

FREE

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A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

THE VOICE OF THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT SINCE 1996



EN ESPAÑOL
PÁGINAS 18-20

ICE: A Chronicle of Violence and Death

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

"She Was an Amazing Human Being"

The fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good by ICE agent Jonathan Ross on Jan. 7 in Minneapolis has led to outrage and anger across the United States and around the world. Good, a 37-year-old mother of three, was described by her mother, Donna Ganger, to the *Minnesota Star* as "extremely compassionate, loving, forgiving and affectionate. She was an amazing human being."

Community activists in Minneapolis have said she was a volunteer in a network of volunteers to monitor and document ICE activity in the area. She was shot and killed as she tried to drive away from ICE officers.

Videos of the incident clearly show that she steered away from the ICE agents, not toward them. Just before possibly panicking, and driving away, in a 47-second video clip, obtained by the Minnesota-based news outlet Alpha News, Good is seen telling Ross, "that's fine, dude, I'm not mad at you," in a friendly, casual manner.

Domestic Terrorism, "Bulls**t"

The Trump administration says, despite video evidence to the contrary, that Good tried to run down Ross in an act of "domestic terrorism." Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey described that account as "bulls**t" based on video footage.

Despite declaring that the FBI would continue the investigation without state assistance, Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison announced a continuing investigation of the incident. PBS reported on Jan. 13 that the FBI was investigating Good and failing to investigate the incident.

Mayor Frey called for local leaders to be involved in the investigation. He told federal officials, "If you've got nothing to hide from, then don't hide from it."

Trump has said that ICE agent Ross is "immune from prosecution," a false assertion.

The administration recently added 1,000 ICE agents to Minnesota for a total of 3,000 agents now deployed, amplifying tensions. "Operation Metro Surge" continues with immigration arrests reported around the state following the increase of federal agents.

ICE is now the least popular of nine federal agencies surveyed and, according to a new YouGov survey that started two days after Good's killing, just 40% of Americans have a favorable view of the agency, whereas 51% view it unfavorably. Intensity matters here: Only a quarter feel "very favorable" toward ICE, whereas 40% feel "very unfavorably" about it.

A History of Killing and No Prosecutions

This is not the first killing by ICE and Border Protection. According to a data analysis by The Trace, a nonprofit newsroom dedicated to investigating and reporting gun violence,



A vigil was held on Jan. 8 for Renee Good, who died at the hands of an ICE agent in Minnesota. The event took place at Fresno's ICE headquarters. Photo by Peter Maiden

and news reports, federal immigration officials (including ICE and Customs and Border Protection) have been involved in at least 16 shooting incidents since the beginning of the second Trump term (starting January 2025), which have resulted in four deaths and at least seven injuries.

Several other specific incidents involving ICE agents in the last year include an off-duty ICE agent shooting and killing a Black man, Keith Porter, a father of two, in Los Angeles on New Year's Eve, 2025; a shooting in a Chicago suburb in September 2025 that killed Silverio Villegas González; and a 31-year-old Mexican citizen in Grande City, Texas, killed while being apprehended.

The *New York Times* reports that in the last four months federal officers have fired on at least nine people while they were in their vehicles. The numbers of shooting incidents cited above might be an undercount, as not all use-of-force incidents are publicly reported by the agency.

ICE and Border Patrol agents are rarely, if ever, prosecuted for killing and harming people. A 2020 report from the Southern Borders Community noted that no on-duty U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents have ever successfully been convicted of a killing in its 100-year history.

The Trace reports that "from 2015 to 2021 ICE agents were responsible for 59 shootings, of which 23 were fatal. There's no evidence any ICE agent was indicted."

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Mayor Makes Controversial Remarks at MLK Event

BY PETER MAIDEN

In a speech to a crowd of 1,000 at the Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration in downtown Fresno on Jan. 19, Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer, also the former police chief of the city, seemed to blame protesters for violence in confrontations with ICE, while urging Fresnoans to cooperate with the counter-immigration force.

"Although I'm not aware of any planned immigration enforcement operations in Fresno, there is always that potential," said Dyer.

"Please remember that federal law enforcement agents have the same authority as local law enforcement. That includes the power to make arrests and the authority to take a person's life should they feel threatened. We may disagree with what they're doing and how they're doing it, but we still have to obey their command."

"So please [avoid confrontation with them]. Obey their directions just as you would local or state law enforcement."

"Do not do anything, please, that would cause them to feel threatened. That includes following them, blocking their vehicles or surrounding them because we've already seen the outcome of that, and we do not want a tragedy in our city to occur."

In reaction to Dyer's speech, Fresno Poet Laureate Aideed Medina said, in a Facebook post, "Don't trust anyone who stands before you at an MLK celebration and tells you to obey ICE."

"It is so clear that they don't understand the very real fear of being disappeared, beaten up, sexually assaulted, abused, denied their civil rights and murdered as if compliance equaled safety."



Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer, at far left, holding up a banner at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration march on Jan. 19. Dyer caused a controversy with his remarks at the event about ICE. Photo by Peter Maiden

"That is absurd in light of the well-documented abuses and injustices since the state-sponsored terror began. We are not blind."

Peter Maiden is interim editor of the Community Alliance newspaper.

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And ICE Hasn't Stopped

After the shooting of Renee Good, another protester was shot and injured in Minneapolis on Jan. 14. In addition, two protesters were shot and injured by ICE in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 8. At press time, in Minneapolis, on Jan. 24, ICE agents shot 37-year-old ICU nurse Alex Pretti 10 times as he lay on the ground, killing him instantly.

ICE is also using prohibited, by ICE policy, violent tactics such as choke holds, placing knees on protesters/arrestees' heads and brutal body slams. Pro Publica has documented at least 40 cases of the use of these sometimes deadly tactics by ICE agents across the United States.

In response to ICE violence, on Jan. 16, U.S. Federal District Judge Katherine Menendez issued an order limiting the crowd control tactics that can be used by ICE agents toward "peaceful and unobtrusive" protesters in Minneapolis.

National and Local Protests Erupt

Across the United States and around the world, protests dubbed ICE Out for Good erupted and continue in every major city and in towns throughout the nation. "This is

an astounding moment where people are reacting to an atrocity," said Lisa Gilbert of Public Citizen.

Gilbert told PBS that "we're holding 1,000-plus events, peaceful, lawful, vigils around the country. It was organized in only 48 hours, and the massive numbers demonstrate the outrage people have."

Locally, there were several events, including a vigil on Jan. 8 at the ICE headquarters in Fresno organized by Peace Fresno, Raza Against War, Central Valley Community Action and the Party for Socialism and Liberation and a large demonstration in north Fresno on Jan. 11.

Gloria La Riva of the Peace and Freedom Party addressed the solemn vigil. "ICE left L.A., Portland and Chicago not because they had a change of heart. It was because the people made it clear that they will fight for justice."

"What are the ICE agents doing in Minneapolis armed with semiautomatic weapons? They are declaring war on thousands of Somali immigrants. They are workers, and they are our brothers and sisters."

"Renee Nicole Good was doing the work of a good-hearted person. She was the mother of three kids. Do you really think she was trying to run an ICE agent down?"

Bob McCloskey is an activist and a Community Alliance reporter. Contact him at bobmcloskey06@gmail.com.



A man holds a candle at a vigil in Fresno for Renee Good on Jan. 8. Photo by Peter Maiden



Grief shows on the face of a woman at the vigil for Renee Good.

Photo by Peter Maiden

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Two events of national and international importance shook the progressive community in January.

U.S. forces kidnapped President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela on Jan. 3. Maduro might not have been the equal of his predecessor, the talented and charismatic Hugo Chávez, but he is president of a sovereign country with an egalitarian agenda and many followers.

Unsurprisingly, oil money had a lot to do with the U.S. action. What is different this time is that the U.S. President bragged about the conquest of Venezuelan oil.

Our Cuba expert, Leni Villagomez Reeves, recorded a narrative of the U.S. incursion into the capital city of Venezuela—Caracas—from someone who lives near an air base and was a witness.

From Bob McCloskey, we have reactions from people who attended the three January protests against the incursion in Fresno.

FROM THE EDITOR



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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's Time for a Change

Before the 2024 election, Donald Trump denied knowing about Project 2025 because it was so unpopular. He lied 30,000-plus times during his first term and continued to lie as 31 of those people ended up in his administration.

Trump has control of the Executive Branch, Republicans have given him control of the Legislative Branch and the Supreme Court has given him immunity from illegal acts. Trump has bragged he can do anything he wants.

This culminated in the following during the first full week of January:

- Removing the Venezuelan president with no input from Congress, with Trump saying he personally will control their oil. Estimates are that this campaign has led to an estimated 200 deaths of people in that country and billions in expenses.
- An ICE agent murdered an ICE observer, a white, Christian, American citizen and mother of three young children. Despite numerous videos of the event showing she was driving away from the agent, Trump claimed that he was dragged by the car and lucky to be alive.
- The Department of Homeland Security shot two people from Venezuela.

Trump and the Republicans are destroying American democracy, and they need to be voted out of office.

Stephen Sacks
Fresno

Re "History of the 99 Freeway"

What a great article! You have captured so much of the history of West Fresno.

My parents were displaced for the new construction of the 99 freeway. They built their first home near the west-side post office on F Street.

Regarding relocation assistance, homeowners did receive a small relocation budget. However, this was a setback for generational development. They lost equity in the house they had built.

West Fresno was left with little resources after the freeway was built. There were about five to seven local grocers that had high prices and preyed on the disenfranchised.

In the late 1980s, my mother walked the streets of our neighborhood to get everyone to sign a petition for a community shopping center to be built. That resulted in Kearney Palms Shopping Center.

This was a great benefit to the residents of West Fresno. They were no longer subject to the mom-and-pop stores with higher prices. However, this did change the close-knit community around those markets and many of the small businesses did not survive.

The food, housing and health disparities are heartbreaking. And there are many factors that people do not understand as to why those disparities exist.

Sharon
Online comment

Lower Military Budgets

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood leads on to fortune."—Brutus/Julius Caesar

The time and tide is right for a majority of Americans to stand up to the criminal Donald J. Trump.

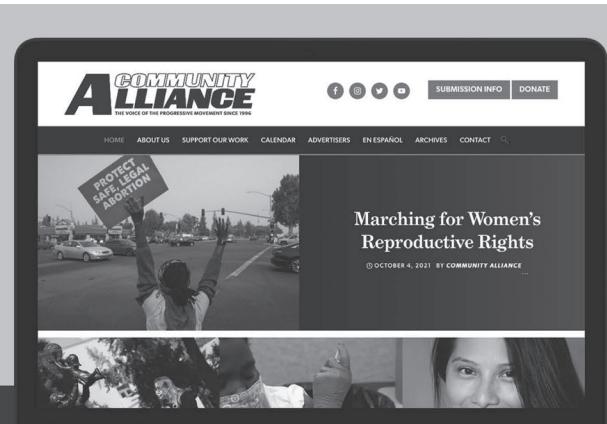
In the upcoming elections, let us make the "218/217 Peace Project" a reality. This proposal is workable with the support of some national media coverage and a few dedicated supporters in each of the 435 Congressional districts.

Let us begin with Peace Fresno and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

The idea is that candidates pledge that, if elected in the midterm election, they will work to lower the U.S. military budget and the NATO military budget.

Just imagine if a majority, 218, of the House of Representatives was prepared to support a pacifist platform.

Vincent J. Lavery
Dublin, Ireland



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U.S. Incursion Strikes Venezuela

BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

On Jan. 3, U.S. forces launched a military attack against Venezuela. The purpose was to kidnap President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores and to terrify the government and people of Venezuela.

The high-tech operation paralyzed air defenses. A cyberattack caused a blackout in part of Caracas. More than 100 people were killed in the attack, including 32 Cubans in Maduro's security detail.

There was no prior declaration of war, although the United States has been escalating aggressions against Venezuela for some time, positioning a flotilla in the Caribbean and killing more than 123 people in small boats since last year.

Despite the psychological warfare and self-aggrandizing statements of the U.S. regime, the United States is not in



Cartoon by Giselle, whose narrative of the U.S. attack on Caracas, Venezuela, appears below.

control of Venezuela. Delcy Rodriguez, once the vice president and now the acting president, and the Venezuelan Congress and military are still intact, although they might be negotiating "with a pistol to their head."

Maduro and his wife are in custody in New York City. Faced with the need to prove in court the allegation that President Maduro is the head of a fictional "Cartel de los Soles," the United States has dropped that charge and now frankly admits that the incursion into Venezuela is all about taking control of "our oil" (which just happens to be located in the sovereign country of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

In legal scholar Elie Mystral's words, "The bombing of Venezuela and kidnapping of its president, Nicolás Maduro, so that he can stand for a show trial in New York, is a flagrant violation of international law. The United States should be condemned by the international community and all peoples of this earth."

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

When the U.S. Government Bombed Us

(Editor's note: The narrative below is excerpted from a phone conversation between Giselle (who wanted her last name withheld), a resident of Venezuela, and Leni Villagomez Reeves, a Community Alliance reporter.)

I guess I'll start from the beginning if I know where the beginning would be: I guess it would be [former Venezuelan president Hugo] Chávez getting into power and the U.S. starting its campaign against Venezuela in all regards: the information campaign against us and then the unilateral economic coercive measures that affected our lives and are still affecting our lives. And then the threat of military violence, which is difficult because you don't want to go into a state of panic—that's part of the idea there: not only to blow up our stuff but to mess with your head.

I think Venezuelans have been resisting so many different types of attacks. It seems like we're impervious to the concept of more threats: We just continue to live our lives. We were prepared in the sense that we could have imperishable goods stored at home and that sort of thing, but life continued as it usually did, so people took their kids to school, they worked and then...

I live five minutes away from an air base. I'm a single mom, and I live with my kid and with my mother who is 74 years old. We were asleep and the windows started rattling and—it's hard to relate this—you could hear the sound of what I now know to be bombs, which is a sound like—it goes (high pitched noise) and the windows rattle and you know what's happening, but you don't know what you can do.

And so I live on top of a hill and my house has a roof that you can climb on and look at Caracas, and I could see the smoke. I couldn't see the planes, but I could hear them and I could see the explosions.

So I go to my daughter's room and she isn't waking up—she's a very heavy sleeper—and what you could hear mostly were the rattling of the windows over and over. So you don't know what to do.

What can you do? I went and filled up water, drinking water, just filled up any pot I could with drinking water because I didn't know what was going to happen. I'm pretty sure my mom had gotten awake, and she didn't

understand. She thought it was fireworks because she just...it's unfathomable, you know?

The Revolution constructed millions of houses, free housing for low-income people around the country. You don't need to believe the stats, you just need to go around and you can see.

My daughter's godparents live there inside Fuerte Tiuna, which was one of the most heavily struck air bases and so [I was] thinking of them and whether they're alive or not.

There are—I don't know how many residential buildings inside that air base. I write them: "Are you okay? You should come here."

And I get a response from them, I get an audio message saying "We're alive, we're doing well, I can hear a plane, I can hear a plane and that it's coming..." Jesus Christ. It's just unfathomable.

And then my mother wakes up in the morning and my daughter, and I don't want to tell her. What do you tell a child, an eight-year-old child? You don't know what's going to happen.

No matter how scared I am of the bombs, I'm more scared of a right-wing dictatorship that can come. And at that moment you don't know. You hear the bombs and then we start listening and hear the rumors about Maduro being taken and you don't know what to expect.

You start communicating. I'm part of a collective, and there are people in different parts of Caracas and everyone described what they heard, what was happening, whether they were okay or not, whether they had been struck or not.

Trying to find a way to tell my mother.

Finally, I got a message from my daughter's godparents, they were fine, were alive, and they needed to come to my house. So I tell my daughter that they are coming and she's so excited.

She starts getting a room ready for them. "This is where my godfather's going to go, and this is where my godmother's going to go." She's so sweet, and she wanted to see her godparents.

They finally arrived, and my daughter's got this immense smile on her face and her godmother's eyes [showed she was] crying so much and they could barely put on a smile. And I told them, "You know, she doesn't know about the bombings. Please don't tell her. It's too much."

But how can you ask [that of] someone who's been bombed, whose house may or may not be there when they go back—if they go back...

And so they get out of the car and they're just heartbroken and scared and wanting to share the most horrible experience of their lives with someone that they love, but they can't because there's a child.

They brought their passports; they brought their academic titles because that's the sensation, right, of fleeing. You don't know what's going to happen, you don't know if we're in danger, you don't know what the future holds. We have our passports and our titles—the feeling that that implies...Jesus.

They hadn't eaten, they hadn't slept, they were traumatized by the sound of helicopters and planes and bombs and machine gun fire and what they saw and what they heard, and they didn't have any information.

They didn't know that [Venezuelan vice president] Delcy [Rodriguez] had us in power; they didn't know that the government was in place and so they felt "the Revolution is gone, we need to flee."

So I hugged them, and I told them, "We're still in power. Everything isn't lost. There's solidarity outside of Venezuela." I fed them. I gave them a place to sleep, to take a shower, get some rest [and] Internet, so they could know what's going on.

Their descriptions—just awful—seeing the size of the helicopters. What can you do against something like that?

They have taken down our anti-aircraft systems.

We are naked.

And we don't have our president. We still hold power, and we still hold power and dignity in our plans, in our thoughts and our principles, but you have to negotiate when you are in that state of complete vulnerability. They've taken down our military defense systems. They've shown that they do whatever it is that they want.

I really trust Delcy (now the acting president) and her brother (Jorge Rodriguez, president of the National Assembly of Venezuela) to do well in that because they are strong, experienced politicians that won't give us up for nothing, so it's just...let's see what happens now.

Trust in the government and trust in our people, really. 'Cause it was obvious to me that you didn't take down the Revolution by taking down Maduro. You would need to do a hell of a lot more than take out our president because then there's a vice president, and then there's an entire government, congress, and there's an entire people.

So that's what gives me some sort of calm, is knowing that they don't have the Venezuelan people; they don't have our complicity.

I love this country. I am a socialist at heart. This is where I feel I need to be. This is where I want to be. We want to construct something so wonderful and so just. We want to be an example for Latin America and the world.

Giselle has a Ph.D. in climate change ecology and works in an organic farm collective.

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Fresnans Speak Out on Venezuela

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

Through mid-January, there were three actions in Fresno protesting the U.S. attack on Venezuela: one at the intersection of Blackstone and Nees avenues on Jan. 3, one at the Federal Building on Jan. 10 and one at the intersection of Shields and Blackstone avenues on Jan. 17. The author recorded the following statements during those demonstrations.

"We oppose Trump's unprovoked, illegal, immoral attack on Venezuela and the kidnapping of [Venezuelan President Nicolás] Maduro and his wife. Once again, Trump is telling the world that international laws and rules are for them, not for me. We can do whatever, whenever and wherever we want."—Dan Yaseen, president of Peace Fresno

"This is a repeat of the horrible history of the United States, of launching military invasions of other people's countries. President Trump said, 'that's our oil under their land,' and anybody that's a student of history would know that the United States has been after the oil resources for approximately 40 years or longer, since Venezuela's oil resources were nationalized."—Stan Santos, Raza Against War

"None of the attacks in Venezuela or Latin America are new, nor are they unique to Republicans. Democrats and Republicans have been working hand in hand for the past two decades to undermine the democratically elected governments in Venezuela by sponsoring coup attempts, diplomatically isolating the South American oil giant and imposing over 1,000 sanctions. The justifications for these efforts to destabilize the country have ranged from accusations of human rights abuses, a supposed lack of democracy and an economic crisis."—Alexa, Party for Socialism and Liberation

"This action is the most recent example of what is wrong with this administration. This administration has no direction, but nothing ever happens only because one person on one night decided to attack. This has been planned for some time, and it is not only a violation of national law but also international law."—Jim Grant, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center

"Now is the time to come out stronger and bring more friends to protest this latest installment of fascism by Trump. You know this is yet another set of lies, and it's really important to use your voice. I mean, this is the same fight, as [fighting] our city letting unhoused people die because of a cold night and it's the same fight as free Palestine and it's the same fight as Ukraine so, like I said, don't lose sight of how everything's connected in the bigger picture."—Cam Fanning, Womxn's International League for Peace and Freedom

"It's a straight up regime change that we're witnessing. What occurred in Venezuela is not surprising, but it's shocking in the way it was done, obviously. I have a lot of close ties to people in Cuba. Every time I've gone to Cuba I've met people from Venezuela, and they always told me about what's really happening there. The kidnapping and invasion is based on lies, but you got a man in the office dumb enough to come on and say the truth out loud [and he] confirms why we're out there. It is about the oil, it is about regime change, so he could take power."—Rafael Avitia, Fresno Brown Berets

"Our safety nets have been slashed and cut, and I don't think that we should be starting wars out in other countries especially in the interest of oil. My family is a working-class family



Protesters at a press conference at the Federal Building in Fresno on Jan. 10. Photo by Peter Maiden

and we struggle. We make the hard decisions every day in regard to which basic needs we can and cannot meet, and I don't think my government should be overseas starting wars especially for oil. It's reminiscent of the Iraq wars, which were about oil."—Ruben Espinosa, Fresno Brown Berets

"What is unfolding right now in Venezuela is an atrocity, but it should not come as a surprise, as for over 500 years our continents have been subjected to colonial occupation, extraction and intervention. This escalation follows the same historical pattern of undermining the self-determination of peoples who refuse to be exploited for the wealth of corporate elites. The Trump administration's claims that U.S. actions were motivated by democracy or public safety, and the charges of narco-terrorism, are false and deeply racist."—Arion Grajeda, a student and a member of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA)

"We fund the military, why can't we fund the veterans that are here homeless, without housing? If we can fund Israel for genocide, [why can't we] use the money for higher education and for free medical care, [why can't we] offer that to our people? America first. That oil's not going to benefit my family. This doesn't benefit my daughter's pocket. Or my granddaughters, or my great-grandchildren's pocket."—Gloria Hernandez, civil rights activist.

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

The End Continues

BY RACHEL YOUDELMAN

In what was supposed to be a ritual start of a new year, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors' first meeting of 2026 on Jan. 6 was notable for feeling like the last. Resignations were announced, and goodbye speeches flowed despite the long year yet looming ahead.

The annual "designation of officers," a musical-chairs shuffling of seats, left District 2 Supervisor Garry Bredefeld chair, replacing District 4 Supervisor Buddy Mendes, subtitled "Making Offers You Can't Refuse." District 1 Supervisor Brian Pacheco declined the vice chair position, which went to District 3 Supervisor Luis Chavez.

Outgoing chair Mendes announced his retirement from the Board, effective at the end of this year, followed by pomp and speeches—despite which, again, he still has a full year to go. Bredefeld lauded him, called him a "mentor," presented him with a souvenir gavel and a joke portrait, and Mendes' chief of staff, Vickie Day, read a humorous ode to Mendes, which she composed herself.

District 5 Supervisor Nathan Magsig praised Mendes in terms bordering on eulogy: "Buddy," gushed Magsig, had a heart "as big as this room," recent complaints about inadequate meeting-room size notwithstanding.

In fact, Mendes has repeatedly demonstrated his short fuse, impatience, self-absorption, regressive sense of humor, intolerance, explosive temper and impulsivity. Some of these behaviors were acknowledged but made light of in Day's poem.

Chavez typically disarms the pretensions of both Mendes and Bredefeld with jabs of ironic humor; Chavez jestingly addressed Bredefeld as "your highness," alluding to his ascent to the chair position.

Then to the irascible Mendes he quipped that, when they were first introduced, he had to look up the word "bloviator" as well as the juvenile, faux-scientific term, "rectocranum inversion," of which Mendes is fond of deploying, typically against the state government, and which reflects his scatological fixation as well as his fusing of aggression and exhibitionism with a fantasy of authenticity.

Pacheco noted that 2026 would be his last year with the Board because he is a candidate for State Assembly District 27. He noted that with two Board members leaving, and possibly a third—Magsig is a candidate for State Senate District 12—it was in the interest of the Board for him to decline the vice chair position.

He pointed out to Mendes that they "came in together," both having served since 2015, and "as fate would have it," will leave together, quipping "heaven help us" because the "two 'city' guys" (Bredefeld and Chavez both served on the Fresno City Council) would now be leading the county.

It's better "to go out on one's own terms," Pacheco concluded, pointing out to Mendes that today was "our last first day."

Sex Offenders in Transitional Housing

After a contentious debate, with members of the public present to argue both pro and con, the Board, with a 5-0 vote, formally approved an ordinance limiting the number of paroled sex offenders residing in the same transitional-housing unit to six.

A first hearing on Dec. 9, 2025, had been approved, and the second hearing of the item was pulled for discussion from the consent agenda by a member of the public.

Twelve people were present to make heartfelt arguments, half for each side. Dawn Coyle, co-owner with her husband John of Centers for Living transitional homes, wore a large crucifix around her neck. She asked the Board to defer a vote on the ordinance until a contingency plan could be made to allow time to plan for alternative housing for those displaced by the limit on the number of residents.

Others who opposed the ordinance cited biblical passages that bolstered their



GARRY BREFEELD

Incoming Fresno County Board of Supervisors Chair Garry Bredefeld holds a joke portrait of outgoing chair Buddy Mendes, subtitled "Making Offers You Can't Refuse." Screenshot from livestream

points of view, and a couple of commenters said they had become ministers during the course of their stays in transitional housing, some of which entail evangelical Christian instruction.

"What would Jesus say?" asked one, pleading with the Board not to pass the ordinance, which would "punish people for who they used to be."

Others agreed with Coyle that the ordinance would cause more homelessness, leaving paroled sex offenders with nowhere to go, wandering at large.

Another laid bare that he was a "dreaded sex offender" a couple of years out of prison and credited Centers for Living for his recovery; he was "very conservative," voted for Trump and "probably for you, Bredefeld."

On the supporting side, people who live in neighborhoods where transitional homes are located said that residents of the homes "stare them down" and sit in front of their houses "for hours." They made claims about

thefts that they felt were perpetrated by the parolees.

Others said that the properties were poorly maintained, that "trash was piled up" and made vague claims such as that parolees "walk by our homes all the time" and that the operators of the transitional homes were "only in it for the money." Bredefeld, now chairing the meeting, permitted unrestrained applause after each speaker.

Magsig made a point of thanking everyone for speaking and singled out the "brave" Trump-supporting parolee for "sharing your heart." Citing the several biblical references made by commenters, Magsig, unable to resist boasting of his vast Bible knowledge, let everyone know that "scripture was not black and white" on this issue.

Coyle earlier had said that they had followed state law in permitting one resident per 250 square feet. Remarkably,

Continues on page 13

6 Nancy Waidtlow's Light Still Shines

BY GERRY BILL

Nancy Waidtlow: Dec. 22, 1940–Dec. 23, 2025

Remembering Her Life, Recognizing Her Impact

Words will never really be sufficient to describe the impact on our community, and on our world as a whole, of our beloved Nancy Waidtlow. All of us here in this little corner of the world that we call Fresno have been enriched by the many beneficial things Nancy did for others, and, indeed, by the way she lived her life—a model life, very worth emulating.

Hers was a life of service—serving the causes of equality, justice, peace and, above all, kindness—from an early age, it turns out.

She started working for equality for women in junior high and high school in Salinas, where she became the first and only female in some previously all-boy programs—including joining the formerly all-male tumbling team at Salinas High. This was in the early and middle 1950s, before it became fashionable to do such things.

Later, as part of her teacher training, she was an aide in a welding class at Irwin Junior High in West Fresno, helping to teach young girls how to arc weld, often considered a male-only occupation.

Her commitment to social justice also goes way back. In June 1964, here in Fresno, she marched with Martin Luther King Jr., from Echo Street to Ratcliffe Stadium, in support of racial justice.

She also had a strong commitment to economic justice. In the early 1970s, she went to work for Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers (UFW) at their clinic in Sanger, a period that she described as "a delightful nine months."

In 2011, she joined the Occupy Movement, even traveling to D.C. to join Occupy D.C. in October of that year. It was her work with Occupy that really got her interested in homeless issues, and she joined the Firewood Brigade at that time helping some homeless people keep themselves warm. Yet, she knew that was not enough. More about her work with the homeless later.

She was also a strong peace activist for more than 50 years. She became a counter-recruiter, helping to keep young people out of the military.

She joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) early in her stay in Fresno, and in 1974 she represented WILPF Fresno, along with June Loring, at the World Peace Congress in Moscow. Remember, this was at the height of the Cold War, and people who went to Russia were regarded with suspicion.

She was a regular presence at Peace Fresno events both at the old peace corner (the intersection of Blackstone and Shaw avenues) and the current one (the intersection of Blackstone and Nees avenues).

Behind all these endeavors was her commitment to kindness. For her, being kind meant supporting equality for

all, supporting racial and economic justice and constantly working to promote peace over war.

Kindness was also behind her compassion for the homeless. When she witnessed, firsthand, how the City of Fresno treated homeless people when they were evicting them from their encampments, she just couldn't stand it. She resolved to do something about it.

She attended some meetings with others working on the problem, but she did not want to just sit and talk about it. She wanted action, and she made it happen. After consulting with architect Arthur Dyson about a location, Nancy selected a property on West Dakota Avenue and went to work on what is now known as the Dakota EcoGarden (DEG).

In her mind, it was obvious what needed to be done to address homelessness. People who were unhoused needed some kind of housing right away so that they could get their lives back on track. With a safe, secure place to stay, people could start doing job searches and housing searches. They could work on resolving medical and/or addiction issues, even pursue an education.

She saw no reason why this would have to cost millions and millions of dollars. She had heard of safe and legal campgrounds, and adopted that idea as a model. She built upon the model to go beyond just a campground, but a community, a village of people with similar issues working with one another to advance their lives in a positive direction. And she believed that all of this could be done at a relatively low cost and in an environmentally sustainable manner.

In its first 12 years of operation, DEG has housed more than 160 otherwise unhoused people, many of whom were able to take advantage of their newly acquired stability to move their lives forward. They used their stays at DEG to work on their issues and climb out of the abyss in which they found themselves.

In August 2023, on the occasion of DEG's 10th anniversary, the City of Fresno honored Nancy at a City Council meeting and issued a proclamation declaring Aug. 10, 2023, as Dakota EcoGarden Day in the City of Fresno. That was one of many awards she received in her lifetime for her amazing life's work.

Of course, Nancy's life involved much more than her social activism. She was a great fan of folk music, and joined the Fresno Folklore Society (FFS) early on. She was a regular at FFS events and at the annual campout at Sweet's Mill.

Her love of music got her into the Raging Grannies, which was a way of incorporating music into her activism. She also had a circle of singing friends that would gather frequently to sing together, often at Nancy's house. Music was a big part of her life, and a rewarding part.

Besides teaching elementary school for more than 20 years, she taught circus classes for kids on the side, just for the fun of it. Remember, she went into tumbling back in high school, breaking a gender barrier in the process.

Before teaching, she had worked for a while in the County Department of Social Services. Nancy got around, and turned up in all sorts of places. She not only lived a life of service to others, but she had fun doing it. Way to go, Nancy.



Nancy Waidtlow

Everyone misses Nancy, and our community is not the same with her gone. But our community has been forever changed, changed for the better, by the many wonderful things Nancy did.

Gerry Bill was Nancy Waidtlow's partner. He is emeritus professor of sociology and American studies at Fresno City College. He is on the boards of numerous nonprofits in Fresno, including Peace Fresno, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, FFCF/KFCF, the Eco Village Project of Fresno and the Central California Criminal Justice Committee. Contact him at gerry.bill@gmail.com.

Awards

A partial list of awards received by Nancy Waidtlow:
 2004—Recognition by the Fresno State School of Education (her name on a brick in the wall of honor)
 2012—Fresno Center for Nonviolence Way of Peace awardee
 2014—County of Fresno Certificate of Recognition
 2021—Valley PBS Mr. Rogers Good Neighbor award
 2023—City of Fresno Proclamation honoring her for creating the Dakota EcoGarden

Moving Fast and Breaking Lots of Things

BY STEVEN ROESCH

The journey that Sarah Wynn-Williams traces in *Careless People* began when she came down with a severe fever—Facebook fever.

In 2006, she noticed that politicians were starting to use the platform—and that thrilled and inspired her. This tool, she sensed, had the potential to change political discourse for the better.

Also fueling her enthusiasm was the role that Facebook played in the wake of the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand. Regular media sites were down, but Facebook filled that vacuum. It let people tell family members where they were; it helped to get the word out about things like road closures.

She was so fired up that sitting on the sidelines wasn't an option.

When she sought employment at Facebook, she pitched a suggestion for a position that didn't even exist there yet—one that she felt she could handle, given her work experience at the United Nations.

Eventually, she landed that new post: Manager of Global Policy.

Over time, however, her Facebook fever subsided and then vanished. She increasingly came to recognize how naive she'd been.

At the end, after an action-packed seven-year stint, she left the firm.

Three watershed moments especially fueled her growing disenchantment with the company's culture, aspirations and business practices.

First among them: a business trip to South Korea in 2014.

Facebook was now growing faster in Asia than in other areas, and management decided to present a show of force there.

Mark Zuckerberg would go along, as well as all of the members of his M-Team—Facebook's top managers.

But one problem bedeviled planning for the trip. South Korean authorities had begun criminal investigations of Facebook's top brass, and they'd issued arrest warrants for Zuckerberg, Sheryl Sandberg and several others.

A South Korean agency that monitored overseas gaming had contacted Facebook and asked them to share all of the games available on the site so that they could be assessed. According to South Korean law, Facebook needed to comply.

When the company failed to respond, the Cybercrime Branch of the Seoul Police became involved.

But Facebook had a cavalier stance about the issue. The company felt that no South Korean entity could force them to do anything.

By that time, other nations—including Brazil, India and France—had also initiated Facebook investigations. The company felt the same way about those cases.

During one company meeting, Wynn-Williams proposed that they cooperate

with the South Korean demands and do the same in all countries where they operated.

That suggestion found no support.

Instead, the top executives considered a plan to determine how earnest the South Koreans were about enforcing their laws.

They could allow one of their employees to be arrested there. Wynn-Williams, who had the least seniority in the room, was selected to be "the body" for this tactic.

Later, though, they dropped that plan, deciding that her presence was needed to prepare for the trip and help to make it a success.

That incident showed her how little regard Facebook's leadership had for her, despite her onerous workload. She now sensed that it might be better to work elsewhere down the line.

Another watershed moment for Wynn-Williams involved Zuckerberg's relentless quest to enter the Chinese market, regardless of the cost. Given the financial realities, his passion is understandable. In 2017, when Facebook was still forbidden in China, the company raked in \$5 billion in advertising from Chinese businesses.

How did Zuckerberg plan to breach the Great Wall that the Chinese had set up? According to Wynn-Williams' retelling, the plan was to cater to that country's every desire and whim.

In one set of documents that she came across, Facebook promised to "promote safe and secure social order"—meaning that it would facilitate the Chinese government's surveillance of its citizens. After all, the document stated, "[W]e adhere to local laws wherever we operate and develop

BOOK REVIEW

Careless People

A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism



Sarah Wynn-Williams

close relationships with law enforcement and governments."

Facebook earmarked millions of dollars to bankroll their effort. Some of that money went to organizations that would approve of its wish to enter China and thus blunt critical voices from the likes of Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders.

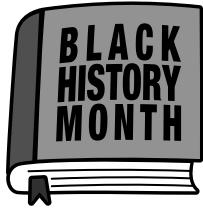
Another part of the company's strategy was to keep U.S. authorities in the dark about the precise nature of its campaign.

Facebook had no qualms about deceiving members of Congress about their methods. A team was established in the firm to help Zuckerberg to prepare for his testimony on the Hill.

One piece of advice that the team offered: Zuckerberg should not disclose that Facebook had cooperated with the

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BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY



As an organization, Fresno WILPF is committed to ongoing unlearning and re-education for those of us who hold privilege in today's constructed society. We believe that limiting the education of Black American History is an insult and disservice not only to the Black community, but to each and every one of us in this dazzlingly diverse nation.

That said, we will take this opportunity to spotlight two of Fresno's most revolutionary individuals. They are both active members of our organization involved in planning most if not all of our events; we encourage you to come out any time of the year and introduce yourselves to them!

Aline Reed's unwavering commitment to social justice was forged in childhood. Born in Fresno in 1958, Reed grew up in a family deeply committed to Black liberation movements. Her parents' involvement with the Black Panther Party for Self Defense and the Nation of Islam shaped her political consciousness from an early age; by age 10 she held firm political views. She graduated from Edison High School in 1976 and went on to earn a BA in English with a minor in Political Science from California State University, Fresno in 1981. She then attended UC Hastings College of the Law from 1981 to 1983. Throughout her life, Reed has dedicated herself to community organizing and social justice work. She founded the Social Justice Book Club and served as President of the Fresno Freedom School from 2016 to 2024. Her activism includes work with the Black Political Council, the Malcolm X/Revolutionary MLK Organizing Committee, the Hinton Community Center Board, and the West Fresno Democratic Club, where she has served as both President and Vice President. Reed's lifelong fight for political empowerment and community leadership in not only Black communities but also for the American people as a whole reflect the values instilled in her during childhood.



Reverend Dr. Floyd D. Harris Jr. is a community and political Civil Rights activist whose leadership has shaped social justice work across California. He founded the California chapter of the National Action Network and serves as a key leader in the Poor People's Campaign. Recognizing the need for youth investment and mentorship, Rev. Harris Jr. established the Fresno Freedom School in West Fresno in 2011. The school operates under the motto "We educate, motivate, energize, organize, and mobilize to take our youth to a higher level." Through his efforts, thirteen youth impacted by the Fresno Freedom School have attended historically Black colleges and universities, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in agriculture. Rev. Harris Jr. has received numerous awards and recognitions for his participation in local and national social justice actions. He remains committed to fighting for human rights and standing with communities facing injustice, whether through protests, rallies, or organizing meetings. With his powerful presence and unwavering commitment to radical, people-first principles, Rev. Harris Jr. stands firmly in the tradition of the great civil rights leaders who have fought for true freedom and justice throughout American history.



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- warm outerwear (i.e. gloves, scarves, hats)
- personal hygiene for mxn & womxn (i.e. 3-in-1 body wash, menstrual products, deodorant, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes)



Find us on social media! [@FresnoWILPF](https://www.instagram.com/fresnowilpf)
Email our president: FresnoWILPF@pm.me

What do you really know about Valentine's Day?

Valentine's Day has roots in both ancient Roman tradition and later Christian observance, though its modern association with romance developed much later.

In ancient Rome, mid-February was marked by Lupercalia, a pre-Christian festival held on February 15. The celebration was connected to fertility, purification, and renewal, and honored Faunus, a Roman god associated with nature and agriculture, as well as the mythic founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. During the festival, priests known as Luperci sacrificed animals (most commonly goats) and used strips of the hides in rituals believed to promote fertility and agricultural abundance. Some later accounts describe temporary pairings between men and women during Lupercalia, though the historical reliability of these descriptions remains uncertain.

Valentine's Day is named for Saint Valentine, but there is no single, well-documented historical figure behind the name. Early Christian records suggest that more than one martyr named Valentine was executed in or near Rome during the third century. Over time, their stories blended into legend. One tradition describes a Christian priest who was imprisoned and executed during the reign of Claudius II, possibly for ministering to fellow Christians. Later medieval legends expanded this story, portraying Valentine as a secret officiant of marriages and/or the author of a farewell letter signed "From your Valentine," though these details are not supported by contemporary evidence.

In the late fifth century, Pope Gelasius I abolished Lupercalia and established February 14 as the feast day for Saint Valentine. While the proximity of these dates has led to speculation that the Christian feast was intended to replace the pagan festival, no surviving sources explicitly confirm this connection.

The association between Valentine's Day and romantic love emerged centuries later. In the 14th century, writers such as Geoffrey Chaucer linked the day with courtly love, helping establish its romantic meaning. By the 18th century, Valentine's Day had become a popular occasion for exchanging love notes and small gifts, eventually evolving into the commercial celebration recognized today.

In the modern world, Valentine's Day is an industry in and of itself and even has a spin-off category that's been growing consistently: Galentine's Day. Americans are projected to spend close to \$30 billion celebrating the shared holiday. Jewelry, dining, flowers, and candy sure do add up!

We at Fresno WILPF would like to propose a challenge: find creative ways to celebrate Valentine's (or Galentine's) Day, without inserting your hard-earned cash into the machine that is capitalism. Go on a hike or drive to see some wildflowers, make your loved ones some kind of art or bake them some cupcakes, build a fort in your living room and have a charcuterie-board dinner in it, you get the picture! You can also make a donation in their honor to one of the many worthy causes out there. If you must spend money spend it locally!

Much love,
Fresno WILPF



Women in Black protest:
Wed, Feb 4 @ 11:30am-1pm
2500 Tulare St
For more info contact Sue:
skern@netptc.net
559-349-3777

WILPF Monthly Meeting:
Thurs, Feb 12 @ 6:30pm
Fresno Center for
Nonviolence
1584 N Van Ness Ave
For Zoom link email
lenivreeves@gmail.com
Open to all! Please join us.

Stir It Up on KFCF:
Wed, Feb 26 @ 3pm
Tune in to 88.1 FM as Jean
Hays highlights people and
events important to our
WILPF community.

"Valley Voices for Peace"
Check out our podcast!
Find us on SoundCloud &
YouTube thanks to a grant
from WILPF US.



THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY FRESNO WILPF.

A Lonesome and Unnecessary Death

BY MALIK SIMBA

According to the recent Congressional testimony (Dec. 17, 2025) of former special prosecutor Jack Smith, Donald Trump was the “most culpable and most responsible person” for the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol Hill riot.

Thus, Trump indirectly caused the deaths of Ashli Babbitt, shot by an African American Capitol police officer; Kevin Greeson, heart attack; Benjamin Philips, stroke; Rosanne Boyland, rushed by the attacking mob; Officer Brian Sicknick, attacked by the mob and dying from two strokes days later; Officer Jeffrey Smith, who was so stressed out by what he witnessed he committed suicide; and two other officers, Kyle DeFreytag and Gunther Hashida, who committed suicide months after the attack.

Trump’s nationwide deployment of both ICE agents and state national guards has resulted in the deaths, thus far, of the 21-year-old woman U.S. Army specialist, Sarah Beckstrom, shot in the head by an angry D.C. resident, and then, on Jan. 7, the ICE shooting death of the single white mother, Renee Nicole Good, in Minneapolis.

This second shooting ironically happened a few blocks from where George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer on May 25, 2020. Good was legally observing police behavior similar to what the Oakland Black Panther Party did in the 1970s.

The uncompassionate comments by federal authorities stand in stark contrast to Trump’s warning to the Iranian government on U.S. intervention if that government harms protestors in that nation.

Immediately after the shooting death of Good, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem held a news conference and stated, in support of the killing, that Good was a “domestic terrorist.”

Juxtapose her statement with that of Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, who said that Noem’s comments were “bullshit” in an early cover-up and that ICE should get “the fuck” out of



A protester holds up a picture of Renee Good at a Fresno demonstration. Photo by Chris Schneider

his city. Then Frey firmly stated, “We stand by our immigrant and refugee communities...you have our full support.”

Sadly, the last image of Good shows a smile on her face, as she says to her eventual killer, ICE officer Jonathan Ross, “That’s fine, dude. I’m not mad at you.”

Ross’s last words to a dying Good were “fucking bitch.”

A classic example of a domestic terrorist would be Timothy McVeigh, who on April 19, 1995, bombed the

OPINION & ANALYSIS

Alfred P. Murray Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168, mostly children, in the building’s daycare center.

Noem’s attempt to legitimize the obvious murder of a single mother of three reminds me of Lewis Carroll’s novel *Alice in Wonderland* and the oral interchange between Alice and Humpty Dumpty in which Alice suggests that words have an objective meaning and Humpty Dumpty replies, “When I use a word...it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less.”

That is what Noem’s words aimed to do, which was to characterize the victim in the worst sort of way. However, to have credibility in what you say, there must be some internal consistency of thought.

To this exact point, most Americans now see through the falsehoods spewed by Trump, Noem and other administration officials, for example, killing alleged Venezuelan drug boat traffickers for regime change and oil.

This semantic conundrum was explained by the womanist scholar, Hazel Carby, who could have been referring to Trump and his MAGA loyalists in noting that when they speak, they do not speak to “reflect or represent a reality but to have their words disguise or mystify objective social relations.” This situation creates an Orwellian nightmare of not believing your eyes and ears.

Renee Nicole Good’s concern, compassion and activism on behalf of the have-nots might have partly derived from her living within Black realities of being the “wretched of the earth.” And with her death per the needless confrontational ICE deployment, Trump has violated a cardinal rule of the hood, which is “Don’t start no mess, Won’t be mess.”

Dr. Malik Simba is professor emeritus of history and Africana studies at Fresno State and has taught at the University of Minnesota, Binghamton University and Clarion University. His book, *Black Marxism and American Constitutionalism: From the Colonial Background through the Ascendancy of Barack Obama and the Dilemma of Black Lives Matter*, is used widely. Dr. Simba serves on the board of Blackpast.org, the Google of the Africana experience.

Rogue Festival: “Uncurated, Unjuried, Uncensored”

BY I. SMILEY G. CALDERON

Fresno’s special annual fringe festival—called the Rogue Festival—kicks off on Feb. 27 and continues through March 6, with six days of performances, including, as its website, fresnoroguefestival.org, states, “theater, music, dance, comedy, magic, poetry, performance art, fun and complete fringe performance madness.”

The now famous fringe festival was founded at the beginning of the century and, through grit and glory, is coming upon its 25th anniversary—one of the oldest and most respected fringe festivals in North America—all in Fresno.

The festival takes place in the Tower District, known for its artsy culture, and consists of two consecutive weekends of live performance shows of independent artists with 30 different performing acts (15 out-of-town and 15 local) at five venues—the truth is, you never really know who or what to expect at Rogue—from national and international touring performers to the local guy who just loves to perform in front of a live audience.

This year, about 60 performers applied for the coveted spots. There are about 25 people on the waiting list, and two additional “off-Rogue” shows are scheduled during the festival.

According to its festival press release, Rogue is an “uncurated, unjuried, uncensored festival.” Performers are selected through a livestreamed random lottery and, once selected, there are no restrictions on what performers can say or do at their own show.

The Rogue Festival stands firm in its support of unrestricted artistic expression and celebrates the power of art freedom.

Yolanda Serrato has returned for her second year as volunteer executive director of the festival. A true “lover of arts,” she has been volunteering with Rogue since 2011. She has volunteered for practically every role at Rogue and loves it.

Serrato has a supportive volunteer team who jokingly call her “glorious leader” and the “all decision maker.”

Volunteers at Rogue are important, and they keep busy during the festival. They are the true lifeline of Rogue.

Serrato calls her volunteer crew her “secret ingredient,” a team who “works their butts off to do the thousand and one background tasks that make Rogue possible.”

She says: “We always need more volunteers. It’s nice to have more people to utilize and help cover shows.” Interested volunteers should contact Rogue as soon as possible.

Serrato knows their grassroots festival is unique. “The Rogue shows a different side of Fresno. We are bringing arts to Fresno, and we want to continue to bring the arts. Our festival is very friendly—a friendlier festival—and people seem happier to attend.”

Rogue provides artists with a space to perform and audiences get to decide what it all means. “The goal is to get people to learn more about different types of performing arts, how to express themselves,” Serrato says.

After all these years, Serrato still loves the fact that you could literally see anything at the Rogue Festival. She’s seen everything at Rogue, from the sweetest show ever to the “very weirdest, craziest-but-loved-it kind of show” on the planet.

Her most memorable performance was a 79-year-old burlesque dancer. There’s truly something for everyone.

But not every show is for everyone. Audience members can leave any show at any time if they don’t like it. Serrato wants to remind ticket purchasers, though, that there are no refunds. All ticket sales go directly to the performers.

This year, the Rogue Festival is promoting the performers on its social media outlets to target a broader audience and get youth more involved. Rogue’s social media handle for Facebook and Instagram is “rogue.fresno.”

The teaser show is set for Feb. 26 at Summer Fox Brewery and will include a silent auction. Rogue’s annual revealing



Better than a movie, out-of-town comic performer Jesse Feng (at left) leads the *Rushed Hour Comedy* Rogue show. Graphic courtesy of the Rogue Festival

of its muse will happen at Goldstein’s Mortuary and Delicatessen bar the night of Feb. 12.

Just as in previous years, Rogue attendees need to purchase a single Rogue wristband (which is good for the entirety of the festival) in order to have access to purchase tickets to individual shows. This can be done at any Rogue venue before and during showtimes.

“We usually say we’re small, we’re scrappy, we’re unconventional,” Serrato beams. “We’ve lasted for 25 years because every year is new and unique—the Rogue can’t be stopped.”

I. smiley G. Calderon is a Southern California Gen X Chicano now living in the Central Valley. He believes in building community through education and loves world peace and tacos. He is also the advertising director of the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at smileycalderon@gmail.com.

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SIERRA CLUB TEHIPITE CHAPTER

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter Elects 2026 Leadership

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter members elected our Executive Committee (Excom) elections in our annual mail-and-online election in December and new officers in January. **Congratulations to Ken Wall, our new chair!** Ken is retired banker, and is actively engaged with a coalition addressing the Fresno County transportation sales tax, the No on SEDA Coalition (opposing the plan to vastly expand the city of Fresno into farmland east of the city), and the CEMEX mining proposal.

Our Excom is now comprised of JoAnne Clarke, Bill Fjellbo, Gary Lasky, Brenda Markham, Les Marsden, Ron Martin, Barbara Showalter, and Gerald Vinnard. Brenda serves as our Chapter Secretary and retired CPA JoAnne Clarke is our Chapter Treasurer.

Our webmaster is Bob Turner, Legal Chair is Gary Lasky, Fundraising Chair is Bill Fjellbo, and Programs chair is Karen Hammer.

Ron Martin continues as our capable Conservation Chair, which he has been ably managing for the past few years. The Conservation Committee covers our environmental issue areas, each with a lead person who keeps our chapter leadership informed of important developments at our monthly Conservation Committee meeting (on Zoom the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, immediately preceding the Excom meeting).

Our issue leads are presently: • Air Quality: Carlos Garcia • Energy: Ron Martin • Climate: Connie Young • Land Use /Sprawl/Agriculture: Dan O'Connell • Toxics: Laura Rosenberger • Transportation/No on Measure C: Ken Wall • Wilderness/30x30: JoAnne Clarke • Yosemite National Park: Les Marsden.



Tehipite Dome, Kings Canyon National Park
(photo credit: Gary Stephens, I Love the Sierra Facebook group)

Join us on **Wednesday, February 18, at 7 PM** at the **Woodward Park Regional Library** (944 E. Perrin Ave. Fresno) when **Lee Terkelsen** will present excerpts from his ambitious documentary on the giant sequoias:

Big Trees - Big Impact

This documentary centers on how our emotional connection to the trees has shaped our history, environmental policies, art, culture, and politics. In just one of the 76 giant sequoia groves, nearly 8000 of the world's largest trees fell to the blade of the ax, setting off an environmental movement that continues to have implications. We will learn about the human stories, including one about Charlie Castro, an indigenous descendant, who spent nine hours in a sequoia tree while it was on fire to save the tree and, perhaps, the rest of Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. Join us for what promises to be, not your typical program about giant sequoias!

ALSO: Save the Date! Our 2026 Tehipite Chapter Potluck Awards Banquet will take place **March 14 at 5 PM** at the **Big Red Church** (First Congregational Church) Fresno. Please join us for a delightful evening with our Keynote Speaker, Robert Groos: photographer, birder, and storyteller extraordinaire. Details to follow. You can also check sierraclub.org/tehipite or facebook.com/tehipite

We have vacancies for a few Conservation issues, and are seeking one or more volunteers for the following issues: Environmental Justice, Kings Canyon National Park, Sierra National Forest, and Water (groundwater and/or river and stream diversions from, which are destroying the San Francisco Bay Delta). **No expertise is required!** Just an interest in learning about the issue. We have volunteer experts across California and can connect you with our network of Sierra Club volunteers who know your issue, to learn more and share ideas. If you are curious and might want to consider volunteering, contact the author (see below).

In addition to the above, our Tehipite Chapter is excited to have Dr. Barbara Showalter fill the vacancy of Outings Chair. Barbara has been trained and certified by the national Sierra Club and has begun to organize hikes and other outings. Anyone interested in leading a hike should contact the author to connect with Barbara.

Finally, this is an election year, and we have an urgent need for individuals interested in serving on a candidate endorsement committee. The national Sierra Club has a well-defined process for endorsing local, state legislative, and Congressional candidates, and this is the most fun (in your author's opinion) of any of the chapter's roles. Presently, we also have a vacancy for our Political Chair position. Please contact the author if you think you might be interested. Non-members can join the Sierra Club to participate.

A new program, the California Advocacy Committee, trains volunteers to lobby state legislators at their district offices, enabling a rapid-response network to respond to specific bills. By decentralizing this process, we can work close to home, at a convenient time and place. Brenda Markham is our chapter coordinator.

Our Chapter is one of thirteen in California, and Sierra Club California (SCCA) is our umbrella. With a staff of six, SCCA is based in our Sacramento office. Our Executive Director is Miguel Miguel. It is directed by the SCCA Excom, which includes our Ron Martin. Key activities include a state Conservation Committee which covers environmental issues of statewide concern: oil and gas, water, forests, environmental justice, energy/climate, and transportation. The California Political Committee conducts endorsements for U.S. Senators and statewide elected positions, including Governor. The California Legislative Committee reviews roughly 500 environmental bills each year.

Lastly, our national Council of Club Leaders (CCL) is a representative body with delegates from our 64 chapters. The CCL meets quarterly on Zoom and annually in person. A seven-member Executive Committee (including the author) represents our grassroots membership in discussions with the national Board of Directors and senior staff.

Also, our 64 Chapter Chairs, including Ken Wall, comprise the Chapter Chair Representatives (CCR). The Club was founded in 1892, with John Muir as our first President, and our charter states that we are a **volunteer-led** organization. Lately, that has come into question, as our staff numbers have grown to 600, serving our roughly 600,000 members, and the Club comes to resemble other, staff-driven "Big Green" non-profit NGOs.

Gary Lasky
Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee
559-790-3495 (call or text)
garylaskylaw@gmail.com



Credit: Lee Terkelson

West Fresno Family Resource Center



West Fresno Family Resource Center
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I Dream A World

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its path adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

Langston Hughes



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The End

Continued from page 5

only at this point did a member of the Board think to consult a legal authority. "What is the state law?" Magsig asked County Counsel Doug Sloan, who replied that there were two issues: building codes and zoning.

Per state building code, one person is allowed for every 250 square feet. Per state zoning law, up to six unrelated people may live in a single-family dwelling. Magsig then diverged into more Bible talk, as religion is one of his fixations—he was the authority on the Bible, and no matter what passage anyone else cited, he would have the last word, using the passages he preferred (the book of Titus) to reach a decision: He stretched this Biblical allusion to conclude that "systems [e.g., plumbing] should not be overburdened."

Pacheco remarked that there was "no question" that the Coyles were trying to help people, but the concern was the concentration of sex offenders and public safety. If everyone was "doing it right," there shouldn't be an issue, he said.

Then he asked Sloan to clarify his remarks about state law as it affected this ordinance. Sloan explained that per current state law, local jurisdictions may (not "must") make regulations regarding a single-family house with more than six unrelated occupants, which appeared to satisfy Pacheco.

Chavez remarked that he "didn't like the undertones" of vilification toward the Coyles reflected in some of the commenters' remarks; however, he, as a foster parent, "didn't trust the hearts of men who have done unspeakable things to children."

Bredfeld, as chair now speaking last, nevertheless didn't miss an opportunity to demonstrate his oft-expressed hostility toward the state government, which he called "pro-criminal," and his mulish refusal to engage in a reasonable manner: "I don't care what they say, state law is stupid!"

Measure C: Bredfeld's Vow a Success?

During the portion of the meeting reserved for supervisor committee reports and general comments, the focus was on Measure C, the sales tax that funds the County's transportation projects, and which is scheduled to appear on the November 2026 ballot for a renewal vote.

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Ongoing negotiations by a steering committee for how to budget the tax revenue have been contentious, mainly because of vociferous opposition by a minority—led by Bredfeld and Mendes—to funding such areas as public transportation; they prefer 30 years (the term of the measure) of repeatedly fixing potholes and building more roads for cars.

Chavez remarked that he met with Measure C "folks"—presumably members of the steering committee—who, having recently approved the spending implementation plan by a 10-4 vote, asked that the current proposal be placed on the Board's agenda. However, Chavez noted that, historically, the 15 cities of Fresno County have a chance to weigh in first, something he appeared to prefer in this case as well.

He urged "folks" who anticipated a competing initiative (which would require a complex petition process to appear on the ballot) to consider compromising and discussed what things might look like without a Measure C—the loss of Measure C funding would entail layoffs and significant loss of money for any of the County's transportation-related projects, Chavez warned.

It must appear on the agenda so the Board can vote on it, as they have the final vote in the process—if it is not agendized, the Board can't vote on it, and if they don't vote on it, it won't appear on the ballot in November. Hence, there is a possibility of a competing measure in the form of a ballot initiative.

Mendes commented that this was his 12th year dealing with Measure C, and he reiterated Chavez's point about cities voting on the updated measure before the Board votes. He didn't hide his petulance over not getting his way on the terms of the updated measure, claiming without evidence that there was "lots of dishonesty" in the process.

"Electeds have the final call! Others can say what they want, but electeds have the final call!" By "electeds," he appeared to mean himself and other Board members, not elected members of any of the 15 city councils within the county, and rather than the "final" call, he appeared to be affronted that his was not the "only" call.

Bredfeld picked up where Mendes left off and reiterated his favorite canards about Measure C:



District 4 Supervisor Buddy Mendes' chief of staff Vickie Day reads a humorous ode to her boss. *Screenshot from livestream*

The steering committee was "hijacked by radicals," they want to "get people out of their cars," "nobody wants bikes," it was a "shit-show," they support "climate change nonsense" and so on.

"I told them 'No' in no uncertain terms!" he ranted. Bredfeld's oft-repeated threat about Measure C—"I'll make sure this fails!"—loomed like a promise to burn the house down if he couldn't run it.

Addendum: Days after the Jan. 6 Board meeting, reports confirmed that Measure C is at an impasse, and if a citizens' initiative reflecting a holistic approach to the next 30 years of transportation funding and development (e.g., one that entails public transit) is to appear on the November ballot, supporters must act quickly. Bredfeld's vow to "make sure it fails" appears to have been effective.

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

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Orange Cove Grapples with Hydrogen Blending Plan

BY VIC BEDOIAN

Orange Cove is a small Fresno County town nestled against the Sierra foothills surrounded by citrus orchards, as it has been for well over a century. The usual worries are things like the weather, the price of crops or the vicissitudes of life.

Now, the city's residents are debating its energy future. In the spotlight is a plan by Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) to generate hydrogen gas locally using solar power, then blend it in with the natural gas that residents and businesses use for space heating, hot water and cooking.

It is being promoted as a demonstration project in the attempt to help wean the state off fossil fuel consumption by using hydrogen, a cleaner burning fuel. While Orange Cove's mayor and City Council are all-in on the project, many unanswered questions remain, as residents try to fully understand the details and how the pilot program will impact them.

This is part of a statewide effort under the supervision of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). It decided in 2022 to move ahead with a trial run.

Five cities served by the state's major utilities companies will take part in the pilot project to determine whether blending hydrogen with natural gas is an effective path toward the state's goal of a 100% renewable energy grid by 2045.

Proponents feature Oahu, Hawaii, as a good model. The city has been successfully using a blend containing 15% hydrogen since 1974. There are other locations in the world where the hydrogen/natural gas blend has been adopted.

In Orange Cove, SoCalGas will build a solar-powered hydrogen-producing plant. It will start with a blend of 0.1% hydrogen and build up to 5%.

The expected cost is \$64 million. Costs will be spread out by all the company's customers. Households can expect to see an increase of \$0.13 increase in their monthly bill in the first year going down to \$0.04 afterward.

The company states that older stoves and heaters in homes are compatible with the gas blend and has promised to inspect appliances in the homes of residents to ensure they will work safely. The company also pledges to conduct regular leak checks of its systems along with real-time air monitoring to detect leaks coupled with an automatic shutdown mechanism and emergency response plan.

So that's the theory of the case. It all sounded good. So good, in fact, that Orange Cove leaders jumped in without many of the city's 10,000 residents knowing much about the plan at all.

Then on Aug. 25, 2025, the CPUC finally held a public participation hearing in Orange Cove to make its presentation and invite public input. Several dozen people attended, a mix of local residents and people representing SoCalGas and a variety of businesses and civic groups.

The pilot project was broadly explained by the company, without much detail. It was pitched as an opportunity for local jobs, to put Orange Cove on the map as a clean energy leader and become a gateway to high-tech education for the city's youth connecting with local colleges.

Political reps and institutional and business groups roundly endorsed the plan. But among many Orange Cove residents there was skepticism and outright opposition, along with many questions that went unanswered.

Legal problems with the project were raised by Jaime Zweifler-Katz, an attorney for the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, representing Orange Cove United, a group of residents.

He cited three major problem areas: lack of informed consent by the community, indoor air pollution and compatibility of existing residential appliances to the hydrogen blended gas. He stated neither the utilities nor the city told residents about the risks associated with hydrogen blending.

Regarding indoor air pollution, he cited a study by Professor Alistair Lewis that

hydrogen could double the amount of nitrogen oxides in older homes with older appliances. That would include many Orange Cove homes.

Another question is whether those older appliances work with the gas blend. If not, many residents would be forced to buy new appliances or go electric. That would be a big lift for people in this working-class farm town.

In conclusion, Zweifler-Katz stated that there are other pathways for the state to achieve clean energy goals without hydrogen blending and its associated risks. He urged the CPUC not to approve this pilot for a project he characterized as a dangerous experiment lacking community support.

Alma Figueroa, a 40-year resident of Orange Cove, had strong words against the project. "Speaking on behalf of myself, my family and the vast majority of the Orange Cove residents, we strongly oppose the hydrogen blending experiment. Human beings should not be used as guinea pigs to fill the pockets of corporations."

She warned that older homes and appliances could be at risk of leaking and pipeline corrosion. Figueroa added her concern that the city's aging infrastructure would not be capable of handling the hydrogen blended gas. Her comments echoed the worries that other longtime Orange Cove residents expressed.

They're not alone in their distrust of the hydrogen blending experiment in California. In 2024, a broad coalition of environmental groups and consumer advocates filed a petition to the CPUC to dismiss these projects.

According to the Sierra Club, "The five projects would cost over \$200 million in ratepayer money on hydrogen experiments in residential homes, college campuses and commercial buildings across California.

"The utilities' proposed projects also fail to meet the CPUC's minimum requirements for clean hydrogen, leak detection and stakeholder engagement.

"These proposals come after two previous failed attempts by investor-owned utilities to get CPUC approval for hydrogen blending."

Michael Colvin of the Environmental Defense Fund underlined a potential danger in blending. "Because hydrogen functions



Graphic courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

as an indirect greenhouse gas, blending hydrogen into the existing gas pipelines can lead to climate harm since those older pipes will be more prone to leaks."

Even the CPUC has admitted that hydrogen blends above 5% could require modifications of appliances such as stoves and water heaters to avoid leaks and malfunction.

Critics of the plan contend that dismissing these pilot projects would allow the state to concentrate on more effective climate strategies that would also clean the air and align with California's climate goals.

A Minneapolis utility company estimated that a blend of up to 5% green hydrogen could reduce carbon pollution by as much as 1,200 tons annually, the equivalent of removing 254 gas-powered cars.

People in Orange Cove now are confronting the problem of whether the 18-month experiment and what comes after is worth the trade-off in uncertainty, cost and the potential risks.

The CPUC is expected to decide on utility applications in early 2026.

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

Resistance Is Not Futile

BY BAYARD TAYLOR

If it had not dawned upon us before recent events, it should be totally obvious now: Christian theocrats, white nationalists and oligarchs who never have enough money are trying to drag the United States into a fascist hellhole with Donald Trump as the Dear Leader.

John Shattuck, president emeritus of Central European University and professor of practice in diplomacy at Tufts University, gave a talk at Boston University this past December. It aired in January on the *Alternative Radio* show at KPFA.

Shattuck said that Trump is following the fascist playbook of Viktor Orban of Hungary. Here are some crib notes from his speech.

Orban was democratically elected, but swiftly turned Hungary toward fascism. How did he do it?

- Taking over his party and enforcing iron discipline
- Attacking the universities' academic freedom and shutting down dissent
- Appealing to the hate, fear, grievances and racism of his political base
- Demonizing his opponents, immigrants and minorities as "enemies of the people"
- Flooding the media with misinformation and lies
- Claiming unlimited power for himself
- Dismantling Hungary's civil service workers and replacing them with lackeys
- Eliminating checks and balances by taking over the legislature, courts, media and civil society organizations
- Ruling by executive decrees, snuffing the rule of law
- Creating a new oligarchy that would fund him

Trump has done the same. He has intimidated Republican lawmakers so much that they follow him in lockstep. He has attacked academic freedom in

OPINION & ANALYSIS

universities, freedom of the press and the freedom of late-night comedians to make jokes. He's shutting down diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and critical race theory or anything he views as "disparaging" of the United States.

Trump's platform is rooted in the racist hatred of immigrants. He's "accidentally" sending law-abiding asylum seekers to torture prisons. His "health" secretary is making pandemics more likely. His DOJ has turned "justice" into kangaroo courts.

He makes up absurd lies (like his statement that Somalians in Minnesota are "garbage") to appeal to his racist base. He scapegoats LGBTQ+ people and other minorities for the breakdown of morals.

Meanwhile, Trump has no problem with midnight raids that rip families apart. He doesn't think ICE and Border Patrol agents are using enough violence.

This so-called peace president is murdering persons fishing on the high seas, unilaterally renegeing on treaties, bombing countries with impunity and threatening other countries with invasions. He's turning his back on working people, on education and on the rule of law.

And now he's condoning the cold-blooded murder of peaceful protesters like Renee Nicole Good, falsely calling her a "domestic terrorist."

We must face the fact that this is what we're up against. Trump sees dissent as "domestic terrorism." He wants us to obey him out of fear, to comply with his wishes both stated and unstated.

We must not comply. We must resist in small ways and large, according to our abilities and positions in society. Even the smallest acts of noncompliance are important.

Resistance is not futile. But what does it look like?

Shattuck says social disruptions, like economic depressions, can lead to greater democracy (like the New Deal) or to less democracy (like in Hungary). But if people can come together in the crisis over shared interests—like affordability, healthcare and housing—they can demand changes and make a difference.

ARTS PROFILE

Dixie Salazar Presents *Impermanence*



During February, Fig Tree Gallery features Dixie Salazar's show, *Impermanence*. Impermanence refers to the transitory nature of all things, as the artist explores the theme of loss and grief.

Salazar employs a technique she calls painted collage as a means of utilizing found images and scraps of visual textures she rescues from many different sources. The process is a means of transformation and resurrection, mirroring the theme of the show: finding redemption and renewal from the dark well of grief in order to "metabolize suffering into something beautiful and ultimately sacred."

Salazar is an author, activist and educator. Her work has been described as rich in the color and iconography of her Spanish heritage with a passion for life.

Her paintings are a combination of flowing forms, vivid color and strong design elements, often imbued with mystery and ambiguity. Her work sometimes accesses found objects and appropriated images from old advertisements, coloring books and other historical sources.

She works in many media including oil painting, acrylics, watercolor, collage and photography.

Salazar is also a successful poet and published author, publishing her first novel, *Limbo*, in 1995, and three volumes of poetry, *Hotel Fresno*, *Reincarnation of the Commonplace* and *Blood Mysteries*.

On Feb. 5, as part of ArtHop, Fig Tree Gallery (644 Van Ness Ave.) features a reception with the artist from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At a closing reception on Feb. 28 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Salazar will read from her poetry.

Continued to page 16

FRESNO ARTS & CULTURE

FEBRUARY 2026 CALENDAR

Weekly

- Fort Washington Farmers Market** (Sundays) 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Fort Washington Shopping Center. Local products.
- Sunday Jams** (Sundays) 4 p.m.–7 p.m. California Catering. Live music.
- Acoustic Honkey Tonk Jam** (Mondays) 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Hosted by E.Z. Marc.
- River Park Farmers Market** (Tuesdays) 5 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park. California certified fresh market.
- Open Mic Night** (Tuesdays) 7:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Strummer's. Open mic 7:30 p.m., karaoke 9:30 p.m. Free
- Open Mic Night** (Tuesdays) 7 p.m. Locked In Sports Bar. Signups 6 p.m., performances 7 p.m.
- Vineyard Farmers Market** (Wednesdays) 2 p.m.–5 p.m. 100 W. Shaw Ave. Valuing the land that produces our bounty.
- Kenny Hall's Friends** (Wednesdays) 5 p.m.–7 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Old-time music song circle.
- Pass the Aux** (Wednesdays) 8:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Strummer's. Open-format DJ night.
- Arte, Pero Later** (Thursdays) 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Arte Américas. From live music to bilingual book club.
- Karaoke Night** (Thursdays) 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Club One Casino. Free
- Vineyard Farmers Market** (Saturdays) 7 a.m.–noon. 100 W. Shaw Ave. Valuing the land that produces our bounty.

- 01** *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear* (~Feb. 22) 2nd Space Theatre. \$29.49
- Mary Poppins** (~March 22) Roger Rocka's. This family favorite is "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." \$45+
- Aladdin Jr.** 2 p.m. California Arts Academy. The story you know and love. \$14.64+
- Will Brahm** 2:30 p.m. Patrick's Music School. Fender Stratocaster jazz guitar. Free
- AJ Lee & Blue Summit** 7 p.m. Tower Theatre Lounge. With Long Forgotten and the Jack Kinney Band. \$38+
- Strawberry Girls** 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Strummer's. With Amarionette. \$24
- 02** *Japanese Art of Kyōsai, Kyōsui and Kyōtei* (~Feb. 6) 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Phoebe Conley Gallery. From the late Edo through Meiji periods. Free
- Take It to the Limit** 7:30 p.m. Tower Theatre. Eagles tribute band. \$49+
- 04** **Dead Boys** 8:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Strummer's. Rowdy punk band. \$24
- 05** **Impermanence** (~Feb. 28) Fig Tree Gallery. An exhibition by Dixie Salazar.
- ArtHop Gallery on Fulton** 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Downtown Fresno/Tower District. Exhibitions, gallery shows and performances. Free
- Multilingualism is not a weakness. It's a superpower.** 5 p.m.–8 p.m. (storytime at 6:30 p.m.) 1252 Fulton St. Bilingual storytime with author Antonio Lopez Jr.
- Walk in Peace Concert** 7:30 p.m. OAB Auditorium. A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month. \$8
- Perreoland** 8 p.m. Rainbow Ballroom. Reggaeton dance music festival. \$33
- 07** **Graphic Art of Roi Partridge** (~June 28) Fresno Art Museum. Etchings from a master printmaker.
- Jeffrey Long: American Landscapes** (~June 28) Fresno Art Museum. Modernist design, tribal and Asian art.

- 08** **Requiem: The Remains of the Day** (~June 28) Fresno Art Museum. Photographs by Ruth Morgan.
- Bilingual Story Time** 10 a.m. Arte Américas. Free
- Origami Crafts & Matcha Tea Party Social** 3 p.m.–5 p.m. Mintea. Asian American Writers Coalition (AAWC) cultural art workshop.
- Nate Butler at the Silent Movies** 7 p.m. Vista Theater. Classic silent movies with live piano music.
- Industria del Amor** 8 p.m. Rainbow Ballroom. Regional Mexican music. \$39
- The Emo Night Tour** 8 p.m.–midnight. Fulton 55. Touring DJs. \$23
- 09** **Irish & Breton Session** 1 p.m.–3 p.m. La Boulangerie. Open session of Irish and Breton tunes. Free
- 10** **Silent Book Club** 6:30 p.m. Dulce UpFront. Bring a book, your reading list and a friend.
- 12** **Makeout Reef X** 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Strummer's. With Israel's Arcade. \$21
- 13** **Beetlejuice: The Musical** (~Feb. 14) Saroyan Theatre. Sponsored by Broadway in Fresno. \$56+
- Six** (~Feb. 22) Fresno Veterans Memorial Auditorium. Pop musical by Children's Musical Theatre that reimagines the six wives of King Henry VIII as a girl group forming a pop concert to tell their stories. \$25
- Contemporary Dance Ensemble** (~Feb. 21) 7:30 p.m. John Wright Theatre. Contemporary classics and creative innovation. \$20
- Los Hermanos Mendoza** 8:30 p.m. Tower Theatre. Mexican-American country band. \$36+
- Candlelight: Valentine's Day Special** 8:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. The Grand 1401. Classical crossover music performed by the Listeo string quartet. \$35+
- 14** **Old Time Fiddlers & Music Jam** 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Free
- Henry Cho** 5 p.m. & 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. The Empty Nest Tour. \$48+
- Tijuana Panthers** 6 p.m.–11 p.m. Strummer's. Surf, post-punk, garage and indie rock. \$22
- Valentine's Night Out Fresno** 8 p.m.–11 p.m. Warnors Theatre. Soulful celebration of love, legacy and local talent. \$47+
- 15** **Sunday Serenade** 3 p.m. Paul Shagoian Concert Hall. Three chamber works and a symphony. \$25+
- Sunday Night Blues Jam** 6 p.m.–9 p.m. Club One Casino. Featuring the Richie Blue Band. Free
- Cinderella** 6 p.m. Saroyan Theatre. World Ballet Company. \$51+
- 17** **Jazz at the Library** 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m. Betty Rodriguez Regional Library. Live jazz performance.
- 18** **Why Not Wednesday?** 5 p.m.–9 p.m. Fulton St. (Mono to Fresno). Vendors, food trucks, artists and live music.
- Art Grooves Got Jokes** 7 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park Art Groove. 7 p.m. open mic, 7:30 p.m. comedian talent contest.
- Harlem Globetrotters 100-Year Tour** 7 p.m. Save Mart Center. Experience the team that redefined basketball. \$46+
- 19** **ArtHop** 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Fresno Metro Area. Exhibitions, gallery shows and performances. Free
- 20** **Candlelight: The Best of Joe Hisaishi** 6:15 p.m. The Grand 1401. The Listeo string quartet performs Hisaishi's Studio Ghibli orchestral music. \$32.50+
- For the Love of Piano** 7 p.m. Warkentine Culture & Arts Center. Featuring international artist Robert Poortinga.
- Inner Ear Beat Down Slams** 7 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park Art Groove. 7 p.m. open mic, 7:30 p.m. slam.
- Tobymac** 7 p.m. Save Mart Center. Contemporary Christian rock. \$35+
- Niki J Crawford** 8 p.m.–11 p.m. Frank's Place. Soul-funk-R&B sound. \$41+
- Bohemian Queen Tribute Band** 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. \$22+
- Candlelight: The Music of Coldplay vs. Imagine Dragons** 8:30 p.m. The Grand 1401. Performed by the Listeo string quartet. \$32+
- DJ Carlo Lio (Rawthentic)** 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Fulton 55. Blending house, minimal and techno. \$23+
- Volunteer Day** 8:30 a.m.–noon. Shinzen Friendship Garden. Contribute to the care of this beautiful space.
- Bilingual Story Time** 10 a.m. Arte Américas. Free
- Seasons of Stories Book Club** 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Shinzen Friendship Garden. Literature inspired by Japanese culture. Free
- Jazz Jam Session** 4 p.m.–7 p.m. Vibez Lounge. Rick Heller's Trio Expression. Free
- 22** **Youth Orchestras of Fresno** 12:30 p.m.–2 p.m. Paul Shagoian Concert Hall. Children's matinee/young person's concert. \$10+
- A Taste of Chocolate, A Taste of Magic** 3 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Paul Shagoian Concert Hall. Annual fundraiser for Youth Orchestras of Fresno. \$25+
- 23** **Chris Isaak** 8 p.m. Warnors Theatre. Noted for his reverb-laden rockabilly revivalist style and wide vocal range. \$64+
- 24** **Diana Gabriel Exhibition** (~March 26) Fresno City College Art Space Gallery. Drawing on traditional textiles and techniques from her grandmother's home in Colombia.
- 25** **The Browning: USA!** 6 p.m.–11 p.m. Fulton 55. Burn This World [Evolved] Tour. \$23+
- Sebastian Bach** 7:30 p.m. Tower Theatre. Heavy metal musician. \$43+
- 27** **Basscapade** 8 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Valdez Hall. Dubstep and trap from renowned DJs. \$25+

Submit arts-related events to calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication, or you can post anytime online at fresnoalliance.com (select Calendar).



EXPANDED ACCESS TO
ARTS & CULTURE

The San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance is funded in part by the City of Fresno Measure P Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Fund administered by the Fresno Arts Council.

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|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 | Dulce UpFront • 2026 N. Van Ness Blvd. • 559-202-3099 | Fulton 55 • 875 Divisadero St. • fulton55.com | Patrick's Music School • 9423 N. Fort Washington Rd. #104 • 559-202-0249 | Santa Fe Basque Restaurant • 3110 N. Maroa Ave. • 559-226-7499 | Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 |
| Arte Américas • 1630 Van Ness Ave. • arteamericas.org | Fig Tree Gallery • 644 Van Ness Ave. • 559-485-0460 / figtreegallery.us | John Wright Theatre • Speech Arts Building/Fresno State • 559-278-2216 | Paul Shagoian Concert Hall • 2770 E. International Ave. • 559-327-5000 | Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100 | Valdez Hall • 702 M St. • 559-445-8100 |
| Betty Rodriguez Regional Library • 3040 N. Cedar Ave. • 559-600-9245 | Fort Washington Shopping Center • 447 Fort Washington Rd. • 559-490-3600 | La Boulangerie • 730 W. Shaw Ave. • 559-222-0555 | Phoebe Conley Gallery • Fresno State • 559-278-2516 | Save Mart Center • 2650 E. Shaw Ave. • savemartcenter.com | Vibez Lounge • 724 E. Olive Ave. • vibezlounge.com/ |
| California Arts Academy • 4750 N. Blackstone Ave. • 559-222-6539 | Frank's Place • 1432 Fulton St. • 559-264-2848 | Locked In Sports Bar • 3045 W. Bullard Ave. • 559-369-7684 | Rainbow Ballroom • 1725 Broadway St. • 559-354-1017 | Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848 | Vista Theater • 1298 N. Wishon Ave. • 559-222-7464 |
| California Catering • 1603 E St. • 559-222-4202 | Fresno Art Museum • 2233 N. First St. • 559-441-4221 | Mintea • 783 E. Barstow Ave. • 559-319-6076 | River Park's Art Groove • 80 E. Via Del Oro • 559-840-8886 | Strummer's Bar & Grill • 833 E. Fern Ave. • 559-485-5356 | Warkentine Culture & Arts Center • Fresno Pacific University • 559-453-2267 |
| Club One Casino • 3950 N. Cedar Ave. • clubonecasino.com | Fresno Memorial Auditorium • 2425 Fresno St. • 559-498-0510 | OAB Auditorium • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221 | Roger Rocka's Dinner Theatre • 1226 N. Wishon Ave. • 559-266-9494 | The Grand 1401 • 1401 Fulton St. • thegrand1401.com | Warnors Theatre • 1400 Fulton St. • 559-264-2848 |

Note: All locations are in the city of Fresno unless otherwise noted.

BY HOMER GEE GREENE JR.

Citizenship and nationality have objective legal and identity meanings. Nationality is based on where one is born. Citizenship is based on a country giving you citizenship by birth or through a legal process to become a citizen of that country.

Let us now look at the culture and citizenship of individuals that can claim that they are African American.

Kamala Harris has claimed her African Americanness based on her African heritage and American citizenship, therefore she is an African American. Her father is a Black man from the Caribbean. Her mother is from South Asia. In the Jim Crow South, she would have been identified as a mulatto.

The new Catholic pope, Leo XIV, is also African American. He is a descendent of an African American Creole woman and a European white father. He has African heritage and American citizenship, therefore he is an African American pope. He also spent 20 years in Peru, so he could also be identified as a South American pope.

Dr. Malik Simba, professor emeritus of history at Fresno State, would say that in the Jim Crow South, especially New Orleans, the new pope would have been classified as an octoroon, indicating that he was one-eighth Black. Hence, after 1868, he would have been classified as also being an African American.

He is also a South American pope based on the 20 courtesy of fears he spent in Peru. In a number of ways, our new pope is a Black pope of the Americas: North and South America and a Black pope and leader of the Holy See.

What many people do not know is that his grandparents passed as white. Dr. Henry Louis Gates has indicated that Leo's grandfather and grandmother, on the 1900 federal Census, identified themselves as Black in Louisiana.

On the 1910 federal Census, they identified themselves as white, while still living in Louisiana. They then moved to Chicago and passed as white on the 1930 and 1940 federal Census. The phenotype of octoroos enabled them to pass as white Americans. Their daughter, Leo's mother, was also classified as white.

President Dwight Eisenhower was an octoroon also. He was really America's first Black president. He had a German grandmother who was a Black mulatto. His grandfather was a white German, hence, he had African heritage and American citizenship, therefore he was an African American.

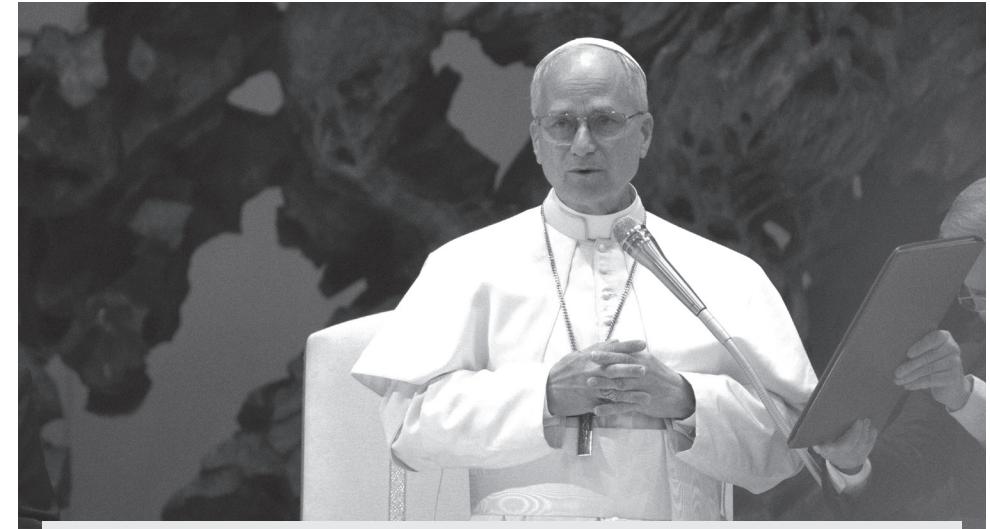
Of course, our second Black president, Barack Obama, had an African father from Kenya and a white European American mother. He also had African heritage and American citizenship, therefore he is African American. In the Jim Crow South, Obama would have been identified as a mulatto.

Obama and Harris have never denied being African American, and both identified with African American culture and theology.

Analyze the character Mary in the current Black movie *Sinners*. Mary is an octoroon. She passed as a white woman, married a white man for social and legal mobility, but she loved a Black man named Stack. Mary also identified with Black culture and personally identified as a Black woman.

The reader might not know that the actress who portrayed Mary in this film, Hailee Steinfeld, is an octoroon. Her maternal grandfather was half Filipino and half African American. Because of her genetic African heritage, Steinfeld could identify herself as an African American, if she wanted to.

One might ask the question: What then is the purpose behind the use of African American as a separate identity on applications and such? Is it to identify where people might have



Pope Leo in Rome. Photo by Edgar Beltrán/The Commons

been born before they became American citizens? Or to identify a class of people who have certain experiences arising from their racial makeup? Is a white person born in Kenya deserving of special access to elite colleges or preference on a job application? If so, why?

It is important to know the ethnic/racial heritage, citizenship and lineage of people immigrating to the United States and applying for American citizenship.

A phenotypically presenting white person, who was born in Africa and then obtains American citizenship, could apply for college and employment as an African American.

He/she is an African American.

America is a multicultural and multiethnic democracy, and it is important to document the different ethnic, racial and related cultures that make up the diversity of North America and the United States.

In conclusion, the one drop rule or hypodescent was used in America to give Black people a status of second-class citizenship in the Jim Crow South and to implement social and legal restrictions upon their upward mobility.

African Americans have Africanized this construct and use the one drop rule as a cultural identifier to promote cultural inclusion. In other words, if you have one drop of African/Black blood, we will accept you as one of us. For the majority of African Americans, if you are mulatto, half Black, quadroon, quarter Black or an octoroon, one-eighth Black, African Americans will identify you as an African/Black person and will accept you as one of them socially and culturally.

The one drop rule was used by white racists and white supremacists to exclude Black people from the social and legal benefits of being an American citizen.

Black people use the one drop rule to culturally include genetically mixed African descent peoples into our culture, history and communities.

Yes, Pope Leo XIV is also African American, as well as the other phenotypically melanated and non-melanated persons listed above.

In the words of Busta Rhymes in his 2009 song, "If You Don't Know Now You Know."

For further information on the construct of passing, reference the 2021 movie *Passing* and the book *A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in America* by Allyson Hobbs.

Homer Gee Greene Jr. is a freelance writer and a ninth-generation practitioner of Seven Star Praying Mantis Wu Shu (kung fu).

Breaking Things

Continued from page 6

Chinese Communist Party to put together censorship software.

Zuckerberg's talking points were intended to shield such practices from discovery. Senators would have to pose exceedingly specific questions to uncover such information, and that was unlikely.

Yet another turning point for Wynn-Williams happened in 2016, when she discovered how much Facebook had done to support the Trump presidential bid.

The firm, for example, placed some of its employees inside the Trump campaign for several months. Brad Parscale, who

headed the operation they were involved in, oversaw efforts to target voters with strategically selected misinformation, incendiary posts and fundraising appeals.

Parscale also used Facebook to mount an array of voter suppression efforts.

When it came to advertising on the social media site, the Trump campaign outspent the Clinton side by a wide margin.

During the weeks leading up to the election, the Trump camp was among the top advertisers on Facebook globally. Facebook was also the Trump campaign's largest wellspring of contributions, garnering millions of dollars per month.

Although packed with thought-provoking anecdotes and insights, *Careless People* hardly provides an exhaustive look at Facebook's ethically dubious practices.

Augmenting her work are Jonathan Haidt's findings in *The Anxious Generation*, in which he examines the deleterious effects

that social media have often had on young people.

To show how Facebook aimed to get teenagers hooked on its platform, Haidt draws on portions of the Facebook Files—company materials that whistleblower Francis Haugen revealed four years ago.

In one part of the Files, three Facebook employees give a presentation "to support [the] Facebook Inc.-wide product strategy for engaging young users." They draw on scientific findings about the brain's gradual maturation during puberty, and they note that the frontal cortex isn't mature until people are older than 20.

As they put it, teenagers "are highly dependent on their temporal lobe where emotions, memory and learning, and the reward system, reign supreme."

They then provided guidelines on how to keep those users on the platform for greater lengths of time. For example, adolescents

could be nudged to set up multiple accounts, and "stronger paths to related interest content" could be implemented.

Other sections of the presentation make it clear that the speakers had no concern about the dangers of overuse and addiction among young users.

The website of Meta, as Zuckerberg's company is now called, foregrounds a set of the firm's principles. Included are pledges to "give people a voice," "build connection and community" and "keep people safe and protect privacy."

Their actual track record, as shown in *Careless People* and elsewhere, is far less impressive.

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.

Resistance

Continued from page 14

Symbols like the national flag can be reclaimed. The "Star-Spangled Banner" is a symbol of our nation's highest aspirations: rule of law, equal justice for all, a society built on human rights and freedom, and defending democracy against autocrats and authoritarianism.

People in universities, law firms and media companies need to resist pressure from Trump instead of "making the deal" that curtails their highest values.

The National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago has documented that big bipartisan majorities endorse the right to vote, equal opportunity, freedom of speech, retail equality and protection of personal data (!).

The challenge is to disrupt authoritarian rule at every level, but to resist nonviolently. So here is a plug to get involved:

- Join or organize a local resistance group like Indivisible (there are many more). Make common cause across lines of race, class, generation and geography.
- Seek to reach influence centers: government, business, labor, law, education, medicine, culture, religion.

- Advocate for those people and institutions that are most vulnerable to intimidation, retaliation, detention and extortion.
- Employ strikes and boycotts against businesses and banks that support Trump's agenda.
- Take part in direct publicity-gaining actions (like during the Civil Rights Movement). Two examples: Boston's "ICE Tea Party" in which demonstrators threw ice into the Boston Harbor, and the Portland, Ore., protesters—dressed up in costumes as dinosaurs and giant crabs—who danced in the streets to mock officials' accusations that the protesters were "domestic terrorists."
- Get de-escalation training (because there might be agitators, spies and instigators who want to stir up violence at peaceful demonstrations).
- Take part in mass demonstrations, like the nationwide "No Kings" protests.
- Support victims of ICE and Border Patrol atrocities.
- Join Neighborhood Watch groups to monitor and publicize ICE raids.
- Give time and money to immigrant assistance groups.
- Witness, observe and film ICE roundups. ICE hates this activity because the light of publicity shines on their

dark deeds and disproves their constant lies about fearing for their lives while they shoot demonstrators.

Some other ways to resist:

- Boycott media companies that try to take late-night comedians off the air.
- If you're in the military or law enforcement, do not obey illegal orders.
- If you're a high school coach, don't allow ICE agents anywhere near your players.
- Organize school patrols by parents to watch out for ICE raids of students or their parents.
- If you are in education or a university, refuse to sign a "deal" with Trump or his minions.
- If you are a journalist, continue to report on National Guard movements; do not be intimidated.

Trump and the fascists want you to believe that resistance is futile. It's not. Resistance might be costly. But it is better to fight for freedom and democracy than to kowtow to fascism.

Bayard Taylor is an activist and someone who is trying to unlearn white supremacy. Contact him at bayardtaylor1@aol.com.

Peace & Social Justice Calendar

February 2026

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

Weekly

KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro (Tuesdays; Spanish) 7 p.m.–8 p.m. News, commentaries and music with a Latino touch hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Raza Against War/Women in Black (Wednesdays) 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Federal Courthouse, 2500 Tulare St., Fresno. For more info, contact comworkeradvocate@gmail.com.

Kings County Bridge Brigade (Fridays) 7:15 a.m.–8:15 a.m. 19th Ave./Highway 198 interchange, Hanford/Lemoore. For more info, contact karlalcalbear@gmail.com.

Stop Trump's Wars, End Genocide (Saturdays) 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Blackstone and Nees avenues, Fresno. Yokuts' Land. Connect, build community and stand for all oppressed and occupied people.

TUE 03 **National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)** 5:30 p.m. Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno. Topic: Dakota EcoGarden. For more info, contact joanne@pbyoga.com.

WED 04 **Interfaith Prayer Vigil in Support of Immigrant Families** 10 a.m.–11 a.m. ICE Processing Center, 733 L St., Fresno. Sponsored by Faith in the Valley.

California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) 1 p.m. Via Zoom. Regional meeting. Link: us06web.zoom.us/j/2284684729.

KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up! 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. **Community Alliance** radio show hosted by Daren Miller. Guest: California Democratic Party Black Caucus Chair Kendra Lewis. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Mixer with the LGBTQ+ and Ally Committee 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Sequoia Brewing, 777 E. Olive Ave., Fresno. Fresno Chamber of Commerce affinity group to strengthen inclusion, visibility and community connection in the business community. For more info, contact robin.mcgehee@fresno.gov.

THU 05 **Soup for My Family Gathering** 3 p.m.–8 p.m. LGBT EOC Sanctuary, 1252 Fulton St., Fresno. Potluck and community meet-up for nourishment of mind, body and soul.

Tulare Democratic Club 7 p.m. For more info, contact tularedemocraticclub1@gmail.com.

Jean & Louis Janzen Visiting Writer Series 7 p.m. Lin Family Performance Studio, Warkentine Culture & Arts Center, Fresno Pacific University. Featuring bestselling author Kate Baer, who will conduct a free reading followed by a book-signing reception. For more info, contact michael.hammond@fresno.edu.

FRI 06 **CineCulture: The Third Act** 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: Tadashi Nakamura (director). As the filmmaking son of a filmmaking legend (Robert A. Nakamura), Tad uses the lessons his dad taught him to decipher the legacy of an aging man who was a child survivor of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans, a successful photographer who gave it up to tell his own story, an activist at the dawn of a social movement—and a father whose struggles have won his son freedoms that eluded Japanese Americans of his generation. Free and open to the public. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

SAT 07 **Reedley Peace Center Protest/Visibility Event** 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Corner of Buttonwillow and Manning avenues, Reedley. Bring your signs with whatever is on your mind this week. For more info, contact reedleypeacecenter.com.

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley 9 a.m.–11 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or claval@comcast.net.

SUN 08 **PFLAG Fresno** 2 p.m. Fireside Room, Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 E. Barstow Ave., Fresno. Supporting, educating and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families. For more info, contact pflagfresno@gmail.com.

MON 09 **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)** 5 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St., Fresno. For more info, contact swgamble@aol.com.

Tulare County Stonewall Democrats 6 p.m. Me-n-Ed's Pizza, 1331 W. Henderson Ave., Porterville. For more info, contact tcstonewalldems@gmail.com.

TUE 10 **Tenant Rights Training** 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Build on political education of California's housing policy landscape, the protections for tenants and collectively centering tenant experience.

Sponsored by Tenants Together. Register at bit.ly/44VP126. For more info, contact tenantnetwork@npogroups.org.

Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC) 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact bapacfresno@gmail.com.

Kings County Democratic Central Committee 6 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 621-A N. Irwin St., Hanford. For more info, contact 559-858-0852.

Porterville Democratic Club 6 p.m. Pizza Factory, 879 W. Henderson Ave., Porterville. For more info, contact contactportervilledems@yahoo.com.

Fresno Stonewall Democrats 6:30 p.m. Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno. For more info, contact info@fresnostonewalldemocrats.org.

WED 11 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show hosted by Josh Shurley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

THU 12 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Valley Rising** 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Central Valley Partnership radio show. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Tenant Rights Training 5 p.m.–8 p.m. See Feb. 10 listing.

Womxn's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) 7 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. Online/in person. For more info, contact taca_03@ymail.com.

FRI 13 **CineCulture: Sing Your Song** 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: Susanne Rostock (director). A patriot to the last and a champion for worldwide human rights, Harry Belafonte is one of the truly heroic cultural and political figures of the past 60 years. Told from Belafonte's point of view, the film charts his life from a boy born in New York and raised in Jamaica to his emergence as a star. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

SAT 14 **Central Valley Progressive PAC** 3:30 p.m.–5 p.m. Pete & Carmen's Salsa Dance Academy, 4774 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno. Endorsement meeting for Fresno County Board of Supervisors District 1. For more info, contact simonecranstonrhodesfta@outlook.com.

SUN 15 **100-Year Anniversary of Black History Month** 3 p.m. Pam Am Center, 703 Sherwood Way, Madera. Honoring the Mitchell Sisters. Presented by Black Saints United and the City of Madera.

MON 16 **Free Food Distribution** 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Hinton Community Center, 2385 S. Fairview Ave., Fresno. Hosted by the Hinton Center Board and the Fresno Food Bank. Info contact 559-287-1308.

TUE 17 **Central Valley Partnership** 5:30 p.m. OAB 251, Fresno City College. For more info, contact admin@centralvalleypartnership.org.

Kings County Jimmy Carter Club 6 p.m. Lemoore. For more info, contact kcjimmycarterclub@gmail.com.

WED 18 **San Joaquin Valley Town Hall** 10:30 a.m. Saroyan Theatre, 700 M St., Fresno. Daniel James Brown, best-selling author, and Tom Ikeda, founder of the Densho Project. Topic: Resilience and Resistance: The Japanese-American Experience in World War II. \$60/person. For more info, visit valleytownhall.com/.

KFCF 88.1 FM: Speaking Truth to Empire 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club 6:30 p.m. Round Table Pizza, 3710 W. Shields Ave., Fresno. For more info, contact sjvdemclub@gmail.com.

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter 7 p.m. Woodward Park Regional Library, 944 E. Perrin Ave., Fresno. Via Zoom. Speaker: Lee Terkelsen. Topic: "Big Trees—Big Impact." The program centers on how our emotional connection to the trees has shaped our history, environmental policies, art, culture and politics. To register, visit sierraclub.org/tehipite. For more info, contact ecuagirl45@yahoo.com.

THU 19 **Clovis Democratic Club** 6 p.m. Seven Bar & Grill, 25 Shaw Ave., Clovis. For more info, contact clovisdemocraticclub@gmail.com.

Peace Fresno 6:30 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. Monthly meeting to plan antiwar strategies. For more info, contact president@peacefresno.org.

Tulare County Democratic Central Committee 7 p.m. In Tulare and via Zoom. For more info, contact tcdccsecretary@gmail.com.

FRI 20 **KFCF 88.1 FM: It's a Queer Thang** 5 p.m.–6 p.m. Covering local and national LGBTQ+ issues and events. Hosted by Chris Jarvis and Kaylia Metcalfe Armstrong. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

CineCulture: The Wall Street Boy/Kipkemboi 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State.

Discussant: Charles Uwagba (director). A young math genius from rural Kenya uses his understanding of patterns in nature to develop a successful stock market algorithm. His remarkable success from a makeshift setup in his village draws attention from international financiers and local authorities, forcing him and his girlfriend to flee. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

SAT 21 **Reedley Peace Center Protest/Visibility Event** 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Corner of Buttonwillow and Manning avenues, Reedley. Bring your signs with whatever is on your mind this week. For more info, contact reedleypeacecenter.com.

Central Valley Leadership Round Table 10 a.m. Midstate Mobile Manor Recreation Center, 3473 W. Shields Ave., Fresno. Potluck meeting. For more info, contact gamayer20@gmail.com.

MON 23 **Fresno County Democratic Women's Club** 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant Garden Room, 1781 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno. Fresno Police Chief Mindy Castro, the first female police chief in Fresno. Topic: State of the City. For more info, contact claval@comcast.net.

WED 25 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Visalia Democratic Club 5:30 p.m. Amigos Restaurant, 5113 W. Walnut Ave., Visalia. For more info, contact colijafeliz@gmail.com.

Central Valley Indivisible 6 p.m. The Big Red Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. For more info, contact pattycapp@gmail.com.

John Robert Lewis Democratic Club 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Be part of the impending change planned by this newly formed club. For more info, contact ibedam@gmail.com.

FRI 27 **CineCulture: One Person, One Vote?** 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussant: Maxima Juson (director). This documentary pulls the curtain back on the Electoral College—exploring the unique and opaque system by which America elects its highest official—through the eyes of four dynamic electors from different parties (a Republican, a Democrat, a Green Party and a Kanye West elector) whose motivations range from the noble to the absurd. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

2026 Trailblazers Awards Banquet 6 p.m. Clovis Veterans Memorial, 808 4th St., Clovis. Honoring Central Valley African American leaders. Sponsored by the African-American Historical & Cultural Museum. \$125/person. For more info, contact info@aamcentralvalley.org.

Save the Date!

March 6

CineCulture: Sima's Song 5:30 p.m. Peters Education Center Auditorium, Fresno State. Discussants (in person): Roya Sadat (director) and Aziz Dildar (actor/writer). Afghanistan in 1972 is a cauldron of opposing political forces. Suraya becomes head of the dominant Communist Party's women's organization, whereas her friend Sima is skeptical of all politics and, as a talented musician, is dedicated to her traditional art. The film is a testament to the courage and loyalty of Afghan women in the face of constant adversity. For more info, contact mhusain@mail.fresnostate.edu or visit cineculture.csufresno.edu/.

March 7

Kings & Tulare Democrats 2026 Dinner 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Wyndham, 9000 W. Airport Dr., Visalia. Fundraiser for the Kings and Tulare Democratic county committees. For more info, contact kingscountydemevents@gmail.com.

Submit upcoming community activities to calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication, or you can post anytime online at fresnoalliance.com (select Calendar).



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Desde 1996, *Alianza Comunitaria* ha sido una voz progresista independiente para el Valle Central de San Joaquin. *Alianza Comunitaria* aboga por:

- la justicia racial, social, ambiental y económica;
- Igualdad de derechos para todos, incluidos los inmigrantes, las personas sin hogar y la comunidad LGBTQ+;
- Acceso a una educación pública gratuita y de calidad para todos;
- Acceso a la atención sanitaria para todos;
- Un salario digno para todos los trabajadores.

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A “Good” Girl (Una chica buena)

POR MARITZA FÉLIX

(Nota del Editor: se reproduce este artículo con la correspondiente autorización de Hispaniaca.com)

No han pasado ni dos semanas de este 2026 y nuestro mundo se ha colapsado varias veces. Estados Unidos intervino en Venezuela; Maduro está en custodia; hay un levantamiento nacional contra el régimen en Irán; los agentes de inmigración (ICE) mataron a una mujer en Minneapolis; las protestas en contra las autoridades y el abuso de poder en Arizona se han intensificado, y la sesión legislativa estatal comenzó con amenazas de un representante: "Si se portan bien, no se mueren".

¡Feliz año!

No soy la única que no ha podido dormir desde que se publicaron los videos de la muerte de Renee Nicole Good, una mujer de 37 años, que fue baleada por un agente de inmigración en un operativo en Minnesota. Las imágenes, de diferentes ángulos, muestran a la madre en su camioneta tratando de frenar la intimidación de los agentes en un vecindario de Minneapolis. La abatieron con tres tiros. El agente la insulta al final: "zorra".

¿Fue defensa propia? ¿Es ese un acto de terrorismo doméstico?, como lo clasificó la secretaria de Seguridad Nacional, Kristi Noem. ¿O fue un descarado abuso de poder? ¿Un asesinato a sangre fría?

Guardar silencio frente a este mundo que se nos cae encima sería un acto de complicidad.

La muerte de Good revive los traumas colectivos que cargamos de tantos tiroteos, asaltos y muertes. Abre, otra vez, las heridas del asesinato de José Antonio Elena a través del muro fronterizo en Arizona en 2012 o las muchas cruces que nadie planta en los centros de detención porque se llenarían las celdas. La justicia también tiene sangre en las manos.



Manifestación en rechazo a los asesinatos de Renee Nicole Good y Alex Patti en Fresno. Domingo 25 de Enero, 2026. Foto de Peter Maiden

¿Cómo estás?, preguntamos. *Estamos*, es la respuesta generalizada.

Arizona inauguró su sesión legislativa en medio del caos y la controversia. Mientras unos cargaban el peso, la indignación y el luto por Good, muchos otros la convertían en un ejemplo de cómo la aplicación de la ley puede tener consecuencias mortales "en pro de la seguridad nacional y el patriotismo".

Los legisladores republicanos usaron el ejemplo de Good como el catalizador para una propuesta de ley que criminalizaría la "obstrucción" durante operativos policiales, con mayor énfasis en redadas y detenciones migratorias. Y me dieron muchas ganas de vomitar cuando en una rueda de prensa uno de ellos prácticamente dijo que "si soy una buena chica, no me va a pasar nada".

A *good girl*. A *bad hombre*. Creo que empiezo a entender el patrón.

¿Aguantas? ¡Resisto! No hemos parado; la adrenalina nos mantiene de pie, pero ¿hasta cuándo? No hay tregua. No lo digo solo como periodista, sino como latina, migrante, ciudadana naturalizada, extranjera en casa, como mamá y como el blanco de una

administración que se ha empeñado en cruzar líneas que no tienen camino de regreso. Somos millones los que en silencios incómodos o con pancartas y parlantes nos reconocemos en duelo.

¿*Resiliamos*? Así, como si la capacidad de adaptación de un ser vivo frente a un agente perturbador o un estado o situación adversos fuera un verbo. Porque resistir también es acción.

Acompañar cuando todo el mundo se va al carajo es también un acto de amor.

Maritza Lizeth Félix es una periodista, productora y escritora independiente en Arizona. Nació en Magdalena de Kino, Sonora, México. Su trabajo ha sido publicado en importantes periódicos de Estados Unidos, México y otros lugares del mundo, así como en las principales cadenas de televisión de habla hispana Univisión y Telemundo. Actualmente trabaja de manera independiente para la Organización Editorial Mexicana, Channel 4, Proyecto Puente, Uniradio Noticias, Telemax y Prensa Arizona.

Trump

Continued from page 20

Distinto es el caso de Groenlandia, que aparece como una prioridad geoestratégica para Trump. Lo ha dicho y lo repite, quiere anexionar la isla «por las buenas o por las malas», invocando razones de seguridad nacional.

Ya en su primer mandato había buscado comprar la isla a Dinamarca, su metrópolis. No tuvo éxito y llegó a proponer a Copenhague un canje por Puerto Rico. Tampoco le dio resultado. Ahora, este Trump recargado, rápido y furioso, vuelve a la carga con un discurso más belicista.

No creo que llegue a ocupar Groenlandia por la fuerza, porque sería realmente el fin de la OTAN, y terminaría siendo peor el remedio que la enfermedad. Si busca mover fichas estratégicamente pensando en Rusia y en China, perder la OTAN es peor que seguir sin Groenlandia. Pero sí podría ser que todo esto se trate de uno más de los episodios de regateo barato de Trump. En su cabeza de empresario que negocia como si estuviera en una feria de pulgas, él piensa que amenazar con una guerra que dejaría a Dinamarca sin nada, puede llevar a ese país a preferir vender la isla, y al menos quedarse con unos euritos. Y puede ser que le salga bien la jugada, habrá que ver.

Por ahora, Dinamarca ha puesto el grito en el cielo, denunciando la actitud hostil de un supuesto aliado. Y con ella, se expresaron seis países europeos (España, Alemania, Francia, Italia, Polonia y Reino Unido), que firmaron una declaración conjunta en la que dicen que «Groenlandia pertenece a su pueblo. Solo Dinamarca y Groenlandia pueden decidir sobre su futuro». Curiosamente, la declaración no fue suscrita por los «hermanos» escandinavos: ni Noruega, ni Suecia, ni Finlandia, ni Islandia. Mutis por el foro.

En cuanto a los más interesados, los groenlandeses, mostraron hasta ahora una unión monolítica, con un comunicado conjunto de todos los partidos políticos locales titulado «Estamos juntos como un pueblo». Los líderes de las cinco fuerzas con representación en el Inatsisartut, el Parlamento groenlandés, afirmaron que no existe ninguna base legal ni política para que Washington intervenga en su territorio. «No queremos ser estadounidenses, no queremos ser daneses, queremos ser groenlandeses»; señalaron en el documento difundido desde Nuuk, la capital.

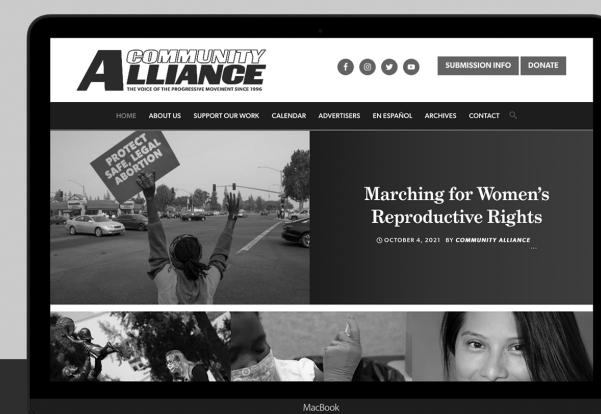
Mariano Saravia es magíster en Relaciones Internacionales, escritor, periodista, docente universitario, conferencista y narrador oral. Sus especialidades son la política internacional, el periodismo histórico y los derechos humanos.

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Cuando el Gobierno Estadounidense nos Bombardeó

(Nota del editor: La siguiente narración es un extracto de una conversación telefónica entre Giselle (quien prefirió no revelar su apellido), residente de Venezuela, y Leni Villagomez Reeves, reportera de *Community Alliance*).

Supongo que empezaré desde el principio, si supiera dónde está el principio: supongo que sería cuando [el expresidente venezolano Hugo] Chávez llegó al poder y Estados Unidos comenzó su campaña contra Venezuela en todos los aspectos: la campaña de desinformación contra nosotros y luego las medidas coercitivas económicas unilaterales que afectaron nuestras vidas y que todavía las afectan. Y luego la amenaza de violencia militar, lo cual es difícil porque no quieras entrar en pánico; esa es parte de la idea: no solo destruir nuestras cosas, sino también perturbar nuestra mente.

Creo que los venezolanos hemos resistido muchos tipos de ataques diferentes. Parece que somos inmunes al concepto de más amenazas: simplemente seguimos viviendo nuestras vidas. Estábamos preparados en el sentido de que podíamos tener alimentos no perecederos almacenados en casa y ese tipo de cosas, pero la vida continuó como de costumbre, así que la gente llevaba a sus hijos a la escuela, trabajaban y luego...

Vivo a cinco minutos de una base aérea. Soy madre soltera y vivo con mi hija y con mi madre, que tiene 74 años. Estábamos dormidas y las ventanas empezaron a vibrar y—es difícil de describir—se oía el sonido de lo que ahora sé que eran bombas, un sonido como —hace (ruido agudo)—y las ventanas vibran y sabes lo que está pasando, pero no sabes qué puedes hacer.

Vivo en la cima de una colina y mi casa tiene un techo al que se puede subir y desde donde se ve Caracas, y pude ver el humo. No podía ver los aviones, pero podía oírlos y ver las explosiones.

Así que fui a la habitación de mi hija y ella no se despertaba—tiene el sueño muy pesado—y lo que más se oía era el traqueteo de las ventanas una y otra vez. Así que no sabes qué hacer.

¿Qué puedes hacer? Fui a buscar agua, agua potable, llené cualquier recipiente que encontré con agua potable

porque no sabía qué iba a pasar. Estoy bastante segura de que mi madre se había despertado y no entendía nada. Pensó que eran fuegos artificiales porque simplemente... es incomprensible, ¿sabes?

La Revolución construyó millones de casas, viviendas gratuitas para personas de bajos ingresos en todo el país. No hace falta creer en las estadísticas, solo hay que ir y verlo.

Los padrinos de mi hija viven dentro de Fuerte Tiuna, que fue una de las bases aéreas más afectadas, así que estaba pensando en ellos y si estarían vivos o no.

Hay, no sé cuántos edificios residenciales dentro de esa base aérea. Les escribo: “¿Están bien? Deberían venir aquí”.

Y recibo una respuesta, un mensaje de audio que dice: “Estamos vivos, estamos bien, oigo un avión, oigo un avión y se acerca...”. Dios mío. Es simplemente incomprensible.

Y luego mi madre se despertó por la mañana, y mi hija, y no quiero contárselo. ¿Qué le dices a una niña, a una niña de ocho años? No sabes lo que va a pasar.

Por mucho miedo que me den las bombas, me da más miedo una dictadura de derecha que pueda llegar. Y en ese momento no sabes. Oyes las bombas y luego empezamos a escuchar los rumores de que se habían llevado a Maduro y no sabes qué esperar.

Empiezas a comunicarte. Formo parte de un colectivo, y hay gente en diferentes partes de Caracas y todos describían lo que oían, lo que estaba pasando, si estaban bien o no, si les habían atacado o no.

Intentaba encontrar la manera de contárselo a mi madre.

Finalmente, recibí un mensaje de los padrinos de mi hija: estaban bien, estaban vivos y necesitaban venir a mi casa. Así que le dije a mi hija que venían y ella se emocionó muchísimo.

Empecé a preparar una habitación para ellos. “Aquí dormirán mi padrino, y aquí mi madrina”. Están dulce, y tenía muchas ganas de ver a sus padrinos.

Finalmente llegaron, y mi hija tenía una sonrisa inmensa en la cara, y los ojos de su madrina mostraban que había llorado muchísimo y apenas podían esbozar una sonrisa. Y les dije: “Saben, ella no sabe nada de los bombardeos. Por favor, no le digan nada. Es demasiado”.

Pero, ¿cómo puedes pedirle eso a alguien que ha sido bombardeado, cuya casa puede que ya no esté cuando regresen, si es que regresan...?

Así que se bajaron del coche, con el corazón roto y asustados, queriendo compartir la experiencia más horrible de sus vidas con alguien a quien querían, pero no podían porque había una niña.

Traían sus pasaportes; traían sus títulos académicos, porque esa es la sensación, ¿verdad?, de huir. No sabes

qué va a pasar, no sabes si estamos en peligro, no sabes qué depara el futuro. Tenemos nuestros pasaportes y nuestros títulos: la sensación que eso implica... Dios mío.

No habían comido, no habían dormido, estaban traumatizados por el sonido de los helicópteros, los aviones, las bombas y los disparos de ametralladora, por lo que vieron y lo que oyeron, y no tenían ninguna información.

No sabían que Delcy Rodríguez nos tenía en el poder; no sabían que el gobierno seguía en pie, así que pensaron: “La Revolución se acabó, tenemos que huir”.

Así que los abracé y les dije: “Todavía estamos en el poder. No todo está perdido. Hay solidaridad fuera de Venezuela”. Les di de comer. Les di un lugar para dormir, para ducharse, descansar y tener acceso a internet, para que pudieran estar al tanto de lo que estaba pasando.

Sus descripciones, simplemente horribles, al ver el tamaño de los helicópteros. ¿Qué se puede hacer contra algo así?

Han destruido nuestros sistemas antiaéreos.

Estamos indefensos.

Y no tenemos a nuestro presidente. Todavía mantenemos el poder, y mantenemos el poder y la dignidad en nuestros planes, en nuestros pensamientos y nuestros principios, pero hay que negociar cuando se está en ese estado de completa vulnerabilidad. Han destruido nuestros sistemas de defensa militar. Han demostrado que hacen lo que quieren.

Confío plenamente en Delcy (ahora presidenta interina) y en su hermano (Jorge Rodríguez, presidente de la Asamblea Nacional de Venezuela) para que lo hagan bien, porque son políticos fuertes y experimentados que no nos abandonarán por nada, así que... veamos qué pasa ahora.

Confío en el gobierno y confío en nuestra gente, de verdad. Porque para mí era obvio que no se podía acabar con la Revolución derrocando a Maduro. Se necesitaría mucho más que eliminar a nuestro presidente, porque luego está el vicepresidente, y luego todo un gobierno, el congreso, y todo un pueblo.

Eso es lo que me da cierta tranquilidad, saber que no tienen al pueblo venezolano; no cuentan con nuestra complicidad.

Amo este país. Soy socialista de corazón. Aquí es donde siento que debo estar. Aquí es donde quiero estar. Queremos construir algo maravilloso y justo. Queremos ser un ejemplo para América Latina y el mundo.

Giselle tiene un doctorado en ecología del cambio climático y trabaja en una cooperativa de agricultura ecológica.

Residentes de Fresno se pronuncian sobre Venezuela

POR BOB MCCLOSKEY

Durante el mes de enero, se llevaron a cabo tres manifestaciones en Fresno para protestar contra el ataque estadounidense a Venezuela: una en la intersección de las avenidas Blackstone y Nees el 3 de enero, otra en el Edificio Federal el 10 de enero y otra en la intersección de las avenidas Shields y Blackstone el 17 de enero. El autor registró las siguientes declaraciones durante esas manifestaciones.

“Nos oponemos al ataque no provocado, ilegal e inmoral de Trump contra Venezuela y al secuestro del presidente venezolano Nicolás Maduro y su esposa. Una vez más, Trump le dice al mundo que las leyes y normas internacionales son para los demás, no para él. Podemos hacer lo que queramos, cuando queramos y donde queramos”. —Dan Yaseen, presidente de Peace Fresno

“Esto es una repetición de la horrible historia de Estados Unidos, de lanzar invasiones militares contra otros países. El presidente Trump dijo: ‘ese es nuestro petróleo bajo su tierra’, y cualquiera que sea estudiioso de la historia sabe que Estados Unidos ha estado tras los recursos petroleros durante aproximadamente 40 años o más, desde que se nacionalizaron los recursos petroleros de Venezuela”.

—Stan Santos, Raza Against War

“Ninguno de los ataques en Venezuela o América Latina es nuevo, ni son exclusivos de los republicanos. Demócratas y Republicanos han estado trabajando de la mano durante las últimas dos décadas para socavar los gobiernos elegidos democráticamente en Venezuela, patrocinando intentos de golpe de Estado, aislando diplomáticamente al gigante petrolero sudamericano e imponiendo más de 1.000 sanciones. Las justificaciones para estos esfuerzos por desestabilizar el país han variado, desde acusaciones de violaciones de los derechos humanos, una supuesta falta de democracia y una crisis económica”.

—Alexa, Partido por el Socialismo y la Liberación

“Esta acción es el ejemplo más reciente de lo que está mal en esta administración. Esta administración no tiene rumbo,

pero nada sucede solo porque una persona, una noche, decidió atacar. Esto se ha planeado desde hace tiempo y no solo es una violación del derecho nacional, sino también del derecho internacional”.

—Jim Grant, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center

“Ahora es el momento de manifestarnos con más fuerza y traer a más personas para protestar contra esta última manifestación de fascismo por parte de Trump. Saben que esto es otra serie de mentiras, y es realmente importante alzar la voz. Es la misma lucha que la de nuestra ciudad, que deja morir a las personas sin hogar por una noche fría; es la misma lucha que la de Palestina libre y la misma lucha que la de Ucrania, así que, como dije, no pierdan de vista cómo todo está conectado en el panorama general”.

—Cam Fanning, Liga Internacional de

Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad

“Estamos presenciando un cambio de régimen en toda regla. Lo que ocurrió en Venezuela no es sorprendente, pero es impactante”. De la forma en que se hizo, obviamente. Tengo muchos vínculos estrechos con personas en Cuba. Cada vez que he ido a Cuba, he conocido a personas de Venezuela, y siempre me han contado lo que realmente está sucediendo allí. El secuestro y la invasión se basan en mentiras, pero hay un hombre en el gobierno lo suficientemente tonto como para salir y decir la verdad en voz alta, y confirma por qué estamos allí. Se trata del petróleo, se trata de un cambio de régimen, para que él pueda tomar el poder.

—Rafael Avitia, Boinas Cafés de Fresno

“Nuestras redes de seguridad social han sido recortadas drásticamente, y no creo que debamos estar iniciando guerras en otros países, especialmente por el petróleo. Mi familia es de clase trabajadora y pasamos dificultades. Tomamos decisiones difíciles todos los días con respecto a qué necesidades básicas podemos y no podemos cubrir, y no creo que mi gobierno deba estar en el extranjero iniciando guerras, especialmente por el petróleo. Esto recuerda a las guerras de Irak, que fueron por el petróleo.”

—Ruben Espinosa, Boinas Cafés de Fresno

“Lo que está ocurriendo ahora mismo en Venezuela es una atrocidad, pero no debería sorprendernos, ya que durante más de 500 años nuestros continentes han estado sujetos a la ocupación, la extracción y la intervención colonial. Esta escalada sigue el mismo patrón histórico de socavar la autodeterminación de los pueblos que se niegan a ser explotados para la riqueza de las élites corporativas. Las afirmaciones de la administración Trump de que las acciones de Estados Unidos estaban motivadas por la democracia o la seguridad pública, y las acusaciones de narcoterrorismo, son falsas y profundamente racistas.”



En una protesta celebrada el 10 de enero, un manifestante sostiene un cartel que dice: “No a la sangre por petróleo”. Foto de Peter Maiden

—Arion Grajeda, estudiante y miembro del Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA)

“Financiamos al ejército, ¿por qué no podemos financiar a los veteranos que están aquí sin hogar, sin vivienda? Si podemos financiar a Israel para el genocidio, ¿por qué no podemos usar el dinero para la educación superior y para la atención médica gratuita? ¿Por qué no podemos ofrecer eso a nuestra gente? Primero Estados Unidos. Ese petróleo no va a beneficiar a mi familia. Esto no beneficia el bolsillo de mi hija. Ni el de mis nietas, ni el de mis bisnietos.”

—Gloria Hernandez, activista de derechos civiles.

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ALIANZA COMUNITARIA

LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

Ataque Militar Estadounidense Contra Venezuela

POR LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

El 3 de enero, las fuerzas estadounidenses lanzaron un ataque militar contra Venezuela. El objetivo era secuestrar al presidente Nicolás Maduro y a la primera dama Cilia Flores, y aterrorizar al gobierno y al pueblo venezolano.

La operación de alta tecnología paralizó las defensas aéreas. Un ciberataque provocó un apagón en parte de Caracas. Más de 100 personas murieron en el ataque, incluidos 32 cubanos del equipo de seguridad de Maduro.

No hubo una declaración de guerra previa, aunque Estados Unidos ha estado intensificando las agresiones contra Venezuela desde hace algún tiempo, posicionando una flotilla en el Caribe y asesinando a más de 123 personas en pequeñas embarcaciones desde el año pasado.

A pesar de la guerra psicológica y las declaraciones jactanciosas del régimen estadounidense, Estados Unidos no controla Venezuela. Delcy Rodríguez, exvicepresidenta y ahora presidenta interina, el Congreso venezolano y las fuerzas armadas siguen intactos, aunque podrían estar negociando "con una pistola en la cabeza".

Maduro y su esposa se encuentran detenidos en la ciudad de Nueva York. Ante la necesidad de probar en los tribunales la acusación de que el presidente Maduro es el líder de un ficticio "Cartel de los Soles", Estados Unidos ha retirado ese cargo y ahora admite francamente que la incursión en Venezuela tiene como objetivo tomar el control



Pancartas con los lemas "Ataque estadounidense" e "Illegal e inmoral" en una manifestación de emergencia en Fresno contra la incursión de Estados Unidos en Venezuela. Foto de Peter Maiden

de "nuestro petróleo" (que casualmente se encuentra en el país soberano de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela).

En palabras del jurista Elie Mystral: "El bombardeo de Venezuela y el secuestro de su presidente, Nicolás Maduro, para que sea sometido a un juicio farsa en Nueva York, constituye una flagrante violación del derecho internacional.

Estados Unidos debe ser condenado por la comunidad internacional y por todos los pueblos del mundo".

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

Trump y los Estados Unidos

POR MARIANO SARAVIA

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La pregunta no es si Estados Unidos va a iniciar una guerra, sino dónde y cuándo. Lejos quedó aquel Donald Trump de hace un año, cuando en vísperas de asumir su segundo mandato, repetía que, una vez en el poder, acabaría en dos días con la guerra entre Ucrania y Rusia. Y no es que fuera totalmente mentira, quizás sí existía esa intención en su fuero íntimo, porque hay que recordar que, en su primer mandato, no comenzó ninguna guerra. Pero este Trump «segunda parte» es muy distinto al que asumió en 2016. Y es que este año, el hombre va a cumplir 80, y a esa edad, y con el ritmo de exigencia de la alta política, 10 años se sienten. Y todo esto se nota, por ejemplo, en la influencia que está teniendo en este segundo mandato su entorno de halcones liderado por Marco Rubio.

Casi podríamos marcar un paralelo entre Estados Unidos y Trump

El país, con vocación imperialista desde su misma formación como Estado nación, transita su decadencia final en casi todos los aspectos: económico, político, social y moral. Pero no en el ámbito militar, lo cual lo vuelve más impredecible y más peligroso en su decadencia. Trump, lo mismo, en su ocaso, en vez de volverse más sabio y aprovechar la experiencia, está más y más violento y desorientado. Es que alguien que basó su impronta personal en el macho alfa, cuando no puede escapar a los años, necesita sobreactuar una pulsión vital que ya no es. Se reía de Joe Biden y ahora le está pasando algo parecido, y no sé qué es peor, si equivocarse los nombres de las personas, como le sucedía al ex presidente, o pelearse con todos a la vez, como hace éste.

Después del ataque ilegal contra Venezuela y del secuestro de su presidente, el músculo no duerme, la ambición no descansa. No hay un día en que Trump o su secretario de Estado no amenacen con robarse Groenlandia, o que anuncien un ataque a Irán, lo cual podría tener consecuencias catastróficas.

A esta altura del partido, ya no se puede pronosticar nada, por el grado de alienación de un personaje que está poniendo realmente al mundo en riesgo. Tanto estudiar geopolítica, historia, comportamientos de los Estados, intereses, estrategias, para que cada tanto aparezca un desquiciado que manda todo por el aire. Eso puede pasar y está pasando.

Pero si nos aferramos a un último vestigio de razonabilidad, deberíamos prever que, con Irán, la cosa no pase de amenazas, y que lo de Groenlandia se termine resolviendo con plata. Voy a explicarlo.



Vista desde Ravnefjeldet, junto a Nanortalik, Groenlandia. Foto de Jensbn/Wikimedia Commons

Una ebullición sin descanso

La tensión que sigue subiendo con Irán es, quizás, un capítulo más de la guerra híbrida que viene haciéndole Estados Unidos desde hace años, quizás desde el mismísimo 1979 cuando la Revolución Islámica de los ayatolas derrocó al déspota sha Reza Palhevi, títere impuesto por el propio Estados Unidos, cuando la CIA dio el golpe de Estado en 1953 contra el gobierno de Mohammad Mosaddegh que había nacionalizado el petróleo. Ahora resulta que aparece en Estados Unidos el hijo del sha, diciendo que va a volver a Irán de la mano de Estados Unidos.

Nunca se puede prever tampoco la respuesta a un eventual ataque, sobre todo después de la sorpresa por la inacción en Venezuela, pero es probable que un ataque estadounidense desatara una catástrofe, al menos regional, por el poderío bélico de la República Islámica de Irán. Más lógico, aunque perverso desde la realpolitik, sería que el Imperio continuara con su guerra híbrida, usando los medios de prensa occidentales para desacreditar a Irán, y fogoneando protestas dentro del país a través de sus ONGs.