



# Fresno Center for Nonviolence July 2023

Dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through

SIMPLICITY ~ JUSTICE ~ INCLUSIVENESS ~ NON-INJURY

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- (559)237-3223. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FresnoCenterforNonviolence/>

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



Edited by  
 Richard Gomez

Rita Bell is the current President of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence after mentoring under Angela Price until Angela stepped down as President in 2021. She began serving on the board in 2016. She also worked on the Earth Day Fresno committee from 2014 through 2022. Rita has also been a longtime board member and past President of Fresno Filmworks. Rita moved to Fresno in 2003, and she and her husband have enjoyed raising their family in the Central Valley and volunteering in the community.



Roman C. Rain Tree (Dunlap Band of Mono, Choinumni, Wukchumni). "Seeds of Sovereignty" Chief Impact Officer, "Rename S-Valley, Fresno County" Chairperson, Organizational Co-Sponsor of CA AB2022, "Acknowledge ALL California Tribes" Co-Chair and Youth Advisor, University of California, Davis Native American Studies Bachelor of Arts, and an Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) community organizer. Successfully championed the geographic renaming of his ancestral homeland from the former pejorative of "Sq\*\*w-Valley" to "Yokuts Valley", in honor of the Valleys first inhabitants. As an IAF community organizer he promotes sustainable community relational power through congregations and other institutions working together across the area to address neighborhood issues, housing, jobs and more. Currently, he is calling upon Gov. Newsom to use powers of executive order authorizing the establishment of a formal process of tribal state acknowledgement for all tribes indigenous to California.

Dr. Joshua Shurley is a peace activist and political science professor at both Fresno City College and Clovis Community College. A US Army veteran and former conflict researcher, Josh now works with Veterans For Peace, an international group of military veterans dedicated to exposing the true costs of war and building a culture of peace. In addition to his national work with Veterans For Peace, Joshua started up a local chapter of Veterans For Peace in 2017. He also serves as board member and secretary of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence and continues to educate and inform the public on matters of peace and social justice through his frequent voice on the KFCF radio's "Stir It Up" program and consistent efforts with progressive causes.



Our Youth Award goes to:

Paulina Cruz is a Mexican immigrant and an anthropology major at California State University, Fresno. She is also a fellow with Fresno's Community Alliance newspaper and has become a prolific addition to the progressive journalism the Alliance produces. Her work has focused on anti-racism, the struggles of immigrant communities, and the rising power of the youth of "Gen Z." Recently, Paulina's reporting (in both English and Spanish) helped to expose a predatory loan scandal affecting vulnerable people in the rural valley town of San Joaquin. Her compassion and energy have been an enormous benefit to the community, and we look forward to her ongoing activism and advocacy.

Our Organization Award goes to:


The Environmental Collaborative of Central California, or EC3,

formed in 2022, after organizing the annual Earth Day Fresno for many years. The organization was born out of the idea that Earth Day should be every day. EC3's goals are broad and growing, with plans to enhance existing organizations through intra-organizational collaboration. They strive to increase awareness of environmental stewardship through participation in conversation efforts and sustainable practices. Every action EC3 takes comes from a love of the environment and a desire to protect and grow with it.



*Meditation for Inner Peace and Happiness*

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



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

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

All classes are FREE. No prior experience required.

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

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



## Stir it, UP!



Our next show is Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

This July's radio should light the skies with our host Joshua Shurley with his guest, TBA. For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org).

Our June show was hosted by Joshua Shurley who interviewed the national president of Veterans For Peace, Susan Schnall. They discussed her involvement in the peace movement since the days of her military service during the Vietnam War through her work with Veterans For Peace today, as well as the connections between the drivers of endless war then and now: the Military Industrial Complex and the corporate interests that benefit from ongoing conflict. Joshua and Susan also announce her upcoming visit to Fresno as keynote speaker for the Fresno Center for Nonviolence's anniversary celebration on July 1, 2023. To hear it again goto: <https://on.soundcloud.com/NChVA>.

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