

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

THE VOICE OF THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT SINCE 1996

Construyamos una red contra el odio racial en Reedley.

Ofrece más información sobre las herramientas y las agencias locales que pueden ayudar a combatir el odio. Está disponible cuando de niños e interpretación. Los temas de los temas incluyen el cambio de nombre de Yokuts Valley, inmigrantes, interacciones entre la policía y la comunidad, personas sin hogar, LGBTQ+ y qué agencias pueden ayudar a combatir el odio. **Está disponible cuando de niños e interpretación. Conéctate, pide, y más.**

CUANDO: viernes, 30 de junio, 5:30 P.M.
 DONDE: First Mennonite Church of Reedley, 1208 L St, Reedley, CA 93854

EN ESPAÑOL
PÁGINAS 19-20

Town Hall in Reedley

BY MIKE RHODES

Stop the Hate is the theme for a town hall to be held in Reedley on June 30. Hate crimes and incidents are on the rise, and this event will bring together a coalition of groups with the tools and information needed to confront that challenge.

Learn how to report a hate crime, what community groups have resources to assist you and, most important, how to prevent hate crimes and incidents before they happen.

Topics will include the following:

- Indigenous people's rights. This segment will cover the dramatic increase in the disappearance and murder of Indigenous women, the naming of Yokuts Valley and tribal recognition.
- Police-community interactions: information on how to report hate crimes and incidents.
- Violence against the San Joaquin Valley LGBTQ+ community.
- The rise of homelessness in the area and our response.
- Immigration and the unjust treatment of workers without documentation.

Sponsoring groups are the *Community Alliance* newspaper, the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, the Reedley Peace Center, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries, the Fresno Center, BAPAC, the NAACP (Fresno and Madera chapters), the Central Valley Partnership, Residents for Renaming S Valley, Poder Latinx, the Human Rights Coalition of the Central Valley, Indigenous Justice, the Fresno Homeless Union and the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

The Stop the Hate town hall in Reedley takes place on June 30 at 5:30 p.m. at the First Mennonite Church of Reedley (1208 L St.). There will be free food, childcare and translation for Spanish and English speakers. The event concludes with a raffle.

This Stop the Hate town hall is organized by the *Community Alliance* newspaper and the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance and is made possible by a grant from the California State Library under the statewide Stop the Hate initiative.

Mike Rhodes is the executive director of the *Community Alliance* newspaper and author of the book *Dispatches from the War Zone*, about homelessness in Fresno. His website is www.mikerhodes.us. Contact him at mikerhodes@comcast.net.



Stop the Hate Townhall in Reedley

Build a network against hate in Reedley. Learn more about the tools and local agencies that can help combat and prevent hate. *Issue topics include renaming Yokuts Valley, immigration, police-community interactions, homelessness, LGBTQ+, and what agencies can help combat hate. Win raffles. Food, childcare, spanish interpretation provided.*

WHEN: Friday, June 30, 5:30 P.M.

WHERE: First Mennonite Church of Reedley, 1208 L St, Reedley, CA 93654

Questions? Contact Mike at 559-978-4502



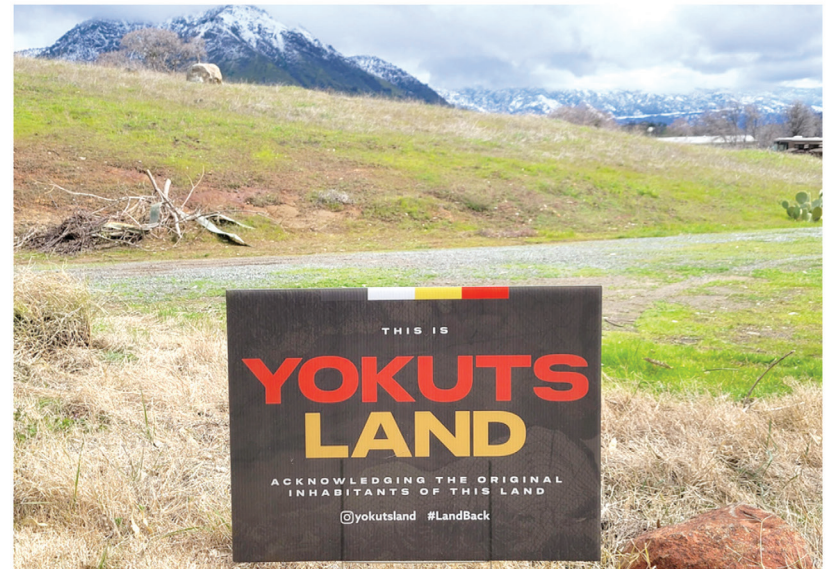
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The rise in hate crimes throughout California and across the United States has created widespread calls for action. With funding provided for this series by the California State Library under the statewide 'Stop the Hate' initiative, this event is being organized by the *Community Alliance* newspaper and the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance.

For more information, visit fresnoalliance.com, or sjvmediaalliance.org.

Fresno Policy Kills, Say Their Names

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

Our economic system, with its excessive corporate greed and its concentration of ownership and power, destroys anything that gets in the way of profits. It destroys lives and discards human beings. The phenomenon of hedge funds and Wall Street investors buying up housing stock and then raising rents is a good example.

The poor and the unhoused have been discarded in the United States. Unhoused people have different stories about how they ended up on the streets, for example, escaping domestic violence or losing a home during a divorce or due to the death of a spouse or to a fire.

Many faced eviction during the pandemic, and many are on the street due to rent increases. Others are foster children who turned 18 without support; some struggle with addiction. Some were ostracized because they are LGBTQ+ or were forced to leave home.

Many struggle with mental and physical disabilities. More and more people are on the streets because of the high cost of housing and the housing shortage.

Continues on page 2



This homeless man sleeps on the concrete outside the Cardwell Station Post Office (Griffith and Blackstone avenues) in Fresno. This photo, taken on April 27, illustrates the harsh reality of being homeless in Fresno. Photo by Mike Rhodes

Madera Hospital Closure Impacts Communities

BY OMAR SHAIKH RASHAD

(Editor's note: Reprinted with the permission of FresnoLand.)

Madera residents from Punjabi Sikh and Indigenous migrant farmworker communities have been heavily impacted by the Madera hospital closure, according to results from surveys conducted by two community-based organizations.

The surveys had about 300 respondents and came out of a partnership between Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO), which serves Indigenous migrant farmworkers, and the Jakara Movement, which serves the Punjabi Sikh community.

"All of the surveys were conducted in a language other than English," said CBDIO's executive director, Sarait Martinez. "I think that is the importance of our survey, because it is beyond the political conversations and many times our voices are not included in those conversations."

The survey results reveal the following:

- Almost 91% of survey respondents indicated the Madera hospital closure had a direct impact on them.
- About 80% of all respondents said they were "highly concerned" about the closure's impact on their health and family.

Continues on page 2

JUNE 2023

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Fresno Policy Kills, Say Their Names

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Recently, because of the City of Fresno's current policy, enforced by the Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART), those who are unfortunately on the streets face even more danger and misery.

Sadly, two unhoused women were run over and killed by an alleged drunk driver on April 23 as they slept in a tent close to a busy intersection on Ashlan Avenue near Highway 41, as reported by the *Fresno Bee*. The Fresno County Sheriff Coroner's Office identified the victims as 30-year-old Brianna Britton and 61-year-old Kathy Esqueda.

Tragically, a day later, on April 24, television station KSEE/KGPE reported that an unhoused man, later identified as 59-year-old Eric Bennett of Fresno, was burned to death in a tunnel near Norwich and Santa Fe avenues.

Say their names: Brianna Britton, Kathy Esqueda and Eric Bennett

Arguably, these three deaths could have been preventable if HART did not harass, intimidate and force people to move and throw away their possessions on a daily basis. The City uses HART to force unhoused people to move every day without providing shelter, as mandated by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' *Martin v. Boise* decision. Hence, people are forced to move to dangerous locations close to busy streets and in irrigation tunnels, such as the locations where Britton, Esqueda and Bennett were.

The establishment of safe camps and safe lots would prevent the inevitable reoccurrence of further tragedies such as these. Currently, the City of Fresno opposes safe camps. Alternatively, the establishment of tiny home villages would provide some housing quickly.

The State of California provided \$5 million to the City of Fresno in February 2022, and the City allocated another \$5 million in March 2022 for a tiny home village to house 100 people. That project is now stalled. This is irresponsible

and shows a lack of real interest in providing safe housing quickly.

Elected officials are accountable for the policies they implement and their failures to implement funded housing projects. Obviously, the Fresno City Council is responsible for any and all outcomes of its policies, including any deaths that occur as a result.

The mayor and city council of Tulare, to their credit as responsible leaders, have established a safe camp and safe lot for the unhoused residents of Tulare. Like other cities, Tulare has recognized the mandate of *Martin v. Boise* to provide shelter before displacing an unhoused person.

We recently e-mailed Fresno's mayor and city council these questions: Will the City reconsider its current position on safe camps and lots? Why is the City unwilling to comply with a court mandate when other cities comply? How can the City prevent future tragedies? When will the tiny home project break ground? These and other questions remain unanswered.

In addition to accidental deaths, unhoused people die every winter and summer from exposure to the elements. Many die in pedestrian accidents, and some die from drug overdoses and the long-term effects of drug use.

An article in the May issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, "Population-Level Health Effects of Involuntary Displacement of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness Who Inject Drugs in U.S. Cities," models 23 U.S. cities and studies the effects of involuntary displacement (e.g., "sweeps," "cleanups") on unhoused addicted people.

The article summarizes a study that found "500,000 in the U.S. experience homelessness nightly. More than 30% of people experiencing homelessness also have a substance-abuse disorder. Involuntary displacement is a common practice in responding to unsheltered people experiencing homelessness.

"Understanding the health and the implications of displacement is important especially as they relate to key substance-abuse disorder outcomes. Models estimated between 974 and 2,175 additional overdose deaths per 10,000 people experiencing homelessness at 10 years in

Take Action!

Contact Fresno's mayor and the City Council and let them know that safe camps and lots are desperately needed.

Mayor Jerry Dyer
Call 559-621-8000
Comment at fresno.gov/mayor/

Fresno City Council Members
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Comment at fresno.gov/citycouncil/

District 1: Annalisa Perea
District 2: Mike Karbassi
District 3: Miguel Arias
District 4: Tyler Maxwell
District 5: Luis Chavez
District 6: Garry Bredefeld
District 7: Nelson Esparza

Also, you can provide food and cold water to our unhoused residents; visit the Project H2O Facebook page for more information. As always, this summer will be scorching hot on the streets of Fresno and cold water is always much appreciated.

scenarios in which people experiencing homelessness who inject drugs were continually involuntarily displaced compared with no displacement.

"Between 611 and 1,360 additional people who inject drugs per 10,000 people were estimated to be hospitalized and there was an estimated 3,140 to 8,812 fewer initiations of medications for opiate use disorder per 10,000 people. Continual involuntary displacement may contribute to between 15.6% and 24.4% of additional deaths of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness who inject drugs over a 10-year period."

Bob McCloskey is an advocate for the unhoused. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

Madera Hospital Closure Impacts Communities

Continued from page 1

More than three-quarters of all survey respondents said other hospitals are too far away, they've experienced longer wait times if they do get to a hospital in a neighboring county and they've experienced limited access to preventive and diagnostic health exams locally in Madera.

Of the 151 Indigenous migrant farmworkers surveyed, more than 60% said they did not even know about the Madera hospital closure, and just above half said they do not have reliable transportation to access medical care in a neighboring county—demonstrating the compounding impacts of shrinking health infrastructure, language barriers and lack of affordable transportation options.

Of all survey respondents, about 17% said they didn't know where to go in the case of a medical emergency. For those who said they have accessed care at a hospital outside the county, a majority of respondents said they received emergency services, specialty care, primary care and even got diagnosed for illnesses.

Naindeep Singh, the Jakara Movement's executive director, said both community-based organizations are hoping Gov. Gavin Newsom will sign AB/SB 112, a bill that would create a loan program for distressed nonprofit and public hospitals and potentially help with reviving the Madera hospital.

He added that community voices, including those from Punjabi Sikh and Indigenous migrant farmworker communities, need to be included in ongoing conversations about healthcare in Madera and the future of the hospital.

"What we have is actually an opportunity to bring communities that have been traditionally shut out to actually come together and make sure that we're raising our voices as a united Madera," Singh said.



Naindeep Singh, executive director of the Jakara Movement, spoke at a press conference at the shuttered Madera Community Hospital building. The Jakara Movement and Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (Bi-National Center for Indigenous Oaxacan Development) presented the results of a poll they jointly undertook in Madera regarding the loss of the hospital.
Photo by Peter Maiden

He also called for a task force to be convened to study the deeper issues impacting health access in rural communities and hospitals across the state—an effort that he said should go beyond the popular discussion around Medi-Cal reimbursements.

Mohammad Ashraf, a cardiologist whose office sits across from the dormant Madera Community Hospital, spoke at a recent press conference, emphasizing the need for Madera residents to sound the alarm on health infrastructure needs in the county. That also extends to making sure that Newsom

signs AB/SB 112. (*Editor's note:* AB/SB 112 was signed into law by Gov. Newsom on May 15.)

"This is really bad and we can do something about it if we work together," Ashraf said. "The government will help, but government is slow. They take their time, but it's our problem, it's our issue."

Omar Shaikh Rashad is the government accountability reporter for *FresnoLand*.

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FROM THE EDITOR

The Obnoxious Show Is Just Beginning



On May 9, a New York jury found Donald Trump guilty of sexual abuse. The verdict for the first time legally brands a former U.S. president as a sexual predator.

And this same sexual predator wants to run again for the 2024 U.S. presidency. Let's keep in mind that Trump is not done with his legal troubles, so stay tuned for more news on that front.

He will compete for the Republican nomination with Nikki Haley, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations (2017-2018), and Ron DeSantis, governor of Florida—plus other lesser-known contenders and many more to come.

Haley is the former governor of South Carolina (2011-2017), and she is drumming the anti-trans and anti-abortion message in her campaign—an expected move.

DeSantis doesn't need an introduction; he is responsible for the "Don't Say Gay" campaign that turned into the Parental Rights in Education bill

that he signed into law, which prohibits references and instruction about sexual orientation or gender identity in Florida classrooms. He also opposes including references about slavery in schools—in Florida, more than 500 books were banned from classrooms in 2021 and 2022 alone.

Trump, who occupied the White House from 2017 to 2021, is well known for his disastrous administration, legal problems, misogyny, derogatory comments on almost anybody he doesn't like, ignorance—remember he advised people to drink chlorine against Covid—and for being the "motivator" of the coup against the political status quo on Jan. 6, 2021, and wanting to stay in the White House despite the results of the 2020 election showing that he lost by more than eight million votes.

Just with this trio we'll have plenty of a quasi-fascist political show, broadcast widely on Fox News and other fake-news producers, for an audience who love hate rhetoric.

It sounds like our society is going backward. It could be entertaining—even fun—if not being all too real.

Till next month.

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

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SUBMISSIONS

Deadline:
15th of the previous month.
Articles 800-1,200 words.
For more details, contact
editor@fresnoalliance.com.

Peace and Social Justice Calendar:

Please submit all activities to
calendar@fresnoalliance.com
by the 15th of the previous month.

Letters to the Editor:

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

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Letters to the Editor

Not in Clovis

Regarding "Clovis Is Not in Compliance with Housing Laws" (May 2023 issue): Well, as a Clovis resident, that's a bummer. We live here to get away from lower-income housing. Too bad if that offends you, that's life.

Anders
Clovis

Prison Gladiator Fights

Regarding "'Animals,' Gladiators and California Prisons" (May 2023 issue): As a parent of someone incarcerated, this is a worst nightmare. Watching a gladiator fight taking place at Soledad prison, and they (wardens) were more concerned with trying to find the inmate that took that video then reprimanding the goon squad or other officers showing how they were betting on the fight.

Now it's mandated for every CO [correctional officer] to wear a body camera. Now they can and will be accountable for their actions.

Debbie Rohr

This opposition to do the right thing via prison reform and allowing paid wages to initiate and control fights is 100% outrageous, unethical and encourages more disputes along with violence.

Has the author of this piece thought about raising awareness in the various churches surrounding the neighborhoods of these young and older men? And paying guards to entice violence so they can earn more money?

Every political representative of this state should be in the Governor's face. This is absolutely horrendous and is not the way America should be working.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I pray the Church will step up and in this, with the love and heart of God to intervene and make an absolute difference!

Brenda Webb

Very insightful and informative article with the author showing human compassion. In India, the top cop in the 1980s, Kiran Bedi, started yoga programs in prisons for inmates as part of rehabilitation. As a Sikh, I say that every human being on this Earth deserves God's given right to live a happy, healthy and spiritual life with dignity, be it even your enemy.

Guru Nanak teaches that compassion is what keeps this Earth together; otherwise, things will fall apart. May Waheguru bless all!

Manjit Singh

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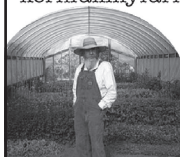
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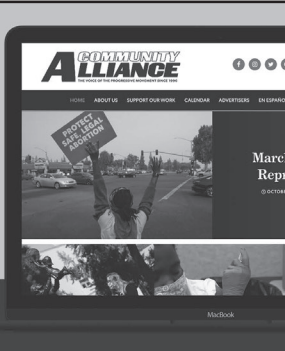
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The Invisibility of Asians in America

BY SUNITA SOHRABJI

The Asian American community is one of the oldest in the United States, yet they are still viewed as “foreigners” by many Americans.

“Discrimination has always shaped us,” said Dr. Russell Jeung, co-founder of the web portal Stop AAPI Hate and a professor of Asian American studies at San Francisco State.

“We have always been the yellow peril, or the dusky peril who threatens the very existence of America. There’s a myth out there that we will always be foreign,”

Jeung spoke at a May 16 panel discussion on Asian American identity. KPIX news anchor Ryan Yamamoto moderated the discussion, which included speakers Neil Ruiz, Pew Research Center’s head of new research initiatives; Dr. Malathi Srinivasan, clinical professor of medicine at Stanford University; and Dr. Richard Pan, a pediatrician who served in the State Senate for seven years.

The discussion—organized by the Stanford Center for Asian Health Research and Education in partnership with the Stanford Asian Staff Forum and Asian American Journalists Association, San Francisco—was presented on the heels of a multiyear survey of Asian Americans, released by the Pew Research Center on May 8.

Who Belongs Here?

Another report released on May 4 by The Asian American Foundation (TAAF) found that four out of five Asian Americans feel as though they don’t belong. More than half say they feel unsafe, especially on the streets.

“It is startling to see that more than one in four of Americans still think Asian Americans are more loyal to their country of origin,” said Norman Chen, CEO of TAAF, in an introduction to the report. “These unfortunate and enduring misperceptions erode our sense of belonging and safety as AAPIs.”

In the early 1900s, Asians were associated with bringing smallpox, malaria and leprosy to the United States, which led to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Asian Exclusion Act of 1924. Asians were barred from entering the United States, and the population already here was barred from buying land, similar to three bills currently pending in the Texas state legislature.

Decoupling China and Chinese Americans

“History is repeating itself. We knew as Covid was coming that Asian Americans would be blamed,” said Jeung, who founded Stop AAPI Hate in April 2020, with co-founders Manjusha Kulkarni and Cynthia Choi. Since its inception, the portal has logged more than 11,000 acts of hate violence against AAPIs.

Jeung said that people who believe that China is the greatest threat to the United States also believe that Chinese Americans are a threat. “It is okay to criticize China policy, but we have to decouple China from Chinese Americans,” said Jeung.

Pew Study Findings

Ruiz laid out the findings of the Pew study, the largest-ever survey of AAPIs. Questionnaires were sent to more than 268,000 people, and 7,006 interviews were completed.

Some key findings with regard to self-identity:

- About half (52%) of Asian adults say they describe themselves most often by their ethnic origin, either alone (26%) such as Japanese or Korean or in combination with American (25%) such as Vietnamese American.
- Twenty-eight percent describe themselves as Asians, either alone (12%) or as Asian American (16%).

- Just 10% describe themselves as Americans.
- Forty-one percent of Indians use only their ethnic identity, without adding American. Japanese Americans are the least likely to identify by ethnicity alone.
- Almost one-third of third-generation Asian Americans identify simply as Americans.
- More than half of Asian Americans say the majority of their friends are from their same ethnic group. But that changes over time. About 38% of second-generation AAPIs have only friends of their ethnicity.
- Eighty-six percent of Asian Americans say they are comfortable with interracial marriages and marrying outside their race.
- One in five Asian American adults have hidden some portion of their identity from non-Asians.

Disaggregated Health Data

Srinivasan discussed the need for disaggregated health data for Asian Americans, noting that genetic differences, income and lifestyle disparities play a huge role in determining health outcomes. South Asians, for example, are more prone to diabetes and heart issues than the Asian American population at large, whereas Chinese Americans have a greater rate of cancer than the overall population. Vietnamese Americans have the highest prevalence of Hepatitis B.

But such information is largely anecdotal, without data to support it, said Srinivasan, noting that the process by which to disaggregate AAPI health data is complex and must balance with privacy laws.

Less than 0.15% of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding is allocated to researchers working on studies specific to the AAPI community, noted Srinivasan.

Relatedly, many immigrants face huge barriers to getting appropriate medical care—from even understanding how the American healthcare system works and describing their medical issues.

“We need to train our doctors better, and also empower our patients on how to ask for or demand better healthcare,” said Srinivasan.

“Where are Asian Americans?”

Pan echoed Srinivasan’s remarks, noting that only about 3% of papers published in scientific journals have outcomes for AAPIs. “Where are the Asian Americans? And why aren’t you reporting it?” he often asks his colleagues, who say the numbers are too small to be significant.

“We have to stand up to the NIH and to researchers to report outcomes for AAPIs. If we are not mentioned, we cannot make change,” said Pan.

The pediatrician noted that Asian Americans are overrepresented at the lower levels of healthcare but rarely are the decision makers or in leadership roles. “As you go up, we disappear,” he said. “We are not in the boardroom. And that has to change.”

“Change That Accent”

Both Pan and Yamamoto spoke about language discrimination they personally faced. When Pan was growing up, his parents spoke primarily Mandarin at home;



People protest against hate crimes against Asians in America in Brisbane, Calif., on March 20, 2021. Photo by Jim Colton/Indymedia

he was put in special education because of his poor English skills. “So from then on, I refused to speak Mandarin,” he said.

Yamamoto—whose family spent time in internment camps—said that his career as a newsperson has taken him across the United States. “At times, I was the only person who looked like me in the newsroom, but viewers accepted it.

“But one editor pulled me aside one day and said: ‘Ryan, you’re going to have a great career in journalism, but you need to work on that accent.’”

The American-born Yamamoto said he was greatly upset by the incident. “I don’t speak Japanese. My parents don’t speak Japanese. The Japanese language was lost for many Americans after World War II.”

“My grandmother used to tell my father never to speak Japanese because of what could happen if we were heard uttering a single word,” he said. “So we don’t speak Japanese.”

Sunita Sohrabji is a contributing editor at Ethnic Media

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Complex Relations Between Browns and Blacks

BY MALIK SIMBA

In October 2022, in a released audio recording, three Hispanic members of the Los Angeles City Council and the president of the L.A. Federation of Labor spewed racist and disparaging comments about a Black child of a fellow Council member and about other minorities. An outpouring of anger followed from antiracist progressives, and some op-ed essays sought to give explanations of such backward rhetoric.

The Latinx president of the City Council, Nury Martinez, resigned, as did the labor president, Ron Herrera, but the two Latinx male Council members, Gil Cedillo and Kevin de León, did not resign. Many small rallies called for the resignation of all involved in the incident. Martinez bemoaned that she helped set back the historical years of building a racial rapport with the Black community.

Given her reference to history, let's examine those years of Brown and Black unity and solidarity. Legal history reveals much per the topic at hand.

In 1783, the King of Spain, Charles III, issued the "Cédulas de Gracias al Sacar," which permitted upward mobility within the *castas*, referring to the ongoing sexual liaisons between conquered Mayans and Incas, imported African slaves and invading Spaniards. This natural human behavior began the "browning" of New Spain (Texas, New Mexico, California).

In a humorous vein, these liaisons might remind readers of the dialogue spoken by the Arab character, played by Antonio Vargas, in the movie *Putney Swope*. Vargas says, "When my Johnson gets hard, it shows no discrimination." In barrio lingo, a man's Johnson is his phallic mechanics.

The 1821 Mexican war for their freedom from Spain concluded with the Law of Independence, "Plan de Iguala," which in part abolished slavery in New Spain. A Black man, Samuel H. Hardin, who moved to Texas, said, "I was an invited emigrant who was guaranteed the right to own property."

However, the legal dictates do not negate color consciousness of fair skin versus darker skin. Color complexion was and still is the de facto divisive thinking within *castas* who share a common language and culture.

This lure of Blacks to Browns began after the American Civil War when freed slaves made the long and dangerous trek from the American South to Mexico. It was not only the North Star to freedom and equality before the law, but the Lone Star of Texas that was viewed as the land of milk and honey/promised land.

To examine how Mexicans and their "underground railroad" helped freed people, one should read the book *South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves to Mexico and the Road to Civil War* by Alice Baumgartner.

Mexicans resisted slave catchers. One such Mexican was Manuel Luis del Fierro Reynosa who, on Aug. 20, 1850, fought slave catchers who had entered his house to retrieve escaped slave Matilde Hennes. Reynosa, using his rifle, was able to defend his home and his guest.

In this period, Mexico passed both the law of freedom for escaped slaves setting foot on the free soil of Mexico and the "free womb law," which freed children born of slave parentage. "Mexican Canaan" became the nation of asylum for Blacks seeking freedom in what historian Mekala Audain called the area across the Rio Grande.

In the 20th century, Black Americans seeking the "warmth of other suns" migrated to Los Angeles. In the City of Angels, consensus but also conflict became the norm. Cooperative relations on both the personal and political levels had their twists and turns. The social virus of white racism infected both Brown and Black.

However, the American legal system made these social relations more problematic. In 1893, a federal court found that Ricardo Rodriguez was "white by law" per the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848. This legal whiteness led a California court to overturn an attempt to segregate Mexican children in the *Roberto Alvarez v. the Board of Trustees of the Lemon Grove School District* case. The San Diego court ruled that Mexicans were "white." Obviously, Blacks were never defined in such a manner.

One must consider how White law defining Brown-skinned people as White people played itself out in the social consciousness of Mexicans as well as Blacks.

Let us take an example. Michelle Miller, an Afro-Mexican correspondent for CBS News, published her biography, *Belonging: A Daughter's Search for Identity*, in 2023. Miller shares the story of her Black father, who was head of surgery at a Los Angeles hospital. Her father had an affair with Laura Hernandez, who became pregnant. After the birth, Hernandez was forced by her parents to abandon her "mixed-race" baby and come home to "whiteness."

Another example would be the Univision co-host Robert Figueroa, who, in 2015, referred to First Lady Michelle Obama as something coming from the *Planet of the Apes*. Figueroa was immediately fired.

Mexicans grappled with the dilemma of their thinking on race. One need only view episodes of Spanish-language soap operas called *telenovelas*. Afro-Latinos and dark-skinned Latins are rarely on screen. Most lead actors, male and female, are "white" in complexion.



While growing up, actor Eva Longoria experienced racism within her own family circle for her darker skin. In this image, Longoria unveils her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2018. Photo courtesy of The Commons

However, whiteness is in the eyes of the beholder. Take, for example, the famous and politically left, progressive actor Eva Longoria. No one in their right mind would think Longoria is either dark complected or unattractive, but her family's nickname for her was "ugly dark one" and she was told "the whiter you were, the better," noted Longoria, who shared her understanding of the viral infection of racism within the Latino community in a 2005 issue of *Glamour* magazine.

Cuban-born Cristina Saralegui, known as the "Brown Oprah," had a prominent talk show that aired on Univision for 21 years. She aired a special in Spanish, with a live audience, which addressed color consciousness and racism within the Latino community.

My personal experience organizing with Chicanos during the 1960s was different. While attending the University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo, I helped organize the Black Action Association and our cadre worked with the organizers of Chicanos for Action. The comradeship of leaders at the top of both organizations led to a desegregation in certain housing in Pueblo. Blacks in mass as with Chicanos in mass followed the progressive leadership at the top. This cross-cultural unity is what was missing in the Los Angeles City Council.

Racism infecting the Black side takes many forms; some of it is personal and some related to changing demographics within urban cities. For instance, a Black woman said to me that she wished that then-President Trump would send all Mexican immigrants back. Asked why this hate, her response was that while she was on a walk in central Los Angeles, a group of Mexican young men yelled at her and called her a "Black bitch."

However, growing up in Denver with a large Mexican population, I never witnessed any conflict between Brown and Black. In fact, my nickname was the "Black Mexican" because one of my homeboys was John Abeyta. In my teens, I would spend time after school at his mom's home and eat Mexican cuisine.

In Denver, most Mexicans lived on the west side and went to West High School. In that area was the WestWay Bar and Grill, a hangout for teens and 20-somethings. The only Blacks that hung out at the West Way were Black athletes who attended West High School. Mexicans and "mestizo" athletes welcomed me as a fellow "jock."

Of note, the house band at the WestWay was the Five Fuck-Ups. The band was heavy on horns. They played "Sabor A Mi" soulfully with a King Curtis-sounding horn section. In Fresno recently, the Latino singer Mike Jimenez sang the same song in R&B style reminiscent of my younger memories at the West Way.

Last, but most important, a scene in the 1961 film *West Side Story* shows Anita (Rita Moreno) telling Maria (Natalie Wood) to "stick to your own kind" when it comes to affairs of the heart. In fact, the 2021 remake of the film with the same dialogue prompted Colombian-American actor Rachel Zegler, who plays Maria, to question this color-consciousness. Zegler, as a "White Latina," wants to have a "teaching moment."

Kobe Bryant ignored that cultural value of division and married a Latina, Vanessa Aubrieta Cornejo, and together produced a beautiful family of daughters.

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

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Racism Is a Virus

BY PAULINA CRUZ

When we look at the violence constantly inflicted upon marginalized groups, we have to understand our part. People mistakenly think there are two roles: the perpetrator and the victim. But that isn't the truth. The actions we take or do not take changes everything. When you are capable of taking action but stay silent in the face of hatred, you become complicit in a system designed against the marginalized.

In last month's "Racism Depends on Power," we talked about a 13-year-old (whom we called Mary) who has been physically, emotionally and verbally attacked by classmates at Wilson Middle School in Chowchilla for several years because of the color of her skin. She has been called racial slurs in front of teachers without any action being taken. According to her family, the administration has continuously downplayed and dismissed their concerns.

"Racism is a virus and we need to find a cure," said Mary's father.

Mary's father is aggravated and tired. Under the circumstances, any parent would be. Her parents aren't asking for anything more than the standard: "We expect and demand that the Chowchilla Elementary School District provide our daughter/student a safe, fair, healthy learning environment in accordance with state and federal laws that prohibit discrimination and racism in schools." A child should be able to attend school without being constantly under attack.

On May 3, a student we'll call Ashley held Mary in the girls' restroom against her will, blocking the door and pushing her. Mary pushed her way out and immediately headed to Principal Zach White's office to report the incident.

Mary's parents received the following message after school from the principal: "Good Afternoon, This message is to let you know that [Mary] came to me today and reported that she and another girl pushed each other in the bathroom at lunch. Both of the girls will receive lunch detention for pushing each other. If you have any questions, you may call or come down to the office."

The situation was clearly being oversimplified as Mary had clearly been the victim—not an equal participant.

On May 4, Ashley had some of her friends harass Mary early in the day. Mary ignored them. Ashley then approached Mary during lunch, harassing her and trying to intimidate her. Mary ignored her and walked away. Ashley proceeds to push Mary from behind and pull on her hair. Mary defends herself, breaks free and runs off to the office, hoping that something would finally be done about the abuse.

Mary was again reprimanded for defending herself.

On May 10, Mary became aware of a rumor that Ashley was planning to beat her up. Mary reported this rumor to the administration and avoided Ashley, including avoiding talking to her.

Instead of acknowledging the real danger to Mary, Vice Principal Erin Henley and Principal White came up with the idea of forcing Mary into a meeting with her bully.

Mary was brought to the vice principal's office to try to force her to talk with Ashley, who had attacked her on May 3 and 4. There was also a rumor being spread that Ashley was planning to attack Mary at school. When Mary relayed that she wished to continue avoiding Ashley for her own safety, Principal White accused Mary of "wanting to keep drama going."

What kind of adult tells a victim of constant assault that they should end drama and talk with their assailant?

On May 15, Mary was approached by another student calling her names and questioning why she was a snitch. He promptly let her know that Ashley was planning to beat her up.

Clearly trying to force Mary into talking to her bully was not making the "drama" end.

Mary's family has made it clear they are not backing down.

"We are pursuing and taking all the legal action necessary to ensure and protect [Mary], and bring about change, justice and fairness for all the students in the Chowchilla Elementary School District, and Wilson Middle School, and not just the non-African American/non-Black students."

This school has repeatedly violated the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000, AB 537. AB 537 was passed by the California legislature in September 1999 and signed into law by Governor Gray Davis. This law prohibits discrimination in California public schools on the

same grounds used to define hate crimes under California law.

It is the school administration's responsibility to provide a safe environment for students of all backgrounds to grow and learn. Actively ignoring racially charged attacks is in violation of this goal and of California law.

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





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Which Behavior Is Racist, Not Racist, Antiracist

BY HOMER GEE GREENE JR.

On March 22, an interesting Zoom discussion titled “Racist, Not Racist, Antiracist” was organized to discuss a new book, *Racist, Not Racist, Antiracist: Language and the Dynamic Disaster of American Racism*, by Leland Royce Harper and Jennifer Kling. During the forum, a conceptual problem surfaced with one of the examples used to define these constructs related to interpreting racist language and racist behavior.

The example used was a little white girl around eight years old who dressed up as Pocahontas. The questions put forth by the authors: Was the little girl racist in dressing as Pocahontas? Were her parents racist for allowing her to dress as Pocahontas? Were they all guilty of racism in her wearing a native-designed dress in the portrayal of Pocahontas?

Emeritus Marxist Fresno State History/Africana studies professor Dr. Malik Simba, who attended this Zoom discussion, made a statement pertaining to the question.

“Both presenters used an incorrect example of racism,” said Dr. Simba. “The little girl dressed in a Disney Halloween costume does not reveal automatically that either she or her mom is racist.

“The Pocahontas story is a cultural-wide story within a multicultural society. The young girl was not wearing warpaint. I thought it was innocent.”

Let’s expand on this issue a little further. The little girl wearing the native-designed dress is not racist. Even with a headband and a feather, she is not racist.

What would be racist is her wearing makeup to make her appear as though she had a red face or redskin. This would be racist and negative in that there is a history of blackface in America in which white actors and some Black actors would apply black makeup on their faces to portray Black people in a negative caricature of a Black person.

To be antiracist, the little girl would study the history of indigenous people before the arrival of Europeans, how

Native people fought white supremacy and white racism, how they fought for their freedom and American citizenship. She would indicate this awareness to anyone who asked why she dressed up as Pocahontas.

Here are three examples of when you can define if a costume presentation is not racist, racist or antiracist.

Example 1: If a white woman with alopecia wanted to dress up as a Dora Milaje for Halloween and applied African tattoos to her scalp, her presentation would not be racist or not racist. If she applied dark makeup to her face to make her face appear black, then this is racist.

For her to be antiracist, she would need to read up on African female leaders and their role in fighting sexism, misogyny and racism, and read some Marvel Black Panther comics and understand the role of the Dora Milaje in Wakanda and articulate her findings to anyone who asked her why she dressed up as a Dora Milaje.

Example 2: If a young white boy wanted to dress up as Malcolm X with a black suit, white shirt, black tie, black shoes and a black hat, this does not indicate that he is a racist. Again, if he applied makeup to make his skin appear dark or black, then this is a racist portrayal of Malcolm X.

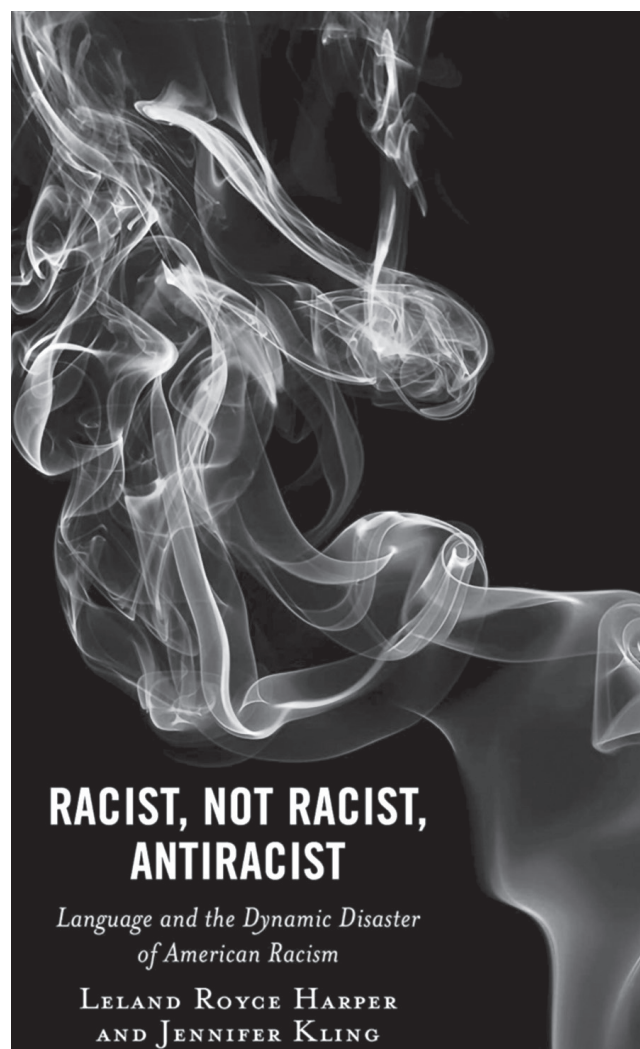
For him to be antiracist in his dressing as Malcolm X, he needs to read up on the civil rights movement, read up on the Nation of Islam and orthodox Islam, and when asked why he dressed as Malcolm X tell them about Malcolm’s struggle against racism and white supremacy.

Example 3: If a young Black girl wanted to dress as Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg in a black justice robe and glasses, this would not be racist or not racist. If this Black girl put on makeup to make her appear as white, then this would be a racist portrayal of Supreme Court Justice Ginsberg.

For her to be antiracist in her portrayal of Justice Ginsberg, she would need to read up on Justice Ginsberg’s struggle against religious discrimination, for women’s rights and her support of a liberal interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. When asked why she dressed up as Justice Ginsberg, she could tell them what she learned.

The above examples provide possible guidelines for anyone who wants to dress up for Halloween in a costume that is outside their cultural or ethnic experiences. These examples will assist them in choosing how to present themselves so their behavior and presentation will not be interpreted as racist.

Whichever historical individual you choose, make sure you are aware of that person’s history and contribution



to American mythology or history so you can also be an antiracist and not a racist or not racist when you personally present/portray someone outside your culture or ethnic group.

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

A Shameful Need

BY RUTH GADEBUSCH

A code of ethics for the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States should not be necessary, but obviously it is. Sooner rather than later. In fact, we don’t need a code to tell us there is rot in this ever-so-special court. The question is what we are going to do about it. The requirement of a code in lower courts has not eliminated corruption but gives us a weapon to fight it.

Of all the agencies of our government the one that we would hope was the purest is the Supreme Court. Actually, we would hope those serving were all pure but we have been disabused of that notion.

The designers of our government had such faith in the type of men selected—they had no idea of women ever serving—that they provided lifetime appointments to the Supreme Court. The idea was they would not be tempted to play to the perils of a slanted election campaign.

Oh! How disappointed our forefathers would be at the almost daily news we have been receiving of absolute conflicts of interest, pure corruption. It was shocking enough when it was only one member but it hasn’t stopped there. Nor were the gifts just little trinkets of friendship.

While there has been some serious suspicions of one who leaked proposed decisions before the actual announcement, we have truly been hit in the face as one extravagant gift after another was revealed to one member whose confirmation was fraught with charges of sexual harassment that few of us have forgotten. Added to that is his wife’s involvement with the insurrection of Jan. 6 that inevitably involves the court with this justice not recusing himself.

Speaking of sexual charges another now confirmed justice forcefully rejected charges that he had ever crossed any sexual boundaries despite rather credible charges regarding his behavior. We might have been more forgiving had he simply admitted that he had done things in his youth that he would not find acceptable with maturity.

And now we find that a justice’s wife has been paid millions, notice plural, of dollars for recruiting lawyers for law firms that practice before the court regularly.

Shortly after his confirmation, another justice sold a piece of property at an inflated price after it had languished on the market for an inordinate time to a buyer whose motive might justify questioning considering his regular involvement with the court. A woman justice who in confirmation hearings truly downplayed her previous activities in anti-abortion causes has reinforced her history in her votes.

It is amazing that the judges of the highest court in the land are excused from a code of ethics demanded of all others. Granted, signing a code does not guarantee honesty but it is a start.

The Senate, which must confirm these people, is hardly to be excused from its responsibility. Unfortunately, we, the voters, put them there and all too often seem entirely too willing to overlook their sins. Without doubt, corruption is prevalent.

Nor can we excuse the appointing presidents who partake of the idea of extending their power far beyond their presidential terms and therefore name ideologues who put their advocacy before the law.

Currently, it would seem that our serving president is as ethical as anyone we have had serving in the office and yet polls show his favorability is below the immediate past president who has shown us time and again to be as unethical as they come. As this is written, we are getting some indication that this latter is meeting a modicum of accountability. However, far too many are joining the corruption rather than ethics.

ONE WOMAN’S VIEW



There are serious concerns about the ethical conduct of more than one justice on our Supreme Court. Can we do something about that? This image shows the building of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Jeff Kubina/The Commons

Whether as a member of a government body, a business or as an individual far too many seem to feel it is OK to indulge in enriching themselves regardless of the effect on others. Cheating on taxes or avoiding them altogether is almost a game. Huge corporations raking in money are known to legally pay no taxes due to successful lobbying. All of that is bad enough, and now it is the Supreme Court of this nation where there is ample evidence that corruption is rampant.

It has been said that all great empires come to an end sooner or later. Perhaps corruption in the quest for power and riches is the destroying agent. Are we too late? Can the people be convinced that there is a place for character?

Honesty, integrity, truth and ethics are all more than words. So is recuse as in judges removing themselves from participating in cases affecting them personally. It will take more than a code of ethics to get us back on track.

These are truly dark days when the highest court of the land cannot be trusted. We thought it was immune to the spoils of “power corrupts and absolute power corrupting absolutely.” Alas, it is not.

Our responsibility is to demand that those we elect to govern us meet the ideals of our U.S. Constitution. That document and personal ethics should be sufficient. Otherwise, the hope of the world must hang its head in shame.

Let us remind our public servants that it does no good to be in office unless you do the right thing.

Ruth Gadebusch, a former naval officer, has served in various public offices including the Fresno Unified School District board, the Center for Civic Education and many other community organizations.



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Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

EARTH DAY—EVERY DAY—WILPF

WILPF's booth at the April 22 Earth Day Fresno event was both interactive and informative: a FUN place to stop by, learn and get involved. There was something for just about everyone! There were free children's books, thanks to the Library Issues Group.

From two kiddie wading pool "oceans," one could clean out plastic wrap, cans, bottles and other debris, reminding us what garbage receptacles our oceans are becoming. There were two boards on which one could write a sentence/draw a small picture about their relationship to Mother Earth and her beauty. All this to heighten our awareness of taking care of our home planet while we still can do so.

Just about everyone visiting the booth became very engaged in conversation. Some people knew little or nothing about WILPF. Our handouts and membership brochures explained our multifaceted 100+-year-old organization, founded in 1915 by Jane Addams and a small group of other women.

Our Raging Grannies provided thought-provoking songs on the main stage. By the end of the day we were energized. There is much work to be done to expand our relationship with Mother Earth, not just on Earth Day, but EVERY day!

—Jean Hays



The WILPF Booth on Earth Day.
Photo by Kyla Mitchell



The wonderful Raging Grannies sing at Earth Day Fresno. Photo by Kyla Mitchell

MUSICK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Much good work is happening at Musick Creek! The Musick Creek Confluence, a nonprofit made of dedicated forest lovers, is busy cleaning up the place and planting trees all over the 134 acres of beauty. Their wise forest management choices helped to stop the Creek Fire of 2020 from destroying many trees on the property as well as saving neighboring land. They welcome visitors and volunteers! For more information, check out www.musickcreek.org.

WILPF Fresno's Earth Democracy Committee may organize a tree-planting event there soon. Watch for it here!

—Kyla Mitchell

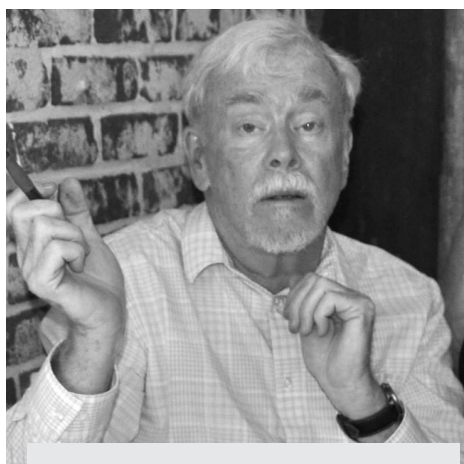


Jemmy Bluestein at Musick Creek.
Photo by Kyla Mitchell

JAY HUBBELL, IN MEMORY

During Pride month and while we participate in the Fresno Rainbow Pride Parade and Festival on June 3, our WILPF Branch remembers Jay Hubbell, who passed away in January of this year. As a member of WILPF, Jay served as our Treasurer and Crafts Faire Chair for several years. We miss Jay's dedication to justice for the marginalized people in our community and the world. RIP Berl Jay Hubbell (1946–2023). Peace!

—Teresa Castillo



Jay Hubbell. Photo by Howard Watkins, 5/28/2015

HONORING THE MEETING OF REVOLUTIONARY MINDS

Birthday of Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz and the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba
May 15, Free AME Church, West Fresno

First, we planted a tree for Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, whose birthday is May 19, and people spoke to his legacy. We also acknowledged that this was the 75th anniversary of Nakba, the expulsion of Palestinians from their own land by settler-colonial apartheid Israel, and that just as Cuba sacrificed over the decades to defeat apartheid, defend Angola and free Namibia, which was a triumph of principle and ethics over expediency, we must defend the rights of the Palestinians even if it's not easy or safe.

Reza Nekumanesh, who gave our keynote speech, the National Director of Clergy Organizing for Faith in Action, and scholar of the life and work of Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, and Juan Rafael Avitia, local and national Brown Berets leader, planted the tree. This was a historic occasion, the first time any physical commemoration of Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz has been done in Central California.



Planting a tree for Malcolm X at the Free AME Freedom Garden.
Photo by LVR

Hajj Reza Nekumanesh spoke about Malcolm X, expounding on his life and work in truth rather than mass media fiction. Ralph Avitia, Dr. Jean Kennedy and Leni Villagomez Reeves spoke about the IFCO Pastors for Peace and about Cuba.

The aims of Pastors for Peace are as follows:

To deliver material aid to support the victims of U.S. aggression in Latin America.

To offer this aid as solidarity, not charity.

To campaign for a more just and moral U.S. foreign policy in our hemisphere.

A Pastors for Peace Caravan takes aid, mostly medical aid, to Cuba. The message of the Caravan is "end the U.S. embargo = blockade."

The blockade is a violation of the most fundamental principles of humanity. It is trying to starve people into submission. It is our duty as citizens and as human beings to oppose this policy and to help, in a small way, to alleviate some of the suffering caused by it. The Ecumenical Distribution Committee, made up of pastors and leaders of various denominations and religious organizations in Cuba, receives and distributes the aid.

The power of Cuba is the power of its revolutionary ideas, the power of its example.—Fidel

The United States is afraid of that example. The U.S. government doesn't want to allow you to go to Cuba and see for yourself. That's a good reason to do it.

We had a Q&A, then the raffle—everybody won.

Thank you to all who worked to make this event happen, including Fresno WILPF Unpacking Racism organizer Dr. Jean Kennedy, Fresno WILPF President Teresa Castillo and Rev. Floyd Harris, Fresno WILPF member and pastor of Free AME Church. And much love to the Raging Grannies!

—Leni Villagomez Reeves



Event organizers Dr. Jean Kennedy, Ralph Avitia, Rev. Floyd Harris and Hajj Reza Nekumanesh, with photojournalist Peter Maiden. Photo by LVR

We went inside and people got food—congrí, tamales, fried chicken—and the Raging Grannies sang to us, including the world premier of a new song written by keyboard player Jean Hays, "Malcolm and Fidel, Showing the Way to a Better World." We beamed in Rosemary Mealy, author of *Fidel and Malcolm X, Memories of a Meeting*. We presented a copy of her book to Rev. Floyd Harris, pastor of the Free AME Church where the event was held and auctioned off another copy, won for \$80 by Phillip Alexander, author of *Rx for Racism*.

WILPF MEETING

June 8 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., online and in person at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number. For more information, contact Teresa at taca_03@ymail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

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

UNPACKING RACISM

June 25 (last Sunday), 6:30 p.m. With Dr. Jean Kennedy. To join and get a link, RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

June 7 (first Wednesday), Courthouse. Check first with Sue Kern skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! HERE'S HOW

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

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

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

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To End All Wars, Close All Bases

BY KATHY KELLY

(Editor's note: This article originally appeared on the CounterPunch website on May 4. It is reprinted here with the author's permission.)

On the few occasions when a government moves toward converting property or weapon production facilities into something useful for human beings, one can't restrain a tumbling brainstorm: What if this signals a trend? What if practical problem-solving begins to trump reckless war preparation?

And so, when Spain's President Pedro Sánchez announced on April 26 that his government will build 20,000 homes for social housing on land owned by the country's Ministry of Defense, it immediately brought to mind the crowded refugee camps around the world and inhumane treatment of people without homes. Visualize the vast capacity to welcome people into decent housing and promising futures if space, energy, ingenuity and funds were diverted from the Pentagon to meet human needs.

We need glimmers of imagination about the worldwide potential for accomplishing good results by choosing the "works of mercy" over "the works of war." Why not brainstorm about how resources devoted to military goals of domination and destruction could be put to use defending people against the greatest threats we all face—the looming terror of ecological collapse, the ongoing potential for new pandemics, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and threats to use them?

But a crucial first step entails fact-based education about the global infrastructure of the U.S. military empire. What is the cost of maintaining each base? How much environmental damage does each base cause (consider depleted uranium poison, water contamination, noise pollution and risks of nuclear weapon storage)?

We also need analysis about ways the bases exacerbate the likelihood of war and prolong the vicious spirals of violence attendant on all wars. How does the U.S. military justify the base, and what is the human rights record of the government the United States negotiated with to build the base?

Tom Englehardt of TomDispatch notes the paucity of discussion about the expanse of U.S. military bases, some of which he calls MIA because the U.S. military manipulates information and neglects to even name various forwarding operating bases. "With very little oversight or discussion," says Englehardt, "the massive (and massively expensive) base structure remains in place."

Thanks to the tenacious work of researchers who formed the No Bases campaign, World BEYOND War (WBW) now presents the many-faced hydra of U.S. militarism, worldwide, in a visual database.

Researchers, scholars, journalists, students and activists can consult this tool for help in exploring vital questions about the cost and impact of the bases.

It's a unique and challenging resource.

At the helm of daily exploration enabling the mapping project's growth is Mohammad Abunahel.

On almost any given day in Abunahel's busy life, he sets aside time, far more than he is compensated for, to work on the mapping project. He and his wife are both Ph.D. students in Mysore, India. They share caring for their infant son, Munir. He takes care of the baby while she studies and then they trade roles.

For years, Abunahel has devoted skill and energy to create a map that now draws the most "hits" of any section on the WBW website. He considers the maps as a step in addressing wider problems of militarism. The unique concept shows all U.S. bases along with their negative impacts in one database that is easy to navigate. This allows people to grasp the intensifying toll of U.S. militarism and provides information useful for taking action to close bases.

Abunahel has good reason to resist military dominance and the threats of destroying cities and towns with overwhelming weaponry. He grew up in Gaza. Throughout his young life, before he finally managed to obtain visas and scholarships to study in India, he experienced constant violence and deprivation.

As one of 10 children in an impoverished family, he readily applied himself in classroom studies, hoping to improve his chances for a normal life, but along with the constant threats of Israeli military violence, Abunahel faced closed doors, dwindling options and rising anger—his own and that of most other people he knew. He wanted out.

Having lived through successive Israeli Occupation Force onslaughts, killing and maiming hundreds of innocent people of Gaza, including children, and destroying homes, schools, roadways, electrical infrastructure, fisheries and farms, Abunahel grew certain that no country has a right to destroy another.

He's also adamant about our collective responsibility to question justifications for the U.S. network of military bases. Abunahel rejects the notion that the bases are necessary to protect the U.S. people. He sees clear patterns showing the base network being used to impose U.S. national interests on people in other countries.

The threat is clear: If you do not submit yourselves to fulfill U.S. national interests, the United States could eliminate you. And if you don't believe this, look at other countries that were surrounded by U.S. bases. Consider Iraq, or Afghanistan.



The United States, unlike any other nation, maintains a massive network of foreign military bases around the world. Courtesy of World BEYOND War

David Swanson, executive director of World BEYOND War, reviewing David Vine's book, *The United States of War*, notes that "since the 1950s, a U.S. military presence has correlated with the U.S. military starting conflicts. Vine modifies a line from *Field of Dreams* to refer not to a baseball field but to bases: 'If you build them, wars will come.'

"Vine also chronicles countless examples of wars begetting bases begetting wars begetting bases that not only beget yet more wars but also serve to justify the expense of more weapons and troops to fill the bases, while simultaneously producing blowback—all of which factors build momentum toward more wars."

Illustrating the extent of the U.S. network of military outposts deserves support. Calling attention to the WBW website and using it to help resist all wars are vital ways to expand the potential for expanding and organizing resistance to U.S. militarism. WBW also welcomes financial contributions to assist Abunahel and his wife, who are, by the way, excitedly awaiting the birth of their second child. WBW would like to increase the small income he earns. It will be a way to support his growing family as he raises our awareness of war-making and our resolve to build a world BEYOND war.

Kathy Kelly, Board president of World BEYOND War, is co-coordinating the November 2023 Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal. She is the author of *Other Lands Have Dreams*, published by CounterPunch/AK Press. Contact her at kathy@worldbeyondwar.org.

Just Peace for Ukraine

BY ZARINA ZABRISKY

During 15 months of full-scale invasion in Ukraine, the Russian Federation exhausted its military resources. Instead of the planned seizure of Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, in three days, the Russian army made little progress and suffered severe losses of human resources and equipment. Instead of "being greeted with flowers," Ukrainians in occupied territories fought back.

To regroup, mobilize, train more military personnel and stop the impending Ukrainian counteroffensive, the Kremlin needs to put the war on hold. To achieve these goals, the Russian government started an active campaign of manipulating international public opinion. The Kremlin uses willing and unwilling agents of influence abroad and in Ukraine to push "peace" negotiations.

One of the Kremlin agents in Ukraine is the Pacifist Movement of Ukraine. The organization is not widely recognized or followed in Ukraine: 1,330 subscribers/10,000 followers on Facebook, with an average of 5–20 likes per post, and 175 subscribers on Ukraine's most popular social media Telegram in a country with more than 40 million population. Even though the movement is little known, its founders have gained some ill fame for their cooperation with the Kremlin-controlled media.

The Pacifist Movement of Ukraine leader, Ruslan Kotsaba, currently resides in the United States. While still in Ukraine, Kotsaba hosted a show on the pro-Russian Ukrainian TV channel NewsOne and worked for Channel 112, which was formerly owned by a member of the pro-Kremlin opposition group Taras Kozak.

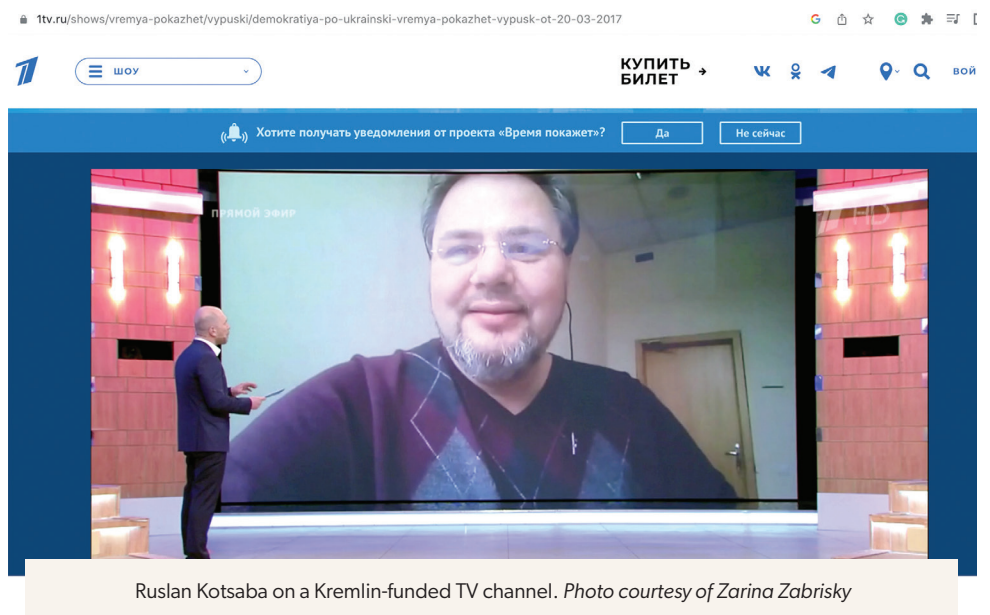
The channels were believed to be related to Viktor Medvedchuk, a Ukrainian oligarch and a close friend of Putin who has been accused of treason in Ukraine. When in 2023, Medvedchuk, in exile in the Russian Federation after a prisoner swap, founded Druhaya Ukraina ("Another Ukraine"), a group that spreads pro-Russian messages amplified by Kremlin-controlled media, Kotsaba joined Druhaya Ukraina.

In the past, Kotsaba appeared on the Kremlin-funded media and he continues to speak to the Russian mass media from the United States. His political views are hardly liberal. In his posts on the Russian social media network, he supports former president Donald Trump and former Fox anchor Tucker Carlson.

Kotsaba is known for his anti-LGBTQ+ and antisemitic statements. For instance, Kotsaba stated that Jews "bear their share of responsibility for the Holocaust" and are responsible "for the rise of communism, fascism and other misanthropic ideologies."

Yuri Shelyazhenko, executive secretary of the Pacifist Movement of Ukraine, also wrote for the Kremlin-controlled Ekho Moskvyy in 2009–2022 and opposed the ban of Russian social media in Ukraine. In June 2023, Shelyazhenko is scheduled to speak at Vienna's International Peace Bureau summit.

The International Summit for Peace in Ukraine will address the global political leaders and "publish an Urgent Global Appeal, called the Vienna Declaration for Peace, calling on political leaders to act in support of a ceasefire and negotiations in Ukraine." The summit speakers list includes the linguist Noam Chomsky, who has consistently justified Crimea's



Ruslan Kotsaba on a Kremlin-funded TV channel. Photo courtesy of Zarina Zabrisky

annexation, and Russian citizens, including Asya Gagiev, a daughter of a prominent figure in Putin's party United Russia, explains Oleksandr Kovalenko, one of Ukraine's leading political analysts.

According to Kovalenko, the International Peace Bureau has a long history of cooperation with the former USSR. Sean McBride, a member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), collaborated with Soviet intelligence as early as the 1920s. In the 1980s, U.S. intelligence put the International Peace Bureau on the list of organizations working in the interests of the USSR.

Kovalenko also researched the sponsoring organizations of the summit. According to him, an Austrian parliamentarian, Wolfgang Katzian, the head of the summit sponsoring organization, the Union of Trade Unions of Austria (Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund), was a member of the Austria-Russia parliamentary group that in 2018 adopted a five-year program of cooperation and dialogue with Russia. He managed the football club Austria, sponsored by Gazprom, the Russian Federation state corporation. Katzian is also a part of the administration of the Austrian-Russian Friendship Community, funded by the Russian special services, reports Kovalenko.

Another sponsor of the Vienna summit is CODEPINK, a feminist nongovernmental organization promoted by the Kremlin-funded RT (former Russia Today) and Sputnik. CODEPINK was mentioned in the 2019 U.S. Congressional hearing on the Russian disinformation attacks on elections.

Speaking of the Kremlin disinformation campaigns, the chair of the House Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy and the Environment of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,

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A 1971 Armed Forces Day anti-Vietnam War demonstration at Ft. Hood Army base in Killeen, Texas. Photo courtesy of The Commons

From Vietnam to Ukraine, We Need to End This War!

BY JOSHUA SHURLEY

"I need to do something about this, and we need to end this war!"

By late 1968, more than 15,000 American GIs had lost their lives in Vietnam during that year alone, and millions of Vietnamese civilians had been killed or displaced as a result of the war's brutality. With fresh memories of the so-called Tet Offensive earlier that year, it was becoming clear that the war would not be ending soon, as U.S. officials had been insisting.

For one young lieutenant named Susan Schnall, serving as a nurse with the U.S. Navy, this was too much to bear. Her patients had been a near endless stream of young Marines returning from combat, victims of horrific physical and psychological injuries. Schnall's disgust with the human toll of the war grew too much and ultimately compelled her to take action.

In October of that year, Schnall set in motion a course of events that would forever impact her life—and affect the burgeoning antiwar movement. After becoming aware of a GI and veterans peace march occurring later that month, and after reading about leaflet drops that U.S. forces were doing in Vietnam, Schnall and a colleague became inspired.

They rented a small airplane and flew over five Bay Area military bases, and (similar to Air Force "psychological operations" in Vietnam) dropped tens of thousands of leaflets on the bases below—including the deck of an aircraft carrier. Only these leaflets were adorned with messages calling for peace in Vietnam and promoting the GI and veterans peace march. A *San Francisco Chronicle* article later that week would dub her the "leaflet bomber."

Immediately afterward, Lt. Schnall held a press conference about the leaflet drop, committing an act of civil disobedience by doing so in full military dress uniform. She

then marched in that October 1968 peace demonstration in San Francisco, which had the largest contingent of active-duty GIs that had ever participated in an anti-Vietnam War protest.

She would later state, "I had the same rights as General [William] Westmoreland, who spoke to the U.S. Congress about increasing the number of troops in Vietnam. I thought 'if General Westmoreland could speak about the war publicly, why couldn't I?'"

As a result of Schnall's courageous actions, as well as her trial by court martial in early 1969, some of the most provocative news coverage of the antiwar movement was elicited during that period. She later told *Redbook* that this time period represented not just what was happening in Vietnam but "my own stand for peace, for an end to all wars," describing the march and speech she gave as "my coming out as a human being."

This began a life of service for Schnall, who went on to pursue a career in healthcare in the New York City area. Aside from spending two decades as an adjunct professor of public health at New York University, her activism for peace and justice continued with a handful of peace, social justice, environmental and public health advocacy organizations.

In 2006, she traveled to Vietnam and encountered children who had been born with terrible deformities and birth defects caused by the Agent Orange chemicals sprayed by U.S. forces during the war. Soon after, Schnall began her work with the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign, of which she is now the co-coordinator.

She eventually joined Veterans for Peace (VFP), a global organization of military veterans and allies dedicated to building a culture of peace by leveraging their unique experiences as veterans. The VFP's goal is to educate the public on the true costs of wars in hopes that war might one day end for good.

It also recognizes an obligation to heal the wounds of war, not only among fellow veterans but also the wounds that U.S. war-making has afflicted worldwide. Today, the VFP has more than 140 chapters across the United States and in several countries.

Schnall has served as the president of the New York City chapter of the VFP and has chaired numerous committees

Susan Schnall in Fresno!

July 1 • 2 p.m.–4 p.m.
Fresno Center for Nonviolence
Anniversary Celebration
Community UCC Church, 5550 N.
Fresno Street, Fresno
Keynote speaker: Susan Schnall,
national president of Veterans for Peace
Way of Peace Awards, Silent Auction
and More

and projects. Over the past five decades of activism, she has been the subject of numerous interviews, articles, books and film projects, including the 2005 documentary *Sir! No Sir!* (by Displaced Films).

Today, Schnall is the president of Veterans for Peace, its message of "Peace at Home, Peace Abroad" has a near-universal resonance and Schnall's leadership of the VFP amid today's ongoing domestic and international turmoil could not be more valuable to the cause of peace.

Whether we think back to the Vietnam War in 1968 or are looking at the Ukraine War today, we should all unite around the sentiment of young Lt. Schnall so many years ago: "I need to do something about this, and we need to end this war!"

Schnall will be in Fresno on July 1 as the keynote speaker for the anniversary celebration of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. The event seeks to bring together the Central Valley's peace and social justice community in solidarity and celebration of our efforts, and will honor local activists and organizations with the Center's Way of Peace awards.

Dr. Joshua Shurley is a political science professor, an organizer with Veterans for Peace and a board member of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Contact him at joshuashurley@gmail.com.

Just Peace for Ukraine

Continued from page 9

William R. Keating (D-Mass.), said that "Russian trolls will amplify any message that seeks to divide Western democracy and sow discord and chaos.

"From supporting CODEPINK and fascist groups in the United States to spreading anti-European Union and anti-NATO messages across Europe, Vladimir Putin's goal is to divide the bond that holds democratic nations together. As long as Putin's hold on power remains unchallenged, he will continue to meddle in Western democracy."

In February 2023, CODEPINK hosted a Kremlin propagandist, Vladimir Posner, pushing pro-Kremlin narratives.

Philosopher Slavoj Žižek wrote in 2022, "What is absolutely unacceptable for a true leftist today is not only to support Russia but also to make a more 'modest' neutral claim that the left is divided between pacifists and supporters of Ukraine and that one should treat this division as a minor fact which shouldn't affect the left's global struggle against global capitalism..."

"Today, one cannot be a leftist if one does not unequivocally stand behind Ukraine. To be a leftist who 'shows understanding' for Russia is like to be one of those leftists who, before Germany attacked the Soviet Union, took seriously German 'anti-imperialist' rhetoric directed at the UK and advocated neutrality in the war of Germany against France and the UK."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told the Associated Press that his government wants a peace summit—after the Russian Federation faces a war crimes tribunal.

On the first anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine, Josep Borrell, high representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and vice-president of the European Commission, said that "it is clear that the world wants peace and that Ukrainians deserve peace. But not just any peace. We want a just peace, based on international law and respect for the UN Charter... Supporting Ukraine and searching for peace go together."

Zarina Zabrisky is an American journalist and an award-winning novelist currently reporting on the Russian war in Ukraine. She is a war correspondent for Bywire News (UK), writes a Daily Review column for Euromaidan Press, an online Ukrainian English-language independent newspaper since 2014, and contributes articles and podcasts on information

warfare, reports from the sites and interviews with military experts and eyewitnesses for these and other publications, including The Byline Times (UK).



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**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.
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Measure C Rhymed 2022 with 2002

BY KEVIN HALL

Shakespeare wrote in 1610, "What's past is prologue." Mark Twain observed 250 years later, "History doesn't repeat itself but it often rhymes." Both adages apply to last November's failed effort to renew Measure C, the Fresno County sales tax dedicated to transportation.

Two decades apart and with a new cast of characters in place, the 2022 committee selection process, expenditure plan development, public outreach, malfunctioning committee, and eventual discord and defeat were a near repeat of 2002. The lessons of that prologue were clearly forgotten.

In both instances, the problem started at the top and played out like a bad limerick:

There once was a woman named Lynne
Who hated letting community in
Like Octavia before her
She said, "No facilitator"

Forcing advocates to block a Measure C win

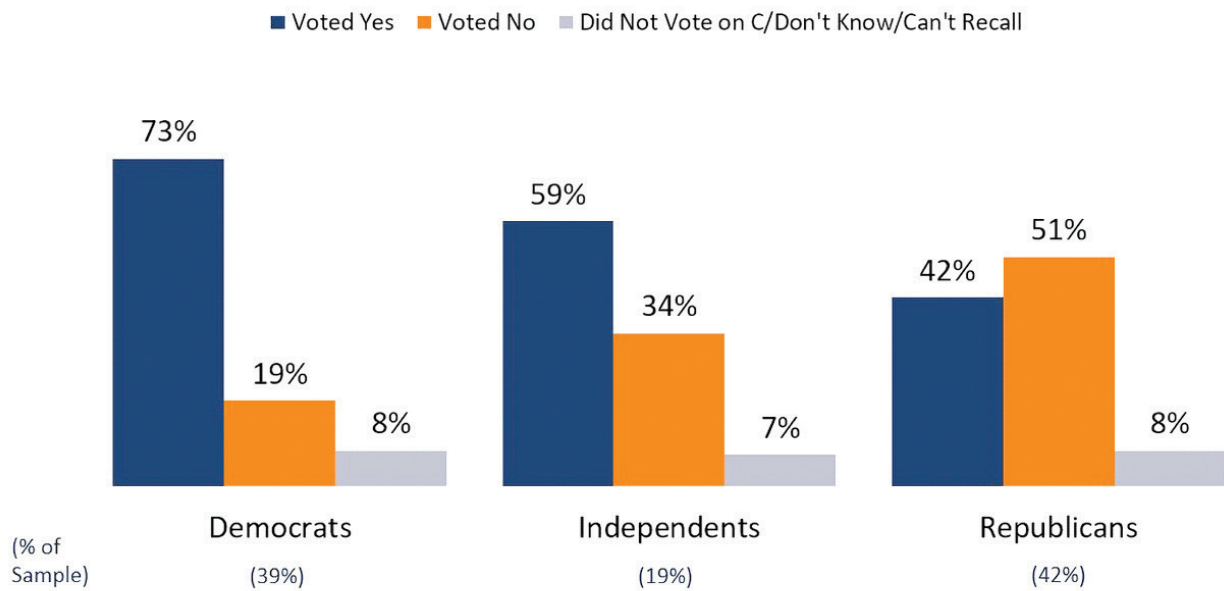
In 2002, a renewal committee was formed by volunteers from the Fresno Chamber of Commerce with staff and politicians from the Fresno County Transportation Authority



The \$200 million freeway interchange at Highway 168 and Owens Mountain Parkway at the edge of town in northeast Clovis isn't likely to get state funding. Voters living in the politically conservative area strongly opposed Measure C, developers' desired funding source. Photo by Kevin Hall

More than two-thirds of Democrats voted in favor of the measure, while less than 50 percent of Republicans reported doing so.

Informed Vote by Party



FM3 RESEARCH Q4. Now that you have heard the official language, do you recall if you voted yes in favor of Measure C or no to oppose it? Progressives worried about transportation impacts on social inequity, air pollution and climate change can thank Republicans for blocking the road-centric Measure C tax proposal. Source: Fresno County Transportation Authority

of Republicans. It needed greater than two-thirds voter approval to pass but fell far short with just 57% support overall.

First approved by voters in 1986 and renewed in 2006, the half-cent retail sales tax won't expire until 2027. Negotiations are already under way between the two sides, meaning the next stanza in this poem of transportation planning is being written now. Here's hoping it doesn't rhyme.

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.

Fresno Pride Parade 2023

Fresno's 33rd annual Rainbow Pride Parade takes place at 10 a.m. on June 3 in the Tower District (Wishon and Olive avenues). For more information on the parade and other related events, visit fresnorainbowpride.com. Fresno Pride image by Community Alliance cartoonist Daniel Medina

and the Fresno Council of Governments, a pair of powerful if little known public agencies. A coterie of special interests was assembled through private outreach. Advocates for alternative transportation modes, social equity and environmental justice were intentionally excluded and, initially, refused seats at the table.

It happened again in 2022. Twenty years ago, a conservative community leader named Octavia Diener ran the show; this time around it was a Clovis City Council member, Valley Children's Hospital public relations executive Lynne Ashbeck. Both times advocates had to fight a very public battle to gain seats at the table, only to learn once there that backroom deals were being cut by politicians aided by top staffers.

The first lesson learned from the 2002 defeat was that in order to have a healthy discussion and ensure integrity in the committee process, neutral facilitation would be needed. After a cooling down period, professionals were hired, an inclusive process developed and the tax successfully renewed in 2006 with a more balanced spending plan in place. That lesson was soon forgotten.

Ironically, according to her comments in a committee meeting, Ashbeck joined the post-2002 rapprochement effort and was so impressed by the process that she went on to earn a certificate in facilitation from Fresno Pacific University. Like Diener before her, Ashbeck misjudged her ability to manage 30 people debating billions in transportation spending and will now have to step aside for the good of the community.

Also, 2022 echoed 2002 in another important way: The tax measure's spending plan did not reflect voters' priorities. People voted last time to fund road repair and it didn't happen, so trust is low. More than six months after voters rejected the proposal, local elected leaders were finally presented with an analysis of the electorate at the May meeting of the transportation authority board. The bad

news didn't get better with age, especially for progressives.

If you're worried about social inequity, air pollution and climate change and want to see local and state governments invest in a modern transportation system that addresses your concerns, then raise a glass and make a toast to Fresno County Republicans. You owe them one. They voted overwhelmingly against the old school, road-centric plan, according to a survey.

Then thank the community-based coalition led by Fresno Building Healthy Communities and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability that emerged to oppose the 30-year measure as being too long and for its backers having used a rushed process that intentionally excluded the general public and lacked transparency. Their messaging to voters of every stripe ensured that people paying attention to the details knew this proposal was not worth supporting.

Apparently, most Democrats don't pay attention. According to the survey and its 4% margin of error, the 2022 renewal measure was supported by an overwhelming majority of Democrats at 73%, 59% of Independents and 42%



Moving to Community Choice Aggregation for Energy

BY ROB ENGLAND

The Climate Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has been a leader in creating climate solutions and action plans for a climate-safe future in California, hosted a community meeting in Fresno on March 29 to explore New Choices in Electricity Service for Fresno with elected leaders, the community and climate change activists.

Fresno City Council Members Luis Chavez and Nelson Esparza addressed the gathering regarding efforts by the City of Fresno. There was a presentation by Peninsula Clean Energy, and others shared experiences in their respective communities. Venise Curry, Climate Center vice chair, spoke on healthcare issues and engagement of disenfranchised communities.

Community choice energy, also known as Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), is a concept that has been gaining popularity among local governments and communities in California. Essentially, a CCA program allows communities to choose where their energy comes from, rather than being limited to the offerings of the local utility company. This not only benefits the community in terms of cost savings and greater energy independence but also has positive impacts on small businesses and the environment.

This concept is not new. In California alone, there are already 25 operational CCAs with more than 15 million customers in 200-plus cities in more than 20 counties. These efforts are supported by hundreds of elected officials.

Benefits to the Community

One of the main benefits of CCA to a community is that it offers choice and greater control over a city's energy supply. Instead of being beholden to the decisions of a large, distant utility company, residents and businesses can have a say in where their energy comes from and how it is produced.

This can foster a sense of community engagement and ownership, as well as promote transparency and accountability in the energy sector. We all deserve choice.



Participants at the March 29 meeting on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) for electricity service in Fresno. Photo by Rob England

Another benefit of CCA is increased energy independence. By choosing where energy comes from, the reliance on fossil fuels can be reduced while moving toward cleaner, renewable sources of energy. This can help to insulate a community from fossil fuel price volatility, reduce the carbon footprint and contribute to the fight against climate change.

Roughly \$150 million leaves the Fresno economy in the form of energy costs annually. With CCA, these millions would be redirected to local control.

In addition, CCAs have the potential for cost savings. By pooling the energy demand of a community and negotiating with energy suppliers on behalf of the residents and businesses, a CCA program can often secure better rates than what would be available from the local utility company.

This means that residents and businesses can potentially save money on their energy bills, which can be especially beneficial for those on fixed incomes or struggling financially. Think of it like when you buy in bulk to save money.

Benefits to Small Businesses

Small businesses can benefit from CCA in several ways. First and foremost, lower energy costs can be a significant boon to small businesses, which often operate on tight margins. By potentially saving money on energy bills, small businesses can free up resources to invest in other areas of their operation, such as marketing, hiring or product development.

In addition, CCA can provide small businesses with access to renewable energy sources that might otherwise be cost-prohibitive. Many small businesses are interested in adopting more sustainable practices, but they might lack the resources to install solar panels or purchase renewable energy credits on their own.

By participating in a CCA program, small businesses can benefit from the collective purchasing power of their community and gain access to clean, renewable energy sources at a competitive price.

Benefits to the Environment

Perhaps the most significant benefit of CCA is the potential to help mitigate climate change. By promoting the adoption of renewable energy sources and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, CCAs can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow the pace of global warming. This not only benefits the environment but also has economic and social benefits, such as reducing the impact of natural disasters, improving public health and creating new jobs in the renewable energy sector.

Already, California CCAs are producing more than 11 gigawatts of clean, locally sourced energy. That is the equivalent power output of four Diablo Canyon-sized nuclear power plants.

Moreover, CCAs can help to promote innovation and technological advancements in the energy sector. As communities demand more clean, renewable energy, energy suppliers will be incentivized to invest in research and development to meet that demand. This can lead to new and innovative energy solutions that benefit communities and businesses alike, as well as drive down the cost of renewable energy and make it more accessible to all.

What needs to be done?

The Fresno City Council has begun a study on CCA and will select a consultant to do this research. It is critical that the Council be open and transparent during this process.

When we come together as one and demand community choice energy, we can all benefit: communities, small businesses and the environment. By giving us greater control over our energy supply and access to renewable energy sources, a CCA program can help us reduce costs, increase energy independence and promote sustainable practices.

In addition, CCAs promote innovation in the energy sector and contribute to the fight against climate change. As more communities across California and the United States adopt CCA programs, these benefits will become even more apparent, driving the continued growth and development



Venise Curry addresses a community meeting on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) with moderator Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas and Woody Hastings, the Climate Center's program manager. Photo by Rob England

Continues on page 14

KFCF and the Fresno Free College Foundation

Invite you to their *first live banquet since the pandemic!*

Saturday, July 29th at the Unitarian Universalist Church

Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, speaker at 7:30

Featuring **Judge Pahoua Lor**, first Hmong American female judge in the State of California, with a **buffet-style dinner catered by Libelula!**

Tickets are \$75 by July 21st
 (\$520 for a table of 8), or
\$90 at the door

Advance tickets can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com/e/fresno-free-college-annual-banquet-2023-tickets-636008276877...

...or by mailing a check to KFCF, PO Box 4364, Fresno, CA 93744



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SIERRA CLUB

TEHIPITE CHAPTER

Thanks to the advocacy and organizing work of our Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter in Fresno, in September 2021, the Sierra Club national Council of Club Leaders passed a resolution in support of two California Native tribes, struggling for more than 40 years to be designated as "federally-recognized" tribes by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Federal recognition is crucial for tribes in order to gain the respect of our government as sovereign nations and to be eligible for healthcare and grant funding. The Sierra Club national Board of Directors followed up with a unanimous vote in support of the SSMN effort to achieve federal recognition. We are now ramping up our campaign as the tribe is getting close to succeeding in this effort, and is asking for your support.

The Council of Club Leaders resolution requested the Sierra Club national Board of Directors to support the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN) petition to the U.S. Department of the Interior to: (1) recognize the SSMN as an Indian Tribe; (2) withdraw the Department's 2018 proposed finding against federal acknowledgment; and (3) support the SSMN campaign through all appropriate actions. The Sierra Club was asked to help with survey research funding, online organizing, and generating support online and in the national media.

Background

Prior to the mid-19th Century, seven Native tribes traversed Yosemite Valley and occupied it on a seasonal basis. In 1851, after a campaign of terror against the region's Indigenous peoples, treaties were signed between the U.S. Army and more than a dozen Central California tribes. The tribes surrendered their sovereignty as nations and their lands in exchange for promises of reservation lands and food — promises that were never fulfilled for the Southern Sierra Miwuk tribe. The treaties were never ratified by the U.S. Senate after California's Senators declined to support them. As a result, some tribes remain today without any government recognition or support. In 1979, the modern

process for federal acknowledgement of Native tribes was established by the U.S. Department of the Interior, which is responsible for the review of petitions from tribes desiring federal recognition. The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation began its present petition campaign in 1982.

The Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter covers a four-county region of Central California region, including portions of the San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada and Yosemite National Park, with more than 1,400 dues-paying members. In July 2019, the Chapter leadership took an interest in the SSMN's campaign and established relations with its tribal chair. In October 2019, The Chapter's Executive Committee voted unanimous support for the SSMN's petition for federal acknowledgement, and was authorized by the national Club to submit a letter to the Department of the Interior in support of the SSMN's petition on behalf of the national Club and its 800,000 members.

Why This Resolution is Important

The legacy of the Sierra Club includes the famous camping trip where John Muir hosted President Theodore Roosevelt in Yosemite Valley, resulting in the Valley's addition in 1905 to the National Park. Over the next five years, however, federal troops destroyed four Native villages in the Valley, including one that was burned to the ground. Although Muir himself demonstrated a respect for Indigenous peoples, the Sierra Club, which Muir founded in 1892, did not speak out against these injustices.

Our Club has an opportunity now to take a leadership role in addressing the continued harm done to California Natives for nearly two centuries. It is both the morally right thing to do, and politically strategic for the Club to do this, as we recognize the errors of our past historical figures, and learn from their limitations. Specifically, Indigenous leaders are now rejecting the 200-year effort to airbrush Indigenous residents out of the modern concept of Wilderness, which was itself based

on the experiences of 19th Century painters and writers as a reaction to modern industrial cities. In fact, the "virgin" forests that explorers found in the American West were not untouched; rather, they were maintained through efforts by Native communities, shaping the landscape to keep it sustainable.

This moment is also a historic opportunity to move public opinion to recognize the importance of tribal sovereignty. With the recent inauguration of President Biden and the confirmation of New Mexico Pueblo Native Deb Haaland as Secretary of the Interior, we can reverse the destructive actions of the Trump Administration. This is our unique opportunity to build bridges between the Club and outside groups as we appreciate the importance of structural change in our nation's attitudes and policies toward America's Indigenous peoples.

How You Can Help

The SSMN is presently conducting a survey of its roughly 600 widely dispersed members in order to complete its application to OFA. As a result of limited resources and the pandemic, the tribe received from the Interior Department this May its seventh 6-month extension on the deadline for submitting this application.

The Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter recently made its second \$5,000 grant to a tribal researcher who is compiling surveys which document the activities of the tribe's members who, although scattered across California during the pandemic, have been active on social media. This painstaking research is demanded by the Department of the Interior in order for the tribe to prove its existence.

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation needs your help, either through your volunteer time or a financial contribution. For more information, contact Gary Lasky at 559-790-3495.

Additional Reading:

- Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation website: www.southernsierramiwuknation.org. Includes Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation pamphlet, narrative, and a timeline of the tribe's application for federal recognition.
- Benjamin Madley. *An American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe*. Yale University Press, 2016.
- Mark David Spence. *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*. Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Brendan C. Lindsay. *Murder State: California's Native American Genocide, 1846-1873*. University of Nebraska Press, 2012.
- Albert L. Hurtado. *Indian Survival on the California Frontier*. Yale University Press, 1988.

Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
Homelands~Yosemite Valley, Mariposa California

TEXT TO DONATE
Your financial support will strengthen our efforts & power our petition for **Federal Acknowledgment**

Text the word "GIVE" to:
1-833-832-5184
Follow the text prompts that follow to donate. Toll Free.

 **paypal.me/Miwuk**
<https://www.southernsierramiwuknation.org>
Check donations payable
"American Indian Council Mariposa County"
P.O. Box 186 Mariposa, CA 95338



The Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club invites the public to its June Zoom meeting with Mark Silberstein, Executive Director of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. Elkhorn Slough is located in the geographic



center of Monterey Bay in central California. It is a tidal embayment that harbors the largest tract of salt marsh south of San Francisco Bay and has been a focal point for conservation for five decades. The slough is a remarkable environment that supports a tremendous diversity of fish and wildlife and has become a 'living laboratory' for understanding the nature of these coastal environments and a cherished place for people to explore. Mark will share images and insight into this gem on the central coast drawn from his many decades of engagement here.

Visit sierraclub.org/tehipite to register and receive the Zoom link. Advance registration is required. Free and open to the general public.

Moving to Community Choice Aggregation for Energy

Continued from page 12

of this exciting new approach to how we power our homes, businesses and the fifth largest economy in the world.

Rob England is a Kern County labor and climate change activist and the Central Valley regional coordinator for the Climate Center. Contact him at rob@theclimatecenter.org.

Take Action!

Urge members of the Fresno City Council to remain fair and unbiased when it comes to choosing a consultant to move forward with the City's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program.

In addition, voice your support for CCA at City Council meetings to ensure that the City's elected officials understand the importance of making CCA in Fresno a reality.

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Tuesday, June 13, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Monthly meeting at Fresno Center for Nonviolence

Tuesday, June 20, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Discussion of war in Ukraine with video prompts
Becoming more informed

Saturday, June 24, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
"U.S., Stop Funding War in Ukraine!"
Street Demonstration Come for all or part
president@peacefresno.org 1-661-545-7313

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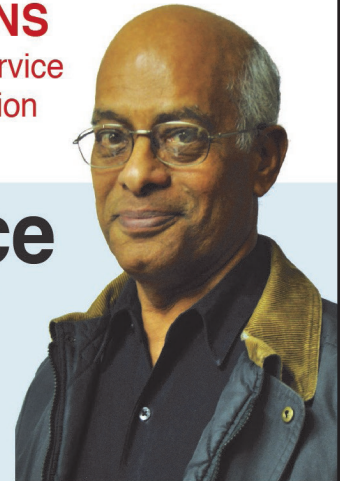
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Fresno Honors Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz and Cuba

BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

On May 15, Fresno came together to honor Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, to celebrate his legacy and his meeting with Fidel Castro at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem in 1960 and to honor the contribution that Cuba has made to freedom and the anti-colonial struggles of Africa.

At the Free AME Church in West Fresno, a diverse group participated in planting a fruit tree to commemorate Malcolm X, whose birthday is May 19. Rev. Floyd Harris; Hajj Reza Nekumanesh, national director of clergy organizing for Faith in Action and scholar of the life and work of Malcolm X; and Juan Rafael Avitia, local and national Brown Berets leader, set this tree for the future into the ground at the Freedom Garden. Nekumanesh then spoke about the beliefs, life and legacy of Malcolm X.

In September 1960, shortly after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, the Cuban delegation to the UN General Assembly was led by Castro. They had arranged to stay at an uptown hotel near the Cuban Legation, but when they arrived the hotel asked them for a huge deposit against possible damages.

Castro said, "We had two choices. One was the United Nations gardens—when I mentioned this to the Secretary General of the UN he was horrified at the thought of a



Hajj Reza Nekumanesh, left, and Juan Rafael Avitia, right, dig a hole to plant a fruit tree at the Free AME Church garden in honor of Malcolm X. The planting took place at an event for the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba. Photo by Peter Maiden

delegation camping there in tents. But when we received Malcolm X's offer—he had spoken with one of our comrades—I said, 'That is the place, the Hotel Theresa.' And there we went."

They went to Harlem, where they were greeted by huge cheering crowds. Close to midnight, Malcolm X arrived to greet and speak with Castro.

Malcolm X said, "I think you will find the people in Harlem are not so addicted to the propaganda they put out downtown."

Castro said, "I admire this. I have seen how it is possible for propaganda to make changes in people. Your people live here and are faced with this propaganda all the time, and yet they understand. This is very interesting."

Malcolm replied, "There are 20 million of us, and we always understand."

They exchanged views on the anti-colonial struggle in Africa and the struggle against the oppression of Black people in the United States.

The exchange of thoughts and the feelings that prompted the discussion had major consequences for the future. Cuba committed to the freedom struggle of Black Africa.

When South African troops invaded Angola, independence leader Agostinho Neto appealed for help, and Cuba responded. Cuban troops were key in stopping the South African mercenary invasion. And they continued to respond to African independence leaders' appeals for help in the battle against South Africa and colonial rule until Angola and Namibia were free, and until apartheid was conquered in South Africa.

In 1991, Nelson Mandela visited Havana and said a great deal in appreciation of the Cuban Revolution, including, "From its earliest days, the Cuban Revolution has also been a source of inspiration to all freedom-loving people..."

"We come here with a sense of the great debt that is owed to the people of Cuba. What other country can point to a record of greater selflessness than Cuba has displayed in its relations to Africa?"

Leni Villagomez Reeves is a local physician and activist. Contact her at lenivreeves@gmail.com.



Dr. Jean Kennedy, a Caravan to Cuba activist and WILPF member, at the microphone. Photo by Peter Maiden

Happy 94th Birthday, Sam Nujoma!

BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

On May 13, the president of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, sent congratulations to Sam Nujoma on his 94th birthday. Sam (Samuel Daniel Shafiishuna) Nujoma is the Father of His Country, and his country is Namibia. Namibia was called South-West Africa by the South African apartheid regime that ruled it. They had no intention of ever releasing their control.

Nujoma began working on the railroads as a young man and studied by correspondence. He began organizing workers. Then the South African apartheid government began "relocating" African people into homelands—removing them from their homes and lands by force.

SWAPO was formed to resist and struggle for liberation and an end to settler-colonialism, and Nujoma was elected its president. He presented a petition to the UN General Assembly demanding an end to South Africa's colonial administration. The apartheid government was impervious to international opinion and UN resolutions.

Armed struggle began in August 1966, and Nujoma took a leading part. He continued to try for peaceful solutions as negotiations resumed in 1977–1978, leading to Resolution 435—supposedly an agreement by which the South Africans would allow elections in Namibia. Of course, South Africa had no intention of doing so until they could be sure of installing a puppet government and retaining control of the main port.

South African troops occupied Namibia and committed atrocities under the pretext of suppressing liberation actions. They killed livestock and poisoned wells, killed and scattered people to maintain a buffer zone at the Namibia-Angola border. Then South Africa crossed the border and invaded Angola itself.

What changed the South African policy and allowed Namibia to become free? The answer is Angola and Cuba.

Angola was an occupied colonial possession of Portugal. When Portugal agreed to Angolan independence in 1975, there were three rival "independence movements," but not all were truly fighters for liberation and independence.

The FNLA was headed by Holden Roberto, a CIA asset; UNITA, backed by the United States and South Africa precisely because it was willing to cooperate with the apartheid regime in South Africa, was headed by charismatic psychopath Jonas Savimbi; and the MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola) was led by Agostinho Neto and concentrated on class, not ethnicity. MPLA was the only truly national, and the only real, liberation organization.

Civil war broke out in Angola in the spring of 1975, before the independence of November. By September, the United States and South Africa realized that the MPLA was winning, not because they were better armed (the United States and South Africa were arming the other organizations) but because they were more effective and more popular.

Washington urged Pretoria to intervene and on Oct. 14, 1975, South African regular troops invaded Angola, converting the civil war into an international conflict. It was not until Nov. 4, 1975, that Cuba sent troops in response to the MPLA's appeals for help. U.S. government sources at the time tried to



Sam Nujoma, Namibian independence leader (left,) with Fidel Castro in an undated image. Photo by Ricardo Lopez Hevia/courtesy of Granma

paint this as done "on orders from Moscow," but over time even the most prejudiced U.S. warmongers (e.g., Henry Kissinger) had to admit that Cuba acted independently and that the USSR did not even begin to help until two months later.

Time went on, and so did the struggle. In May 1978, South African troops attacked the Namibian refugee camp of Cassinga in southern Angola. Six hundred refugees were killed before Cuban troops were able to reach the area and defeat the South Africans.

In 1981, the United States, with Reagan in power, was sympathetic to the white South African government. The ANC (African National Congress—Nelson Mandela's freedom movement) was the leading South African liberation force.

All of Southern Africa had to resist the South African attacks: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Mozambique all suffered South African Defense Force raids, bombing, sabotage and targeted murders.

Continues on page 18

Peace & Social Justice Calendar June 2023

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

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

- THU 01** **ArtHop Downtown/Tower District** 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit FACarthop on Facebook.
- SAT 03** **Tower Pride Parade** 10 a.m. Olive Ave., Tower District. 33rd annual parade.
- Pride Festival** 11 a.m.–3 p.m. 1101 E. University Ave. Local vendors, entertainment and resources.
- MON 05** **Democratic Women in Action** 6 p.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, contact 559-681-3140 or ggaston1234@aol.com or visit www.dwiafresno.org.
- TUE 06** **National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)** 5:30 p.m. Los Amigo's Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. Speaker: Sharanjeet Kaur Ranu, a teacher, activist and leader in the Fresno Sikh community. Topic: Empower and Educate Women in the Punjabi Sikh Community in the Valley. For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or joanne@pbyoga.com.
- KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro** 7 p.m. Weekly radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit www.kfcf.org.
- WED 07** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. *Community Alliance* radio show hosted by Daren Miller. For more info, visit www.kfcf.org.
- THU 08** **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** 7 p.m. Online/In person, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. For more info, contact 559-360-8054 or taca_03@ymail.com.
- MON 12** **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)** 5 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact swgamble@aol.com.
- TUE 13** **Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC)** 6 p.m. For more info, contact 559-287-1308 or bapacfresno@gmail.com.

Stonewall Democratic Club 6 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. For more info, contact 559-709-8016 or conantm@aol.com.

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

KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro 7 p.m. Weekly radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit www.kfcf.org.

WED 14 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show hosted by Josh Shurley. For more info, visit www.kfcf.org.

THU 15 **Juneteenth Festival** June 15–19 Valdez Hall Convention & Visitors Center, 702 M St. Performing artists, speakers, food vendors, merchandise vendors and info booths. For more info, call 559-375-1880 or 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.

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

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter 7 p.m. Woodward Park Regional Library, 944 E. Perrin Ave. Speaker: Mark Silberstein, executive director of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. Elkhorn Slough is located in the geographic center of Monterey Bay in central California. It is a tidal embayment that harbors the largest tract of salt marsh south of San Francisco Bay and has been a focal point for conservation for five decades. The slough is a remarkable environment that supports a tremendous diversity of fish and wildlife and has become a "living laboratory" for understanding the nature of these coastal environments and a cherished place for people to explore. Free and open to the general public. To register in advance or for more info, visit sierraclub.org/tehipite.

SAT 17 **West Fresno Democratic Club** 9 a.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. For more info, contact 559-930-4909 or westfresnodemclub@gmail.com.

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

MON 19 **Central Valley Partnership** 5:30 p.m. Location TBD. For more info, contact 559-967-1940 or agrariandemcracy@gmail.com.

TUE 20 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro** 7 p.m. Weekly radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit www.kfcf.org.

WED 21 **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.

SAT 24 **Central Valley Progressive PAC** 3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-978-4504 or simone.rhodes@seiu521.org.

MON 26 **Fresno County Democratic Women's Club** 11:30 a.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant Garden Room, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. \$25/person. For more info, contact 559-905-1836 or patrbarr73@gmail.com.

TUE 27 **California Association of Retired Americans (CARA)** 10 a.m. SEIU Local 521, 5228 E. Pine Ave. For more info, contact 559-360-5955 or 559-704-8384.

KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro 7 p.m. Weekly radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit www.kfcf.org.

WED 28 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info visit www.kfcf.org.

FRI 30 **El Concilio de Fresno Noon.** Julia's Mexican Restaurant (Banquet Room), 2160 H St. For more info, contact 559-360-9797 or eddiev@elconciliodefresno.org.

Stop the Hate Town Hall 5:30 p.m. First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley. Learn how to report a hate crime, what community groups have resources to assist you and how to prevent hate crimes and incidents before they happen. Food, childcare and translation for Spanish and English speakers. Hosted by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance and the *Community Alliance* newspaper. For more info, contact 559-994-9390.

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

Juneteenth Is Here

BY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE STAFF

Juneteenth, the historically recognized celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States, began in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. The event has grown into an international phenomenon celebrated in Mexico, Central America and parts of the Caribbean.

The Fresno Juneteenth Celebration Committee has been commemorating the event for more than 30 years. Following the 2022 success, this year's celebration will again span five days, June 15–19. Each day will offer attendees different experiences marking the occasion.

Join the anticipated 8,000–10,000 visitors. For more information, contact the event director, Janice Sumler, at fresnojuneteenth@gmail.com or 559-375-1880.



Looking for Volunteer Delivery Drivers for the Community Alliance!

We need help with any or all of these towns south of Fresno in Fresno County: Caruthers, Selma, Fowler, Reedley and Parlier.

Help us get out the "voice of the progressive movement."

Contact Peter, Distribution Manager, by e-mail:

maidenfoto1@gmail.com

FRESNO Juneteenth FESTIVAL
Valdez Hall
"United We Stand"

THURSDAY June 15, 2023	FRIDAY June 16, 2023	SATURDAY June 17, 2023	SUNDAY June 18, 2023	MONDAY June 19, 2023
African American Museum Juneteenth Kickoff 4pm-8pm	Feather's House of Comedy Juneteenth Edition Rose' 8pm - doors open 9pm - Show	Freedom 5K Run/Walk Woodward Park 8am Parade & Juneteenth Celebration Special Guest: The Delfonics Ft. Greg Hill Buffalo Soldiers Fashion show Food Vendors Info booths Entertainment 12pm - 7pm	Juneteenth Celebration Sunday Jubilee Buffalo Soldiers Fashion show Food Vendors Info booths Entertainment 12pm - 5pm	Raising of the Juneteenth Flag at Fresno City Hall 12 noon Monday Funday Cultural Arts Park 2pm

www.fresnojuneteenth.com

for more info call: (559) 375-1880



Fresno Center for Nonviolence June 2023

Dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through
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 To see a more colorful version of our page go to our website.



Edited by
 Richard Gomez

Happy 31st Anniversary Fresno Center for Nonviolence!

It's been over 30 years ago, that the folks gathered around to say, that we really need a place to stay, to finally put to an end to wars. Cause' it's been going in and out of style, destroying everything alive. So, let us re-introduce to you, the one's you've known all these years,
The Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Good morning, America, happy birthday to the Center for Nonviolence and let's stop all the killings now!



We will be celebrating the Fresno Center for Nonviolence's 31st birthday on Saturday July 1st at Community UCC, 5550 N. Fresno St., Fresno CA. The event will be in an air-conditioned room beginning at 2 until 4pm featuring a potluck meal and silent auction. Special Guest Speaker Susan Schnall. Free Parking.

Silent Auction



Contact Rita for donations or questions at
luvlyrta@gmail.com or 559-860-9640



Our Special guest speaker,
 Susan Schnall

About our Speaker...

Susan Schnall is a longtime New York-based public health advocate, antiwar activist, and community organizer, and currently serves as the president of Veterans For Peace. While serving as a nurse in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, her work regularly brought her face to face with the horrors of the war. As a result, she began strenuously organizing against the war, helping to create an antiwar GI coffeehouse and writing for local GI underground newspapers. Susan's fierce activism during her military service, along with her subsequent military trial, may have garnered some of the most provocative news coverage during the early days of the movement against that war.

In 1969 Susan was tried and convicted by a court martial for "conduct unbecoming an officer" after dropping tens of thousands of antiwar leaflets from a plane over Bay Area military bases and the deck of an aircraft carrier in late 1968 (as mentioned in the 2005 documentary film, *Sir! No Sir!*). The court-martial of Susan Schnall, a lieutenant (junior grade) U.S.

Navy nurse stationed at the Oakland Naval Hospital in Oakland, California, took place in early 1969 during the Vietnam War. Her political activities, which led to the military trial, may have garnered some of the most provocative news coverage during the early days of the U.S. antiwar movement against that war. In October 1968, the San Francisco Chronicle called her the "Peace Leaflet Bomber" for raining tens of thousands of antiwar leaflets from a small airplane over several San Francisco Bay Area military installations and the deck of an aircraft carrier. The day after this "bombing" run, she marched in her officer's uniform at the front of a large antiwar demonstration, knowing it was against military regulations. While the Navy was court-martialing her for "conduct unbecoming an officer", she was publicly telling the press, "As far as I'm concerned. it's conduct unbecoming to officers to send men to die in Vietnam."


After leaving the Navy, Susan moved to New York City and pursued a career as a healthcare administrator in area hospitals as well as serving as an Adjunct Professor of Public Health at New York University for two decades.

Her activism over the years includes organizing with Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), the American Public Health Association and the Medical Committee for Human Rights. Prior to being elected president of Veterans For Peace in 2021, Susan has served as the president of the NYC chapter of Veterans For Peace as well as being co-coordinator of the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign. Today, Susan Schnall continues her advocacy in her leadership of Veterans For Peace, an organization of military veterans and allies who use their experiences and collective voice to build a culture of peace and inform the public of the true cost and consequences of war and militarism.

- This article was written by Joshua Shurley and information regarding her trial from Wikipedia.

Meditation for Inner Peace and Happiness

Learn techniques to experience Peace within you and harmony in your relationships



Starting June 6th, 2023
 on Tuesdays at 5pm to 6pm
 at Fresno Center for Nonviolence
 1584 N Van Ness Ave, Fresno

Guided meditation, time for sharing and discussion led by
 Veena Kapoor MSW.Ed.D and
 Kim Forbes Phd., practicing
 Raja Yoga meditation

All classes are FREE. No prior experience required.

For more information on Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Please call (559) 237-3223 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

For more information about the class, Please call (559) 435 2212

88.1 FM KFCF



Stir it, UP!



Next show is Wednesday June 14th at 3pm.

Our show in June will be host Joshua Shurley and his guest, Susan Schnall New York-based public health advocate, antiwar activist, and community organizer, and currently serves as the president of Veterans For Peace. For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at www.centerfornonviolence.org.

In May our show with Josh Shurley and his guest Leni Villagomez-Reeves about the Pastors For Peace Cuba Caravan and recent news surrounding ongoing US-Cuba relations. To hear again go to: <https://on.soundcloud.com/4wpTv>

An Encuentro About Land, Climate and Food Justice

BY BRISSA REYES

In April, Madera Community College hosted the American Friends Service Committee's Pan Valley Institute (PVI) national *encuentro*, or gathering, titled Salt of the Earth, centering California's Central Valley.

Madera was chosen for this important event because of the strong presence of indigenous immigrant farmworkers from Oaxaca, Mexico, who besides being laborers in the fields are reshaping the cultural landscape of this city of almost 70,000 inhabitants.

In 2020, Madera's gross value of all farm production was \$1.95 billion, ranking No. 10 among California's 58 counties in California, according to a report produced by Madera County Agricultural Commissioner Rusty Lantsberger.

By comparison, Fresno County, according to the 2020 Fresno County Annual Crop and Livestock Report, is the largest agricultural producer in both California and the nation.

The event brought together numerous farmworkers, activists, community organizers, photographers, artists, learners, educators and people locally and abroad to engage in topics involving land, climate and food justice in this area.



The Salt of the Earth bus tour brought attendees to la Lang's farm in Sanger. Lang is struggling with insufficient water to continue farming. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

Featuring multiple *pláticas*, or dialogues, a Theater of the Oppressed workshop, a photo exhibit and a Cultural Kitchen, the gathering focused on cultivating conversation for intergenerational care of the land while revealing how food production and those involved in those processes are all connected and essential.

Although the conference took place in April, these conversations have been taking place within our communities for a long time.

For more than 20 years, PVI has been advocating for underserved and refugee populations in the San Joaquin Valley, providing space for cultural organizing and the exchange of stories.

Rooted in a popular education model and focused on the intentional creation of spaces, PVI organizes and uses resources for the community to connect in order to address issues within the social-political landscape. It is also a participatory research learning center and strives to empower voices to ensure everyone gets a seat at the table.



Attendees of the Salt of the Earth *encuentro* visited Saetern Cheng's farm as part of a bus tour. Cheng is a small farmer who is being evicted from the land he rents in Madera so that a housing project can be built. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

The weekend was full of growth, learning and exchange of knowledge. One key event, the Round Table on Wheels: Getting to Know California's Central Valley, took the attendees on a journey through small towns in the periphery of Fresno County. Many of these towns contain large producers of crops and have large farmworker communities.

From Reedley and Sanger to Madera, small local farmers, many of whom practice sustainable farming techniques and grow organic goods, spoke on what it was like to be tending to the land at this time. Organizations such as the Feed the Hunger Fund are working to support these local growers in times of economic need.

Despite the many unique challenges that small farmers face, all shared their love and passion for their work and the land itself. Ramon Flore, a farmer who participated on the tour, highlighted this connection and said that farming feeds his soul.

Another *plática*, Building a Collective Knowledge: A Creative Approach to Social Changes, facilitated by Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, Estela Galvan, Minerva Mendoza and Myrna Martinez Nateras, examined the process of building collective knowledge and the space for cultural organizing through a group discussion. Many who attended shared their own experiences with cultural organizing and facilitation.

Many dynamic and mindful conversations took place during the event, however, the idea of bringing knowledge already within these communities to the forefront was in these spaces and present throughout.

During lunch breaks, people could hear La Banda San Martin Itunyoso, a local Madera *banda* of indigenous Triquis young adults from Oaxaca, who are passionate about keeping their cultural traditions alive.

Alongside them, Colectivo Sabor a Mi Tierra, a small business creating traditional food from the Mixtec region of Oaxaca, promoted the culinary wealth of indigenous women and continues to share their cultural story with delicious *mole*.

From a diverse range of speakers and dialogues, one woven thread brought many topics together and raised the question: How can we come together collectively to build a better world together?

Food and farming play an essential role in our liberation. Through the history of economic and social injustice in the region, these conversations and dialogues, such as the ones featured in the Salt of the Earth *encuentro*, bring us together to begin to imagine a future where acts of love, from food to stories, cultivate spaces across the land for communities to thrive.

Brisa Reyes is a recent college graduate and facilitator for the community-based project Block-by-Block Reading Circles. She is based in the greater Fresno area and loves music.



The Salt of the Earth *encuentro* featured La Cocina Cultural (The Cultural Kitchen), where attendees had the opportunity to enjoy different dishes prepared by immigrant residents in the Valley from Iraq and Oaxaca and local Native Americans. In this image, Rosa Hernandez of Sabor a Mi Tierra serves Oaxacan *mole*. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

Happy 94th Birthday, Sam Nujoma!

Continued from page 15

But Angola was the main victim of South African aggression for two reasons: It was the haven for the ANC guerrilla camps and for the SWAPO liberation forces of Namibia—Nujoma's freedom movement. South Africa invaded Angola in August 1981 and gained control of the southern region of the country.

Mozambique's President Samora Machel said that "the world has become accustomed to *faits accomplis* such as the illegal occupation of Guantanamo in Cuba and of a part of Angola by the South African racists. Nobody talks about Pretoria's occupation of Angolan territory because it is just par for the course."

Cuba again offered help in response to Angola's plea. They sent arms, materiel, soldiers and aircraft to fight for liberty in Africa.

The struggle for freedom continued in Namibia. In 1983, South Africa designated the northern part of the

country, where more than half the population lived, as an "Operational Area," with a curfew and reign of terror; there were an estimated 20,000 South African troops in Namibia, in addition to colonial troops, only some of whom were volunteers. SWAPO, led by Nujoma, had only a few thousand guerrilla soldiers to oppose the South African army.

South Africa continued the invasion of Angola. Cuito Cuanavale was the turning point. Cuban and Angolan soldiers stopped the South African invasion. The South African racist government was never serious about negotiations or "linkage" or allowing elections or independence. Only a military defeat brought them to concede.

If the Cubans had not saved Cuito Cuanavale and maintained the Angolan-Namibian border, the South Africans would have dominated the southern part of Africa and prevented any independence or autonomy. "Cuba," as Cuban representative in Angola Jorge Risquet said, "was not seeking a military victory but wanted an honorable agreement which has to be on the basis of independence in Namibia and the halting of foreign intervention in Angola."

In May 1988, the South African army held a parade in northern Namibia to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Cassinga massacre. The people of Namibia organized demonstrations and marches against the South African occupiers, followed by a general strike.

Armed struggle continued. The People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's military wing, waged a guerrilla struggle that ended in victory, with the South African forces capitulating to end its illegal occupation of Namibia in 1988.

In 1989, the implementation of UN Resolution 435 calling for free and fair elections under the supervision of the United Nations resulted in SWAPO coming to power, after 106 years of colonialism and a long hard battle for national liberation.

Namibia attained its hard-won independence on March 21, 1990, with Nujoma becoming the founding president of an independent and sovereign state, the Republic of Namibia. He served three terms, then stepped down.

Almost everyone else who participated in these historic events has gone to join the ancestors, including a late friend of the author, Lázaro Ostelaza Peña, a Cuban soldier in Angola in his youth. Asked why he volunteered, he said, "They needed our help." Sam Nujoma is still with us: Happy birthday Sam Nujoma, and thank you!

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/)).

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La Política de la Ciudad de Fresno Mata, Digan sus Nombres

Continúa de página 20

Digan sus nombres: Brianna Britton, Kathy Esqueda y Eric Bennett

Lamentablemente, dos mujeres sin hogar fueron atronpadas y

asesinadas por un presunto conductor ebrio el 23 de abril mientras

dormían en una tienda de campaña cerca de una concurrida intersección

en Ashlan Street cerca de la autopista 41, según informó el periódico The

Fresno Bee. La oficina del forense del alguacil del condado de Fresno

identificó a las víctimas como Brianna Britton, de 30 años, y Kathy

Esqueda, de 61 años.

Trágicamente, un día después, el 24 de abril, la estación de televisión

KSEE/KGPE informó que un hombre sin hogar, más tarde identificado

como Eric Bennett de 59 años, de Fresno, murió quemado en un túnel

cerca de Norwich y Santa Fe Ave.

Podría decirse que estas tres muertes podrían haberse evitado si

HART no hostigara, intimidara, obligara a las personas a mudarse y

tirara sus pertenencias a diario. La ciudad utiliza HART para obligar a

las personas sin hogar a mudarse todos los días sin brindarle refugio,

según lo dispuesto por la decisión del Tribunal del Noveno Circuito,

en el caso Martín vs Boise. Por lo tanto, las personas sin hogar se ven

obligadas a trasladarse a lugares peligrosos cerca de calles concurridas

y en túneles, como los lugares en los que se encontraban la Sra. Britton,

la Sra. Esqueda y el Sr. Bennett.

El establecimiento de campamentos seguros y lotes seguros evitará

la inevitable repetición de nuevas tragedias como estas. Hasta la fecha,

Entra en Acción!

Contacta al alcalde Fresno y al ayuntamiento y díles que se necesitan desesperadamente campamentos y lotes seguros:

Alcalde Jerry Dyer

Teléfono 559-621-8000

Comentarios: fresno.gov/mayor/

Concejales de la Ciudad:

Teléfono 559-621-8000

Comentarios: fresno.gov/citycouncil/

Districto 1: Annalisa Perea

Districto 2: Mike Karbassi

Districto 3: Miguel Arias

Districto 4: Tyler Maxwell

Districto 5: Luis Chavez

Districto 6: Garry Bredefeld

Districto 7: Nelson Esparza

También insta a todos a proporcionar alimentos y agua fría a

nuestros residentes sin hogar, vaya a la página de Facebook del

Proyecto H2O para obtener más información. Como siempre, este

verano hará un calor abrasador en las calles de Fresno y siempre se

agradece mucho el agua fría.

la ciudad se opone a los campamentos seguros. El establecimiento

de pequeñas aldeas hogareñas proporcionará algunas viviendas

rápidamente.

El estado proporcionó \$5 millones a la ciudad en febrero de 2022 y

la ciudad asignó otros \$5 millones en marzo de 2022 para una pequeña

aldea hogareña para albergar a 100 personas. A la fecha, el proyecto

se encuentra estancado. Esto es irresponsable y muestra una falta de

interés real en proporcionar vivienda segura rápidamente.

Uno de los principios de ser un funcionario electo es la responsabilidad

por las políticas que implementan y sus fallas en implementación es responsable

de todos y cada uno de los resultados de sus políticas, incluidas las

mujeres que puedan ocurrir como resultado de esas políticas.

El alcalde y el consejo municipal de Tulare, en su honor como líderes

responsables, han establecido un campamento seguro y un lote seguro

para los residentes sin vivienda de Tulare. Ellos, como otras ciudades,

también han reconocido el mandato de la decisión del Tribunal Federal

del Noveno Circuito, caso Martín vs Boise, de brindar refugio antes de

desplazar a una persona sin hogar.

Recientemente le envíe un correo electrónico al alcalde y al consejo

con estas preguntas: ¿Reconsiderará la ciudad su posición actual sobre

campamentos y lotes seguros? ¿Por qué la ciudad no está dispuesta

a cumplir con un mandato judicial cuando otras ciudades cumplen?

¿Cómo puede la ciudad prevenir futuras tragedias? Cuando se iniciará

el proyecto de la casa pequeña? Estas y otras preguntas siguen sin

respuesta.

Además de las muertes accidentales, las personas sin hogar mueren

en accidentes peatonales y algunos mueren por sobredosis de drogas y

cada invierno y verano por exposición a los elementos. Muchos mueren

los efectos a largo plazo del consumo de drogas.

Un artículo del 10 de abril de 2023 publicado en el Diario de la

Asociación Médica Estadounidense llamado "Efectos en la Salud a

Nivel de Población del Desplazamiento Involuntario de Personas que

Experimentan Falta de Vivienda sin Refugio que se Inyectan Drogas

en las Ciudades de EE. UU." analiza 23 ciudades de EE. UU. y estudia

los efectos del desplazamiento involuntario (por ejemplo, "barrios",

"limpiezas") en personas adictas sin hogar.

El estudio encuentra que "500.000 personas en los EE. UU.

experimentan la falta de vivienda todas las noches. Más del 30% de las

personas sin hogar también tienen un trastorno por abusos de sustancias.

El desplazamiento involuntario es una práctica común de parte de las

ciudades cuando están lidiando con personas sin hogar.

"Comprender la salud y las implicaciones del desplazamiento es

importante, especialmente en lo que respecta a los resultados clave

del trastorno por abusos de sustancias. Los análisis estimaron entre 974

sin hogar durante 10 años en escenarios en los que las personas sin

hogar que se inyectan drogas fueron continuamente desplazadas

involuntariamente en comparación con ningún desplazamiento.

"Se estimó que entre 611 y 1.360 personas adicionales que se

inyectan drogas por cada 10.000 personas fueron hospitalizadas y hubo

aproximadamente 3.140 y 8.8122 menos inicciones de medicamentos

para el trastorno por uso de opiáceos por cada 10.000 personas. El

desplazamiento involuntario continuo puede contribuir a entre el 15.6

y el 24.4 % de las muertes adicionales de personas sin hogar y que se

inyectan drogas durante un período de 10 años".

Bob McCloskey es un activista por los derechos de los desamparados. Puede contactarlo en bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

El Racismo es un Virus

Mary es llevada a la oficina del subdirector para tratar de obligarla a

hablar con Ashley, quien acababa de atacarla el 3 y el 4 del mes. También

se difundió el rumor de que Ahsley planeaba atacar a Mary en la escuela.

Cuando Mary explica que desea seguir evitando a Ashley por su propia

seguridad, el director acusa a Mary de "querer que el drama continúe".

¿Qué tipo de adulto le dice a una víctima de asalto constante que

debe terminar el drama y hablar con su agresor?

El 15 de mayo, otro estudiante se acercó a Mary y la insultó y le

preguntó por qué era una soplona. Rápidamente le hizo saber que

Ashley planeaba golpearla.

Claramente, tratar de obligar a Mary a hablar con su acosadora no hizo

que el "drama" terminara.

La familia de Mary ha dejado en claro que no retrocederán.

"Estamos persiguiendo y tomando todas las acciones legales

necesarias para garantizar y proteger a [Mary], y lograr cambios, justicia

y equidad para TODOS los estudiantes en el Distrito Escolar Primario

de Chowchilla y la Escuela Secundaria Wilson, y no solo para los no

estudiantes. Estudiantes afroamericanos/no negros.

Esta escuela viola repetidamente la Ley de Prevención de la Violencia

y la Seguridad Estudiantil de California de 2000, Proyecto de Ley de la

Asamblea (AB) 537. La Legislatura de California aprobó la AB 537 en

septiembre de 1999, firmada oficialmente como ley por el gobernador

Gray Davis. Esta ley prohíbe la discriminación en las escuelas públicas de

California por los mismos motivos que se utilizan para definir los delitos

de odio según la ley de California.

Es responsabilidad de la administración proporcionar un entorno

seguro para que los estudiantes de TODOS los orígenes crezcan y

aprendan. Ignorar activamente los ataques con carga racial es una

violación de este objetivo y de la ley de California.

Paulina Cruz es una ex-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

Informe del Grupo de Trabajo Asesor del Proyecto de Ley 537

de la Asamblea Estatal: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/se/

documents/ab537report.pdf

y pintar.

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Alianza Comunitaria es una voz independiente para los trabajadores y grupos progresistas del Valle de San Joaquín. El objetivo de este periódico mensual es construir un poderoso movimiento progresista en apoyo a la justicia social, ambiental y económica; inmigrantes y al de los trabajadores y también a los derechos de los exponeer las injusticias políticas y sociales y conectar las diversas redes de activistas que trabajan en nuestra comunidad.

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Reunión Comunitaria en Reedley

FOR MIKE RHODES

Detener el odio es el tema de la reunión comunitaria que se llevará a cabo en Reedley el 30 de junio de 2023. El aumento de los delitos e incidentes motivados por el odio va en aumento y este evento reunirá a una coalición de grupos que nos brindarán las herramientas e información necesaria para enfrentar ese desafío.

Aprenda cómo denunciar un delito de odio, qué grupos comunitarios tienen recursos para ayudarlo y, lo que es más importante, cómo prevenir los delitos e incidentes de odio antes de que sucedan.

Los temas incluirán:

Derechos de los pueblos indígenas. Esta sección incluirá el aumento dramático en la desaparición y asesinato de mujeres indígenas, el nombramiento del Valle de Yokuts y el reconocimiento tribal.

Interacciones entre la policía y la comunidad, que incluirán información sobre cómo denunciar incidentes y delitos motivados por el odio.

Violencia contra la comunidad LGBTQ del Valle de San Joaquín.

El aumento de personas sin hogar en el área y nuestra respuesta.

La inmigración y el trato injusto a los trabajadores sin documentación.

Los grupos patrocinadores de este importante evento son el periódico

Community Alliance, San Joaquin Media Alliance, Reedley Peace Center, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministers, The Fresno Center, BAPAC, NAACP

(Capítulo de Madera), Central Valley Partnership, Residents for Renaming 5

Valley, Power Latinx, The Human Coalition de Derechos del Valle Central,

Justicia Indígena, Fresno Homeless Union y Fundación Dolores Huerta.

La reunión comunitaria "Detengamos el Odio" en Reedley se llevará a cabo el

viernes 30 de junio a las 5:30 p.m., en la Primera Iglesia Mennonita de Reedley,

1208 L street, Reedley. Habrá comida gratis, cuidado de niños y traducción para

hispanohablantes e ingleses. El evento concluye con una rifa.

Esta reunión comunitaria "Detengamos el Odio" está organizada por el

periódico *Community Alliance y San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance* y es posible

gracias a una subvención de la Biblioteca Estatal de California bajo la iniciativa

estatal "Stop the Hate".

Mike Rhodes es el Director Ejecutivo del periódico Community Alliance y autor del libro "Dispatches from the War Zone", sobre la falta de vivienda en Fresno, www.mikerhodes.us es su sitio web. Póngase en contacto con él en mikerhodes@comcast.net.

La Política de la Mata, Digan sus Nombres

FOR BOB MCCLOSKEY

Nuestro sistema económico, con su excesiva codicia corporativa y con su concentración de propiedad y poder, destruye todo lo que se interpone en el camino de las ganancias. Destruye vidas y descarta seres humanos. El fenómeno de los fondos de cobertura y los inversores de Wall Street que compran viviendas y luego aumentan los alquileres es un buen ejemplo.

Los pobres y los sin hogar han sido descartados en los Estados Unidos. Las personas sin hogar tienen diferentes historias sobre cómo terminaron en las calles: algunos escaparon de la violencia doméstica, perdieron una casa durante un divorcio o por la muerte de un cónyuge o por un incendio.

Muchos enfrentaron el desalojo durante la pandemia y muchos están en la calle debido al aumento de los alquileres. Otros son niños de acogida que cumplieron 18 años sin apoyo, algunos pueden luchar contra la adicción.

El Racismo es un Virus

FOR PAULINA CRUZ

Cuando miramos la violencia infligida constantemente a los grupos marginados, tenemos que entender nuestra responsabilidad. La gente piensa erróneamente que nada mas hay dos roles; el perpetrador y la víctima. Pero esta no es la verdad. Las acciones que tomamos o no tomamos puede cambiar todo. Cuando guardas silencio ante el odio—teniendo la habilidad de hacer algo—te vuelves cómplice de un sistema diseñado contra los marginados.

En el artículo del mes pasado "El Racismo Depende del Poder", hablamos sobre una niña de trece años (a la que llamamos Mary) que ha sido agredida física, emocional y verbalmente por sus compañeros de clase durante varios años debido al color de su piel. Le han endilgado insultos raciales frente a los maestros sin que se haya tomado ninguna medida. Según la familia, la administración ha minimizado y desestimado continuamente sus preocupaciones.

"El racismo es un virus y necesitamos encontrar una cura."—Padre de Mary.

Hablando con el padre de Mary nuevamente, pude escuchar lo iritado y cansado que estaba. Bajo sus circunstancias, cualquier padre lo estaría. No piden nada más que el estándar: "Esperamos y exigimos que el Distrito Escolar de Chowchilla

Continúa en página 19



El costo de esta pequeña casa en Dakota Eco Gardens fue de \$6,000 dólares, el trabajo de instalación fue donado. Foto de Bob McKloskey

Continúa en página 19

vamos tú o yo.

Algunos fueron condenados al ostracismo porque son LGBTQ+ o se vieron obligados a abandonar su hogar. Muchos luchan con discapacidades mentales y físicas. Cada vez más personas están en las calles por el alto costo de la vivienda y la escasez de viviendas. Recientemente, debido a la política actual de la ciudad, aplicada por el Equipo de Respuesta de Asistencia para Personas sin Hogar (HART, por sus siglas en inglés), aquellos que lamentablemente están en las calles, enfrentan aún más peligro y miseria. Ahí, pero por fortuna,

El aumento de los delitos motivados por el odio en California y en los Estados Unidos ha generado llamados generalizados a la acción. Con fondos proporcionados para esta serie por la Biblioteca Estatal de California bajo la iniciativa estatal "Stop the Hate", este evento está siendo organizado por el periódico Community Alliance y San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance. Para obtener más información, visite fresnoalliance.com o sjvmediaalliance.org.



CUÁNDO: viernes, 30 de junio, 5:30 P.M. DONDE: First Mennonite Church of Reedley, 1208 L St, Reedley, CA 93654

Construyamos una red contra el odio racial en Reedley.

Obtenga más información sobre las herramientas y las agencias locales que pueden ayudar a combatir el odio. Estará disponible cuidado de niños e interpretación. Los temas de los temas incluyen el cambio de nombre de Yokuts Valley, inmigración, interacciones entre la policía y la comunidad, personas sin hogar, LGBTQ y qué agencias pueden ayudar a combatir el odio. Estará disponible cuidado de niños e interpretación. Comida, rifa, y más

