

# Fresno Center for Nonviolence



Dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through

SIMPLICITY ~ JUSTICE ~ INCLUSIVENESS ~ NON-INJURY

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Across from Fresno City College \* SE Corner Van Ness & McKinley Ave. \*

Our Staffed Open Hours are: Mon thru Fri, 11 AM - 3 PM. (559) 23PEACE, (559) 237-3223.

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FCNV page editor:

Richard Gomez

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence will be celebrating our 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 4<sup>th</sup> (May the Force Be with you) at the Community United Church of Christ on 5055 N. Fresno St.

from 4-6pm.

Special Guest Speaker: Alison Weir



Alison Weir

We will have a Silent Auction, Potluck Feasting and Our Annual Way of Peace Awards Ceremony to deserving folks and organizations that have deserve acknowledgment for their good and nonviolent deeds.

Alison Weir is an American activist and writer best known for her connection to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She is the founder and executive director of the nonprofit organization, *If Americans Knew* and president of the *Council for the National Interest*. She is known for critical views toward Israel.

Weir traces her interest in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the autumn of 2000, when the Second Intifada began. At the time she was the editor of a weekly newspaper in Sausalito, California and noticed that news reports on the conflict "was highly Israeli-centric". Wanting access to full information, she began to look for additional reports on the Internet. After several months, she decided that this was perhaps the most covered-up story I had ever seen and quit her job in order to visit the West Bank and Gaza, where she wrote about her encounters with Palestinian suffering and with the "incredible arrogance, cruelty, selfishness" of Israelis. After returning to the U.S., she founded, *If Americans Knew*.

Ambassador Andrew Killgore wrote in an article for *CounterPunch* in 2014: "Alison Weir must be highly commended for throwing such a brilliantly hard light on the relationship between the United States and Israel. The Anti-Defamation League has called Weir "a prominent voice in the anti-Israel movement.

April is the month Earth Day Fresno celebrates the Earth and strives to bring awareness of climate change and its effect to our local community. Earth Day Fresno will again hold its annual event on April 20 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Radio Park in Fresno with entertainment, food booths, educational exhibitors and vendors throughout the day. In the meantime, let's talk about climate change and carbon emissions. Most of us were raised to think climate change was slow, that it might affect our children, but most likely our grandchildren, and even then, we'd have decades to invent a solution. We now know that climate change is all encompassing. By 1990, when the UN established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), scientists knew the impact of global warming and were at full volume in their warnings to us.

We've done more damage each year than each year before. People largely believe climate change is a consequence of previous bad behavior, which is false. In fact, half of carbon emissions have come in the last 30 years.

In 2015, the Paris Agreement committed to holding the increase in the global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. We are at 1.1 degrees now and yet we're actually on track for 4 degrees by end of century. The range of outcomes at that level has not been discussed enough. Every uptick in temperature will inflict more suffering on the world. At 8 degrees we're essentially looking at Dante's inferno made real; an uninhabitable world. It sounds insane but we've blown through the last 30 years of knowledge without doing anything. A recent study says if we get to 1200 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere, effect on clouds would be catastrophic: they would immediately disappear. That alone would add 8 degrees of Celsius to the planet's temperature. We're at about 410 parts carbon per million now – scientists think 350 is safe level.

The IPCC says we need to slash global emissions by 45% by 2030 to avoid the 2 degree threshold of catastrophe which will require a global mobilization on the scale of WWII starting now, in 2019. Could climate change have a Pearl Harbor, a singular event which will force us to take an active role in the climate war?

Could wildfires or flooding be that Pearl Harbor? Carbon emissions are not visible which may be the reason so many ignore it, but the sight of fires in the West and flooding in the Midwest, and the devastation they cause is immediate. It's estimated that every degree of warming could cause fires in Western US to quadruple in size, which means that by the end of this century, fires would be 64 times worse than they were last year. Extreme weather like wildfires, flooding and hurricanes seem to have finally moved public opinion. Over 70% of Americans think global warming is real and is happening now and concerned about it, which is significant.

Unfortunately, most Americans say they wouldn't pay \$10 a month to address climate change. In truth, combating climate change is larger than you and I individually and the budget for it should not be relegated to us as individuals but rather by governments and their budgets. For a cost of \$3 trillion a year a carbon extractor can "extract" carbon out of the environment. Yet we're throwing away \$5 trillion to the fossil fuel industry every year. So, much of the financial solution can be had by making budgetary changes.

The biggest problem now is complacency; we need action. Climate horrors actually reflect how much power we have over the planet. If we get to 4 degrees, it won't be because of what our grandparents did, it will be because of what you and I and our children do. We can choose to do things differently. By FCNV board member, Rita Bell.

## Earthday in Fresno

On April 12 at 5:30 pm, and again at 8:30 pm, Earth Day Fresno and Citizens Climate Lobby are sponsoring Fresno Filmworks' screening of "Woman at War" at the historic Tower Theatre.

Please see

<https://fresnofilmworks.org/film/woman-at-war/>



The Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly "Stir it, Up!" radio show on KFCF 88.1 will be hosted by Dan Yaseen with special Guest American activist and writer, Alison Weir. For more information, call the Center at 559-237-3223 Mon-Fri 11-3.

In March our show was hosted by Angela Price and her guest Kerry Yo Nakagowa, director of "American Pastime" which was shown at the Center in March. To hear the show again please go to:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-32180140/stitup031319>