



EN ESPAÑOL
PÁGINAS 20-24

Attorney General Addresses Activists in Fresno

BY MIKE RHODES

The United Against Hate summit at Fresno City College on April 6 brought together a coalition of community groups whose goal is to reduce hate crimes in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley. It included California Attorney General Rob Bonta as the keynote speaker. Bonta said that hate crimes in California and throughout the country are on the rise and that events like this “are an example of what the solution is, people coming together, people caring, sharing and working with one another—saying I care about you and I feel better when you are safe.” Crimes motivated by hate are not just attacks on individual innocent people—they are attacks on our communities and the entire state. It is the job of the attorney general to see that the laws of the State are uniformly and adequately enforced. For more information about the Department of Justice and how to report a hate crime, visit oag.ca.gov/hatecrimes. The United Against Hate summit featured four breakout sessions: Know Your Rights, Bystander Training, What To Do If You Are a Victim of a Hate Crime and the Future of the Stop the Hate Coalition.



California Attorney General Rob Bonta was the keynote speaker at the April 6 United Against Hate summit at Fresno City College. Photo by Peter Maiden



Several workshops were held at the United Against Hate summit. Leaders of three workshops: (l to r) Ameer Brooks, Sukaina Hussain and Hina Fatima. Photo by Peter Maiden



Mike Rhodes, executive director of the Community Alliance newspaper, holds a yard sign for the Stop the Hate campaign at a breakout workshop. Photo by Peter Maiden

Stop the Hate Resolution

We, (the name of the organization goes here), pledge to stand up to all forms of hate, racism, bigotry and bullying.

We will not stay silent in the face of intolerance based on race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, country of origin, immigration status or any other factor.

We will work together with our community to create safer and more inclusive communities for all.

By making this pledge today, we promise to

- Learn about what counts as a hate crime.
- Educate our families and friends to recognize hate crime, support the targeted person and report to the police or an appropriate third-party organization.
- Train our staff in hate crime awareness and recognition and create a safe and all-inclusive environment that supports equality, and good relations within and outside the workplace.
- Ensure that our policy procedures are effective in addressing hate crime incidents that might occur in the workplace either between employees, or against staff members or the public.
- Support and create activities in the community and workplace that promote diversity, inclusion, kindness and good relationships.
- Help display visual materials in public areas disapproving all forms of hate in our communities and share this information with others through leaflets, posters and social media posts.
- Report to the police or send details to 559-600-CVAC if we witness, suffer or become aware of any persons, organizations or businesses that are demonstrating hate speech.
- Encourage victims who have disclosed a hate crime to report it to police or a third-party organization and support them in passing any specific details wherever possible.

Return the approved resolution to mikerhodes@fresnoalliance.com.

There are two projects that the coalition needs your help with. The first is the distribution of yard signs and bumper stickers with the message: “Stop the Hate, Be the Love.” Picture that message being spread throughout your community and then help make it happen.

The second project is to get a Stop the Hate Resolution (see sidebar) passed by all grassroots community groups, labor unions, faith groups and elected bodies such as city councils, school boards and special districts.

This event was sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance and the Community Alliance newspaper through a grant from the California State Library under the statewide Stop the Hate initiative.

For more details about this event, see “Hate Crimes Difficult to Convict” on page 4.

Mike Rhodes is the executive director of the Community Alliance. Contact him at mikerhodes@comcast.net.

Immigrants Keep the American Economy Afloat

BY JAMES MENDEZ

The success of the American economy is dependent on a successful and ordered immigration system. Since the 1970s, the native-born U.S. population has not been having enough children to replace itself.

Without the influx of immigrants, the U.S. population would have fallen in the last Census. As a result of the falling birth rate and an aging population, the United States will not have enough workers to maintain a growing economy.

With a shortage of workers, America’s safety net programs will be threatened. Social Security and Medicare will need more workers to maintain solvency.

While there are other ways to maintain the programs (e.g., eliminating the cap on the Social Security tax), Congress has failed to act. Congress has also failed to legislate humane, fair, ordered and comprehensive immigration reform. Congress’s failure to act on immigration has created an acute risk to the American economy.

Biden Administration’s Economy

Under the Biden administration, the American economy (the production, distribution, trade and consumption of goods and services) has done well. The economy has recovered from the necessary shutdowns due to the Covid pandemic. Production of goods and services has bounced back. Consumption by consumers is up. Consumers have money as a result of rising wages, which have been outpacing inflation.

In the post-Covid pandemic recovery, the Biden administration has successfully addressed the recovering economy’s inflation without causing a recession. As a result, the United States continues to have one of the highest GDPs per capita in the world (No. 8).

The success of the American economy can be seen with its strong employment numbers, rising wages, a low unemployment rate under 4% and increased consumer spending. All this has occurred even though the Federal Reserve Board has kept interest rates elevated in its effort to combat inflation.

The U.S. economy’s strength is driven by diverse factors including its natural resources, its manufacturing ability to produce goods and its ability to provide world services, technology and finance. Even with those strengths, a looming problem for the U.S. economy is a shortage of workers due to the falling birth rate of native-born U.S. citizens.

Labor shortages are already being faced by other aging economies that have shrinking populations such as Japan, China, Germany, Spain and Italy.

America’s Immigrant Labor Force

Labor shortages can be addressed in only a few ways—increase the workforce or increase worker productivity. The labor force can be increased through immigration; using overseas workers through outsourcing work, which weakens the U.S. economy; using underutilized labor pools such as people with disabilities and the formerly incarcerated; or increasing the age of retirement so older people work longer.

The current workforce can be made more productive through the automation, training and streamlining of business and production processes.

Economists have warned for years that the combination of baby boomer retirements, low birth rates, shifting immigration policies and changing worker preferences could result in too few workers to fill job openings.

So far, the U.S. economy has been able to avoid the contraction seen by other countries by having a ready workforce available to fill an increasing number of job openings. That ready workforce has come mainly from an influx of foreign-born adults—some legal, some not.

The main reason America has had a successful economic recovery since the Covid pandemic is due to having enough immigrant workers to fill job openings. Per a Feb. 27, 2024, article in the *Washington Post*:

“About 50% of the labor market’s extraordinary recent growth came from foreign-born workers between January 2023 and January 2024, according to an Economic Policy Institute analysis of federal data.

“And even before that, by the middle of 2022, the foreign-born labor force had grown so fast that it closed the labor force gap created by the pandemic, according to research from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.”



As a result of the falling birth rate and an aging population, the United States will not have enough workers to maintain a growing economy, therefore the expansion of the U.S. economy relies on immigration. Photo courtesy of David A. Litman/Shutterstock



Undocumented immigrants are filling needed jobs and contributing to the economy, particularly in the agricultural field. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

The most recent reports from 2022 estimate there were about 46.2 million foreign-born (authorized and unauthorized) people in the United States. Lawful immigrants total about 36.5 million (78%) with 23 million naturalized citizens, 11.6 million lawful permanent residents (“green card” holders) and 1.8 million lawful temporary residents.

There is no accurate recent data from the Census Bureau on the actual number of undocumented immigrants in the United States. Best estimates are that 10 million–12 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States. Of those, about 8 million are working-age adults.

Undocumented Immigrants Not the Problem

Undocumented immigrants are filling needed jobs and contributing to the economy. Yet, they do not have any legal immigration status. Undocumented immigrants filling needed jobs are exposed to possible exploitation from employers.

To their detriment, there are no pathways for them to gain citizenship. Although they make contributions to American society and pay taxes, undocumented immigrants are not able to get the full benefits of employment. They pay Social Security taxes but are ineligible for Social Security benefits.

Employers do not get full benefits by utilizing undocumented immigrants in the workforce. Due to the risk of detention and/or deportation at any time, unauthorized immigrants might not always be able to work.

Having access to immigrant workers (both legal and unauthorized) to fill job openings saved the American economy after the Covid-related shutdowns. A major problem of maintaining America’s current immigrant-dependent economy is that the American immigration system is in chaos and in need of reform.

Effective, comprehensive immigration legislation is needed for America to receive the full benefit of its immigrant workforce.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Comprehensive reform would have to include a sensible, just and affordable “path to citizenship” for an estimated 12 million undocumented workers already in the country. Also, the almost 600,000 DACA recipients need a pathway to citizenship.

Comprehensive reform would have to address the backlog of people on waiting lists to be allowed in the country. It would need to address the refugees and asylees at the southern border trying to leave dangerous home situations.

Comprehensive reform would also have to address the needs of employers to have access to workers, and at the same time not allow exploitation of workers.

The current immigration system has been built on the foundation of racism beginning in 1882 with the Chinese Exclusion Act. Since then, there have been several racist alterations to the system.

Some immigration experts have written that due to the historical and systemic racism on which the current immigration system is based, the immigration system is incapable of being reformed, but rather needs to be abolished and transformed into a new more equitable system.

Immigration is a divisive subject. For more than 25 years, Congress has become more divisive. Congress has been unable to come to any compromise on immigration and many other important issues.

Congress has been unable to pass any significant immigration legislation since Reagan’s 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act. That bill granted “amnesty” to almost three million undocumented immigrants.

The bill was ultimately deemed a failure. The failure of the bill to have any impact on illegal immigration was that the sanctions on employers, which might have stemmed further unauthorized immigration, were removed from the bill for passage.

Until Congress is able to end its partisan divisions, there will be no comprehensive immigration reform of the chaotic, racist and unfair system.

The backlog of people lawfully waiting to come to the United States to work or to join families will continue to grow. The frustration of waiting will continue to grow, and people will continue to leave dangerous home situations to seek a better life in the United States by any means necessary.

Without Congressional action to fairly and comprehensively address immigration, the U.S. economy will continue to be at risk of collapse due to the lack of a steady and reliable source of labor.

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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Congressional Paralysis on Immigration

The only bipartisan outcome in the U.S. Congress is that the immigration situation, including the bizarre status quo at the border with Mexico, continues to be paralyzed.

Immigration occurs throughout the world and basically relates to the economic situation of a given place that forces people to look for work somewhere else. Other causes include wars, social violence and natural catastrophes. It is also an old issue—for centuries, people have migrated seeking a better life or escaping from violence.

Because the economy in the United States is good but not so good in other places, we should expect people will want to come here. At the same time, many people not doing well here migrate somewhere else.

This is the case for thousands of retired Americans trying to get the most of their slim Social Security checks by moving to Mexico and other places such as Thailand and Costa Rica. And, interesting enough, many of these retired migrants are undocumented in those countries.

Recently, there was word that Congress would tackle the issue with the involvement of both parties, until Donald Trump ordered his subordinates on Capitol Hill to stop any potential effort in this regard. That way, Trump can blame Joe Biden for the messy and ugly border status quo. In other words, Trump doesn't hesitate to use people's suffering for his political advantage.

Not only is Trump's attitude disgusting but also that of his subordinates in the Republican Party, who obey his orders without a whisper.

And then we wonder why things barely work in Washington.

The reality is that the United States benefits from immigrants (see "Immigrants Keep the American Economy Afloat" on page 2) who come here to work—not to ask for freebees, as many say. Remember that, by law, undocumented immigrants can't apply for any social assistance.

The argument that immigrants "come here to take advantage" of the United States is false. Most immigrants come here to work, and they pay taxes. However, these undocumented persons can't apply for any assistance—not unemployment benefits or Social Security when they retire, which seems inhumane because part of the taxes you pay when you work go precisely to your unemployment benefits and to your Social Security.

In short, immigrants work hard, often doing jobs most Americans won't do, and they subsidize the U.S. economy by not having the right to collect what is theirs.

The border situation is dramatic, and there is no solution in sight, particularly in this electoral period. To what extent can we be optimistic that this situation will change for the better after the election?

Till next month.

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—PAUL PIERCE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trumpism Is Rebranded Racism!

Amid this brouhaha about Trump the loser, Trump the leader, Trump the owner of the Right Wing, etc., etc., etc., the underlying question we are missing is: "What is Trump's role and how did he rise rapidly to lead the Republican Party?"

Stepping back and looking at the history of the nation, we can see that the years following the Civil War the advocates of white superiority suppressed their beliefs in public but remained resentful of "the other." It was not politically feasible for those in the mainstream to take an openly racist stand. They remained mostly secretive in their shenanigans to suppress votes and deny basic freedoms to minorities.

Then came Trump with his MAGA appeal, which in hindsight was less a narcissistic motto and more a call to "reclaim white power." MAGA attracted the GOP base, or rather the base among the GOP, and empowered them to openly despise "the others" around them! He emboldened them to walk their talk, which many did vigorously on Jan. 6!

Remember the "Jews will not replace us" chants, and Trump's reassurance that there were "good people on both sides?" Recall the opening salvo of his first campaign: To fight immigration by building a wall and keeping out Mexican criminals and rapists? The wild base was ignited into a frenzy by Trump, which found in him the man who thought and spoke like them.

Trump did not create Trumpism. Trump emboldened and mobilized his followers to feel safe and comfortable to speak their mind.

The memorable and contemptuous line Robert Graves wrote for the failing Roman Emperor in *I Claudius*, sums up Trump's strategy well: "Let all the poison that lurks in the mud, hatch out."

Trump will be long gone before the devastation he has wreaked can be defeated.

Yezdyar Kaoosji
Visalia

closer representation to fascism. This does not mean that fascism is bad or good, or that Republicans are correct and noble. The tenets of fascism are clearly visible in the Democrat[ic] Party.

Kirk McKarthur

Not All Republicans Are Fascists

It's understandable to have strong opposing opinions and views. Kevin Hall is not accurately interested in facts. Labeling and name calling is not journalism.

Calling every Republican a fascist is grossly inaccurate. The entire premise of this article is an irrational lie: The Democrat[ic] Party is a

Free Speech in Fresno

I found the story by Mike Rhodes last month to be a fascinating history lesson about free speech in Fresno. The IWW (International Workers of the World, or Wobblies) was an activist group fighting for workers' rights in America at the turn of the [19th] century.

This was a time when workers had no rights. They couldn't join unions, worked long hours for low pay, [experienced] hazardous conditions,

[endured] child labor and worked weekends. There was no such thing as paid vacations or holidays.

To know that a free speech protest [occurred] here in Fresno in 1910–11 is interesting to know with a plaque to show the spot.

Larry Reina
Madera

Do Parties Finance Local Candidates?

One of the criticisms raised by first-time candidates was that they were not financially supported by Democratic incumbents or the county Democratic Party (see "Debrief of First-Time Progressive Candidates" in the April issue).

The role of the county party is not to fund candidates. In fact, if the committee goes down that road, it will inevitably fail at its larger task, which is to ensure effective turnout for the overall slate of Democrats on the ballot.

The party should be a resource for volunteers, for covering a candidate's district through party-wide GOTV (get out the vote) efforts and for advice and guidance on running an effective campaign.

Local parties are funded locally. County committees are not funded by the state or national parties. Although the state party has in the past couple of cycles put regional staff on the ground in Fresno County, that is mostly to help Congressional candidates.

Another issue is that people talk about the Democratic Party as if it is some entity apart from them. The local Democratic Party is who shows up. If you are there at meetings or events, or volunteering, you are part of the solution.

As author Alice Walker says, "We are the ones we have been waiting for."

Michael Evans*
Ellensburg, WA

*Evans is the former five-term chair of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee.

Cruel Mistreatment of the Homeless

Unfathomable cruelty of the HART team (Homeless Assistance Response Team): Recently, a homeless woman who temporarily left her dogs tied to her cart suffered a great loss at the hands of the HART team, which cut their leashes and harnesses and set them loose in traffic near Blackstone and El Paso.

Tragically, the woman was only able to catch two of them, and the third remains at large. It is a full size healthy dark tan Chihuahua with a dark muzzle and black ears.

The poor woman is grief-stricken and traumatized and has no recourse. This cruel mistreatment of the homeless and their beloved animals must stop now!

Abby Roberts



Since 1996, the *Community Alliance* has been an independent progressive voice for the Central San Joaquin Valley. The *Community Alliance* advocates for

- Racial, social, environmental and economic justice
- Equal rights for all, including immigrants, the unhoused and the LGBTQ+ community
- Access to a free quality public education for all
- Access to healthcare for all
- A living wage for all working people

Our goal is to expose racial, social, environmental, economic and political injustices. We will help to build a powerful progressive movement that will make all our communities safer, healthier, more equitable and more livable.

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Hate Crimes Difficult to Convict

BY SUNITA SOHRABJI

An increasing number of hate crimes are being reported in California, but convictions continue to remain low, said California Attorney General Rob Bonta.

At the April 6 United Against Hate summit at Fresno City College, Bonta noted that hate crimes are notoriously difficult to prosecute.

“They require proof of intent,” he says. “By design, a hate crime must originate with the hate element, which is often difficult to establish.”

“Hate crimes are an augmentation of sentencing: It is seen as something additional,” said Bonta. “You’re already charging assault or battery,” noting that a successful hate crime conviction might add 2–5 years to a sentence. He urged victims of a hate crime to gather up as much evidence as possible and to get details.

Low Conviction Rates

Last June, Bonta’s office released the 2022 Hate Crime in California Report. The report noted that reported hate crime events in the state increased 20.2% from 1,763 in 2021 to 2,120 in 2022. Hate crimes targeting Black people remained the most prevalent and increased 27.1% from 513 in 2021 to 652 in 2022, whereas anti-Asian hate crime events decreased 43.3% from 247 in 2021 to 140 in 2022.

Hate crimes in California involving a sexual orientation bias increased 29% from 303 in 2021 to 391 in 2022.

But of the more than 2,100 hate crimes reported in the state, only 52 resulted in hate crime convictions.

Most hate crimes reported never made it to court: Just 456 cases were filed by district attorneys and elected city attorneys, according to the report.

Divisive Political Rhetoric

In his formal remarks at the summit, Bonta said hate was not a new phenomenon. “It’s been with us since time immemorial. We need to take care of each other, look after one another, and be committed to the proposition that hate against any one of us is hate against all of us, and it’s unacceptable.” He said he feared for his mother, amid the rise of violent hate attacks targeting AAPI elderly people.

Bonta tacitly referred to the rise in hate crimes over the past seven months targeting both Jewish Americans and Arab Americans, brought on by the Israel-Hamas war. “The awful, unacceptable deaths of children and civilians that we’re seeing in Palestine and in Israel are unacceptable. And they’re affecting us here.”

The Trump Factor

Bonta also indirectly addressed Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has used divisive rhetoric on the campaign trail. The candidate has repeatedly claimed that “immigrants are poisoning the blood of America” and has promised to reinstate his “Muslim ban.”

“We have leaders who use the most toxic, xenophobic language. They give license to others.”



Attorney General Rob Bonta (second from right) is shown at the United Against Hate summit in Fresno. Photo by Sunita Sohrabji

Bonta was asked a question by event organizer Daren Miller about the predicted chaos expected to ensue if Trump does not win. “One of the hallmarks of a democracy is the peaceful transfer of power. You cannot claim victory when you win, and malfeasance when you don’t,” said Bonta.

Distrust of Police

The United Against Hate summit was organized by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance and the *Community Alliance* newspaper in collaboration with the Fresno Center. The daylong event brought together more than 20 nonprofit organizations, which set up tables outside the venue to share their efforts toward ending hate.

Mike Rhodes, executive director of the *Community Alliance*, said that Fresno and neighboring cities were rife with hate activity, much of which is unreported.

“A lot of people here don’t trust the police,” said Rhodes, adding that when hate crimes and incidents are reported they often go unnoticed. The Fresno Police Department did set up an information table at the event.

The morning featured four concurrent workshops, including tools for bystanders witnessing a hate crime, what to do if you’re a victim of a hate crime and a “know your rights” discussion led by the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Walking While Black

Ameer Brooks, who presided over the workshop, recalled a recent event in which he was stopped by police in the city of Clovis. Brooks is Black and disabled.

“I was hobbling to the store,” he said. “Within a couple of minutes, the police stopped me, shined a light in my face, and asked a bunch of questions.”

“When I got to the store, I was stopped by two more cops, who again questioned me, and then checked out my answers against the ones I had given the other cops.”

“As I walked home, the cops followed me. They had obviously identified me as a suspect without any reason.”

Ethnic Media Services’ Stop the Hate initiative is made possible with funding from the California State Library in partnership with the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.

Sunita Sohrabji is the health editor at Ethnic Media Services.

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\$24 Billion Spent and Even More Unhoused People

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

On April 9, California released an audit of the State’s homelessness funding, including an evaluation of the efforts undertaken by the State to monitor the cost-effectiveness of such spending. The report focuses primarily on the State’s activities, in particular, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH).

In general, the report concludes that the State must do more to assess the cost-effectiveness of its homelessness programs. Some say it’s a scathing indictment of failed oversight of a self-perpetuating “homelessness industrial complex.”

It also exposes the lack of respect for taxpayers and the unhoused alike. It is typical of the government—give huge public dollars away to the unaccountable private sector and never hold the private sector accountable.

The report says that “the State lacks current information on the ongoing costs and outcomes of its homelessness programs, because Cal ICH has not consistently tracked and evaluated the State’s efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

“Although Cal ICH reported in 2023 financial information covering fiscal years 2018–19 through 2020–21 related to all State-funded homelessness programs, it has not continued to track and report this data since that time, despite the significant amount of additional funding the State awarded to these efforts in the past two years.”

The report continues, “Cal ICH has also not aligned its action plan to end homelessness with its statutory goals to collect financial information and ensure accountability and results. Thus, it lacks assurance that the actions it takes will effectively enable it to achieve those goals.

“Another significant gap in the State’s ability to assess programs’ effectiveness is that it does not have a consistent method for gathering information on the costs and outcomes.”

California has spent \$24 billion trying to combat homelessness from 2017 to the present, and the results of the audit indicate that only two programs out of 30, Project Homekey and the CalWORKS Housing Support Program, were cost-effective.

There is a lack of transparency and accountability for the counties, cities, contractors, and nonprofit and for-profit service providers receiving these public funds. With homelessness worsening, there are now 171,000 unhoused people in California.

The system should be examined and some light shed on the longstanding, self-perpetuating, deeply entrenched “homelessness industry.” There’s little oversight and accountability for these state funds and how this money is spent.

All the agencies in California’s current system to address homelessness, including those governed by the 45 Continuums of Care (CoC), are participants in a system that, some say, perpetuates homelessness. Some advocates call it a nonprofit (with some for-profits) bureaucracy that exists to expand funding for needed but mostly temporary services.

Locally, the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) has 51 members, including the City of Fresno, the County of Fresno and many service providers such as Turning Point of Central California.

The CEO of Turning Point makes \$381,270 annually and the CFO makes \$289,030 annually, an example of how some public dollars for homeless initiatives are going to nonprofit executive salaries. Turning Point is a major recipient of public dollars and one of only two shelter providers in Fresno.

This network of service providers and contractors, many of which are recipients of state and federal funds, hold a lot of political influence. Dollars that could be spent directly to build public housing are being wasted on overhead, administration, executive salaries and developer fees because of the political influence of special interests.

Another example of public funding going to developers is the funding received by RH Community Builders and UPholdings, for-profit agencies. Their joint venture initially received \$15.3 million in state funds to convert Smugglers Inn on Blackstone Avenue to temporary shelter housing and then to permanent affordable housing, as reported by Fresnoland in November 2023.

The article states, “Since 2020, the project received nearly \$60 million in [more] funding through local programs including the California Housing Accelerator, No Place Like Home, Housing for a Healthy California and Fresno County.”

RH Community Builders/UPholdings own the former inn, now known as Crossroads Village. Some would call this “corporate welfare” or “socialism for the rich.”

Although it is reductive math, \$24 billion divided by the current number of unhoused individuals in California (171,000) works out to \$140,350 per person. Certainly, a lot of permanent housing with services could have been implemented with these public dollars.

Any future spending should focus on permanent public housing built and operated by public agencies. No more handouts to developers and service providers.

It is a failed system. It is a system that lends itself to waste and corruption.

Bob McCloskey is an activist and a reporter for the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

CENTRAL VALLEY BRIEFS

Coalinga-Huron Teachers Vote to Strike

On April 15, educators from the Coalinga-Huron Unified Teachers Association (CHUTA) voted to authorize a strike if a settlement cannot be reached by early May, when a strike should become lawful.

After months of negotiations, the Coalinga-Huron Unified School District (CHUSD) has outright refused to prioritize the retention of educators, insisting on misleading the public about its inability to pay teachers a salary that competes with nearby districts.

Failure to resolve this issue fails the students that the CHUSD are entrusted to educate.

Due to the district’s unwillingness to settle a fair contract, the CHUTA and the CHUSD are nearing the end of the impasse process and scheduled a fact-finding hearing for April 19. If no settlement is reached by the time the parties receive an advisory report from the fact-finding panel, Coalinga-Huron educators will then be able to lawfully strike.

“The educators of Coalinga-Huron have spoken,” said Jessica Cardenas, president of the CHUTA.

“Over 96% of the members who voted say they are willing to strike. We won’t be fooled by [the] CHUSD’s desire to divide our community and claim they cannot afford to pay teachers a cost-of-living increase.

“If we do not settle a fair agreement, we will have a mass exodus of CHUSD educators to districts in surrounding towns. We know what this would do to our schools and communities.

“If CHUSD will not prioritize students, then we must take up the fight on their behalf.”

City-to-State Pathway

Fresno City College students will soon be able to transfer more easily to Fresno State to continue their higher

education journey with the launch of the City-to-State Transfer Program. The two schools signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the agreement, committing to strengthening relations and increasing the number of transfer students.

“Fresno City College is a key educational partner in elevating the quality of life in our region,” said Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval.

“This MOU will streamline the transfer process between Fresno City and Fresno State, helping remove barriers to Fresno State—a clear choice for our talented Fresno City College students, as we are a university with unparalleled value, rankings and a supportive community.”

Through this partnership, the two institutions seek to accomplish the following:

- Reduce matriculation barriers.
- Hire a jointly funded, dedicated Fresno City College transfer counselor who will focus on this pathway.
- Create a summer transfer experience event, including undergraduate research projects, to take place at Fresno State.
- Continue strategic outreach programs.

Mobile Health Unit

The Fresno State Mobile Health Unit offers free health services and health screenings to underserved communities in Fresno County. This includes free health education, blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, cholesterol screenings, flu and Covid vaccines, and more.

In addition to providing healthcare services to the region, the unit has provided vital hands-on training, experiential learning opportunities and clinical experience for hundreds of students at Fresno State.

The unit is uniquely equipped to address the healthcare needs of Fresno County’s most underserved areas, and works in partnership with local nonprofits, community organizations and local leaders to help provide culturally respectful care to those who need it most.

Since 2015, the Fresno State Mobile Health Unit has

- Visited 240 different locations across Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare counties
- Treated more than 16,000 patients who otherwise would have gone without care
- Provided hands-on learning opportunities to more than 3,500 Fresno State students
- Administered more than 8,680 Covid-19 vaccines

For more information, contact 559-278-2096 or ljakobs@csufresno.edu.

Rent Burden for Youth

A new study by RentCafe delves into historical housing costs and spending patterns in nearly 200 metro areas in the United States. Specifically, the study looked at Gen Z and Millennials and what they spend in terms of renting, as well as owning a home, by the time they reach 30.

- Gen Zers will spend, on average, \$145,000 on rent before turning 30, which is 14% more than what Millennials paid.
- In California, however, Gen Zers will encounter much higher rental expenses by age 30—up to \$300,000. Specifically, Zoomers in Fresno face lower rent costs than the state’s most expensive metros but lower than the national average of \$131,600.
- In Fresno, the cost of homeownership for the youngest generation in the housing market surpasses rental costs, climbing to \$190,418 (including the mortgage, taxes and fees, but not the down payment) by age 30.
- The silver lining? The youngest generation of renters in Fresno is predicted to earn an average of \$432,861 by age 30, which is \$16,000 more than what Millennials made by this age.
- The cost differential between renting and owning costs in Fresno for Gen Zers ages 22–29 is \$58,818.

For more in-depth, customized data, contact media@rentcafe.com.



33,713 Palestinian deaths since Oct. 7th and rising

the genocide needs to end now

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RMI

Do Not Pass FresGo!

BY KEVIN HALL

The unfortunately named Texas game company Top Trumps has garnered Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer’s enthusiastic support for a local version of Monopoly, the board game focused on property ownership, development, higher rents, foreclosure and eviction. Perfect.

You might well ask, “A game that demonstrates how our city actually works? What’s taken so long?” In truth, it hasn’t. The import outfit (Free shipping on orders to the USA mainland over \$35) is not the first middleman to license the Monopoly brand. Ohio’s quirkily named Late For The Sky published its version, Fresnoopoly, a few years back, outdated mostly by its Woodward Park Shakespeare Festival square.

“This is a big deal for Fresno because no matter where people live in the United States or abroad they’re going to hear about Fresno,” Dyer told local media outlets in April, apparently in the mistaken belief that this custom version is going to be widely distributed.

It’s not, of course. These companies sell to local markets in small quantities, and there are many other cities with their own versions. Companies—and mayors—buy the novelty item as gifts. But that doesn’t mean Dyer and Tops shouldn’t reach for a larger market. Fresno presents the gamemakers with a Trumpy golden opportunity if done right.

Rather than follow the structure and rules of the original board game as Late Sky did, Tops should add some new twists. To truly reflect how the game is played in Fresno, players must be able to add new spaces to the board, particularly along freeway routes. Because this is not an urban cityscape delimited by four commuter trains. It’s a battle for open ground—through road and freeway subsidies—with residential sprawl and industrial warehouse developments spreading like tentacles in every direction.

Best to start with the mid-20th century Fresno map of redlined neighborhoods and grow outward from there along state routes 41, 168, 180 and 99 plus Friant Road. Players would accumulate wealth by commuting from affluent areas to industrial zones. Starting squares would include West Fresno, Downtown, Huntington Blvd., Calwa, Manchester, Tower District and Fig Garden.

One could add new property squares along the proposed freeway routes, and they don’t even have to be contiguous. In fact, it’s best to build your new development as far out as you can because the longer the commute the greater the payday when you pass a FresGo! space on the movable edge of town.

Go To Jail and Jail? Developers don’t go to jail here any more. Their crimes are made legal or ignored unless sued. So let’s rename those corner spaces CEQA and Courthouse. Use your Get Out of CEQA Free card to avoid penalties, courtesy of CalTrans and every city council member, county supervisor, mayor and development staff. The third corner, Free Parking, can be labeled Greenwashing; it’s that stack of state and federal subsidies piling up in the middle of the board.

Then there are the game’s two card decks to consider. The real Community Chest for local developers is the Campaign Chest where cards direct you to make large political contributions in order to rezone your property. Give enough and you can score a Free Freeway Interchange card to connect your sprawl development to commuters. The Road Tax Subsidy is the most common card; it’s critical to your success as a Fresno developer.

COP28 Outcomes

BY DEBAY TADESSE

The United Nations hosts an international conference called the Conference of the Parties (COP) to debate the steps that must be taken to combat climate change. Government representatives from all over the world gather at these conferences to exchange experiences, discuss the most recent advancements in the fight against climate change and work toward creating agreements and policies to address climate change.

Every year, governments from various nations host COP, where they discuss policy progress reports, set interim goals, and agree to share scientific and technological advancements that benefit the world.

The legally binding Paris Accords were ratified by 196 parties/countries during the Paris Climate Change Conference of the United Nations in 2015, and it became operational on Nov. 4, 2016. Its main objective is to keep the temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F) by the end of this century.

For the first time, a legally enforceable commitment unites all nations to fight climate change and adapt to its repercussions, making the Paris Agreement a significant milestone in the multilateral climate change process.

In addition to severe climate change effects, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that exceeding the 1.5°C (2.7°F) threshold might lead to more frequent and severe heat waves, droughts and rainfall.

Furthermore, COP has become a platform for intergovernmental negotiations and non-state actors’ advocacy, networking, partnership building and showcasing significant efforts worldwide—outside the government spheres in addition to young activists, scientists, faith groups and various organizations, including UN agencies.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted COP28, which took place Nov. 30–Dec. 12, 2023. The conference ended

with major commitments from the international community to address the problems caused by climate change.

The headline from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat is that the COP28 Agreement signals the “Beginning of the End of the Fossil Fuel Era.”

The United Nations said that more than 70,000 people from more than 190 countries participated in COP28. In addition to government officials, the conference hosts a variety of stakeholders, including leaders from the private sector, academic institutions and nongovernmental organizations.

COP28 shows the increasing presence of business leaders, demonstrating the growing corporate interest in climate issues. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change John Kerry led the U.S. delegation. Vice President Kamala Harris attended COP28 on Dec. 1–2.

It was the second year in a row that leaders from the Department of Defense (DOD) were among the U.S. delegation, highlighting the DOD’s pivotal role in the U.S. whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis. Leading Pentagon representatives at COP28 highlighted the DOD’s worldwide leadership in mitigating climate change’s effects on resilience, stability and peace.

Moreover, U.S. Vice President Harris declared that “global efforts to halt rising temperatures are in danger and have to accelerate, and more has to be done. And the headwinds are only getting stronger.”

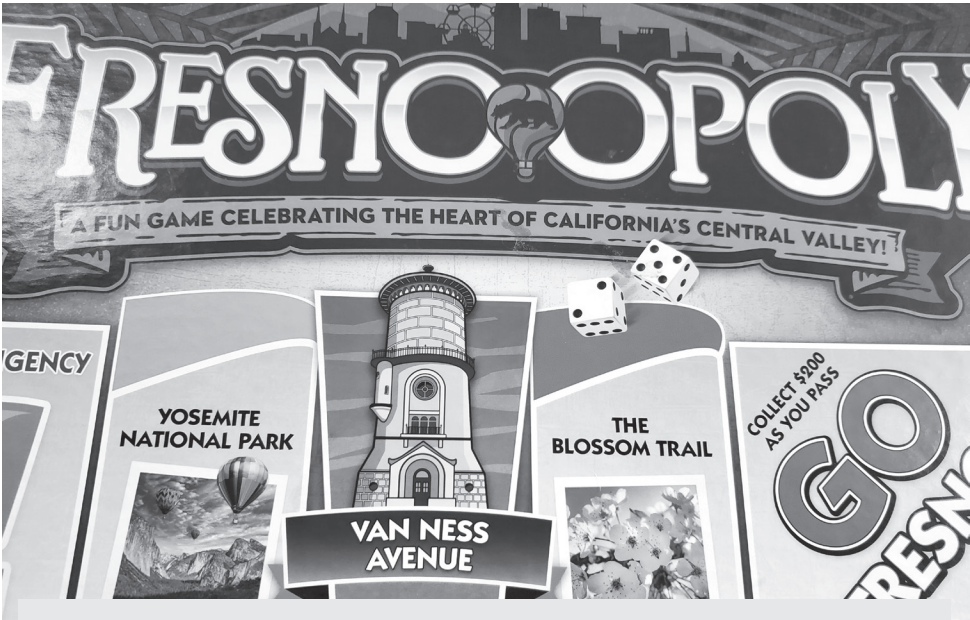
“Continued progress will not be possible without a fight,” she told the gathering.

“Around the world, some seek to slow or stop our progress. Leaders who deny climate science delay climate action and spread misinformation. Corporations that greenwash their climate inaction and lobby for billions of dollars in fossil fuel subsidies.”

Her remarks challenged leaders to work together and increase funding to maintain the target of keeping global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F).

So far, the planet has warmed about 1.3 degrees since pre-industrial times.

CLIMATE POLITICS



Another Fresno version of Monopoly is in the works. Gamemakers have an opportunity to reach for a wider market. Fresnoopoly is an earlier, more traditional version. Photo by Kevin Hall

And because developers here leave little to Chance, let’s call the other deck Closed Doors. That’s where the deals are cut for the really big projects. Variance, Rezone and General Plan Amendment cards are handed out to open up farmland and blue oak woodlands for regional shopping centers, industrial warehouses and exurban developments.

Finally, there are the game pieces. As mentioned, these custom versions of Monopoly are short-run productions, so the playing tokens are generic. But, again, to capture the true Fresno spirit, we’re going to need more relevant symbols of sprawl, polluted air and water, poverty, lack of opportunity and so on. We’ll need an inhaler and an ambulance, of course, but also a semi-truck, train, tractor, dairy lagoon and every type of dirt-moving equipment there is, not to mention a patrol car and HART (Homeless Assistance Response Team) truck.

But the most important lesson to be learned from Fresnoopoly is that only a few can play. The money moves around at the top and it’s a close-knit group. The people their wealth is derived from don’t have a seat at the table; they’re on the table.

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.



America has rejoined the PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT



In January 2021, President Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement on Climate Change after former President Donald Trump ordered a cessation of U.S. participation in the Agreement on June 1, 2017. Image courtesy of The Commons

“Our action collectively, or worse, our inaction, will have a decades-long effect on billions of people,” Harris said. She was the highest-ranking representative of the Biden administration at the COP28 negotiations.

A record-breaking \$3 billion promise for the so-called Green Climate Fund, which aims to assist nations by cutting emissions and adapting to climate change, was among the new climate measures unveiled by Harris.

In addition, the COP Presidencies Troika was introduced at COP28 “in partnership with the COP29 and COP30 Presidencies—a new initiative aimed at bolstering global climate efforts, a groundbreaking initiative to support

Continues on page 10

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Devaluation of High School Graduation Requirements

BY STEVEN ROESCH

In early March, an article in *The Economist* examined a bewildering paradox. From 2007 to 2020, graduation rates at public secondary schools in the United States climbed from 74% to an impressive 87% on average. Students’ grade point averages also rose significantly during this period as did the average number of course credits completed. At the same time, however, SAT scores went down. Beyond that, U.S. students’ scores in math and reading on the latest PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) exam either held steady or declined.

Citing recent in-depth research, the article infers “that high schools are graduating thousands of students who, not long ago, might not have made the grade.”

The researchers, who looked at 3,000 schools in six states, concluded that these public secondary schools inflated graduation rates by about four percentage points between 2007 and 2020.

Part of the reason for this trend, *The Economist* argues, lies with unexpected consequences after the implementation of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) in 2002. NCLB “required states to track the share of students graduating in four years and set annual targets for improvement,” thus encouraging, albeit inadvertently, the devaluation of graduation requirements.

Sites that missed their targets were sanctioned and even threatened with closure in some instances.

Prospects like those led to “grading gymnastics,” as one social studies instructor commented. Teachers were often pressured to satisfy NCLB’s demands, which in practice led to providing students with more chances to make up work, offering more extra credit opportunities and lowering the bar for what constituted a passing and even a superior grade.

A second factor also helps to account for the paradox of rising graduation rates in a period of lower or static scores on standardized assessments, namely, the disappearance of high school exit exams in most states.

California abandoned its high school exit exam—CAHSEE, as it was known—back in 2017. According to EdSource, no replacement for that assessment was envisioned, and after the Golden State bowed out only 13 states continued to insist on exit exams for their secondary students.

Fewer and fewer high schoolers are now being required to prove their competence in core subjects such as English and math before receiving a diploma.

And the move to lighten graduation requirements persists.

Instead of boosting academic expectations, educational leaders in several states have often moved in the opposite direction of late. The board of education in New Jersey, for example, has lowered the passing score on the state’s high school graduation exam.

In addition, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York are now thinking about eliminating their own exit exams for high school students.

The Fresno Unified School District (FUSD), most likely in part because of fallout from the NCLB mandates, has been swept up in this development.

Take high school graduation rates. According to ABC30, they hovered around 80% in the district in 2012, but within a few years—by 2015, with the exception of continuation schools—they rose to levels close to or exceeding 90%.

And they’ve stayed at these lofty heights.

All of which contrasts starkly with the performance of students on the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) exam. As Bill McEwen reported early in 2020 in *GV Wire*, the district has ranked close to the bottom for several years when compared to similar school districts across the nation. This was occurring, he noted, despite enhanced funding



In most states, high school exit exams have disappeared. Photo courtesy of The Commons

coming from the state, and he criticized the district’s inclination to promote students to higher grades “even if they read at a third-grade level and can’t do simple math.”

Since McEwen penned those words, the district’s SBAC scores have continued to be less than satisfactory.

Various methods—some would label them gimmicks—have elevated grade point averages and, by extension, graduation rates at FUSD high schools.

Consider the widespread use of credit recovery in the district, which allows failing students to “earn” credits needed to graduate—without at the same time verifying that they’ve actually mastered the knowledge and/or skills of the courses involved. By sitting in a computer lab—sometimes for merely a few hours—such individuals are able to garner enough points to merit a passing grade, and the accompanying credits, in subjects like biology or American history.

In one case, a senior racked up more than 40 absences and more than 60 tardies in one class during a single semester. His grade was dismal: The points he’d accumulated added up to less than 10% of the total points possible. After the intercession of credit recovery, however, he stood at close to 50% completion for that course after less than three hours’ worth of online assignments.

More than 28,000 students have been able to use this approach to gain credits for courses since 2014, one district spokesperson said two years ago.

It’s clear that many districts across our country have fallen prey to this trend—of conflating rising graduation rates with educational success. The FUSD is hardly alone in this regard.

A third factor also helps to account for this new attitude toward graduation.

Lowering the bar for academic success—and the diploma that comes with it—is often cast as a means of supporting minority students, of providing them with opportunities to advance that they would otherwise be denied.

The New Jersey board members opted to lower the passing score for their high school exit exam because, in their view, the standards as they stood had “adverse impacts” on students. They were hardly alone in believing that such a strategy would be a boon for such pupils.

Evidence from a recent working paper, however, indicates that the opposite could well be true.

When some schools in North Carolina introduced more lenient grading policies, students with lower test scores tended to miss school more frequently and devoted less time to their studies. One of the paper’s authors, Professor Brooks Bowden, expressed skepticism that giving better grades—and, by extension, distributing more diplomas—helps learners.

His proposal: Establish high expectations. “People rise to the expectations you set.”

Steven Roesch is a retired German and English teacher who taught in the Fresno Unified School District for 30 years. Contact him at stevenroesch12@comcast.net.

The Truth Be Told

Peggy Noonan, an author who served as a speechwriter in the Reagan administration, wrote an article titled “Dem Problems: A Great Political Party Can’t Thrive on Snob Appeal” that appeared in the March 3, 2003, *Wall Street Journal*, and as a chapter in *Crossroads: The Future of American Politics* (Random House), a collection of essays edited by Andrew Cuomo on the political environment circa 2003.

Noonan wrote the piece from her perspective of what was wrong with the Democratic Party at the time. Reading the piece now, it is rather amazing how accurately it describes today’s Republican Party. In fact, it was probably closer to an explanation of Republicans at the time it was written than of Democrats.

We include the exercise below to show how the original piece would read if the author’s use of party names was switched. Specific examples are excluded from the original piece, and the piece is shortened for inclusion here. What is included is a word-for-word replication of the original excerpts with only the switching of party names and, in one case, substituting “rightist” for “leftist” (third to last paragraph).

Has Noonan inadvertently captured today’s Republican Party?

All political parties have problems—infighting, internal dissent, philosophical disagreements. But the modern Republican Party has problems that are essentially different from that, and could actually do it in.

The first is what seems to me a lack of a constructive spirit within your party. Great parties exist in part to give us markers for the future. They offer a rough map that will get us to a better and higher destination. In the Republican Party now, and for some time, I have not perceived that they are trying to get us to a good place. They seem interested only in thwarting the trek of the current president and his party, who are, to the Republicans, “the other.” When the president is a Republican you now support him no matter what. You support him if he doesn’t have a map, and isn’t interested in markers, and is only interested in his own day-to-day survival.

I am not saying you are too partisan. Partisanship is fine. But Democrats by and large don’t suffer from blind loyalty or blind antagonism. They would think it irresponsible to the country. They will bolt on one of their own if he insists on a route they think is seriously wrong. They will kill his presidency if they conclude he is essentially destructive.

The Republican Party will now stick with its guy forever, no matter how harmful he is. Perhaps you call that loyalty, and perhaps there’s something to it, but a bigger part, I believe, is that you have come to think that winning is everything—that victory is the purpose of politics.

If the purpose is just winning, you can do anything to win. And you can do anything to stay. You never give an inch. But people who never give an inch sometimes wind up occupying tired and barren terrain.

You have grown profoundly unserious. This is the result of the win-at-any-cost mindset.

The modern Republican Party is unserious in other ways. In the 1950s and ‘60s the party included many obviously earnest and thoughtful liberals who supported goals that were in line with and expressions of serious beliefs. They believed that America was an exceptional country. Because it was exceptional it needed to remain strong.

The Democratic Party still manages to cohere around principles...The Republicans are not cohering. They are held together by a gritty talent for political process—message discipline, for instance. But what good is message discipline if there’s no serious and coherent message?

There is another problem. You have become the party of snobs. You have become the party of Americans who think they’re better than other Americans.

I see the modern Republican Party as the party of snobs. I wonder why your much-proclaimed compassion is distributed on such a limited basis—to this pressure group, that minority group, this special interest group.

The Republicans seemed motivated not by general principles and beliefs but only the need to win, which left you protecting your market share by bribing groups you’d once been able to champion. You’ve become confused as to your purpose, your reason for being.

This is the Republican paradox: You want so much to run America and yet you seem not so fond of Americans.

OPINION & ANALYSIS

One wishes the Republicans well if for no other reason than the Democratic Party will be at its best only when it faces a worthy and vital competitor.

So here’s my advice: Look at the clock. Know what time it is. Half the country is wondering if we are in the end times. (Excuse me, I mean they fear man may be living through a final, wrenching paroxysm, the result of man’s inhumanity to man and of the inevitable culmination of several unhelpful forces and trends.) So wake up and get serious. Get your heart back, and your guts. Be constructive, not destructive. Help.

Be pro-free-speech again. Allow internal divisions and dissent. A vital political party should have divisions and dissent.

Develop a new and modern Republican rationale—the reason regular people should be Republican again. Stop being just the We Hate Democrats Party. That’s not a belief, it’s a tic.

Stop being the party of snobs. Show love for your country and its people—all its people. Stop looking down on those who resist your teachings.

Stop the ideology. A lot of Republican Party movers and intellectuals have created or inherited a rightist ideology that they try to impose on life. It doesn’t spring from life; it’s forced on life, and upon people. Stop doing that—it’s what weirdos who are detached from reality do. Have a philosophy instead of an ideology, hold it high and dear, and attempt to apply it, not impose it.

Respect normal Americans again. We’re all touched by grace, we all deserve a voice, and you could learn a few things if you’d listen to those who’ve had to struggle through life.

You’re still one of our two great political parties. Show some class, the good kind.

This exercise was conceived and compiled by Michael D. Evans, who serves as the copyeditor for the Community Alliance newspaper.

México to Elect Its First Woman President

BY MIGUEL ÁNGEL BÁEZ

Officially, three candidates will appear on the June 2 ballot when Mexicans elect their next president. However, only two have a realistic chance of winning.

Claudia Sheinbaum, age 61, is from the National Regeneration Movement (Morena), the party of the current president, and Xóchitl Gálvez, also age 61, represents a conservative coalition made up of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, the National Action Party and the Democratic Revolution Party (PRI-PAN-PRD).

Before the first debate in mid-April, polling showed Sheinbaum, the leftist candidate, leading by a wide margin, as has been the trend since she announced her candidacy. Even polls published by conservative media outlets that have been systemic critics of the current administration showed similar results.

Gálvez and her campaign initially questioned some of those polls, arguing lack of credibility. However, even her own polling via social media showed her losing.

Beyond her proposals for the electorate, Gálvez carries a heavy burden: Behind her there are three political parties with a damaged reputation. Moreover, she has made a series of mistakes and contradictory statements during her campaign.

For her part, Sheinbaum has political credit from the high approval rating of current president Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s administration. She has been well-advised by her campaign team and has concentrated on minimizing mistakes, focusing on her proposals instead of responding to the constant attacks by her opponent. It is like a boxing match that she knows she has already won and is only making sure she does not get knocked out.

Xóchitl Gálvez

Former senator and businessperson Gálvez studied computer engineering at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She served as the general director of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples during the Vicente Fox administration in 2000. She was also a PAN candidate in the Mexico City elections in 2015. She won and served as the Miguel Hidalgo municipality mayor from 2015 to 2018.

She graduated from UNAM with a report based on her professional career instead of a thesis. She claims to have specialized in robotics, artificial intelligence, smart buildings, sustainability and energy saving.

However, her academic record is stained by accusations of plagiarism. The magazine *Etcétera* exposed complete paragraphs copied from other authors without corresponding citations and references, as well as methodological deficiencies.

Gálvez admitted having “engaged” in some irregularities and made her work available to the university so that it could determine whether there was plagiarism. UNAM only asked for clarification of the misquoted references and dismissed the alleged academic plagiarism.

Since Gálvez’s official campaign announcement, she has been trying to catch up with Sheinbaum. Thereafter, a series of statements and contradictions have affected her campaign negatively. For instance, she initially stated that the social programs to help older adults and student scholarships established in López Obrador’s administration should be temporary, not permanent.

These programs, as well as an increase in the minimum wage, have been key to decreasing extreme poverty in the country, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography.

Gálvez later declared that she did not say what she said. She also promised that she would maintain the social programs for older adults and the college scholarships established by López Obrador “because thanks to a scholarship I was able to get my college degree,” she said.

Since then, both she and the right-wing parties behind her have waved the flag of said social programs while campaigning, although historically they have opposed, voted against and spoken out publicly opposing them.

Although the former senator has said that she does not belong to any political party as she was elected to the Senate by proportional representation, she was part of the legislature as a member of the National Action Party.

Both the PAN and the PRI, and now the PRD, as well as their leaders, have a record of corruption scandals. The vast majority of voters do not want to know anything about the PRI, a party that governed Mexico continuously for more than 70 years and that after two six-year terms of PAN governments with Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón (2000–2012) returned with Enrique Peña Nieto in 2012, before López Obrador’s win in 2018.

The PRI and PAN administrations left a fed-up feeling among Mexicans, who do not seem to want to return to those times. The PRI-PAN-PRD coalition represents the elites and the neoliberalism that started during the early 1980s under Miguel de la Madrid and gained notoriety with Carlos Salinas de Gortari in 1988. They left behind a history of corruption, looting of the country, privatization, financial fraud and impunity, under the protection of successive PRI and PAN governments.



On June 2, Mexico will vote for its next president. In this image, a Mexican citizen casting his vote during the 2012 election. Photo courtesy of The Commons

In 2006, Calderón’s failed version of the war on drugs only stirred up the hornet’s nest. Gálvez’s main strategy has been attacking the current approach of the administration confronting social violence, insisting that she would return to Calderón’s policies, which experts say is the main cause of the country’s current violence.

Gálvez also has accusations of conflict of interest for granting permits as mayor to construction companies, which later awarded contracts to her private companies.

Claudia Sheinbaum

Morena’s candidate can boast an academic curriculum superior to that of Gálvez. Sheinbaum has a bachelor’s degree in physics, a master’s degree in energy engineering and a doctorate in environmental engineering, also from UNAM.

She has had an outstanding political career, in which she served in such positions as delegation chief of the Tlalpan borough, secretary of the environment of Mexico City in 2000 and the same position at the national level as a member of the president’s cabinet in 2012. She later ran and won the position of head of government of Mexico City.

Since her time as a student, Sheinbaum has been involved in social movements, and while at the College of Sciences and Humanities, she became involved in mobilizations for the rights of students who were rejected in their attempts to enter UNAM.

She has been a leftist activist since her youth, having been involved in founding the youth arm of the PRD, when the party was representative of the Mexican left.

Much of her professional life, in addition to activism and politics, has been in science and academia, with publications on energy, environment and sustainable development.

Although Sheinbaum has had her own successful political career, it is undeniable that the popularity of the current president has given her a push that seems to definitively indicate that she will become the first female president of Mexico.

She has not hesitated to declare that she will continue the so-called Cuarta Transformación, although with her own ideas. The idea of “the poor first,” social programs, free scientific and quality higher education, an increase in the minimum wage and a transition to renewable energies are some of her proposals. Renewable energy has also been part of Gálvez’s platform.

Sheinbaum’s critics hold her responsible for the collapse of Line 12 of the Mexico City Metro when she was head of government, which caused deaths due to poor maintenance.

Likewise, one of her great challenges is social violence—mostly associated with drug dealing—and she has proposed a strategy to address that.

First Female President

Although with opposite visions, the two candidates most likely to become the next president are women. In the case of Sheinbaum, she seeks to give continuity to the Cuarta Transformación project. On the other hand, Gálvez has declared herself a Trotskyist and indigenist but represents parties with opposite ideals—right wing, conservatism and neoliberalism—which Mexican voters decided to remove from power six years ago.

Most, if not all, of the polling indicates that the electorate will choose the progressive Sheinbaum as the next president of Mexico on June 2.

Miguel Ángel Báez is a Mexican-born journalist from the Central Valley. He graduated from CSU Bakersfield and was the editor of *Noticiero Semanal*, a weekly newspaper in Porterville.

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COP28 Outcomes

Continued from page 6

countries in meeting the Paris Climate Agreement goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F) above pre-industrial levels.

COP28 was historic in many ways as the participants reached a consensus to shift away from fossil fuels for the first time, and it increased funding for renewable energy sources. Moreover, financing for clean cooking rose. The final agreement recognized the need for more steps to protect the environment and ecosystems.

The inaugural five-year Global Stocktake was revealed at COP28. Its goal is to confirm whether the Paris Agreement's long-term goals are being met globally. In addition, it helps stakeholders understand the difference between what they ought to be doing and what they can accomplish.

The Loss and Damage Fund received \$725 million to start supporting the countries most affected by the climate crisis. Adaptation was also recognized in a redesigned Global Goal on Adaptation framework.

There was a lot of discussion on food, agriculture and climate change. In an indication of the need for global reform in our food system, 134 countries signed the Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action.

During COP28, the Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems report was released, providing an opportunity for early warning systems to be highlighted. It also examined the progress of the Early Warning for All initiative and showed that faster action is needed to accomplish its objectives.

During the main negotiations at COP28, the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) was a topic of intense discussion.

The VCM enables companies and organizations to take accountability for emissions they cannot prevent.

As per the agreements made at COP28, all stakeholders, including governments, corporations, organizations and individuals from across the globe, are advised to head back home and start formulating plans to decrease their dependency on fossil fuels. It was decided that this must happen "for real" fairly and justly soon.

With the approval of a new climate finance goal, the New Collective Qualitative Goal, the COP28 conclusion resolved most financial difficulties. This new objective will replace developed countries' 2009 commitment to give developing countries \$100 billion in climate funding annually.

Instead of working through potential solutions for components like its timeline, transparency procedures, sources and structure, the negotiators in Dubai provided further clarification on the procedure for establishing a new objective.

Also, the Declaration for Education and Climate Change, which is being led by the global initiative Greening Education Partnership of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, reiterates the significance of improving "climate change education to support transitions to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies and societies."

The Declaration seeks to further global efforts to build climate-smart education systems through the four pillars of action of the Greening Education Partnership (Greening schools, Greening curriculum, Greening teacher training and education system capacity, and Greening communities) and involves pledges to

- Emphasize the role of education in supporting all learners in developing adequate knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to adapt to new climate realities and create innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

- Develop comprehensive education sector strategies to build climate-smart and resilient education systems.

Conclusion

The world came together for the first time to formally agree to switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources quickly, while agricultural systems received unprecedented attention in the fight against climate change. The focus now shifts to the following crucial duties: translating the objectives from COP28 into national action and ensuring the funding is available to carry them out. We cannot afford to undervalue the countries and populations most vulnerable to climate change.

As the history of the environmental movement demonstrates, it has been incredibly challenging to even get to a global consensus on the need to stop burning fossil fuels. However, the moment has come to put this consciousness into action.

We sincerely hope the international community will deliver on the funding, cooperation, political will and education required to quickly bring about these constructive reforms.

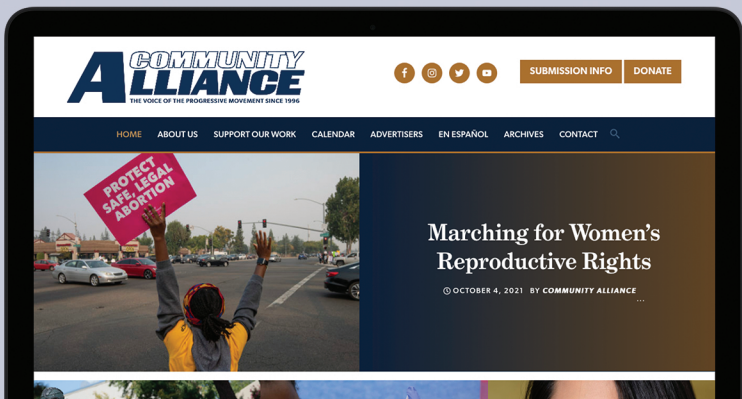
This agreement to phase out fossil fuels from energy systems is a historic accomplishment. However, new technology, capital, power and business interests are needed to accomplish an energy transition.

Dr. Debay Tadesse graduated with a B.A. in world history from Georgia State University in Atlanta and with an M.A. in African history and a Ph.D. in African studies with a focus on public policy and development from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He is currently a lecturer at Fresno City College and Fresno State.

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SIERRA CLUB TEHIPITE CHAPTER

Environmental Justice in the San Joaquin Valley:

What has happened and what Sierra Club members can do

Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/tehipite> to pre register for this talk. The Zoom link will be sent on the day of the presentation. This presentation is free and open to the public.

While California is a vibrant state, nearly four million residents living in the San Joaquin Valley continue to be disproportionately exposed to multiple hazardous contaminants, including unsafe drinking water, pesticide exposure and air pollution. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic, rampant wildfires, and historic flooding further compound inequalities and disproportionately impact frontline and marginalized communities. You will learn how CCEJN has been combating environmental injustice and promoting climate resilience.

Nayamin Martinez is the director of the Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN). Ms. Martinez has vast experience working with immigrants and residents of disadvantaged communities across the San Joaquin Valley managing public health programs; conducting participatory research and launching leadership and civic engagement programs. Ms. Martinez holds a Master's Degree in both Public Health and Sociology.





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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

WE GATHERED
FOR WORLD
WATER DAY

World Water Day was March 22. This year’s UN theme was Water for Peace. WILPF Fresno joyfully celebrated this day at the river, as it has done in past years. We chose to celebrate World Water Day on Saturday, March 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. so that more people could attend. We met along the San Joaquin River at the River Parkway’s Sumner Peck Ranch on Friant Road. It was peaceful and beautiful!

First, participants were invited to go on a silent walk by the river for 15 minutes. Upon their return, they were asked to write a word or draw a picture on our mural board that would best describe their total river experience. We then gathered around the picnic tables and heard from people representing various environmental organizations speak of water’s importance. These speakers were as follows:

- Sarah Parks, representing the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust
- Ron Martin, representing the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club and Fresnans Against Fracking
- Evalee Swint, age 6, speaking for WILPF’s Earth Democracy Issues Group
- Anita Lodge, speaking for Friends of the San Joaquin River Gorge
- Katie Kalkhof, Outreach Chair of the Fresno Audubon Society
- Richard Iyall, Cowlitz Tribal Elder, speaking of water from an Indigenous perspective
- Sandra Iyall, Cowlitz Tribal Elder and WILPF Fresno’s keeper of our Facebook page. Sandra read from a winner of WILPF’s Jane Addams Children’s Book Awards, which happens every year. The title of the book: *Water Protectors!*

Kyla Mitchell, co-chair of WILPF Fresno’s Earth Democracy group, kept things running smoothly, serving as MC. She was assisted by Jean Hays, ED’s co-chair.

We hope to heighten awareness of the importance of and care for water! Did you know that

- Nearly 97% of the world’s water is salty or otherwise undrinkable? Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for all of humanity’s needs—agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community and personal.
- A person can live about a month without food but only about a week without water?
- Water is part of a deeply interconnected system? What we pour on the ground ends up in our water, and what we spew into the sky ends up in our water. Think about that the next time you take a sip of this most-precious liquid! Let’s honor and protect it so that it is safe to drink! See you next year on World Water Day, March 22.

—Earth Democracy Committee Co-Chairs Jean Hays & Kyla Mitchell

HELP US CELEBRATE
AT EARTH DAY
FRESNO’S NEW DATE

May 4, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Fresno City College.
Visit our booth to clean the ocean of pollutants and plastics.

WILPF MEETING

May 9 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., online. Check with Teresa as to whether the meeting will be in-person at FCNV. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number! For info, contact Teresa at taca_03@ymail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

STIR IT UP–WILPF
KFCF 88.1 FM

May 22 (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 or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

May 1 (first Wednesday), noon, Courthouse. May Day! Check first with Sue Kern at

skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777.

Help us find you!

Are you getting our announcements of meetings and events? Our contact list is sometimes badly out of date. Let us know your current info. Send an e-mail message to Teresa Castillo at taca_03@ymail.com or text 559-360-8054.

WHEN I JOINED...

How many millions have said those infamous three words followed with, “I had no idea what I was getting myself into?” And specifically about the military? Aaron Bushnell certainly didn’t know, and the same is true for Larry Hebert. Aaron was on active duty at the time of his self-immolation on Feb. 26, 2024, in front of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. Larry, on leave from active duty when he began his hunger strike on April 1, 2024, in front of the White House, was inspired by the actions of his comrade Aaron.

The pressing question for me is how many millions of Americans know about either man or both? Or about the Portland, Ore., veteran protesters who lit their military uniforms on fire on Feb. 28, 2024, in solidarity with Aaron? If I were to survey my neighbors on both sides of the street from one end to the other, my guess is that I could count on one hand the number of folks who know about Aaron, Larry or the Oregon protesters.

Today, April 12, 2024, marks 188 days since the Oct. 7 attack we all know about, but shouldn’t we also know about the people serving in the U.S. military who put their lives on the line so ours remain free? Not knowing about Aaron, Larry and the Oregon protesters keeps the dark and heavy veil of ignorance over our eyes.

Larry said it best when interviewed by Jim Wuhglemuth and Harvey Bennett, “I was completely in the dark about the extent and willingness to harm civilians. I thought

we were primarily just targeting military infrastructure.”

That is what I don’t want for anyone, to be in the dark about the extent and willingness of our government harming civilians, and so the stories of these soldiers like Aaron, Larry and the Oregon veteran protesters need to be made known and remembered because, as Larry so poignantly said in his interview with Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez, “It’s just completely wrong and immoral for civilians to be starved and bombed and targeted in any manner.”

—Carol Goiburn,
Disarm Committee
Chair



Senior Airman Larry Hebert is going on a hunger strike while on leave from his duty station to protest the violence in Gaza. Photo provided by Larry Hebert

MALCOLM X, CUBA AND PALESTINE

Join us! We will gather again at Free AME Church, 806 Collins Ave., to honor and discuss Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz and his unique connections to Cuba and Palestine. Watch e-mails and social media for details about this year’s Malcolm X birthday celebration in mid-May. For info, contact Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

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

JAPANESE INCARCERATION

Manzanar: Living History and Remembering the Past

BY VIC BEDOIAN

"We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II."

—President George H.W. Bush, in a letter of apology to former internees, 1990

Manzanar National Historic Site is many things: museum, history archive, archeology site, learning center and living community resource. A lot goes on there.

Visitors can learn firsthand about the experiences of Japanese Americans who lived in this concentration camp. Or learn the history of the Owens Valley Paiute and the ranchers and farmers at Manzanar in the time before World War II.

Historic Site workers take care of the site's historic orchards and excavate and preserve camp gardens. Every year, hundreds of schoolchildren and nearly 100,000 visitors come through. Volunteers participate in landscaping projects, archival projects and serving visitors.

Before it was a national historic site, Manzanar was already a legend. As the nation's first War Relocation Center to open in the wake of Executive Order 9066, it was a city with a peak population of 10,046 Japanese Americans.

A one-square-mile city with a barbed wire border and watchtowers, it lay in the shadow of Mount Whitney amid the stark beauty of the Owens Valley at the junction of the high desert and high Sierra. It was hot in summer, cold in winter and windy much of the time.

People who left there after it closed on Nov. 21, 1945, carried little but their memories and some of the artifacts they had created. Those recollections have been transformed over time into dozens of books featuring memoirs, history, novels, murder mysteries, even graphic novels.

Famous photographers such as Ansel Adams and Dorothea Lange documented life at Manzanar during the war years and published what they saw. Commercial photographer Toyo Miyatake smuggled in a makeshift camera disguised as a lunchbox when he was interned and took photos of what existence was like on the inside.

In establishing the Manzanar National Historic Site, the U.S. government solidified the legend. It came about as a consequence of social justice movements in the late 1960s and a remarkable individual.

Sue Kunitomi Embrey came to Manzanar in May 1942 as a 19-year-old and worked as a teacher's aide. She later became a reporter and managing editor for the *Manzanar Free Press*.

Years later, she helped organize the Manzanar Pilgrimage and in December 1969 a group of 150 people made the first trip to the remains of the concentration camp. She led the pilgrimage for 37 years and accomplished an even loftier goal of official recognition for Manzanar as an important touchstone in American history.

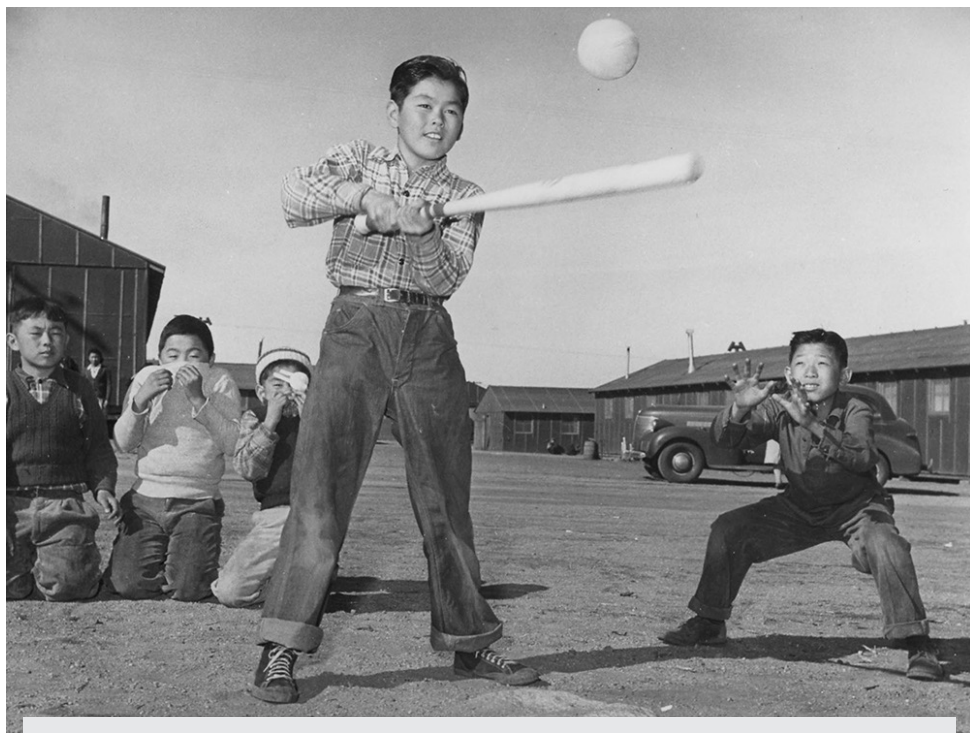
Sarah Bone, a Manzanar interpretive National Park Ranger, shares the history and special features of this unique place. Noting the pilgrimage is now in its 55th year, she says those events were vital to creating the national historic designation.

"There are a lot of different layers," says Bone, "but I'd say the most important acknowledgement we need to give is to Sue Kunitomi Embry and the Manzanar Committee. The committee has been coming since 1969, and they started coming to acknowledge the history here, but also in the context of what was happening in 1969."

Energized by the social justice consciousness of the era, the Manzanar Committee wanted to turn the War Relocation Center into a platform for public education. Embrey worked to preserve Manzanar to raise awareness.

"If more people knew that places like Manzanar existed, more people would be aware and maybe would speak out," says Bone. "So, she [Embry] has an education background and an activism background, and she started first in the early 1970s with trying to get the state to acknowledge this as a historic landmark."

In 1972, Manzanar was recognized as a California Historic Landmark and the state placed a landmark plaque on Highway 395, after a successful lobbying effort by the Manzanar



Sixth-grade boys enjoy a game of softball at recess time. Note the boys in the rear who mistrust control of the "speed ball" pitcher. Photo courtesy of the Francis Stewart Gallery/NPS

Committee. Then, after pushing hard on the federal government, the national historic site was designated by Congress on March 3, 1992.

From the National Park Service (NPS) perspective, the site had advantages because the land was intact and belonged to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, making it easily obtainable. And the proximity to Los Angeles, just a few hours drive away, made it accessible to a large population. Ninety percent of Manzanar prisoners were from there.

The work of the Manzanar Committee and other Japanese Americans was just beginning. Developing the historic site became a labor of love over the decades as former internees, as well as other Japanese Americans, volunteered to create the national treasure one visits today.

Before there was a Manzanar, the landscape was home to the Owens Valley Paiute people exclusively. That changed in the 19th century with the coming of pioneer European Americans who took the land as their own for ranching and farming.

By the early 20th century, a Southern California agricultural developer named George Chaffey had built an irrigation system and established a small farming oasis with 480 acres of apple orchards, along with additional parcels of peaches, pears, plums and grapes. Soon, a few dozen families moved in and created the small community of Manzanar, the Spanish word for apple orchard.

By the mid-1930s, as rapidly growing Los Angeles drained an increasing amount of water from the Owens Valley through its aqueduct, farming declined and the people moved away.

In the aftermath of the war, the concentration camp was deconstructed except for one building. "We were very lucky that the building that became our visitor center was still here," says Bone. "It's an original building. It was built and completed in 1944."

"The people that built it were incarcerated here. And it was built as the auditorium for Manzanar high schools, so [it was] where they would have plays and dances, but also as the largest building in the community of Manzanar, things like funerals and other events would happen here."

That remaining building was renovated by the park service to become the visitor center and museum that opened in 2004. Next, the NPS had to consider the options and decide on a plan for the site.

It settled on constructing a small demonstration block within the larger camp that included barracks where families had lived, a mess hall and large communal latrine. There were 36 such blocks in the original camp.

The aim, according to Bone, was to give visitors a small taste of what it must have been like to live there. "We built reconstructions of two barracks and a latrine there so that people could kind of see the conditions that people were living in."

"And they think about day-to-day life; these are human stories, and so us as humans visiting it are most likely to make those connections if we kind of think about it that way."

Manzanar is an active archeology research field where people can volunteer to help. "Our cultural resources manager has established a pretty long-running community archeology program," says Bone.

"And so he has weekends and weeks, spring break time or holidays, when people can come up and volunteer their time and give us a lot of help to uncover gardens and to reconstruct pieces of Manzanar in our landscape."

"They get to reconnect with this story or connect with this story for the first time in a way that the average visitor does not get to do."

History is alive in Manzanar. Not just events writ large but also the stories of individual people that Bone says illuminate what really happened. "We have an oral history program here where we have over 700 interviews, and every single person is different."

"We might even interview siblings that literally went through the same thing, but they have very different ways of looking at it and feeling about it, and things that impacted them. So, there were over 10,000 people here at Manzanar at its peak, and that's 10,000 different stories."

Many visitors to Manzanar are, of course, Japanese Americans, including those who had been interned there and their families. It's a special experience for the rangers, and it underscores the value of oral histories.

"I think that's one reason these personal stories are so important," says Bone. "It's reminding the person that we're interviewing or that we're talking to, or that we're learning from, how important their life is because if nothing else they were not made to feel important during the war."

"But it's also reminding all of us that we're all human beings and we all have ways that we will react to this and things that we will do that's very different."

Their goal, Bone emphasizes, is truthfulness, "We don't need to filter it. We want the people here to be making those connections directly to people that were incarcerated."

Manzanar is a place that should be seen to be fully appreciated, "I remind visitors that when they're walking, they're experiencing it in the same way that people incarcerated here were experiencing it," said Bone.

"They were walking everywhere they were going, and you're doing so in the weather, no matter what the weather is. So, it's a very experiential experience here."



A third-grade student at the Manzanar Relocation Center for evacuees of Japanese ancestry practices free-hand drawing. This photo was taken in the student training center where student teachers were given college credit for their practice teaching. Kiyoko Fukasawa is the student teacher and is supervised by a Caucasian teacher, as were all the student teachers.

Photo courtesy of the Francis Stewart Gallery/NPS



Preparing baby formula. Special food formulae were prepared for babies at the Manzanar reception center for evacuees of Japanese ancestry. Photo courtesy of the Clem Albers Gallery/NPS

“And you can look down and see pieces and parts of Manzanar everywhere. You’ll see the foundations of some of the buildings. You’ll see the gardens, but you’ll also see nails and marbles and the ends of tin cans that people used to plug the knot holes so that the wind wouldn’t blow into their barrack building. And that’s everywhere, literally everywhere.”

For those who cannot make the trip to Manzanar, there is a Virtual Museum online that is designed to bring exhibits and archives to a wider public to explore. Through photos, prose and oral history, the Virtual Museum takes one on a journey around Manzanar and its history in a dynamic format.

You can learn about local history before the war, the racism and exclusion that sent people here and camp life including the rich archive of art and artifacts people made. There is a lot to learn and a lot to feed the soul.

An important part of being a ranger at Manzanar is to help people connect with family and history. Bone reports that many Japanese Americans and some Japanese nationals come, “some of them have connections to the incarceration. Some of them were incarcerated themselves.

“And as there was such diversity in the people incarcerated, there’s certainly diversity in the families of those that were incarcerated. Some will come many generations later with very little knowledge of what their family went through because it was not talked about openly; it was kind of too big of a scar to open with the family.

“And so we do our best to help, help make the connections back to those generations.”

Linking the past to the present day is another prominent goal at Manzanar, “A lot of the organizations like the Manzanar Committee that helped create Manzanar are looking at the things happening today and making those connections. When these exhibits were built and we opened our visitor center in 2004, we were making the connections to 9/11.”

Manzanar National Historic Site is more than a window into the past. Bone emphasizes why it is important in our time. “It’s such a human story, and we all connect to it from our own perspective. But from the bigger perspective, and I hope as a park ranger here that, it’s important today because it’s such a relevant topic.

“Yes, this happened 80 years ago, but racism and othering and things like that are a constant thing that we think about and learn about and deal with every day in our lives. We might be talking about different groups of people in different circumstances, but the pattern is very clear.

“And so, we have visitors that walk in the door and go into the exhibits and come out and tell us stories about their own personal lives that are brought up by their experience here at Manzanar.”

Reflecting back on the original motivation of Sue Kunitomi Embrey to create Manzanar as an institution for advancing civil rights, Interpretive Ranger Bone looks to the future. “I still hope that we are taking the important lessons that human beings had to endure here. Taking from those experiences, we move on into the world and we are speaking up for ourselves and for our neighbors.

“We can learn from this very human experience what it might be like to be othered and to be incarcerated because of your race. So, it’s a relevant story that I hope we can all learn from whatever that may be for us as individuals.

“We may be drawn to different things because of who we are, but we remember Manzanar as a lesson for us as human beings.”

Vic Bedoian is the Central Valley correspondent for KPFA News and a Community Alliance reporter specializing in natural history and environmental justice issues.

Japanese Incarceration Panel Brings History to Young People

BY EDUARDO STANLEY

On April 24, about 90 people filled the Forum Hall Auditorium at Fresno City College to listen to Dale Ikeda and Marion Masada talk about the Japanese incarceration during World War II.

From 1942 to 1945, more than 120,000 people of Japanese origin were placed in concentration camps distributed in several U.S. states. “Seventy percent of them were U.S. citizens,” said Dale Ikeda, a retired judge whose parents were incarcerated.



Marion Masada, who was incarcerated when she was nine years old, during her presentation at the Japanese Incarceration Panel. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

The attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, by Japan helped to generate public suspicion of local Japanese collaboration with the attackers. However, there was never any proof of such suspicions.

On Feb. 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, giving the military the authority it needed to remove individuals of Japanese descent from the Pacific Coast and to place them in concentration camps.

“Many Japanese people don’t like to talk about this experience; they feel ashamed for being incarcerated,” said Ikeda.

“Now there is a concern about immigrants. There is a political candidate that promises to round up many of them in concentration camps.” He called on young people to be alert and aware of these threats.

Although Pearl Harbor created the “atmosphere” for the incarceration of the Japanese, Americans had previously targeted Asian immigrants. In 1882, the United States passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, prohibiting Chinese from entering the country.

Even before the signing of Executive Order 9066, several measures were imposed to limit the movement of the Japanese, such as a curfew (they couldn’t circulate between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.) and a restriction on traveling further than five miles. Then came the arrest of Japanese local leaders until they all were incarcerated.

Some Japanese descendants wanted to enlist in the military but were first rejected. Later, they were accepted.

“The Japanese culture is very strict, there are several rules, like you can’t bring shame to your family or your society; if you do good, don’t brag about it; let the children be children,” explains Masada, who was herself incarcerated.

It’s not difficult to understand to what extent this community felt ashamed and traumatized because of the incarceration experience. Upon arrival at the camps, they were given a number, taking away their names.

“They destroyed our families’ structure; my father wasn’t the leader anymore,” said Masada. “I helped my parents, my family, so I didn’t have time to play. I didn’t have a childhood.”

But young Masada found joy in books. “I read a lot!”



Former judge Dale Ikeda (left) and Marion Masada during the Q&A session after their presentation at the Japanese Incarceration Panel that took place on April 24. Photo by Mike Rhodes

She went to explain how traumatizing was the lack of privacy, particularly in the bathroom. “I started taking a shower late at night, but others thought the same!” she said, laughing.

After the war was over, the Japanese were allowed to return home, only to find that many of them had lost their properties and businesses. The Masada family couldn’t even get a place to rent.

“I lost my self-confidence. I thought that being Japanese was something bad...I overcame all this by telling my story. Now I can talk about this experience.”

The audience felt moved by the presentations of Ikeda and Masada and gave them a big, warm applause.

The Japanese Incarceration Panel was organized by the San Joaquin Media Alliance, the *Community Alliance* newspaper, the Pan Valley Institute of the American Friends Service Committee and Fresno City College.

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

U.S. Open Cup Eludes Central Valley Fuego

BY ANGEL MORENO

(Editor’s note: This article is reprinted courtesy of the National Premier Soccer League [NPSL].)

El Farolito beat Central Valley Fuego FC 2-1 in the U.S. Open Cup’s Second Round at UC Merced’s Bobcat Field.

It was a poetic series of events in Central California; the final shades of purple and orange skies faded into black and a beacon of light emerged to keep El Farolito’s dream alive of lifting another Open Cup trophy.

Trailing by one in the waning minutes of first-half stoppage time, El Farolito equalized as forward Dembor Benson poked in a goal with his right foot to send the club into the locker room with its confidence regained.

What unfolded over the next 45 minutes was a showing of ambition, determination and heart that pushed El Farolito into the third of the U.S. Open Cup for the first time in the tournament’s modern era (since 1995). El Farolito won the tournament in 1993 under the name Club Deportivo Mexico.

Benson scored the game winner at the 88th minute, delivering a left-footed shot across the keeper that hit off the right post and into the goal for the lead. Jhoan Yabur provided the assist.

It was Benson’s third goal in two Open Cup games. He also scored the eventual game-winner in El Farolito’s win over Portland Timbers 2.

“To be honest, I have no words to explain the feelings at this moment,” Benson said after the game. “We knew coming into tonight that we were the underdog, that Fuego were favored to win, but this team never quits. We don’t back down to anybody and we have a great team.”

Midfielder Erik Arias agrees and believes it is the values that make this club so

talented. Arias provided the assist on Benson’s first goal, heading the ball over two Fuego defenders and landing right at Benson’s feet.

“The work we accomplished today is years in the making,” Arias said. “We have many of the same players, same coaches, same game plan, with a dream to always compete in the Open Cup.

“We’ve always been out in the first round, and well with the glory of God, this year we did our job of what the coaching staff has implemented. And more than that, this isn’t just a club, we’re a big family.

“We continue humbly with our feet on the ground that we are here to do beautiful things, and only God knows what that is.

Continues on page 16

National Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

BY NATALIE DEANDA

On May 2, the City of Fresno will present a proclamation addressing the historical and ongoing epidemic of violence perpetrated against Indigenous people. This proclamation is a resolution recognizing May 5 as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR).

The city of Fresno occupies the traditional territories of the Yokut people, who stewarded these lands since time immemorial.

Across Native American life ways, there is a deep understanding of the sacredness of life. This understanding transfers through the stewardship of the land and the respect that is displayed among the community, particularly to life-givers.

The Indigenous peoples of California have experienced three waves of colonization: the Spanish missionization, the California Gold Rush and the implementation of California statehood. Each wave used violence as a tool to commit genocide against the Indigenous people, the consequence of which has resulted in the epidemic of the MMIWR.

A 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) suggests that 84.3% of American Indian/Alaskan Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, an estimated 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women. In addition, Indigenous women experience murder rates as high as 10 times the national average.

The same study indicated that an estimated 81% of American Indian/Alaskan Native men have experienced violence. 2Spirit relatives (LGBTQ2S+) experience violence at a rate as high as 85%.

While these statistics indicate alarmingly high rates of violence experienced by Indigenous women and relatives, many such incidences of violence and cases of MMIWR are severely underreported and do not reflect the extent of the ongoing epidemic.

May 5 is used nationally for the MMIWR in honor of an Indigenous woman named Hanna Harris, who was a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Born May 5, 1992, Harris went missing in Lame Deer, Mont., on July 4, 2013, at the age of 21 and was found murdered on July 8, 2013.

On May 5, 2022, Harris’s 30th birthday, President Biden proclaimed May 5 the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

While Harris’s story has impacted the visibility of the MMIWR movement, her story is one of many heartbreaking stories that involve inadequate response and handling by law

enforcement agencies and the disregard for Indigenous life. Based on accounts of the MMIWR locally, we find the narrative of inadequate responses by local law enforcement agencies to be consistent.

Bessie Walker was a 27-year-old Native American woman who lived on the Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians. To those who knew and loved her, she was described as a beautiful person: kind, loving, someone who children gravitated toward and found comfort in.

Walker was able to connect with others due to her non-judgmental nature and background of overcoming adversity. She was a great mother and cherished relative who would do anything for her family.

Walker was last seen on Aug. 4, 2021, in Auberry on the Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians and reported missing on Aug. 8, 2021. Her family made pleas to local law enforcement agencies to adequately search for the whereabouts of Walker but received little support from the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office.

On Aug. 21, 2021, a search party organized by Walker’s family and friends found the body of a woman who they believed to be Walker, and that fear would later be confirmed. Despite the determination of Walker’s death being ruled a murder, there was still a lack of urgency on behalf of the Sheriff’s Office to investigate and close the case.

Three years later, Walker’s case remains open, leaving her family and friends with no justice and no response from the county Sheriff’s Office when asking for updates. Rayetta, the sister of Bessie Walker, stated, “We just want answers.”

Undoubtedly, Native American peoples experience profound amounts of violence compared to their non-native counterparts. It is important that as a community we continue to fight for justice for the families of the MMIWR while simultaneously demanding that law enforcement and government agencies do their due diligence in acknowledging the ongoing epidemic and be a part of the change in ending violence against Indigenous people in a movement led by and for Indigenous peoples.

Nationally, there have been historic achievements in policy to support the MMIWR movement, including the Not Invisible Act (2019), Savanna’s Act (2020) and the BADGES Act (2022).

In Fresno County, the campaign to vote “No” on Measure B in the March 2024 Primary led to the successful and indefinite removal of a derogatory word rooted in the dehumanization of American Indian women.

This triumph in replacing terms rooted in hate with names that show honor to the Indigenous peoples of the land aids in the journey of rehumanizing American Indian peoples, leading the way to ending violence against Indigenous women.

For more information and resources on the MMIWR, visit niwrc.org, in addition to supporting national and local action in your community.

Natalie Deanda is a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and works for the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center. She is also part of a local Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) coalition.

Human Rights Violations in Palestine

BY STAN SANTOS

Raza Against War (RAW) has launched a campaign in Fresno to seek application of the Leahy Law to suspected human rights violations in Palestine. The dual focus of this campaign are Rep. Jim Costa (D–Fresno) and Senator Alex Padilla (D–Calif.), who should be brought to task over the question, “Why is the Leahy Law not being applied to arms and aid to Israeli military units that are suspected of violations of human rights in Palestine?”

This campaign has gathered steam with vigils and banner on the corner of Tulare and O streets near the offices of the Costa and Padilla every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

According to a statement released by RAW regarding the Leahy Law:

We ask for a Ceasefire in Gaza and application of the Leahy Law to determine if arms and military assistance to Israel should be halted.

The Leahy Amendment calls for the prohibition of funds for security forces where there is credible information of gross violations of human rights. They include but are not limited to torture, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearance.

We thank Congressman Jim Costa for his statement (4/6/24) regarding the violence in Gaza, “For months, many of us have called for a ceasefire and the return of all the hostages. This week, we saw the horrific attacks against aid workers of the World Central Kitchen, who lost their lives, and I mourn their loss. The status quo must change.”

We ask for an even stronger response from Senator Alex Padilla, who has not issued any public statements regarding the tragic developments in Gaza since his October 10, 2023, expression of “unequivocal support for aid and armaments for Israel.

Who is Raza Against War? Raza Against War began in 2004 in response to the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan.

One major action of RAW was the “March for Peace and for the Children/Marcha Por la Paz y Por Los Niños” on Aug. 28, 2004. The action took place on that date to commemorate the Aug. 29, 1970, Chicano Moratorium, when approximately 30,000 protestors marched in Los Angeles, resulting in a police riot, massive arrests and several deaths.

In 2006, RAW organized the “March for Peace/Marcha Por La Paz” with Fernando Suarez del Solar, whose son, Jesus Suarez, was the first “Green Card” soldier to be killed in the opening days of the invasion of Afghanistan.

Jesus was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States with his father; he wanted to join the army to fulfill his dream of becoming a law enforcement officer in the war on drugs. Sadly, Fernando later learned from members of his son’s squad that Jesus died as a result of unexploded ordnance from a U.S. cluster bomb.

According to the Costs of War project at Brown University, the 20-year “war on terror” has consumed an estimated \$8 trillion of the U.S. economy and killed more than 900,000 people in the region. Researchers note the estimate does not include “the many indirect deaths the war on terror has caused by way of disease, displacement and loss of access to food or clean drinking water.”

The losses to the U.S. military include about 6,800 deaths and more than 52,000 wounded. The costs will continue to multiply due to ongoing disability payments and Veterans Administration medical and rehabilitation service to the survivors.

RAW notes that in past wars, such as Vietnam, Latinos have been disproportionately represented in casualties and deaths. Currently, the Veterans Administration predicts that Latinos, African Americans and other minorities will make up a larger proportion of the U.S. military as the number of white soldiers decreases.

In 2021, 13 U.S. service members were killed in a bombing during the withdrawal from Afghanistan. In October 2023, the Pentagon announced that 21 U.S. service members had

been injured in drone and rocket attacks in Iraq and Syria, many reporting “traumatic brain injuries.”

In January 2024, three U.S. soldiers were killed and 34 were wounded in an attack on an isolated military base in Jordan. Again, the number of injured is expected to increase due to traumatic brain injuries.

The tragedy in Palestine is creating a cauldron of discontent that could cause an outbreak of violence far worse than the 20-year war on terror. This would be a war fought in dark alleys, squalid refugee settlements and military installations, where U.S. service members would be subjected to all sorts of violent deaths and life-altering injuries.

The weapons would include drones, missiles and bombs that the United States and its allies previously used in war. And they could find their way to our homeland.

Would application of the Leahy Law make a difference? It is clear that the Biden administration and Congress will continue to pass spending bills and extralegal measures to supply the aggression.

However, there has been a development regarding sanctions on settlers who have been violently attacking and displacing Palestinians from their land in the West Bank. But this narrow focus raises a question: could the settlers’ actions be subject to sanctions but not the Israeli Defense Forces, which are committing massive bombings and attacks that inflict much greater human suffering?

Meanwhile, progressive movements ask if it would make any difference whether it’s a Trump or Biden administration under Democratic or Republican representative majorities. Either way, the fight will continue; the difference will be negotiating with an administration that might be subject to incremental influence from the left and one that supported the Abraham Accords, which supports complete annexation; moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem; and sees the homelands of the Palestinian people as “Gaza’s waterfront property...[which] could be very valuable.”

Unless the number of activists for peace and engaged communities reach a critical mass, the United States will certainly be drawn into a regional conflict and again find itself on the wrong side of history in a war without end.

As the vigil ended on April 17, a young man stepped forward and said he was from About Face, a veterans’ organization active in the Bay Area and other communities. He is setting up shop in Fresno and seemed apologetic for not having been to previous actions.

“We’re actually been slammed with membership requests since Oct. 7 and Aaron Bushnell’s sacrifice,” he said. This caused the organizers to express their hope that perhaps this time history will tell a different story.

Stan Santos is an activist in the immigrant and labor community. Contact him at comworkeradvocate@gmail.com.



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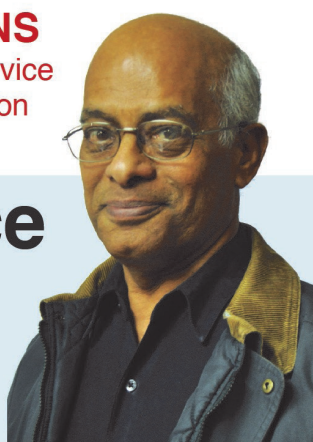
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U.S. Open Cup Eludes Central Valley Fuego

Continues from page 13



Fuego FC's Raul Velador Mendiola mixes it up with Farolito's Heriberto Soto as two of Soto's teammates look on. Photo by Peter Maiden

"We will continue to prepare ourselves for the next round. And also to continue in the NPSL to qualify for the Cup next year."

About 100 or so fans, most family members, made the drive from San Francisco to support El Farolito.

"We're a very united group," said head coach Santiago Lopez. "We know very clearly what we have to contribute as individuals, and we always have our family in mind. And we do it with a lot of love. A lot of love."

"We're grateful to God, and the opportunity to represent the city of San Francisco, and above all the community of El Farolito. It's not just a bar or restaurant—it's all the people that work day in and day out in the restaurants. All the owners, the supporters, workers. It is thanks to them that we are here."

El Faro is Spanish for lighthouse. Lighthouses, or Faros, symbolize stability and direction—something El Farolito holds true to its heart.

"We work on this mindset in every practice," Benson said. "We create these scenarios where we are down one with 10 minutes to go, and we repeatedly tell ourselves, 'We're going to turn around, we're going to turn it around. Time is running out, we have to push now.'"

"With God's help and the strength of my teammates, we never lost that ambition. To go up and take the result was a real triumph."

Angel Moreno is a writer for NPSL.com.

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Peace & Social Justice Calendar

May 2024

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WEEKLY
Protest for Palestine Saturdays, 4 p.m.–6 p.m. N. Blackstone and E. Nees Avenues. Hosted by the Palestine Liberation Group. Limited number of signs, bring yours, hold theirs or help hold one of the large banners. For more info, contact camille.russell@peacefresno.org.

Stand Up, Speak Up, Spread the Truth Sundays, 3 p.m.–5 p.m. Mooney and Walnut Avenues, Visalia. Free Palestine. Let Gaza Live! Cease Fire Now.

WED 01 **Fresno May 1st Coalition March and Citizenship Fair** 3 p.m.: citizenship fair, 3 p.m.–6 p.m.: entertainment, 5 p.m.: march. Eaton Plaza, 2400 Fresno St. “We March, We Vote, We Win!” For more info, contact 559-776-6642 or coalition1erodemayofresno@gmail.com.

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!* 3 p.m. *Community Alliance* radio show hosted by Daren Miller. For more info, visit kcf.org.

Getting Started with CMAC 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m. 1555 Van Ness Ave., Suite 201. Learn how the Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC) can help you tell the stories that are important to you and your community. Free and open to all. For more info, visit cmac.tv/workshops.

THU 02 **ArtHop Downtown/Tower District** 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit [FACarthop](https://www.facebook.com/FACarthop) on Facebook.

Public Hearing: City of Fresno 5 p.m. Council Chambers, Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno St. Proposed changes to the schedule of rates for residential solid waste services. Provide your input on the proposed rate increase. For more info, visit fresno.gov/prop218/.

FRI 03 **CineCulture: *Nowhere Special*** 5:30 p.m. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: Dr. Ed EmanuEl. John, a 35-year-old window cleaner, has dedicated his life to bringing up his four-year-old son, Michael, after the child’s mother left them soon after giving birth. When John is given only a few months left to live, he attempts to find a new, perfect family for Michael, determined to shield him from the terrible reality of the situation. How can he judge a family from a brief encounter? And does he know his own child well enough to make this choice for him? Sponsor: French Program of the Department of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures. For more info, contact mhusain@csufresno.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

SAT 04 **Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or claval@comcast.net.

Earth Day Fresno 10 a.m.–4 p.m. West Lawn, Fresno City College. (Rescheduled from April 13) Electric vehicle test ride and drive, educational exhibits, bike clinic, kids’ activities, food trucks, handmade items for sale and more. Nonprofit organizations, government agencies and local businesses provide information, goods and services related to sustainable living and environmental stewardship. Sponsors: Environmental Collaborative of Central California, Central Valley Young Environmental Advocates and Fresno City College Math, Science and Engineering Division. For more info, visit ecocencal.org/earth-day-fresno-2/.

MON 06 **Democratic Women in Action** 6 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. Speaker: Jason Carns. Topic: Election Update. For more info, contact 559-325-0540.

Biometric Surveillance, Immigration and Labor Virtual Symposium 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Featuring national and regional experts, this virtual symposium will provide public education on how biometric surveillance technologies—such as facial recognition, fingerprints, and more—are being used in spaces such as interior immigration enforcement and workplaces where low-wage, immigrant workers are employed. The goal of this symposium is to raise awareness and inform policy conversations about the ethics and equity issues behind biometric governance. Sponsor: UC Merced Community and Labor Center. For more info, contact mwannatta@ucmerced.edu.

TUE 07 **National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC)** 5:30 p.m. Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or joanne@pyyoga.com.

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Nuestro Foro* 7 p.m. Radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kcf.org.

WED 08 **KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!*** 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show hosted by Josh Shurley. For more info, visit kcf.org.

CMAC Workshop: Planning Your Media Project 6 p.m.–8 p.m. 1555 Van Ness Ave., Suite 201. This pre-production

workshop will teach you how to get a project started at the Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC) and how to develop a dynamite film treatment to guide you through the rest of your pre-production planning. Members free, non-members \$10. For more info, visit cmac.tv/workshops.

THU 09 **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@gmail.com.

FRI 10 **CineCulture: *While We Watched*** 5:30 p.m. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: Vinay Shukla (director). A prime-time Indian TV journalist, Ravish Kumar, is in trouble. Famous for his unflinching takedowns of the ruling establishment during his long-running prime-time news hour, his nerves have begun to fray from carrying the torch of “good journalism” for too long. As press freedom further disintegrates and self-censorship becomes the new normal, Kumar struggles to stay afloat in the rising tide of his own network’s financial hardships, sinking TRP ratings and the strain of continuous downsizing. For more info, contact mhusain@csufresno.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

***hais: a literary journal* Launch** 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m. Engineering East Building (EE 191), Fresno State. Fresno State’s Hmong American Ink and Stories Club presents a book launch for the fifth issue of *hais: a literary journal*. Includes readings by contributors, art displays and refreshments. For more info, contact 559-278-1569 or haisfresnostate@gmail.com.

SAT 11 **Solidarity Economics** 9 a.m.–11 a.m. Room 101, Forum Hall, Fresno City College. Authors Chris Benner and Manuel Pastor discuss solidarity economics—an approach grounded in our instincts for connection and community toward building a more robust, sustainable and equitable economy. RSVP at bit.ly/solidarity24 or visit powerwithpeople.org.

St. Rest Food to Share Hub Grand Opening 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 1550 E. Reverend Chester Riggins Ave. Ribbon cutting, community resource booths, self-guided tours and free food. For more info, contact 559-485-1416.

Central Valley Progressive PAC 3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Agenda: November General Election, getting more progressives elected and the annual fundraiser. For more info, contact 559-978-4504 or simone.rhodes@seiu521.org.

Kickoff to Fresno Rainbow Pride: Sandra Bernhard 8 p.m. Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave. Bernhard has been a performer, actress, singer and author for nearly five decades. A pioneer of the one-woman show, Bernhard brings a completely unique and raucous mix of cabaret, stand-up, rock ‘n’ roll and social commentary. Tickets for sale in person and online. For more info, contact 559-266-5465.

MON 13 **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)** 5 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact swgamble@aol.com.

TUE 14 **Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC)** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-287-1308 or bapacfresno@gmail.com.

Stonewall Democratic Club 6:30 p.m. Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. Speaker: Michael D. Evans. Topic: The Taxpayer Deception Act. For more info, contact 559-285-1641 or info@fresnostonewalldemocrats.org.

WED 15 **KFCF 88.1 FM: *Nuestro Foro*** 7 p.m. Radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kcf.org.

BWOPA Legislative Learning Day 9 a.m.–4 p.m. State Capitol, Sacramento. Join BWOPA state, local and regional members, youth adult leaders and BWOPA partners for a day of advocacy and action at the State Capitol. For more info, visit www.bwopatileads.org.

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Speaking Truth to Empire* 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit kcf.org.

Ride with the Mayor 3 p.m. Meet at Fresno City Hall. Discuss making streets safe for people who bike and walk with the mayor of Fresno. For more info, contact amy_zehring@att.net.

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

THU 16 **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 details, contact 559-322-9740 or jenikren@gmail.com.

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Speaker: Nayamin Martinez, executive director of the Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN). Topic: Environmental Justice in the San Joaquin: What has happened and what you can do. For more info, contact ecuagirl45@yahoo.com.

SAT 18 **Central Valley Leadership Round Table** 10 a.m. Burrito King, 319 N. Gateway Dr., Madera. For more info, contact 559-250-1253 or gamayer20@gmail.com.

TUE 21 **Special Election: U.S. Congressional District 20** For more info, visit fresnovote.com.

Central Valley Partnership 5:30 p.m. Location TBD. For more info, contact 559-967-1940 or agrariandemocracy@gmail.com or visit centralvalleypartnership.org.

KFCF 88.1 FM: *Nuestro Foro* 7 p.m. Radio show in Spanish hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kcf.org.

WED 22 **KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!*** 3 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info, visit kcf.org.

THU 23 **Peace Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. In person/via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-668-0591.

MON 27 **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.

TUE 28 **California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)** 10 a.m. SEIU Local 521, 4228 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 kcf.org.

JUNE 01 **34th Annual Fresno Rainbow Pride Parade & Festival** Parade begins at 10 a.m., starting at the northeast corner of Olive and Palm avenues. Festival 11 a.m.–6 p.m. at Fresno City College (FCC). Free bus transportation between the parade and FCC. The main entrance to the festival will be near the fountain at FCC. The bus stop at FCC will be right in front of the school near where the walkway to the fountain is. For more info, contact 559-266-5465.

Fresno Climate Action Plan Workshop 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Ruiz Room 105, Resnick Student Union, Fresno State. Identify climate and environmental justice issues in your community. Food and fun activities for all provided. To RSVP or for more info, contact 559-621-8515 or casey.lauderdale@fresno.gov.

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

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Gaza Catastrophe Exposes the System

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

Say their names:

- Watin Ahmed Khaled Al-Saidi—0 years old
- Adi Adam Jamal Abu Al-Naga—1 year old
- Elaine Muhammed Fayez Abu Odeh—2 years old
- Anas Muhannad Sami Aslim—3 years old
- Rakan Ahmed Hisham Abu Dalal—4 years old

These are the names and ages of only five of the more than 14,000 children killed by U.S. bombs and missiles since Oct. 7 (names published by *Al Jazeera News*) in Israel’s war on Gaza. More than 34,000 Palestinians have been murdered with our tax dollars since the genocide began, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Many thousands remain buried under the rubble.

The war on children in Gaza has exposed the depravity, extreme violence and immorality of both the Israeli and U.S. governments. It has exposed the insanity of a war based on foreign policy and economics. It has exposed the mass profiteering of military contractors and their shareholders. It has opened the eyes of many Americans, in particular, young Americans.

Young Americans are seeing the death, destruction and brutality of a ghastly war directly on social media. They don’t believe mainstream media accounts and immoral politicians. They are questioning the legitimacy of the government itself. They are questioning capitalism.

They want to end the war. They want to end inequality. They want to end racism and discrimination. They want justice, and they want another system. They believe another world is possible.

The youth have always been more aware and leaders of change, and the youth are again leading the movement to end the war on the civilians of Gaza. From sit-ins, blockades, marches, hunger strikes, civil disobedience actions and more, young people are organizing locally and across the world.

The 1960s was filled with youth movements that fought for racial equality, peace, free speech, public school funding and many other issues that have significantly shaped American life.

Many young women have led movements, like student organizer Diane Nash of the Nashville Student Movement, who was 20 years old when she and other students first challenged the segregation policies at lunch counters in Nashville by starting a sit-in movement that led to them being desegregated.

Young leaders such as Angela Davis and Black Panthers Huey Newton, Fred Hampton (murdered by the Chicago Police Department at the age of 21) and Bobby Seale directly challenged the state. Young Americans Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and so many others led a movement that established racial justice and permanent change. They joined forces with youth leaders such as Tom Hayden, Abbie Hoffman and many other antiwar activists who helped bring an end to the Vietnam war.

The American Indian Movement was led by young Indigenous people. It revolutionized thousands of young Americans and was such a threat to the state that the FBI framed young Indigenous leader Leonard Peltier, who remains a political prisoner to this day.

In East Los Angeles, in March 1968, nearly 20,000 students participated in a series of walkouts to call for an end to the war and for major changes in the schools themselves.



Young activists marching through the River Park mall on April 7. Photo by Brandi Nuse Villegas

The walkouts were led by such youth leaders as 17-year-old Paula Crisostomo of Lincoln High School, along with her teacher, Sal Castro. Students from five East L.A. high schools first walked out of their classrooms on March 6 to protest the many inequalities and racial injustice that Chicano students experienced in L.A. public schools.

Known as the East L.A. “Blowouts,” the walkouts involved such grassroots activist groups as the Brown Berets and the Young Citizens for Community Action, helping mobilize students to participate in the walkouts and taking the students’ demands to the Board of Education, leading to important educational reforms.

Because of their efforts, L.A. schools added bilingual classes, more Chicano school staff and ethnic studies to the curriculum and made improvements to their schools’ libraries and classrooms.

Walkouts have been an important, nonviolent tactic used by students to protest injustices. In 2006, across California, more than 40,000 students in Los Angeles alone walked out of their classrooms to protest an anti-immigration House bill.

Sit-ins, marches, walkouts, rallies and social media tool kits are just some of the ways immigrant youth have been coming together since 2012 to first make DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) a reality during the Obama administration and then defend DACA from the Trump administration, and to expand the rights of all undocumented immigrants, and advocate for legislation that would allow for a path to citizenship.

The National School Walkout of 2018 by thousands of students across the United States to demand stricter gun control measures after experiencing numerous school shootings is another recent example of youth activism.

Seventeen-year-old Darnella Frazier filmed Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin kneeling on the neck of George Floyd Jr. on May 25, 2020, until he died. His killing activated people from around the world, and they demonstrated in the streets. Demonstrators in all 50 states braved a

pandemic to protest for more than 100 consecutive days in some towns. The Black Lives Matter movement is one of the largest youth movements ever in the United States.

Across the planet, youth have demanded major police reforms in Nigeria, called for sexual and reproductive rights in Argentina, mobilized for democratic freedoms in Hong Kong and Thailand, challenged corruption in Slovakia and gone on strike for the climate all around the world. The so-called Arab Spring in the Middle East was led and sustained by the youth of Tunisia, Egypt and throughout the region.

In the United States, young activists have gone on strike for the climate, occupied government offices, led mass demonstrations and built organizations such as the Sunrise Movement.

Megan Mullin, an associate professor of environmental politics at Duke University studying public opinion about climate change, notes that utilizing social platforms to effect change requires more effort than it might appear.

“The youth climate activists have made great use of social media and other tools, but we can’t think of this movement—or any social movement—as something spontaneous or unplanned,” Mullin says. “It’s the product of enormous work.

“Over the last two years, we have seen meaningful change in Americans’ concern about climate change and the priority they attach to addressing the problem. The youth climate movement is doubtlessly part of what’s caused this shift.”

Youth activism is very much alive around the world. It is imperative that we all join in their efforts to make another world possible. *La Lucha Continua!* (“The Struggle Continues!”)

Bob McCloskey is an activist and a reporter for the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

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Cuba: Saving the Culture

BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

Fidel Castro said, “*Lo primero que hay que salvar es la cultura* (The first thing to save is culture).” He was speaking at the beginning of the Special Period, the time when Cuba lost more than 80% of trading partners when the Soviet Bloc came apart and the United States increased the trade restrictions of the blockade.

Cuba suffered but survived that period. The culture of resistance and of revolution survived, as did the culture of Cuban literature, music, scholarship, poetry and thought.

Cuba is currently in another Special Period. The pandemic was successfully overcome, as Cuba developed vaccines and public health measures that were, in conjunction with the Cuban free universal public health system, effective in making Cuba one of the countries with the lowest Covid-19 mortality. But it took literally everything they had.

Now, Cuba is in a period of worldwide inflation as well as induced inflation (you can look at U.S. actions in Venezuela to see a textbook example of how the United States manipulates the exchange to produce wild inflation in “enemy countries” as a means of social and government destabilization).

The Biden administration, far from keeping its campaign promises to move toward normalization of relations with Cuba, has correctly identified fuel as a vulnerable point in this country’s economy and has attacked Cuba’s fuel supply by every possible means—threats and fines toward shippers, insurers, banks and even the piracy of the high seas seizure of an Iranian vessel.

Cuba is suffering. Cuba will survive, but right now it’s very hard for the people.

The U.S. rhetoric of being “for the Cuban people” is as cynical as it could possibly be. The U.S. government has no interest in the well-being of the Cuban people, but it would very much like to manipulate them to bring about the fall of a sovereign and socialist government that represented hope to many in Latin America and the world, but meant denial of exploitation to U.S. interests.

As expressed in the Mallory memo of the State Department: “Every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba...a line of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to depress monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.”

In the human context of these difficulties, Cuba is still standing, proud and free.

Food and fuel are priorities as are education and culture. I had the opportunity to attend AFROPALABRA, the 17th celebration of a biannual festival of oral expression and narration, with an AfroCuban/AfroAmerican, in its broadest sense, focus, directed by Mirta Portillo and Sinecio Verdecia. Theory and practice, oral narration and culture over a five-day period, briefly interrupted by floods on Day 4, represented the power of the word and the story.

A special guest, Bonifacio Offogo, from Cameroon, who presented his narrations and his book, *El Imperio de los Cautivos*, brought an African perspective on narration and on Cuba. “I wanted to be someone who told the story of the fall of neocolonialism.”

He spoke with respect to those who had preserved the culture of Africa in the Diaspora: “Due to the power of the word, of the story, of the oral tradition and legacy, African culture still reaches us today in the Diaspora.”

This, he said, is a miracle and those who transmitted their culture under these conditions are and were truly “human monuments.”

“Cuba is a key country in the history of the world and of Africa.

“You cannot imagine the love for Cuba that people have in Africa; Cuba is united forever with Africa, and every time I come to Cuba I feel strengthened as a human being.”

Daisy Brau, from Cuba, and her group of Cantos Arará of Dahomey led the closing festival, and many AfroCuban and AfroColombian artists joined to lead a celebration of the living preservation of culture.

Cuba depends on the use of public transportation, especially in Havana, which is geographically huge. The buses used to be cheap, frequent, reliably present. Now they are



African culture has a strong presence in Cuba. In this image, Cuban rumba dancers at the workers square in Camagüey, Cuba. Photo courtesy of The Commons

still cheap, but there isn’t enough fuel to run enough buses for the people who need to get places, like to work and back.

All kinds of alternatives are being tried: bicycles, some of which are obviously ridden by older folks who first rode during the first Special Period; electric scooters; bicycle and motor-driven tuk-tuk style taxis; and mini buses called *gazelas*, letting people jam together tighter and tighter on the bus. And, significantly in the personal economy for many Cubans, there are route-taxis that charge according to the driver’s conscience and the conditions.

Frustration about transportation is a constant theme. There also isn’t enough fuel to run all the necessary garbage trucks. There isn’t nearly as much talk about this, but it’s present as a serious part of the urban environment for people here; it’s unpleasant and garbage attracts garbage.

I saw a woman raking up stuff and putting it in a dumpster, but most neighborhood dumpsters are overflowing already, and, significantly, she was elderly. However, when I happened to pass her corner about 10 days later the whole area was still clean. Is it all her work or have others been inspired?

So when I was invited to Theater Aldama, one of the attractive points was that it is within walking distance of where I stay in Marianao, a working-class neighborhood in Havana. This is another valiant effort, successful so far, led by Director Irene Borges Lara.

The restoration of the theater is under way, and already morning programs for children are being presented on Sundays. As soon as they achieve some air-conditioning, they will open the larger auditorium and stage for adult productions later in the day.

On the day I attended, Dolores Romero, of the Grupo Barco Antillano, presented “*Ola que va donde las aguas van* (Wave that goes where the water goes)” quite literally out of a (large) suitcase as the props must be carried—you guessed it: on the bus. The story of the woodpecker fledglings who wanted to become sailors and persisted despite all obstacles, and their mother’s worries, until they achieved their goal worked for me and for the enthusiastic group of children and parents who paid a token admission to be present.

This is Cuba, unstoppable, following its dreams and ideals, its revolution and its African culture of resistance, rebellion and power of the story, of the word that has been spoken and that no one can now unsay, not even with all the power of the U.S. government.

Leni Villagomez Reeves is a local physician and activist. Check out her news and views about Cuba on Facebook (facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/).

Stop the Age Bashing

BY RUTH GADEBUSCH

In the interest of full disclosure, I admit nine decades of age plus being well into the 10th influencing the following.

Growing up in the era of experience gained in age being honored and respected, even venerated, it is frustrating to hear so much age bashing of President Biden and his pursuit of another term. It would be distressing enough if applied in this one case only, but it is overwhelming throughout the society.

Day after day in one situation or another there is the cry of it being time for the old to move on letting the young take over with their new ideas. It is not as if all new were good while nothing of the past was worthy. Likewise, not all old are adverse to change embraced by all young eschewing the past. It is trial and error with life’s experiences in an ever-changing society regardless of the age of the participants.

The problem is not age. It is dangerous short-sightedness of the population aided and abetted by those with their own agendas based on their aspiration of power for themselves rather than the good of the nation.

We all come into life with different potential producing vastly different results influenced by the environment/opportunity. Thus, we have two men of similar age vying for the most important office of the nation. With the exception of both experienced in holding this office of

unlimited responsibility, there could not be more contrast in their lives.

With no reasoning whatsoever, some are questioning Biden’s mental capacity for serving another four years while ignoring the many more frightening signs of mental confusion emanating from the other’s loud egotistical personality.

Granted, the enhanced value of age in earlier times might have been generated by the relative few who reached the years that are now common. However, there is value in numbers. By no means do these elderly achieve these marks in the same condition be it physical or mental.

Just as each entered the world with different potential, each leaves with widely varying accomplishments and capacities. No one has yet found a way to know exactly when, where or how one reaches this end or where it leads. Medical science has its limitations and the human spirit its capacity to surprise us.

Predictions can fail us. Therefore, it behooves us to embrace other considerations when we compare. It is bizarre as to how we ever got into the questioning of the mental capacity of one who has served us admirably for decades while accepting that of the other with his serious illegal and immoral lifestyle shadowing his twisted explanations and plans for the nation should he be reelected.

In short, not all will get dementia whether a young death or “a ripe old age.” Time or age is only one aspect with a few years difference hardly a factor.

Living in a senior living facility, I see day after day the relatively young with dementia while those much older in years are “sharp as tacks.” It is my plea, my hope, my dream

that such be recognized by society. Society needs every mark of talent we can muster.

It comes back to how life has been spent both in things we could control and things we could not. My experiences have been equal if not more valuable than my formal education. That is likewise true that President Biden’s occasional gaffe cannot hold a candle to the day after day roar of the red-haired egotistical dictator.

While it has the potential for the most damage, the political world is hardly the only area suffering from the idea that only the young have ideas to offer or are not locked into already failed ones. We need every iota of talent that we can muster to move in healthy directions for this war-torn split world.

Then, too, there is always the possibility in this changing world that failed ideas of the past could be the right thing for today. No matter the setting, timing is an issue: good, bad or otherwise.

I dare say that even unworkable ideas can be valuable lessons. Others that seem to be pipe dreams might be just the order or just another misbegotten hope. My caution, my hope, my dream, my plea is that more than age be considered in what the future might bring. We live in the moment.

Most particularly in the 2024 elections we must not let fear of possible slightly decreasing mental agility—not to be confused with capacity—based on age alone give us an inappropriate president who has already demonstrated the almost guaranteed unraveling of democracy.

Yes, I have a vested interest in more ways than one. The entire country has that interest, recognized or not. There is no room for bashing age. Just as in the past we

ONE WOMAN’S VIEW



all struggle to gain years, not to live in the past but to continue to experience life as we enrich the society by working with those to whom we have given life.

We, the old and young, must accept the experience of age as well as the excitement of youth and the intellect of both. There is strength in togetherness. It is time to “put our best foot forward” and stop the bashing of age.

Ruth Gadebusch, a former naval officer and trustee of the Fresno Unified School District, has spent many years in a wide variety of community activities including education, welfare, civic, cultural and religion.

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La Discriminación Antilatina Creó la Generación ‘No Sabo’

POR MICHELLE ZACARIAS, CALO NEWS

(Nota del Editor: la siguiente nota se reproduce con el permiso de Caló News)

Los latinos en Estados Unidos tienen una identidad cultural que es rica y diversa, con elementos característicos, como comida, tradiciones, música e idioma. El español juega un papel importante en su identidad y es el segundo idioma más hablado en el país. Según estimaciones recientes, casi 40 millones de latinos en Estados Unidos hablan español en casa, lo que refleja la importancia de esta lengua en su vida diaria y en sus comunidades. El uso del español en entornos sociales, educativos y profesionales, es un testimonio de su papel en la formación de la identidad latina en Estados Unidos.

Sin embargo, en los últimos años, aumento de manera notable el número de latinos que no hablan español con fluidez. Este grupo es conocido como la generación “No Sabo”. Ser etiquetado como un niño o adulto “No Sabo” puede conllevar cierto grado de estigma en una comunidad latina que se enorgullece de su herencia hispana. Según The Pew Research Center, aproximadamente el 24% de todos los adultos latinos afirman no ser capaces de mantener una conversación en español.

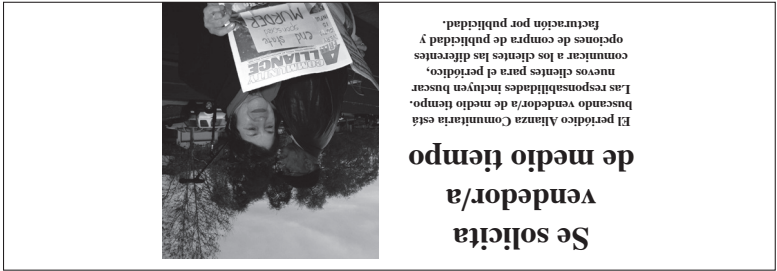
Este incremento en la cantidad de adultos “No Sabo” es el resultado acumulado de la discriminación antilatina contra las generaciones anteriores de latinos en el país. Durante décadas, los sistemas escolares de California y otros estados, segregaron a los estudiantes de mexicanoamericanos. En la década de 1940, un número significativo de estudiantes de ascendencia mexicana en California tuvieron que asistir a las escuelas segregadas, que eran mal mantenidas y carentes de recursos. Estas escuelas priorizaron las “habilidades laborales” sobre las materias académicas. Esta práctica discriminatoria limitó gravemente las oportunidades educativas de los estudiantes mexicanoamericanos, perpetuando la desigualdad sistémica y obstaculizando su movilidad social y económica.

Stephanie Martínez, una chicana de quinta generación, reveló a CALO News que su abuela tomó la decisión deliberada de no enseñarle español a su madre. Su familia, dijo, se identifica como “verdaderamente mexicanoamericana”. Sus bisabuelos trabajadores migrantes eran “seguidores de las cosechas,” término que describe a los trabajadores agrícolas que viajaban de un estado a otro, trabajando en diferentes cultivos a medida que cambiaban las estaciones.

Al crecer, comenzó a hacer más preguntas sobre su herencia. La abuela de Martínez a menudo se emocionaba al recordar sus experiencias en el sistema de escuelas públicas. “En la escuela primaria, mi abuela y los otros estudiantes inmigrantes tenían que tomar clases en el cuarto del encargado de limpieza”, dijo Martínez. “No se les permitía estar con los otros estudiantes por hablar español. Esa fue parte de la razón por la que abandonó la escuela después del quinto grado.

La abuela de Martínez no fue la única. Muchos jóvenes inmigrantes crecieron temiendo las consecuencias de hablar español o de mostrar cualquier indicio de acento en una sociedad xenófoba. El prejuicio contra los estadounidenses latinos generó estereotipos negativos y dio lugar a incidentes de violencia, especialmente contra aquellos de ascendencia indígena.

La experiencia de latinos como la abuela de Martínez constituye un alegato conmovedor de las luchas libradas por muchos inmigrantes



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Michelle Zacarias es una periodista galardonada que actualmente reside en el sur de California. Es reportera de CALO News, que es parte del Latino Media Collaborative y parte del grupo inaugural del programa Berkeley

visite stopthehateca.org

encuentren en peligro inminente: llame al 911. Por más información, delito de odio a las autoridades policiales de inmediato o que se el odio y buscar apoyo. Para las personas que quieran denunciar un horario, puede dejar un mensaje de voz o llamar al 211 para denunciar puede denunciarlo y recibir apoyo llamando al 833-8-NO-HATE; (833) Cualquiera víctima o testigo de un incidente o delito de odio en California español”, dijo.

Stephanie Martínez, una chicana de quinta generación, reveló a CALO News que su abuela tomó la decisión deliberada de no enseñarle español a su madre. Su familia, dijo, se identifica como “verdaderamente mexicanoamericana”. Sus bisabuelos trabajadores migrantes eran “seguidores de las cosechas,” término que describe a los trabajadores agrícolas que viajaban de un estado a otro, trabajando en diferentes cultivos a medida que cambiaban las estaciones.

Al crecer, comenzó a hacer más preguntas sobre su herencia. La abuela de Martínez a menudo se emocionaba al recordar sus experiencias en el sistema de escuelas públicas. “En la escuela primaria, mi abuela y los otros estudiantes inmigrantes tenían que tomar clases en el cuarto del encargado de limpieza”, dijo Martínez. “No se les permitía estar con los otros estudiantes por hablar español. Esa fue parte de la razón por la que abandonó la escuela después del quinto grado.

La abuela de Martínez no fue la única. Muchos jóvenes inmigrantes crecieron temiendo las consecuencias de hablar español o de mostrar cualquier indicio de acento en una sociedad xenófoba. El prejuicio contra los estadounidenses latinos generó estereotipos negativos y dio lugar a incidentes de violencia, especialmente contra aquellos de ascendencia indígena.

La experiencia de latinos como la abuela de Martínez constituye un alegato conmovedor de las luchas libradas por muchos inmigrantes

Debido a la distancia y factores circunstanciales, Gamino tampoco viajó a México mientras crecía. “Durante la mayor parte de mi vida, EE.UU. pueden mantener una conversación en español “bastante bien o muy bien”, sólo el 34% de los latinos de tercera generación o superior dicen que pueden mantener una conversación en español al menos bastante bien, y sólo el 14% dice que puede hacerlo muy bien.

Aunque continúa trabajando en su fluidez por razones personales y profesionales, Gamino se esfuerza por disipar la etiqueta “No Sabo” y resaltar la diversidad de los latinos. “Quiero asegurarme de que los latinos como yo estén representados, incluso aquellos que no hablan

Aun así, la incapacidad de Gamino para hablar español con fluidez no la hace sentir menos conectada con sus raíces o su cultura. Las investigaciones indican que aproximadamente el 75% de los latinos de EE.UU. pueden mantener una conversación en español “bastante bien o muy bien”, sólo el 34% de los latinos de tercera generación o superior dicen que pueden mantener una conversación en español al menos bastante bien, y sólo el 14% dice que puede hacerlo muy bien.

Según The Pew Research Center, aproximadamente el 24% de todos los adultos latinos afirman no ser capaces de mantener una conversación en español. Este incremento en la cantidad de adultos “No Sabo” es el resultado acumulado de la discriminación antilatina contra las generaciones anteriores de latinos en el país. Durante décadas, los sistemas escolares de California y otros estados, segregaron a los estudiantes de mexicanoamericanos. En la década de 1940, un número significativo de estudiantes de ascendencia mexicana en California tuvieron que asistir a las escuelas segregadas, que eran mal mantenidas y carentes de recursos. Estas escuelas priorizaron las “habilidades laborales” sobre las materias académicas. Esta práctica discriminatoria limitó gravemente las oportunidades educativas de los estudiantes mexicanoamericanos, perpetuando la desigualdad sistémica y obstaculizando su movilidad social y económica.

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La experiencia de latinos como la abuela de Martínez constituye un alegato conmovedor de las luchas libradas por muchos inmigrantes

Angel Moreno es escritor de NPSL.com.

ambición. Subir y llevarse el resultado fue un verdadero triunfo”.

Y sus descendientes. Y también explica por qué es frecuente en las generaciones más jóvenes la falta de fluidez en español.

Sin embargo, muchos latinos rechazan ser “No Sabo”, ya que a menudo tiene una connotación negativa. “No me gusta el término”, dijo a CALO News Nathaly Gamino, residente de Long Beach, que nació y creció originalmente en Chicago. “Creo que todos hemos vivido experiencias muy diferentes”, afirmó. “Respecto a hablar español, los latinos en California tienen una experiencia muy diferente que los de Chicago [llinois] y Texas”.

Gamino creció como hija de inmigrantes; sus padres se separaron cuando ella era joven. Su padre bilingüe era el que más hablaba español en casa. Cuando se fue, ella tenía cinco años. Gamino fue criada por su madre mexicana y su padrastro cubano. Desde entonces hasta cumplir los 18 años de edad vivió en un edificio de apartamentos de tres pisos en Chicago con otras familias multigeneracionales. Sus padres hablaban un inglés perfecto, aunque su hogar, que incluía personas de diferentes generaciones, era diverso.

A diferencia de Martínez, Gamino no se mudó a California hasta ser adulta. Creció en un vecindario mexicano en el Medio Oeste y tiene una perspectiva única sobre cómo conservar sus raíces. “Me conecté al español a través de la música y las artes”, dice Gamino. De pequeña, fue una “No Sabo”, así que pensé que amo a esta chica: ¡ella es como yo y yo soy como ella!”.

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El portero de Fuego, Andre Zuluaga, atrapa el balón mientras es presionado por los jugadores de Farolito. Foto de Peter Malden/NPSL

Pierde Oportunidad de Avanzar en el US Open

Continúa de página 21

que viene. Por que en El Farolito estamos preparandolo siempre a los

siguientes paso que que viene.”

El mediocampista Erik Arias está de acuerdo y cree que son los valores

los que hacen que este club tenga tanto talento. Arias brindó la asistencia

en el primer gol de Benson, cabeceando el balón por encima de dos

defensores de Fuego y aterrizando justo a los pies de Benson.

“Este equipo viene trabajando desde hace años. Tenemos los mismos

jugadores, el mismo esquema, con una ilusión, un sueño de calificar a la

Open Cup,” dijo Arias.

“Siempre nos habíamos quedado en la primera ronda, y bueno

gloria a Dios este año hemos hecho nuestra trabajo, lo que nos ha

implementado el cuerpo técnico, más que un equipo, esto es una gran

la tierra que se está armando. Seguimos con humildad con los pies sobre

familia que se está armando. Seguimos con humildad con los pies sobre

que queremos, lo que soñamos, y esperamos en el tiempo. A ver que

seguiremos preparándonos ya para la ronda que viene. Y también para

seguir en la NPSL para calificar a la Open Cup en el otro año.”

Alrededor de 100 fanáticos, la mayoría de los cuales son miembros de

la familia, viajaron desde San Francisco para apoyar a El Farolito.

“Nosotros como grupo muy unido. Sabemos muy claramente lo que

tenemos que aportar y tenemos en mente nuestra familia. Y lo hacemos

con mucho mucho amor. Muy agradecidos con Dios y la oportunidad de

representar la ciudad de San Francisco, y sobre todo a la comunidad de

Cuba: Salvando la Cultura

FOR LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

“Lo primero que hay que salvar es la cultura”, dijo Fidel, al comienzo del Período Especial,

cuando, con la caída del bloque soviético, Cuba perdió más de 80% de sus mercados comerciales. Cuba sufrió pero sobrevivió aquel período. La cultura de revolución y de resistencia sobrevivió, así como también la cultura literaria, la música, la investigación

intelectual, la poesía y el pensamiento cubano.

Cuba hoy se encuentra en otro Período Especial. Se venció la pandemia, con las vacunas desarrolladas en Cuba y con medidas sanitarias, que en el contexto del sistema

gratuito y universal de salud, fueron muy eficaces en hacer de Cuba uno de los países que menos mortalidad tuvo a causa del COVID-19. Pero requirió literalmente todo lo

que tuvieron. Ahora Cuba se encuentra en un período de inflación mundial, junto con la

inflación artificialmente inducida (se puede ver las acciones en Venezuela de los EEUU para

ver ejemplo clásico de cómo se manipula el intercambio para producir inflación loca en “países enemigos” para desestabilizar la sociedad y el gobierno).

La administración Biden, muy lejos de cumplir con sus promesas de promover la

normalización de relaciones con Cuba, ha identificado correctamente al combustible como

punto vulnerable en la economía del país y ha atacado por todos los medios posibles—

amenazas y multas contra compañías de navegación, proveedores de seguros, bancos

y hasta acciones de piratería en alta mar con el asalto a la fuerza de un buque petrolero

Irani. Cuba está sufriendo, Cuba sobrevivirá, pero en este momento la vida es muy difícil

para los cubanos. La retórica Estadounidense de estar “a favor del pueblo cubano” es de

lo más cínico posible. El gobierno de los EEUU no tiene ningún interés en el bienestar del

pueblo cubano. Al contrario, tiene tremendas ganas de manipularlos para lograr la caída

de un gobierno soberano y socialista que represente esperanza para muchos en América

Latina y el mundo, pero significa negar la posibilidad de explotación para intereses

estadounidenses. Así como se expresó en el memorando Mallory del Departamento del

Estado: “Se deben tomar rápidamente todos los medios posibles para debilitar la vida

económica de Cuba... una línea de acción que, aunque sea lo más hábil y discreta posible,

para provocar hambre, desesperación y el derrocamiento del gobierno”.

En el contexto humano de estas dificultades, Cuba sigue de pie, orgullosa y libre.

La comida y el combustible son prioridades y la educación y la cultura también lo son.

Tuve la oportunidad de asistir a AFROPALABRA, la edición 17 de este festival de expresión

oral y narración, con enfoque afrocaribano/afroamericano en el sentido más amplio, dirigido

por Mirta Portillo y Sinecio Verdecia. Teoría y práctica, narración oral y cultura durante 5

días, con breve interrupción por un diluvio en el cuarto, todo representaba el poder de la

palabra y del cuento. El invitado especial fue Bonifacio Offogo, de Camerún, quien presentó

sus narraciones y su libro “El Imperio de los Cautivos”, nos trajo una perspectiva africana

de narración y de Cuba. “Yo soy el que quiso contar la historia de la caída del sistema de

neocolonialismo”, nos comentó. Habló con respecto a quienes habían preservado la

cultura de África durante la diáspora: “debido al poder de la palabra, de la historia, de la

tradición oral y del legado, la cultura africana todavía nos llega hoy en la diáspora”. Esto,

dijo, es un milagro y quienes transmitieron su cultura en estas condiciones son y fueron

verdaderamente “monumentos humanos”.

“Cuba es un país clave en la historia de África y del mundo”, declaró. “No se pueden

imaginar el amor que se tiene en África por Cuba. Cuba está por siempre unida a África y

cada vez que vengo a Cuba me voy fortalecido como ser humano.

Daisy Brau y su grupo Cantos Arará de Dahomé iniciaron la fiesta de clausura y muchos

artistas afrocaribian@s se unieron para liderarnos en la celebración de la

preservación viva de la cultura.

Cuba depende del transporte público, sobre todo en la Habana, que es geográficamente

enorme. Los autobuses (guaguas, en buen cubano) antes eran muy baratos, frecuentes,

presentes de manera fiable. Siguen baratos, pero no hay combustible suficiente para poner

en las calles suficientes guaguas para toda la gente que las necesita para llegar a diferentes

Las candidatas y el Candidato a la Presidencia de México

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violencia de género, los cuidados, la falta de apoyos económicos y de oportunidades.

Sheinbaum elevará a rango constitucional la igualdad entre hombres y mujeres para que

todos los gobiernos tengan paridad por ley. Gálvez, en cambio, ha dado más peso a la

seguridad y a la violencia. Los feminicidios en los últimos 20 años han aumentado y superan

los 10 asesinatos por día en 2023. En lo que va de año la cifra ya asciende a más de 1.000.

Datos a los que hay que agregarle que desaparecen seis mujeres por día en el país y otras

60 son violadas.

Sheinbaum, ha propuesto continuar con la estrategia de seguridad durante su

administración y desarrollar Fiscalías especializadas en feminicidios en todo el país. Gálvez

ha defendido la lucha contra la violencia de género. “Soy una mujer como muchas mujeres

que sufrió violencia de niña y me queda claro que debe haber cero impunidad para los

violentadores”. Gálvez propone implementar un fondo nacional de atención a víctimas,

enfocado en los hijos de las desaparecidas, asesinadas y de las mujeres víctimas de

feminicidio. “Mejorar el marco jurídico que protege a las mujeres”, sin embargo Gálvez no

US Open

Central Valley Fuego Pierde Oportunidad de Avanzar en el

[NPSL.]

(Nota del Editor: Este artículo se publica por cortesía de la National Premier Soccer League

POR ÁNGEL MORENO, CORTESÍA DE NPSL

Claudia Ortiz fue columnista del desaparecido semanario El Sol, de Visalia, editora de la revista Bienes Raíces, y más. Le gusta escribir poesía y literatura enfocada en problemas que afectan a la comunidad latina.

enorme y maravilloso país que es México.

multitud y por su partido y más que que criticada sea elogiada por tener el valor de dirigir ese

dirigir el país con dignidad e integridad, lealtad y responsabilidad, que sea apoyada por la

y para que se les reconozca en todos los ámbitos. Que sea elegida la mejor que pueda

Los grupos feministas siguen trabajando por los derechos y los apoyos a las mujeres

destacando su inteligencia y su liderazgo.

feminicidios y las exclusiones, las mujeres siguen avanzando hacia puestos importantes

en los hospitales de todo el país. Sin duda alguna México hará historia, y a pesar de los

dificultades para que las mujeres puedan acceder a un aborto seguro, libre y gratuito

seguidores para no perderlos en la contienda. En la actualidad existen en México muchas

ninguna candidata desea incomodar a los partidos que representan y mucho menos a los

tema durante la campaña ya que es un tema que tiene muchas controversias y posiblemente

un derecho sin legislar en 21 estados del país y ninguna de las candidatas se ha referido al

El asunto del aborto es un tema que no ha sido mencionado por las candidatas ya que es

para tener una prevención de los hechos.

ha dado detalles definidos de cómo será su estrategia. El problema en México es que las

Farolito empató cuando el delantero Dembor Benson metió un gol con el pie derecho para

enviar al club al vestuario con la confianza recuperada.

Lo que se desarrolló durante los siguientes 45 minutos fue una demostración de ambición,

determinación y corazón que empujó a El Farolito a la tercera posición del US Open por

primera vez en la era moderna del torneo (desde 1995). El Farolito ganó el torneo en 1993

bajo el nombre de Club Deportivo México.

Benson anotó el gol de la victoria en el minuto 88, lanzando un disparo con la zurda que

cruzó al portero y pegó en el poste derecho y entró en la portería para tomar la ventaja.

Jhoan Yabur dio la asistencia.

Fue el tercer gol de Benson en dos partidos del US Open. También anotó el gol de la

victoria de El Farolito sobre Portland Timbers 2.

“No la verdad, que muy feliz. No puedo ni explicar esta felicidad que sentimos de verdad.

Sabemos que antes todos nosotros éramos los de abajo, ellos eran los favoritos, pero este

equipo no se achica ante nadie y tenemos un bonito grupo.

Esto es gracias a la familia que siempre está con nosotros. Gracias primeramente a Dios

y a todo el grupo que lo merecemos. Ahora a disfrutar y seguirnos preparando para lo

mantener vivo el sueño de El Farolito de levantar otro trofeo de la Copa Abierta.

Fue una serie poética de acontecimientos en el centro de California; los tonos finales

estadio Bobcat Field de UC Merced.

El Farolito venció a Central Valley Fuego FC 2-1 en la Segunda Ronda del US Open en el

Leni Villagomez Reeves es una médica local y activista. Chequee sus comentarios y noticias sobre Cuba en Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/).

nadie ahora puede silenciar, ni siquiera con todo el poder del gobierno de EE.UU.

africana de resistencia, rebelión y el poder del cuento, de la palabra que se ha dicho y que

Esto es Cuba, invencible, siguiendo sus sueños e ideales, su revolución y su cultura

padres que pagaron una entrada simbólica para estar presentes.

hasta que lograron su objetivo. La obra me gustó a mí y al grupo de niños entusistas y sus

ser marineros y persistieron a pesar de todo obstáculo, y las preocupaciones de su mamá,

adivinado, en una guagua. El cuento de los pichones de pájaro carpintero que quisieron

de una maleta, dado que el escenario completo se tiene que transportar... ya lo habrás

del “Grupo Barco Antillano”, presentó Ola que va Donde las Aguas van literalmente sacada

espacio mayor para producciones para adultos. En el día en que yo asistí, Dolores Romero,

infantiles los domingos en las mañanas. En cuanto logren aire-acondicionado abrirán el

Directora Irene Borges Lara. La restauración del teatro está en marcha y ya se dan programas

a en la Habana. Este es otro esfuerzo valiente, exitoso hasta ahora, bajo el liderazgo de

a corta distancia de la casa donde me quedo en Marianao, un barrio de gente trabajadora

Así que, cuando me invitaron al Teatro Aldama, uno de los puntos atractivos era que queda

limpio. ¿Era su trabajo, o se habían animados otros a unirse a la batalla?

mayor. Sin embargo, cuando pasé por casualidad su esquina, 10 días después, todo estaba

pero la mayoría de los contenedores de basura del barrio están llenos. Y además, ella era ya

y la basura atrae basura. Vi a una mujer recogiendo basura para ponerla en el basurero,

comentarios, pero está presente como parte serio del ambiente urbano, es desagradable,

suficiente para el número de camiones de basura. Esto no provoca la misma cantidad de

La frustración con el transporte es un tema constante aquí. Tampoco hay combustible

la economía personal de muchos cubanos.

conciencia del conductor y las condiciones de manera, lo que afecta de manera significativa

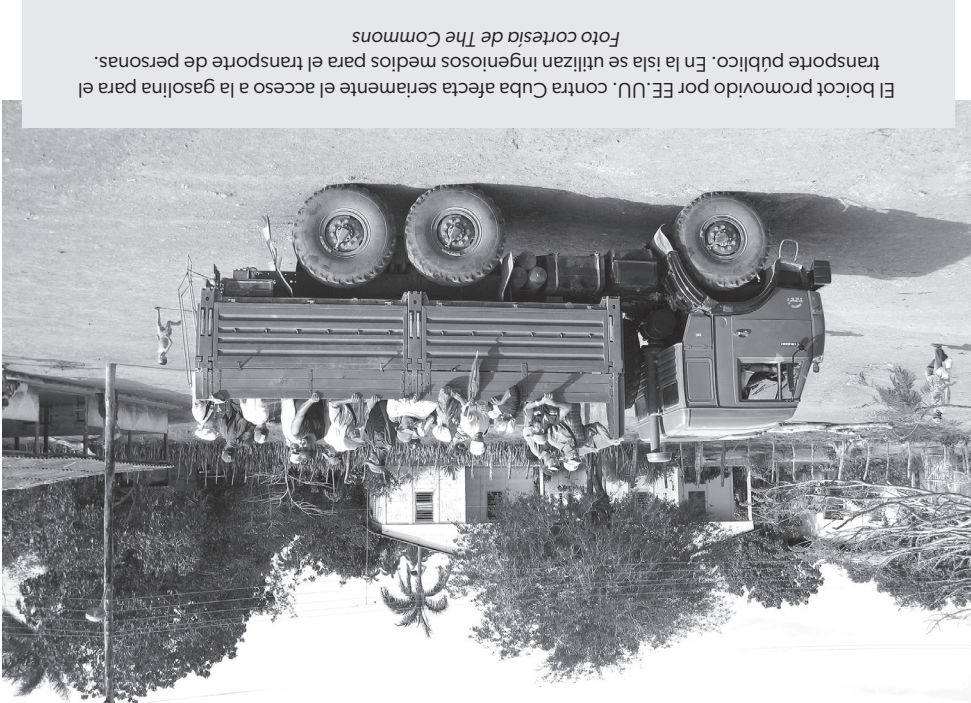
se amontone cada vez más en el autobús. Y también, taxis de ruta que cobran según la

y taxis tipo tuk-tuk a motor, minibuses llamados Gazeas, que permiten que la gente

usaron por primera vez durante el primer Período Especial; scooters eléctricos, bicicletas

bicicletas, algunas de las cuales obviamente son conducidas por personas mayores que las

lugares, por ejemplo al trabajo y después a casa. Muchas alternativas se empiezan a utilizar:



El boicot promovido por EE.UU. contra Cuba afecta seriamente el acceso a la gasolina para el transporte público. En la isla se utilizan ingeniosos medios para el transporte de personas.

Foto cortesía de The Commons



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“Y puedes mirar hacia abajo y ver pedazos y partes de Manzanar por todas partes. Verás los cimientos de algunos de los edificios. Verás los jardines, pero también verás clavos, canicas y las puntas de latas que la gente usaba para tapar los agujeros de los nudos para que el viento no entrara en las barracas. Y eso está en todas partes, literalmente en todas partes”.

Para aquellos que no pueden viajar a Manzanar, existe un Museo Virtual en línea que está diseñado para acercar exhibiciones y archivos a un público más amplio para que explore. A través de fotografías, prosa e historia oral, el Museo Virtual realiza un recorrido por Manzanar y su historia en un formato dinámico.

Puedes aprender sobre la historia local antes de la guerra, el racismo y la exclusión que enviaron a la gente aquí y la vida en el campamento, incluido el rico archivo de arte y artefactos que la gente hizo. Hay mucho que aprender y mucho que alimentar el alma.

Una parte importante de ser guardabosques en Manzanar es ayudar a las personas a conectarse con la familia y la historia. Bone informa que vienen muchos japoneses estadounidenses y algunos ciudadanos japoneses: “Algunos de ellos tienen conexiones con el encarcelamiento. Algunos de ellos también fueron encarcelados.

Y” como había tanta diversidad entre las personas encarceladas, ciertamente hay diversidad en las familias de aquellos que fueron encarcelados. Algunos vendrán muchas generaciones después con muy poco conocimiento de lo que pasó su familia porque no se había abiertamente de ello. Era una cicatriz demasiado grande para abrirta con la familia.

“Y por eso hacemos todo lo posible para ayudar, ayudar a establecer conexiones con esas generaciones”.

Vincular el pasado con el presente es otro objetivo destacado de Manzanar: “Muchas de las cosas que suceden hoy y estableciendo esas conexiones. Cuando se construyeron estas exhibiciones y abrimos nuestro centro de visitantes en 2004, estábamos haciendo conexiones con el 11 de septiembre”.

El Sitio Histórico Nacional Manzanar es más que una ventana al pasado. Bone enfatiza por qué es importante en nuestro tiempo: “Es una historia muy humana y todos nos conectamos con ella desde nuestra propia perspectiva. Pero desde una perspectiva más amplia, y espero como guardaparques aquí, que sea importante hoy porque es un tema muy relevante.

“Sí, esto sucedió hace 80 años, pero el racismo, la enajenación y cosas así son algo constante en lo que pensamos, aprendemos y tratamos todos los días de nuestras vidas. Podríamos estar hablando de diferentes grupos de personas en diferentes circunstancias, pero el patrón es muy claro.

“Y” entonces, tenemos visitantes que entran por la puerta, entran a las exhibiciones y salen y nos cuentan historias sobre sus vidas personales que surgen de su experiencia aquí en Manzanar”.

Vigilia en Honor a Jornaleros Fallecidos

Continúa de página 24

Familiares de algunas de las víctimas del accidente estuvieron presentes en la vigilia, quienes aparte de recordar a sus seres queridos, hicieron un emotivo llamado a mantener presente la seguridad al viajar, como usar el cinturón de seguridad.

Las candidatas y el Candidato a la Presidencia de México

POR CLAUDIA ORTÍZ

El 1 de marzo del 2024 empezaron en México las campañas electorales las cuales definirán quién asumirá la presidencia en las elecciones generales del 2 de junio de 2024. Según el Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE), serán las más grandes de la historia de México con 98 millones de posibles votantes, siendo dos mujeres y un hombre quienes contendrán por la presidencia de la República. En esta ocasión son dos las posibilidades de que la próxima mandataria sea una mujer ya que en el año de 1988 se postuló a la presidencia Rosario Ibarra por el Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores—ya desaparecido—, quedando electo Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, del PRI.

Rosario Ibarra se postuló otra vez en 1988, quedando vencedor Carlos Salinas de Gortari, también del PRI. Rosario Ibarra falleció el 16 de abril de 2022 en Monterrey, Nuevo León. En esta ocasión contamos con dos mujeres, algo inédito en la historia del país. Claudia Sheinbaum y Xóchitl Gálvez son las representantes en la contienda de los dos principales partidos mexicanos: Morena y PAN—en alianza con el PRI y el PRD. El tercer contendiente es el joven diputado Jorge Alvarez Maynez, candidato por el Movimiento Ciudadano. Claudia Sheinbaum es la candidata por el Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional (Morena),—en alianza con el Partido del Trabajo (PT) y el Partido Verde Ecologista de México (PVEM). Ella es la elegida para suceder en el cargo al actual primer mandatario, Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Exjefa de gobierno de la Ciudad de México, Sheinbaum es licenciada en Física y obtuvo una maestría y un doctorado en Ingeniería en Energía. Fue secretaria del Medio Ambiente.

En 2018 fue jefa de gobierno de la Ciudad de México. Por su parte, Xóchitl Gálvez fue senadora hasta 2024. Gálvez estudió ingeniería en computación gracias a una beca lo que le permitió convertirse en empresaria, fue la primera mujer mexicana en aparecer en una lista de 100 líderes globales del futuro mundial, elaborada por el Foro Económico de Davos en el año 2000. Ese mismo año fue invitada a formar parte del gobierno de Vicente Fox, donde se desempeñó como titular de la Comisión de Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas.

En 2010 compitió sin éxito por la gobernación de su natal Hidalgo. De 2015 a 2018 fue jefa de la delegación—hoy alcaldía—Miguel Hidalgo, en la Ciudad de México. Y en 2018 ganó un curul en el senado por el Partido Acción Nacional.

El diputado federal mexicano Jorge Alvarez Maynez es candidato a la presidencia de por el Movimiento Ciudadano, tiene 38 años. En diciembre de 2023, el legislador se desempeñó como coordinador de precampaña de Samuel García, gobernador de Nuevo León. Alvarez Maynez nació en la ciudad de Zacatecas y estudió la licenciatura en Relaciones Internacionales en el Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO).



El 2 de junio el pueblo mexicano votará por presidente, que en realidad, y de acuerdo a las encuestas, será presidenta—la primera en la historia—ya que las principales contendientes son dos mujeres. En la imagen, un jefe de casilla revisa boletas electorales durante las elecciones de 2012. Foto cortesía The Commons

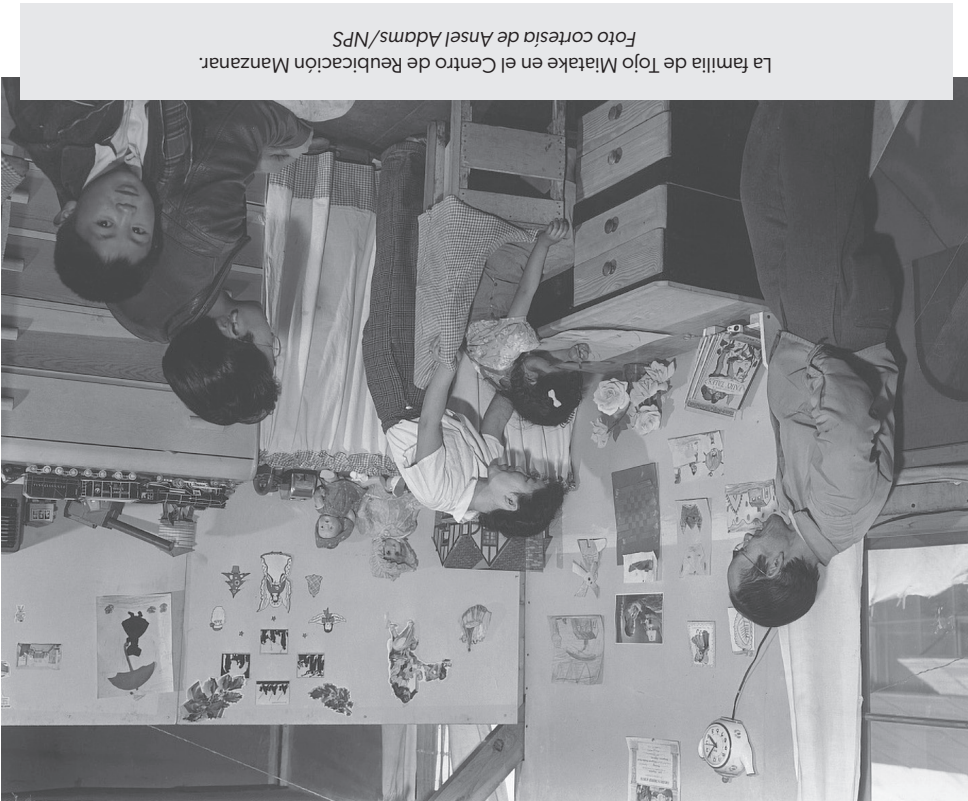
de accidentes fatales. ***** Eduardo Stanley es el editor de Community Alliance. Contactarlo en editor@fresnoalliance.com.

jornaleros a los campos de trabajo. “Es triste... Ellos ya no

van a pasar por allí”, concluyó Alvarado. Natalie Moreno, becaria de PVI, levantó un altar de homenaje a los fallecidos donde se destacaban las fotos de cada uno de los jóvenes. Los presentes en el homenaje se ubicaron alrededor del altar y luego escribieron los nombres de los fallecidos y mensajes sobre el piso. Finalmente, José Chavez, de Madera, recordó a los presentes la importancia de presionar a las autoridades para que revisen y mejoren las condiciones laborales de los jornaleros para evitar o reducir al máximo las posibilidades

de la vida. “Esto nos enseña que mientras estemos vivos

debemos respetarnos y mostrarnos cariño”. Alvarado vende tamales temprano en la mañana sobre la carretera



La familia de Tojo Miatake en el Centro de Reubicación Manzanar. Foto cortesía de Ansel Adams/NPS

Reflexionando sobre la motivación original de Sue Kunitomi Embrey para crear Manzanar como una institución para promover los derechos civiles, la guardabosque Bone mira hacia el futuro: “Aún espero que estemos aprendiendo las importantes lecciones que los seres humanos tuvieron que soportar aquí. A partir de esas experiencias, avanzamos hacia el mundo y hablamos por nosotros mismos y por nuestros vecinos.

Vic Bedoian es corresponsal de KPFA News en el Valle Central y reportero de Community Alliance especializado en temas de historia natural y justicia ambiental.

Manzanar: Vivir la Historia y Recordar el Pasado

POR VIC BEDOIAN

“Nunca podremos corregir por completo los errores del pasado. Pero podemos adoptar una postura clara a favor de la justicia y reconocer que se cometieron graves injusticias contra los estadounidenses de origen japonés durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial”.

—Presidente George H.W. Bush, en una carta de disculpa a ex internados, 1990

El Sitio Histórico Nacional Manzanar es muchas cosas: museo, archivo de historia, sitio arqueológico, centro de aprendizaje y recurso comunitario vivo. Aquí pasan muchas cosas. Los visitantes pueden conocer de primera mano las experiencias de los japoneses americanos que vivieron en este campo de concentración. O conocer la historia de los Paiute de Owens Valley y los ganaderos y agricultores de Manzanar en la época anterior a la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Los trabajadores del sitio histórico cuidan los huertos históricos del sitio y excavan y preservan los jardines del campamento. Cada año pasan por aquí cientos de escolares y casi 100.000 visitantes. Los voluntarios participan en proyectos de paisajismo, proyectos de archivo y atienden a los visitantes.

Antes de ser un conjunto histórico nacional, Manzanar ya era una leyenda. Como el primer Centro de Reubicación de Guerra del país que se abrió tras la Orden Ejecutiva 9066, era una ciudad con una población máxima de 10.046 estadounidenses de origen japonés. Una ciudad de una milla cuadrada con una frontera de alambre de púas y torres de vigilancia, se encontraba a la sombra del Monte Whitney en medio de la cruda belleza del Valle Owens en la unión del desierto alto y la Sierra Alta. Hace calor en verano, frío en invierno y viento la mayor parte del tiempo.

Las personas que salieron de allí después de que cerró el 21 de noviembre de 1945 llevaban poco más que sus recuerdos y algunos de los artefactos que habían creado. Esos recuerdos se han transformado con el tiempo en docenas de libros que contienen memorias, historia, novelas, misterios de asesinatos e incluso novelas gráficas.

Fotógrafos famosos como Ansel Adams y Dorothea Lange documentaron la vida en Manzanar durante los años de la guerra y publicaron lo que vieron. El fotógrafo comercial Toyo Miyatake contrabandó una cámara improvisada disfrazada de lonchera cuando fue internado y tomó fotografías de cómo era la existencia por dentro.

Al establecer el Sitio Histórico Nacional Manzanar, el gobierno de Estados Unidos solidifica la leyenda. Surgió como consecuencia de los movimientos por la justicia social a finales de la década de 1960 y de un individuo notable.

Sue Kunitomi Embrey llegó a Manzanar en mayo de 1942 cuando tenía 19 años y trabajó como asistente de clases. Más tarde se convirtió en reportera y editora en jefe de Manzanar Free Press.

Años más tarde ayudó a organizar la Romería de Manzanar y en diciembre de 1969 un grupo de 150 personas realizó el primer viaje a los restos del campo de concentración. Ella dirigió la peregrinación durante 37 años y logró un objetivo aún más elevado: el reconocimiento oficial de Manzanar como un hito importante en la historia estadounidense. Sarah Bone, guardabosque del Parque Nacional de Manzanar, comparte la historia y las particularidades de este lugar único. Al señalar que la peregrinación cumple 55 años, dice “Hay muchas capas diferentes, pero yo diría que el reconocimiento más importante que debemos dar es a Sue Kunitomi Embry y al Comité Manzanar. El comité viene desde 1969 y empezó a venir para reconocer la historia aquí, pero también en el contexto de lo que estaba sucediendo en 1969”.

Energizado por la conciencia de justicia social de la época, el Comité Manzanar quería convertir el Centro de Reubicación de Guerra en una plataforma para la educación pública. Embrey trabajó para preservar Manzanar para crear conciencia.

“Si más gente supiera que existen lugares como Manzanar, más personas se darían cuenta y tal vez hablarían”, dice Bone. “Entonces, ella [Embry] tiene experiencia en educación y en activismo, y comenzó a principios de la década de 1970 tratando de lograr que el estado reconociera esto como un hito histórico”.

En 1972, Manzanar fue reconocido como Monumento Histórico de California y el estado colocó una placa emblemática en la Carretera 395, después de un exitoso esfuerzo de cabdeo por parte del Comité Manzanar. Luego, después de presionar duramente al gobierno federal, el Congreso designó el sitio histórico nacional el 3 de marzo de 1992. Desde el punto de vista del Servicio de Parques Nacionales (NPS), el sitio tenía ventajas porque el terreno estaba intacto y pertenecía al Departamento de Agua y Energía de Los Angeles, lo que lo hacía fácilmente accesible. Y la proximidad a Los Angeles, a sólo unas horas en coche, lo hacía accesible a una gran población. El noventa por ciento de los presos de Manzanar eran de allí.



Recién llegados a Manzanar con sus pertenencias. Foto cortesía de la Galería Clem Albers/NPS



Ichiro Okumura, de 22 años, de Venice, California, cuida plantas jóvenes en un campo de dos acres de rábanos blancos en este centro de la Autoridad de Reubicación de Guerra para evacuados de ascendencia japonesa. Foto cortesía de la Galería Francis Stewart/NPS

El trabajo del Comité Manzanar y de otros estadounidenses de origen japonés apenas comenzaba. El desarrollo del sitio histórico se convirtió en una labor de amor a lo largo de las décadas, ya que los antiguos internados, así como otros estadounidenses de origen japonés, se ofrecieron como voluntarios para crear el tesoro nacional que uno visita hoy.

Antes de que existiera Manzanar, el paisaje era el hogar exclusivo del pueblo Paiute del Valle de Owens. Eso cambió en el siglo XIX con la llegada de los pioneros europeos americanos que tomaron la tierra como propia para la ganadería y la agricultura.

A principios del siglo XX, un promotor agrícola del sur de California llamado George Chaffey había construido un sistema de riego y establecido un pequeño oasis agrícola con 480 acres de huertos de manzanos, junto con parcelas adicionales de melocotones, peras, ciruelas y uvas. Pronto, unas pocas docenas de familias se mudaron y crearon la pequeña comunidad de Manzanar, la palabra española para huerto de manzanos.

A mediados de la década de 1930, a medida que Los Angeles, en rápido crecimiento, drenaba una cantidad cada vez mayor de agua del valle de Owens a través de su acueducto, la agricultura decayó y la gente se mudó.

Después de la guerra, el campo de concentración fue derribado excepto un edificio. “Tuvinos mucha suerte de que el edificio que se convirtió en nuestro centro de visitantes todavía estuviera aquí”, dice Bone. “Es un edificio original. Fue construido y terminado en 1944.

“Las personas que lo construyeron estaban encarceladas aquí. Y fue construido como el auditorio de las escuelas secundarias de Manzanar, entonces era donde presentaban obras de teatro y bailes, pero también como el edificio más grande en la comunidad de Manzanar, donde cosas como funerales y otros eventos ocurrirían aquí”.

El edificio restante fue renovado por el Servicio de Parques para convertirse en el centro de visitantes y museo que se inauguró en 2004. A continuación, el NPS tuvo que considerar las opciones y decidir un plan para el sitio.

Se decidió por construir un pequeño bloque de demostración dentro del campamento más grande que incluía barracas donde habían vivido familias, un comedor y una gran letrina comunitaria. Había 36 bloques de este tipo en el campo original.

El objetivo, según Bone, era dar a los visitantes una pequeña muestra de cómo debía ser vivir allí: “Construimos reconstrucciones de dos cuarteles y una letrina allí para que la gente pudiera ver las condiciones en las que vivía la gente”.

“Y piensan en la vida del día a día. Estas son historias humanas, por lo que nosotros, como humanos que las visitamos, es más probable que hagamos esas conexiones si lo pensamos de esa manera”.

Manzanar es un campo activo de investigación arqueológica donde las personas pueden ofrecerse como voluntarias para ayudar. “Nuestro administrador de recursos culturales ha establecido un programa de arqueología comunitaria de bastante larga duración”, dice Bone.

“Y por eso tiene fines de semana y semanas, vacaciones de primavera o días festivos, momentos en los que la gente puede venir y ofrecer su tiempo como voluntarios y brindarnos mucha ayuda para descubrir jardines y reconstruir partes de Manzanar en nuestro paisaje. “Pueden volver a conectarse con esta historia o conectarse con esta historia por primera vez de una manera que el visitante promedio no puede hacer”.

La historia está viva en Manzanar. No sólo los eventos en gran escala, sino también las historias de personas individuales que, según Bone, iluminan lo que realmente sucedió: “Aquí tenemos un programa de historia oral donde tenemos más de 700 entrevististas, y cada persona es diferente.

“Incluso podríamos entrevistar a hermanos que literalmente pasaron por lo mismo, pero tienen formas muy diferentes de verlo y sentirlo, y de las cosas que los impactaron. Entonces, había más de 10.000 personas aquí en Manzanar en su apogeo, y eso son 10.000 historias diferentes”.

Muchos visitantes de Manzanar son, por supuesto, estadounidenses de origen japonés, incluidos los que habían sido internados allí y sus familias. Es una experiencia especial para los guardabosques, y subraya el valor de las historias orales.

“Creo que esa es una de las razones por las que estas historias personales son tan importantes”, dice Bone. “Es recordarle a la persona a la que estamos entrevistando o con la que estamos hablando, o de la que estamos aprendiendo, lo importante que es su vida porque, al menos, no se les hizo sentir importantes durante la guerra.

“Pero también nos recuerda a todos que todos somos seres humanos y que todos tenemos formas de reaccionar ante esto y cosas que haremos que son muy diferentes”.

Su objetivo, enfatiza Bone, es la veracidad: “No necesitamos filtrarla. Queremos que la gente aquí haga esas conexiones directamente con las personas que estuvieron encarceladas”.

Manzanar es un lugar que hay que ver para apreciarlo plenamente, “recuerdo a los visitantes que cuando caminan lo están viviendo de la misma manera que lo vivían las personas aquí encarceladas”, dijo Bone.

“Camínaban a todos lados y lo hacían según el clima, sin importar el clima. Entonces, aquí es una experiencia muy directa.

El Procurador General Habla con Activistas en Fresno



El Procurador General de California, Rob Bonta, fue el orador principal en el evento “Cumbre Unidos Contra el Odio”, que tuvo lugar en el Colegio Comunitario de Fresno el pasado 6 de abril. Foto de Peter Malden

POR MIKE RHODES

La cumbre “Unidos Contra el Odio”, que tuvo lugar en el Colegio Comunitario de Fresno el 6 de abril, reunió a una coalición de grupos comunitarios cuyo objetivo es reducir los crímenes de odio en Fresno y el Valle de San Joaquín. El Procurador General de California, Rob Bonta, fue el orador principal.

Bonta dijo que los crímenes de odio en California y en todo el país están aumentando y que eventos como este “son un ejemplo de cuál es la solución: personas que se unen,

Resolución ¡Detengamos el Odio!

Nosotros (el nombre de la organización va aquí), nos comprometemos a hacer frente a todas las formas de odio, racismo, intolerancia e intimidación. No nos quedaremos callados ante la intolerancia basada en raza, etnia, género, religión, capacidad, país de origen, estatus migratorio o cualquier otro factor. Trabajaremos junto con nuestra comunidad para crear comunidades más seguras e inclusivas para todos.

Al hacer este compromiso hoy, prometemos:

- Aprender qué es un delito de odio.
- Educar a nuestras familias y amigos a identificar los delitos de odio, apoyar a las víctimas y reportar a la policía o a una organización especializada.
- Capacitar a nuestro personal en concientización y reconocimiento de los delitos de odio y crear un entorno seguro e incluyente que apoye la igualdad y las buenas relaciones dentro y fuera del lugar de trabajo.
- Garantizar que las leyes sean eficaces para abordar los delitos de odio que puedan ocurrir en el lugar de trabajo, ya sea entre empleados, contra trabajadores o contra el público.
- Apoyar y crear actividades en la comunidad y en el trabajo que promuevan la diversidad, la inclusión, la amabilidad y las buenas relaciones.
- Ayudar a exhibir materiales visuales en áreas públicas que desaprobden todas las formas de odio en nuestras comunidades y compartir esta información con otros a través de folletos, carteles y publicaciones en las redes sociales.
- Informar a la policía o enviar detalles al 559-600-CVAC si somos testigos, sufrimos o tomamos conocimiento de cualquier persona, organización o empresa que esté demostrando discurso de odio.
- Aliente a las víctimas que han experimentado un delito de odio a que lo denuncien a la policía o a una organización especializada y apóyelas para que comuniquen cualquier detalle siempre que sea posible.

Vigilia en Honor a Jornaleros Fallecidos

POR EDUARDO STANLEY

El pasado 28 de marzo unas 50 personas se congregaron en el Parque de la Corte, en el corazón de Madera, para rendir homenaje a los siete jornaleros mexicanos fallecidos un mes antes en un accidente de tránsito cuando se dirigían a trabajar, temprano en la mañana. Según el reporte de la Patrulla de Caminos, ninguno de ellos tenía puesto su cinturón de seguridad.

Este accidente pone de relieve una vez más las condiciones de trabajo inseguras a las que están expuestos los trabajadores agrícolas, estos “trabajadores esenciales” que no cuentan con las protecciones de otros trabajos. Los jornaleros están expuestos diariamente a químicos como pesticidas, exceso de calor, enfermedades respiratorias, caídas y golpes, accidentes de tránsito, etc. Esto sin contar los bajos salarios que reciben y la consecuente carencia de acceso a viviendas dignas.

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iniciativa estatal Stop the Hate.

Este evento fue patrocinado por San Joaquín Valley Media Alliance y el periódico *Community Alliance* a través de una subvención de la Biblioteca Estatal de California bajo la iniciativa estatal Stop the Hate.

El segundo proyecto es lograr que todos los grupos comunitarios de base, sindicatos, grupos religiosos y organismos electos, como ayuntamientos, juntas escolares y distritos especiales, aprueben una resolución para detener el odio (ver recuadro).

Hay dos proyectos para los que la coalición necesita su ayuda. El primero es la distribución de carteles en los jardines y calcomanías en los parachoques con el mensaje: “Detén el odio, sé el amor”. Imagínese que este mensaje se difunda por toda su comunidad y luego ayude a hacerlo realidad.

La cumbre “Unidos Contra el Odio” contó con cuatro talleres de trabajo: Conozca sus Derechos, Capacitación para Testigos, Qué hacer si es Víctima de un Crimen de Odio y el futuro de la Coalición Alto al Odio.

Los crímenes motivados por el odio no son sólo ataques contra personas inocentes: son ataques contra nuestras comunidades y el estado entero. El trabajo del Procurador General es velar por que las leyes del Estado se apliquen de manera uniforme y adecuada. Para obtener más información sobre el Departamento de Justicia y cómo denunciar un delito de odio, visite oag.ca.gov/hatecrimes.

ustedes y me siento mejor cuando estás a salvo”.

personas que se preocupan, comparten y trabajan entre sí, diciendo: me preocupo por

Unas 50 personas se congregaron en el Parque de la Corte de Madera el 28 de marzo para rendir homenaje a los siete jornaleros fallecidos en un accidente de tránsito un mes antes. Foto de Eduardo Stanley

