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The bars on Shawn Ginder's proposed "jail" on the San Joaquin River bluffs are designed to keep people out, not in. Photo by Kevin Hall

## Death and Injustice in Fresno

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY AND KEVIN HALL

There is an unequal justice system in Fresno. One for the police and the rich. Another for the poor and working class. For the unhoused of Fresno, there is often no justice. Some recent examples of this "injustice" system are as follows:

**The Death of Jose Luis Pulido:** On Sept. 5, 2020, Fresno Police Department (FPD) detective Benito Soto was texting while driving on Fresno Street in downtown Fresno when he hit and killed an unhoused man, Jose Pulido, 51, who was in a crosswalk. Detective Soto has been arraigned on misdemeanor charges and goes to court in October. This is not justice.

**John Doe Death or Serious Injury:** On Aug. 1, 2022, a Fresno police officer ran over an unhoused man sleeping on the sidewalk in front of the downtown Fresno Police Department. In October 2022, the *Fresno Bee* reported that the FPD found the officer involved to be at fault and stated that discipline was pending. The name and health condition of the victim "remains unknown," the *Bee* reported. To this day, the FPD has refused to release information on this incident and there appears to be a cover-up. This is not justice.

**The Death of Monique Contreras:** One of the most tragic and avoidable deaths of an unhoused individual is the killing of Monique Contreras on May 13, 2022. On that day, around 1 a.m., the 29-year-old was pushing a shopping cart with her dog on a leash at the intersection of Herndon and Millburn avenues in Fresno when she was run over by and trapped under a truck while using the crosswalk. The Silverado pickup truck involved was later determined to be driven by Shawn Ginder, 38, of Fresno. He allegedly drove more than eight miles with her body wedged under his truck before stopping.

*Continues on page 2*

## Who Chooses Your Children's Books in Clovis?

BY RACHEL YOUDELMAN

It started with a deceptively innocuous Facebook post made by newly elected Clovis City Council Member Diane Pearce. On June 28, toward the close of Pride Month, she warned her constituents, "Might want to wait until June is over to take your kids to the Clovis Public Library," the caveat accompanied by a bit of "evidence"—a photo of a modest library display of LGBTQ+ books for kids.

This was not the first time Pearce, whose day job is managing her husband's Elvis-impersonation business ("Call or text Diane" to order merch or request a booking!),

had posted provocative remarks on her City-branded Facebook page. A native Fresnan and newcomer to Clovis who lost her first bid for City Council, Pearce was sworn in for her current term only in January.

At the May 8 Clovis City Council meeting, Pearce made a rather confusing proposal to change the administration of the city's flag policy from the city manager to the City Council. However, the Council voted 4-1 to keep the current policy (with Pearce opposing). Pearce then engineered a time- and resource-consuming issue regarding flag display.

In Clovis, the city manager is responsible for administering the flag policy. The policy itself—no flags raised on City property except for the U.S. flag, the state flag and the flag of the city of Clovis—was agreeable to all, including Pearce.

Despite that unanimous agreement, simply because the Council declined to change the management of the flag policy, Pearce subsequently posted a video on her Facebook page in which she stood before a Clovis city flag, wearing a shirt emblazoned with the City logo, and insinuated that her fellow Council members were unpatriotic and unsupportive of the U.S. flag. Her Facebook post screamed, "FACT:

THERE IS NO COUNCIL-APPROVED FLAG POLICY IN THE CITY OF CLOVIS!" [sic].

Naturally, her colleagues on the Council—all fellow Republicans—were deeply affronted and publicly expressed anger that, after agreeing not to shift the administration of the flag policy, Pearce had, after the fact, solicited supporters to show up to the next Council meeting to comment in her favor.

Mayor Lynne Ashbeck remarked that in 22 years on the Council she had "never seen someone who doesn't win a vote then take it to the public." In response to Pearce, a few members of the public showed up on May 15 to question the patriotism of the other Council members and describe their opposition to the raising of the Pride flag, which was at the heart of Pearce's proposal.

Pearce was following the lead of Supervisor Steve Brandau, who had brought the same issue before the Fresno County Board of Supervisors (BOS). Brandau, Pearce and others have made flags an issue after local reactionaries opposed raising the Pride flag at Fresno City Hall.

About 50 pastors and members of evangelical Christian groups from Fresno and Clovis who espouse right-wing ideologies were signatories to an anti-LGBTQ+ statement made in response to Fresno Pride events in June 2022. The letter described "deep disapproval" of public display of the

*Continues on page 4*

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# Death and Injustice in Fresno

Continued from page 1

After the accident, Ginder left the area and went to a family vacation home in Bass Lake. He was later apprehended there after jumping out of a window trying to escape from law enforcement and suffering serious injuries, according to Fox 26 News.

He was not immediately arraigned or booked in jail. He was finally scheduled to be arraigned on Aug. 31, 2023, but failed to appear for this court date. A warrant was issued and another court date was set for Sept. 19. Ginder did appear for this hearing and pleaded not guilty to felony hit-and-run charges. A pretrial hearing was set for Nov. 28.

Ginder is only facing hit-and-run charges, with a four-year maximum sentence, rather than more serious vehicular homicide charges. The District Attorney's Office told YourCentralValleyNews that this is "the only charge they can prove beyond a reasonable doubt."

Ginder has been running wild on the streets of Fresno since his early 20s. Repeated acts of leniency by the DA's Office and the courts might have led Ginder to believe he was above the law. His reckless behavior culminated in the gruesome killing of Contreras. It is assumed by the DA that Contreras died on impact, leading them to limit the charges and scene of the crime definition. As a result, Ginder would get only a second strike on his criminal record. The first came in 2012 after a firearms conviction.

Living a life of excess and little accountability, Ginder is the son of prominent Fresno developer Richard Ginder Jr., president of Ginder Development Corporation. Ginder seemed destined to hurt someone eventually. Fresno County court records reveal a long history of drunk driving, resisting the police and felony firearms convictions going back at least 15 years.

The cycle of crime and no punishment was ready to repeat itself in late August until Fresno Homeless Union advocate Dez Martinez, founder of We Are Not Invisible, intervened. She caught the DA's office trying to slip one by the community on a quiet Thursday heading into the Labor Day weekend. Ginder was finally to be arraigned a year and three months after the death of Contreras.

Ginder did not attend the morning arraignment where, surprisingly, the absent suspect was represented by a public defender. The DA's office apparently thought they had struck an internal deal for a quick arraignment on a single

charge and probation at his parents' home. His jailhouse would be a six-bedroom, six-bath, 6,600-square-foot, \$2.5 million home on the San Joaquin River bluffs off Van Ness Avenue.

Ginder is now represented by private attorney Daniel Bacon, who has represented him in the past, according to courthouse documents.

In 2012, the DA rotated through a dozen attorneys while charging Ginder with three felony counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm and single counts of carrying a concealed firearm, carrying a loaded firearm in public and resisting a peace officer. Bacon was Ginder's attorney then, too. Ginder avoided jail time and received probation, which he violated in 2016.

Both times he was sentenced to probation and months in a substance-abuse treatment program: Kaiser in 2012 and Universal Health Network in 2016, when the then 31-year-old was simultaneously released to his parents' care. In 2008, Ginder was charged with resisting a police officer. He has multiple traffic citations.

The favorable treatment this man has received kept him on the streets and dangerous. Others would have still been in jail or rehabilitated. In true Fresno fashion, the Ginders are major developers mostly of large apartment complexes, and they're regular campaign contributors.

Since 2000, they have contributed more than \$40,000 to various influential politicians, including \$7,500 to Fresno City Council Member Garry Bredefeld and \$9,000 to Fresno County Supervisor Steve Brandau for their competing campaigns for the District 2 Board of Supervisors seat. One can only guess how much influence a rich family like the Ginders has on the District Attorney.

When asked to comment after the Sept. 19 arraignment, Martinez told YourCentralValleyNews.com, "I'm upset. I'm very disgusted by the judicial system here in Fresno. It failed Monique, other low-income individuals, other people of color, other unhoused individuals like we're nothing."

Martinez told YourCentralValleyNews that she and others will not stop fighting for justice for Contreras, who had been homeless for only around three months.

"[She was a] loving person, caring, joyful, happy, always smiling you know? So, she had a lot of trauma that she carried but she smiled past it," Martinez said.

She also told YourCentralValleyNews that Ginder's prior criminal history, which includes three DUIs, should warrant a minimum charge for vehicular manslaughter.

So far, there has been no justice for Monique Contreras. This tragedy raises some serious questions.

Is there a two-tiered criminal justice system in Fresno?

Do people of color and poor people ever get justice in Fresno?



Shawn Ginder is wheeled into an arraignment hearing for the killing of Monique Contreras 18 months after the crime. Photo by Kevin Hall

Is Ginder receiving preferential treatment because of his race and class?

Is Contreras, like the other unhoused individuals referred to earlier, being discounted because she was unhoused at the time of her death?

How many unhoused pedestrians are killed or injured on the streets and sidewalks of Fresno?

How many of these deaths of unhoused individuals remain uninvestigated?

How can the system be reformed so that everyone will get justice, regardless of socioeconomic status?

To that end, there will be an action on Nov. 28 at the Fresno County Courthouse to demand justice for Contreras. Look for coming details on the Fresno Homeless Union Facebook page.

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Bob McCloskey is a homeless advocate in Fresno. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

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 valleyclimate.org and can be contacted at sjvalleyclimate@gmail.com for presentations and information.

# Social Services Workers Protest Poor Working Conditions

BY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE STAFF

More than 120 Fresno County Department of Social Service (DSS) workers formed an informational picket line on their lunch break on Sept. 13 to protest poor working conditions that result in poor public assistance services for foster youth, families and community residents seeking support for food, jobs and healthcare.

"For example, the two new child welfare services buildings that were solutions offered by Fresno County in 2021, Mod C and Clovis Campus Building 5, fall short of providing the best public services and support when county administrators dismiss, delay or refuse to collaborate on best practices with DSS workers," states a press release distributed to the local media by SEIU Local 521, of Fresno, the union that represents social services workers.

One speaker from the union explained further: "In 2021, when workers disclosed to the public that children in Child Protective Services (CPS) custody sleep on conference tables and yoga mats, county administrators explained that children sleeping in offices was only temporary, and they pointed to capital projects as a solution to the temporary placement in county offices.

"Administrators further explained they were in the process of building/renovating two state-of-the-art facilities with bedding and proper services. The buildings were used as the argument that they offered new living conditions and [that administrators] were eager to complete these capital projects.

"The issue is that buildings are only a piece of the solution when social workers ask for support in getting children education and mental health tools. Administrators will 'look into options' but not return with concrete pathways or programs."

DSS workers' informational picket comes on the heels of another DSS protest at Clovis Campus Building 5, where youth are processed into county custody. On Aug. 30,

the Emergency Response Team held a department check-in/Q&A.

The social workers on the Emergency Response Team felt this was an opportunity to organize a silent protest in tandem with the meeting and be heard on the living and working conditions that administrators fail to address. The silent protest consisted of workers not taking seats in the auditorium, but instead holding up signs at the back of the large room with various messages.

The protest was silent but powerful enough that when managers were taking questions from the workers in the audience, workers asked pointed questions and follow-up questions on improving public services to foster youth from when a child enters the CPS system to permanent placement.

The director miscategorized the silent protest holding signs at the back of the room, which is protected union activity, as hostile and intimidating. Administrators later produced a scornful letter condemning the action.

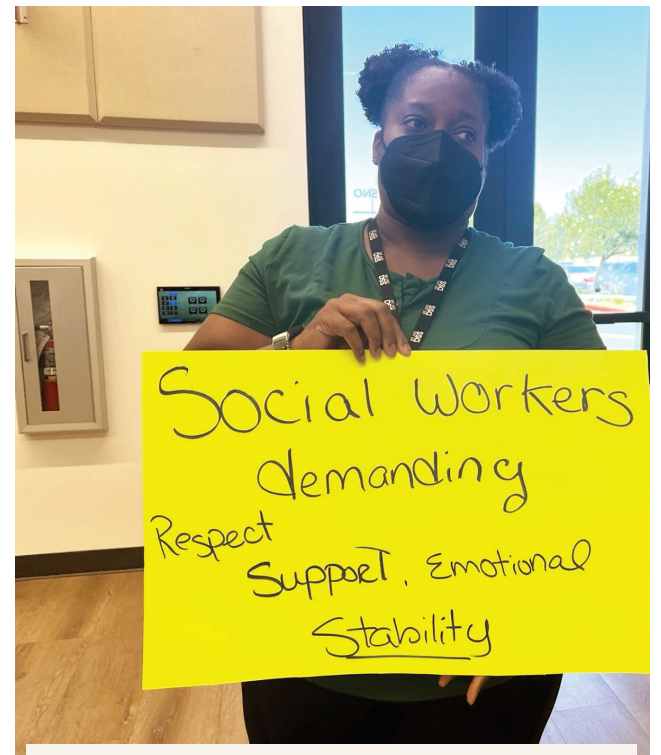
DSS Director Sanja Bugay and Fresno County Chief Administrative Officer Paul Nerland are familiar with these concerns. However, no concrete action or plans have been realized to substantially partner with frontline workers to improve working conditions around retention, safety, training or providing for the specialized needs of foster youth.

Over the past year, county officials have scheduled and participated in meetings with social workers in the Child Welfare Services department and their union reps but have fallen short on building concrete plans or next steps to improving safe working conditions and better overall support for youth in CPS custody.

At the picket line and press conference on Sept. 13, DSS workers in the areas of medical services, food stamps and job assistance united to demand better working conditions. Additional speakers included Fresno City Council Members Miguel Arias and Luis Chavez, who is a foster parent.

Council Member Garry Bredefeld could not attend the event but publicly provided a statement in support of the workers who took part in the informational picket: "There is a culture in [Fresno] County where staff workers' concerns are being ignored and the administration and the Board of Supervisors...turn a blind eye to these issues and ignore them.

"Workers are being given caseloads that are completely unmanageable, the DSS is understaffed [and] the working conditions are so poor they are unable to maintain staff."



A social worker expressing her disappointment over the lack of concrete action to substantially improve working conditions at the Fresno County Department of Social Services. Photo courtesy of SEIU Local 521

"I've been a foster parent for six years. I can tell you from my experience that social workers do amazing work. With the trauma children go through, [social workers] are all essential and know exactly what the solutions are," said Chavez.

"What has happened to children in Fresno County care is a sad situation. This is not a people problem, this is a system problem."

Lorraine Ramirez, a social worker, says that the county's "DSS workers take every opportunity to speak up for ourselves and our families [via the] Foster Care Oversight Committee, work groups, advisory board meetings [and] labor-management meetings. We even met with Chief Administrative Officer Paul Nerland.

"The problem is that when we offer solutions, ideas, they tell us 'thanks for raising the concern,' or 'we will circle back on this.' They don't ever circle back."





FROM THE EDITOR

# Something Is Wrong...



We wish to have nothing but good news for our readers. However, I am afraid that won't happen in this issue. Or anytime soon.

What has happened recently at Fresno City Hall is disturbing: a recent ordinance regarding unhoused people is making their lives more unpleasant, and solutions for the growing population of homeless are not coming to light despite the fact that Fresno—like many other cities and counties—received millions of dollars to confront this situation (see “Death and Injustice in Fresno” on page 1). Also, it looks like the Fresno City Council members and the mayor prefer to discuss the City’s budget behind closed doors. Ain’t this suspicious?

Nevertheless, Clovis is competing for attention and one of its City Council members is pushing an agenda of banning certain books from

the public library (see “Who Chooses Your Children’s Books in Clovis?” on page 1). This is the extreme right-wing agenda, and they are acting similarly around the country. Look at Florida, where several books have been banned, including some classics. Our society can’t afford this trend of sociopaths trying to control our governments and our culture.

And talking about government, 81 years ago, in 1942, more than 100,000 Japanese people were detained and sent to concentration camps without any charges under the suspicion that they could be spies for Japan, a country at war with the United States at that time. It was never proved that any—not even one—person of Japanese descent was a spy or involved in sabotage against this country (see “An Infamous Event That Sparked a ‘Forgotten’ Memory” on page 10).

Citizens have to be alert about people in power willing to impose unfair ordinances or laws. After all, real democracy relies on us. 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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Up to 200 words.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Consequences of Hate and Racism

With a broad mind and understanding, let your intellect grasp these truths, which will enable you to be a better human being. We are not born with a hateful bone in our body. It is an emotion that stems from a learned experience and is taught in many ways.

How and why you might hate someone is an individual’s mindset that is of their own making. How can you hate someone you don’t even know or have encountered?

Race is just a person’s basic physical identity. It doesn’t make you think a certain way or act in a certain way.

These things are acquired through experiences, experiences that can be the driving force in your thought process.

I’ve often encountered hate and racism throughout my life as I am sure countless other Black and Brown people have. For example, a white person might walk down the street and see two big Black men on the same side they’re walking on and become frantic and run across to the other side. Or just expressing a polite hello and the person you are greeting looks at you as though you have feces on your chin. People have treated one person with favoritism over the other at a checkout counter at restaurants, and many other venues.

We are all the same. Skin pigmentation shouldn’t drive you to hate. Get to know their name. As human beings, not animals, we all share the instinct to care, not to place one person above the other. We all have someone that we consider a sister or a brother; race is not a factor.

Some people with corrupted mentalities dwell on dissension. They focus on trampling others’ desires, accomplishments, inspirations. Hate and racism are at the forefront of their distraught mentality.

There’s kind of an attitude that only reflects lack of knowledge and stunts overall growth in understanding life. I know a lot of very good people of other races. Get to know a person before you place judgment.

Your conscience is amazing. Paint a pretty picture of injecting compassion and true concern for the next human being. We all have a role and a goal. Don’t you want to play a part to elevate goodness over hate?

Dear reader, I don’t and won’t hate you; in doing so, it would reflect on the hate I feel in me. People have a grave tendency to feel about others the way they feel about themselves. Today, be polite to someone, treat a person the way you would like to be treated. You might be aroused consciously and have a new outlook on life.

Don’t let a person’s race make you avoid them, but rather get to know them and yourself. It would take 50 years to explain it all.

People do have the human decency to help each other in a time of crisis. For example, a person can hate someone because of their race but let that hateful individual be in a situation where the race that they hate has to pull them out of a fire by grasping their hand to save their life, they will grip that person’s hand like they love ‘em. And thank them with praise.

Let’s not let our minds destroy the beauty of all people. We should replace stereotypes with divine thoughts that appreciate the uniqueness that each human being has like no other in the world. It’s never too late to make the world a better place. We all can make a beautiful and conscious change for the better for all of us.

Arnold Minor  
Homeless advocate  
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# Can the Police Be Trusted?

BY MIKE RHODES

California Attorney General Rob Bonta came to Fresno on Sept. 12 and held a forum with Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer, a panel of community leaders and several grassroots community groups. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the increase in hate crimes, listen to community leaders and work on a strategy to help reduce that trend.

Bonta said that “the number of hate crimes is increasing every year and across every category” and that they are underreported. “From 2021 to 2022 hate crime events increased by over 20%, racially biased events increased by 11%, religiously biased events increased by 39% and hate crime events involving sexual orientation increased by 29%.”

To improve the accuracy of the above numbers and get the police to respond, the Attorney General’s Office has several recommendations (see the “Hate Crimes” info sheet on this page). For many in the audience, calling the police and trusting them to respond in a culturally sensitive and appropriate way was a concern. The author,

who was on the panel, cited a case in which Fresno police officers beat a homeless man who was attempting to stand up for his constitutional rights. Not only did they hold him on the ground as he cried out “I can’t breathe,” they arrested him. How can the community trust the police when things like that happen?

Tracie Cisneros, a volunteer coordinator/ally for Fresno Rainbow Pride, talked about her experience with the Proud Boys when they attacked a gathering at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church. She said she has family in law enforcement and is “a proponent of [the] Fresno PD (Police Department) and our Sheriff’s department.”

Cisneros said that she was tabling at a drag festival in the church to provide information about the Pride parade when the Proud Boys arrived to disrupt what they were doing. “They came to block the driveway, they came to shut us down [and] they shouted out poorly misdirected Bible quotes” to intimidate those in the church, which included many small children.

Going outside to make sure people arriving were safe, Cisneros saw that the “Fresno PD is there on the sidelines” but not taking an active role in containing the Proud Boys.

“I stood in the center surrounded by all of them as they hurled insults and the PD sat there and didn’t do much,” says Cisneros.



Attorney General Rob Bonta speaks as panel members look on during a recent forum on hate crimes in Fresno. Left to right: Fresno Police Chief Paco Balderrama, Cyndee Loryang of the Fresno Center and Naindeep Singh with the Jakara Movement. Photo by Peter Maiden



Alysia Bonner addresses the panel about hate crimes against Black people during a recent forum with Attorney General Rob Bonta. Photo by Peter Maiden

“A literal inch from my face I had spit spewing, yelling in my face, and the PD did nothing. Twice I was hit ‘accidentally’ in the head with a flagpole that had a Don’t Tread on Me flag, and the Fresno PD did nothing.”

According to Cisneros, the Proud Boys stood in the driveway preventing attendees from entering and the FPD did nothing. She said that she had to get in the middle of 25–50 Proud Boys and shout them down to create a path for cars to come in. The FPD officers did nothing to help.

“I watched these Black and Yellows (colors worn by the Proud Boys) mob a mother and her small children to scare them away from the event. The PD did nothing.”

Cisneros said she saw the Proud Boys in their black and yellow uniforms and masks still on “walking over to Fresno PD going ‘hey man’ and giving them bro hugs.”

Bill Knezovich, the pastor of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, told the *Fresno Bee* that his church was vandalized a few months later and repairs cost \$25,000. He said the vandals left a sticker identifying themselves.

Alysia Bonner, with the Fresno NAACP, asked, “How do we foster not only people being confident to come and report, but actually be heard? Because that is a big issue in our community.”

Sukaina Hussain, deputy executive director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations–Sacramento Valley/Central California, said, “When we talk about hate crimes against the Muslim community they

are not a one off. It is not like someone randomly wakes up one day and decides they want to vandalize a mosque or harass an individual or do something horrific against someone in the community. It is very much rooted in structures and systems that are already in place.”

Dyer, Bonta and Fresno Police Chief Paco Balderrama (who also attended the forum) listened closely to the testimony and said they want to build more trust in the community. Over the last year, the *Community Alliance*, while organizing several Stop the Hate town halls, has improved our relationship with local law enforcement, the Department of Justice and the FBI. They have given important presentations about what a hate crime/incident is, how to report them and what it will take to stop the increasing frequency of hate crimes.

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.

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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 [mikerhodes.us](http://mikerhodes.us). Contact him at [mikerhodes@comcast.net](mailto:mikerhodes@comcast.net).



## HATE CRIMES: What You Need to Know to Protect Yourself and Others

The California Department of Justice has tools and resources available to aid and assist local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities in the investigation of possible hate crimes, including the identification, arrest, prosecution, and conviction of the perpetrators of those crimes.

The California Attorney General Rob Bonta offers the following information on how to identify and report hate crimes and the services available to victims of hate crimes.

### How to spot a hate crime:

Signs that a crime was motivated by hate may include:

- The offender chose the victim or property because they belonged to a protected group, like a certain religion or gender.
- The offender made written or verbal comments showing a prejudice.
- The crime happened on a date that is important for the victim’s or offender’s protected group.
- There is organized hate activity in the area.

### If you are a hate crime victim, you should:

- Contact your local law enforcement agency right away.
- Get medical attention (if you need it).
- Write down the exact words that were said.
- Make notes about any other facts.
- Save all evidence (e.g., graffiti, egg shells, writing on victim’s vehicle). If safe, wait until law enforcement arrives and takes photos.
- Get the names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails of other victims and witnesses.
- Try to get a description from any eyewitnesses of the criminal or the vehicle.
- Contact community organizations in your area that respond to hate crimes.

### What you and your community can do:

- Speak out against hate and intolerance.
- Have community rallies to support victims.
- Offer support and help to victims.
- Ask public officials to speak out against hate crimes.
- Establish a human relations commission or hate crime network that includes law enforcement, local government, schools, religious organizations and community organizations. Ask them to respond to hate crimes immediately when they happen and to promote prevention and awareness.

### Hate crime or hate incident?

It is important to know the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident.

A hate crime is a crime against a person, group, or property motivated by the victim’s real or perceived protected social group. Hate crimes can be prosecuted either as misdemeanors or felonies depending on the acts committed.

In California, you can be a victim of a hate crime if you have been targeted because of your actual or perceived:

- Race or ethnicity
- Nationality
- Religion
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Physical or mental disability, or
- Association with a person or group with one or more of these “actual” or “perceived” characteristics.

Please note, the above listed characteristics are examples, and other bases for actual or perceived protected social group characteristics exist.

### If you witness a hate crime, you should report the crime to your local law enforcement agency.

A hate incident is an action or behavior motivated by hate but legally protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. If a hate incident starts to threaten a person or property, it may become a hate crime.

### Examples of hate incidents include:

- Name-calling
- Insults
- Displaying hate materials on your own property.
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# The Rite of Fresno: Composing a Rezone

BY KEVIN HALL

Fans of the composer Igor Stravinsky might find his modernist work *The Rite of Spring* a suitable soundtrack for the story of Peter Stravinski the developer, particularly its “Sacrificial Dance” (bonus: soundtrack!) section. The dissonant music and pounding rhythms assault the senses like diesel exhaust and the surging roar of trucks of every kind—impacts Stravinski appears willing to see increase.

And our City Hall orchestra of mayor, city council, planning commission and staff is playing right along. As reported in the June 2021 issue of *Community Alliance*, Stravinski seeks to upzone 90 acres along Elm Avenue from mixed use to the more valuable designation of light industrial, its previous, warehouse-compatible status prior to adoption of the Southwest Fresno Specific Plan in 2017.

Fortunately for residents, three years ago the wrong conductor stepped forward to wave the baton: High-Speed Rail Authority board member and former Fresno City Council member Henry R. Perea. Assuming a ritual sacrifice would be performed, Perea, a City-registered lobbyist at the time, tried but failed to push through a classic Fresno, ignore-the-public rezone, the kind he used to vote for.

Rather than having advised Stravinski to spread his campaign donations among the orchestra’s first chairs, Perea instead had the Madera-based builder of warehouses channel \$27,500 into daughter Annalisa Perea’s 2022 campaign for the District 3 seat, including \$4,000 funneled through the Fresno County Young Democrats.

That having failed, the pattern shifted in 2022, the year Stravinski succeeded in getting a third of the property rezoned to industrial, including for its largest pollution source: Mid Valley Disposal. The October vote was preceded by \$22,500 in campaign contributions to City Council members. Miguel Arias and Nelson Esparza scored first in January of last year with checks for \$4,900 each. Luis Chavez picked up his \$4,900 a few weeks later.

The mayor came next, but Jerry Dyer enjoys an abundance of campaign riches and dearth of challengers, so one of his favorite public relations campaigns—the rebranded “Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch”—received checks for \$9,000 in May and \$11,000 in June (candidate development, anyone?). In August, Arias picked up another \$4,900 to match Perea’s \$9,800 for the year.

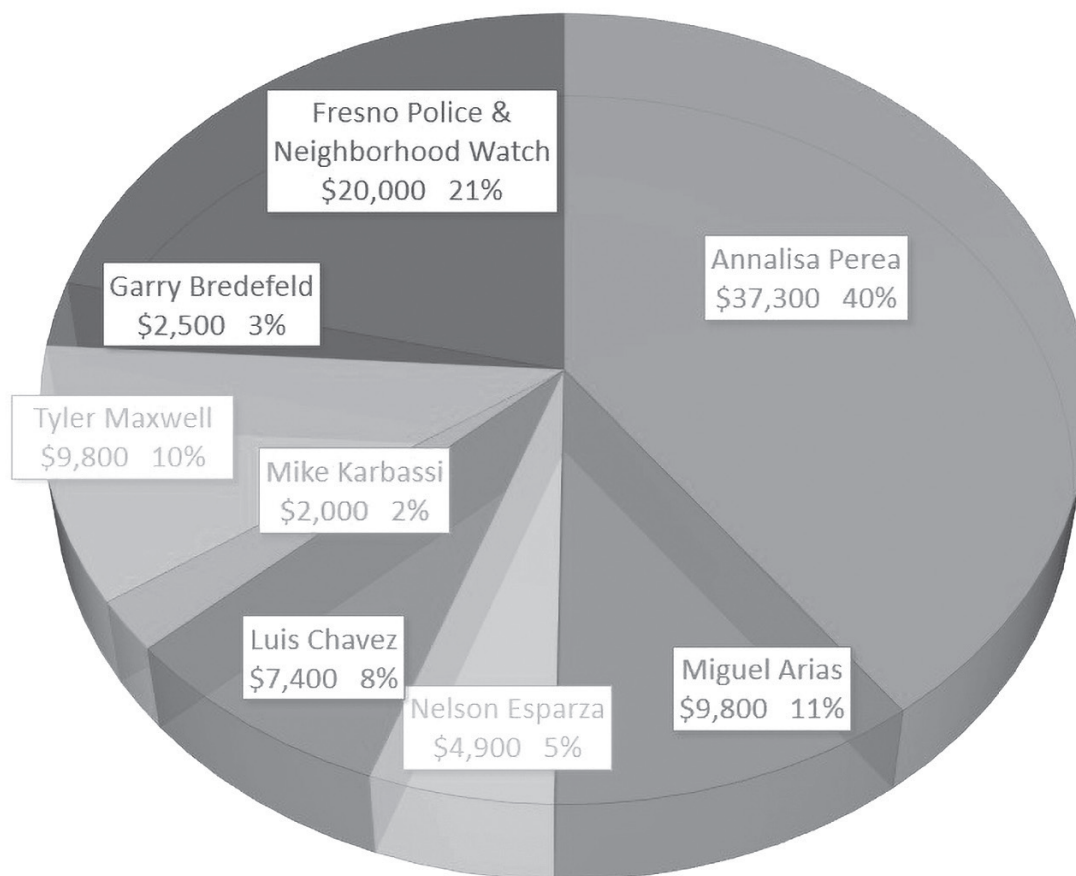
Skids greased, the 30-acre rezone was unanimously approved in October by the City Council over community objections. Following the vote, according to FresnoLand, residents were not pleased.

“The Council decision is not a compromise for our community,” said Robert Mitchell, co-chair of the Golden West Side Planning Committee and a southwest Fresno resident. “[Arias] completely went against the wishes of his constituents who have spoken vehemently in opposition to it.”

With 30 acres rezoned, the Stravinski ballet was now well under way with Arias conducting. Rewards were soon being distributed like holiday bonuses. In December, Mike Karbassi received \$2,000; Tyler Maxwell got the maximum \$4,900; and Annalisa Perea topped them both with \$9,800 thanks to checks from two Stravinski family members, Peter and Kimberly.

## STRAVINSKI CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

2020–2023 \$93,700



Fresno City Council Member Annalisa Perea has garnered the lion’s share of campaign contributions made by the developer seeking to rezone the Elm Avenue site in West Fresno.

Now the orchestra wants to rezone the remaining 60 acres. In May 2023, City Attorney Andrew Janz was directed to research their options, according to FresnoLand, and the money is flowing once again. That same month Chavez and Garry Bredefeld scored \$2,500 contributions to their respective campaigns for county supervisor. More is expected, no doubt.

Up to nearly \$100,000 so far in contributions to politicians and the mayor’s proxy, Stravinski is at last receiving the deferential treatment from City Hall that developers have so long enjoyed in Fresno. Arias and Perea are mouthing pro-rezone talking points, including vacuous promises of going “clean and green” and going so far as to claim that in order to reduce greenhouse gases, ground level air pollution will have to increase. One assumes electric vehicles would pollute less, not more.

Clearly, these fiddlers are not only willing to take the most pressing issue of our time and exploit it for short-term political gain, they’re cynically playing it off the air pollution crisis that’s taking decades off the lives of their constituents. And they’re not alone. Politicians at every level of government are doing the same thing, particularly Democrats trying to engage on the issue.

Contrary to the common complaint that no action has been taken to address the climate crisis, much has been done, most of it wrong. Lobbyists—such as son, brother, former office holder and Chevron frontman Henry T. Perea—have been hard at work on climate policy for more than 20 years in Sacramento, longer in Washington, D.C. Their

“solutions” are market-based systems for trading pollution credits. In politics it’s called “pay to play,” so the familiar logic resonates with politicians.

Because the summer of 2023 is being hailed as the period where enough people have finally clued to our Pycocene predicament to act, the public is being inundated with a barrage of climate change fallacies and net-zero false promises. The politicians charged with crafting realistic responses are not up to the task, due mostly to their blind faith in the old ways.

Just before *Rite of Spring* ends in the “Sacrificial Dance,” Stravinsky gives us “Ritual Action of the Ancestors.” A young girl, selected by fate, is entrusted to the care of old wisemen, who then have her dance to death as a sacrifice to their gods.

The outcomes of Fresno’s rites are similarly drawn, determined by developers’ land-use rights and politicians’ adherence to past practice, led there by elders. As the climate’s unraveling gathers speed, if we fail to prioritize protective measures now, more and more people of every age will be sacrificed to appease the gods of greed and ambition.

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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 valleyclimate.org and can be contacted at sjvalleyclimate@gmail.com for presentations and information.

# The Rise of Black Studies

BY MALIK SIMBA

Beginning at Merritt College in Oakland in 1961, Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton organized the Negro History Fact Group, which was the first Black history course offered in higher education. The course covered biographies of W.E.B. Du Bois, Carter G. Woodson, Nat Turner, Marcus Garvey and world leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Mao Tse-Tung, Che Guevara and others. Obviously, Seale and Newton’s interests in socialist world leaders became a part of their platform when they organized the Black Panther Party as a Marxist-Leninist cadre.

At that time, the classic works on Black history were not known, and many of these works were out of print. These classic works are James W.C. Pennington’s *A Textbook of the Origins and History of the Colored People* (1841); William Wells Brown’s *The Black Man: His Antecedents, His Genius and His Achievements* (1863); and George Washington Williams’ *History of the Negro Race in America, 1619–1880: Negro as Slaves, as Soldiers and as Citizens* (1883).

However, with Woodson, starting in 1926, the Negro History Week celebration of heroes and heroines in churches, fraternities, sororities and a wide variety of Black social clubs

only enhanced the recognition of Black achieving giants of the past. Many of these groups used Woodson’s *Negro History Bulletin* (1937) as a popular resource.

The grounding of the Black past at the “folk” level eventually made its way into higher education with the hiring of Nathan Hare, in February 1968, at San Francisco State and the establishment of the first Black studies program. The basic text in this program and others to follow was either John Hope Franklin’s *From Slavery to Freedom* or *Ebony* magazine journalist Lerone Bennett’s survey, *Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America* (1964).

In the next year, 1969, both UCLA and Cornell University began their programs. Of course, at Cornell, it took the armed takeover by Black male students of the Willard Straight Hall and the threat that “Cornell has 24 hours to live” for it to establish its Africana Studies Research Center under James Turner.

At UCLA, the movement and its leaders created the Center for African American Studies (CAAS). However, that leadership was contested as one entity, Organization US, battled against the Black Panther Party (BPP) regarding who would control the naming of the first chair of the Center. This

Continues on page 18

A 1971 poster calling for a “Day of Solidarity” with Black political prisoners in Oakland. Among the prisoners were Bobby Seale and Angela Davis. Notice that music was provided by the Grateful Dead. Photo courtesy of The Commons





# The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

Suffering by the numbers: In 2022, the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department reported 582,000 unhoused individuals in the United States. Of that number, 233,832 were unsheltered and living on the streets.

California reported 171,500 homeless individuals in 2022, and of those 115,492 were unsheltered and living on the streets. Since 2020, California's homeless population has grown 6% and locally it has grown 6.5%.

The *Fresno Bee* reports that the number of unhoused people in Fresno and Madera counties is at its highest point in 10 years. The 2023 point-in-time count of unhoused residents in the city and county, conducted by the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) cites 4,493 unhoused individuals in Fresno and Madera counties. Of that number, the city of Fresno has 1,819 unsheltered individuals and 1,388 individuals living in temporary shelters for a total of 3,207. Fresno County outside the city of Fresno has 594 unsheltered individuals and only 11 living in shelters for a total of 605.

It must be noted that the point-in-time count is an undercount. Laura Moreno, chair of the FMCoC, admitted this to the *Fresno Bee* saying that "I am absolutely sure that we're missing people" when referring to the count.

Despite billions being allocated from the State of California to address homelessness, the crisis continues. CNN recently reported that California spent \$17.5 billion from 2018 to 2022 to address homelessness. Another \$3.1 billion has been allocated through 2024.

Jason Elliott, senior adviser on homelessness for Gov. Gavin Newsom, told CNN that "the problem would be so much worse absent the interventions."

Doing the math, \$17.5 billion divided by the number of unhoused individuals in California, 171,500, is \$102,000 per unhoused individual over a four-year period, or \$25,510 per year.

Of the \$17.5 billion in funding allocated by the State from 2018 until 2022, \$3.7 billion was invested in Project Homekey to convert motels and commercial properties into permanent, affordable housing and for interim use as temporary shelters; 13,500 Homekey units have been established.

The City of Fresno and Fresno County have used Homekey funds to convert a number of motels into temporary, low-barrier shelters. These shelters are gradually being converted into affordable housing units.

The State allocated another \$2 billion in tax credits for developers. (So far, 481 new affordable housing units have been built.) Another \$2 billion was used to restart affordable housing projects, and \$2 billion went toward emergency rental assistance. Another \$4 billion was allocated to mental health services and supporting other initiatives and services for unhoused people.

Locally, as reported by the *Fresno Bee* in December 2022, the City, the County and the FMCoC received \$270 million in state and federal grants to address homelessness. The Fresno Housing Authority received \$24.1 million in Project Homekey funds. The County received \$15.5 million in Project Homekey funds. The City also received \$15 million in federal Emergency Solution Grants to provide shelter services.

In 2021, the City received \$42 million in emergency rental assistance funding from the state and federal governments. In addition, the City and County have received American Rescue funding for housing and services for unhoused residents. Recently, the City was granted another \$17 million in state dollars for "encampment resolution" to be focused on the downtown area. Advocates are concerned about how these funds will be used and are pressing for more permanent solutions.

The region has used state and federal funding to provide 3,814 year-round beds for unhoused residents. The large majority are located in the city of Fresno. According to the FMCoC, 91% are filled and most shelters remain fully occupied on a daily basis, as street family members consistently report.

Of these 3,814 beds, there are 1,480 low-barrier "emergency shelter" beds for the short term (up to six months). There are 349 "transitional housing" beds intended to provide shelter for up to 18 months. There are 441 "rapid rehousing" beds, which provide vouchers and other financial support for rental assistance for up to 24 months. There are 1,491 "permanent supportive housing" beds, which provide long-term financial support and on-site services.

The taxpayers of California need an audit to determine exactly how the astounding amount of \$17.5 billion in funds has been allocated and spent. The audit should include all counties, cities and CoCs in California. All homeless service providers and shelter operators should be audited.

The public, understandably, questions, with so many public dollars allocated and spent, why is the number of people living on the streets increasing and why is there so little accountability. Over the past four years, some improvements have been made in Fresno, and one-time funding was used to provide temporary housing and services. Some good things have happened, some bad decisions have been made and some ugly City policies have been implemented.

## The Good

The City established more than 3,000 new low-barrier shelter beds. Some of these beds are temporary, and some are transitional. The City has increased the hours and improved the operational criteria for opening warming centers in the winter and cooling centers in the summer.

The City is providing two new mobile shower/sanitation units that rotate every weekday throughout the city to provide cleanliness and dignity for unhoused residents. The City is also providing a mobile medical clinic at different locations during the week providing immunization and basic health services.

Poverello House and other service providers have increased services and outreach to unhoused residents. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program, funded by the federal government, helped hundreds of residents stay housed. In addition, it's good that the City is planning to develop several tiny home villages in the near future, a step toward providing permanent housing.

## The Bad

Last year, the City attempted to implement an ordinance, co-authored by Council Member Miguel Arias, to bar homeless advocates and the media from being near homeless encampment sweeps. The ACLU filed a lawsuit and won. The City had to pay more than \$375,000 of your tax dollars in legal fees and court costs as a result.

Also bad is that the City has rejected calls from renters and community organizations to implement rent stabilization measures and rent control policies. Rent control would help stem the tide of eviction-based homelessness.

Bad is the fact that City- and County-funded shelters are understaffed and do not provide adequate services to help shelter residents get back on their feet. These shelters continue to serve poor food with small portions. Many shelter residents complain of poor treatment and lack of respect from staff.

Also bad is the fact that millions of dollars have been spent locally and billions of dollars have been spent statewide with almost no permanent housing being built.

In addition, it is bad that the City has failed to build a fully funded tiny home village that would house 100 individuals. The project has been stalled and on hold for more than a year and a half. Several City Council members said that the City has been unable to locate a lot on which to build the village that is not contaminated with pollutants. They said the cleanup cost of contaminated land is too high.

## The Ugly

The City is attempting to continually criminalize the unhoused people of Fresno. The most recent example of this is the ordinance, co-authored by Arias and implemented on July 7, that bans unhoused residents from most locations at all times and severely limits the amount of personal property one can have (read "Kill the Poor" in the July issue of the *Community Alliance*).

The FMCoC recently sent a letter to Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer and the City Council to request a meeting on the new

## FOLLOW THE MONEY



California has burned through billions of dollars with no solutions for the housing crisis. Photo by JP Valery/Unsplash

ordinance. The letter states that "we believe this ordinance criminalizes the presence and possessions of people experiencing homelessness."

The letter goes on to state that "the CoC receives millions of dollars in funding from HUD and that HUD requires that CoCs implement specific strategies to prevent the criminalization of homelessness and must work with law enforcement and the city to eliminate policies and practices that criminalize the homeless."

The letter further states that "the City of Fresno's Ordinance potentially jeopardizes the CoC's HUD funding for permanent housing and supportive services." It is unclear if the City has met with the FMCoC yet, however, it is clear that the City could lose millions of dollars in federal funding unless the new ordinance is abandoned.

Also ugly are the policies and practices of the Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART). On a daily basis, HART forces people to move (with nowhere to go) from their locations. On a daily basis, HART throws away the personal property, including basic survival gear, of unhoused human beings. On a daily basis, HART harasses, threatens and intimidates those unfortunate enough to live on the streets.

The mayor and the City Council support and praise HART. Arias recently said that he calls HART to remove unhoused residents from locations in his district on a regular basis. HART's tactics have traumatized individuals, built further mistrust of the Fresno Police Department and solved nothing. In addition, millions of tax dollars are wasted on a cruel and fruitless policy.

In conclusion, over the past five years, millions of dollars have been spent locally and statewide billions of dollars have been spent. Most of these dollars were spent on temporary housing, shelters and services for the unhoused.

Shelter operators and homeless service providers dominate how dollars in California are allocated. They run the CoCs. There are 41 CoCs in California; the CoCs determine where the money goes, and there is an endless funding source. There is a large industry built from state and federal funding, and it has no interest in a Housing First approach and permanent housing solutions.

Little permanent housing was built with the \$17.5 billion in funding. The amount of money allocated would provide for thousands of units of permanent housing to be built. Homelessness is rising with no end in sight. There is a lack of transparency and accountability from cities, counties and service providers about how these dollars are allocated and spent.

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Bob McCloskey is a homeless advocate in Fresno.

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# Who Chooses Your Children's Books in Clovis?

Continued from page 1

Pride flag. Ensuring that the Pride flag would not be flown in Clovis was Pearce's aim.

Attempts to ban the Pride flag and ban LGBTQ+ books are issues that are not unique to Fresno or Clovis. They are not happening in a vacuum. Books about LGBTQ+ people are targets of what the *Washington Post* calls a "historic wave" of nationwide attacks and challenges, with most of the complaining coming from individuals filing scores of serial complaints with their local libraries. Right-wing fringe groups such as Moms for Liberty often organize volunteers to make the complaints.

Presumably, a city flag policy covers flags raised at public schools. The ACLU has said that "Rainbow flags, Pride flags and other symbols celebrating LGBTQ pride are a protected form of free speech in school settings," per First Amendment protections for students in public schools.

Legal arguments aside, the Pride flag is a symbol of welcoming to a heretofore marginalized and persecuted group, and, on an emotional level, banning it conveys a message that this still-vulnerable group is not only unwelcome but also that abuse is permissible. Many recent reports of violence we see in the news, such as the murder of a woman in San Bernardino County, shot to death by a man who objected to the Pride flag in front of her store, evince this outcome. The same dynamic applies to book bans.

Pearce's June 28 Facebook post about the Pride book display drew attention and alarm from the LGBTQ+ community, and by July 10, there were 237 comments posted in response, all but a handful in opposition to her. At the July 10 Clovis City Council meeting, five members of the LGBTQ+ community and supporters were present to publicly object to Pearce's remarks and to question why Pearce was permitted to circulate them on her City-branded social media.

One commenter was Jennifer Cruz, a longtime Clovis resident, parent and manager of the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) LGBTQ+ Resource Center. She said that Pearce's comments were dangerous, that they compromised the safety of the library and that urging constituents to avoid the library promotes fear and misinformation about the LGBTQ+ community.

In her job as manager of the Resource Center in downtown Fresno she "sees the suffering of our community every day," including the "real-life consequences" of the hatefulness in remarks such as those made by Pearce. Mayor Ashbeck noted that 10 letters in opposition to Pearce had also been received.

Pearce, however, was unmoved. She claimed to be the target of "vitriol, hate and venom" herself. Ashbeck, to her credit, vehemently reprimanded Pearce, remarking that Pearce's opinions "have no place in building a community" and that she had deeply offended City staff, some of whom are Black, or gay, or have trans kids.

(In a February Council meeting, Pearce had objected to the term *equity* appearing in a proclamation honoring the African-American Historical and Cultural Museum because she felt "equity" was "socialist." The statement had angered Black staff members.)

Ashbeck pointed out to Pearce that matters regarding the county library, of which the Clovis location is a branch, are not within the City's jurisdiction. Issues that "we can't control don't belong in this chamber," she noted.

"Go on KMJ and talk as an individual," Ashbeck said to Pearce, but don't speak publicly as a member of the City Council. (Pearce hosts a radio show on KMJ.)

"We have families here who like to read those books—let them read 'em—you don't have to read them," she admonished Pearce.

Pearce's social media use in general, which she appears to undertake on behalf of the City of Clovis, has raised particular concern. At the Aug. 7 Council meeting, Tracy Bohren, a Clovis resident, asked the Council to adopt a policy for Council members' social media code of conduct.

Alluding to Pearce's controversial social media posts emblazoned with the City logo, Bohren said that the remarks cause confusion between personal opinion and City policy and noted that government officials' social media posts are subject to laws such as the Brown Act and other statutes regulating public records.



Some attendees at the Sept. 5 Clovis City Council meeting who expressed their opposition to banning books at the local library. Photo by Rachel Youdelman

At the close of the Aug. 7 Council meeting, Pearce demanded of her Council colleagues an impromptu consensus to direct the city manager to draft a letter to the county BOS regarding what she now called "graphic sexual content in children's books" in the public library because the library is in the county's purview. Two other Council members agreed to sign, but Ashbeck said she would never sign such a letter.

At the Sept. 5 Council meeting, there was a powerful showing of queer Clovis youth and allies, who showed up to resist the bigotry and danger of public statements such as Pearce's. A proposal was on that meeting's agenda to send a letter to the BOS informing them of alleged "community concerns" about children's books in the library that feature "graphic sex acts."

The letter, drafted by City Manager John Holt at Pearce's direction, was appended to the agenda. Those who wanted to comment publicly were lined up out the door into the lobby. It took more than two hours, with each speaking for about three minutes each, to hear everyone.

About seven people spoke in support of Pearce and the letter, and the other 40-plus who spoke in opposition included many local LGBTQ+ high school students, older members of PFLAG Fresno, retired librarians, a retired social worker who pioneered adoption for gay parents and other parents from the community. Many disclosed deeply moving personal histories.

After the lengthy public comment period, the Council voted unanimously to "do nothing" about the proposed letter. Individual Council members, it was decided, were free to send letters on the City letterhead if they wanted to.

The next day, Pearce, on her City Council-branded Facebook page, misrepresented what happened. She said that she had "voted against" the letter drafted by the city manager, but there was not a "no" vote. The vote was to "do nothing."

She posted a copy of a letter addressed to BOS Chair Sal Quintero that she had written herself and falsely said that the letter drafted by Holt "fell short of what a majority of the Council agreed to at our meeting on August 7." There had been no agreement on Aug. 7, which was why the draft appeared on the Sept. 5 agenda.

Pearce's protestations that she "didn't want to ban books" and that she was only seeking to ensure that books found in the public library were "age-appropriate" were belied by her many public statements, such as that LGBTQ+ people were "going after the kids" and that "no child can be both boy and girl or the opposite gender that he or she was born," or that she was only trying to "let people know" about the presence of the books so they could make "an informed decision."

Ashbeck emphasized that "Clovis is a welcoming community. Our job is to build community. People are welcome here. They need to be safe here." But she lamented all the time and effort spent that evening because it didn't make Clovis "a better place."

Council Member Vong Mouanoutoua said that he learned a lot from hearing personal stories, and he found value in that.

Ashbeck agreed that "we have to hear each other" but that "we didn't solve anything." Perhaps she just wanted to get on with the City's business without further distraction.

Nevertheless, it was an extraordinary several hours in Clovis, when an exceptionally rich gathering of members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies showed up at a City Council meeting to eloquently insist on their rights. As Mouanoutoua said, "I'm wiser now."

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Rachel Youdelman is a former photography editor and lives in Clovis. She attended UC Berkeley, CalArts and Harvard University. Contact her at rachel27@berkeley.edu.



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—Teresa Castillo

**RAGING GRANNIES SERENADE BEV WITH LOVE AND HOPE**

Fresno's infamous Raging Grannies gathered at Paintbrush Assisted Living Center on Aug. 28 to serenade our member, Bev Fitzpatrick, and an audience of other residents and staff. Bev has been a stalwart Grannie and an ardent supporter of our singing songs of peace and justice. Our songs were enthusiastically received with an invitation to return!

—Nancy Hatcher



Raging Grannies with Bev Fitzpatrick.  
 Photo by Nancy Hatcher

**ONGOING GUITAR AND UKULELE CLASS WITH TEATRO DE LA TIERRA**

Every Friday—Free of Charge!

Teatro de la Tierra invites interested students between ages 7 through seniors to study Mexican traditional music, Latin American and American folklore and Nuevo Canto, a blend of contemporary and traditional styles about social justice, history, love and activism. Every Friday at 5 p.m. at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. Zoom classes will be available in the coming month. We have a limited number of instruments; take the leap! Thanks to the California Endowment, the California Arts Council and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

**Cancionero del Pueblo/People's Songbook (YouTube) New Project!**

Angel Vasquez, pictured on this page playing his cutaway steel string guitar, is an advanced musician who has performed throughout his young life in the city of Fresno. He will be featured in the instructional videos that lead artists Agustín Lira and Patricia Wells are producing to show students how to play the leads, chords and rhythms of songs. Angel is now a sophomore at Fresno State. Also shown in the photo is Dahlia Vasquez, a student and tutor in the class.

Merlinda Espinosa will also be a featured artist in this project. Thank you Alliance for California Traditional Arts.

—Patricia Wells-Solorzano

**FIND OUT ABOUT GOING TO CUBA—PASTORS FOR PEACE CARAVAN REPORT**

Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. at Free AME Church, 806 Collins Ave., Fresno



Caravanistas volunteering on hospital reconstruction. Photo by LVR

The Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba recently made our 30th trip to Cuba. Many local folks have been on this and previous Caravans. We'll talk about what we did and saw, what makes Cuba special and why Cuba is under fierce U.S. attack and has been for the past 60 years.

This year, the Caravan went to the eastern part of Cuba. We saw where the Cuban Revolution began and the changes that have been made by and for the Cuban people. We volunteered to help rebuild a hurricane-damaged hospital, visited community projects, went to church services, and learned about holistic agriculture and Cuba's sustainable development projects.

Legal experts and members of LGBTQ+ organizations spoke to us about the changes since the passage of the Family Code, a body of family law that centers equity and inclusiveness. Distinguished Afro-Cuban artists and intellectuals spoke about ongoing work to eliminate attitudes of prejudice and Eurocentrism.

We even climbed to sculptor Alberto Lescaj's Monument to the Maroons, near where slaves rose up in revolt at the Cobre mines in 1731 and set up an independent community at Sierra del Cobre. (Maroons were enslaved people who escaped and formed their own settlements in the mountains.)

We went to Guantanamo and saw that it's a province of Cuba and the capital city of that province, where people are doing their best to live their lives despite having a hostile foreign military base and prison camp in their territory, imposed by U.S. force.

There was a lot of music and dancing, too. Some recent Caravan participants from this area include Gerry Bill, Dr. Jean Kennedy, Leni Villagomez Reeves, Rafael Avitia, Jean Hays, Josh Shurley, Sue Kern and Ed Castro Jr. (in memoriam). We'll try to tell you all about it. But, really, you need to experience this for yourself.

**Is a Trip to Cuba in Your Future?**

Cuba lets us know that it is possible to do things differently. It's real—free universal healthcare, free universal education, elimination of structural racism, no child labor, sustainability, international cooperation and international solidarity on the side of the oppressed.

Cuba has envisioned a more just society, and they are doing their best to carry this out, with obvious imperfections and despite obstacles, by far the largest of which is the U.S. economic blockade of the country.

Cuba lets us know that it is possible to resist.

Cuba lets us know that it is possible to win.

We need to know this.

For more information, contact [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com), [avitia\\_r@hotmail.com](mailto:avitia_r@hotmail.com) or [drjeankennedy@yahoo.com](mailto:drjeankennedy@yahoo.com).



Angel Vasquez (left) and Dahlia Vasquez. Photos by Patricia Wells-Solorzano

**WILPF MEETING**

Oct. 12 (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 info, contact Teresa [taca\\_03@gmail.com](mailto:taca_03@gmail.com) or Leni at [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com).

**STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM**

Oct. 25 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

**UNPACKING RACISM**

With Dr. Jean Kennedy. Moving toward community event participation. To join, RSVP with your e-mail address to [drjeankennedy@yahoo.com](mailto:drjeankennedy@yahoo.com) or text 559-270-1023.

**WOMEN IN BLACK**

Oct. 4 (first Wednesday), noon, Courthouse. Check first with Sue Kern at [skern@netptc.net](mailto: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](mailto:nhatcher46@gmail.com) or Kyla Mitchell at [kyla.noelle@gmail.com](mailto:kyla.noelle@gmail.com).

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY WILPF. THE WILPF PAGE IS USUALLY COMPILED AND EDITED BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES ([LENIVREEVES@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LENIVREEVES@GMAIL.COM)).



# Hasidic Rosh Hashanah in Uman

BY ZARINA ZABRISKY

In 2022, amid Russia's full-scale invasion, more than 23,000 Hasidic Jews marked Rosh Hashanah in Uman, Ukraine—which is, coincidentally, the city of the author's ancestors. The pilgrims arrived from Israel, the United States, the United Kingdom, France and all over the world.

In the 18th century, during the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Uman became a notable center of Jewish life. It was home to a thriving Jewish community known for its religious scholarship and vibrant cultural contributions.

One of the most significant figures associated with Uman is Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, the founder of the Breslov Hasidic movement. He was first buried in Uman's local Jewish cemetery in 1810, and later his grave was moved to what now is known as the Hasidic quarter.

Rabbi Nachman's tradition draws tens of thousands to Uman yearly. Pilgrims gather to worship at the grave of Rabbi Nachman, dance and celebrate the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah.

The Jewish community of Uman has a long and challenging history. Like many parts of Eastern Europe, the city witnessed its share of deadly anti-Jewish pogroms, particularly during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Pogroms were fueled by various factors, including economic tensions, political upheaval and deeply ingrained anti-Semitic sentiments.

During the Holocaust, the Jewish community in Uman suffered greatly under the Nazi occupation. The Nazis implemented a systematic campaign of mass killings, deportations and persecution of Jews. The author's great-grandparents were the victims of the Holocaust in Uman. The atrocities committed by the Nazis led to the near annihilation of Uman's Jewish population.

During the Soviet era, anti-Semitism affected Jewish communities across the USSR, including Uman. Discrimination, restrictions on religious practices and limited opportunities were everyday experiences for Soviet Jews.

In response to these challenges, a significant number of Jews from Uman and other Soviet cities chose to emigrate to Israel during waves of Jewish emigration in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Later, the Braclav Hasids, followers of Rabbi Nachman, started to move to Uman and settle along Pushkin Street. Other Hasids only arrive around the New Year for festivities.

In 2022, during the war, local authorities, police and the Ukrainian military ensured a smooth celebration, wary of Kremlin provocations in support of Russian President Putin's "denazification" narrative. "Denazification" of Ukraine is a term used by the Kremlin to justify its full-scale invasion of Ukraine and propaganda aimed at discrediting the Ukrainian government.

Putin has falsely accused Ukrainian authorities of being controlled by "neo-Nazis" or far-right elements, using this as a pretext for Russian military interventions in Ukraine, particularly in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. The Ukrainian government is not under the control of neo-Nazis, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is of Jewish descent.

Russian propagandists' claims are part of a disinformation campaign designed to undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and justify the Russian war of aggression in the eyes of the international community.

On Sept. 27, 2022, Ukrainian media outlet Babel, citing intelligence sources, reported that Russian troops launched Iranian Shahed-136 kamikaze drones toward Uman, targeting the Hasidic Jews who gathered to celebrate. These acts were allegedly a part of Iran's conditions for supplying drones to Russia.

The Ukrainian air defense successfully downed the drones, and the streets were filled with Hasidic Jewish men and boys, dancing and singing, despite curfews and alcohol bans. Women are not present at the celebration.

A Ukrainian woman who had fled bombardments of Kharkiv to stay in Uman spoke warmly of the festivities, "The more people pray for peace, the better."

This year, despite warnings from the U.S., Israeli and Ukrainian governments about the ongoing war's dangers, tens of thousands of Jewish men and boys again flocked to Uman for the Rosh Hashanah pilgrimage. On Sept. 7, Zelenskyy wrote that he spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on ways to secure the safety of Hasidic Jews on their yearly pilgrimage to Uman.

"Ukraine has always warmly welcomed pilgrims and taken responsibility for their safety. Given the threat of Russian missiles and Iranian drones, this year's pilgrimage comes with high-security risks. Our bomb shelters have a capacity for around 11,000 people. Swift joint action is required to ensure the safety of more people," noted Zelenskyy.

Israel and Ukraine boosted security at border crossings near Uman, after weeks of tensions. While municipal roads in and around the city were closed for safety, drawing mixed reactions from year-round residents, Israel's government allocated a \$1 million aid package for the pilgrimage. United Hatzalah, the Israeli emergency response service, also increased its presence in the city.



Rabbi Nachman's tomb in Uman, Ukraine.  
Photo courtesy of The Commons

At 5 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 15, 2023, the Russian Federation attacked Ukraine with Iranian-made Shahed drones, initially heading toward Uman but changing course at the last moment, diverting westward.

The official page of Ukraine's Center for Countering Disinformation issued a warning, cautioning against disinformation spread by Kremlin-connected sources. According to these fake statements, the Ukrainian government planned a terrorist attack in Uman on Rosh Hashanah and intended to accuse Russia of "crimes against humanity."

The Center for Countering Disinformation urged the global community and Ukrainians to rely solely on verified information sources, emphasizing that the Kremlin's dissemination of such fakes aims to establish an information alibi for potential terrorist attacks within Ukraine's borders.

"Glory to the Ukrainian heroes who have made a religious pilgrimage in the middle of the war possible," wrote Vladislav Davidson, a USSR-born American journalist of Jewish origin who has spent a lot of time working in Ukraine. "The Telegram channels have filled up with warnings about possible attacks on Uman tomorrow. We are not afraid of Russian barbarism, and we are all going anyway."

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Zarina Zabriskey 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 military experts and eyewitnesses for these and other publications, including The Byline Times (UK).



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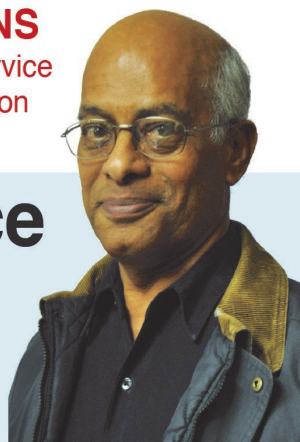
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The "Fountain of Remembrance," by Gerard Tsutakawa, was created in honor of Japanese Americans detained at the Pinedale Assembly Center in 1942. The fountain is located in the Memorial Garden in front of the former Assembly Center. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

## An Infamous Event That Sparked a "Forgotten" Memory

BY EDUARDO STANLEY

(Editor's note: This is the first of a series of articles regarding the incarceration of Japanese Americans in 1942–1945. This project is made possible through a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, a program of the California State Library.)

On a summer day in the year 2000, Dr. Isao Fujimoto (1933–2022) came to Fresno for a presentation about popular education, organized by the Pan Valley Institute of the American Friends Service Committee. Afterward, during a chat with several attendees, he talked about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II—one of the most infamous civil rights violations by the United States.

From 1942 to 1945, the U.S. government incarcerated more than 127,000 people of Japanese descent, including U.S. citizens, in isolated camps, in what is considered a reaction, or revenge, to the Pearl Harbor attack by Japan on the United States in December 1941.

I knew little about this historical event, so I paid close attention to Dr. Fujimoto's conversation. As a young boy, he was an inmate—along with his family—of the Heart Mountain, Wyo., and Tule Lake, Calif., concentration camps.

He was a soft, charming speaker, and his words didn't express resentment or bitterness. However, he was good at presenting a case, and this was a special one for him.

He told us about the "assembly centers," places used by the military to gather Japanese people from different cities for a later "distribution" to camps.

"In Fresno, there were two; one was in Pinedale and the other one was at the Fresno Fairgrounds," he said. To me, this was shocking news. "Pinedale?" I asked. "That's almost in my backyard!" I couldn't believe it, and I experienced an uncomfortable feeling.

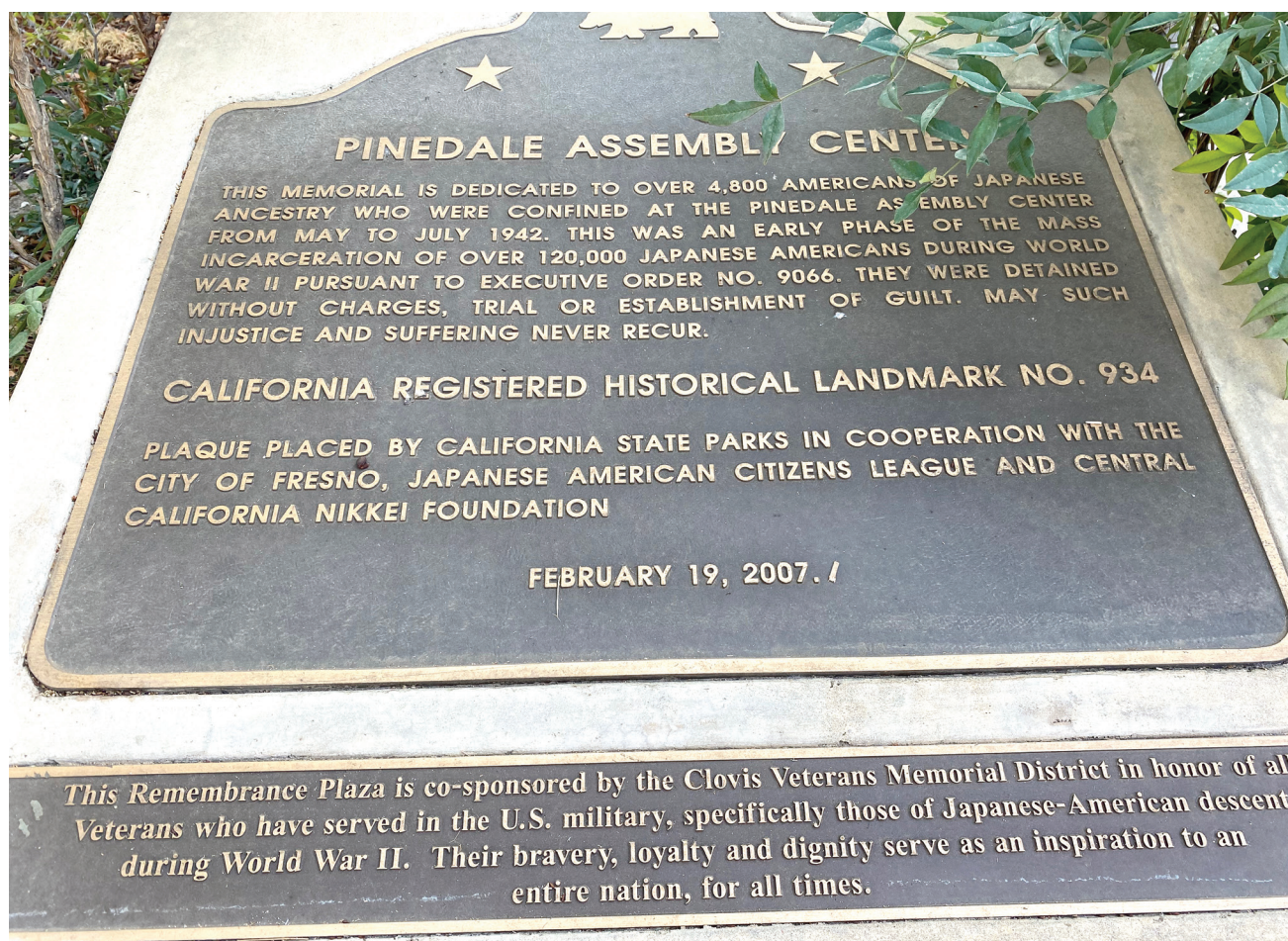
The following day, I jumped in my car and drove to Pinedale to locate the Pinedale Assembly Center. It didn't take much time, the place was marked by a plaque. Behind it was a big, empty terrain now surrounded by developers' endless appetite for new land.

I stood in front of that terrain, and I imagined families being brought by the dozens into the barracks. I tried to imagine how they felt at that moment. Fear, uncertainty, confusion.

Suddenly, I started to feel confused and my imagination started to take a dark turn. I felt uncomfortable. I couldn't

help but to "see" another tragedy in my mind, when thousands of young—and not so young—people in my country (Argentina) were rounded up, kidnapped on the streets—during daylight and at night—in front of their families and sent either to another kind of barracks (jails or military camps) or simply killed—bodies appeared here, there and everywhere.

At the beginning, during the "democratic" Argentine government of Isabel Perón, in 1975, paramilitary groups, organized by a known Perón adviser, started a "war against leftists." On a daily basis, unmarked cars kidnapped



This plaque marks the place at which thousands of Japanese Americans were detained without charges and later sent to concentration camps around the country, in Pinedale, Fresno. "May such injustice and suffering never recur." Photo by Eduardo Stanley



# Incarceration of Japanese Americans

**Pinedale Assembly Center**  
Opened May 7–July 23, 1942

Held Japanese Americans from Washington State, Hood River, Ore., and Sacramento. Peak population: 4,792 people, sent later to the Tule Lake, Calif., and Poston, Ariz., concentration camps.

People were sent to the assembly centers by train. The photos of the trains with incarcerated people and the barracks on the camps remind us of the Jews being sent to death at the concentration camps set up on purpose by the Nazis.

**Fresno Assembly Center (Fresno Fairgrounds)**

Open May 6–Oct. 30, 1942

Held Japanese from Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley. Peak population: 5,120. They were then sent to the Jerome, Ark., and Gila River, Ariz., concentration camps.

## The Incarceration

The attack on Pearl Harbor marked the entrance of the United States into WWII. In February 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt, as commander-in-chief, issued Executive Order 9066 that resulted in the internment of Japanese Americans.

The entire West Coast was deemed a military area and was divided into military zones. Executive Order 9066 authorized military commanders to exclude civilians from military areas. Although the language of the order did not specify any ethnic group, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt of the Western Defense Command proceeded to announce curfews that included only Japanese Americans.

Before WWII (which started in Europe in 1939), the FBI had identified German, Italian and Japanese aliens who were suspected of being potential enemy agents. With the Pearl Harbor attack, public hysteria and the military propaganda pointed at people of Japanese descent as enemies. After the war, not a single case of espionage by a Japanese American was uncovered.

General DeWitt, based then in San Francisco, was instrumental in spreading false and baseless suspicions about Japanese Americans' support of Japan and sabotage-type of activities against the United States.

The U.S. government set up 10 concentration camps to hold Japanese Americans, situated many miles inland, often in remote and desolate locales: Tule Lake and Manzanar, Calif.; Minidoka, Idaho; Topaz, Utah; Jerome and Rohwer, Ark.; Heart Mountain, Wyo.; Poston and Gila River, Ariz.; and Granada, Colo.

hundreds of young people, mainly belonging to the Perónist movement, and killed them.

One year later, the military took over in Argentina. That coup d'état lasted until 1982—six years in which about 30,000 people were killed after being kidnapped or arrested. All without any warrants or charges. Attorneys who tried to help were also murdered. Students, journalists and union leaders were among the victims.

The military was more efficient than the paramilitary groups, and so the killing machine—as well as the propaganda one—worked nonstop. Even pregnant young women were held in captivity until their babies were born. Then the babies were given in adoption and the mothers killed.

Both the Japanese people sent to concentration camps in the United States and the victims of state terrorism in Argentina have something in common: In both cases, the U.S. government was responsible or deeply involved.

Before Argentina's coup of 1976, Washington's hands got dirty, again, in the Sept. 11, 1973, bloody coup in Chile, in which General Augusto Pinochet deposed democratically elected president Salvador Allende, who was killed during the attack on the Presidential Palace.

My daydreaming was dissipating, and I was still in front of an empty landfill that was once an Assembly Center—a "pre-concentration camp." But I was still feeling bad, nauseous because of the memories. And getting worse as I told myself "this happened here years ago, but it happened here."

Why is it that humans go through these types of events? Is history repeating itself? Innocent people paying the consequences of abusive governments.

After all, why were Japanese people—either immigrants or those born here—incarcerated? Just because they were Japanese. Why were people killed in Argentina? Just because they didn't think like those in power. Is there any way to stop this circle of power abuse and racism?



Another view of the Memorial Garden in front of the former Pinedale Assembly Center. Photo by Eduardo Stanley



A typical truckload of Japanese American residents of the Jerome camp in Arkansas wait at the camp's entrance to be loaded onto a train and moved to the Gila River Center in Arizona. With the closing of Jerome, the evacuees were sent in groups of 500 to another center. This was the third move for those incarcerated as they were forced to leave their homes on the West Coast.

Photo by Charles E. Mace/The Commons

In Argentina, many of the military officers and their civilian partners in crime were judged and convicted; the movie *Argentina 1985* portrays some of these events. No U.S. officer or elected official who participated in the abuses of Japanese Americans was charged.

The only way to stop these abuses and crimes is if the population learns from other communities' dramatic past, get organized and say "Nunca mas" ("Never again"). In Argentina, when democracy finally returned, in 1982, a strong movement led by survivors of the state terrorism, family members of victims, activists and union leaders came together under the flag of "Nunca mas," with the intention to avoid this from happening again. They compromised to keep the memory of those atrocities alive to avoid it from happening again.

In the United States, we must also say "Never again."

What has happened to others, as to Japanese Americans, should motivate us to be alert. Telling the stories of abused communities is part of this process. No one should ignore these dramatic events when they are happening.

Argentina's state terrorism hit my family and some friends. But also some family members and friends justified their lack of action at the time with the cold "I didn't know." They knew. Everybody knew. What helped to end this abusive regime was people's solidarity, both internal and international.

Pinedale and the Fresno Fairgrounds are local landmarks of this historic memory of unfairness and mistreat. Let's not forget.

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





# SIERRA CLUB

## TEHIPITE CHAPTER

### The Sierra Club's Environmental Protection Mission Necessitates Equity in Hiring

by Gary Lasky

The Sierra Club is unique among "Big Green" environmental non-profits. Founded in 1892, the Club's charter requires it to be a member-led organization. The Club's Council of Club Leaders (CCL) is a volunteer body with 65 appointed delegates, one from each national chapter. Representing more than 800,000 dues-paying members, the CCL meets each September to network, socialize (karaoke late into the night!), and endorse policy resolutions to deliver to the national Club Board of Directors on the final day of our meeting. Tehipite Chapter Conservation Chair Ron Martin and I recently attended the 2023 annual meeting in Chicago, where 45 CCL delegates met on Sep. 6-9. This year, a record 22 resolutions were passed.

This was our first opportunity to meet and listen to Ben Jealous, the Club's new Executive Director. Ben grew up in Pacific

Grove, making annual trips to Yosemite with his family. You may remember him as the NACCP's executive director from 2008 to 2013. A powerful and moving speaker, Ben has quickly established himself in the Club organization, with a budget of \$162 million and more than 500 staff. We are expecting a visit from Ben this November. Stay tuned.

The current news at the meeting was a Washington Post article critical of the Club's efforts to correct racial diversity in hiring. The Club has been in the forefront of Big Green non-profits in its commitment to a racially diverse workforce, understanding that it needs to broaden its base and recruit younger members, as efforts to halt the climate crisis have met with limited success, even with thousands of environmental activists. Last year a majority of new Sierra Club hires were people of Color (POC). Our Club recognizes that, without, a broad-based movement led by activists from communities harmed by toxic industries and most vulnerable to climate change, we will not succeed in halting the destruction of our forests, which needed to mitigate planetary heating, and the burning of fossil fuels, a primary cause the climate crisis. The article shared some of the back story, revealing tensions within the Club over this issue.

Our previous Executive Director Michael Brune, 2011-2021, made equity in hiring a priority, but his methods were viewed as divisive by some. For example, speaking to our Sierra Club California chapters at a retreat in 2013, Brune opened his remarks with "When I look out at this audience today, I see old, white, people." His message was well-intentioned, but the 'shock treatment' had the undesired effect of discouraging support for diversity. In the context of our volunteer-driven Club culture, Brune's message raised uncomfortable truths and put some on the defensive. As with other efforts to repair the trauma in the U.S. created by



Ben Jealous

our legacy of racism, some resisted the possibilities of a bright future in which aging government leaders might turn over their power to a new leadership of young people unafraid of change.

As Executive Director, Ben Jealous has brought aboard an astoundingly talented team of organizers and managers with the passion, skills and experience to manage this stormy transition, as the Sierra Club respects our legacy as the premier environmental protection organization in the U.S., but also takes on the responsibility of representing residents whose communities have been most harmed by the legacy of land destruction, and the climate crisis created by destructive extraction industries, including oil and gas, mining, and logging. I asked Mr Jealous to call on our Tehipite Chapter volunteers to do whatever is needed to organize that movement in Fresno, and the Chapter will need the support of new volunteers and donors to accomplish this ambitious goal.

*The Executive Committee of our Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm on Zoom. All Sierra Club members are welcome. Text or call Gary Lasky at 559-790-3495 if you are interested in attending.*

**Oct. 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.** The Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club presents Dr. Emily Fairfax and "Beavers: building climate resilience across California." Dr. Fairfax is currently an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Minnesota.

Beaver dams are gaining popularity as a low-cost, nature-based strategy to build climate resiliency at the landscape scale. California recently established a beaver restoration and conservation program within the Department of Fish and Wildlife to facilitate "re-beavering" the Golden State and building climate resilience. Dr. Fairfax's research has shown that beaver influenced patches of the landscape stay green and can serve as fire refuges, even during megafires.

Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/tehipite> to register in advance and receive the Zoom link.







# The CVPPAC - Improving Fresno One Vote at a Time

## The Central Valley

**Progressive PAC** held their candidate endorsement meeting on Saturday, September 9. About 35 people attended, including several candidates who spoke at the meeting. There is a link to two of those presentations below. The CVPPAC gave a dual endorsement in the Fresno County Board of Supervisor District 3 race: Miguel Arias and E.J. Hinojosa.

This is a presentation given to the Central Valley Progressive PAC by Miguel Arias, a candidate for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, District 3:  
[youtu.be/Hg6ouzyLYxM](https://youtu.be/Hg6ouzyLYxM)

This is a presentation given to the Central Valley Progressive PAC by E.J. Hinojosa, a candidate for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, District 3:  
[youtu.be/RRAYogdFCwg](https://youtu.be/RRAYogdFCwg)

### In addition, the CVPPAC endorsed the following:

**Bryce Herrera**  
Fresno County Board of Supervisors District 2

**Dr. Joaquin Arambula**  
State Assembly District 31

**Matt Gillian**  
Fresno City Council District 2

**Tyler Maxwell**  
Fresno City Council District 4

*All endorsements required a 2/3 majority of CVPPAC members in attendance at this meeting.*

## CVPPAC FALL FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY OCT 7TH 5:30-7:30 pm**

**Speakers**

**Assembly Member Dr. Joaquin Arambula  
and Artemus Captain Gidram**



**Drinks, Food,  
and Good Time**

**Tuolumne Hall  
1445 Tuolumne St.  
Fresno, CA**



**Live Music:  
Roger Perry**

### Including Speeches from CVPPAC Endorsed Candidates:

- > **Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula**
- > **Fresno County Board of Supervisors, District 2 Candidate Bryce Herrera**
- > **Fresno County Board of Supervisors, District 3 Candidates Miguel Arias, and EJ Hinojosa**
- > **Fresno City Council District 2 Candidate Matthew Gillian**
- > **Fresno City Council District 4 Incumbent and Candidate Tyler Maxwell**

**Become a Member of the CVPPAC \$100/year**

**Low income, student, and senior rate \$20/year**

**Members get in free. Recommended donation for event \$50**



To read the responses by the endorsed candidates to the CVPPAC questionnaire, visit:

[www.cvppac.org/candidate-responses](http://www.cvppac.org/candidate-responses)

**YES, I want to join the CVPPAC**

Enclosed is \$100 for one year's membership.

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# How Did Your State Reps Vote on Gun Safety?

BY JAMES MENDEZ

Do you know how your State Senator and Assembly Member voted on the five gun safety bills that were introduced in the legislature this year? There are several reasons why you might not know how they voted. The process is arcane and can be difficult to track. Just the number of bills introduced every year is overwhelming.

California has a two-year cycle for legislation. Odd-numbered years are the first year of each two-year session. In those two-year cycles, a lot of legislation is introduced. Since the 2009–2010 session, the legislature has introduced about 5,000 bills in each two-year session.

Sept. 14 was the last day for each house to pass bills in the first year of this two-year session. Gov. Gavin Newsom has 30 days to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature on or before Sept. 14.

Of the 5,000 bills introduced in each two-year cycle, fewer than half pass both houses, are signed by the governor and become law. Most bills that become law go into effect on Jan. 1 of the following year. Two websites help voters navigate the legislative system: Vote Smart (justfacts.votesmart.org) and LegiScan (legiscan.com/).

In the 1980s, California had the highest rate of gun deaths in the country. California now has one of the lowest rates of gun deaths in the country (44th out of the 50 states). Since 1990, the majority of California legislators have embraced sensible gun safety legislation and have effectively lowered the rate of gun violence in the state.

Legislators from the San Joaquin Valley, though, have not been strong participants in that legislative effort. Rarely have any Republicans in the Assembly or the Senate voted for any of the gun safety measures that have been introduced in the past 15 years. But, at best, San Joaquin Valley Democratic legislators have been only tepid supporters of gun safety laws.

The table below shows the votes on gun safety bills for the 2023 session by San Joaquin Valley representatives whose districts include some portions of Fresno County.

Representative	SB 2	SB 241	SB 452	AB 1089	AB 28
<i>State Assembly</i>					
Joaquin Arambula	Absent	Yea	Yea	Yea	Absent
Jim Patterson	Absent	Nay	Nay	Absent	Nay
Devon Mathis	Absent	Nay	Nay	Nay	Nay
Esmeralda Soria	Nay	Yea	Absent	Yea	Absent
<i>State Senate</i>					
Anna Caballero	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Absent
Shannon Grove	Nay	Nay	Nay	Nay	Nay
Melissa Hurtado	Absent	Yea	Nay	Absent	Yea

**SB 2** would revise concealed carry law to conform to the Supreme Court’s recent decision in the *Bruen* case. The bill identifies statewide eligibility standards (e.g., training, not at risk of harming self/others) rather than perceived need for an individual to receive a concealed weapons license.

**SB 241** prevents illegal sales of guns, reduces the likelihood of straw man purchases, and decreases sales to people who seem to be a risk to others or themselves. All legitimate gun dealers would need a federal firearms license. SB 241 would require that legitimate firearm retailers and their employees complete regular training created and overseen by the state’s Department of Justice.

**SB 452** “would prohibit, commencing on January 1, 2028, a licensed firearms dealer from selling, offering for sale, exchanging, giving, transferring or delivering a semiautomatic pistol, as defined, unless the pistol has been verified as a microstamping-enabled pistol.” All new semiautomatic handguns (whether a new or older model) sold in California will be required to have microstamping technology, which imprints a unique code onto a bullet casing when a gun is fired. That code allows law enforcement to trace a bullet to a specific firearm.

**AB 1089** would close a loophole by limiting unauthorized ghost gun manufacturers from using 3D printers and milling machines. Ghost guns have no identification numbers that can be used to trace ownership. Ghost guns are increasingly being used in the commission of crimes.

**AB 28** would place an 11% excise tax on firearms and ammunition. It would establish the Gun Violence Prevention, Healing and Recovery Fund, which would help California comprehensively respond to the public health, safety and equity crisis of gun violence. The excise tax would help fund community violence interruption and prevention programs (such as Advance Peace in Fresno), protect and heal survivors, and improve the implementation



A nighttime view of California’s State Capitol. Photo taken in 2018. Photo courtesy of The Commons

and coordination of gun violence prevention throughout the state. It required a two-thirds vote to pass because it is a tax.

The Assembly Members whose districts include part of Fresno County are as follows:

- District 8: Jim Patterson (R–Fresno), includes all or part of Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Mono and Tuolumne counties
  - District 27: Esmeralda Soria (D–Fresno), includes part of Fresno, Madera and Merced counties
  - District 31: Joaquin Arambula (D–Fresno), wholly within Fresno County
  - District 33: Devon Mathis (R–Tulare), includes part of Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties
- The State Senators whose districts include part of Fresno County are as follows:
- District 12: Shannon Grove (R–Bakersfield), includes part of Fresno, Kern and Tulare counties
  - District 14: Anna M. Caballero (D–Merced), includes part of Fresno, Madera, Merced and Tulare counties
  - District 16: Melissa Hurtado (D–Bakersfield), includes part of Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare counties

Brady California and the local Brady chapter, Enough Gun Violence/Brady Greater Fresno, supported all five of the gun safety bills introduced thus far in the 2023–2024 legislative session. Those bills will help make California’s communities safer from gun violence.

Brady United Against Gun Violence, which Brady California is part of, is the nation’s oldest gun violence prevention advocacy group. Brady California is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization “committed to educating and mobilizing our communities to advocate for sensible and responsible gun laws, regulations and public policies in cities across the state, in Sacramento and in Washington.”

Republican lawmakers have become “Second Amendment Absolutists.” Patterson has been in Sacramento since 2013 and has not voted for a single gun safety law in that time. Since coming to Sacramento in 2016, Mathis has voted “Nay” on all 26 gun safety bills introduced to the legislature. Grove has been in Sacramento since 2011. She has voted for only one of the 44 gun safety laws that have been introduced in her tenure. This year was no different for the Republican legislators. All the Republicans in the Assembly and the Senate voted against all the gun safety measures introduced in 2023.

- Arambula was elected to the Assembly in a 2016 special election. From then until January 2023, 25 gun safety bills were introduced. He voted “Nay” on six of them and did not vote on five of them. He voted “Yea” on 14 of the 25 gun safety bills.
- Caballero first came to Sacramento in 2007. She has served in both the Senate and the Assembly. She has had the opportunity to vote on 28 gun safety bills. She voted “Yea” on 17 of those, did not vote six times and voted “Nay” five times.
- Hurtado came to Sacramento in 2017. From 2017 until January 2023, 21 gun safety bills were introduced. She voted “Yea” for 13 of them, did not vote on four and voted “Nay” on four.
- Soria’s first opportunity to vote on gun safety legislation came in the 2023 session.

Hesitancy on the part of the Democratic legislators might be due to concern that they could antagonize voters and not get reelected if they vote for gun safety laws. There is no evidence that voting for gun safety laws would prevent Democratic legislators from getting reelected.

The Democratic legislators from the San Joaquin Valley could take a more aggressive approach toward improving gun safety in California. Most likely, those people that voted for those Democratic legislators would continue to vote for them. Those people that voted against them would continue to vote against them regardless of their votes on gun safety.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



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# Peace & Social Justice Calendar October 2023

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

## SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 1

**Fresno Reel Pride LGBTQ Film Festival** Tower Theatre, Fresno City College and the Fresno Academy of Music & Arts' ViSTA Theater. The feature-length and short films being showcased, along with member events, will help you celebrate #pride, expand your mind and heart, and connect with others. Help create a safe and inclusive space for all. #FilmsForEveryone. For more info, contact [info@reelpride.com](mailto:info@reelpride.com).

**MON 02** **Democratic Women in Action** 6 p.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, call 559-325-0540.

**TUE 03** **National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)** 5:30 p.m. Speaker: Fernanda Santiago, statewide senior manager of community engagement for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE).

For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or [joanne@pbyoga.com](mailto:joanne@pbyoga.com).

**KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro** 7 p.m. Radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit [kfcf.org](http://kfcf.org).

**WED 04** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. *Community Alliance* radio show hosted by Daren Miller. For more info, visit [kfcf.org](http://kfcf.org).

**Latino Conference: "Strengthening the Roots"** 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia. Keynote speakers: Maestro Jerry Tello and Marcia Rincon-Gallardo. Select five workshops from 25 professional workshops at a two-day conference designed for therapists, treatment counselors, social workers, educators and administrators working with Latino communities. For more info, contact [doren.martin@thelatinocommission.org](mailto:doren.martin@thelatinocommission.org).

**THU 05** **Latino Conference: "Strengthening the Roots"** 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia. See Oct. 4 entry.

**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](https://www.facebook.com/FACarthop) on Facebook.

**Highway City Health Clinic** 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Highway City/Teague Community Resource Center, 4718 N. Polk Ave. Free mobile health clinic. No appointment needed. No insurance required. Health screenings, vaccines for children, prescription refills, wound care and Covid-19 test-to-treat. For more info, call 559-578-8991.

**FRI 06** **CineCulture: Town Destroyer** 5:30 p.m. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussants: Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman (directors). The film explores the ways we look

at art and history at a time of polarized national debate over the power of images, racism, trauma and what should be taught in schools. The film addresses current debates over trauma, student safety and "cancel culture." Do images trigger trauma in students? How should a changing society deal with controversial works of art? Do the intentions of the artist matter? Or just the impact on viewers? Is it censorship to destroy murals that show painful histories? What does our country owe people who have been historically wronged? For more info, contact [mhusain@csufresno.edu](mailto:mhusain@csufresno.edu) or visit [ciniculture.csufresno.edu/](http://ciniculture.csufresno.edu/).

**SAT 07** **Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley** 9 a.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or [claval@comcast.net](mailto:claval@comcast.net).

**Central Valley Progressive PAC Fall Fundraiser** 5:30 p.m. Tuolumne Hall, 1445 Tuolumne St. Guest speakers: Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula and Artemes Captain Gidram. Music by Roger Perry. Members free; recommended donation \$50. For more info, contact 559-978-4504 or [simone.rhodes@seiu521.org](mailto:simone.rhodes@seiu521.org).

**SUN 08** **La Guelaguetza in Madera!** 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Madera Sunrise Rotary Sports Complex, 1901 Clinton St., Madera. The traditional dance of

Oaxaca comes to Madera. Dance, music and traditional Oaxacan food. Donations accepted. For more info, contact 559-481-8084.

**MON 09** **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)** 5 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact [swgamble@aol.com](mailto:swgamble@aol.com).

**TUE 10** **Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC)** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-287-1308 or [bapacfresno@gmail.com](mailto:bapacfresno@gmail.com).

**Stonewall Democratic Club** 6 p.m., Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. For more info, contact 559-709-8016 or [conantm@aol.com](mailto:conantm@aol.com).

**KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro** 7 p.m. Radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit [kfcf.org](http://kfcf.org).

**WED 11** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show hosted by Josh Shurley. For more info, visit [kfcf.org](http://kfcf.org).

**THU 12** **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](mailto:taca_03@ymail.com).

**FRI 13** **CineCulture: La Civil** 5:30 p.m. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Cielo is a mother in search of her daughter, who has been abducted by a criminal gang in northern Mexico. As the authorities fail to offer support in the search, Cielo takes matters into her own hands. The film focuses on Cielo's emotional rollercoaster, as she is drawn into increasingly dangerous circumstances. The camera stays close and we never lose sight of her as she gradually transforms from housewife into avenging activist. For more info, contact [mhusain@csufresno.edu](mailto:mhusain@csufresno.edu) or visit [ciniculture.csufresno.edu/](http://ciniculture.csufresno.edu/).

**SAT 14** **Pride Visalia 2023** 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Valley Strong Ballpark, 300 N. Giddings St., Visalia. Sponsored by The Source LGBT+ Resource Center. Come for a full day of LGBTQ+ celebration, pride and entertainment.

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

**MON 16** **California Latina Democrats–Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact [chaircalatinadems@gmail.com](mailto:chaircalatinadems@gmail.com).

**TUE 17** **Central Valley Partnership** 5:30 p.m. Location TBD. For more info, contact 559-967-1940 or [agrariandemcracy@gmail.com](mailto:agrariandemcracy@gmail.com).

**KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro** 7 p.m. Radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit [kfcf.org](http://kfcf.org).

**WED 18** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Speaking Truth to Empire** 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit [kfcf.org](http://kfcf.org).

**San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club** 6:30 p.m., Denny's Restaurant, 1110 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, call 559-312-3925.

**Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter** 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Speaker: Dr. Emily Fairfax. Topic: Beavers—Building Climate Resilience Across California. Beaver dams and beaver mimicry are gaining popularity as a low-cost, nature-based strategy to build climate resiliency at the landscape scale. Dr. Fairfax's research has shown that beaver-influenced patches of the landscape stay green and can serve as fire refugia, preserving intact, mature riparian habitat, even during megafires. Visit [sierraclub.org/tehipite](http://sierraclub.org/tehipite) to register in advance and receive the Zoom link.

**THU 19** **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](https://www.facebook.com/FACarthop) on Facebook.

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

**FRI 20** **CineCulture: Without Precedent: The Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella** 5:30 p.m. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: Barry Avrich (director). The film chronicles the career of Rosalie Abella, a former Supreme Court justice of Canada, who stood up for many marginalized communities during her long legal career. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor says that "Rosalie Abella forces each of us to examine our conscience. Where else does justice come from? From our conscience." Sponsors: French Program and Department of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures. For more info, contact [mhusain@csufresno.edu](mailto:mhusain@csufresno.edu) or visit [ciniculture.csufresno.edu/](http://ciniculture.csufresno.edu/).

**SAT 21** **Free Dump Event** Cedar Avenue Recycling & Transfer Station, 3457 S. Cedar Ave. Get rid of bulky items for free.

**West Fresno Democratic Club** 9 a.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. For more info, contact 559-930-4909 or [ibedam@gmail.com](mailto:ibedam@gmail.com).

**SUN 22** **Free Dump Event** Cedar Avenue Recycling & Transfer Station, 3457 S. Cedar Ave. Get rid of bulky items for free.

**MON 23** **Fresno County Democratic Women's Club** 11 a.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant Garden Room, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or [claval@comcast.net](mailto:claval@comcast.net).

**TUE 24** **California Alliance for 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. Radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit [kfcf.org](http://kfcf.org).

**WED 25** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir-It-Up** 3 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info, visit [kfcf.org](http://kfcf.org).

**THU 26** **Peace Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Fresno Center For Nonviolence, 1584 N Van Ness Ave. In person/via Zoom. For more info, call 559-906-3017.

**FRI 27** **2023 Pedal Summit: Fresno International Transportation Innovations** 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Fresno Convention Center, 848 M St. Keynote speakers: Gil Penalosa, chair of 8 80 Cities and

World Urban Park; Dr. Daniel Sperling, founding chair of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis; and Dr. Ismail Zohdy, program manager for Dubai's Self-Driving Transport, Roads and Transport Authority. Featured sessions include alternative transportation policy/planning, the future of e-vehicles, local transportation innovation, transportation safety and bicycle education. For more info, visit [fresnotransposummit.org](http://fresnotransposummit.org).

**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](mailto:eddiev@elconciliodefresno.org).

**CineCulture: Orca** 5:30 p.m. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: TBD. Based on a true story, the film follows the tribulations of a young divorced Iranian woman who survives a horrific assault by her estranged husband. Trying to rebuild her life, she finds solace in the water and becomes an amazing endurance swimmer. In the fight of her life, she faces political, religious and personal obstacles in a bid to swim further than anyone else has done. For more info, contact [mhusain@csufresno.edu](mailto:mhusain@csufresno.edu) or visit [ciniculture.csufresno.edu/](http://ciniculture.csufresno.edu/).

**SAT 28** **PEDAL Film Festival** 6 p.m. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Fresno State. For more info, visit [fresnotransposummit.org](http://fresnotransposummit.org).



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# Central Valley Fuego Seeking Victories

BY PETER MAIDEN

On Aug. 26, Central Valley Fuego played Forward Madison (Wisconsin) at the home stadium. Christian Chaney, an excellent player who was on the Fuego squad last year, and with the Fresno Foxes before that, is now playing with Forward Madison. As an opponent, Chaney gave a brilliant performance, successfully putting away a penalty kick, and then, in the 83rd minute, scoring the goal that tied the game 4-4. Early in the second half, Forward Madison lost a player to a red card, but Fuego FC didn't seize the advantage.

There have been three games this season between Central Valley Fuego and the Northern Colorado Hailstorm. These games are informally known as the "Ice and Fire Cup." Unfortunately for Fuego fans, Fuego lost all three, the last being played on Sept. 16. In that game, again, the opposing team suffered a red card in the second half, but they were not deterred. The final score was Fuego 0, Hailstorm 2. After that loss, Fuego FC was last in the USL1 league standings.

One more home game is scheduled this season at the Fresno State Soccer Stadium. It will be against Greenville Triumph SC on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. For more information, visit fuegofc.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



Fuego FC number 13, Francois Dulyse, hugs his teammates after a goal he scored put the Central Valley team up 3-2 over Forward Madison on Aug. 26. Photo by Peter Maiden

## Fresno Freedom School Presents: 8th Annual Progressive Black Summit

Founder Dr. Floyd D. Harris Jr

Guest Speaker Dennis Hutson

Fresno Freedom School invites you to the 8th annual Progressive Black Summit in Fresno, California. With honor we welcome Guest Speaker Dennis Hutson from Allensworth, California to inform us about the water crisis in the South Valley. Location: Fresno Freedom School 806 Collins Fresno, California Date: November 4, 2023 - Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

For More Information Contact: President Aline Reed (559) 470-5172

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## Fresno A.M.E Ministries Invites You To Our Spiritual Warfare Series

Fresno A.M.E Ministries invites you to our Spiritual Warfare Series every Sunday in October. Experience God fearing Speakers who will tell you how real it is with God. Starting Sunday October 1st, 11.30 AM located at 806 Collins Fresno, Ca 93706. Breakfast will be served from 9:00am to 9:45am and vendors are welcome.

<p>1st. Sunday Pastor Adam Diehi Battle Against Pride</p>	<p>Pastor Dr. Floyd D. Harris Jr Free A.M.E. Ministries</p>	<p>2nd. Sunday Dea Clayton Battle Against Witchcraft</p>
<p>3rd. Sunday Min. Crystal Joyce-Battle Generational Curses</p>	<p>4th. Sunday Min. Wanda Johnson Battle Against Idols</p>	<p>5th. Sunday Omie Cormier Summary</p>





## Fresno Center for Nonviolence October 2023

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To see a more colorful version of our page go to our website.

Edited by  
Richard Gomez

### Lavendar Field with Ghosts. - Anon



Every have one of those days oh, months...

Every have one of those months when your brain wants to take a break or just break down. But this is the beginning of the holiday season, you know Halloween to New Years. Happy, happy, buy and buy those saccharine and toxic laced candies for the kiddies. Buy and buy food for all the relatives to eat after laboring over the stove while they watch football on the tv, and then again buy and buy them all gifts for the sacredness of all holidays, Black Friday, and then Christmas as an afterthought. But of course, nothing ends a year out right than a final day of drunken bacchanalia. Chill out! Can't we just take it easy. Kick back and relax, DON'T BUY ANYTHING. Is giving a box of raisins for Halloween so bad or just a nice simple meal with those you really care about opposed to the whole ridiculous familv?

For whatever spiritual deity one needs to acknowledge, couldn't we all be nice to each other. Of course, no one wants to start the year off with being unemployed or forced to out of your home because you can't pay the bills. Ay, but there's the rub that makes us rather bear those ills we have than to try other methods that we know not of. Cowardness, conscience or rather a lack of education or simply following the crowd keeps us in our place. Yet no animal, human nor beast was meant to stay in one place without going mad or worst: bored.

Of course, what good would our economy be without all of our Banker's Wars? The most favored excuse to give entitled hand-outs to the rich, like Pandemics or various forms of financial collapse. Barely a dime for the poor that make the rich, wealthy but billions for their wars in the Ukraine, Yemen, Palestine, Haiti and yes, in Fresno too. Maybe people should consider what this economic system does to us and all existence. Can you live with what it does to the majority of people in this world. Sacrifices are hard especially when those who have yet to born will be the only benefactors. If you haven't noticed, don't worry, you are only asleep. Oh, but could we not put away the weapons of conveniences for the month? Oh by the way, EVERYBODY! Let War, of all kinds, take a vacation. No wealth for the rich, they can afford it. No dying for the Poor, they have done enough. I grant one and all permission to stay alive.

I know that if everybody would do exactly as I say, then this world would be a happier place. But NO, they got to do things their own way. Whatever happen to "knowing that love is to share." Instead, it's armies here, there and everywhere but then that's why authoritarian or dictatorships (even those disguising themselves as democracy or republic) need armies. Somehow the idea that you need so many people trained in killing regardless of whom they point their weapons at doesn't sound like freedom or living a good life to me. Does it to you? I know, if they are not pointing them at me.

Make what you will of my rantings and ravings. If you can do better, PLEASE, submit an alternative to me soon for November or December. No ads, or political commentary since I don't trust anyone in our government or those oppose to it. They are liars and thieves and the fact that one day you will have to vote for one of them is comical if not pathetic. -RG



### A message from our past leader.



For many years I was on the Board of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Unlike my other colleagues I had no problem asking for money! So, by default I became the fundraiser for the Center, and I gave myself the official name of Development Director. I was also one of the few members who enjoyed our once monthly meetings. And why not? Working with such talented and friendly people was a joyful experience. It was also the only one that I had been part of that worked amicably together and came to a consensus on projects being discussed. I was pretty good at asking for donations too and tried to make my fundraising letters easy and interesting to read and, more importantly, make people want to support the Center and keep the doors open.

Though I am no longer on the Board, I follow its work with admiration - what a great anniversary they put together this year. I was often told that what we did was insignificant in the community. I remember in one fundraising letter I quoted Portia in the Merchant of Venice "*How far that little candle throws its beams*". Many years have passed since I wrote that letter and more people know about the important work that the Center does, and the 'candle's' beams shine much further.

In November the Board will be sending its bi-annual, tax-deductible appeal for funds to continue our work. I'm joining with them in asking you to consider making a donation to the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Large or small, all donations are appreciated and important to us.



In peace, Angela Price.



88.1 FM KFCF



Stir it, UP!



**Our next show is Wednesday October 11th at 3pm.**

Our next radio show will be with our host Joshua Shurley and his guest Ashley Rojas and Morning Star Gali, both from the group *Indigenous Justice* on the subject of the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous persons, and its effects both nationally and locally. For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org).

Our September show with our host Joshua Shurley and his guest Bob McCloskey where they discussed the human impacts of mass incarceration in California and in the Central Valley. To hear it again go to: <https://on.soundcloud.com/ZL9Cj>

Our August radio show our host Joshua Shurley spoke with his guest Gary Butterfield from the San Diego chapter of Veterans for Peace and of the Steering Committee for the National Veterans for Peace Climate Crisis and Militarism Project. They discussed the looming existential threat posed by the intersection of militarism and climate emergency and what can be done about it. To hear again go to: <https://on.soundcloud.com/uu7Wj>



# The Rise of Black Studies

Continued from page 5

contestation came to a violent point on Jan. 17, 1969, when US members shot and killed two BPP members, Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter and John Huggins Jr.

Given the armed Cornell University incident with that of the CAAS, historians Quintard Taylor and Herbert Ruffin assert that Black studies is the "only academic discipline born of the political struggles around Black Power." This was not the case in Atlanta where Vincent Harding created the short-lived The Institute of the Black World.

In rapid succession, hundreds of similar programs were created across the nation like "a spark starting a prairie fire." And, in 1975, Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey organized the National Council of Black Studies (NCBS) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Interestingly, one noted active member of the NCBS was Donda West, the mother of rapper Kanye West.

Dr. West, while teaching at Chicago State University, founded the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing. At present, Dr. Valerie Grim of Indiana University-Bloomington is the president of the NCBS.

By the 1980s, one could locate Black studies programs at the University of Montana, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, the University of Houston, the University of

Arizona and in the nations of Brazil, Canada, Colombia and Great Britain. By 2008, these undergraduate programs in Black studies were strong enough to create more than a dozen doctoral programs at higher education institutions such as the University of Minnesota, Harvard University, Temple University, Northwestern University, Michigan State University, UC Berkeley, Brown University, Indiana University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Corresponding to these new academic units was the publication of new scholarly journals such as the *Africana Review*, *Africology*, *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*, *Callaloo*, *Griot*, *Black World*, *Western Journal of Black Studies* and *Black Scholar*.

Today in 2023, one would be challenged to precisely count the thousands of African American survey history courses offered in secondary schools across the nation. In one case, in Fresno, Bullard High School offers a Black history course started by a father, J. Clark Sr., in the 1970s that is still being taught by his son, J. Clark Jr. The Clarks are white Americans. However, the son is teaching the social studies course within an Afrocentric paradigm using the works of Cheikh Anta Diop.

If one attended multiple scholastic social studies teacher conferences, one would hear that many teachers of African American survey history are using, as a pedagogical resource, the world-renowned website, Blackpast.org.

This perspective is an attempt to trace, via Black history movements, the intellectual antecedents of the recent Florida controversy with its governor, Ron DeSantis, who is seeking to regulate what he called "woke" history

by restricting history instruction to what history will not threaten the comfort level "of white folk."

This level was first revealed by Langston Hughes in his 1934 book *The Ways of White Folk*, which is a literary narrative in which Hughes explores the social relations of Blacks versus whites in time and space. In his multiple short stories, Hughes delves deep into the intimacies of whites over Blacks in the historical context.

It is clear to the critical thinker that Gov. DeSantis wants such a fictional approach to continue in the hard knocks over who shall control Black folks' history. African American history is now solidified in high schools, colleges and universities nationwide, and not one or several governors with their own anti-woke legislation can stop the needs of Blacks to control their history, which inspires and directs "the struggle that must be."

One governor, Glenn Youngkin of Virginia, in 2022 won his election by stoking fears that one Black history pedagogical theory, also known as critical race theory, harms the hearts and minds of young white children.

If the racially oppressive social conditions of African Americans remain, for far too many, the same, and if the social relations of racial hierarchy of white over Black is a constant, then the struggle over historical memory and its record will be a dialectic, and in the words of Harry Edwards, it is "the struggle that must be" or "A Luta Continua."

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

## "First They Came..." Again

BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

We are again in a period of racist ultranationalism and right-wing extremism. It's not the first one. We can choose to defend those who are under attack now. Or we can wait until the attackers come for us.

### History Repeats Itself

*Red Summer, Lynching, Palmer Raids and Red Squads*

During the period after the First World War, there was an increase of white supremacy, ultranationalism, extreme hostility to socialism and communism, and efforts to identify those engaged in peace efforts with enemy sympathizers. It is not incidental that lynching spread widely during this period. White supremacy is the oldest and most pervasive of the right-wing terrorist ideologies.

The Red Summer was a period in 1919 during which white supremacist terrorism occurred in more than three dozen cities across the United States. The term *Red Summer* was coined by NAACP field secretary and author James Weldon Johnson.

African Americans came under attack in at least 38 separate incidents, and unknown hundreds were killed, with massive destruction of homes and businesses. In many of these attacks, Black people fought back, defending themselves and their right to self-defense. In 1919, there were also numerous lynchings. Authorities did not prosecute the lynchings or the attacks.

The *New York Times* ran an article in 1919 with the headline "Reds Try to Stir Negroes to Revolt" that repeated federal claims that the violence resulted from "an agitation, which involves the I.W.W. [International Workers of the World], Bolshevism and the worst features of other extreme radical movements."

And "every week the militant leaders gain more headway. They may be divided into general classes. One consists of radicals and revolutionaries. They are spreading Bolshevik propaganda. It is reported that they are winning many recruits among the colored race.

"When the ignorance that exists among negroes in many sections of the country is taken into consideration the danger of inflaming them by revolutionary doctrine may [be] apprehended."

J. Edgar Hoover was at the beginning of his ugly career, doing analysis for Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. In Washington, D.C., in July 1919, a rumor of the arrest of a Black man for the rape of a white woman set off four days of attacks by white men on random Black individuals.

When police refused to intervene, the Black population fought back. The NAACP sent a telegram of protest to President Woodrow Wilson referring to "the shame put upon the country by the mobs, including United States soldiers, sailors and marines, which have assaulted innocent and unoffending negroes in the national capital.

"Men in uniform have attacked negroes on the streets and pulled them from streetcars to beat them. Crowds are reported...to have directed attacks against any passing negro...The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People calls upon you as President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the nation to make a statement condemning mob violence and to enforce such military law as the situation demands."



Still shot from a security camera inside the Uhuru Movement's Solidarity Reparations Center on the southside of St. Louis, from the FBI raid in July 2022. Photo courtesy of the Burning Spear

The notoriously racist Wilson didn't respond. And Hoover's analysis was to blame "numerous assaults committed by Negroes upon white women."

On Aug. 1, 1919, Palmer named the 24-year-old Hoover to head a new division of the Justice Department's Bureau of Investigation, the General Intelligence Division (GID), with responsibility for investigating the programs of radical groups and identifying their members.

Hoover began an investigation of "negro activities" and targeted Marcus Garvey because he thought his newspaper, *Negro World*, preached Bolshevism. Hoover authorized the hiring of Black undercover agents to spy on Black organizations and publications in Harlem. It was the first version of what was to become COINTELPRO.

The Red Squads of that period specialized in killing and jailing the leaders and members of the IWW and the Communist Party. They were also motivated by a fear of political radicalism, of workers mobilizing for their rights, of such radical innovations as child labor laws and women's suffrage.

And fear of Black people, of course: Palmer reported to Congress on the threat that anarchists and Bolsheviks posed to the government. More than half the report documented radicalism in the Black community and the "open defiance" Black leaders advocated in response to white violence.

The report criticized Black community leaders for an "ill-governed reaction toward race rioting...In all discussions of the recent racial riots against blacks there is reflected the note of pride that the Negro has found himself. That he has 'fought back,' that never again will he tamely submit to violence and intimidation." It described "the dangerous spirit of defiance and vengeance at work among the Negro leaders."

Palmer also created the first form of what became the FBI. The Palmer Raids were a series of raids conducted in November 1919 and January 1920 by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Wilson administration to capture

and arrest suspected socialists, especially anarchists and communists, and deport them.

Arrests and seizures of property without warrants occurred on a massive scale in more than 30 cities. Beatings and brutality were commonplace. More than 16,000 "suspected communists and anarchists" were arrested and held without trial under cruel conditions.

### McCarthy and HUAC; Hoover and COINTELPRO

The "second Red Scare" was, of course, the McCarthy era, and some of us are old enough to remember the effects. Although Joseph McCarthy's name is firmly attached to the period as the head of the House Un-American Activities Committee that questioned and imprisoned people, it might just as well be termed the Hoover era, after J. Edgar Hoover, who actually designed the loyalty and security programs, as well as the surveillance and persecutions.

The Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO), organized by the FBI, was officially initiated in 1956, though obviously Hoover actually began his undercover infiltration and war on Black people in the United States as far back as 1919. COINTELPRO was created to disrupt and discredit U.S. political and racial/social justice organizations through surveillance, infiltration, entrapment and false information, and to organize the assassination of effective leaders.

COINTELPRO's mission included the following:

- Create a negative public image for target groups (e.g., through surveilling activists and then releasing negative personal information to the public)
- Break down internal organization by creating conflicts (e.g., by having agents exacerbate racial tensions or sending anonymous letters to try to create conflicts)
- Create dissension between groups (e.g., by spreading rumors that other groups were stealing money)
- Restrict access to public resources (e.g., by pressuring nonprofit organizations to cut off funding or material support)

Continues on page 20



# I Am Indigenous

(Whitman-style free verse poem)

BY RICHARD DANIEL IYALL

I am indigenous to this land. Yes, I am. Indigenous I am.  
 I am a member of the Cowlitz Tribe, whose sacred land  
 is under siege in Washington, the state. Our people have survived.  
 I am descended from a Cowlitz Chief. Scanewa was his name.  
 He was a hunter, fisherman, a trader and a guide. He ruled  
 the western trading route, the Cowlitz River passageway.  
 The Cowlitz River from Columbia, the mighty river to the south, to Puget Sound  
 up in the north and more were his domain. Scanewa ruled all tribes along  
 the Cowlitz River zone in 1828. The Northwest Company was gone. When Hudson  
 Bay had gotten charter rights they came to Chief Scanewa then  
 to get support to trade along the route.

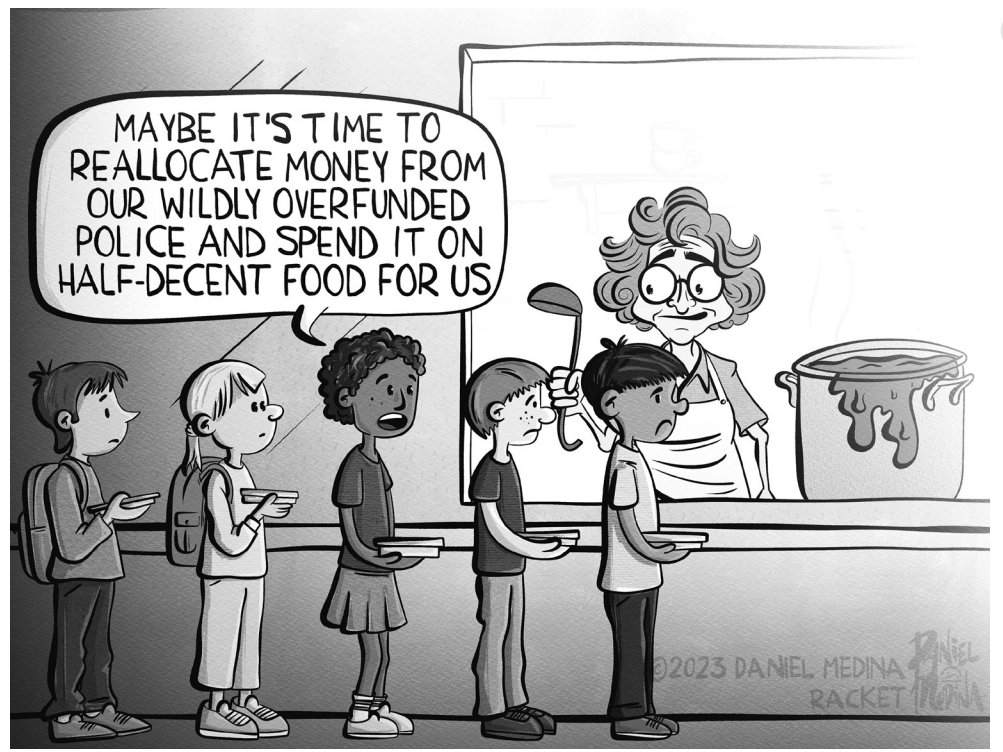
The Cowlitz Chief Scanewa also helped the US Army find a site  
 on which to build a fort. From Fort Vancouver to the south  
 he took some soldiers up the Cowlitz River to a site up north  
 in Canada. Fort Langley came to be there thanks to guidance from our chief.  
 An ambush by a Klallam group, a lynch mob to be sure,  
 then wrongly killed the "chief of chiefs," Scanewa, courier.  
 Before Scanewa met his death in 1828 he had three sons. A son  
 named Richard Sinnaywah is where I got my name.  
 Scanewa's murder left this son too young to take the reins.  
 But as he grew, he did become a chief. The Cowlitz tribe, the Squally tribe,  
 Puyallup tribes he ruled. Within each tribe, he had a wife.  
 The title Tyee, meaning "Chief," was uttered in respect.  
 Because of that, to honor him they called him Tyee Dick.  
 Sinnaywah had a brother by the name of Wahawa, who had a well-known son, Iyall.  
 Iyall became a priest in a religion of the land.

The Indian Shaker Religion is how it is known. But we call it Tshad-dam.  
 Iyall served like an apostle, some would say.  
 He stood so tall, at six-foot-three. He served with dignity.  
 He was a conduit for God so strong, to help his flock along. His children honored  
 him  
 by making Iyall their last name. So, he is honored to this day by those who came  
 from him. He was a psychic who used herbs and prayer. He was a modest man.  
 A son of Iyall Wahawa named Frank became his only son with sons.  
 Frank was the Cowlitz delegate. He wrote the wording of a bill to give  
 the people of this land our rights. The "Indian Citizenship Act of 1924" was passed  
 by Congress, signed by Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States.  
 Frank passed along the Iyall name. My father was his son. Indigenous I am.  
 Scanewa had another son, the Head Chief of the Cowlitz, too;  
 a Shaker priest and leader of the Cowlitz sect, beloved man, so true.  
 His name was Atwin Stockum and he set the paradigm. By 1907 he'd circled 'round  
 the sun a hundred times plus two. But he was not yet through!  
 A man was working in his store one day in Toledo, Washington. His name  
 was Harold Otho Stone. A Shaker priest from Idaho came in and shared some news.  
 He said that "Atwin died last night." It saddened Stone to hear about  
 the passing of the chief. "Oh, that's all right," the preacher said. They planned  
 to bring him back to life that very afternoon! The Shaker priest, indigenous,  
 invited Stone to see. No other white man was invited there. But Stone had always  
 been a friend to those called "Indians." "You never laugh at us," the Shaker preacher  
 said. Stone would be welcomed there at Atwin's home, but with this strict refrain:  
 "Don't bring anyone with you."  
 A resurrection ritual was held for Atwin's soul. It was performed for him  
 in privacy by people of the land. A hundred people came to Atwin's home  
 in Washington to bring him back to life. His nephew Iyall Wahawa was there, for  
 sure,  
 to see him live again when he had died the night before! They loved their chief,  
 their friend, so very much. They didn't want to see him go, just yet.  
 A Nez Perce man named Paddy White came up to resurrect! He moved  
 with royal dignity though wearing clothing that the white men had cast off.  
 The people prayed for Atwin to return to live on Earth again. They rang large bells  
 and offered chants. They let their bodies move through dance.  
 The room was packed with souls, those visible and not. The sounds got loud  
 and louder with the tempo going fast and faster in a ceremony form. Emotions grew  
 from people's hearts and got increasingly intense. The house was charged with  
 strong and rhythmic energy. High voltage energy from Spirit grew until it reached  
 its peak. Then Paddy raised his arms in supplication, praying from his heart for  
 Atwin to return.  
 The rigor mortis which had come to Atwin's body slowly went away. His skin  
 regained its color to its normal wrinkled bronze and Atwin's breath returned.  
 His heart began to beat again. His body moved upon its own as Atwin made it clear  
 that he would live again by sitting up. The people's wishes were fulfilled  
 for Atwin to return to life, incarnate on this sacred Earth again.  
 In just two days he had the strength to walk from home to town!  
 It was a two mile walk for him, and yet he did it on his own! He lived again  
 for five more years until the year of 1912! Indigenous I am.


The folks who are indigenous are not through with our lives on planet Earth.  
 We are not through with this land here.  
 The culture of the area is rooted in the land. Though conquered by the immigrants,  
 our sacred culture has not disappeared. It lives and grows each day.  
 Please listen now to me, my siblings in this life. Anxiety of sacred Mother Earth is  
 high. The sun is sending stronger energy our way. So, take it in and let it go, as best  
 you can. Is your heart now and your mind now awakening to the truth? Indigenous  
 I am.

\*\*\*\*\*

Richard Iyall is an elder of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe of Longview, Wash. He has lived  
 in Fresno since 1957. He is an Avini Health distributor. Contact him at richarddiyall@  
 yahoo.com.



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# “First They Came...” Again

Continued from page 18

- Restrict the ability to organize protests (e.g., through agents promoting violence against police during planning and at protests)
- Restrict the ability of individuals to participate in group activities (e.g., by character assassinations, false arrests, surveillance, approaches to employers, letters sent to spouses and IRS audits)

This program has been called “the FBI’s war on Black America,” which is true, but incomplete. In addition to Black organizations, many other groups were targeted: the Communist Party, feminist organizations, antiwar groups, the American Indian Movement (AIM) and other Native American groups, environmental organizations, Puerto Rican independence groups, organized labor and the left in general.

## Violent FBI Raids Against Black Organizations Now Here we are again.

On July 29, 2022, the FBI raided the St. Louis, Mo., home of Omali Yeshitela, the leader of the African People’s Socialist Party (APSP), and offices of the Uhuru Movement. The APSP and the Uhuru Movement are U.S. Black nationalist organizations with a history going back to the early 1970s of opposing U.S. imperialism and the oppression of Black people.

The raid took place at 5 a.m., using flash-bang grenades, while large numbers of heavily armed agents in combat gear broke down the doors and broke windows. The only occupants of the home were Yeshitela, age 81, and his wife, Ona Zené Yeshitela.

At the same time, the FBI staged raids on different offices of the Uhuru Movement in St. Louis and St. Petersburg, Fla., including the office of the APSP’s radio station and newspaper, *Burning Spear*.

In April 2023, the Biden administration charged Yeshitela and Penny Hess, Jesse Nevel and Augustus Romain Jr., all U.S. citizens from this pan-Africanist group, with conspiring with the Russian government to sow discord in U.S. elections.

“The indictment happened after something like nine months,” says Yeshitela, “after we were characterized as unindicted co-conspirators in some plot with the Russians, who it is said that we served in fighting for—around the questions of reparations and fighting to bring the United States before the United Nations for the crime of genocide against African people, and for our differences with the United States in terms of the Ukraine war, and our participation in elections.”

## New York Times Complicit in Attacks—Again

Code Pink and other organizations, including the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research, the People’s Forum, and Just World News and Books, came under attack recently.

The *New York Times* ran an article attacking groups funded by Neville Roy Singham, including the words “none of Mr. Singham’s nonprofits have registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, as is required of groups that seek to influence public opinion on behalf of foreign powers.” Then Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) called for a federal investigation of these groups on the basis that they are somehow agents of the Chinese government.

## Weaponizing the Foreign Agents Registration Act

The Foreign Agents Registration Act was used in the McCarthy era, most infamously to target W.E.B. Du Bois and the Peace Information Center (PIC), a U.S. anti-nuclear group, which was connected with international peace movements and published anti-nuclear and pacifist literature from around the world, including the international Stockholm anti-nuclear petition.

The Justice Department deemed this a communist threat to national security and a “propaganda trick” and indicted Du Bois and four other PIC officers for failing to register as foreign agents. Although the case was ultimately dismissed by a judge for lack of evidence, the costs involved with legal defense effectively shut down the Peace Information Center. The prosecution of Du Bois and his co-defendants not only succeeded in closing the Center but also sent a message to other organizations that the government would prosecute those who were successful at organizing against nuclear weapons and militarism.

More recently, in 2018, the Foreign Agents Registration Act was used against environmental organizations. Four organizations were targeted for Congressional

investigation: the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Research Institute and Earthjustice. The accusation against the NRDC alleged that the NRDC was more critical of U.S. environment policy than that of China. The accusation against the CBD was that it had opposed the relocation of a U.S. Marine base in Okinawa on environmental grounds! Again, these organizations had to expend resources defending themselves from charges of being “foreign agents.”

The use of the Foreign Agents Registration Act for political purposes has a history. Congressional committees and individual members of Congress, as well as the Justice Department, have used this act to target organizations with which they disagree. Even without any proof of wrongdoing, much less a conviction, this can drain the human and financial resources of an organization and destroy its functioning.

In light of this history, it is hopelessly naive, or else intentionally misleading, to pretend that an attack that suggests that organizations should register as foreign agents is “simply revealing the sources of their funding.” Singham is a U.S. citizen. They are not “Mr. Singham’s nonprofits” but rather organizations to which he has made substantial contributions.

Pastor Martin Niemöller’s “First they came...” is so well known that there is no need to quote the whole comment here. But here are the last three lines in case you have forgotten: “Then they came for me / and there was no one left / to speak out for me.”

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

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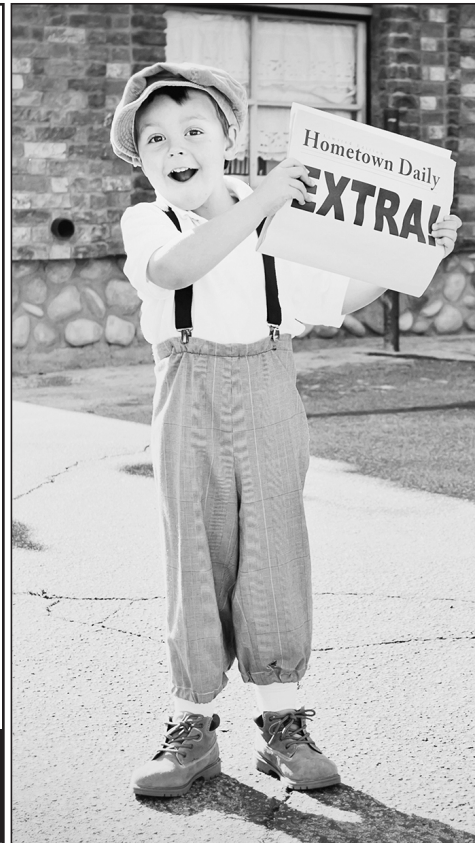


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# Un Infame Evento Que Despertó un Recuerdo “Olvidado”

*Continúa de página 24*

“En Fresno había dos, uno en Pinedale y el otro era la Fresno de Fresno”, dijo. Para mí, esto fue algo impactante. “¿Pinedale?” Pregunté. “Eso está casi en mi patio trasero!” No lo podía creer y experimenté una sensación incómoda.

Al día siguiente me subí a mi carro y conduje hasta Pinedale para ubicar el Centro de Reunión de Pinedale. No llevó mucho tiempo, en el lugar había una placa. Detrás de ella, un gran terreno vacío, que ahora comienza a ser construido por el interminable apetito de las empresas constructoras por nuevos terrenos.

Me paré frente a ese campo y me imaginé a las familias siendo llevadas por docenas a las barracas. Intenté imaginar qué sentirían en ese momento. Miedo, incertidumbre, confusión... De repente comencé a sentirme confundido y mi imaginación empezó a dar un giro oscuro. Me sentí incómodo. No pude evitar “ver” en mi mente otra tragedia, cuando miles de jóvenes—y no tan jóvenes—de mi país fueron acorralados, secuestrados en las calles—de día o de noche—frente a sus familias, y enviados a otro tipo de barracas (cárceles o campamentos militares) o simplemente asesinados: aparecían cadáveres aquí y allá, y por todas partes.

Al principio, durante el gobierno “democrático” argentino de María Isabel Perón, en 1975, grupos paramilitares, organizados por un conocido asesor de Perón, iniciaron una “guerra contra los izquierdistas”. A diario, coches camuflados secuestraban a cientos de jóvenes, en su mayoría pertenecientes al movimiento peronista, y los asesinaban. Un año después, los militares tomaron el poder en Argentina. Un golpe de Estado que duró hasta 1982, un total de seis años en los que unas 30,000 mil personas fueron asesinadas tras ser secuestradas, o incluso tras ser detendidas. Todo sin garantías ni cargos. Los abogados que intentaron ayudar también fueron asesinados. Entre las víctimas se encontraban estudiantes, periodistas y dirigentes sindicales. Los militares eran más eficientes que los grupos paramilitares y por eso la máquina de matar—al igual que la de propaganda—funcionó sin parar. Incluso las mujeres jóvenes embarazadas eran mantenidas en cautiverio hasta que nacían sus bebés. Luego los bebés eran dados en adopción y las madres asesinadas.

Tanto los japoneses enviados a campos de concentración en Estados Unidos como las víctimas del terrorismo de Estado en Argentina tienen algo en común: en ambos casos el gobierno de Estados Unidos fue responsable o estuvo profundamente involucrado.

Antes del golpe de Argentina de 1976, las manos de Washington se ensuciaron nuevamente con el sangriento golpe de Estado del 11 de septiembre de 1973 en Chile, en el que el general Augusto Pinochet depuso al presidente democrático electo Salvador Allende, asesinado durante el ataque al Palacio Presidencial.

Mis recuerdos comenzaban a disiparse, todavía estaba frente a un terreno que alguna vez fue un Centro de Reunión, un “campo de pre-concentración”. Pero todavía me sentía mal, con náuseas por los recuerdos. Y empeoraba cada vez que me decía a mí mismo “esto pasó aquí hace años, pero pasó aquí”. ¿Y por qué los humanos pasamos por este tipo de eventos? Es como si la historia se repitiera. Personas inocentes que pagan las consecuencias de gobiernos abusivos.

Después de todo, ¿por qué se encarceló a los japoneses, ya fueran inmigrantes o nacidos aquí? Sólo porque eran japoneses. ¿Por qué mataron tanta gente en Argentina? Simplemente porque no pensaban como quienes estaban en el poder. ¿Hay alguna manera de detener este círculo de abuso de poder y racismo?

En Argentina, muchos de los militares y sus cómplices civiles fueron juzgados y condenados; la película “Argentina 1985” retrata con éxito algunos de estos eventos. Aquí no se acusó a ningún militar estadounidense ni a ningún funcionario electo que hubiera participado en los abusos contra los japoneses.

La única manera de detener estos abusos y crímenes es si la población aprende del dramático pasado de otras comunidades, se organiza y dice “Nunca Más”. En Argentina, cuando finalmente regresó la democracia, en 1982, un fuerte movimiento liderado por sobrevivientes del terrorismo de estado, familiares de las víctimas, activistas y líderes sindicales, se unieron bajo el lema “Nunca Más”, con la intención de evitar que esto vuelva a suceder. Se comprometieron a mantener viva la memoria de esas atrocidades para evitar que volvieran a suceder.

En Estados Unidos también tenemos que decir “Nunca más”. Lo que les pasó a otros, como a los japoneses, debería motivarnos a estar alerta. Contar las historias de comunidades maltratadas es parte de este proceso. Nadie debería ignorar estos dramáticos acontecimientos cuando están sucediendo.

El terrorismo de estado argentino golpeó a mi familia y a algunos amigos. Pero también algunos familiares y amigos justificados su falta de acción en ese momento con la fría expresión “no lo sabía”. Ellos sabían. Todos sabían. Lo que ayudó a poner fin a este régimen abusivo fue la solidaridad del pueblo, tanto interna como internacional.

Pinedale y la Feria de Fresno son símbolos locales de esta memoria histórica de injusticia y maltrato. ¡No olvidemos!

## Centro de Reunión Pinedale.

(Fuente: <https://encyclopedia.densho.org/>)

Inaugurado entre el 7 de mayo y el 23 de julio de 1942. Retenidos japoneses-estadounidenses provenientes del estado de Washington, Hood River, Oregon y Sacramento. Población máxima: 4,792 personas, enviadas posteriormente a los campos de concentración de Tule Lake y Poston, Arizona. La gente era enviada en tren a los centros de reunión. Las fotos de los trenes con los encarcelados y las barracas de los campos de

concentración nos recuerdan a los judíos enviados a la muerte en los campos de concentración creados expresamente por los nazis.

## Centro de Reunión de Fresno (Terrenos de la Feria de Fresno)

Abierto entre el 6 de mayo y el 30 de octubre de 1942. Retenidos japoneses de Fresno y del Valle de San Joaquín. Población máxima: 5,120. Luego fueron enviados a los campos de concentración de Jerome y Gila River.

## El encarcelamiento

(Fuente: [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov))

El ataque a Pearl Harbor marcó la entrada de Estados Unidos en la Segunda Guerra Mundial. En febrero de 1942, el presidente Roosevelt, como comandante en jefe, emitió la Orden Ejecutiva 9066 que resultó en el arresto de personas de origen japonés.

Toda la costa oeste se consideró zona militar y se dividió en zonas militares. La Orden Ejecutiva 9066 autorizó a los comandantes militares a excluir a los civiles de las zonas militares. Aunque el lenguaje de la orden no especificaba ningún grupo étnico, el teniente general John L. DeWitt del Comando de Defensa Occidental anunció el toque de queda que incluía sólo a los japoneses.

Antes de la Segunda Guerra Mundial (que comenzó en Europa en 1939), el FBI había identificado a alemanes, italianos y japoneses sospechosos de ser posibles agentes enemigos. Con el ataque a Pearl Harbor, la historia pública y la propaganda militar señalaron a los descendientes de japoneses como enemigos. Después de la guerra, no se descubrió ni un solo caso de espionaje por parte de un japonés-estadounidense.

El general DeWitt, con base entonces en San Francisco, jugó un papel decisivo en la difusión de sospechas falsas e infundadas sobre el apoyo de japoneses a Japón y actividades de sabotaje contra Estados Unidos.

El gobierno de Estados Unidos instaló diez campos de concentración para detener a los estadounidenses de origen japonés, situados muchos kilómetros tierra adentro, a menudo en lugares remotos y desolados: Tule Lake y Manzanar, California; Minidoka, Idaho; Topaco, Utah; Jerome y Rohwer, Arkansas; Montaña del Corazón, Wyoming; Río Poston y Gila,

*Eduardo Stanley es el editor de Community Alliance.*

# En Busca de Victorias, Valle Central de Fuego Sigue en el Fondo de la USL

FOR PETER MAIDEN



El delantero de Fuego FC, Zahri Vasquez, intenta bloquear a Lucky Opara, de Northern Colorado Hailstorm durante el partido jugado el 16 de agosto. Foto de Peter Maiden

El 26 de agosto, Central Valley Fuego jugó contra el Forward Madison (Wisconsin) en su estadio. Christian Chaney, un excelente jugador que estuvo en el equipo de Fuego el año pasado, y antes con los Fresno Foxes, ahora juega con el Forward Madison. Como oponente, Chaney tuvo una actuación brillante, logrando convertir un penalti y luego, en el minuto 83, anotando el gol que empató el partido 4-4. Al comienzo de la segunda mitad, Forward Madison perdió a un jugador por tarjeta roja, pero Fuego FC no aprovechó la ventaja.

Ha habido tres juegos esta temporada entre Central Valley Fuego y Northern Colorado Hailstorm. Estos juegos se conocen informalmente como la “Copa Hielo y Fuego”. Desafortunadamente para los fanáticos de Fuego, este perdió los tres—el último se jugó el 16 de septiembre. En ese juego, nuevamente, el equipo contrario sufrió una tarjeta roja en la segunda mitad, pero no se desanimó. El marcador final fue Fuego 0, Hailstorm 2. Después de esa derrota, Fuego FC quedó último en la clasificación de la liga USL.

*Peter Maiden es el editor de fotografías de Community Alliance.*

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# Lost Hills: Cuando el Fuego se Acerca Pero un Líder no se Rinde

POR NAYAMÍN MARTÍNEZ

En los últimos años, California ha sufrido devastadores incendios forestales que han consumido miles de hectáreas y que han llenado nuestros cielos de humo. Solo en septiembre el Distrito del Aire del Valle de San Joaquín publicó un comunicado de prensa informando a los residentes de que estuvieran preparados para posible impacto de humo de incendios de Oregon y del norte de California, así como el incendio Redwood en el Condado de Tulare. Y aunque en el 2023 el Valle Central no ha sido afectado severamente por el humo de incendios forestales como en años pasados, algunas comunidades sí han padecido del humo.

En agosto, los residentes de la pequeña comunidad rural de Lost Hills, en el norte del condado de Kern, fueron testigos del fuego que por más de dos semanas quemó parte de los campos agrícolas propiedad de la compañía Wonderfull. Quienes vivimos en el Valle Central sabemos que esto es un peligro latente, por desgracia también sabemos que la respuesta para atender emergencias como esta no es la misma. En palabras del presidente del Comité por el Progreso de Lost Hills, Saul Ruiz, “por días fuimos ignorados porque somos una comunidad pobre y de mayoría Latina, si fueran anglosajones los que viven aquí hasta el Gobernador hubiera venido”. Y no culpo a Saul por sentirse de esa manera, ya que las respuestas que recibió de las primeras organizaciones a las que pidió ayuda—los bomberos, el Distrito del Aire del Valle de San Joaquín, y la compañía Wonderfull—no fueron alentadoras. Aquí la crónica de lo que pasó a fines de agosto en Lost Hills y como Saul contribuyó para que su comunidad recibiera la atención adecuada para mitigar el impacto del humo.

Fue la madrugada del jueves 24 de agosto cuando Saul llaveba a su esposa al trabajo a las 5 am cuando vio las primeras llamaradas al lado de la autopista 46, en campos propiedad de la compañía Wonderfull. La ironía, es que un día antes Saul había viajado a Sacramento junto con otros

## La Producción Económica de los Latinos en EE.UU Impulsa al País

*Continúa de página 23*

echa por tierra todos los mitos sobre los resultados económicos de los latinos en Estados Unidos.

Dice, por ejemplo, que el PBI latino fue el tercero mayor del mundo y creció incluso más rápido que el de EE.UU. de 2010 a 2021. Muestra que la mano de obra latina fue “una importante fuente de resistencia para la economía en general en 2021, a pesar de un segundo año de COVID-19 de características pandémicas”, dice el informe.

Durante una entrevista con Ethnic Media Services, el Dr. Hayes-Bautista argumentó que los latinos son el punto de crecimiento de la economía estadounidense, tanto en términos de consumo como de mano de obra (Vea la rueda de prensa completa (en inglés) junto con las presentaciones de las conclusiones del informe). “Si no fuera por los latinos, la economía estadounidense sería significativamente menor de lo que es hoy”, afirmó.

El investigador y sus socios están trabajando ahora en un segundo informe que se centra específicamente en la producción económica de las latinas, que, según él, son una gran parte del crecimiento, pero también señaló que este crecimiento fue construido “por una mano de obra que es en gran parte inmigrante, en gran parte con unos nueve años de educación” y que las nuevas generaciones tienen muchas más posibilidades.

El experto afirma que el crecimiento económico de esa comunidad no ha hecho más que empezar. “Sus hijos acaban de incorporarse a la población activa, y hay tres jóvenes por cada latino de 60 años. El 90% de ellos terminan el bachillerato y dos tercios van a la universidad. Son bilingües y ciudadanos, por lo que se incorporan al mercado laboral con un capital humano mucho mayor que el de sus padres, en su mayoría inmigrantes. Así que imaginemos lo que son capaces de hacer si invertimos”, añadió.

El crecimiento del PBI latino fue del 7,1%, dos puntos porcentuales más que el crecimiento del PBI no latino. Los latinos representan también un formidable mercado de consumo, mayor en tamaño que toda la economía de naciones como Italia, Canadá o Rusia, que ostentan el octavo, noveno y décimo PBI del mundo, respectivamente, y mayor que toda la economía de estados como Texas o Nueva York.

El consumo real de los latinos creció tres veces más rápido que el de los no latinos. Gran parte de la atención, y con razón durante esos años y desde entonces, se ha centrado en el precio pagado por los trabajadores esenciales, muchos de ellos latinos, por tener que presentarse a trabajar en las industrias, las granjas, las empaquetadoras, tiendas. Sin embargo, según Hayes-Bautista y las cifras de este informe, los latinos no sólo mantuvieron a todos los demás alimentados y en sus casas, sino que mantuvieron al país a flote económicamente.

líderes comunitarios para abogar por regulaciones más estrictas para que tengamos un aire limpio, porque nuestra región tiene la peor contaminación del aire de todos los Estados Unidos. Cual sería la sorpresa al ver que además de la contaminación de los pozos petroleros, los pesticidas que aplican en los campos agrícolas que rodean a Lost Hills y del incesante polvo de cuando cosechan las almendras, ahora tenían un incendio que podía afectar sus casas.

Durante varios días Saul vio como los bomberos intentaban apagar la maleza afuera de los campos de Wonderfull que se estaban quemando, pero no hacían nada por apagar el fuego adentro de la propiedad de este gigante agroindustrial. Después de dos días Saul se acercó al área para preguntar porque no hacían más por apagar el incendio, pero una mujer le dijo que se fuera, que no podía grabar y no le dio ninguna otra explicación. Desesperado ante esta inacción, Saul fue el lunes a la estación de bomberos local, tocó y tocó y espero por una hora y nadie abrió. Cuando consiguió el número de teléfono de la estación le dijeron: “Si habla por el incendio del campo de Lost Hills va a durar de 3 a 4 semanas en apagarse, no podemos hacer nada” y le colgaron. Un representante de la compañía Wonderfull le dijo lo mismo “no se puede hacer nada”. Saul no tuvo mejor suerte cuando llamó por primera vez al Distrito del Aire, le dijeron que ya había inspectores pero que no le iban a decir dónde estaban porque él podía “estroppear su investigación”.

Saul desesperado al ver esto y ante las múltiples llamadas de residentes que se desesperaron le preguntaban para la Red de Justicia Ambiental. César le trajo ese mismo día un purificador de aire que alivió un poco la gran preocupación que tenía Saul por su hija que padece de asma. Antes de tener ese purificador, Saul le había pedido a su hija que buscara refugio con unas amigas en Wasco, no quería correr el riesgo de una emergencia como la que ya habían tenido en el pasado. Saul no dormía, para vigilar que sus hijos no prendieran al swamp cooler y que, si pudieran respirar, prefería aguantar el calor que ver humo dentro de su casa.

Pero a Saul también le preocupaban los otros vecinos que también tienen hijos con asma o personas de la tercera edad que son más vulnerables al humo. Así que también llamó a un representante de la compañía Wonderfull y les pidió una reunión urgente, le dijo “tienes que venir, nos estamos muriendo con el humo”. Después de esa reunión, y también gracias a la intervención del Distrito del Aire, el representante de Wonderfull accedió a conseguir purificadores de aire. Primero llevaron 30 y con la ayuda de Saul los repartieron entre las familias que tenían niños con asma. Luego lograron conseguir otros 80 purificadores, que Saul también ayudó a repartir yendo de casa en casa. Los empleados de Wonderfull por supuesto que recibieron un pago por su tiempo, Saul lo hizo por su compromiso de ayudar a su comunidad. Y a pesar de que el tiempo del personal de Wonderfull era pagado, se cansaron rápido. Decidieron que las familias que querían recibir el purificador fueran a recibirlo al Centro Comunitario (Lost Hills Recreation Building). “así no podíamos asegurar que cada casa recibiera, aunque fuera un aserrador”. Aunque en realidad esto no iba a ser posible, ya que Wonderfull compró 400 purificadores de aire, de manera que aproximadamente 200 viviendas no recibieron uno. Es decir, que la compañía gastó aproximadamente \$100,000 en estos purificadores (no sabemos la cantidad exacta pues compraron de muchos modelos y tamaños). ¿No podía esta empresa que genera 4 billones de dólares de ingresos anualmente comprar uno, y hasta 2 purificadores por casa? Aun así, Saul le pidió a una organización que le ayudara a redactar una carta para agradecer a la compañía. El fuego finalmente fue controlado después de casi tres semanas, la compañía Wonderfull fue multada por el Distrito del Aire, 400 familias recibieron un purificador del aire gracias a que hubo un líder que no tomó NO por respuesta y que insistió hasta que las agencias encargadas de la calidad del aire, los bomberos y la compañía responsable de los incendios actuaran.

Pero Saul piensa que una comunidad como Lost Hills no tendría que ser olvidada, no tendría que luchar para que su bienestar y su salud sean tomados en cuenta. Le gustaría que el personal de las agencias sepa cómo responder rápidamente y con respeto a todas las personas, sin importar su estatus socioeconómico o su color de piel. “Los sistemas tienen que cambiar”, opina Saul. Y estoy de acuerdo, tenemos que erradicar el racismo ambiental tan prevalente en nuestro Valle Central.

Nayamin Martínez es la directora ejecutiva de la Red de Justicia Ambiental de California Central.

*Pilar Marrero es una periodista y autora de Los Angeles y colaboradora de ethnic Media Services.*

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obstáculos”. “Pero imaginense si básicamente elimináramos las barreras, los la última oportunidad para que este país mantenga la preeminencia económica a lo largo de los años. “Nosotros, los latinos, somos el futuro de la economía estadounidense, y somos cosa clara: “Pero esa generación de los baby boomers está muriendo. El Dr. Hayes Bautista ve una

estamos poniendo fácil. La generación del baby boom obtuvo viviendas subvencionadas”, obstante, la tasa de propietarios de vivienda se ha disparado entre los latinos, pero no se lo

obstáculos, probablemente el principal, que afectan a su capacidad para comprar casas. No cobramos hoy por una educación que obtuvimos gratis? Este es uno de los muchos problemas, con una gran deuda, con lo que el pago en su momento.

Hayes-Bautista afirma que Estados Unidos debe invertir más en educación. Comparó lo que su hijo, que se graduó en la universidad hace sólo diez años, tuvo que pagar y cargar

que entre los no latinos. Los latinos también han mejorado su rendimiento económico al mejorar sus logros educativos. El informe señala a la educación como uno de los motores, ya que el número de personas que obtienen una licenciatura creció tres veces más rápido entre los latinos



viviendas y servicios para residentes sin vivienda. Recientemente, el estado otorgó a la ciudad otros \$17 millones para que la "resolución del campamento" se centre en el centro de la ciudad. Los defensores de los derechos de las personas sin hogar están preocupados por cómo se utilizarán estos fondos y están presionando para lograr soluciones más permanentes.

La región ha utilizado fondos estatales y federales para proporcionar 3.814 camas durante todo el año para residentes sin vivienda. La gran mayoría se encuentran en la ciudad. Según el FMCoc, el 91% están ocupados y la mayoría de los refugios permanecen completamente ocupados a diario, como informan constantemente los afectados. De estas 3.814 camas, hay 1.480 camas de "refugio de emergencia" de pocas limitaciones para un corto plazo de hasta seis meses. Hay 349 camas de "viviendas de transición" destinadas a brindar alojamiento por hasta 18 meses. Hay 441 camas de "realojamiento rápido" que proporcionan vales y otro tipo de apoyo financiero para asistencia de alquiler por hasta 24 meses. Hay 1.491 camas de "viviendas de apoyo permanente" que brindan apoyo financiero a largo plazo y servicios en el lugar.

Los contribuyentes de California necesitan una auditoría para determinar exactamente cómo se ha asignado y gastado la asombrosa cantidad de 17.500 millones de dólares en fondos. La auditoría debe incluir todos los condados, ciudades y Coc de California. Todos los proveedores de servicios para personas sin hogar y operadores de refugios deben ser auditados. Es comprensible que el público se pregunte, con tanto dinero público asignado y gastado, por qué está aumentando el número de personas que viven en las calles y por qué hay tan poca rendición de cuentas. Durante los últimos cuatro años se han realizado algunas mejoras en Fresno y una vez se utilizaron fondos para proporcionar viviendas y servicios temporales. Han sucedido algunas cosas buenas, se han tomado algunas decisiones y se han implementado algunas políticas municipales desagradables.

Lo bueno

La ciudad instaló más de 3.000 nuevas camas en refugios de pocos requisitos. Algunos de estas camas son temporales y otras son transitorias. La ciudad ha aumentado el horario y mejorado los criterios operativos para abrir centros de calentamiento en invierno y centros de enfriamiento en verano. La ciudad está proporcionando 2 nuevas unidades móviles de ducha/saneamiento que rotan todos los días de la semana en toda la ciudad para brindar limpieza y dignidad a los residentes sin vivienda. La ciudad también está proporcionando una clínica médica móvil en diferentes lugares durante la semana para brindar inmunización y servicios básicos de salud. Poverello House y otros proveedores de servicios han aumentado los servicios y el alcance a los residentes sin vivienda. El Programa de Asistencia de Emergencia para el Alquiler, financiado por el gobierno federal, ayudó a cientos de residentes a permanecer en sus viviendas. Además, es muy bueno que la ciudad esté planeando desarrollar grupos de pequeñas viviendas en un futuro próximo, un paso hacia la provisión de viviendas permanentes.

Lo malo

El año pasado, la ciudad intentó implementar una ordenanza, de la cual el concejal Arias es coautor, para prohibir que los defensores de las personas sin hogar y los medios de comunicación estén cerca de las redadas en campamentos de personas sin hogar. La ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) presentó una demanda y ganó. Como resultado, la ciudad tuvo que pagar más de \$375.000 de tus impuestos en honorarios legales y costos judiciales. También es malo que la ciudad haya rechazado los pedidos de inquilinos y organizaciones comunitarias para implementar medidas de estabilización de alquileres y políticas de control de alquileres. El control de los alquileres ayudaría a frenar la ola de personas sin hogar provocadas por los desalojos. Lo malo es el hecho de que los refugios financiados por la ciudad y el condado no tienen suficiente personal y no brindan servicios adecuados para ayudar a los residentes de los refugios a recuperarse. Estos refugios siguen sirviendo comida mala y porciones pequeñas. Muchos residentes del refugio se quejan del maltrato y

# La Producción Económica de los Latinos en EE.UU Impulsa al País

POR PILAR MARRERO

(Nota del Editor: publicado con el consentimiento de Ethnic Media Services)

El último informe sobre el Producto Bruto Interno (PBI) de los latinos en Estados Unidos da un vuelco a la narrativa sobre la contribución económica de esta comunidad.

Uno de los muchos conceptos erróneos sobre los latinos de Estados Unidos es que son un lastre para la economía del país. Pero ¿sabía usted que, si los latinos fueran un país independiente, serían la quinta economía del mundo, más grande que la India, el Reino Unido y Francia? ¿O que su crecimiento económico sólo supera al de China?

Según un nuevo informe que acaba de publicarse, la producción económica total de los latinos en Estados Unidos en 2021 fue de 3,2 billones de dólares. Esa cifra, el PBI, refleja el total de bienes producidos y servicios prestados por latinos de cualquier origen y condición migratoria en Estados Unidos.

"Esta no es la narrativa normal de los latinos", dijo el Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, director del Centro para el Estudio de la Salud y la Cultura Latina en la Escuela de Medicina David Geffen de UCLA. "La narrativa normal de los latinos es que vienen a vivir de la asistencia social, a robar trabajos y todo eso. Eso no es así. Los latinos son el punto de crecimiento. Aquí es donde quieres invertir si quieres ver más crecimiento del PBI en el futuro".



Según un nuevo estudio, los latinos en EE.UU. son el punto de crecimiento de la economía estadounidense, tanto en términos de consumo como de obra. Foto de Nalio/Shutterstock

**Los latinos son la "palanca de crecimiento" de EE.UU.** Es el sexto año consecutivo que se realiza un trabajo exhaustivo con todos los datos disponibles públicamente de las principales agencias estadounidenses para calcular el PBI latino de Estados Unidos. Pero es un trabajo de muchos años y obra del legendario Hayes-Bautista, que desarrolló el algoritmo original junto con Werner Schink,

antiguo Economista en Jefe del Departamento de Empleos y Desarrollo (EDD, por sus siglas en inglés) de California. El más reciente informe, elaborado por el Centro para el Estudio de la Salud y la Cultura Latinas, dirigido por Bautista, junto con el Center for Economic Research & Forecasting (CERF) y los economistas Matthew Fienup y Dan Hamilton,

Continúa en página 22

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ciudad. referencia en este artículo que prohíbe la presencia de los residentes sin hogar de casi la para exigir una auditoría y rendición de cuentas. Además, comuníquese con el alcalde y Pido a los lectores que se comuniquen con el Gobernador y los legisladores estatales servicios sobre cómo se asignan y gastan estos dólares. Y rendición de cuentas por parte de las ciudades, los condados y los proveedores de sin hogar está aumentando sin que se vislumbre un final. Hay una falta de transparencia la construcción de miles de unidades de vivienda permanente. El número de personas accesible la vivienda a todos los residentes). Con los 17.500 millones de dólares se de vivienda permanentes (Vivienda Primero es un proyecto californiano que busca hacer y federales y no tiene ningún interés en un enfoque de Vivienda Primero ni en soluciones una fuente de financiación infinita. Existe una gran industria construida con fondos estatales dirigen los Coc. Hay 41 Coc en California, los Coc determinan a dónde va el dinero y existe para personas sin hogar dominan la forma en que se asignan los dólares en California. Ellos mencionó en artículos anteriores, los operadores de refugios y los proveedores de servicios en viviendas temporales, refugios y servicios para quienes no tenían vivienda. Como y miles de millones de dólares a nivel estatal. La mayor parte de estos dólares se gastaron En conclusión, en los últimos cinco años, se han gastado millones de dólares a nivel local millones de dólares de los impuestos en una política cruel e infructuosa. hacia el Departamento de Policía de Fresno y no resolvió nada. Además, se desperdician distrito. Las tácticas de HART traumatizaron a las personas, generaron más desconfianza llama a HART para que retire regularmente a los residentes sin vivienda de lugares en su alcalde y los concejales apoyan y elogian a HART. El concejal Arias dijo recientemente que HART acosa, amenaza e intimida a quienes tienen la mala suerte de vivir en las calles. El incluido el equipo básico de supervivencia, de seres humanos sin vivienda. Diariamente, lugar donde ir) de sus ubicaciones. Diariamente, HART desecha los bienes personales, Personas sin Hogar (HART). Diariamente, HART obliga a las personas a mudarse (sin ningún También son feas las políticas y prácticas del Equipo de Respuesta de Asistencia para fondos federales a menos que se abandone la nueva ordenanza.

El intento de la ciudad de criminalizar continuamente a las personas sin hogar de Fresno. Lo feo Miguel Arias e implementada el 7 de julio, que prohíbe a los residentes sin vivienda ingresar a la mayoría de los lugares en todo momento y limita severamente la cantidad de personas sin hogar y deben trabajar con las autoridades y la ciudad para eliminar políticas y prácticas que criminalizan los sin hogar. La carta afirma además que "la Ordenanza de la Ciudad de Fresno potencialmente pone en peligro los fondos del HUD del Coc para viviendas permanentes y servicios de apoyo". No está claro si la ciudad se reunió todavía con el FMCoc, sin embargo, está claro que la ciudad podría perder millones de dólares en millones de dólares de los impuestos en una política cruel e infructuosa. hacia el Departamento de Policía de Fresno y no resolvió nada. Además, se desperdician distrito. Las tácticas de HART traumatizaron a las personas, generaron más desconfianza llama a HART para que retire regularmente a los residentes sin vivienda de lugares en su alcalde y los concejales apoyan y elogian a HART. El concejal Arias dijo recientemente que HART acosa, amenaza e intimida a quienes tienen la mala suerte de vivir en las calles. El incluido el equipo básico de supervivencia, de seres humanos sin vivienda. Diariamente, lugar donde ir) de sus ubicaciones. Diariamente, HART desecha los bienes personales, Personas sin Hogar (HART). Diariamente, HART obliga a las personas a mudarse (sin ningún También son feas las políticas y prácticas del Equipo de Respuesta de Asistencia para fondos federales a menos que se abandone la nueva ordenanza.

la falta de respeto por parte del personal. También es malo el hecho de que se han gastado millones de dólares a nivel local y miles de millones de dólares en todo el estado sin que casi se hayan construido viviendas permanentes. Además, es muy malo que la ciudad no haya podido construir un pequeño barrio totalmente financiado para albergar a 100 personas. El proyecto lleva más de un año y medio estancado y en suspenso. Pregunté a varios miembros del Ayuntamiento sobre esto y dijeron que la ciudad no ha podido localizar un terreno que no esté contaminado por químicos. Dijeron que el costo de limpieza de la tierra contaminada es demasiado alto. Todavía tengo que verificar esta afirmación.



# LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

# LLAMAZA

# COMUNITARIA

## Lo Bueno, lo Malo y lo Feo

FOR BOB MCCLOSKEY

Las cifras que duelen: en 2022, la agencia federal de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) informó que había 582,000 personas sin vivienda en Estados Unidos. De esa cifra, 233,832 se encontraban sin refugio y viviendo en las calles. California reportó 171,500 personas sin hogar en las 2022 y de ellas, 115,492 no tenían refugio y vivían en las calles. Desde 2020, la población sin hogar de California ha crecido un 6% y a nivel local ha crecido un 6.5%.

El periódico *The Fresno Bee* informa que el número de personas sin vivienda en los condados de Fresno y Madera está en su punto más alto en 10 años. El recuento de 2023 de residentes sin vivienda en la ciudad y el condado, realizado por Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC), cita 4,493 personas sin vivienda en los condados de Fresno y Madera. De ese número, la ciudad de Fresno tiene 1,819 personas sin refugio y 1,388 personas que viven en refugios temporales para un total de 3,207. El Condado de Fresno tiene 594 personas sin refugio y solo 11 viven en refugios para un total de 605. Cabe señalar que hay algo mal con esos números. Laura Moreno, presidenta del FMCoC lo admitió en el *Fresno Bee* diciendo "Estoy absolutamente segura de que nos falta gente" al referirse al conteo.

A pesar de que el estado de California ha asignado miles de millones para abordar la situación de las personas sin hogar, la crisis continúa. CNN informó recientemente que California ha gastado \$17.5 mil millones entre 2018 y 2022 para abordar la falta de vivienda. Se han asignado otros 3,100 millones de dólares hasta 2024. Jason Elliott, asesor principal sobre personas sin hogar del gobernador Newsom, dijo a CNN que "el problema sería mucho peor sin las intervenciones". Haciendo los cálculos, 17.5 mil millones de dólares divididos por el número de personas sin vivienda en California, son \$102,000 por persona sin vivienda durante un período de cuatro años o \$25,510 por año.

## Un Infame Evento Que Despertó un Recuerdo "Olvidado"

FOR EDUARDO STANLEY

(Nota del editor: este es el comienzo de una serie mensual de historias dedicadas al encarcelamiento japonés de 1942-1945.)

Un día de verano del año 2000, el Dr. Isao Fujimoto (1933-2022) vino a Fresno para una presentación sobre educación popular, organizada por el Instituto Pan Valley del Comité de Servicios de Amigos Americanos. Posteriormente, durante una charla con varios asistentes, habló sobre el encarcelamiento de los japoneses durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, una de las violaciones de derechos civiles más infames por parte de Estados Unidos. De 1942 a 1945, el gobierno de Estados Unidos encarceló a más de 127,000 personas de ascendencia japonesa, incluidos ciudadanos estadounidenses, en campos aislados, en lo que se considera una reacción o venganza por el ataque de Pearl

Harbor de Japón contra Estados Unidos en diciembre de 1941.

Yo sabía poco sobre este acontecimiento histórico así que era niño, el estuvo reunido, junto con su familia, en los campos de concentración de Heart Mountain, Wyoming, y Tule Lake, California. Era un orador suave y encantador y sus palabras no expresaban resentimiento ni amargura. Sin embargo, era muy bueno presentando un caso y este era especial para él.

En cierto momento, nos habló de los "centros de reunión", lugares utilizados por los militares para concentrar japoneses de diferentes ciudades para una posterior "distribución" a los campos de concentración.

"En Fresno habías dos, uno en Pinedale y el otro era la "Pinedale"? Pregunté. "Pregunté. "Eso está casi en mi patio trasero!" No lo podía creer y experimenté una sensación incómoda. Al día siguiente me subí a mi carro y conduje hasta Pinedale para ubicar el Centro de Reunión de Pinedale. No llevó mucho tiempo, en el lugar había una placa. Detrás de ella, un gran terreno vacío, que ahora comienza a ser construido por el interminable apetito de las empresas constructoras por nuevos terrenos.

Continúa en página 21

## EL ENCARCELAMIENTO DE JAPONESES

De los \$17.5 mil millones en fondos asignados por el estado desde 2018 hasta 2022, \$3.7 mil millones se invirtieron en el Proyecto Homekey, para convertir moteles y propiedades comerciales en viviendas permanentes y accesibles y para uso provisional como refugios temporales. Se han establecido 13,500 unidades Homekey. La ciudad y el condado han utilizado fondos de Homekey para convertir varios moteles en refugios temporales con pocos requisitos. Estos refugios se están convirtiendo gradualmente en unidades de vivienda accesibles. El estado asignó otros \$2 mil millones en créditos fiscales para las constructoras. (Hasta ahora, se han construido 481 nuevas unidades de vivienda accesibles). Se utilizaron \$2 mil millones para reiniciar proyectos de vivienda accesibles y \$2 mil millones se destinaron a asistencia de emergencia para el alquiler.

Se asignaron otros 4 mil millones de dólares a servicios de salud mental y para apoyar otras iniciativas y servicios para personas sin hogar.

Continúa en página 23



Miembros del Fresno Homeless Union (Sindicato de Desamparados de Fresno) en el ayuntamiento de Fresno adonde se dirigieron para exigir la adhesión al proyecto "Vivienda Primero". - Foto de Brandi Angela



La Fuente del Recuerdo en honor a los japoneses encarcelados temporalmente en el Centro de Reunión de Pinedale, quienes luego eran enviados a campos de concentración a distintos puntos del país. La fuente es obra de Gerard Tsutakawa y está ubicada en el Jardín de Memoria, en Pinedale. Foto de Eduardo Stanley