaked draft decision. It matters not that it regards an extremely controversial decision. It is wrong in any case.

Actually, it should not be surprising as we have watched the process of selecting and confirming the justices deteriorate into a pure power play on the part of one political party. That is not to say that the Democrats are pure, but relatively speaking they can't hold a candle to the Republican Party's breach of ethics—a total void of integrity. In fact, the Republican Party has departed so far from any honorable principles that it needs to change its name to the Trumpian Choir.

The party has not even had the grace to soften its practices. It has blatantly expressed its intent to seize power no matter what it takes, for example, moving into high gear with the refusal to confirm Barack Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland just a few months before the end of the presidential term. They held no such "principle" for Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett upon the death of Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Trump's nominees seemingly were chosen for almost guaranteed support of conservative beliefs rather than for any judicial temperament or knowledge.

To give the devil his due, it must be noted that they have an excellent talent for parsing their words in answering questions in the confirmation process.

Then there was a previous nominee who when accused of rape proclaimed that he had been pure all his life and that the heretofore woman in question was a liar. Had he admitted that he did things in a wild youth, even though not an excuse, and that he would not do so now would he have been more believable?

Humans are expected to grow and mature as they age and, most especially, we would hope that our court justices will do so. Confirmed nevertheless, he now sits on the court expressing in his votes just what his conservative history predicted. Few would see it as an impartial interpretation of the law.

We have another justice confirmed under questionable circumstances whose wife is receiving payment for publicly advocating on issues before the court. He does not excuse himself in these cases. If that isn't a lack of integrity I don't know what is. When one serves in public office, there are responsibilities that fall on the person and the family requiring some restraint.

The chief justice, while not the purest candidate ever confirmed to the court, has on several occasions attempted to keep or restore the court to a position of respect. He has vowed to find and prosecute the villain who set this latest brouhaha into motion.

Be it the lowest clerk or a supposedly honorable justice, it was wrong to leak the incomplete document. Nor do I consider this a legitimate role of the press to expose an incomplete document with such political implications. I think it portends a wrong decision, but the justices were correct in using the prescribed process in deliberations. There is a time for the press to use restraint also.

In my opinion, the majority on this court needed no help from the press to sink to politics of the worst sort.

This nation has been the light of the world. Even with its weaknesses, it has been the best but is not free of tarnish. These two events, the January Insurrection and this court leak, are so egregious that we simply must not let them slip by.

Yes, I know there are different views on just what constitutes failure but neither of these leaves much room for imagination. Having served in public office, I asked that my fellow/sister citizens question my judgment but not my motive, not my integrity.

I appreciate that many refused to believe that my values prevailed. I recognize I was sometimes inarticulate in my statements, that others' suspicions had more audience opportunity, that cynicism prevailed in the audience, but the Jan. 6 event and the recent court leak have no room for excuses. The attack on the Capitol and the leak are raw actions apparent as anything but integrity.

We often fail to credit the majority serving with honor. As we go to the polls this season, let us carefully evaluate with reliable information, not the hoopla of the opposition. We will make some mistakes,

ONE WOMAN'S VIEW



but more will be right than wrong if we do not play to the lowest common denominator.

My motto was and is: It does no good to be there if you don't do the right thing.

There is a big world out there crying for integrity for the good of all. It is still invaluable. Absolutely nowhere is it expected and needed more than on our Supreme Court, a once venerated body. Its decisions are the final word. It sets the tone for our lives for years to come.

Regardless of our hopes and desires for the decision in regard to this leak, we should be concerned. Such breaches are damaging enough in other government agencies but totally intolerable from the court. We cannot vote for the justices, but we do vote for those who decide the composition of the U.S. Supreme Court. Use that vote well and integrity will be served.

Ruth Gadebusch, a former naval officer, has long been a community activist serving in elected and appointed political office as well as volunteer community groups.

Fresno Fuego Is Back!

By Peter Maiden

The Central Valley's new United Soccer League (USL) team, Fuego FC, played its first home game on May 7 against Greenville Triumph SC, tying 1-1. Fuego FC steps into the space left by the Fresno Foxes, which played at Chukchansi Park in 2018 and 2019.

The Foxes moved to Monterey, where they are competing in the USL as Monterey Bay FC. The Fuego, however, acquired two of the Foxes' stars, Christian Chaney and Renato Bustamante. Fuego FC's games are being played at Fresno State's soccer field.

In the photo, Greenville's Jimmy Filerman prepares for a throw-in in the second half of the May 7 game. Fuego FC's Cherif Dieye (center) and Nathan Smith (left) await the ball, along with Greenville's Allen Gavilanes (right).

The Fuego will be playing the following home games in June: June 11 versus the Chattanooga Red Wolves, June 18 versus FC Tucson and June 25 versus North Carolina FC.

For more information, visit www.cvfuego.com.

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

Photo by Peter Maiden



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Roberto De La Cruz Showed Workers How to Change Their Lives

Courtesy of the United Farm Workers

It was with profound sorrow that the farmworker movement learned of the sudden passing of lifetime farmworker and union activist Roberto “Bobby” De La Cruz.

His mother, Jessie De La Cruz, was a pioneering United Farm Workers (UFW) organizer. De La Cruz as a teenager attended the founding convention of what became the UFW in Fresno in 1962. After returning from U.S. Navy service in Vietnam, he was trained by Cesar Chavez and Fred Ross and immersed himself in farmworker strikes, boycotts and legislative and political campaigns in the Central and Salinas valleys and in major cities throughout California.

De La Cruz labored as a wine grape worker under union contract at E&J Gallo Vineyards, serving as a union steward. In 1973, he joined thousands of heroic farmworkers protesting growers’ sweetheart contracts with the Teamsters Union, including at Gallo, by striking.

UFW boycotts produced the historic Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975. De La Cruz was in the midst of winning the law and participating in the first union elections under it. He nonviolently faced down Teamster goons, picket line violence and strikebreaking.

His exploits with the UFW took him to every part of the state, from the Mexican border to the state capital, where he was the union’s lobbyist in the 1980s. He negotiated and administered union contracts and directed UFW regional offices.

After leaving the UFW, De La Cruz enjoyed a long and highly successful career organizing workers with the Service Employees International Union.

Nonviolence demands creativity and innovation, De La Cruz observed, “using strikes and boycotts and a combination of all those things. And more important, building coalitions. You know, if anybody ever taught anything about organizing, it was Cesar. Cesar taught us how to build coalitions in this country.”



The casket of Bobby De La Cruz, draped with a United Farm Workers flag, is brought out of the church at the Newman Center in Fresno after the memorial service on May 19. Photo by Peter Maiden

De La Cruz dedicated a lifetime helping the poorest and most exploited workers in America fundamentally change their lives by showing them how to organize themselves and outthink and outwork their opposition.

A Day Without Childcare

By Eduardo Stanley

Hundreds of childcare providers around the state stopped working for a day as a protest to demand better working conditions and benefits. “A Day Without Childcare” occurred on May 9.

Several of these workers gathered in front of the State Building in downtown Fresno to express their concerns and to push state officials to take action on their behalf. They were supported by SEIU 521, parents, activists and political candidates.

“We want people’s support; basically we need a retirement plan and health insurance,” said Matilde Maravilla, a childcare provider from Madera.

“We deserve those benefits, and particularly these days, after the pandemic. I have colleagues who are sick but can’t afford healthcare.”

During the event, Fresno City Council Member Esmeralda Soria expressed solidarity with the workers. “I know that Governor Gavin Newsom supports these workers’ demands, but we need action.” Soria is now running for State Assembly District 27.

According to an SEIU statement, “The COVID pandemic reinforced the importance of childcare for our families and economy, but it also exacerbated a childcare crisis that has existed for decades. With thousands of childcare closures, infections and deaths amid this pandemic, we are facing the brunt of the crisis right now.”

Childcare providers work long hours, mostly at home, taking care of children whose parents can’t bring them to a daycare center because of the high cost.

“I start every day at 5 a.m., and I am done around 6:30 p.m.,” said Maravilla. “We provide breakfast, teach, play with them...Children require a lot of attention.”

Childcare providers are the only option for low-income families.

“Providers love what they do, but they need support,” said Phil Arballo, a candidate for the newly created Congressional District 13. “Many of them are leaving this profession because they get better-paid jobs somewhere else.”

Childcare providers expect Governor Newsom to fulfill his promise to help them.

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

What Is the Liberal Agenda?

By Dr. Malik Simba

When asked why the only Black conservative U.S senator voted not to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to sit on the Supreme Court, Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) said, “because she represents the liberal agenda.” This begs the question, “What is the liberal agenda?”

In a nutshell, the liberal agenda is the creation, development and refinement of the 1940s capitalist regulatory welfare state better known as the New Deal. It supported the working class via the new Social Security law and the right to unionize. Later was the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which led to Senator Scott’s successful career. The GOP attacked the New Deal as being socialist/communist.

Today’s liberal agenda had its antecedents in the northern wing of the Democratic Party pondering the lyrics of the party’s theme song at that time (1945), “The House I Live In, That’s America to Me.” This song has been made famous by the voices of Paul Robeson, Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond and Mahalia Jackson.

The northern wing of the Democratic Party embraced the rapidly racial demographic changes with the massive number of Puerto Ricans immigrating to New York City (think play/film *West Side Story*); the massive immigration of Mexicans into the southwest; the massive migration of Black West Indians to the northeast quadrant; and earlier the “Great Migration” of Black Americans from the Deep South to the urban cities of New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis and even Los Angeles. These social groups, as well as Big Labor, became the voting base of the post-World War II party.

The lyrics represent this development:

“What is America to me...A certain word ‘democracy’ ... the grocer and the butcher...The faces that I see... All races, all religions. That’s America to me. The place I work in, The workers by my side... The dream that’s been a-growing for one hundred and fifty years.”

The new Democratic Party not only embraced the changing multicultural America but also the class question

and how public policy should be used to protect and serve working-class women and men or, to cite the U.S. Constitution, “promote the general welfare.” This embrace attained its clearest expression when President Harry S. Truman supported the Democratic platform of 1948, “to secure these rights” for America’s racial minorities.

In response, the southern wing of the Democratic Party bolted and formed its own party, the Dixiecrats, which was a synonym for the Ku Klux Klan. Upon the collapse of this party, its members moved to the White supremacist party of George Wallace and his American Independent Party in 1968, and eventually to today’s conservative and right-wing Republican Party.

After witnessing Confederate flags hoisted in the Capitol by the 2021 insurrectionist mob, House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy said, in embracing this racist behavior, that his party is a “big tent” party and even the KKK of America is accepted within it.

There is a direct line from this history to what occurred on May 10 within Fresno-area high schools. Racist and dehumanizing images of Blacks were posted on social media by a few students at Bullard High School; as a result, in resistance and solidarity, more than 400 students from other schools such as Edison, Fresno High, Sunnyside and McLane, walked out in protest.

These horrific images were of slavery and racism within the Jim Crow era. Ironically, these images represent the thesis of the GOP-hated 1619 Project and critical race theory (CRT). One can legislate against the teaching of this pedagogy or ban or burn books with this literature in them, but all students know that with their personal computers, both the Project and CRT are merely a click away from their social consciousness.

The walkout is reminiscent of the counterculture generation of the 1960s, in which White and minority teenagers protested racism, poverty and war. Their adversaries were the youth appendage of the GOP, Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), who hated and fought against a changing America.

The YAF, in their confusion, embraced some facsimile of Wallace’s mantra, “Segregation today, segregation tomorrow and segregation forever!” In a twisted logic, this sentiment might have been what drove a few students to post racist images at Bullard High School.

Wallace’s comment on segregation was explained by his daughter, Peggy Wallace Kennedy, who was his presidential campaign manager, when she said, “My father ran a campaign based on the idea of ‘hate and fear.’” Kennedy said those words when asked about the similarities with her father’s presidential campaign of 1968 and Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign.

Trump began his August 2016 campaign on hate and fear when he referred to Mexicans as “drug dealers, criminals and rapists.” Like Wallace, if this was 1968, Trump would have referred those words toward African Americans. Similarly, hate and fear were the driving ideas of the big 2021 election lie by Trump, which led to the attack on the Capitol.

Unbeknownst to the Bullard students involved in posting hateful racist images on social media, their fear of being replaced by racial minorities in their worldview of “White over Black” and all others was the basis of their actions. It is also the great replacement theory believed by Payton S. Gendron, the murderer of multiple Black people in Buffalo in May.

This concept was first put forth by Madison Grant in his 1916 work, *The Passing of the Great Race*, meaning White northern and western Europeans, but the fear was driven by his references to Italians, Greeks, Jews and other Southern and Eastern Europeans. The term replacement has become a synonym for the term *passing*.

This fiction is realized in the fact that those immigrants did not replace anyone, just as today’s feared immigrants will also not replace anyone, whether they are at the southern border, the northern border or flying in from the Caribbean, Africa or Russia.

The racial attitudes of the Bullard students, who were disciplined, like those of many Whites in the Trump era, will also pass into the dustbin of history. The demographic changes will not be stopped by senseless violence. The continued “multicultural browning” of America viewers see in television commercials is where the market reaches out to new buyers of commodities. Just think of *American Bandstand* and how White kids in the counterculture generation embraced Chuck Berry’s 1955 hit, “Maybellene.”

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

Measure C

Fresno can do better.

Over the last 35 years, Fresno County taxpayers have contributed \$3 billion to Measure C, our half-cent transportation sales tax. Now, we're being asked to contribute **\$6 billion more** through the year 2057. And we could be asked to vote on a spending plan already developed by politicians and their staffers without real public discussion.

We must have a robust and equitable public participation process to discuss how best to invest in our future. Measure C expires in 2027. There is no need to rush it onto the November 2022 ballot. We need to take the needed time to properly plan and know where our money should go. Measure C renewal can wait until 2024. Let's take the next eighteen months to have a community-wide discussion on how to make sure we all have access to quality transportation options and build climate resiliency along the way to protect our children's futures.

Measure C promised us road repair, clean air, and smart growth —

But our streets have not been maintained, air pollution grows worse, and sprawl continues to run rampant.

Measure C has promoted sprawl —

Pushing some of us to the fringe and leaving others behind, while neglecting urgent transportation needs.

Measure C has left our neighborhoods behind —

In long established communities, our streets and roads are falling apart. Sidewalks, curbs and gutters, safe crosswalks, bus stops, paved roads, streets in good condition and infrastructure to support people with disabilities are nearly non-existent. And greenhouse gas emissions are rising.

Billions of taxpayer dollars and our climate future are at stake.

Fresno County residents deserve a transportation sales tax measure that invests in people, supports healthy and thriving neighborhoods, and connects households, especially low-income households across urban and rural communities, to opportunity:



Residents do not have reliable and frequent public transit to get to the doctor, pharmacy, job, school or the grocery store.



Taxpayer spending plans should be identified, led, and driven by community members. Too many of our communities have long been left out of the decision-making process and their expertise overlooked – especially low-income and communities of color.

More than 1 million people live in Fresno County, but:



More than 600,000 – most of them seniors, young people, and people with physical limitations - cannot drive or do not have access to a vehicle and are public transit-dependent.



Nearly 400,000 workers commute each day



Our existing public transportation system only meets the needs of **1%** of workers and students

We call on the Fresno Council of Governments and Fresno County Transportation Authority to work with a neutral facilitator and community to develop a plan for a 2024 measure. Let's meet communities where they are and eliminate barriers to participation, including time and location of meetings, language access, transportation, and childcare.

We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to plan for transportation systems that truly meet our needs. We deserve it. Let's chart our own path forward and build an inclusive, transparent and just process that results in a measure that we can all be proud of.

Fresno Alliance for Responsible Transportation Spending:



Guerra en Ucrania Aumenta la Amenaza de una Guerra Nuclear

Continúa de página 26

El “cortafuegos nuclear”, dice Klare, “se hace mucho más estrecho, para desaparecer cada vez más”.

Mientras tanto, los combates continúan en Ucrania, y los objetivos de guerra de Rusia siguen siendo imprecisos, desde lo que comenzó ostensiblemente como un esfuerzo por derrocar al actual gobierno del presidente ucraniano Volodymyr Zelensky, hasta las más recientes proclamaciones de tomar el control de las partes orientales y rusófilas del país.

Para Andrew Nynka, redactor jefe del periódico estadounidense Ukrainian Weekly, las amenazas nucleares de Putin forman parte de la guerra de información más amplia que se libra en torno a Ucrania. “Putin está utilizando la cuestión de la guerra nuclear para dividir a sus enemigos”, dice Nynka, añadiendo que sin esta amenaza la situación en Ucrania sería muy diferente. “Lo único que detiene la ayuda occidental es la amenaza de las armas nucleares”.

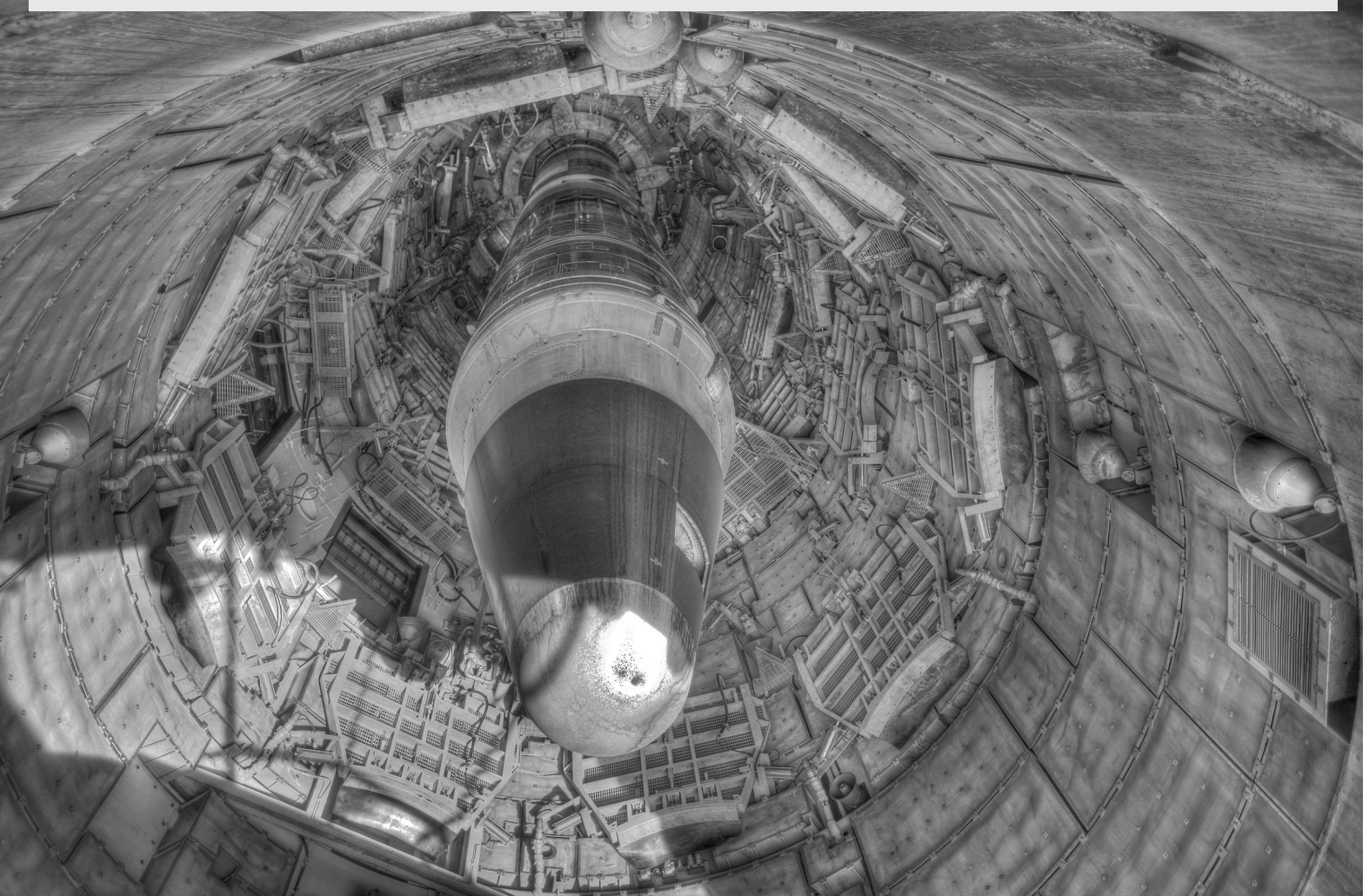
Pero incluso Nynka reconoce que meterse en la mente de Putin, un “maestro de la desinformación”, es una tarea de locos. Y esa incertidumbre ha definido gran parte de la estrategia rusa—o la aparente falta de ella—durante la guerra, según Gabriela Iveliz Rosa

Hernández, investigadora asociada de la Asociación para el Control de Armas. “Tiene objetivos amplios y poco claros... Rusia no está segura de lo que intenta hacer”.

Rosa Hernández señala que, sean cuales sean sus objetivos actuales, el uso de armas nucleares por parte de Rusia tiene la misma probabilidad de alejar esos objetivos, endureciendo la resistencia tanto en Ucrania como en la comunidad internacional. Lo que sugiere que los combates podrían continuar sin un final claro a la vista.

“No veo un alto al fuego a corto plazo”, dice Rosa. Tanto Kimball están de acuerdo en que la comunicación y en que la reducción de la retórica de la escalada son fundamentales y en que tanto Rusia como Estados Unidos deben volver a la mesa de desarme antes de que expire en 2026 el Nuevo Tratado START, que obligaba a ambas naciones a reducir sus arsenales nucleares. Pero con las tensiones en niveles históricos, la vuelta a esas conversaciones parece improbable, dice Kimball. En ese momento, advierte, estaremos “viviendo en un mundo sin restricciones con los mayores arsenales nucleares del mundo. Este es un mundo que no hemos visto”.

Peter Schurmann es reportero y estratega en comunicaciones de Ethic Media Services. Jenny Manrique es una periodista colombiana radicada en Estados Unidos. Ella trabajó para The Dallas Morning News y Univision, entre otros medios. Manrique escribió ampliamente sobre derechos humanos e inmigración. Recibió las becas Neuffer, de la IWMF (International Women's Media Foundation), Ochberg, de la Escuela Columbia de Periodismo, y la Beca de Periodismo de Salud de la USC.



La guerra en Ucrania está aumentando el riesgo de una guerra nuclear. En la imagen, un misil nuclear de EE.UU. en su silo. Foto cortesía de The Commons

Un Día Sin Ciudadado Infantil

Por Community Alliance

Cientos de ciudadadoras infantiles de California decidieron no trabajar por un día como una manera de protestar en demanda de mejores condiciones laborales y beneficios. El día se llamó “Un Día Sin Ciudadadoras Infantiles”, y ocurrió el lunes 9 de mayo.

Varias de estas trabajadoras se reunieron ese lunes frente al edificio estatal en el centro de Fresno, a fin de manifestar sus preocupaciones y presionar a las autoridades estatales para que por fin tomen acción en su favor. Ellas recibieron el apoyo de madres y padres, activistas, candidatos políticos y del sindicato SEIU-Local 521.

“Necesitamos el apoyo de la gente, básicamente necesitamos un plan de jubilación y seguro de salud”, dijo Matilde Maravilla, una ciudadadora de niños de Madera. “Merecemos esos beneficios, y especialmente en estos tiempos, después de la pandemia. Conozco colegas que están enfermas pero no pueden atenderse por falta de seguro de salud”.

Durante el evento frente al edificio estatal, la concejal de la ciudad de Fresno, Esmeralda Soria, expresó solidaridad con las trabajadoras. “Yo sé que el gobernador Gavin Newsom apoya las demandas de estas trabajadoras, pero necesita concretar”. Soria actualmente es candidata a la Asamblea Estatal por el distrito 27.

De acuerdo a una declaración del sindicato SEIU, “la pandemia del Covid 19 reforzó la importancia que tiene el cuidado infantil para nuestras familias y la economía, pero también exacerbó la crisis del cuidado infantil que existe desde hace décadas. Con el cierre de cientos de guarderías infantiles, infecciones y muertes por la pandemia, ahora estamos en la cima de esta crisis”.



La Concejal de Fresno, Esmeralda Soria, expresó la importancia del trabajo que realizan las cuidadoras de niños. Foto de Eduardo Stanley

Las cuidadoras infantiles—en su casi totalidad son mujeres—trabajan largas horas, casi siempre en sus casas, cuidando a niños que sus padres y madres no pueden llevar a una guardería debido a su alto costo. “Mi día laboral empieza a las 5 de la mañana y termina alrededor de las 6:30 de la tarde”, dice Maravilla. “Proveemos desayuno, enseñamos, jugamos con los niños... Ellos requieren mucha atención”. Las cuidadoras infantiles son la única opción para las familias de bajos ingresos.

“Las cuidadoras infantiles aman su trabajo, pero necesitan apoyo”, dijo Phil Arballo, candidato por el nuevo distrito electoral federal 13. “Muchas de ellas están dejando este trabajo porque consiguen empleos mejor pagados en otra parte”. Las cuidadoras infantiles confían en que el gobernador Gavin Newsom cumplirá su promesa de apoyarlas.

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EDITOR DE COPIA/GERENTE ADMINISTRATIVO
Michael D. Evans

FOTOGRAFÍA
Peter Malden

PUBLICIDAD
I. smiley G. Calderón
714-290-6651

DISTRIBUCIÓN
Peter Malden

DISEÑADORA
Ashley Cortes

CONSEJO SIN FINES DE LUCRO
Beverly Fitzpatrick
Bob McCloskey
Jim Mendez
Daren Miller
Socoro Santillan
Pam Whalen

DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO
Mike Rhodes

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

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; y un salario digno para todos los trabajadores. Buscamos exponer las injusticias sociales y políticas y vincular la diversa red de activistas que trabajan en nuestra comunidad.

Tiroteos Masivos En Escuelas: Los Republicanos No Hacen Nada

Por Amy Goodman y Denis Moynihan

“Juntos somos más fuertes” es el lema que se lee en una de las paredes exteriores de la escuela primaria Robb de la localidad de Uvalde, en el estado de Texas. La escuela es un centro educativo al que asisten alrededor de 600 estudiantes y cuenta con tres grados de educación primaria: segundo, tercero y cuarto. Más del 90% del estudiantado es latino. Este martes, 24 de mayo, 19 escolares de entre nueve y once años y dos de sus docentes fueron asesinados allí por un joven de 18 años armado con un rifle semiautomático AR-15. El atacante, identificado como Salvador Ramos, fue abatido en las instalaciones de la escuela por un agente de la Patrulla Fronteriza de Estados Unidos. En una conferencia de prensa que brindó el miércoles, el gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, un republicano que se ha opuesto de manera sistemática a las iniciativas para el control de armas, culpó de la atrozidad a la escasez de servicios de salud mental.

En conversación con Democracy Now!, Manny Oliver, cuyo hijo Joaquín fue asesinado en 2018 en la masacre ocurrida en una escuela secundaria de la ciudad de Parkland, en el estado de Florida, expresó: “Esto no se trata de [un problema de] salud mental, que es algo que sucede en todo el planeta. Se trata de armas y del fácil acceso a ellas”.

Beto O'Rourke—quien se enfrentará a Abbott en las próximas elecciones a gobernador—interrumpió la conferencia de prensa del gobernador republicano y lo increpó: “El momento de evitar el próximo tiroteo es ahora y usted no está haciendo nada. [...] Dijo que lo que ocurrió no era predecible. Pero era totalmente predecible”. Otras personas que se encontraban en el gobernador junto al gobernador comenzaron a insultar a O'Rourke y exigieron que se fuera, tras lo cual, la policía lo retiró de la sala.

Las acusaciones de O'Rourke se hicieron eco en un tuit de Amanda Gorman, la poeta más joven de la historia de Estados Unidos en participar en una ceremonia de investidura presidencial. Gorman publicó en Twitter: “Solo un monstruo puede matar niños. Pero ver cómo esos monstruos matan niños y niñas una y otra vez y no hacer nada para evitarlo no es solo locura, es inhumano”.

Muchos políticos estadounidenses repiten como loros que Estados Unidos es el mejor país del mundo. El “excepcionalismo estadounidense” está arraigado en la cultura del país. Estados Unidos es el país con mayor cantidad de armas en manos de civiles en el mundo: se calcula que hay 400 millones de armas en circulación. Esto significa que hay más armas que personas en el país y que los estadounidenses acumulan casi la mitad de todas las armas de propiedad civil en el planeta. No hay duda tampoco de que Estados Unidos encabezaba la lista de países con mayor cantidad de tiroteos masivos. La organización Gun Violence Archive ha contabilizado 213 masacres con armas de fuego en lo que va de 2022, y más de 3,000 desde 2014.

Una cantidad impactante de esos ataques en Estados Unidos se producen en centros educativos. Según una investigación de la Escuela Naval de Posgrado de Estados Unidos, ha habido en el país 2,054 tiroteos en escuelas desde 1970, con 681 muertes. Canadá ha tenido un total de ocho tiroteos en instituciones educativas en aproximadamente el mismo periodo de tiempo, desde 1975, con un total de 31 víctimas fatales. En México han ocurrido, desde 2004, 17 hechos de violencia con armas de fuego en escuelas, que han causado 15 personas muertas.

En Australia, en 1996, un joven con un rifle semiautomático AR-15 masacró a 35 personas en la localidad turística de Port Arthur, situada en la isla de Tasmania. Australia es un país de amantes de las armas, pero la reacción ante esa matanza fue rápida y contundente. Las autoridades adoptaron un programa de recompra de armas semiautomáticas, de carácter obligatorio para la población civil del país. En el marco de este programa se recolectaron y destruyeron unas 643,000 armas. Desde entonces, el país oceánico ha experimentado solo un tiroteo masivo del tipo de los que ocurren casi a diario en Estados Unidos.

En otros países ricos e industrializados, como Canadá, Nueva Zelanda, Reino Unido y Noruega, se establecieron políticas similares tras la ocurrencia de masacres con armas de fuego. Cuando el acceso a las armas está restringido y la posesión de armas es más difícil, los episodios de violencia armada se reducen de manera drástica.

La población estadounidense coincide en que hay que endurecer las leyes de control de armas. Según el Centro de Investigaciones Pew, las propuestas para impedir que quienes padecen enfermedades mentales posean o accedan a armas de fuego tienen entre un 85 y un 90% de apoyo de ciudadanos de los dos partidos mayoritarios de Estados Unidos. Las iniciativas para prohibir los cargadores de armas que contengan más de 10 balas tienen un apoyo bipartidista del 64%. Asimismo, el establecimiento de una base de datos federal que monitoree cada venta de armas cuenta con el respaldo del 66% de la población. ¿Por qué los representantes electos no prestan atención a la opinión del electorado? Una razón clara para que eso no ocurra es el poderoso lobby que la Asociación Nacional del Rifle ha hecho durante décadas.

Robin Loyd es directora gerente de Giffords, una organización dedicada a prevenir la violencia con armas de fuego liderada por la excongresista Gabby Giffords, quien recibió un disparo en la cabeza en un tiroteo masivo perpetrado en la ciudad de Tucson, en el estado de Arizona. En una entrevista con Democracy Now!, Loyd expresó: “El lobby a favor de las armas, que cuenta con el apoyo de los fabricantes de armas del país, goza de buena salud. La Asociación Nacional del Rifle se ha debilitado debido a las heridas que se ha causado a sí misma por la codicia y la mala gestión de sus fondos. Otra de las organizaciones de lobby es

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Un rifle semiautomático AR-15, similar al usado por el asesino de la escuela Robb de la localidad de Uvalde, Texas, donde 19 estudiantes menores de edad y dos maestras perdieron la vida. Esta clase de armas pueden ser adquiridas fácilmente mientras que los políticos conservadores se oponen a posibles restricciones a su compra. Foto cortesía The Commons

es la Fundación Nacional de Deportes de Tiro, [...] que gasta más dinero que la Asociación Nacional del Rifle para presionar en Washington en contra de las medidas de prevención de la violencia con armas de fuego. Estas organizaciones son el verdadero rostro del lobby de la industria de las armas en Estados Unidos”.

Nicole Golden, directora ejecutiva de la organización Texas Gun Sense, lidera iniciativas que promueven políticas de control de armas en el estado de la “estrella solitaria”. En conversación con Democracy Now!, Golden dijo: “He participado en iniciativas de prevención de la violencia con armas de fuego en Texas durante casi una década. [...] Pero el clima político que hay aquí ha hecho muy difícil nuestro trabajo”. A pesar del poder que tiene el lobby de la industria de las armas, Nicole Golden mantiene las esperanzas. “Vamos a continuar la lucha el tiempo que sea necesario. No nos iremos a ningún lado. [...] Seguiremos perseverando y trabajando en nuestras comunidades para lograr un cambio significativo y seguir construyendo este movimiento tan potente”.

Como dicen los niños y niñas de la escuela primaria Robb: “Juntos somos más fuertes”.

Amy Goodman es la conductora de “Democracy Now!”, un noticiero internacional que se emite diariamente en más de 800 emisoras de radio y televisión en inglés y en más de 450 en español. Es co-autora del libro “Los que luchan contra el sistema: Héroes ordinarios en tiempos extraordinarios en Estados Unidos”, editado por Le Monde Diplomatique Cono Sur.

Denis Moynihan trabaja en “Democracy Now!” desde 2,000. Es un escritor destacado y columnista sindicado de King Features. Vive en Colorado donde fundó la emisora radial KFFR 88.3 FM en Winter Park.

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Luis Rodríguez, Candidato a Gobernador de California

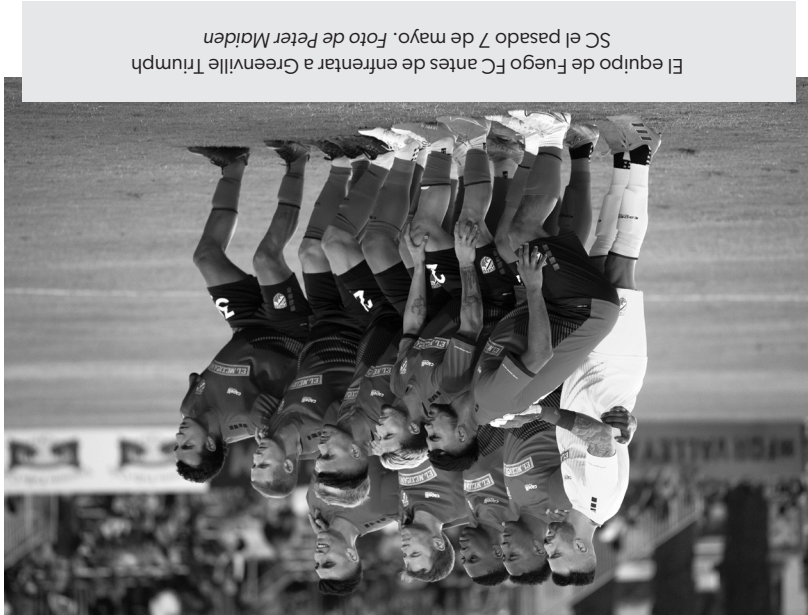
Por Eduardo Stanley

Luis Rodríguez no es un candidato como cualquier otro. No tiene una carrera política o administrativa, ni un diploma universitario que “validen” su candidatura. Sin embargo, la vida de este candidato nacido en 1954 en El Paso, Texas, y Californiano por adopción desde los dos años, tomó rumbos inusuales que lo llevaron desde ser miembro de pandilla y drogadicto, desertor escolar, prisionero, auto-educado, activista del Movimiento Chicano, muralista, mentor de pandilleros, escritor, periodista, y más. Una trayectoria que lo ha llevado a reflexionar no solo sobre su propia vida sino sobre la vida social como parte integral de las personas.

Y la política es parte inseparable de la vida social. “La economía—y la pobreza, el medio ambiente... a ver qué podemos hacer unidos frente a estos temas”, dice Rodríguez durante un breve diálogo telefónico con Alianza Comunitaria. “Tengo el espíritu Chicano de los 60s y 70s, pero soy consciente de que las cosas han cambiado. Pero los jóvenes de hoy también quieren justicia e igualdad”. Rodríguez cuenta con el apoyo del Partido Verde (Green Party) y del partido Peace and Freedom y su candidatura enfrentará un gran desafío en las elecciones primarias del 7 de junio. Estas son elecciones “abiertas”, quiere decir que no es obligación votar solamente por candidatos del partido al que pertenezca cada votante.

“Es necesario organizar, movilizar, darle una estrategia a las ideas que tenemos”, dice Rodríguez con entusiasmo. “Pero tenemos que ampliar estas metas”, En un sistema político donde dos partidos monopolizan el poder—y el dinero—sin intenciones de compartirlo, abrirse paso, hacerse escuchar parece misión imposible. Sin embargo, Rodríguez piensa que luchar vale la pena. “Tenemos que pelear por cada espacio, incluyendo el espacio electoral, no podemos dejar esos espacios a las corporaciones, a quienes tienen el poder”, afirma Rodríguez. “Los jóvenes lo saben, y saben que este espacio es corrupto, pero quieren ser parte de algo grande, de las soluciones”.

En caso de llegar a la gubernatura, el candidato latino sabe bien cuáles serían sus prioridades. “La economía... Hay mucha gente viviendo en las calles y tenemos que solucionar este problema. Y el medio ambiente, ambos temas están relacionados. El problema de California es que es un estado para ricos. Mucha gente ha sido expulsada de sus propios barrios para construir casas para los que tienen más, y así es como se han perdido comunidades



El equipo de Fuego FC antes de enfrentar a Greenville Triumph SC el pasado 7 de mayo. Foto de Peter Maiden

Guerra en Ucrania Aumenta la Amenaza de una Guerra Nuclear

Por Peter Schurmann y Jenny Manrique

El mundo se enfrenta a la amenaza de un conflicto armado nuclear como no se había visto desde el final de la Guerra Fria. Y aunque la guerra en Ucrania ha intensificado la amenaza, sus antecedentes se remontan a un cambio en la postura militar de Estados Unidos años atrás. Ese es el consenso de un grupo de expertos que hablaron recientemente durante una sesión informativa para medios étnicos organizada por Ethnic Media Services.

“¿Hasta qué punto es real la amenaza de una guerra nuclear?”, preguntó Daryl Kimball, director ejecutivo de la Asociación de Control de Armas, organización no partidista, y editor y colaborador de la revista mensual de la organización, Arms Control Today. “Es demasiado real”.

Según Kimball, la reciente retórica del presidente ruso Vladimir Putin pone de manifiesto los graves riesgos asociados al actual conflicto en Ucrania. Describiendo las declaraciones de Putin como “sin precedentes”—incluida una advertencia el 24 de febrero de que la interferencia de las potencias extranjeras en Ucrania invitaría a “consecuencias... como nunca han visto en toda su historia”—Kimball señaló que esta fue la primera vez que el antiguo adversario de la Guerra Fria ha hecho amenazas nucleares explícitas.

Y aunque algunos han interpretado las palabras de Putin como una bravuconada destinada a evitar la participación directa de Estados Unidos y la OTAN en Ucrania, Kimball afirma que tanto la doctrina militar rusa como la estadounidense dejan abierta la opción de desplegar armas nucleares contra objetivos no nucleares. “¿Qué significa eso en la práctica? Desde el punto de vista de Moscú, si la marea de la guerra parece volverse contra Rusia, las armas nucleares tácticas de corto alcance podrían convertirse en una opción cada vez más atractiva para recuperar la ventaja. Y, dice Kimball, “una vez que se usan las armas nucleares, no hay garantía de que el otro bando no responda”.



El candidato latino a la gobernación de California, Luis Rodríguez, durante su visita a Fresno el pasado mes de Abril. Foto de Peter Maiden

enters. Ya es tiempo de despertar, es el momento para que los trabajadores, los pobres puedan construir una nueva sociedad” *****

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

Fuego FC Hizo Su Debut

Por Peter Maiden

El nuevo equipo de la Liga United Soccer (United Soccer League) del Valle Central, Fuego Football Club, debutó como local el 7 de mayo jugando contra Greenville Triumph SC. El partido terminó con un empate 1-1. Fuego FC tomó el lugar que dejó Fresno Foxes, que jugó en el estadio Chukchansi Park en los años 2018 y 2019.

Fresno Foxes se cambió a Monterey, California, donde compiten en la liga USL con el nombre de Monterey Bay FC. Fuego compró a dos de las estrellas de Fox, Christian Chaney y Renato Bustamante. Fuego hace de local en el estadio de la universidad local, Fresno State. En la imagen, el equipo titular de Fuego FC posa para la foto antes de su primer partido. Fuego jugará como local ante los siguientes equipos: junio 11 vs. Chattanooga Red Wolves; junio 18 vs. FC Tucson; junio 25 vs. North Carolina FC.

Peter Maiden es el Editor de Fotografía de Community Alliance.

Kimball se apresura a señalar que, hasta la fecha, los servicios de inteligencia estadounidenses no han visto indicios de que Rusia—que mantiene un arsenal de unas 100 cabezas nucleares tácticas—haya empezado a preparar un ataque de este tipo. Los ordores también tomaron nota del discurso de Putin en el Día de la Victoria, pronunciado en Moscú el 9 de mayo para conmemorar la derrota rusa de la Alemania nazi, que omitió cualquier amenaza de escalada.

Fero con la guerra en Ucrania que se extiende ahora a su tercer mes, Kimball advirtió que su prolongación aumenta el peligro de una confagración nuclear. “Cuantos más se prolongue el conflicto de Ucrania”, dice, “mayor será el riesgo. Estamos en un estado de peligro elevado”.

Michael Klare es profesor emérito y director del Programa de Estudios sobre la Paz y la Seguridad Mundial del Hampshire College. Según él, la actual amenaza de guerra nuclear se remonta a un cambio decisivo en la postura militar de Estados Unidos en 2018, que se alejó de la Guerra contra el Terror para centrarse en lo que sus autores describieron como “Competencia de Grandes Potencias”. Bajo esta nueva estrategia, articulada por el exsecretario de Defensa James Mattis, las fuerzas armadas de Estados Unidos se alejarían de los conflictos a pequeña escala en el Sur global que definieron gran parte de la Guerra contra el Terror, para centrarse en guerras más grandes con las “potencias cercanas”, es decir, Rusia y China.

Para los dirigentes de Moscú y Pekín, ese cambio trajo consigo una amenaza mayor e inaceptable de las armas convencionales estadounidenses recién desplegadas que apuntaban a las capacidades e infraestructuras militares de sus respectivos países. Si esto fue el factor que impulsó la decisión de Putin de invadir Ucrania es algo que “tendrán que decidir los futuros historiadores”, dice Klare, añadiendo sin embargo que la situación resultante ha “disparado la ansiedad” tanto en Rusia como en China, impulsando a esta última a ampliar sus capacidades nucleares.

En cuanto a lo que viene después de Ucrania, tanto Klare como Kimball coinciden en que el panorama sigue siendo decididamente precario. “Después de la guerra en Ucrania, este proceso de las tres potencias de construcción de capacidades para la guerra convencional y nuclear está obligado a acelerar”, dice Klare. “En Europa, después de la guerra... vamos a ver un nuevo Teón de Acero, excepto Finlandia y Suecia considerando ahora la adhesión a la OTAN. En Asia-Pacífico, la posible confrontación en torno a Taiwán—que los líderes estadounidenses han jurado evitar que se convierta en “otra Ucrania”—apunta de nuevo al posible despliegue de armas nucleares.

Las Mujeres Luchan por sus Derechos y su Dignidad

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ambiente privado. La rabina de Fresno, Laura Novak Winer, habló sobre la necesidad de que los líderes de la iglesia se pronuncian en apoyo de los derechos LGBT+ y de las mujeres, afirmando que "el derecho de la mujer a elegir y el derecho de la mujer a la atención médica" eran fundamentales. Los miembros del consejo de la Ciudad de Fresno, Nelson Esparza y Esmeralda Soria, también asistieron para entablar su apoyo tanto a los derechos de las mujeres como al trabajo de Planned Parenthood. Soria habló de su apoyo al acceso de las mujeres a una atención médica segura y señaló que el 77% de los estadounidenses cree que el aborto debería seguir siendo legal. Esparza también habló y explicó que Fresno apoyaría a Planned Parenthood en todo lo que pudiera, sabiendo que California pronto verá una ola de mujeres que viajarán aquí para hacerse abortos. Explicó que ayudarán a Planned Parenthood a encontrar ubicaciones a medida que surja la necesidad de expansión. Jodi Hicks (CEO de Planned Parenthood Affiliate of California) y Stacy Cross (CEO de Planned Parenthood Mar Monte) también compartieron lo esencial que es para las mujeres poder tomar decisiones sobre sus cuerpos con dignidad, para no ser avergonzadas por un procedimiento médico. También explicaron cómo Planned Parenthood ha comenzado a prepararse para el creciente número de pacientes de fuera del estado, incluyendo la compra de terrenos para construir nuevas instalaciones.

Al mirar el lado que busca con tanta fuerza quitarnos nuestros derechos, es cómo ver su autotítulo 'Pro-Vida'. Los 'Pro-Lifers' no son verdaderamente pro-vida. Si lo fueran, se centrarían en ayudar a las vidas que ya existen. Estos pro-nacimiento-forzados ofrecen supuestas soluciones como dar al bebé en adopción, ignorando a los 430,000 niños que actualmente abruma nuestro sistema de acogida. Los pro-nacimiento-forzados ignoran que el 20% de ellos se quedarán sin hogar instantáneamente. Si fueran verdaderamente pro-vida, se preocuparían por la vida de la madre y las miles de mujeres que morirán por abortos inseguros cuando el aborto sea ilegal en sus estados. Si los pro-nacimiento-forzados realmente se preocuparan por las vidas potenciales de estos fetos, impulsarían una legislación para ayudar a apoyar a las madres solteras, ya que la mayoría de las mujeres que abortan ya tienen hijos que viven y respiran y están muy por debajo del nivel de pobreza. Si los pro-nacimiento-forzados quisieran evitar los abortos, presionarían por una educación sexual integral y anticonceptivos más accesibles. En lugar de ayudar a las personas que realmente lo necesitan, los pro-nacimiento-forzados pasan su tiempo avergonzando y juzgando a las mujeres por un simple procedimiento médico.

Estudiantes Pueden Recibir \$10.000 Dólares Siendo Voluntarios

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Friday recomienda a los estudiantes asesorarse con sus asesores escolares, quienes pueden explicarles el proceso de inscripción. Los/las estudiantes recibirán \$7,000 dólares durante el transcurso del proyecto y los restantes \$3,000 al completar el mismo. "Esperamos que 6,500 estudiantes participen en todo el estado", afirma Fryday. "Tenemos fondos para dos años". Después de inscribirse, los estudiantes deberán pasar por una entrevista. Lindsay Fox, presidente de United Way de los condados de Fresno y Madera, destacó la importancia del proyecto. "Este proyecto ayudará a reducir la diferencia social", dijo en referencia a la intención del estado de incorporar a estudiantes de bajos ingresos. Fox explicó que menos estudiantes se están registrando en las universidades pero dijo desconocer las razones. "Escuchamos mucho lo que cuesta estudiar". Y agregó que este proyecto, precisamente, puede ser un incentivo para estudiar. Además, el servicio es muy importante para nuestra comunidad. Sin voluntarios, organizaciones como United Way no podrían cumplir con su misión. Varias organizaciones no lucrativas podrían beneficiarse del mismo". Finalmente, Fernando Martínez, un estudiante de la Universidad Estatal de San José, dijo haberse beneficiado de un programa similar. El tuvo la oportunidad de orientar a otros estudiantes de Richmond en programación de computadoras. "Estos proyectos te ayudan a dedicar más tiempo y energía al estudio", concluyó. Como inscribirse: Este programa esta vigente, por lo que los interesados pueden inscribirse ahora. Además de los \$10,000 dólares, ofrece una experiencia laboral importante y créditos académicos. Los interesados pueden consultar a sus asesores en sus colegios respectivos.



Edificio administrativo de la Universidad Estatal de Fresno. Foto cortesía de Bobak Ha/Creative Commons.

En nuestra región, CSU Fresno, Fresno City College y UC Merced participan del programa. Visite: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/californianforall-college-corps/> ***** Eduardo Stanley es el editor de Community Alliance. Puede contactarlo en editor@fresnoalliance.com.



El 17 de mayo, pasó por Fresno el tour "Decir Aborto", organizado por Planned Parenthood y que recorrió el estado de California con el objetivo de abordar el estigma del aborto. Foto de Paulina Cruz

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.

DR. DAREN MILLER

PARA SUPERINTENDENTE DE ESCUELAS DEL CONDADO DE FRESNO

VOTE 7 DE JUNIO

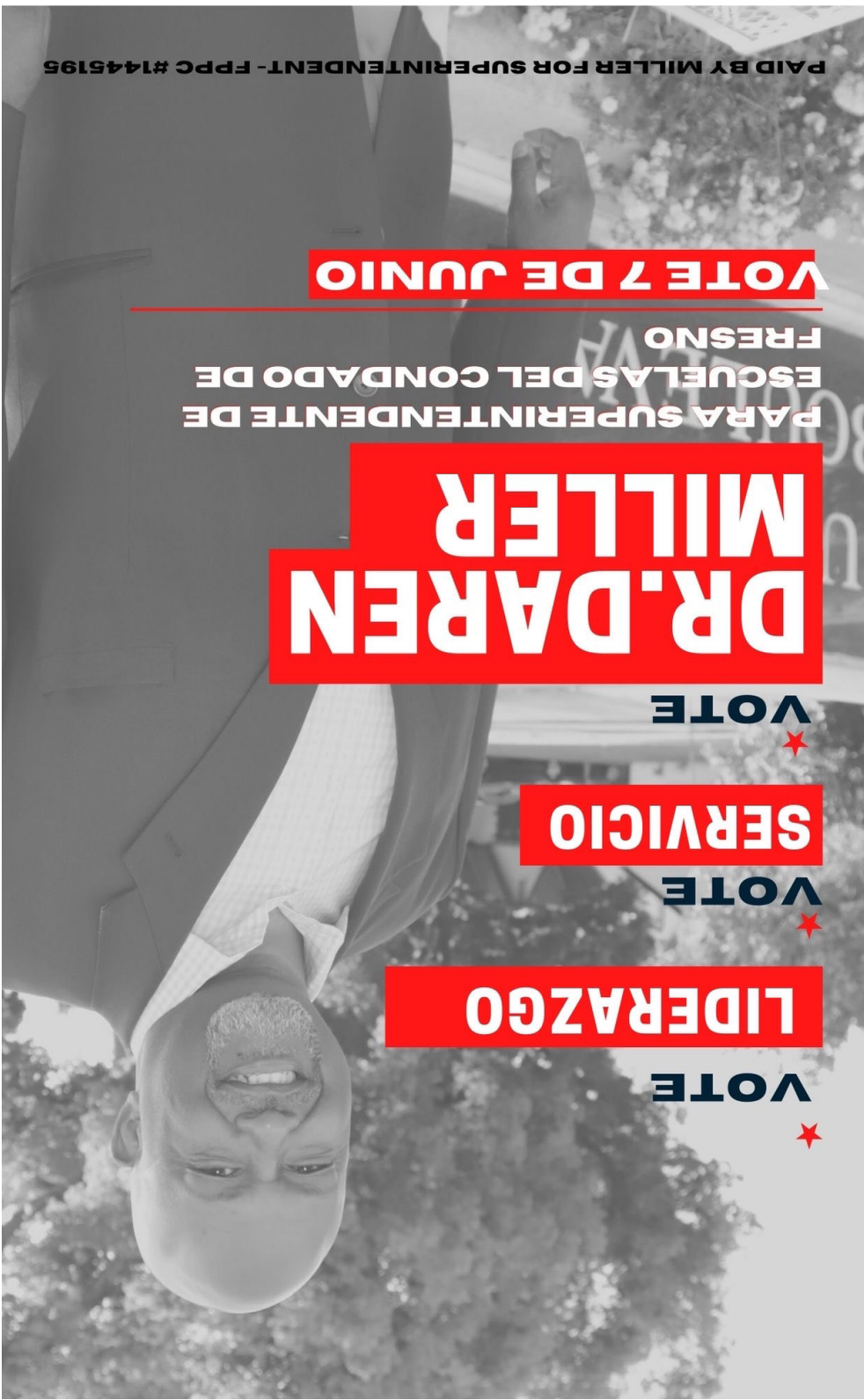
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¡LLAMAZA COMUNITARIA!

LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

Fresno: Exigen a la Ciudad Solución a Crisis de Vivienda

Por Community Alliance

La crisis de la vivienda está llegando a límites intolerables: las rentas aumentan incasamente y hay pocas casas y departamentos accesibles para familias de bajos ingresos—la mayoría de la población de Fresno y del Valle. Al mismo tiempo, el número de desamparados—los “sin techo”—no disminuye, a pesar de los anuncios triunfalistas del ayuntamiento de Fresno sobre la creación de refugios o residencias temporales (ver la nota “xxx-zzz”, página WM).

Ante esta situación, varias organizaciones y activistas de Fresno organizaron un rally y conferencia de prensa el 19 de mayo en el Parque del Distrito del Arte, en el centro de la ciudad, a fin de explicar las demandas que consideraran poner un alto al grave problema de la vivienda.

“La gente está harta de ver que no hay inversiones en sus comunidades, que sus calles no se reparan, que no hay semáforos, está harta de que la ciudad no los escuche en cómo se deberían gastar los fondos que llegan a la ciudad gracias a los impuestos de la gente”, dijo Karla Martínez, representante de Leadership Council.

Los organizadores del evento (#StateofthePeople) buscan que sus demandas sean incluidas en el presupuesto de la ciudad.

“Exigimos \$6 millones anuales para evitar desalojos, además de asesoría legal para cuestiones de vivienda; \$3 millones para ayudar en la compra de casas, sin importar el crédito ni el estatus migratorio; al menos \$15 millones para proyectos de infraestructura,

como reparación de calles”, explicó Martínez. Y agrega que la ciudad no les ha dado ninguna respuesta. “Ellos deberían estar aquí y escuchar a la comunidad—al menos el concejal Miguel Arias hizo unas reuniones en su distrito para hablar del presupuesto, ¿por qué los demás no lo hacen?”, se preguntó Martínez.

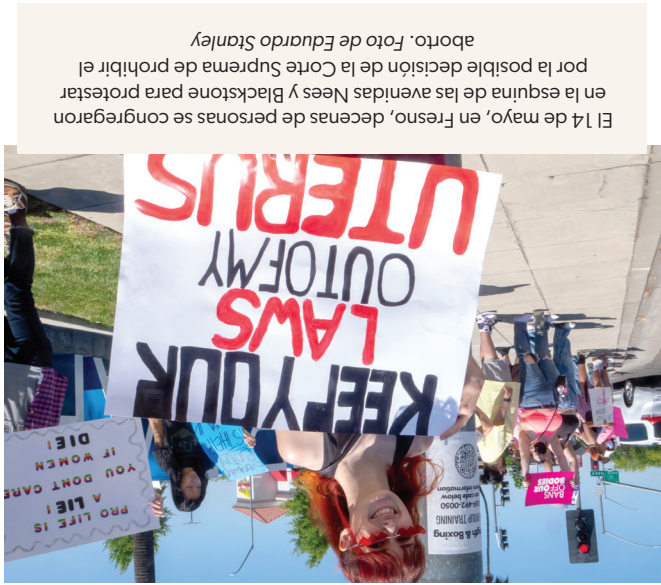
Las Mujeres Luchan por sus Derechos y su Dignidad

Por Paulina Cruz

Hace casi 50 años, la Corte Suprema dictaminó que las mujeres tenían el derecho fundamental de elección cuando se trataba de abortar. Los abortos no siempre fueron legales, de hecho, el primer estado en prohibir el aborto con medicamentos fue Connecticut en 1821, 45 años después de la fundación de nuestro país. Durante los años que siguieron, casi la mitad de los estados existentes también agregaron prohibiciones y restricciones. Incluso entonces, muchas de las prohibiciones aún permitían los abortos hasta lo que se denominó “quikening”, esencialmente cuando la mujer comenzaba a sentir movimiento (generalmente estando cerca de las 25 semanas de embarazo).

Desde el fallo de Roe v. Wade en 1973, los misóginos se han esforzado por difundir la ignorancia y la desinformación con el fin de limitar los derechos de las mujeres. Desafortunadamente, parece que estos campeones de los partos forzados han logrado revertir el poco progreso que ha tenido este país. Veintidós estados, como Alabama, Georgia y Luisiana tienen leyes de activación que entrarán en vigor de inmediato cuando se revoque Roe v. Wade. La mayoría de estas leyes penalizarán los abortos después de las 6 semanas, sin tener en cuenta los casos de violación o incesto.

El 14 de marzo, cientos de miles de personas se congregaron en todo el país para la Marcha de las Mujeres, a fin de mostrar su apoyo a las personas que se verán gravemente afectadas por la decisión de la Corte Suprema. En Fresno, cientos de personas se sumaron a la marcha en la esquina de las calles Blackstone y Nees. Allí, personas de todas las edades, género y origen se esparcieron cantando ‘no volveremos’ y ‘mi cuerpo y mis reglas’. La mayoría de los manifestantes sostenían carteles para que los autos que pasaban vieran mensajes como ‘no somos incubadoras’ y ‘mantengan sus rosarios fuera de mis ovarios!’ El diputado federal del área de Fresno, Jim Costa, también hizo una aparición, hablando con varias manifestantes y dando un breve discurso enfatizando la importancia de Roe v. Wade y la protección que ofrecía no sólo a las mujeres sino a todos en Estados Unidos. Animó a las asistentes a votar en las próximas



El 14 de mayo, en Fresno, decenas de personas se congregaron en la esquina de las avenidas Nees y Blackstone para protestar por la posible decisión de la Corte Suprema de prohibir el aborto. Foto de Eduardo Stanley

Continúa en página 27

Tres días después, Planned Parenthood realizó la primera parada pública de la gira en autobuses “Decir aborto” en California culminó el 25 de Mayo en Long Beach y el objetivo era abordar el estigma del aborto. Varios líderes comunitarios y representantes de Planned Parenthood tuvieron la oportunidad de hablar y responder preguntas antes de escuchar las historias de aborto de los invitados en un

Fresno, Loralee Bergdall y Samantha Snow, quienes dieron más detalles al expresar sus preocupaciones. Bergdall entró en detalles y explicó que el derecho al aborto, el control de la natalidad y el matrimonio LGBTQ+, estaban protegidos por las interpretaciones anteriores de la Enmienda número 14. “Nuestra mayor preocupación aquí hoy es que sabemos que esto no va a detener el aborto. Ya hemos visto que en estados como Luisiana y Ohio comienzan a legislar sobre anti-conceptivos. Luisiana acaba de aprobar un proyecto de ley que esencialmente prohíbe y criminaliza el Plan B y el DIU”, explicó Bergdall. Samantha luego agregó un mensaje a los jóvenes: “Nuestra generación es muy elocuente, exigimos nuestros derechos. Ahora estamos en la edad de votar, tienen que confrontarnos y votaremos contra estas leyes. Quiero instar a todos a que salgan y voten, que se registren y hagan lo que sea necesario para proteger sus derechos”.

comida. “Estamos convencidos de que si vamos a lidiar con los problemas que afectan nuestra sociedad, debemos crear más oportunidades para enfrentar positivamente esos problemas”, dijo Josh Fryday, California Chief Service Officer durante una reunión con medios étnicos de comunicación, organizado por Ethnic Media Services. “Esta es también una manera de unir a la gente”.

Estudiantes Pueden Recibir \$10.000 Dólares Siendo Voluntarios

Por Eduardo Stanley

El estado de California ofrece una oportunidad única y original para estudiantes universitarios y de colegios comunitarios de recibir \$10.000 dólares en un año a cambio de ser voluntarios. Los estudiantes indocumentados también son elegibles. Esto significa que un/una estudiante no necesitaría trabajar formalmente para pagar sus matrículas, libros o

formalmente para pagar sus matrículas, libros o comida. “Estamos convencidos de que si vamos a lidiar con los problemas que afectan nuestra sociedad, debemos crear más oportunidades para enfrentar positivamente esos problemas”, dijo Josh Fryday, California Chief Service Officer durante una reunión con medios étnicos de comunicación, organizado por Ethnic Media Services. “Esta es también una manera de unir a la gente”.

También explicó que el proyecto se concentra en tres áreas en las cuales los/las estudiantes pueden participar: Cambio Climático, Educación y la Recuperación Post-Covid-19. Por ejemplo, explica Fryday, en el área de Cambio Climático los/ las estudiantes pueden plantar árboles, trabajar en composta, ayudar en bancos de alimentos, etc. El proyecto exige solo 14 horas semanales de voluntariado para lo cual deben inscribirse desde ahora, sea por intermedio de sus escuelas o personalmente.

Continúa en página 27



Karka Martínez (izq.) habla con una participante del evento realizado el 19 de mayo en Fresno donde organizaciones y activistas explicaron las exigencias a la ciudad de Fresno para enfrentar el creciente problema de la vivienda. Foto de Eduardo Stanley