

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

DECEMBER 2002

## FRESNO SAYS

# NO TO WAR!



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

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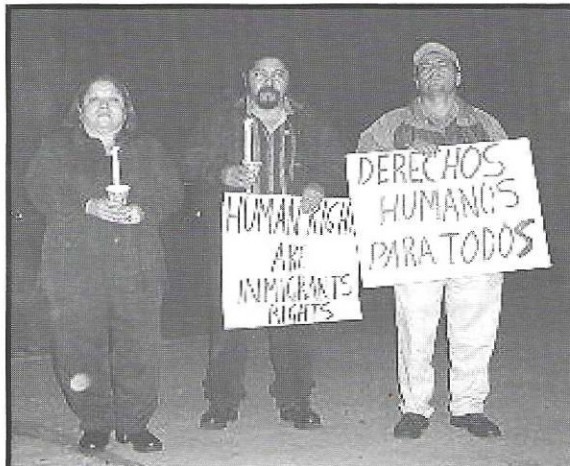
**web site: www.fresnoalliance.com/home**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My name is David Corrigan. I live in Bakersfield, and we have a weekly demonstration for peace and justice every Friday at California and Stockdale hwy from 4:30 to 5:30. We would like to better correspond with Fresno. Bakersfield is the oil capital of California, so we are planning demonstrations at Halliburton's west coast headquarters.

Bakersfield contacts: David Corrigan, viogolo@yahoo.com or (661) 835-1438; Lonnie Lopez, themodpoet@yahoo.com or (661) 633-2930; Michael Ault, mault@csu.edu or (661) 664-6075.

Thank you, and let's work together.



## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

**Tuesday, December 10  
5 PM**

This year, Comite NO NOS VAMOS is sponsoring the event to be held at the Federal Building in downtown Fresno. This is the anniversary of the human rights declaration and it's about everything: from Mother Earth, human rights, civil rights, police abuse, amnesty, BUSH, war and peace, Leonard Peltier, etc. Call Gloria Hernandez at 268-2261 or Comite at 498-6033 for more information.

## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno



**Rev. Bryan D. Jessup**

*Welcomes you, whoever you are  
and whomever you call family, our doors are open.*

### Sermon Topics:

**Dec 1** "Hanukkah Lights in a Rev. Bryan Jessup Dark Time Now"

**Dec 8** "A Journey of Faith" Rev. Smiley Rev. Jessup

**Dec 15** "Liberal Gifts" Rev. Bryan Jessup

**Dec 22** "What to do with Rev. Bryan Jessup the Dark and Cold?"

**Dec 24** The Christmas Eve Service Tuesday 6:30 PM

**Dec 29** One Service Only Gratitude 11:00 AM Ed Schultze Speaker

Sunday Services & Church School 9:15 and 11:00 am

4144 N. Millbrook Fresno, CA 93726

559.227.6164





# FOOD NOT BOMBS

## direct action in the face of violence

by Paul Thomas Jackson

Food Not Bombs, an international network of volunteers who prepare and serve free vegetarian food both to the hungry and to peaceful demonstrators, originated in the antinuclear movement of New England. In 1979, C.T. Butler met Keith McHenry when they stood side by side in protest against the government's use of nuclear power at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station (near Portsmouth, New Hampshire). Butler, a writer and lecturer on conflict-resolution skills, now lives in Takoma Park, Maryland. McHenry, a graphic artist, now lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Although both men have grown older since the days when they'd spray paint "Money for Food Not Bombs" on the sidewalk at exits to local grocery stores, the movement that they and five other activists began the following year while in Cambridge, Massachusetts, whose name was shortened to "Food Not Bombs," is as young and vibrant as ever.

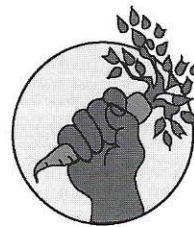
The group's name is meant to convey a message that more than free vegetarian food is being served, but its members insist that its activities are not merely symbolic and help satisfy real hunger in their communities. Indeed, McHenry, Butler, and the five other cofounders wanted a name that connected antimilitarism with humanitarianism.

The Food Not Bombs logo, an encircled hand thrusting upward and clenching a carrot, is a powerful symbol of the group's revolutionary tendencies, expressed by giving food and moral support to people at protests of military growth, nuclear power, unfair labor practices, environmental degradation, and others associated with the liberal-left.

The logo, designed by McHenry, also has symbolic colors and shapes. Complementing the orange carrot, the hand is purple or indigo—a color containing all of the other colors in the light spectrum, symbolizing the group's inclusiveness.

Additionally, rumor has it that in the logo, the shape of the hand and carrot form the letter A, standing for anarchism, a broad, revolutionary tradition that envisions a decentralized, classless society living without formal government but in harmony with the spirit of socialism. Although many people who volunteer for Food Not Bombs share in this tradition, McHenry, who designed the logo, denies the rumor based on any resemblance it may have to the letter A. Nor is anarchism or any kind of political ideology one of the group's founding principles (which include nonviolence, vegetarianism, food recycling, and decision-making by consensus).

Indeed, the indigo or purple hand is symbolic, not only of ethnic inclusive-



ness, but also of political or apolitical inclusiveness. The movement's principles—nonviolence, vegetarianism, food recycling, and consensus—are its nuts and bolts, and a local chapter or "collective" may adapt and refine them to suit itself based on a

reasonable assessment of its particular needs.

According to McHenry's website, the principles are not to be taken to an extreme. Vegetarianism, for example, applies strictly to the content of the meals prepared and served and, while held as an ideal of the movement, is by no means a requirement to participate in it. Overall and in the San Francisco Bay area, Food Not Bombs leans towards veganism or a strictly plant-based diet, which most of its participants practice, though again it is not a requirement of anyone but those who are in the act of preparing and serving food for the movement.

As another example of reasonableness in the application of Food Not Bombs's principles, the consensus process is a tool used by a local collective for maximizing participation in making decisions. C.T. Butler, one of the movement's cofounders, has written a book entitled *Formal Consensus*, setting forth detailed procedures for peaceful resolution of conflicting ideas within a group. Ideally, the process allows each member of the group to shape its decisions. In the event of unresolved conflict, a member has the option of either standing aside and allowing the group to proceed or—when the member takes grave exception to it—withdrawing from the group. But ideally, the process gives everyone an opportunity to listen to each other, hoping that communication of underlying concerns will allow a decision to be made with a full consensus behind it.

Again, although consensus is one of the principles and Butler's work sheds light on its application, the procedures he writes about are applied only to the degree necessary to achieve such resolution.

Due in part to the adaptability of its principles, Food Not Bombs has managed to play an important role in the communities where it has been started. As a culinary sponsor of political demonstrations by various groups, a collective is at the hub of the activist community, facilitating communication about upcoming demonstrations and speeches and encouraging greater turnouts. But the group's dual mission, which also includes feeding the hungry, has raised suspicion and ire among some local politicians who fear it will spawn a grassroots uprising against the establishment.

Speaking to the *San Francisco Chronicle* on October 31, 1988, Harry de Ruyter, director of social services for the local Salvation Army, said, "If the homeless were organized, if they received some heavy leadership . . . you might have social unrest. You might have an uprising." Ruyter became alarmed after McHenry moved to San Francisco, where he and others started a new chapter in addition to the one at Cambridge.

The fact that Food Not Bombs proclaims nonviolence to be one of its three basic principles didn't console Ruyter and other community leaders who felt pushed aside by the new kid on the block. And, unlike the Salvation Army and other enfranchised relief organizations, Food Not Bombs really is on the block. Unsheltered by any dining hall, chapters of the group bring food to hungry people in whatever areas of the city they can be found.

Controversies about the aim and purpose of Food Not Bombs are almost as enduring as the troubles the group has had with law enforcement. By the late 1980s, another chapter was spawned in Washington, DC, giving the group national status, and making it what its members claim to be the target of police abuse.



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### *Food Not Bombs continued from page 3*

Police and city officials often regard Food Not Bombs as scofflaws, people who know they are violating local health-related ordinances designed for the safe handling of food. Since 1988, more than 1,000 members of Food Not Bombs, serving food without a permit, have been arrested by police, mostly in the Bay Area. Art Agnos, then mayor of San Francisco, remarked on August 26, 1988, "They [Food Not Bombs] feel they can manipulate the homeless issue to set the stage for some kind of radical new social order." The San Francisco group, though lacking a permit, never backed off its front burner.



In 199-, however, Food Not Bombs' run-ins with the law became embarrassing when two prestigious human rights organizations stepped in on behalf of the group. McHenry and others, who were feeding people at the UN Plaza near the monument to the Universal Declaration, were arrested by local police. Amnesty International and the UN Human Rights Commission responded with letters to the governor of California, the mayor of San Francisco, and the district attorney stating that if convicted, the Food Not Bombs arrestees would be considered prisoners of conscience, and that the two organizations would work for their unconditional release. McHenry and the others were promptly released.

As far as Food Not Bombs seems to be concerned, local government holds the ace card. The group's members contend that the health and safety issue is a red herring for political harassment. The likelier case is that business leaders and homeowners, who work and live near the public parks where the group serves its meals, have complained to local police about the unsightliness of a long line of disheveled, raggedy hungry people waiting in line for soup. After all, meat is a common source of food poisoning; but all of Food Not Bombs's meals are vegetarian.

As a result, Food Not Bombs's run-ins with law enforcement have been escalating since the 1990s. Chapters of the group have been confronted by police, usually about health and safety ordinances, in Whittier, San Jose, and Arcata, California; Boston; Elgin, Illinois; Houston; Biloxi, Mississippi; Tampa, Florida; Salt Lake City; Washington, DC; Quebec City, Montreal, and Edmonton, Canada; Berlin and K  ln, Germany; and Tokyo, Japan. The fact that the police, who normally enforce only the penal code, have spoken with members of the group about local ordinances indicates direction from department superiors, responding to citizens' complaints. The police don't normally even read what local ordinances have to say, much less cite and arrest those who violate them, unless responding to a call.

And as recently as January 2001, members of the group's downtown L.A. chapter were arrested for serving food to unsightly members of the city's home-

less population in Pershing Square Park, an art-filled public park located in the city's business district. In that case, the ACLU intervened on behalf of Food Not Bombs.

It may seem likely that a group of volunteers, eager for titanic change in society, would find themselves unprepared to handle food in accordance with local ordinances and would not take the trouble of learning how. It may also seem likely that the volunteers, who spend some of their time giving food to demonstrators, would deliberately ignore such legal requirements in favor of civil disobedience like the Great Salt March of 1930, in which Gandhi led his followers to gather salt for themselves, deliberately violating British-sponsored law in effect at that time.

Members of the group, however, maintain that they have sought to comply with food-handling laws. They say that it is an uncooperative local government, not they, who are causing a legal problem with handling food. Since its inception in 1988, the San Francisco chapter claims to have made more than -00 unanswered requests that local-government officials provide guidance for complying with local ordinances.

But if Food Not Bombs flouts the law, or if the City of San Francisco refuses to issue the group a permit to serve food, the group's chapter back in New England, where the movement was started 21 years ago, appears to have a good working relationship with local government. In his January 20, 1989, letter to Ben Gale of the San Francisco Health Department, Alfred E. Velluci, mayor of Cambridge wrote: "They [Food Not Bombs] never sell the food, but always give it away for free. Again, in over eight years, we have never had any public health related complaints or difficulties with this program.

They enjoy broad-based community support. In fact, this group works cooperatively with the city in our mutual agenda of educating the public about the dangers of nuclear war and encouraging peace through nuclear disarmament." Not all local officials are as leery of Food Not Bombs as San Francisco's. But in most cities-with pressure by realtors and other businesspeople who want to keep up appearances and want the hungry and destitute people to be as inconspicuous as possible, the outdoor-catering group of left-leaning volunteers is not exactly welcome.



In the latter half of the twentieth century, symbolic political protest took many different forms. In the 1960s, UC-Berkeley students held sit-ins to gather momentum for the Free Speech Movement. In the 1970s, Native Americans in the Northwest, asserting their right to access natural land despite a federal ban, held fish-ins. Since the 1980s, AIDS activists, calling attention to the epidemic, have held die-ins.



Likewise, in a narrow sense at least, Food Not Bombs's feeding of the hungry could be called a feed-in. When the group's Fresno chapter was started, it served food during Newt Gingrich's January 1996 visit and did so right across the street from the hall where Gingrich was giving a speech. However, it and other chapters do not stop feeding when the bigwigs leave town. Most chapters serve one lunch per week, some serve two, and those in Berkeley serve lunch every day of the week.

Visibility has been an important consideration of members of the Fresno chapter, who recently began serving a Sunday lunch in downtown Fresno's Fulton Mall, near the California historic landmark of the 1910-11 Fresno Free Speech Fight. The fight was actually a direct-action campaign against the city's ban on public street-speaking and was conducted by the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World), the Chicago-based union with revolutionary aspirations, whose organizers were later railroaded on charges of criminal syndicalism and imprisoned in Leavenworth. In other parts of the country, Food Not Bombs has served "solidarity meals" with members of the union, which has hung on through political persecution. To some extent, symbolism is also an important consideration to Food Not Bombs, despite what the group's members may say to the contrary.

When Gandhi led fellow Indians on their march to the seashore where they gathered salt, he knew that the British tax on the seasoning was not economically crushing fellow Indians but did so to demonstrate the value of direct action, a tactic that ignores lobbying, litigation, electoral politics, and all other conventional channels. The Great Salt March not only sent a clear message to the British-led establishment but also educated Indians how to conduct direct action, which they utilized effectively against the British.

If Food Not Bombs helps satisfy a real urban problem of hunger, its members have often done so in a symbolic manner. The act itself may not be purely symbolic, inasmuch as the vegetarian meals served by members of the movement do alleviate the genuine phenomenon of hunger. But the venue where the movement serves them has a symbolic or demonstrative reason—homelessness has tripled since the 1980s, and poverty and hunger are growing, even in the world's richest country. Taking to the public parks with soup pots and ladles in hand, Food Not Bombs conducts direct action, making the existing problem of hunger more visible than it would be if the group served food inside soup kitchens.

Food Not Bombs, if the movement were a person, would now have reached the age of majority. One wonders what destiny may be in store for its adult life. Although most well-to-do people, concerned about real estate values, may always want to sweep problems like hunger under the proverbial rug, others have begun to appreciate the cause of relieving hunger and are willing to take it up in a dramatic way. Food Not Bombs volunteers value human life over cosmetic appearances and, putting human needs first, are unafraid to put them on display. As the movement grows, unseemly lines of hungry people will grow longer in more areas, embarrassing business environments and harming real estate values, and more and more complaints will be lodged with law enforcement. The group's continued conflict with law enforcement is inevitable.

Whether Food Not Bombs is destined for success or failure may ultimately depend on public opinion and goodwill. Across the United States, the group has a mixed reputation that is most favorable at home in Cambridge. Like the IWW, whose members defied cities' ban on free speech, Food Not Bombs asserts a basic human right in preference to fuddy-duddy ordinances. And Gandhi's civil disobedience, giving the Indian people first priority, championed their dignity over the British regulatory machinery.

In the case of Food Not Bombs, the right of satisfying people's nutritional needs takes precedence over the fiscal demands of the US military

establishment. To local officials and businesspeople, the group's antiestablishment message is as unwelcome as were the IWW's calls to organize unskilled labor, despite local ordinances prohibiting speaking on the public streets. Public areas are the battlegrounds of grassroots groups and government bureaucracy, each vying for control in the name of the people.

Fortunately, however, like the movement that brought freedom and self-determination to India, Food Not Bombs has stated nonviolence as one of its principles.

Food Not Bombs, now an international movement, has grown to 200 chapters and continues to add new ones in many parts of the world, including Northern California. In addition to San Francisco, the group has chapters in Bakersfield, Berkeley, Bolinas, Chico, Fresno, Mendocino, Sacramento, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Vallejo.

The Fresno chapter, which served its first meal across the street from a speech given by Newt Gingrich here in 1996, has served lunch regularly on Saturdays at Roeding Park, a refuge for the homeless population during the area's warmer months. Among the 100 or so lunch guests, perhaps half have never been homeless but are undernourished. In 2000, the chapter expanded, now serving lunch to a few dozen hungry folks on Sundays at Courthouse Park.

California's Central Valley, boasted to be the world's richest agricultural region, appears to have a limitless bounty of food. In 1996, the year in which the Food Not Bombs movement spread here, Fresno County farms' annual gross receipts surpassed \$3 billion. Nevertheless, recent UCLA studies place Fresno as one of California's hungriest counties, second only to neighboring Tulare County. Such a sharp contrast between the "natural order" (a term favored by left visionaries) and existing political reality is the very kind of thing to which the movement seeks to draw the public's attention.

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## **Real Homeland Security**

*by Robert Valett*

*Robert Valett is a professor emeritus at CSUF, an author, and a member of WILPF and Psychologists for Social Responsibility.*

Now that the November elections are over, it is time for Congress to pull together and get things done. Trent Lott, the new majority leader in the Senate, has already announced that he plans to give priority to passing a homeland security bill as soon as possible. He has also asserted that, among other things, a national energy bill is high on his list for action. And of course the Bush administration is rapidly proceeding with its preparation for a possible war with Iraq. But how these issues are shaped and prioritized in the months to come will continue to challenge the American people and influence whether or not they are supportive.

Should the elimination of Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda organization remain our primary goal, or shall we instead focus on the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime and the so-called axis-of-evil powers? Perhaps we should also consider other goals suggested by the American people. Surely this is the time for thoughtful consideration of these many questions if we are to avoid stumbling into even greater catastrophes than those of Vietnam.

## **September 11, 2001: Security Issues**

How should we proceed with our war on terrorism in order to effect real na-

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tional security? Numerous experts have asserted that there is no single front-line in the war on terrorism to effect homeland security. The Central Intelligence Agency has reported that the al-Qaeda terrorist group now exists in numerous countries and does not have a central base of operations. Moreover, there are also 25 other militant Islamic organizations centered in many geographic areas throughout the world. Pakistan has the most militant groups (six), while Iraq has only one (the Mujahedin-e Khalq). We also need to consider that the CIA has judged as "low" the likelihood of Saddam's Iraq initiating an attack on us in the foreseeable future. Such an expert as retired Marine general Anthony Zinni has said that in his personal view Iraq is not the number-one priority-it's maybe sixth or seventh!

The United States is quickly becoming its own worst enemy by its unilateral actions, its preemptive first-strike policy, and the breaking of numerous international agreements. This further alienates us from the global community and complicates our homeland security. For example, former National Security Advisor General Brent Scowcroft has said that an attack against Iraq could turn the whole region into a cauldron with an explosion of Islamic outrage against us and thus undermine the war on terrorism. Physicians for Social Responsibility, Psychologists for Social Responsibility, and other professional organizations oppose any preemptive unilateral attack on Iraq, which may force Saddam Hussein to defend himself with weapons of mass destruction.

Polls also show that the Bush administration's priorities in the war on terrorism are increasingly being questioned by the American people. Americans do not want the United States to act without support from their allies until the United Nations inspectors have an opportunity to enter and report on Iraq. What we need now is a new foreign policy based on the force of international law and not on military force alone!

President Bush's continued unilateral preemptive strike policy toward Iraq and any ongoing crusade against other "axis-of-evil" countries is actually perceived by some as more of a threat than Saddam Hussein's regime. Most Americans rate the poor economy with growing unemployment, inadequate health care, increasing crime, corporate corruption, and exploitation as some of the more immediate threats to their security and general welfare. But it is obvious that since the tragedy of 9/11 most Americans have also become increasingly aware of the many evils of terrorism and are demanding an effective homeland security program.

## The evil axis

There is little doubt that deliberately destructive evil acts by many nations, such as war crimes with the indiscriminate killings and mass extermination of civilians, continue to abound throughout the world as recorded by Amnesty International and other organizations. However, most atrocities such as homicidal torture, cruel child abuse, serial killings, and other forms of severe social disorder are also found in every community and regularly reported by the media. And wherever evil tendencies have been humanly expressed anywhere in the world, they have been shaped by severely dysfunctional families and cultural forces, which produce persons who have learned to destructively hate themselves and others.

President George W. Bush is tragically wrong in asserting that the "axis of evil" is centered in particular nations, such as Iraq, Iran, Yemen, North Korea, and others. Modern science and biblical wisdom both agree that the real roots of evil do not reside within a particular culture or nation but are to be found within human nature and our baser inclinations toward greed, power, intolerance, self-righteousness, apathy, appalling ignorance, and the love of money. To paraphrase the famous words of cartoonist Walt Kelly's Pogo, We have met the enemy and it is us.

In fact, the real face of the enemy is not much different from what we see in the mirror each morning! Unfortunately, throughout much of the world, the United States is increasingly being criticized as a satanic source of many unethical acts and policies resulting in widespread harm to the global community. Consequently, the "ugly American" is perceived by many as a legitimate target for

terrorists everywhere. Certainly it is time to reassess some of the most questionable policies enacted during President Bush's first two years in office and their possible results on our homeland security.

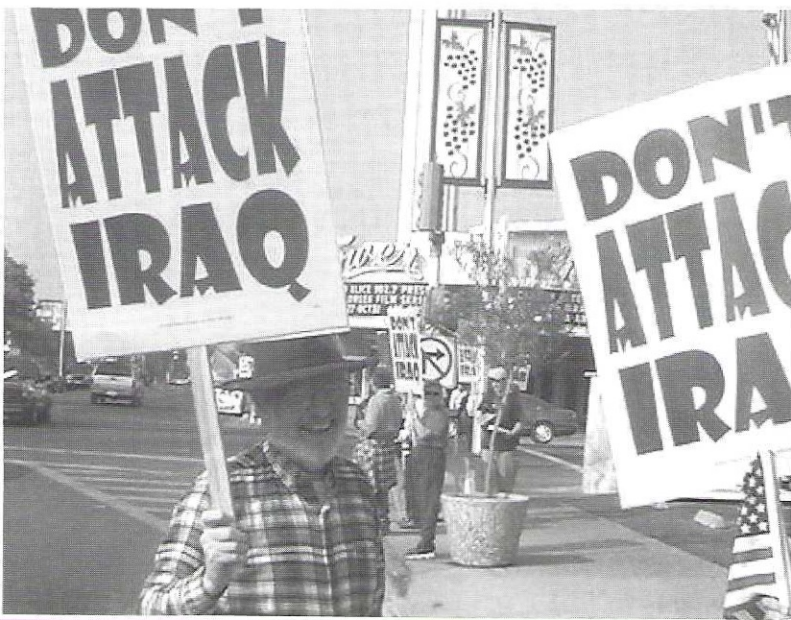
For example, the Bush administration has taken a uniquely unpopular unilateral position by rejecting global warming and the Kyoto Protocol, opposing ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and withdrawing from the Anti-Ballistic Missiles arms treaty. Particularly troubling to many, the United States declared itself no longer bound by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and "unsigned" the Rome agreement establishing the International Criminal Court (along with Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Indonesia, Egypt, and Israel!). The US has also been accused of blatant hypocrisy by blocking enforcement of 34 United Nations resolutions against Israel, while demanding conformance by Iraq to half as many. Interestingly, among UN members, only the United States and Somalia have not ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, several organizations, including the Children's Defense Fund and the United Nations Human Development Report, list the United States as number one, among the top twenty industrialized countries, in such things as the known execution of juveniles, the death of children under the age of fifteen from gunfire, and becoming the first society in history in which the poorest group in the population are children.

## Civic responsibility

Over the years as an educator I have visited people in other countries with different cultures and traditions to discuss mutual concerns-such as war and peace. Some of the most enlightening exchanges of ideas have occurred in the Soviet Union (during the Vietnam War), Tito's Yugoslavia, China, Tibet, and most recently Cuba. One of the most important things I have learned from these multicultural discussions is that many of the so-called evil empires are not quite what they have been made out to be, that we actually share many common human values, and that our own homeland security is inextricably interdependent with that of all other countries.

Real security depends on much more than overwhelming military forces, preemptive strike capabilities, or "patriot laws" that abridge our hard-won constitutional rights and freedoms. True homeland security requires a well-informed, voting citizenry, committed to democratic participation in the pursuit of our general welfare. This requires strengthening our educational institutions to include peace education, conflict resolution strategies, and multicultural exchanges at home and abroad.

A successful war on terrorism may also demand widespread public involvement in military or global community service programs, alternative energy development plans, and the public financing of ethical political candidates. In fact, it is increasingly apparent that human history and survival have become more and more a race between education and catastrophe. If we are to survive, this will require a major commitment to reorder our personal and national priorities!





# Peace Fresno in Action

by Camille Russell

Peace Fresno, an activist peace organization, grew out of ad hoc meetings at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence in the wake of 9/11. The time has come to create a more structured organization with officers, bylaws, and a financial base so that we can act effectively to resist our government's push toward war.

Peace Fresno is launching its first membership drive in December. All who support action for social justice and alternatives to war are asked to become charter members by submitting the annual \$12 dues to Peace Fresno, c/o Ingrid Carmean, P. O. Box 5036, Fresno, CA 93755.

Membership dues and donations will provide money for the ongoing costs of peace action – signs, paint, printing costs, venue rental fees, speaker transportation and fees, videos, float rental, mailing, and other costs. Peace Fresno has been operating on a bake sale budget and needs increased support. We are in a time of grave national crisis. Many observers believe that only a United States grassroots movement will be able to resist and prevent war.

It is no accident that Peace Fresno and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence received a statewide award for excellence. Prior to 9/11 this community had a progressive/liberal, activist community and the infrastructure to support it. Years of commitment and hard work have created the following organizations and institutions: the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, KFCF/KPFA, this magazine — the *Community Alliance*, SunMt, a vigorous Green Party, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and labor groups, including the United Farm Workers. Because of this history and infrastructure we have the opportunity to be highly effective.

Peace Fresno will be involved in five major activities/actions during the months of December and January.

- **I Vote NO to War:** The People's Anti-War Referendum (See below.)
- Fresno City Holiday Parade float with peace marchers – that's you! Saturday, December 7, 2002
- Sacramento peace rally on Saturday, January 18, 2003
- Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. March, Monday, January 20, 2003
- Elections of officers (the current officers are interim) and the board of directors, January 21, 2003.

**I Vote NO to War:** The People's Anti-War Referendum is a project of International A.N.S.W.E.R. who initiated it following the hugely successful rallies on October 26. This is an opportunity to let people "vote" on a simple No War in Iraq statement. It reads as follows:

The U.S. Congress did not represent me when it voted to authorize George W. Bush to carry out an illegal war against Iraq. Thousands will die needlessly unless the people stop this war drive.

I join with the millions of people who believe that the \$200 billion planned for a war against Iraq should be spent instead to fund jobs, education, housing, healthcare, childcare, assistance to the elderly and to meet people's needs.

Peace Fresno will distribute petition sheets to all that are willing to circulate them. We ask that they be returned to us for tabulation. That will give us an opportunity to speak up for the large numbers of local people who oppose war against Iraq. We can use the numbers when contacting our congressmen, other elected officials, and the media. We will forward the completed referendum sheets to Vote No War, A.N.S.W.E.R.'s project coordinator. The results of the nationwide survey will be released to the world through an international public relations campaign and will be brought to Washington, D.C. at the time of mass demonstrations and the grassroots Peace Congress on January 18 – 19, 2003.

Peace Fresno has set a very modest goal of 1,000 signatures by the weekend of January 4. We can easily reach this goal. The more signatures we gather, the more powerful the message!

To get petitions for **I Vote NO to War: The People's Anti-War Referendum**, call Camille Russell at 276-2592 or email [camillerussell@yahoo.com](mailto:camillerussell@yahoo.com). You can always get Peace Fresno information by calling 237-3223 \*3 (23PEACE \*3) or by going to the web site <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno>.

**PEACE FRESNO'S HOLIDAY WISH: We wish a friend who knows MS Access would help us with our database.**



## For Kids of All Ages: Peace Float to Enter Fresno's Holiday Parade

by Ken Hudson

Bring the kids to join Peace Fresno's float in Fresno's holiday parade on Saturday, December 7, 10:00 AM in downtown Fresno. A few thousand people attend this event each year. The theme of our entry is "Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me." A children's chorus will sit on the float and sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth." The float will also feature a giant peace sign, our planet, the theme statement and "Don't Attack Iraq!" Everyone, kids and adults, is welcome to join us. Participants of all ages are to dress appropriately for the theme: multicultural traditional clothing or headgear and/or peace messages and symbols. We would also like kids to accompany the float on bikes, skateboards, rollerskates, and so on. We will leaflet the crowd with "Ten Reasons NOT to Attack Iraq." Our entry is in the parade's "International Cultures" division, which falls between "Nursery Rhymes" and "Stars and Stripes." Our exact starting location has not been assigned as we go to press, but it will be posted on our website [www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno](http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno) as soon as we receive the assignment. Participants are to be in position at 9:00 AM. And yes, it really is okay to just show up Saturday morning and join the Peace Fresno float! We'll have a ball while reminding Fresno that "Peace on Earth" means . . . well, peace on earth. For more info contact Ken Hudson at 229-8971 or [khudson@msn.com](mailto:khudson@msn.com).

After the parade, we will enjoy the Peace Community Crafts Faire (see WILPF announcement), where Peace Fresno will have a table for signing the national grassroots referendum against war on Iraq, called VoteNoWar. This referendum is sponsored by International ANSWER. The results will be released through an international public relations campaign and will be brought to Washington, D.C., at a time of mass demonstrations on January 18-19, 2003, coinciding with Martin Luther King Jr. anniversary celebrations. You can also sign the referendum at our website (see above).

The Tower District was bursting at the seams on October 26 with the messages "Don't Attack Iraq" and "Repeal the Patriot Act" to coincide with International ANSWER's national day of protest against the war. Peace Fresno passed out 150 signs to demonstrators while many other folks brought their own, and the "Wheel of Misfortune" made its Tower debut. See our website for links to Mike Rhodes's pictures and story and Elfie Ballis's video clips of the event. Kudos go to Fresno City College student Ruby Rogers. She independently organized an October 26 peace demonstration at Shaw and Blackstone that occurred later in the day.

You can also contact Peace Fresno by phoning the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 23-PEACE (237-3223), or you can meet with us at the Center, 985 N. Van Ness Ave. on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. And you will find us at peace demonstrations every Friday at Shaw and Blackstone Aves., 4:30-6:30 PM.



# South Valley Peace Center Plans **BIG** Statement

by David Chandler

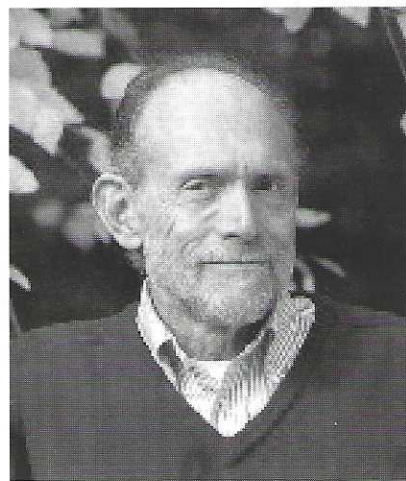
The South Valley Peace Center is raising money to lease space on a 14' x 48' lighted billboard on Highway 99 with a strong antiwar message. Here is the proposed artwork:



The design is by Jerry Jaspar, a professional graphic artist who volunteered his time and talents. The message is very much in line with the goals of the project: to make a simple, direct, forceful statement opposing the war. He added the words, "Inform Yourself" to the text we provided him, which hits on a key element in any plan to change hearts and minds. There was concern that the message be readable by drivers going 70 miles per hour and not appear overly cluttered. We think he has met this goal.

A little more than \$3000 has been raised so far-enough for the initial production and a one-month run. We need \$1200 for each additional month. They will extend the run as long as funding continues coming in and the message remains appropriate. Unfortunately the latter condition may well extend much longer than any of us would wish.

If you would like to contribute, make checks payable to the Visalia Friends Meeting marked for the Billboard Project and send c/o David and Billie Chandler, P.O. Box 999, Springville, CA 93265.



## Michael Nagler Comes to Fresno

by Vickie M. Fouts

Dr. Michael Nagler, founder and past chair of the Peace & Conflict Studies Program at UC Berkeley, was in Fresno for two days in October. He spoke at CSUF, Fresno Pacific University, and an informal gathering at the home of Dr. Su Kapoor, about nonviolence and how we can deal with the changes in our lives since 9/11.

Nagler stated that after 9/11 we had three options on how to respond:

vengeance, use of international laws, or a change of our consumerist culture. He said that for the past century we have been living with a negative, ruthless determination in a culture of materialism and violence and that it has to change. Instead, we need to live in a world of positive, ruthless persistence by following the examples of Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi and using constructive programs to raise up our communities. One way is about afflicting pain, and the other is about accepting pain to bring about positive change.

Nagler gave us five things we can do to start a new paradigm or culture: 1. Spend time on spiritual cultivation, such as asking ourselves the purpose of life. 2. Disconnect ourselves from mass media, using alternatives such as Indymedia <[www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org)>. 3. Bring about peace literacy by teaching about peace and nonviolence in the schools. 4. Make lifestyle changes, moving away from materialism and toward peace activities, which include conversations with others without causing them feelings of guilt. 5. Repersonalize our interactions, by meeting with others face to face instead of by phone or e-mail and really paying attention to each other.

We need new networks and organization to fight the conservative think tanks, journalists, and political candidates, who are already well organized. We need to fight fundamentalism with nonviolence by seeing others as human beings and separating the person from the behavior by talking to those with whom we disagree as people, not as opponents.

Two quotes were used by Nagler, which we may want to reflect upon:

"If you don't protect justice when you are strong, it won't be there when you are weak."

"Never sacrifice the future for the present."





# Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Vickie M. Fouts, Branch Coordinator, contact at 559.658.8260 or email at [vmfout1@sti.net](mailto:vmfout1@sti.net)

Desi Cortez, Newsletter Editor, contact at 559.907.2200 or email at [desicortez@cvip.net](mailto:desicortez@cvip.net).

## WILPF Fresno Events

Wednesday, December 4, noon: **Women in Black** at Fresno County Courthouse breezeway. Please note: Women in Black now takes place only on the first Wednesday of each month.

Saturday, December 7, 10 AM-4 PM: **Peace Community Craft Faire** located at the First Congregational Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. We need volunteers; raffle, white elephant and silent auction items; and soup, bread, and dessert providers. Call Desi at 907-2200 to help out. We'll be seeing you all there!

Monday, December 9, 7 PM-9 PM, *Our Choices Make History: An Open Forum with Scott Ritter*. This is a video of Scott Ritter's August presentation sponsored by WILPF Baltimore. Using a panel format and Q&A sessions, you will learn about Ritter's seven-year experience as a UNSCOM weapons inspector in Iraq. Location: Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. This event is in place of the regular WILPF Fresno board meeting.

## The News

Please give us your correct e-mail address. WILPF Fresno is turning the phone tree into the e-mail tree. The phone tree will still exist for those without Internet access so that we may relay only urgent short messages. So, please, send your e-mail address to us and stay connected to our community.

**Israeli Refuseniks** For complete information about adopting an Israeli refusenik who refuses to serve in the Occupied Territory see the website [www.yeshgvul.org/English.html](http://www.yeshgvul.org/English.html). There is a copy of a leaflet they hand out to IDF soldiers and many other wonderful things on this website. You can e-mail them at [rahat@isdh.net.il](mailto:rahat@isdh.net.il).

**Health Care** State Senator Sheila Kuehl will introduce a single-payer, universal health care bill in January for the State of California. Details at the website [www.healthcareforall.org](http://www.healthcareforall.org).

**WILPF Electronic Technology** There are a couple of WILPF e-mail listservs you may want to join. They are sometimes lengthy, so I don't forward them to you. I will let you decide if you want to receive the information. I also recommend you periodically check out a few WILPF websites to keep up to date.

## Listservs

**Eye on Congress** Sign up with Valerie Mullen at [vmullen@together.net](mailto:vmullen@together.net) for information on WILPF organizing and what is happening in Washington, DC.

**UNGA First Committee: NGO Report part of Reaching Critical Will** Sign up at [info@reachingcriticalwill.org](mailto:info@reachingcriticalwill.org) for information on WILPF organizing at the United Nations.

## Websites

US WILPF <[www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)>

WILPF International <[www.wilpf.int.ch](http://www.wilpf.int.ch)>

**Reaching for a Critical Mass of Political Will for Nuclear Disarmament** <[www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org)>

**PeaceWomen.org** seeks to nurture communication among a diversity of women's organizations by providing an accessible and accurate information exchange between peace women around the world and in the UN system: <[www.peacewomen.org](http://www.peacewomen.org)>.

**Eye on Congress: Cost of invading Iraq** The Congressional Budget Office has just released estimates on the cost of going to war in Iraq. Based on CBO estimates, if the war lasts seven months, followed by a year-long occupation, it would cost roughly \$100 billion

To find out more about the CBO report, as well as the proposed federal budget, go to <[www.nationalpriorities.org/budgetupdates/budgetupdate100102.html](http://www.nationalpriorities.org/budgetupdates/budgetupdate100102.html)> for a state-by-state breakdown of the estimated cost of going to war in Iraq. Also, general information about costs relating to war on Iraq, rebuilding efforts that would take place after the war and why the U.S. is likely to pay for most of it can be found at <<http://www.nationalpriorities.org/iraq.pdf>>.

## Meeting Actions & Events in the Works Peace Building Class Update

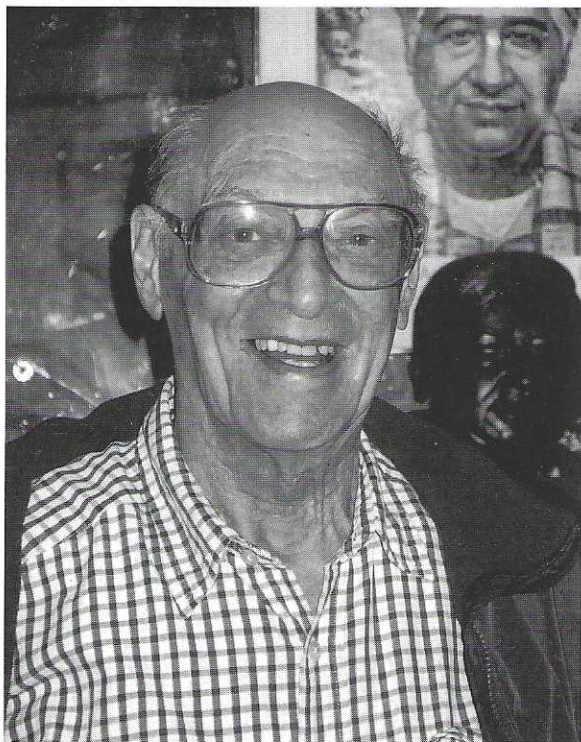
In order to have a peaceful community and world, we need to work on racism. In Vickie Fouts' class readings on race, by Dr. Asa G. Hilliard, III, of Georgia State University: "There is no scientific way to group people by race other than as one race. There's only one race on the earth, the human race." He also pointed out the difference between stereotyping, prejudice, and racism. Stereotyping is merely generalizing inappropriately. Prejudice is more than stereotyping. It is prejudging without benefit of actual experience. Racism is a systematic subordination system that includes beliefs and behavior. Dr. Hilliard believes there are two motivating reasons for racism and the need to subordinate another group: fear and greed.

White privilege has also been explored. Peggy McIntosh has come up with a list of 45 questions that can help one understand white privilege. McIntosh is associate director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women and founder of the National S.E.E.D. Project on Inclusive Curriculum (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity). As part of WILPF's campaign Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration, and Reconciliation, WILPF members completed the questionnaire at our meeting on November 11th. The questionnaire can be changed slightly to look at gender or class privilege. If you would like a copy of the questionnaire, contact Vickie Fouts at (559) 658-8260 or [vmfout1@sti.net](mailto:vmfout1@sti.net).

**Deadline for the January issue is December 10. If you want to contribute anything please contact Desi Cortez, Newsletter Editor, at (559) 907-2200 or [desicortez@cvip.net](mailto:desicortez@cvip.net).**



In Memoriam  
**ARTHUR SIEGAL**



**FCNV Board President, 1993-2002**

**Board Elections** The Center welcomes new board members Diane Scott, Serge Haitayan and Dan Yaseen. Officers for 2003 are Maria Telesco, President; Jack Welch, Vice President; Vince Lavery, Secretary; and Deborah Eacock (also a new addition), Treasurer. With a desire for diversity and wider scope, we welcome suggestions for additional board members willing and able to attend at least six meetings each year and to assist substantively with at least one program. Self-nomination is fine.

**Fundraising** Thanks to all who donated and/or bought books at our October sale. We cleared almost \$1500. Also, by publication we will have just about completed the calling for our annual phone-a-thon. We ask pledgers, please send in your contributions. If we missed you or you're not on our list but want to support our work, this is a good time for a donation, c/o FCNV at 985 N. Van Ness, Fresno, CA 93728.

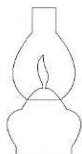
**Nonviolence in Practice** The hard (inner) work of figuring out how, ourselves, to become less violent and how to reduce violence in the world is the Center's ongoing task. We encourage all interested in this process to attend the second Nonviolence Training to be held at the Center on Sunday, December 8, guided by Lisa Apper. We also invite community members to join us at our annual retreat (January 11) where we reconsider our Peace Agenda and how to prioritize our efforts to enact it. Call us at 23-PEACE for information.

**Peace Challenge** Applications are still available for grants (up to \$200) for projects done by youth groups. Submissions due by January 10.

## The Welch Report

November 11, 2002

Jack H. Welch, M.D.



E.J. Dionne said in the *Fresno Bee* following this past election (disastrous for Democrats) that the Democrats' problem was not about the party's being progressive enough or centrist enough (i.e., its positioning), but was about "having something to say about things that matter." In other words, the party "had no message." Dionne cited several areas of difference between the two major parties on critically important issues, issues on which I have strong personal beliefs.

Mr. Bush now can be expected to resist any setting aside of his huge tax cuts (benefiting mainly those having the least need for them), which threaten fiscal chaos and will deprive the government of greatly needed revenues. Too many Democratic leaders have been reluctant to say this.

With Republicans in control of the Senate, right-wing judges can now be approved more easily, which most Democrats don't want. Many Democrats believe that government regulations can be a good thing; witness, for example, the recent results of deregulation of large financial corporations in the US. Again, too many Democrats have been afraid to speak out on this issue.

However, as important as the above are, for me the most important issue is Mr. Bush's thinking and action in his role as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The Republican victories on November 5, including especially the capture of the Senate, could well embolden the president in his pursuit of attacking Iraq (although recently he has toned down somewhat his unilateral, belligerent rhetoric).

I believe this problem with Iraq must be dealt with through negotiations. Unconditional UN inspections of the country are needed first. We have contained Saddam over the past ten years, and in my opinion that approach can be continued.

Saddam's obtaining nuclear weapons is expected to require several more years (estimated from one to as long as eight). He must know, however, that if he were to use such weapons against us (through terrorists) or against any US ally, we would retaliate, probably by devastating his country. Further, if we attack Iraq preemptively, we probably can expect Saddam will use weapons of mass destruction in his own protection5action we have wanted to prevent.

Attacking Iraq will disturb whatever stability there now is in the Middle East. It will enhance the hatred that much of the Muslim world already feels toward the West and especially toward the US, and probably will increase terrorist activity against us. We can expect a high cost in lives, civilian and military, and in money. Further, we will be obligated to take over the governing of a post-Saddam Iraq for an extended period of time.

I believe our attacking Iraq at this time would be a huge mistake; our security, at least in the short- to medium-term, can be maintained by nonviolent means. In our perhaps last "just" war (the present conflict in Afghanistan might also qualify) the US was attacked at Pearl Harbor and declared war on Japan, after which Germany declared war on us. I don't believe in the waging of "preemptive" war-in this case against a nation which does not represent a demonstrated imminent threat to the US.





## Election Review

Peter Camejo, the Green Party candidate for governor of California, finished with 5 percent of the vote statewide, the largest third-party gubernatorial showing in the state since Independent Edward Clark took 5.5 percent in 1978.

It was a trend that continued throughout the statewide ballot, as Green Party candidates finished third in six other down-ticket contests. Laura Wells was the party's top vote-getter statewide, receiving 5.8 percent in the state controller's race.

In an election year in which Simon and Davis found it difficult to connect with voters, Camejo reached out to minorities and the traditional Green Party base. He campaigned heavily on issues such as affordable health care, renewable energy, farmworker rights, and peace in the Middle East.

Camejo's 5.3 percent represented a significant improvement over the Green Party's last gubernatorial candidate, Dan Hamburg, who won 1.3 percent in 1998. Camejo attributed his jump largely to increased media attention, a peace platform in a time of possible war against Iraq, and Ralph Nader's success as a presidential candidate in 2000.

"It's pretty much established that the Green Party has become the third party in California," Camejo said. "It's not that there aren't other

parties, but the Green Party by far is the largest. You just don't see any other party getting 16 percent of a county."

"This Green Party phenomenon is not going to go away in California," said Bill Carrick, a Democratic political consultant. "This is a long-term problem. . ."

While there were no Green candidates in partisan races in Fresno County, that did not mean we were sitting on our hands. The Fresno County Green Party was active in the successful campaign to defeat the Measure C reauthorization. We also produced more than 1,600 *Vote Green, Not Gray* yard signs for distribution around the state.

## Looking to the Future

"The Green Party has to overcome structural difficulties," Camejo said. "We've got to get a statewide office open with full-time staff, and we've got to increase funding. Those are issues I'm going to be working on during the next few years." Similarly, on a local level, structural reinforcement is also a priority. While we don't yet need a full-time office, we do need to establish formal

subgroups to work on outreach, electoral reform, and fundraising. Continued growth will depend on having a structure to build on!

## Legislatively Speaking

"This was an amazing showing [by the Green Party], but on the other hand, the reason for the showing is people just didn't want to vote for Gray Davis," said Bob Stern, president of the nonpartisan Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles. "People [voting for Camejo] felt they weren't wasting their vote because they assumed Davis would win. If people had known there would be only a five-point difference [between Davis and Republican Bill Simon], there would've been fewer votes for the Green Party candidate."

Camejo said that's why Greens must strive to implement instant-runoff voting, in which voters rank candidates in order of choice. If nobody wins with a majority of first-choice votes, the last-place candidate is dropped and ballots are recounted with the dropped candidate's votes counted for their voters' second choices. This prevents "taking a vote away" from a major party candidate but lets voters choose freely.

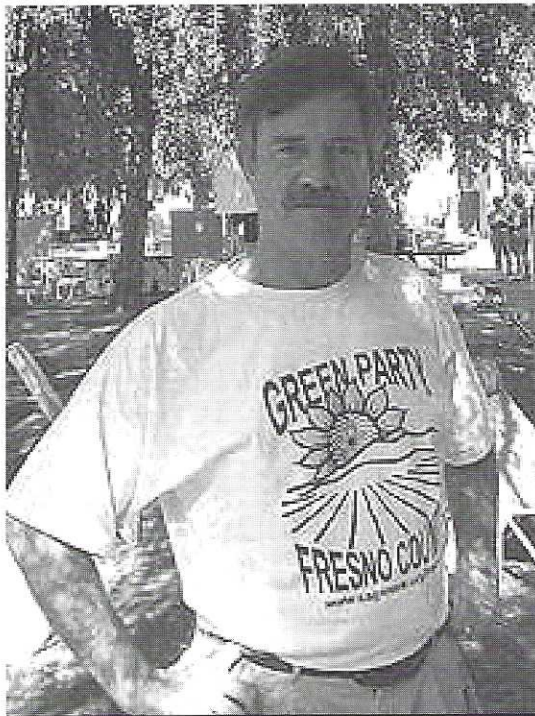
Such a system would have vastly increased his support this year, Camejo said: "Probably for every vote we got, there was one person who wanted to vote for us but voted for Davis to stop Simon." Camejo said he believes progressive Democrats are willing to discuss carrying legislation for this new voting system.

Locally, IRV is just as important. If the City of Fresno were to adopt instant runoff voting for its council elections, we could do away with having to conduct subsequent elections to determine a winner when one candidate does not get an outright majority. This would save money for the city (and thus for the taxpayers), and it would avoid lengthy campaigns, as well as the political signs and fundraisers that go along with them.

## The Challenges of 2003

It's time for Fresno County to start running candidates for office. To do this successfully, we need a support structure in place. Will you do your part? Would you consider running for local office? Would you be willing to become a Green

Party Sustainer by giving \$10 a month to the Fresno County Green Party? Would you volunteer to table on a regular basis? Will you wear your Fresno County Green Party shirt a few times a month? Can you take notes at a monthly meeting? Is our magnet on your refrigerator? Have you ordered your FCGP 2003 Calendar for your friends? To get involved in any or all of the above, go to our website at <[www.cagreens.org/fresno](http://www.cagreens.org/fresno)> or call 265-3647. Our next meeting is December 12, 2002, at 7:00 PM at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. You may send contributions to PO Box 4501, Fresno, CA 93744. We look forward to your involvement in growing the Fresno County Green Party.



*Dirk Van Gelder wearing his Fresno County Green Party T-Shirt*





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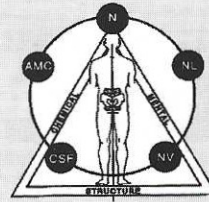
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The Fresno chapter has also catered to the local annual Martin Luther Luther Jr. Parade, to the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition, and even to Green Party events (unique among FNB chapters in doing so). Issues involving downtown Fresno's homeless people, who were targeted by an antippanhandling ordinance recently passed by the City of Fresno, now appears on the horizon, as participants discuss ways to draw attention to their plight.

As Fresno's revitalization plan takes effect in the coming years, local politicians, including Mayor Autry, have indicated their willingness to move food and other relief services out of downtown areas. Relocation of such services may be proposed as a way to improve the quality of life for most residents, but it would certainly harm the quality of life for the homeless, who may be reluctant to follow the relocation of such services. Some who've studied homeless populations in America have preferred to use the term *houseless* to describe them-noting their keen sense of home, even without permanent shelter.

In January 2003, the Fresno chapter will celebrate its seventh anniversary.

Anyone who'd like to devote a few hours of their time on one or more Saturdays to help prepare lunch are invited to show up at 9:30 AM or so at the Wesley United Methodist Church, whose members have graciously allowed us to use their kitchen at 1343 E. Barstow Avenue (just south of Barstow on Fourth St.). Volunteers are also needed to serve lunch at 1 PM at Roeding Park, just inside the Olive entrance.

Anyone who'd like to devote a few hours of their time on Sundays are invited to leave voice mail for Nick at (559) 499-7927 to arrange to help him and other volunteers prepare lunch at 12:30 PM at his home in the Tower District. Lunch is served 3 PM at Courthouse Park near the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue. Donations of plates, bowls, spoons, and forks made of recyclable material are greatly appreciated.

## Time to Move On

by Diane Scott

The election's over, so this is the time when we need to take a good look at our country and think about how we ended up here. How are your retirement plans coming along? Are you sure your IRA is safe, or do the rates keep dropping lower and lower? And when you retire can you pay for your health care needs? It doesn't look like Medicare is going to help pay for prescriptions.

Do you fear you'll lose your job? It happens every day, and Bush didn't sign that extension to unemployment benefits. Forty percent of the children go hungry here in our breadbasket of the world and those who rely on the Welfare-to-Work program are frighteningly near their five-year cutoff but the jobs have all gone away to South America, the Pacific Islands, China, India, where people work for pennies.

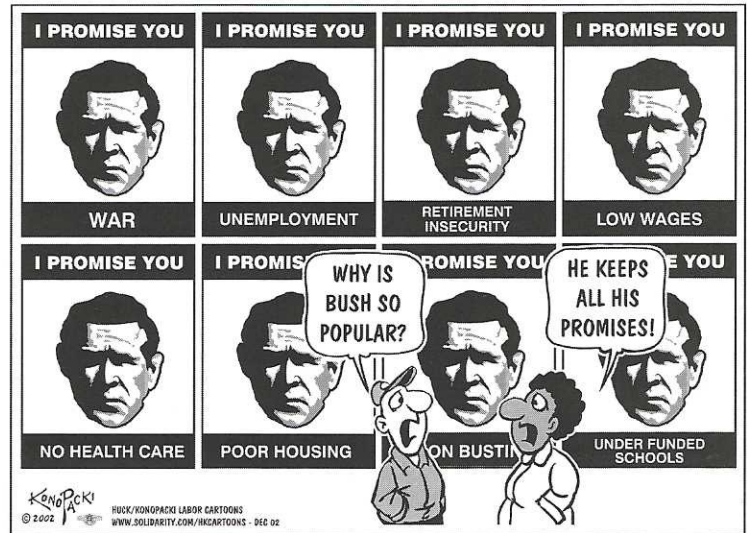
And now corporations are buying up the water rights in Third World countries and selling water back to the people at prices so high they can't pay. Here in the United States we can't breathe the air and the food we buy sickens us.

This country is deeper in debt than ever before, but the money keeps flowing to the makers of weapons of mass destruction, and the millionaires get massive tax cuts. What can we do? This country is ours. How do we turn it around, take back what is ours? What or who is responsible for this terrible state of affairs?

Are you worried about losing your rights and the withering of democracy? Would you like to know more about why all this is happening? Would you like to discuss it with other people who are also concerned?

Come join one of the small study groups starting in January at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Fresno. WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) has developed a program called Challenging Corporate Power, Asserting the People's Rights. As citizens of a democracy, we do have the right to demand that our government provide a living wage for all, food so the children grow up healthy and smart, and clean air and water for the health and welfare of us all.

Join one of the groups and learn things you never heard about in history class, how the corporations have, over the years, with the collusion of government, stealthily kept building their power until now we are all feeling the tightening noose. If you have questions or want information, you can call me, Diane Scott, 222-6135 or email Lydia Flores, forever566@juno.com. The first, organizing class will be January 28, 2003.



## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMER

By Carol Bequette

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is once again available to residents of the Central Valley. CSA is a movement to bring farmers and community members into a more direct and cooperative relationship. Members subscribe to a weekly share of organic produce from T&D Willey Farms in Madera. The produce is delivered to a convenient site in the member's neighborhood. (Currently there are two sites-one in the Tower District and one in Old Fig Garden.

There are several reasons why one would want to join a CSA. First of all, the produce is very fresh-usually 24 hours from harvest. Also members will be introduced to new varieties of seasonal products and know where and by whom the food is grown. Most importantly, the money goes directly to a family farm. By participating in a CSA you are supporting your community and contributing to healthy living for both your body and our planet.



For more information or to join, contact CSA Marketing Coordinator, Paola Legarre at (559)-674-2642 or [paola333@yahoo.com](mailto:paola333@yahoo.com).



### Tuesday, December 3

A forum on control of gun violence will be held at the offices of Central California Legal Services in downtown Fresno. A complimentary lunch will be provided. Reservations required. Please call 255-9492 for reservations and exact time and location of the event.

### Wednesday, December 4 • 7 PM

FREE OPEN MIC POETRY READING AT FRESNO STATE'S COFFEEHOUSE & PUB: Come celebrate diversity, creativity, and the spoken word at the second anniversary of the Poetry Jam at Fresno State's Coffeehouse & Pub (across from the University Student Union) ~~~ Poetry, prizes, performance, & plenitude! ~~~ 7 PM sharp

### Thursday, December 5 • 6 PM

Fresno Metro Ministry 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Awards dinner at Hope Lutheran Church in Fresno. This event will honor Lucille Wheaton, Juan Arambula, and Ghassan Habib for their outstanding service to this community. For more information contact Gail at 485-1416 or gail@fresnetmin.org.

### Friday, December 6 • 1 2:30 PM

"Why Iraq?" Speaker: Phyllis Bennis, Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, DC. This discussion is a part of the Fall 2002 Middle East Forums at California State University, Fresno, and is the fifth in a series of educational forums on US involvement in the Middle East and alternatives to war. USU, Rm 312-314. Forum sponsors: Beth Anne Hamish Lectures, Campus Coalition for Peace and Civil Liberties, Fresno Peace, Multicultural Center Planning Group, Commission on Human Relations and Equity, Associated Students. Entrance is free and open to the public

### Friday, December 6 • 5 PM & 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks will present *Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time* at the Tower Theater. This extraordinary film about Scottish sculptor Andy Goldsworthy won for best documentary at this year's San Francisco International Film Festival. Tickets are \$8.50; \$6.50 for students and seniors. For more information call 221-0755.

### Saturday, December 7 • 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Peace Fresno and friends of all ages will participate in the Fresno Holiday Parade with a float and marchers. "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." See Ken Hudson's article in this issue. Contact khudson@msn.com or Peace Fresno at 237-3223 (23PEACE).

### Saturday, December 7 • 10 AM - 4 PM

The WILPF Peace and Community Craft Faire, located at the First Congregational Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. Call Desi at 907-2200 to help out.

### Sunday, December 8 • 9 AM - 3 PM

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence is sponsoring a Nonviolence Workshop. This workshop will address conduct during civil disobedience. You are asked to bring your own sack lunch and the Center will provide drinks. It will be held at the Center, 985 N. Van Ness Ave. For more information call 23-PEACE.

### Tuesday, December 10 • 5 PM

International Human Rights Day. This year, Comite NO NOS VAMOS is sponsoring the event to be held at the Federal Building in downtown Fresno. This is the anniversary of the human rights declaration. It's about everything: from Mother Earth, human rights, civil rights, police abuse, amnesty, BUSH, war and peace, Leonard Peltier, etc. Call Gloria Hernandez at 268-2261 or Comite at 498-6033 for more information.

### Tuesday, December 10 • 7 PM

KFCF/Fresno Free College Foundation Board of Directors meeting at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook. For more information see <<http://www.kfcf.org/>> or call (559) 233-2221.

### December 26 to January 1

Kwanzaa, a seven-day African American celebration spotlighting building positive life principles into daily living. Each evening's presentation is highlighted with special guests and activities at the African American Museum at 1857 Fulton in downtown Fresno. Call 268-7102 for more information.

### Monday, December 30 • 6:30 PM

Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (C.A.F.E.) meeting (location TBA). For more information call (559) 445-0876 or email nancymarsh@yahoo.com

### Tuesday, December 31 • 7 - 9 PM

Second Annual Lyquid Amber New Year's Eve Concert. Start your New Year's Eve celebrations with an inspired concert of unusual music by Evo Bluestein and Hannsjoerg Scheid in their band, Lyquid Amber, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 E. Barstow, Fresno. Lyquid Amber features the compositions of Bluestein and Scheid, two musicians from extremely different musical backgrounds. They will be accompanied by Kevin Hill on bass. Bluestein and Scheid's recent collaboration has produced an original new sound and a recent CD. Sample and purchase the CD at <<http://lyquidamber.com>>.

## ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

### Every Sunday

Food Not Bombs serves free food to the hungry in downtown Fresno. See the article on page 3 for details.

### Every Tuesday • 7 PM

Peace Fresno meets at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 985 N Van Ness. If you want to help stop Bush's endless war against the world - come to this meeting! For an up to the minute listing of all Peace actions in the Fresno area call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223). For more information about Peace Fresno visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno>

### Every Tuesday and Thursday • 7-9 PM

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, and visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets) each Tuesday and Thursday night from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. For more information contact Liza Apper at (559) 229-6410.

### Every Thursday • 5-6 PM

Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition at CSUF meets in Student Union Room 308. Keep informed about educational campus and community events. For more information contact Ayami at [amisukepon@yahoo.com](mailto:amisukepon@yahoo.com) or Morghan at [youngmorghan@hotmail.com](mailto:youngmorghan@hotmail.com)

### Every Friday • 4:30 PM

Weekly Vigils to Stop the War are held at Shaw and Blackstone every Friday.

### Every Saturday • 1-2 PM

Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. See the article on page 3 for details.

### Every Sunday • 12:30 - 2 PM

A demonstration for peace at Walnut and Mooney in Visalia. Bring signs for peace and smiles. For more information contact Denise at 636-0514.

## ONGOING MONTHLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month • 7:30 PM

Monthly meeting of the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP). For more information email <[FresCAMP@yahoo.com](mailto:FresCAMP@yahoo.com)> or call (559) 439-0280 or (559) 227-6134.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month • 7 PM

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Meeting is at 985 N. Van Ness. For more information email [vmfout1@sti.net](mailto:vmfout1@sti.net)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month • 12 Noon

WOMEN IN BLACK - Silent Vigil at the Fresno County Courthouse-Entrance. Show your support for PEACE and for negotiated settlements of US current military actions! Meet downtown at the Fresno courthouse, from 12-1:00 PM and stand silently, advocating PEACE. For more info: 278-7140 or 225-2850.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month • 6 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at the Sarah McCardle room of the downtown library.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month • 6 - 8 PM

Fresno County Bicycle Coalition - monthly meetings to provide a forum for bicyclists to organize, discuss common concerns, and influence public policy. They have committees on Political Action, Promotion & Education, and Facilities Planning. If you are interested in helping Fresno County become more bike friendly, you are invited to join this group. Cafe Mia, corner Weldon and Van Ness, across from Fresno High School.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month • 7:30 PM

Death Penalty Focus regular meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information contact Maria Telesco at: (559) 255-9492 [maria.telesco@worldnet.att.net](mailto:maria.telesco@worldnet.att.net)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month • 9:30 AM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. For more information about the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, see their web page at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/> or call 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223).



# Home-Care Workers Deserve a Living Wage

Fresno County has a very important decision to make. Millions of dollars in federal and state funds are available to lift thousands of hard-working Fresno families out of poverty and to provide workers with healthcare coverage.

Some 10,000 home-care workers in Fresno are now at the bargaining table asking for a living wage and healthcare coverage. Not only do they work very hard for their money, taking care of seniors and persons with disabilities, but they have also done the hard political work to make these funds available for Fresno County.

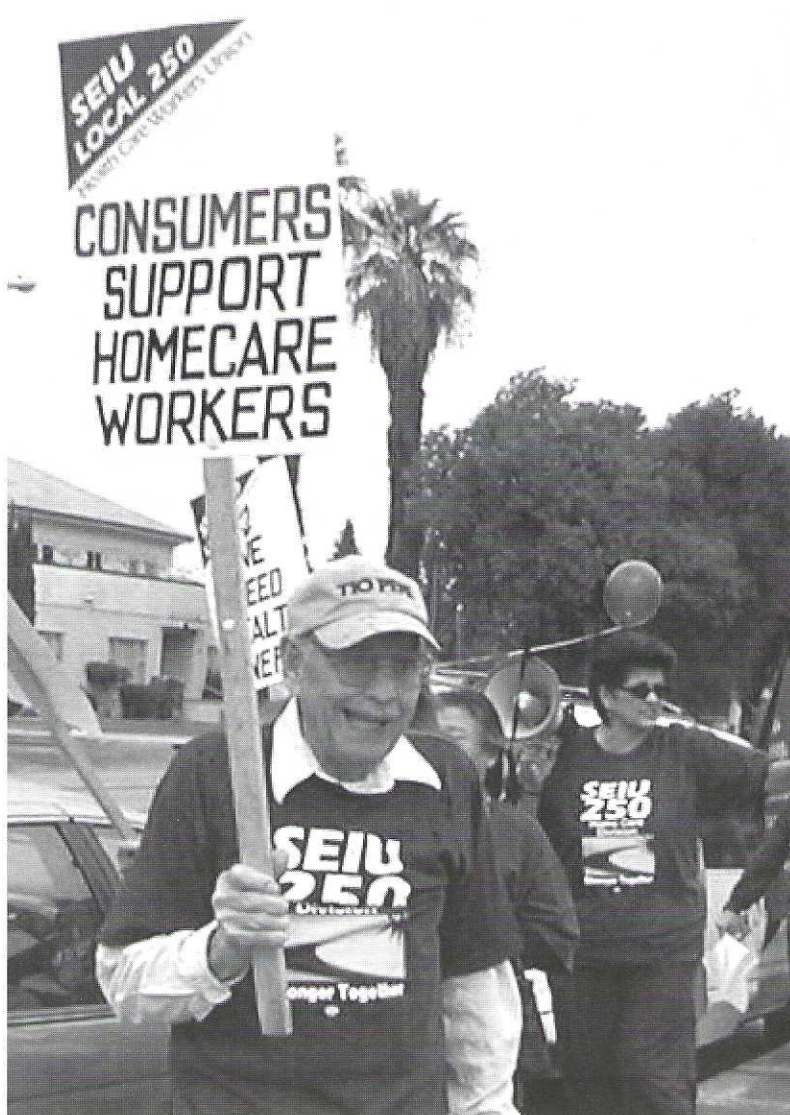
Fresno County has some of the highest poverty rates in the country. As County Supervisor Juan Arambula likes to point out, "If the Central Valley were a state, it would be the poorest state in the Union."

We need to ask the question, To what extent have local policies created this situation? We now have an opportunity to banish poverty from the lives of thousands of hard-working Fresno families. We now have the opportunity to use federal and state dollars to provide healthcare to thousands of uncovered, low-wage workers.

By raising home-care workers' salaries from \$6.75 to \$9.50 an hour and spending the .60 cents an hour of state-matched funding available for medical benefits, Fresno County will inject some \$48 million annually into the local economy. Home-care workers will spend this money for local goods and services. Most economists calculate that such infusions of cash turn over seven times in the local economy. That's \$350 million a year.

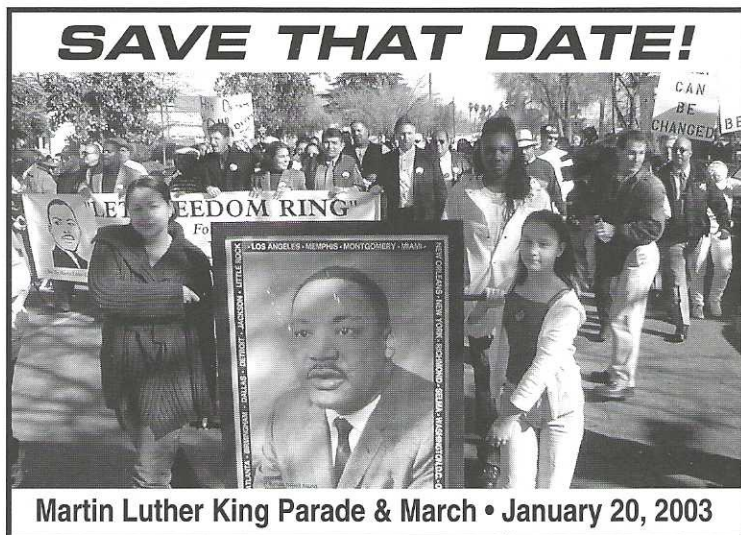
If this opportunity is passed by, almost \$50 million annually will revert back to the state General Fund and federal coffers to be used in other areas.

This increase in compensation will not only help home-care workers it will



vastly improve the quality of care for seniors and persons with disabilities. A recent study conducted by the Center for Labor and Education has found that wage and benefit improvements in San Francisco resulted in a larger supply of home-care workers and greater stability in the home-care workforce. Consumers who had gone without needed services were better able to find providers they knew and trusted. Higher wages also resulted in longer relationships between a consumer and his or her provider, a crucial component of higher quality care.

Fresno County has a very important decision to make. Let's hope that it makes the right choice.





## It's A Wonderful Life Clearing the Air

By Kevin Hall

My favorite movie around the holidays is Frank Capra's 1946 classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life". The movie stars Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, the reluctant yet dedicated head of a savings and loan created to fund affordable housing.

His nemesis is "old man Potter," portrayed with an exquisite bitterness by Lionel Barrymore, who has a controlling interest in the local bank and most of the town's businesses. Potter's goal is to bankrupt the savings and loan in order to keep the working class people of the town paying rent in his tenements.

The movie, which Capra purposely filmed in black and white, hinges on a memorable sequence in which Bailey is shown how the world would have been had he never been born.

Among other things, his hometown of Bedford Falls has been renamed Pottersville. Its once vibrant downtown is decrepit and vice-ridden. The affordable housing tract known as Bailey Estates has never been built; instead it's a cemetery.

When attempting to explain the corruption, sprawl, racism, poverty, pollution, police brutality and other predicaments that characterize my hometown of Fresno, I sometimes say simply, "In Fresno, George Bailey was never born."

Some might suggest we live in Kashianville, Levyville or other tribute to a local kingpin, but they'd be missing the point.

Capra was portraying a truth deeper than individuals' greed or goodness. In those stark settings of black waters and white snowfall, of an angel come to redeem a soul felled by despair, he was reflecting our collective struggle, one which often is as grey and murky as the tule fog that shrouds our town in winter.

He seeks to inspire us to strive for the greater good; to keep in check mindless desire and impulse; and to cherish the true strength found only in community, in love for one another.

It's a timeless message worth contemplating.

Now here's a quick look at three ongoing, collective struggles, each of which had a significant scene this past month.

C IS FOR 'CUT!' Fresno County's Measure 'C' sales tax measure for \$3 billion in local taxation over 30 years went down in flames on Nov. 5.

Our No on C coalition's message of "Got Smog? Got Asthma?" rang true with the more than 46% of the voters who responded, "We sure do!" and voted no, leaving the sprawl-mongers far short of the 67% approval required.

They outspent us by 40:1 but enough voters got the message, thanks to everyone's hard work. We sent a very clear message to the freeways-forever crowd: enough already. We've got sprawl, smog and asthma. We're ready for a change.

DOA IN A CAN. The DOA boys (developers, oil and ag) attempted to launch a greenwashing effort in mid-November. We've been waiting for this, having been alerted by friends who participated in focus group sessions this summer.

These alert activists smelled a rat behind the one-way mirror beyond which the focus group facilitator kept going for instruction. We knew the name (Clean Air Now or CAN) and the funding source of \$2 million (ChevronTexaco) before they had even signed on their board members. Can you say "Oil -CAN?"

Media coverage of this self-described "grassroots" (astroturf is more like it) effort included coverage of our concern that Oil-CAN is out to derail next year's federally required clean air plans for ozone and particulates. This industry front group learned quickly and firmly that they have no credibility and are not worthy of anyone's trust.

ADA RAID SIRENS. The City of Fresno tried to pull off a midnight raid on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), bike lane and pedestrian improvement funds in early November.

City staffers, unbeknownst to city council members or the mayor, took it upon themselves to try and re-allocate \$2.6 million away from these much needed projects to make up for cost overruns on traffic signals on newly widened Kings Canyon Avenue. That hunk of asphalt is going from four to six lanes to facilitate sprawl headed south by southeast.

The item was on the consent agenda (meaning no discussion is considered necessary unless requested because the item is so routine) of a Council of Fresno County Governments (COG) subcommittee.

The COG is the quasi-governmental agency funded by local cities and the county to serve as our countywide metropolitan planning organization and transportation planning agency. Shorthand: lots of power, little accountability and best described as a shadow government.

On the eve of a press conference called by our transportation coalition, a panicky email was issued by city staff announcing withdrawal of the item. They want to talk. It's about time.

(Kevin Hall is the Sierra Club-Tehipite Chapter's chair for transportation, air quality and global warming. To learn more about the air we breathe and the California Clean Air Campaign, please visit [www.calcleanair.org](http://www.calcleanair.org))

**Saturday, December 7 • 10 AM - 4 PM**

The Women's International League for Peace  
and Freedom

**Peace Community Craft Faire**

will be held at the First Congregational Church, 2131  
N. Van Ness Blvd. Raffle, white elephant and silent  
auction items; soup, bread, and  
dessert.

**For more information  
call Desi at 907-2200.**

**We'll be seeing you all  
there!**





# Peace Fresno Membership Application

Support action for social justice and alternatives to war by joining  
Peace Fresno today

Annual membership dues: \$12 (negotiable) Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send your check to Peace Fresno, c/o Ingrid Carmean, P.O. Box 5036, Fresno, CA 93755.

Name:

Address:

City, CA, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

If you have questions, contact Camille 276-2592 or [www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno](http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno)  
or [peacefresno@neuhouse.com](mailto:peacefresno@neuhouse.com).

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## The People's Anti-War Referendum

*I Vote NO to War*

The U.S. Congress did not represent me when it voted to authorize George W. Bush to carry out an illegal war against Iraq. Thousands will die needlessly unless the people stop this war drive.

I join with the millions of people who believe that the \$200 billion planned for a war against Iraq should be spent instead to fund jobs, education, housing, healthcare, childcare, assistance to the elderly and to meet people's needs.

1

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP

2

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP

[www.InternationalANSWER.org](http://www.InternationalANSWER.org)

[www.VoteNoWar.org](http://www.VoteNoWar.org)

After local tabulation this sheet will be forwarded to A.N.S.W.E.R. The results will be presented in a national media campaign on January 18, 2003.

**Return to Peace Fresno, 985 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA 93728.**



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  - Enclosed is \$10 - Low Income rate
  - Enclosed is an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support this important work
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