

**The People of  
Fresno Demand Police  
Accountability!**

Read the complete Central California Criminal Justice Committee  
proposal on page 3.

Photo by: Mike Rhodes

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY .....	PAGE 3
FREE SPEECH VICTORY .....	PAGE 4
PEACE FRESNO .....	PAGE 6
CLEARING THE AIR .....	PAGE 15
PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR .....	
.....	PAGE 16



**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, and 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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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When my children were growing up I explained to them that the national forests and national parks belonged to us, we the people. Up until now I believed that everything that belonged to the federal government belonged to me as an American citizen and taxpayer, as one of we the people. But I found out differently on December 10, 2002. While attending the International Human Rights Day rally in front of the Fresno federal building, I was told that if I crossed the line that divided the city sidewalk and the federal sidewalk, I would be arrested, on the federal sidewalk that I thought belonged to we the people.

Who took away my sidewalk? Bush? Ashcroft? Why has my sidewalk been taken away from me? Homeland Security? US Patriot Act? Where have my civil liberties gone? How can I get them back? At first I was angry, but now I am very sad and heartbroken about my great loss, as we should all be. Let us all rise up and take back our property and our civil liberties and all our rights as we the people.

Vickie M. Fouts

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In about six weeks, I shall celebrate my 36th anniversary in broadcasting. In my career, I have worked for some of the industry's smallest and largest organizations. I have been a staff member, in management, and in ownership. I am a member in good standing of two unions. I have also consulted. Among my clients—for six years—was the West's largest teachers' local. So, I see very clearly both sides of the coin.

I think you'll find interest in the following. Should you desire more information, I may be contacted by telephone during business hours at 453-8878.

I read with interest your *Community Alliance* column regarding the public's access to cable television. While I may share some of your views, permit me to correct some oversights regarding the broadcast industry—and, perhaps, alert your readers to what may be a much greater cause.

It's true the Reagan administration spearheaded the FCC deregulation efforts of the 1980s. Deregulation was not—as you seem to imply—a Republican issue. You fail to note that at the time both houses of Congress were Democrat-controlled and both Houses overwhelmingly supported the changes. You are probably unaware that many FCC regulations in the 1980s had been in place since 1934 and were terribly obsolete; some prevented hiring broadcasters because resources had to be allocated to compiling required and worthless documents in order to meet the obsolete FCC regulations.

Yes, the also-obsolete Fairness Doctrine was eliminated. No, the Fairness Doctrine—contrary to your column—did not hold "owners accountable to broadcast for the public good." The FD required broadcasters to seek issues of keen interest in the communities served and to broadcast opposing views. Since its demise, some have claimed the absence of the FD has led to a failure of broadcasters to cover all issues of interest to the general public. They seem ignorant of the fact that during the decades of the FD's existence, the FCC never once found that a broadcaster had failed to honor the doctrine.

The deregulation of the 1980s did eliminate some rules and regulations that most good broadcasters found integral to the industry's continuing to serve the public good. But their removal was obscured by uninformed persons' hue and cry over the FD.

There is a far more troublesome dilemma facing the public's airwaves. In the decades prior to 1992, the maximum number of radio stations nationwide an individual or corporation could own was 14: seven AM stations and seven FM stations. That maximum was modified slightly in 1992. Four years later, President Bill Clinton signed the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It removed all limits!

Today, one corporation owns more than 1,200 radio stations (or one of every eight of the nation's roughly 10,000 commercial stations)—nine of them in the Fresno area—and numerous television stations, one of them in Fresno. Nearly all Fresno stations are owned by corporations based in far distant cities. Indeed, there are but two locally owned and locally operated Fresno area radio stations. That, I should think, should be of great concern to *Community Alliance*. The FCC has attempted to limit consolidation. But federal courts have upheld Clinton's 1996 act.

There is a distinct difference between the corporate owners and the few true broadcasters remaining among the owners. A perfect example of the minority is Visalia-based Pappas Telecasting Companies, owned by Harry J. Pappas. The past 18 months have been financially difficult for the broadcast industry. Nearly all major broadcasters have laid off thousands of employees, but not one PTC employee has been laid off.

Don Schrack

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This is a short note to inform you that I greatly appreciate your determination for social issues that merit observation, research, and protest. America is a country steeped in contradictions and injustice. For this reason, it is incumbent that people of conscience continue to be patriots, true patriots. The difference between patriotism and nationalism is quite clear to me: "Patriotism is enjoining what is right and standing against what is wrong. Nationalism, on the other hand, is my country right or wrong." Americans tend to choose the latter route, my country right or wrong, which is itself wrong. I take issue with belligerent nationalism as framed and practiced by the majority of Americans.

*Continued on page 4*



# THE PEOPLE OF FRESNO DEMAND POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Introduction by Mike Rhodes

Something is wrong when a young man is shot dead by the police for the (alleged) crime of stealing beer. The Fresno police shot and seriously injured a motorist who made an illegal turn, killed a woman who was hitting cars with a hatchet, and shot to kill citizens with severe mental disabilities. They often use deadly force when it is not necessary, and the subsequent Internal Affairs investigation (almost) never finds that the police are at fault. The endless lawsuits for wrongful death against the City would suggest otherwise. This barbaric system of unmonitored and unchecked police violence against this community is about to come to an end.

In December the mayor of Fresno finally appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee to look into setting up a police auditor system. An independent police auditor is similar to the system they have in San Jose, which has dramatically reduced the incidence of police-involved shootings in that community. The combination of police education and independent monitoring has reduced police violence San Jose. It can work here too! The *Community Alliance* magazine is pleased to present the report (below) from the Central California Criminal Justice Committee (CCCJC). CCCJC is the grassroots community group that has been diligently working on this issue, and this is the proposal they believe should be implemented. It is imperative that the proposal of the Blue Ribbon Committee not be watered down, and that the IPA be totally independent from the police department and be given the power to fully investigate complaints and make recommendations.

We encourage our readers to support the CCCJC in this effort. Their next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15, at 6 PM. They meet in the Sarah McCardle Room of the downtown library. For more information call Deb Reyes at (559) 485-7884.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR and INDEPENDENT REVIEW BOARD

**Objective** The goal of the auditor working with the review panel is

- to insure the integrity of investigation of police misconduct, to enhance the community confidence in the Fresno Police Department, thus reducing judicial and liability expenses
- to make public reports
- to make policy recommendations to the police department and the

public

- to insure the thoroughness of internal affairs investigations by having the power, by recommendations and by direct subpoena, to require the presence and consideration of witnesses and documents at specific internal affairs investigations

### Independent Auditor

**Purpose** The Independent Police Auditor (IPA) will have authority to 1) review investigations, 2) conduct investigations and 3) oversee investigations; conducted by the internal affairs unit of the police department in order to maintain the credibility of the investigation process against the Fresno Police Department.

- The IPA shall meet with the Civilian Review Board each month to go over cases handled and shall report to the mayor or his designee.

### Recruitment of the IPA

- Auditor to be hired by the Civilian Review Board from applications forwarded through city personnel.
- The IPA shall have some knowledge of law enforcement policies and procedures and/or have extensive legal background such as an attorney.
- The IPA shall maintain a Fresno residence during his/her term.

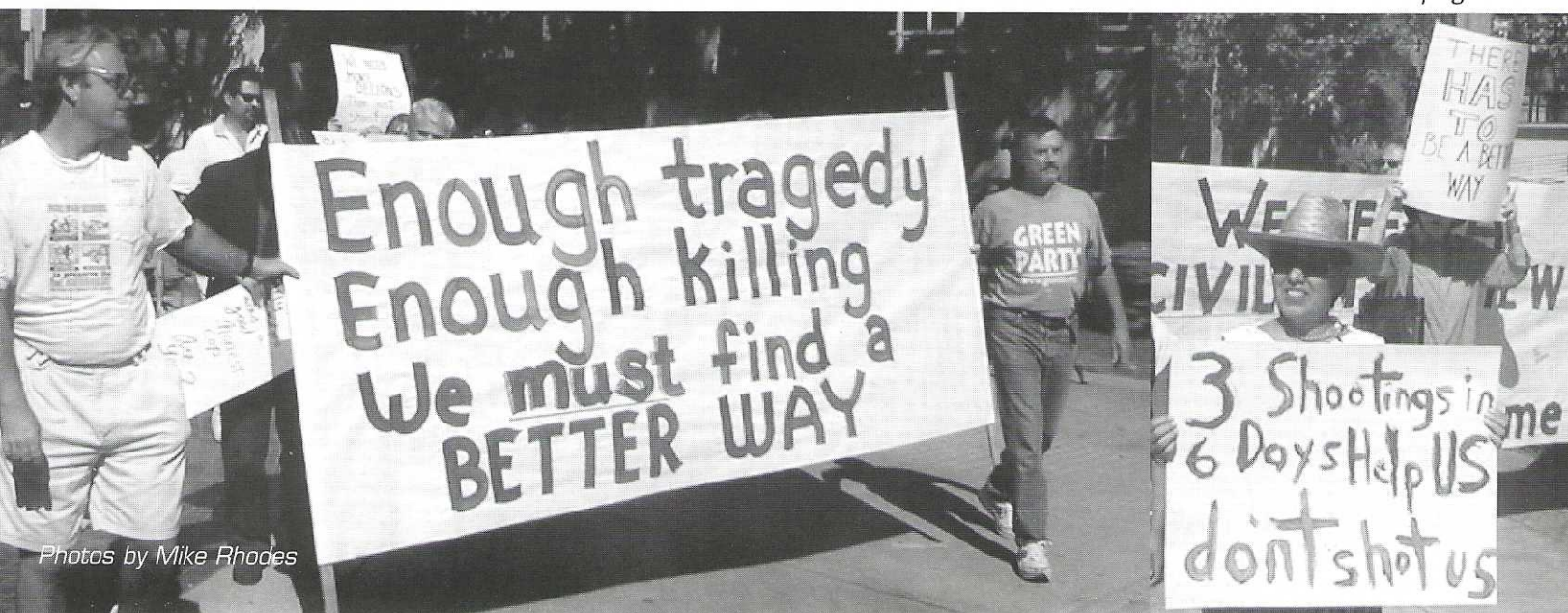
### Staffing and Funding

The Independent Police Auditor will have an assistant auditor who can handle computer analysis and record keeping and can also act as administrator for the Civilian Review Board. Staffing and funding of the Office of the IPA should be in conformance with other similar city departments to insure it meets its duties and obligations as designated.

### Independence of the Police Auditor

- The office shall be totally independent from the police department.
- The IPA is objective and neutral. The IPA shall not act as an advocate or a partisan for either the complainant or the police department.
- Requests for further recommendations and reports shall reflect the

*Continued on page 8*



Photos by Mike Rhodes



# FREE-SPEECH VICTORY BENEFITS GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY GROUPS

by Mike Rhodes

Local grassroots community groups will benefit from the settlement between free-speech activists and the City of Fresno and the Macerich Company (owners of Fashion Fair). With the agreement complete, a check was delivered to the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, which will distribute the money. Groups to benefit are the *Community Alliance*, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Peace Fresno, The Fresno County Green Party, United Students Against Sweatshops, and Food not Bombs. These groups are dividing \$12,800, with the rest of the settlement money being used to pay legal expenses.

The settlement is the result of a civil action filed against the City of Fresno and the Macerich Company for the violation of protesters' civil liberties when they were arrested on May, 6, 2000. On that day, a demonstration against the Gap's use of sweatshop labor took place at Fashion Fair. More than 100 police were on hand to conduct the arrests of 19 peaceful protesters. The police helicopter was overhead and a large number of the police were in riot gear.

The criminal proceedings took more than one and a half years to conclude. In the end, Judge Hamlin dismissed all of the charges, because our actions were constitutionally protected. The civil action was filed to ensure that the City of Fresno and the Macerich Company do not conspire to violate anyone else's rights. While the exact amount of the settlement has not been made public,

those involved feel that it is enough to discourage a repeat of the behavior that led to the arrests.

In fact, our victory has already been used to defend free-speech rights at another demonstration. On November 29, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) went to Toys R Us and handed out fliers protesting war toys. The manager of the local store was not at all happy that Toys R Us was being targeted and told (WILPF member) Ellie Bluestein that he would have the whole group arrested if they did not leave. Ellie told the manager that he might want to rethink his proposed course of action. He was reminded that the City of Fresno just paid \$25,000 and the owners of Fashion Fair had to cough up a pile of money because they violated protesters' civil liberties. The police never showed up and the manager stopped threatening to have WILPF members arrested for exercising their First Amendment right to free speech.

Hearing about this event lifted my heart and made all of the hard work over the last two and a half years worthwhile. This is why we spent the last two and a half years in court. The legal defense in the Gap 19 case empowers people to exercise their free-speech rights. This action shows that we will not be intimidated and threatened into silence.



*Letters continued from page 2*

I appreciate your community involvement and the fact that you send me a copy. This is real camaraderie. This is how one galvanizes the "people." Thank you very much and keep up the good fight.

Achilles Mason Williams, Corcoran

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Your newsletter/magazine kicks ass! We'll look forward to the next one here (Coalition on Homelessness SF).

James Tracy, Civil Disobedience Handbook, <[www.manicdpress.com](http://www.manicdpress.com)>



# FREE SPEECH *IS* A HUMAN RIGHT!

by Mike Rhodes

Federal marshals violated nonviolent protesters' free-speech rights on International Human Rights Day in Fresno. Participants at the Tuesday, December 10, celebration of Human Rights Day were told by security forces at the downtown Federal Building not to cross a line that separates the public sidewalk from the Federal Building.

With demonstrators on "the other side of the line," the security guards stood nearby and admonished people when they dared step on the Federal Building side. At one point the wheel of a bicycle found itself on the wrong side of the line and security quickly responded demanding that the offending vehicle be removed and that the bicycle's owner provide identification. When the security officer was asked for his identification, he refused! Rule number one: When you have a confrontation at a protest with the police (or other security personnel), get his or her name and badge number. For more information on how to defend your rights, go to <<http://www.aclu.org/PolicePractices/PolicePracticesMain.cfm>>.

Observers of International Human Rights Day have come to the Fresno Federal Building for years. Many groups have used the Federal Building to protest government policies. There have been numerous nonviolent protests: people have fasted in front of the building, and several times camped out there, all without incident. But this week's event was different.

With the Homeland Security act now in place, protesters felt that the draconian policies of the Bush administration were becoming a reality right here in Fresno.

At this event the Human Rights Day protesters spoke out against the Bush administration's attacks against Iraq, calling for an end to the sword rattling, and demanding

that this country not invade a sovereign nation that has not attacked us. Organizers of the event, Comite No Nos Vamos and the San Joaquin Valley Immigrant Rights Coalition, talked about the importance of immigrant rights. Other speakers called for environmental, economic, and social justice.

As the demonstration began, Federal Building security demanded that event organizer Gloria Hernandez move her car. Gloria had parked her car across the street and put \$2 in the parking meter. She could not understand why security insisted she move her car, but she complied. As it turns out, this was simply harassment by Federal Building security. Perhaps more ominously, several event participants saw a black SUV with dark tinted glass parked

down the street, with one or more people sitting inside, observing the demonstration. There was also a man at the event talking into what appeared to be a telephone giving an account of what each person said. Was he linked up to the people in the SUV who were filming the demonstration? One activist said she has seen a similar vehicle at another demonstration taking pictures of protesters.

A couple of days after the event I spoke about this incident to Robert Vannata, Government Agent/PSS with the federal police. Mr. Vannata told me that his agency is in charge of all security at the Federal Building and that he did not authorize anyone to draw a line preventing protesters from approaching the Federal Building. He said that the security guards from Marshal Services inside the Federal Building are not authorized to perform their services outside of the building. "I am in charge, and as long as nobody is blocking traffic or creating a problem, they are welcome to protest at the Federal Building," Mr. Vannata said. "As long as the protest is nonviolent, we don't have a problem with people being here."

When asked about the car incident, Mr. Vannata said that was not a Federal Building issue. "As long as they were not parked on the east side of the street, where there are No Parking signs, nobody should have said anything," Vannata said. "It would be the Fresno Police Department that

would be authorized to make that kind of a request," Vannata added.

Government Agent Vannata did say that if there were actions of civil disobedience at the Federal Building, things would change. He said that "technically" groups should get a permit from the City of Fresno to hold a demonstration at the Federal Building. "That rule is not enforced right now"

but Vannata said he would like to know when groups are coming. His number is (559) 498-7519. Vannata said he knew nothing about anyone taking pictures from a black SUV in front of the Federal Building.

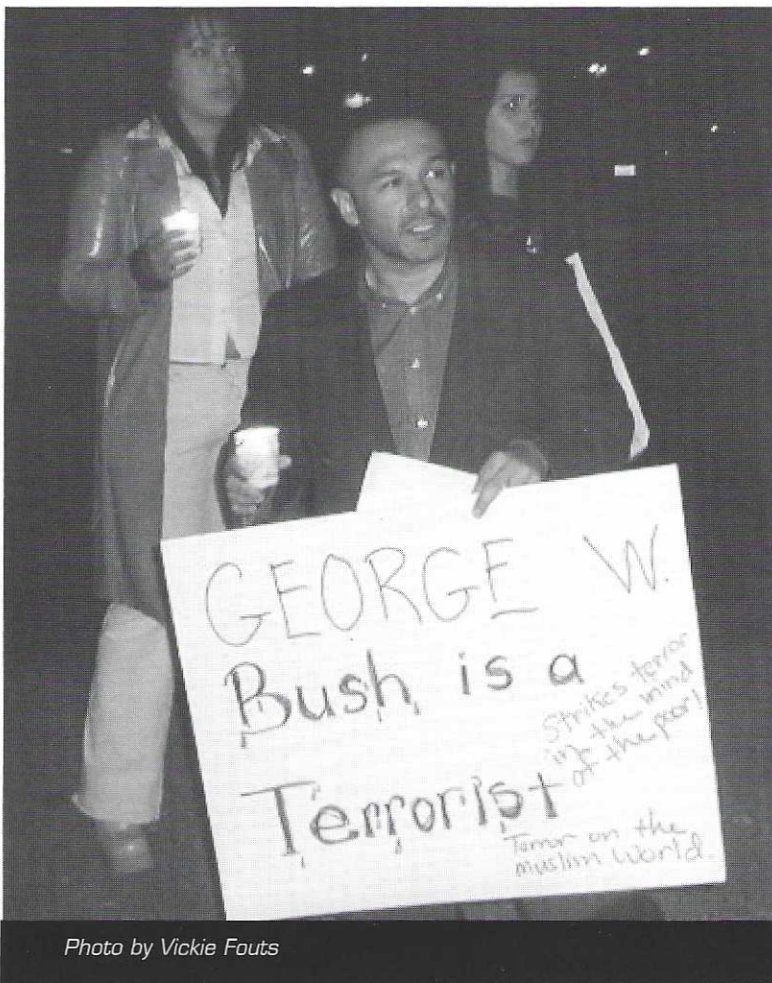


Photo by Vickie Fouts

**See video of this International Human Rights Day action at**  
**<http://www.sunmt.org/dec14chron02.html>**

*"The state can't give you free speech, and the state can't take it away. You're born with it, like your eyes, like your ears. Freedom is something you assume, then you wait for someone to try to take it away. The degree to which you resist is the degree to which you are free. . . ."*

—Utah Phillips



# PEACE FRESNO IN THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

by Sandra Guzman

Peace Fresno consists of a large and growing group of citizens concerned about the issues that threaten our civil liberties, human rights, and a right to peace, at a time when it is crucially needed. These threats come from the corruption of corporate and government interests with their denial that a vastly growing segment of the population disapproves of waging a preemptive war with our tax dollars.

Peace Fresno participants ages 7-70 hold high their signs and will not give up. "Sooner or later they are going to have to listen to us," said Ken Hudson of Peace Fresno.

I met with Ken Saturday morning in downtown Fresno at the annual Christmas parade. The Peace Fresno float had many children sitting on bales of hay singing, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." They all showed much enthusiasm and were very happy to be a part of the parade. These children could be considered true heroes of peace as they bravely sung their hearts out to the crowd.

There was a huge peace sign and many other signs with messages of Don't Attack Iraq. You couldn't help but notice the two banners across the entire length of the float, which read "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." I joined Ken and the rest of the float members, who were waving and throwing candy to the crowd. When I asked Ken the meaning of the float, he responded, "Don't attack Iraq," which was easily noticeable given all the signs that stated just that.

Ken seemed very pleased with the turnout and the responses from the crowd. "They waved and gave peace signs, all having fun and were full of smiles," he said. "We often bring in speakers and joke about preaching to the choir. Today the children's choir reached beyond the choir."

Camille Russell was passing out leaflets to the crowd titled "Ten Reasons Why Not to Attack Iraq" and also passing out guidelines asking people to join the float. They circulated the Vote No to War petition, and gave invitations to join WILPF.

"It's good for our friends and neighbors to see us opposing war," said Ken. When I asked Ken if there were any problems during the event, he surprisingly said yes: Part of Peace Fresno's announcement had been omitted.

The application for the parade offered a narrative to be read at the judges' stand over a PA system. Ken wrote the following: "Peace Fresno's kids are dressed in traditional clothing of various cultures of the world, as well as wearing messages of peace. They remind us we are all the human family together. Their holiday season message is: Peace on earth means we should use diplomacy to negotiate our differences with Iraq, not launch a first strike attack against their people." He watched the expression of the secretary as she read

the application. "The more she read, the more she beamed with a big smile," said Ken.

Ken later received a confirmation stating all was clear. But during the parade while passing the judges' stand, Ken couldn't help but notice the holiday message about Iraq had been omitted. The narrator read *only*, "Peace Fresno wants to remind us that we are all family."

Peace Fresno succeeded in providing a fun and safe opportunity to reach the parade crowd and also in giving the crowd information to oppose the war on Iraq. Camille feels good about distributing "The War Times," which is in Spanish and English, to those who would have otherwise not received it. "There are a lot of people who are unfamiliar with the peace movement," said Camille. She also mentioned that Mayor Autry approached her and stated that he respected what they were doing.

As we rode the float down through Chinatown and back to the parking lot, I noticed there were people coming out of the stores to wave to us and people honking their horns for peace. I noticed children in the back seats of cars staring and smiling as they passed by. I was excited to see the positive responses from the Chinatown patrons. It was very nice to be a part of the Peace Fresno float. I hope to participate in the future.

Peace Fresno appreciates what the *Community Alliance* has done and would like to thank the Center for Nonviolence, KFCF, and WILPF.

Peace Fresno will be rallying every Friday at Shaw and Blackstone 4:30-6:30 PM, meeting Tuesdays at 7 PM at the Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness and marching with the City of Fresno and many others at the Martin Luther King march on Monday, January 20, 2003.

If you would like to participate with Peace Fresno, you can contact Camille Russell at (559) 276-2592 or [Camillerussellhi@yahoo.com](mailto:Camillerussellhi@yahoo.com), or visit [www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno](http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno).



Photos by Sandra Guzman



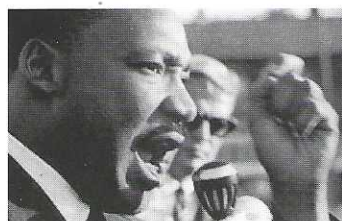


# Join the Big San Francisco Rally on January 18

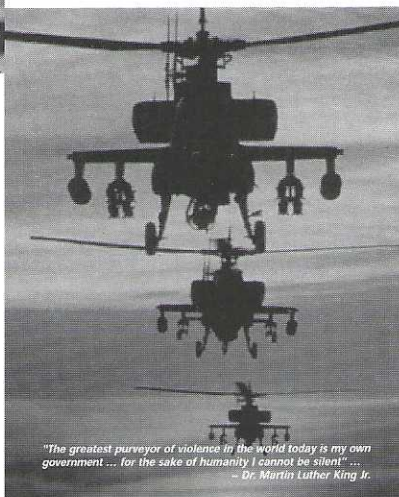
by Camille Russell

Peace Fresno and friends will attend the big San Francisco ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) rally and march on January 18, 2003. Please join us if you are concerned about the future of our country and of people around the world. If you oppose war in Iraq, the loss of civil liberties in the United States, and the many un-American policies of the Bush administration, join us.

Peace Fresno's ANSWER Rally Transportation Committee chair, Nicholas DeGraff, is working with the CSUF Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition to find the cheapest mode of travel to the event. It will be a long day, but it will be exciting. Those who have gone to the earlier San Francisco rallies have returned with very enthusiastic reports.



**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 18**  
On the Martin Luther King anniversary weekend  
and the 12th anniversary of the Gulf War



"The greatest purveyor of violence in the world today is my own government ... for the sake of humanity I cannot be silent" ...  
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

# NO WAR ON IRAQ

# NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON DC

ASSEMBLE 11AM AT THE WEST SIDE OF THE THE CAPITOL BUILDING

**Volunteers  
needed!**

International ANSWER.org  
Washington DC 202.332.5757  
New York 212.633.6646

**Endorsers and initiators include:**  
A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition • Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney • Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general  
Bishop Thomas Shannon, Catholic Archbishop of Detroit • Rev. Herbert Daughtry, House of the Lord Pentecostal Church  
Rev. Jesse Jackson • Rev. Graylan Hagler, Plymouth Congregational Church  
Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation • New York City Labor Against the War  
Black Voices for Peace • Women's Strike for Peace • National Lawyers Guild  
Dr. Hans Christoph von Spinnke, former director of the UN Oil for Food Program  
IFOD/Pastors for Peace • Free Palestine Alliance • Partnership for Civil Justice • LDEF • Nicaragua Network  
Bayan USA-International • Korea Truth Commission • International Action Center • Kensington Welfare Rights Union  
Middle East Children's Alliance • Muslim Student Association of the US/Canada • Mexico Solidarity Network  
Global Exchange • Not in Our Name Project • Ron Kovic, author (including "Born on the 4th of July")  
Charles Barron, NYC City Councilmember • Rev. John Dear • Howard Zinn • Patti Smith

Please contact Nicholas at [ndegraff@hotmail.com](mailto:ndegraff@hotmail.com) or Camille Russell at (559) 276-2592 now to reserve your spot. We need a reliable head count in order to arrange the best transportation at the best price.

The Peace Fresno membership drive is off to a good start. If you haven't joined yet, please send your \$12 annual dues to Peace Fresno, at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA 93728. We need the support of all who share the view that action is necessary and that a dynamic grassroots movement in this country will influence government policy.

As of December 15, 2002, we had about 300 signatures on the "I Vote NO to War" petition. The petitions will be forwarded to International ANSWER for presentation at the time of the mass demonstrations and the grassroots Peace Congress in Washington, DC, on January 18. Our goal is to have 1000 signa-

tures. We are tabulating them for use by our local elected representatives and media. Please continue to work on collecting the signatures and return your petition sheets to Peace Fresno by January 10. If you need additional petitions, we'll be happy to send them to you or you can go to [www.internationalANSWER.org](http://www.internationalANSWER.org) and download a petition.

Peace Fresno is also looking forward to participating in the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. vigil on Sunday evening, January 19, and the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. march on Monday, January 20. Dr. King was eloquent and steadfast in his opposition to the Vietnam War. Please march with the Peace Fresno banner and stand against war in these times. We will have the "Don't Attack Iraq" and "United against War" signs available and will also carry banners with quotations from Dr. King.

## FIRST THEY CAME FOR . . . (an adaptation)

First they came for the Muslims, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Muslim. Then they came to detain immigrants indefinitely solely upon the certification of the Attorney General, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't an immigrant. Then they came to eavesdrop on suspects consulting with their attorneys, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a suspect. Then they came to prosecute noncitizens before secret military commissions, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a noncitizen. Then they came to enter homes and offices for unannounced "sneak and peek" searches, and I didn't speak up because I had nothing to hide. Then they came to reinstate COINTELPRO and resume the infiltration and surveillance of domestic religious and political groups, and I didn't speak up because I had stopped participating in any groups. Then they came for anyone who objected to government policy because it aided the terrorists and gave ammunition to America's enemies, and I didn't speak up because . . . I didn't speak up. Then they came for me . . . and by that time no one was left to speak up.

Stephen Rohde, President of the ACLU of Southern California

## 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:

**Jan. 5, 2003** Tales of the Jedi Monster

Minister Bryan Jessup

**Jan. 12, 2003** In Memoriam

Minister Bryan Jessup

**Jan. 19, 2003** Fond Memories and Great Hopes

Minister Emerita Betty Pingel

**Jan. 26, 2003** Private Excess and Public Squalor

Pat Pickford

Sunday Services & Church School 9:15 and 11:00 am  
4144 N. Millbrook Fresno, CA 93726  
559.227.6164



views of the police auditor alone after consultation with the Civilian Review Board.

- No person shall attempt to undermine the independence of the auditor in the performance of the duties and responsibilities.
- Neither the IPA nor its staff can have a parent, stepparent, spouse, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling, or registered domestic partner as defined by law who is currently employed by the Fresno Police Department. The IPA and all employees and personnel are bound by all state and local conflict-of-interest laws and rules and by the City Charter's Nepotism Section, 807.

### Confidentiality of the IPA

- The IPA shall comply with all state laws requiring the confidentiality of police department records as well as the privacy rights of all individuals involved in the process.
- Said information shall not be disclosed to any member of the public, except in accordance with applicable law.

### Duties and Responsibilities Investigation Review

The office shall:

- Audit complaints alleging excessive or unnecessary force by police department officers.
- Audit all officer involved shootings; and
- Police profiling incidents/complaints.
- Serve as a liaison for individuals for all of the residents of the city.
- Be granted the authority to subpoena all records including all police files, confidential personnel files, interview records and recordings, and police policy and procedures.
- Review police professional standards and conduct investigation of complaints against police department to determine if investigation is complete, thorough, objective and fair.
- Audit, administer oaths and affirmations, hold public hearings, interview civilian witnesses, complainants, and attend the interviews of police officers during the police department internal affairs investigation.
- Provide timely updates on the Fresno Police Department Internal Affairs to the complainants.
- Request further investigation to be conducted if not satisfied with the Fresno Police Department Internal Affairs findings to the city manager.
- Conduct unannounced inspections of the files at Fresno Police Department Internal Affairs to insure that the files are complete and that no information has been withheld
- Insure access to all police department information that is relevant to citizen's complaint/issue, said information shall not be disclosed to any member of the public except in accordance with applicable law.
- Observe, analyze, monitor and make specific recommendations for



training, changes in policies, practices and procedures manuals including, but not limited to, the maintenance of such records and statistics as necessary to evaluate reporting of crimes victims with disabilities.

### Reporting functions of the IPA

- File quarterly annual reports to Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Attorney, Chief of Police and the City Clerk for filing as a public record. The report shall contain but not be limited to the following:
- analyzing trends and patterns,
- recommending improvement to the process, training needs and other preventive measures.
- Providing public information including printed literature, radio, television and public presentation at community meetings.
- Communications should be sensitive to our diverse community and shall be presented as linguistically appropriate.
- Preparing as part of the quarterly report, a statistical breakdown,

categorically documenting the number of complaints filed, the numbers sustained and any action taken.

Community Function of the Independent Police Auditor

The Independent Police Auditor shall:

- Work with a volunteer Civilian Review Board for providing civilian review of the investigations of alleged police misconduct and citizens' complaints.
- Establish different sites throughout the city where the public can obtain information on how to file a complaint and to encourage citizens to file their complaints with the Office of the Independent Police Auditor and/or the Civilian Review Board.
- Meet regularly with community boards and organizations to conduct presentations to inform the public about the Office of the Independent Police Auditor, explain their role in the complaint process; and to provide the memberships an opportunity to voice their concerns, to help bridge the gap between the Fresno Police Department and the community.
- Participate in town-hall meetings and panel discussions on high profile incidents of civil rights violations, police accountability, police misconduct and other issues raised by community concerns.

### Civilian Review Board

**Purpose** To provide for community participation in setting and reviewing police department policies, practices and procedures and provide a means for prompt, impartial and fair investigations, and complaints against the Fresno Police Department.

### Composition of Civilian Review Board

- The Civilian Review Board shall consist of seven members.
- The Mayor with the approval of the City Council shall appoint members in a manner that is broadly representative of the City of Fresno



and in a manner used by other City commissions.

- Terms of the Board shall be for four years.
- All volunteer members shall be residents of the City of Fresno.
- No member of the Civilian Review Board can have a parent, step-parent, spouse, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling or registered domestic partner as defined by law who is currently employed by the Fresno Police Department.
- The Independent Police Auditor's Administrative Assistant shall assist the Civilian Review Board.

### **Duties and Responsibilities of the Civilian Review Board**

The Civilian Review Board shall:

- Advise and make recommendations to the Fresno City Council, Mayor, City Manager Chief of Police and the Independent Police Auditor.
- Work with the city administration to establish the goals and structure of the auditing and evaluation program, as well as the criteria and qualifications of the Internal Police Auditor.
- Work with the Independent Police Auditor for providing civilian review investigations of alleged police misconduct and citizen complaints.
- Review and make recommendations concerning all written and unwritten policies, practices and procedures of whatever kind and without limitations, in relation to the Fresno Police Department and other law enforcement and military agencies and other agencies' intelligence operations working within the City of Fresno and law enforcement generally.
- Such review and recommendations to extend to, but not be limited to, the following:
  - Complaints alleging excessive or unnecessary force by police department officers
  - Officer involved shootings procedures
  - Treatment of rape victims
  - Services and procedures designed to improve reporting and resolution of crime victims with disabilities and other special communities
- Police relationship with minority community
  - Use of weapons and equipment training
  - Priority for policing and patrolling
  - Budget development

- And other concerns from time to time from the independent auditor, the public and the city council.

- Request and receive promptly, written and unwritten documents as it may deem necessary in carrying out its responsibilities—from the Mayor's Office, City Council, the Independent Police Auditor, City Manager, Police Department Internal Affairs and City Attorney, and any other city department, provided that the disclosure of information would not impair the right of privacy of specific individuals or prejudice pending litigation

- Receive complaints directed against Fresno Police Department, any of its officers and employees
- Fully and completely investigate complaints and make

recommendations and give advice without limitation including disciplinary actions and related departmental policies and procedures to City Council, Independent Police Auditor and City Manager

- Adopt rules and regulations and develop such procedures for its own activities and investigations as may be necessary to publish and file same with office of the city clerk
- Reporting Function

The Civilian Report Board shall:

- Comply with the open meetings regulations and laws.
- File semi-annual reports to Mayor, City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, Chief of Police and the City Clerk for filing as a public record. The report shall contain, but not be limited to, specific recommendations and complaints.
- Provide public information including printed literature, radio, television and public presentations. Communications should be sensitive to our diverse community and shall be presented as linguistically appropriate .

### **Community Function of the Civilian Review Board**

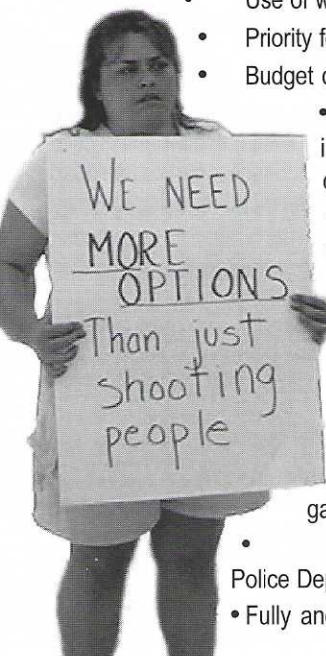
The Civilian Review Board shall work with the Office of the Independent Police Auditor to provide civilian review of the investigations of alleged police misconduct and citizens' complaints. The Civilian Review Board shall:

- Assist the Office of the Independent Police Auditor in the establishment of different sites throughout the city where the public can obtain information on how to file a complaint and encourage citizens to file their complaints.
- The Civilian Review Board shall also accept said complaints.
- Meet regularly with community boards and organizations to conduct presentations informing the public about the Office of the Independent Police Auditor and its role in the complaint process.
- Provide the memberships with an opportunity to voice their concerns and help bridge the gap between the Fresno Police Department and the community.
- Participate in town-hall meetings and panel discussions on high profile incidents of civil rights violations, police accountability, police misconduct and other issues raised by community concerns.

The following apply to both the Civilian Review board (CRB) and the Independent Police Auditor (IPA):

- Funding includes both personnel, office space and office equipment and whatever is needed to provide the infrastructure needed to maintain its independence from the Police Department.
- Funding should include an adequate allowance for training and for communications with IPA and Boards in other cities, counties or states and on a limited basis, internationally.
- A standard Severability clause shall be cemented.
- A resident of Fresno can file a complaint directly with the police department, with the IPA, with the CRB, or with any combination of them. The department, agency or board receiving the complaint shall provide copies of the complaint to the other two agencies upon receipt from the complainant.

Submitted as Draft Proposal by the  
Central California Criminal Justice Committee  
P.O. Box 4555  
Fresno, CA 93744





## MY HEROES:

By Richard Stone

Some months back, Phil Erro suggested that the Center establish a certificate for honoring outstanding examples of active nonviolence in service to the local community. We are still deliberating as to how best to do this, but meanwhile I'd like to honor a few of my personal choices for 2002:

- **ANGIE OSBORNE** (the inspiration of Phil's idea), a Choanumni Indian whose healing ceremony created a peaceful resolution to the incident of the desecrated tree last summer.
- **THE FASHION FAIR 4** (Lynne Jacobson, Joan Poss, Bob Fischer, Mike Rhodes) and their legal team, including Jack Weisberg and Patience Milrod, for getting the Macerich Corporation and the City of Fresno to pay for messing with free speech.
- **JULIUS RASMUSSEN** and **JAY HUBBELL** and their cohorts at Peace Fresno for masterminding the Children's Peace Float for the city's Christmas parade.
- **VIDA SAMIAN**, chief organizer of the powerful series of presentations about the Middle East held under the auspices of the Beth Anne Harnish Memorial Lecture Committee.
- **KEVIN HALL**, whose unflagging devotion to clean air has been instrumental in successful litigation to force the Air District to comply with federal mandates, and in educating the *Bee* editorial staff to give the issue the prominence it deserves (cf. Dec. 15 editorial and special section.)
- **POLLY VICTOR**, for initiating the process which sent a local delegate

## THE WELCH REPORT

Dec. 16, 2002

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

I am deeply distressed by the continuing war talk coming from our President and his cabinet. In contrast with Bush and his fellow hawks (except Colin Powell), the writer was in service during World War II as a battalion surgeon with a tank division, which saw over 200 days of combat in the European Theater.

Saddam Hussein, despite a very bad history, does not now represent an imminent threat to the US. This threatened war, I suspect, is largely about politics and oil.

I believe that for the present US security can be maintained by a continuation of the policy of containment of Iraq, which has been effective over the past 10 years. In the 16 Dec. '02 issue of *The Nation* is an excellent comment, "Containing Saddam", from which the following is taken.

### CONTAINING SADDAM

There is an alternative strategy to war against Iraq, one "inspired by an extraordinary... political trend... under way for more than 30 years", during which time the number of authoritative regimes around the world has dropped by more than half. In almost none of these transitions did the regime succumb to coercive economic sanctions or to external military assault. In many cases the overthrow of dictators, as in Albania, Romania, Serbia and others, came as a surprise.

Authoritative regimes fall because, as societies become more developed and interdependent, they become more difficult to govern by coercion. Their decline "has been accelerated by the growing dominance of market-oriented democracy" and the crisis all such states confront "if they fail to deliver the political and economic goods".

The international community can help create the conditions that will facilitate "regime change". "Responsibility for actually effecting and sustaining change will, however, always rest with the citizens."

### A NONVIOLENT SOLUTION

In the case of Iraq, first, a sweeping reform of the United Nations' disastrous sanctions, which have strengthened the regime domestically but devastated the

(Joan Poss again!) to the World Conference on Sustainability in Johannesburg.

The list, of course, could easily be extended. But these folks are representative proponents of nonviolence, whose work typically goes on without the media exposure attendant to violence ("newsworthy" by virtue of its sensationalism.)

**LAST CALL:** Youth groups are eligible for grants up to \$200 for projects to "Make It Better." Leave a message at the Center (237-3223) to get an application form.

**BRIDGES TO PEACE:** We are a small interdenominational group acknowledging the universal peace imperative in all religions. We meet monthly to explore the obstacles to peacemaking both in our own sectarian thinking and in the literal, fundamentalist interpretations of religious mission that are present in every faith. We also plan larger public events to promote our vision. At our most recent gathering, about 35 people came together with personal prayer or ceremony to bring motive and mindfulness to aspirations for peace. If you would like to join the core group or be informed of future public events, call Richard Stone at 266-2559 or Jim Grant at KNXT, 488-7404.

## SAVE THE DATE:

The Center is hosting the annual Northern California Peace Centers Conference on March 15. The focus will be on organizational issues, such as setting priorities, financing, staffing, coalition building, and so on. While geared especially for Peace Centers, many of the workshops are applicable to other groups, and local progressive organizations are welcome to register and participate. In the evening—and open to the general public—will be the keynote address by Tim Wise of Nashville, Tennessee. Tim is a nationally recognized analyst and opponent of racism in the U.S. (Host families for out-of-town participants for the nights of March 14 and 15 will be needed, as well as volunteers to assist with the event. Please call An-



Iraqi economy, would be an important start. "The structural power of the once-thriving middle class, the important source of potential opposition to the regime, has been in effect destroyed."

Sanctions have failed in their goal of coercing Saddam into compliance with UN resolutions. "In authoritarian regimes the people who feel the pain have no power while those in power feel no pain"; thus, sanctions almost never work against dictatorships.

Second, "allowing foreign investment back in would revive Iraq's economy and relieve the appalling suffering...A resurgent market-based economy would erode the economic power of the state...and create the political space for effective opposition to the regime" — a likely long-term process. Skeptics can be reminded to look back to the Soviet Union, and its demise without need for outside military intervention.

Hard-liners argue that the above strategy gives Saddam more time to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD). However, "since the Gulf War Iraq has not perpetrated a single act of aggression outside its borders". A nightmare scenario sees Saddam transferring WMD materiel to terrorists, but there is no evidence that Iraq has ever attempted this. Such action would certainly lead to massive US retaliation.

"Much can be said for a strategy that seeks regime change by recreating the conditions that have led to the demise of other brutal autocracies around the world, and, unlike war and sanctions, it has a remarkably successful track record." (Source: Andrew Mack, former director in office of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, now director at an Institute for Global Issues at University of British Columbia, Vancouver.)





# GREEN PARTY

Perusing the *Fresno County Green Party Inaugural 2003 Quotations Calendar* (available for a modest donation through our website <[www.cagreens.org/fresno](http://www.cagreens.org/fresno)> and at The Movies), the first date that jumps out is our upcoming California Green Party Plenary, which will be held January 10–12 on the Stanford University campus. Greens will gather from around the state to review the gains made in the past election and to start planning for 2004, which is not as far away as it may seem. If you are interested in attending, leave a message at 265–3647. Opportunities to get involved are plentiful.

Another date that jumps out as one gazes at the *Fresno County Green Party Inaugural 2003 Quotations Calendar* is January 18, 2003. This is the date fixed for demonstrations across the country to protest the administration's upcoming Iraq attack. At its annual retreat in December, the California Green Party chose as its highest current priority to become the preeminent voice in this state opposing the president's plan to plunder Iraq on behalf of his corporate masters with no regard for loss of life. That our country is becoming the very rogue state that we are supposedly fighting against is becoming less disputable every day. This quote did not make it into the *Fresno County Green Party Inaugural 2003 Quotations Calendar*, but it still bears repeating:

*"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all, in any sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."*

—President Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 16, 1953



As shown in the *Fresno County Green Party Inaugural 2003 Quotations Calendar*, January 20, 2003 is the day set aside to commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. We encourage everyone to acknowledge the legacy of this great man through the many events to be held in Fresno on that day. And what greater honor could we bestow than to derail the Bush war machine and the policy of shooting first and looking for justification later?

## Are You Still Blaming Greens For President-Select Bush?

Many of those who have contacted us for a copy of our *Fresno County Green Party Inaugural 2003 Quotations Calendar* still say that they harbor suspicions that the Greens are to blame for Al Gore losing the election. In hopes of bringing this lame blame game to an end, we would like to submit the following for consideration:

The fact is that **11% of Democrats voted for Bush** while only 2% voted for Nader. 4.5 million Democrats defected to Bush while only 800,000 went for Nader. And **5.7 million union members voted for Bush** as opposed to only 500,000 voting for Nader.

In light of these staggering numbers, the Fresno County Green Party humbly submits that people must look elsewhere when assigning blame for the past presidential election. Thank you.

## Thanks to the Gap Plaintiffs

At our December meeting, Mike Rhodes made a presentation on behalf of the victorious plaintiffs in the Gap litigation against the City of Fresno and the owner of Fashion Fair Mall. The Fresno County Green Party was honored to receive a donation of \$1,000 from Mike as he explained that similar donations would be made to other progressive community groups as well. We applaud the plaintiffs in this case for their sacrifice on behalf of free speech in Fresno.

## The Green Scene Radio Show

As shown in the *Fresno County Green Party Inaugural 2003 Quotations Calendar*, the Green Scene will have its first show of the new year on January 15, 2003, at 3:30PM. Tune in to KFCF 88.1 to hear host Theresia Rogerson discuss green issues with guests and callers.

The Fresno County Green Party will hold its monthly meeting on January 9, 2003, at 7:00 PM at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Come get involved! Need a speaker at an event? Contact us at 265–3647.

## Campus Greens Coming to Life

Efforts are now underway to revitalize the Campus Greens organizations at both Fresno City College and Fresno State University. If you would like to get involved in either of these exciting endeavors, please contact Nick at [green1159@hotmail.com](mailto:green1159@hotmail.com) for details. And, you can go to <[www.campusgreens.org](http://www.campusgreens.org)> to learn more about this exciting nationwide group. The Fresno County Green Party looks forward to working with the Campus Greens.





# 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 Calendar Events

**Wednesday, January 8, 12 Noon: Women in Black**, monthly silent vigil at the entrance of the Fresno County Courthouse. Show your support for peace and for negotiated settlements of current US military actions! For more info, call (559) 278-7140 or (559) 225-2850.

**Monday, January 12, 7 PM: WILPF board meeting** at 985 N. Van Ness. All interested parties are invited to this meeting. Please contact Vickie Fouts at [vfout1@sierratel.com](mailto:vfout1@sierratel.com) or call 658-8260 for details and to add items to the agenda.

**Saturday, January 25, 2 PM: Reports of WSSD & Columbia trips by WILPF members.** WILPF and Fresno Center for Nonviolence will be hosting a program on trips recently taken by two WILPF members. Joan Poss will report on her trip in September to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in South Africa. Lynn Jacobsson will talk about her trip to Colombia in November. The program will take place at the home of WILPF member Ingrid Carmean, 115 E. Weldon Ave, Fresno. For directions you can call Ingrid only on the evening before or the day of the program at 225-8491.

## WILPF Peace Community Craft Faire, The Best & Biggest Ever

by Ellie Bluestein

What a job Desi did! Her work included composing the flyer, publicity (great thanks to KFCF for their clever and frequent spot announcements), vendor contracts (with help from Carol), arrangements with the church, and floor plan design that held 32 vendors with ample space for WILPF tables and the white elephant, and food areas. Zay scheduled volunteers (after Joan and Ellie's calls), and along with Carol and Vickie made sure things were running smoothly. Pat Wolk and Catherine Campbell ran the raffle and silent auction, Linda Dryden arranged for the music, Nora and Janet Capella handled the white elephant goods, and we all filled in when needed. Laura Fultz managed the WILPF literature and resources. Ingrid handled the money, stepping in at the last minute when Lauralee had to give it up. Vendors were pretty happy and want to return next year. Lots of good information was handed out by the many peace and justice groups. Gerry Bill made all the difference with making setup and teardown so doable.

Get great merchandise & ERACISM T-Shirts from WILPF

Bumper strips, pins, cards, and t-shirts are still available from Laura Fultz (447-8774). Eracism T-shirts in all sizes also here (Ellie, 229-9807). What a great cooperative effort, and such fun!

## Members speaking out!

Angelica Nieves of Clovis did a great op-ed piece, "Corporate gain is at the root of effort for war." Meanwhile every social service on local, state, and national levels is being drastically cut, and it is estimated that the war, and preparations for it, will cost at least \$12,000 per minute. I can't even do the math for a yearly tally. Let your representatives and president know that we can't afford to pay for this foolishness while our people need health care, food, homes, education, and attention.

## WILPF organizing MLK candlelight vigil

Fresno WILPF has been asked by Gail Gaston to organize the Martin Luther King Jr. candlelight vigil on January 19. Jean Kennedy and Vickie Fouts are willing to work as a team of two on this but, if anyone would like to be part of this committee, please contact Vickie as soon as possible at the number listed above.

## 2002 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards Announced

For 49 years the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA) has recognized books that promote peace, social justice, world community, and equality of all people with its prestigious award. The Picture Book winner is *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* written by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier and published by Jump at the Sun. The Honor Picture Book award went to *Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart* written and illustrated by Vera B. Williams, published by Greenwillow Books. *The Other Side of Truth* written by Beverly Naidoo and published by Harper Collins holds the Books for Older Children award. *A Group of One* by Rachna Gilmore, published by Henry Holt and Co., and *True Believer* by Virginia Euwer Wolff, published by Atheneum Books, both hold the Honor Book for Older Children award. Adding these to your own library, or better yet, your local school library, will further our work for peace, justice, community, and equality. Order forms available at [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org) or contact the numbers listed above. National WILPF Coalitions, Statements and Actions on the War in Iraq (from [www.wilpf.org/iraq/coalitions.htm](http://www.wilpf.org/iraq/coalitions.htm))

**WILPF is a part of several coalitions working together to prevent further war on Iraq, and we have also endorsed statements and calls to action. They are listed below with brief descriptions and links to their respective websites.**

**CODE PINK FOR PEACE:** [www.codepink4peace.org](http://www.codepink4peace.org)

A women's action playing on the colors of the terror threat warnings—gathering women together to resist the rush to war. WILPF will be taking a shift in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, January 23-26, 2003. Please come to Washington, DC, that weekend: Wear pink, carry a banner, and make your voice heard!

**NOT IN OUR NAME:** [www.notinourname.net](http://www.notinourname.net)

A statement of conscience pledging to resist the war being perpetuated in the name of the people of the United States.

**PLEDGE OF RESISTANCE:** [www.peacepledge.org](http://www.peacepledge.org)

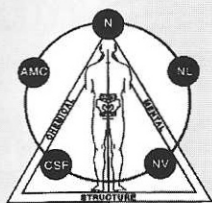
An agreement with ourselves that we will resist the government's push to war, and we will join with others to coordinate our actions for larger impact. Go to the website for further information about selected dates for action and local contacts.

**UNITED FOR PEACE:** [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)

A coalition of more than 75 groups from around the country working to raise public attention and plan actions for peace. The site provides the opportunity to post and find actions in your community

**Deadline for the February issue is January 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).**





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# Westlands Water District Rip-Off

by Lloyd G. Carter

It is an adage in California water politics that water flows uphill and toward money. The masters of this political tenet are the big growers in the 600,000-acre Westlands Water District who, 42 years ago, got Congress to pass a law to deliver them cheap federal water from Northern California.

Notorious for evading the original 320-acreage limitation on the cheap water, and the 960-acre limitation adopted in 1982, the biggest growers each farmed many thousands of acres year after year, utilizing federal water sold to Westlands farmers for a fraction of its true cost or market value. They also raked in tens of millions of dollars in crop subsidies on top of the water subsidies.

Bennett Raley, the new assistant secretary of Interior for water and science, recently negotiated a sweetheart deal with the Westlands Water District, which will hand over \$110 million in taxpayer money to a small group of trusts, corporations, limited partnerships, and individuals euphemistically described in most media accounts as nineteen "farming families." Those "families" reaping the millions include Secretary of State Bill Jones and his relatives; Britz Chemical, Inc.; numerous trusts and limited partnerships; and an Imperial Valley company known as U.S. Filter Farms.

If the American taxpayers had never delivered water to the Westlands desert empire in the first place, this land would have been virtually worthless. Raley apparently didn't know that when he was giving away the taxpayers' money. As satirist P. J. O'Rourke says, giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

Raley's giveaway, he contends, will end a lawsuit filed in 1988 by the Westlands growers (in the wake of the Kesterson shutdown) to force the government to provide drainage after nearly 50 years of study. Raley claimed if the government lost the damages suit, it could have cost \$400 million in claimed damages and the government would still have to build a drainage system.

Think about it. The public spends hundreds of millions of dollars to deliver water to a few hundred desert land owners, sells them water for 20 percent of its true market value for 35 years, and when those landowners salt up their land by irrigating land that *already had selenium in it*, then somehow Raley thinks it's almost entirely the federal government's fault?

Funny, because the Justice Department, in its defense of Interior in the lawsuit, contended the growers themselves were responsible for salinizing their soils after Kesterson was closed and drainage was shut off. Moreover, the Westlands, which was a defendant in the lawsuit, clearly deserves some blame for delivering water to upslope farmers on lands annexed in 1965 because their polluted groundwater clearly migrated downslope on to the plaintiff farmers' land. Indeed, Westlands' \$33 million purchase of the 33,000 polluted acres is indication the water district deserves some blame. The Interior damages payment of more than \$100 million is, of course, tax free. Westlands, of course, gets to keep the water that was irrigating the badlands and the water, over the long haul, is worth far more than the salted up alkali land which could prove to be a hazardous waste site if selenium-polluted groundwater bubbles about that. Westlands officials have got that one covered, however, because they have been absolved of any liability for excess selenium and boron on the buyout lands.

In reality, the landowners' chances of actually winning the entire \$400 million in damages they were claiming against the federal government for damage they inflicted on themselves was small indeed.

One thing is clear: Raley, who hails from Colorado, hasn't the slightest clue about the California water wars—although he's giving away public money like it is . . . well . . . water.

Maybe it's because Raley, a fervent private-property-rights advocate, worked for the anti-environment firm of infamous former Interior secretary James Watt, or because Raley lobbied *against* reauthorization of the Clean Water Act and wants to do away with the Endangered Species Act: He apparently believes any claim against the government by rich and powerful Republican growers is meritorious.

The Westlands growers have long claimed the government "owes" them drainage, pointing to a decision by Fresno federal judge Oliver Wanger. But Wanger's decision merely ordered the Bureau to *apply for a discharge permit* from the State Water Resources Control Board. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed most of Wanger's ruling but said that the Bureau of Reclamation could also consider other means of drainage disposal, including treatment methods. The Westlands have always claimed they have money to pay for a drainage system. Should be easy for 600 individuals to pony up the estimated \$1 billion for a drain, right?

However, what Raley ignores is that if the State Board rejects a drain to the delta and desalinization proves too expensive for growers (which it assuredly is), then the Bureau would be off the hook. And in any event, chances are remote indeed that a federal court would find the federal government responsible for all damages and the growers completely free of responsibility. Certainly the federal government is not responsible for the selenium in the Westlands soils.

But the sad thing in Raley's strange decision is that he is further exacerbating the drainage problem by continuing to deliver water to upslope Westlands acreage, which will dissolve more minerals and selenium in the western valley. The resulting polluted shallow groundwater will migrate down to better quality lands downslope, both to the east and to the north, where farmers in adjacent irrigation districts have a suit against the government to halt the destruction of their good quality farmlands by the seeping Westlands drainage.

Some 200,000 acres of land in the Westlands, and some 400,000 acres in the western San Joaquin Valley, needs to be taken out of production because of high selenium in the soils and/or drainage problems. If Raley's first buyout of 33,000 acres sets a precedent, the buyout of all the badlands in the western San Joaquin Valley should cost the taxpayers between \$2 billion and \$4 billion. That's not a buyout; that's a sellout.

*Editor's note: Carter was a longtime reporter for United Press International and the Fresno Bee. He won numerous journalism awards for his coverage of Westlands and the Kesterson poisonings in the mid-1980s. He now teaches water law at San Joaquin College of Law.*

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# CLEARING THE AIR: DEADLINES AND COMMITMENTS, WHAT TO LEAVE IN, WHAT TO LEAVE OUT

by Kevin Hall

"Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future" as the song says. Last January I wrote that 2002 would be the most important year in the history of the San Joaquin Valley Air District. Clean air plans for ozone and particulate pollution would be due in May and December, respectively, and our local air board would be under the gun to deliver.

Wrong. The ozone plan due in May was never written, much less submitted. The board decided instead to seek a voluntary downgrading of our status to "extreme" nonattainment for ozone. Adding insult to injury (and death), they won't submit the basic request until the full 18 months have elapsed since the May 2002 deadline, meaning the formal request won't be submitted until October 2003, and the plan itself may not be due until April 2004.

The 18-month window is how long the district has to act before the Clean Air Act's economic sanctions begin to hit. Bear in mind, if you're still with me, the last plan expired in December 1999 and it was an obvious failure by May 1997. But, the board took its full allotment of time until the end of 1999. The EPA failed to act to begin the 18-month sanction clock until we sued in July 2001. So, seven years (down the drain) later and only under full legal pressure, the air board will finally submit a plan but with an attainment deadline of 2010.

The plan for particulates expired in December 2001. The new plan was due last month. Late again. We might see a draft in March or April, but no one is holding his or her breath—even though that's our best option at this point.

The months fly by, the years add up, the death toll climbs and time slips into the future, where new deadlines are waiting to be missed and ignored. If you're ready to join in the effort to pressure this air board to get its act together, go to [www.calcleanair.org](http://www.calcleanair.org) and please sign onto our e-mail action list.

**Slow Burn.** A full decade ago, on January 8, 1993, the EPA downgraded the Valley's status from a "moderate" to a "serious" particulate nonattainment area, the worst category on the books. A month later the 18-month clock began ticking for the district to submit a new attainment plan with regulations for pollution control at a level of stringency known as "best available control measures." Such controls, for example, should have included a wood-burning fireplace rule. That's right. The same rule approved last month amidst way too much controversy was actually due in August 1994. It will go into effect this fall, nine years behind schedule. The particles emitted by this Stone Age approach to home heating are a major reason why medical professionals regard the fall and early winter months as heart attack season. It's why children matter-of-factly swap horror stories about how long they stopped breathing that day. Yet there in the air district boardroom were members of the local realtors association arguing against the rule requirement for retrofitting outdated inserts. Cigarette, anyone?

**Oscar Nomination.** This year's first nominee in the category of Most Cynical Exploitation of Human Suffering is the Building Industry Association release, "Clean Air Subdivision"! Sneak previews were coyly released to the press by these local stars just last month. The BIA members, those renowned champions of environmentalism and human health, will be leading us all into the future by setting their own industry guidelines for this special designation, which they themselves will then take turns bestowing upon each other's sprawl projects as they alone see fit. So, be the first on your block to move from your block into a new block of a Clean Air Subdivision. There, along with your fellow blockheads, you can hope in vain that the new designation means

you'll actually be breathing clean air. Sadly, this farce will probably be played out, with tragic consequences. The already growing business of air pollution-related personal injury lawsuits should experience a building boom of its own.

**Global Case.** The Sierra Club, Greenpeace, and the International Center for Technology Assessment filed a tremendous lawsuit last month. We're suing the EPA for its failure to take action on global warming. According to a report from the Environmental News Service, the Clean Air Act "requires the EPA to limit all air pollution from automobiles that 'may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare.'" Despite the growing impacts of global warming on human health and the environment, the EPA has not acted to control global warming pollution." The legal complaint is available at [www.icta.org](http://www.icta.org).

(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).)

## GUN CONTROL CAMPAIGN COMES TO FRESNO

by Chris Schneider

Gun violence is the number-one cause of death among California youth ages 13-19. Nationwide, guns cause the death of nine young people (those age 19 and younger) each day in this country. The overall firearm-related death rate among U.S. children under age 15 is nearly 12 times higher than that among children in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Of course, gun violence is not limited to youth. In 1999, 28,874 Americans were killed with firearms—in homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings. Firearm injuries are now the second leading cause of injury-related deaths nationwide, surpassed only by motor vehicle injuries. Firearms sent 75,685 individuals to hospital emergency departments to be treated for nonfatal gunshot wounds during 2000.

On December 3, 2002, thirty-five Fresno activists and residents gathered for a workshop to learn what could be done locally to reduce gun violence. The event, sponsored by Central California Legal Services (CCLS) and the San Francisco-based Legal Community Against Violence (LCAV, [www.lcav.org](http://www.lcav.org)), provided an opportunity to find out what other communities in California are doing to address the issue. Participants included representatives from the Marjaree Mason Center, Centro La Familia Advocacy Project, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Fresno Center for Nonviolence, school districts, the Fresno Police Department, and concerned individuals.

The workshop was lead by LCAV staff members; LCAV is a nonprofit organization committed to reducing gun violence through education and regulation. The workshop was part of LCAV's Local Ordinance Project.

In 1995, LCAV began its California Local Ordinance Project to work with California communities to draft, enact, and defend effective firearms regulations. Through its staff attorneys and network of volunteer attorneys, LCAV has assisted cities and counties throughout California in researching, drafting, and implementing numerous ordinances regulating firearms, firearms deal-

*Continued on page 18*



# PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

## Wednesday, January 1 • 12 Noon til dark

A PARTY, dance, jammin', singin', communing at Margaret Hudson's barn. This is the annual New Year's Day Soup party that has taken place at Kathy Wosika's but has outgrown her place and energy. Great fun last year (every year). Phone to help: 431-3653

## Saturday, January 4 • 9 AM-3 PM

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence is sponsoring a nonviolence workshop. This program will address conduct during civil disobedience. Lisa Apper, with the Catholic Worker, will conduct the workshop. You are asked to bring your own sack lunch and the Center will provide the drinks. The workshop will be held at 985 N. Van Ness Ave. in Fresno's Tower District. For more information call (559) 237-3223 (23-PEACE).

## Tuesday, January 7 • 9 AM-12 PM

Training #1 on the EBT Food Stamp Card for community based organizations working with low income neighbors, at the Center for New Americans by Citicorp. Call Edie at Fresno Metro Ministry, 485-1416, for more information, times. This and the one on January 8 are the only two trainings for community based organizations to learn how to help their clients with the Food Stamp Card beginning in May/June.

## Wednesday, January 8 • 12 Noon-1:30 PM

Fresno Metro Ministry Community Hunger and Nutrition Forum at Trinity Lutheran Church. Focus: advocacy training on proactive social justice issues. The California Council of Churches' Libby Shoales will lead this active workshop on legislative issues and how low income folks can actively participate in systemic change. Faith communities are particularly invited to attend the social justice and legislative training. Call Edie at Fresno Metro Ministry for further information, 485-1416. No cost; please make reservations. Lunch included.

## Wednesday, January 8 • 2 PM-5 PM

Training #2 on the EBT Food Stamp Card for community based organizations working with low income neighbors, at the Center for New Americans by Citicorp. Call Edie at Fresno Metro Ministry, 485-1416, for more information, times. This and the one on January 7 are the only two trainings for community based organizations to learn how to help their clients with the Food Stamp Card beginning in May/June.

## Thursday, January 9 • 6 PM

Interfaith Alliance annual meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (between Ashlan and Dakota). Call the Rev. Bryan Jessup for further information, 227-6146.

## Thursday, January 9 • 7:30 PM

The Fresno Folklore Society presents John McCutcheon in concert at Fresno Art Center. Do you need a shot in the arm to validate your convictions? Check out his website, <[www.folkmusic.com](http://www.folkmusic.com)>. See what he has to say about 9/11 and the peace movement. He's one of us. His latest CD, "The Greatest Story Never Told" is a gem of antiwar songs. Tickets are \$20, available at The Movies Video Store, or phone Pat Wolk, 431-3653.

## Friday, January 10 • 5 PM & 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks will present the new psychological thriller from Jacques Audiard, *Read My Lips* (in French, with English subtitles) at the Tower Theatre. Tickets are \$8.50; \$6.50 for students and seniors. For more information call 221-0755.

## Saturday, January 11 • 9:30 AM-12 Noon—Regular monthly board meeting • 12 Noon-1:00 PM—Potluck lunch • 1 PM-5 PM - Annual retreat

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence will hold its regular monthly meeting, a potluck, and retreat.

## Wednesday, January 15

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the February 2003 *Community Alliance* magazine. Send information to [AllianceEditor@attbi.com](mailto:AllianceEditor@attbi.com)

## Wednesday, January 15 • 6 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee will meet in the Sarah McCardle Room, downtown library. All welcome.

CA 16

## January 17-19

The seventeenth annual Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival runs January 17-19, 2003, in Burlingame, and is packed full of music, art, history, and culture. See website for details: <<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/~lcushing/WWLHF03/WWLHF.html>>.

## Friday, January 17 • Noon

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration garlanding ceremony at the Fresno County Courthouse Square, at the Statue of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., 1100 Van Ness Ave, Fresno. For more information about this MLK event, call Gail at 681-3140 or Kathy at 621-7775.

## Friday, January 17 • 4:30-6:30 PM

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. evening reception, and presentation of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. awards, will be held at Fresno City Hall, 2nd Floor Lobby, 2600 Fresno Street. For more information about this MLK event, call Gail at 681-3140 or Kathy at 621-7775.

## Friday, January 17 • 7 PM

The video *The New Nuclear Danger* by Dr. Helen Caldicott will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 4144 N Millbrook in Fresno. Dr. Caldicott discusses the Bush administration and its connection to the nuclear weapons industry. She contends that the merging of weapons firms in the 1980s created powerful corporations able to influence foreign policy and manipulate public opinion. Dr. Caldicott argues that by lobbying for increased use of military force, weapons manufacturers ignore the best interests of the country and increase the threat of nuclear war. Dr. Caldicott was the moving force of the 1980s organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility. Come to the UU church, and learn how you can become involved in this very important project. If you have questions or need information, call Diane Scott, 222-6135.

## Saturday, January 18 • TBA (Early, early morning)

Peace Fresno and friends travel to San Francisco to join the big ANSWER rally and march. This will be a one-day trip. Details will be available January 1. Contact Nicholas DeGraff at [ndegraff@hotmail.com](mailto:ndegraff@hotmail.com) or Camille Russell at (559) 276-2592 now to reserve your spot. They need a reliable head count ASAP in order to arrange the best transportation at the best price. Details about the march are at <[www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org)>.

## Saturday, January 18 • 8:00-10:30 AM

Eighteenth annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., All Faith Music Service Breakfast at the Ted C. Wills Community Center, 770 North San Pablo Ave., Fresno. Enjoy listening to community leaders and musical talent. Have a delicious meal at the All Faith Music Service Breakfast. For more information about this MLK event, call Gail at 681-3140 or Kathy at 621-7775.

## Sunday, January 19 • 5:30 PM

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. candlelight vigil at the Fresno City Hall fountain area, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno. A candlelight vigil to be held in commemoration of the Rev. Dr. King. An opportunity for interested persons to briefly share with the assembled group their thoughts and memories of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For more information about this MLK event, call Gail 681-3140 or Kathy at 621-7775.

## Sunday, January 19 • 6 PM

Drum Major for Justice Awards Banquet, featuring Ms. Angela Bassett, will be held at the Radisson Hotel. Call 268-0941 for more information.

## Monday, January 20 • 9:30 AM Martin Luther King Day march • 11:30 AM Memorial Auditorium program

Marchers will assemble at the Carter Memorial A.M.E. Church, 3049 Mariposa. The march will proceed from the church; stop for a brief ceremony at the Fresno City Hall; then onward to the Memorial Auditorium. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration program, at the Memorial Auditorium, Fresno Street, between N and O Streets (across from the Fresno Water Tower). The theme of this year's march is Living the Dream . . . Let Freedom Ring for . . . Health Care, Jobs, Affordable Housing, and Peace. For more information about the march, call Gail at 681-3140 or Kathy at 621-7775.



## Monday, January 20

Join Peace Fresno in the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. march. Carry a Don't Attack Iraq or United Against War sign, as we remember and honor Dr. King's dedication to peace. Find march time and place in the MLK events article. Join marchers carrying the Peace Fresno banner.

## Tuesday, January 21 • 7 PM

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

## Tuesday, January 21 • 7:00-8:30 PM

Peace Fresno election of officers and board of directors. The current officers are interim. (559) 23-PEACE \*3 or [camillerussellhi@yahoo.com](mailto:camillerussellhi@yahoo.com).

## Saturday, January 25 • 2 PM

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) and Fresno Center for Nonviolence will be hosting a program on trips recently taken by two WILPF members. Joan Poss will report on her trip in September to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in South Africa. Lynn Jacobsson will talk about her trip to Colombia in November. The program will take place at the home of WILPF member, Ingrid Carmean, 115 E. Weldon Ave, Fresno. For directions you can call Ingrid only on the evening before or the day of the program at 225-8491.

## Saturday, January 25 • 3-6 PM

Community radio KFCF will host an informal open house to celebrate our new Tower District studio. The open house will take place on Saturday, January 25, from 3 to 6 PM during the locally produced music program "Rhythms in Jazz," which is hosted by Leonard Longmire every other Saturday. The event will feature a live on-air performance by the Dakota Iyall Trio, a hot new local combo.

## Tuesday, January 28 • 3 PM

Community Development Credit Union Project, steering committee meeting at St. Joseph's Church. An opportunity for anyone who's interested in working to bring financial services to south Fresno, (which is completely underserved and plagued by predatory lending). For more information call (559) 485-1119.

## Tuesday, January 28 • 7 PM

Organizational meeting for study groups to abolish corporate personhood. This is democracy in the making. WILPF materials will be used, and Jemmy Bluestein will sing for us. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook in Fresno. Call Diane Scott, (559) 222-6135 for information.

## Friday, January 31 • Dinner at 6:30 PM • Service at 8 PM

Temple Beth Israel, 14th Annual Social Action Award evening honoring Audrey Riley of Spirit of Woman, at Temple Beth Israel, 6622 N. Maroa. \$25/ticket for dinner. RSVP 432-3600. Audrey Riley is the founder and executive director of the Spirit of Woman, an innovative drug abuse treatment program serving women and their children.

## 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.



**Let Freedom Ring for...**  
**Health Care, Jobs, Affordable**  
**Housing and Peace**  
**Join the Martin Luther King march**  
**on Monday, January 20**

*Photo by Mike Rhodes*





## Attention all coffee drinkers!

The Center for Nonviolence has started a "coffee club" for people who want to feel good about the coffee they drink. Equal Exchange has a program for churches and nonprofit organizations whereby they can order fairly traded, organic coffee beans to sell to their members

and in the process make a little profit for the organization. The Center now has some French Roast regular beans for sale at \$8.00 for a 12-ounce pack. As more people become interested, a variety of coffees, teas, and even cocoa can be ordered. Call Angela at 435-6383 if you would like to try some.

## IF I WERE A RELIGIOUS LEADER

Deadline: April 20, 2003 Interfaith Contest for Junior Youth and Teachers. "If I Were a Religious Leader" / curriculum plan. Goal: to promote world peace through interreligious harmony and understanding. First-place winners in each category will receive full scholarships to attend a course at Landegg International University, Switzerland. (Landegg's objective: promotion of a civilization that is peaceful, just, united and diverse, prosperous and benevolent, technologically advanced and environmentally healthy, intellectually rich and ethically sound). For more information, call Margaret McLane, (441-1029 evenings, or 248-4610 weekdays).

## FFCF/KFCF BOARD ELECTIONS RESULTS

There are different term lengths in order to effect staggering; all elections will be for three-year terms beginning next year:

244 ballots returned with 1910 votes

### 3 YEAR TERMS:

Stan Poss (185 votes), RL Stover (183), Rych Withers (178) and Alex Vavoulis (176)

### 2 YEAR TERMS:

Sue Kern (170), Gerry Bill (169), Mark Hernandez (159), Mike Rhodes (154)

### 1 YEAR TERMS:

Deborah Speer (153), Diane LaRue (134), Leni Reeves (131)

## JANUARY FRESNO HAPPENINGS

by Devoya Mayo

This month's calendar has much to offer. Keep in mind, however, that this is based on my limited knowledge of what's going down in Fresno. If you don't see anything that strikes your fancy, this simply means it's time to create it. After all . . . it's our city . . . take ownership and you can make it even better! Now . . . here's the skinny!

Every Monday: Starline Presents: Unplugged Mondays. This event combines music, words, and a host of other artistic treats and is brought to you courtesy of "Psychochick Productions" with assistance from "Dos Delgados." \$1.00 cover gets ya in and the event is all ages. Starline is located at 831 E Fern Ave in the Tower District.

Every Third Tuesday: Starline Presents: Ahh Yeah Poetry Jam. This blend of spoken word, heavy beats, and visual stimulation explodes on Jan. 21 this month. The open mic list fills quickly as this favorite spot is usually packed. Get there early and you might even get a treat. \$2.00 cover, all ages. Starline is located at 831 E Fern Ave in the Tower District

Every Wednesday: Club Habanos Cigar Bar: The Dakota Iyall Trio heat things up with jazz and jazz-funk stylings over at the cigar bar in the Palm and Herndon shopping center. 9 PM-midnight, no cover, 21 and over.

Every Wednesday: 90.7 FM KFSR: Mykal Powell invades the airwaves each week with "Explorations," a journey into eclectic funk, rare groove, jazz, and hip hop from 6:00 PM-8:15 PM. Then Devoya Mayo slides in for "Jambalaya Corner," a 45-minute interview and music session with local artists and community movers 8:15-9:00 PM.

Every First and Third Thursday: Way 2 Funny Comedy, the latest addition to entertainment in the Valley gets under way at Gina's Nightclub on Jan. 2 and 16 this month. Host Feather Dwise brings an uptown selection of funny cats to downtown Fresno each and every month. Prices vary, 21 and over. Gina's Nightclub is located at 1234 Van Ness Ave in downtown Fresno.

Every Friday: The Landmark: The Kevin Hill Trio set up shop each Friday evening bringing the best in jazz for your late dinner lounge experience. This happening gets started at 8 PM. No cover, all ages.

**Want more happenings? Email Devoya at [deepharcyde@yahoo.com](mailto:deepharcyde@yahoo.com) and get all the weekly events delivered right to your very own computer.**

"You can plan a pretty picnic but you can't predict the weather." —Outkast

## People Wanted

Are you concerned about the growing hunger in our valley? Do you believe everyone has the right to have enough to eat? Would you like to do something to help people get food? If you have a little time, we'd like for you to volunteer to learn how to fill out Food Stamp applications for people and then fill them out. The Human Resources Food Stamp workers in Fresno County are running around 800 cases per worker, and they surely need help. If you're interested, call Diane Scott at 222-6135. Hope to hear from you.

### *Gun Control continued from page 15*

ers, and gun shows. When necessary, LCAV also has coordinated *pro bono* legal assistance for defense of these regulations in court. The California Local Ordinance Project contributed to tremendous growth in local efforts to reduce gun deaths and injuries. Many of these grassroots reforms led to the enactment of new state laws regulating the sale and possession of firearms. The California Local Ordinance Project was so successful that communities in a number of other states began to request the assistance of LCAV.

Staff from LCAV reviewed the status of local ordinances from throughout California and contrasted them to the lack of ordinances in Fresno. They also provided extensive resource materials with model ordinances, information on which communities in California have local ordinances, and of course, information on how the National Rifle Association has distorted the meaning of the Second Amendment.

The participants at the workshop agreed to work locally for ordinances to help reduce gun violence. LCAV is ready to provide the legal expertise needed. The date of the next meeting has not yet been set. Watch the Community Calendar for an announcement.



# CANADIANS TO LEAD WEAPONS INSPECTION TEAM INTO USA

A coalition of Canadian peace groups today announced their intention to send an international team of volunteer weapons inspectors into the United States later this winter. The coalition, Rooting Out Evil, are recruiting inspectors through their newly launched website, [www.rootingoutevil.org](http://www.rootingoutevil.org) <<http://www.rootingoutevil.org>> <[www.rootingoutevil.htm](http://www.rootingoutevil.htm)> . "Our action has been inspired by none other than George W. Bush," said Christy Ferguson, a spokesperson for the group. "The Bush administration has repeatedly declared that the most dangerous rogue nations are those that: 1) have massive stockpiles of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons; 2) ignore due process at the United Nations; 3) refuse to sign and honour international treaties; and 4) have come to power through illegitimate means. "On the basis of President Bush's guidelines, it is clear that the current U.S. administration poses a great threat to global security," said Ferguson. "We're following Bush's lead and demanding that the U.S. grant our inspectors immediate and unfettered access to any site in the country - including all presidential compounds - so

that we can identify the weapons of mass destruction in this rogue state," added David Langille. Visitors to Rooting Out Evil's website are invited to sign on as honorary members of the weapons inspection team. Honorary inspectors can participate in the action, or they can simply lend the support of their name as they would on a petition. The actual inspection team that crosses the border will be comprised of prominent individuals from Canada and other countries. The Rooting Out Evil coalition includes Greenpeace Canada, the Centre for Social Justice, and the Toronto Committee Against War and Sanctions on Iraq, and is supported by American groups such as the National Network to End the War Against Iraq, Global Exchange and the US section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. They oppose the development, storage, and use of weapons of mass destruction by any state. For information: David Langille or Christy Ferguson [info@rootingoutevil.org](mailto:info@rootingoutevil.org) Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada Phone (306) 664-6071.

# End Corporate Rule Reclaim Democracy!

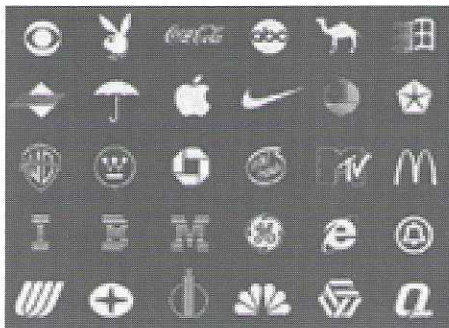
[ReclaimDemocracy.org](http://ReclaimDemocracy.org) PO Box 532 Boulder, CO 80306 303-402-0105

## ABOLISH CORPORATE PERSONHOOD

V. Diane Scott

An Organizational Meeting for "Abolish Corporate Personhood Study Groups" will be held January 28, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno. If you are feeling frustrated about the way corporations are running our lives and government today, would like to learn more about corporations, how they became so powerful, and what We The People can do about them, please come to the Organizational Meeting Jan. 28. We will discuss the make up of the small groups, the materials which were developed by WILPF and the logistics of the groups where your input as to time, place, day, how often to meet, and whatever else you need and/or want to know about the process. The materials are grouped into ten sessions and ten or so persons is a good size for each group.

The number of groups will be decided by how many people want to participate and how many people will agree to facilitate the beginning meeting. The job of facilitator is expected to move from person to person during the course of the program. Live music with Lonesome Jem. Together, we will sing songs of solidarity and revolution suitable for the occasion. Questions? Need info? Call Diane Scott 222-6135.





## Progressive community groups active in the Fresno area:

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee,  
Fresno  
Ph (559) 436-5232 • Fax (559) 436-5232  
info@adcbresno.org • www.adcfresno.org

Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition at  
CSUF • youngmorghan@hotmail.com

Central California Alliance • Ph (559) 265-7117  
www.ccafresno.org

Community Alliance for a Fair Economy (C.A.F.E.)  
Ph. (559) 445-0887 • nancymarsh@yahoo.com

Death Penalty Focus Families & Friends of  
Prisoners Support Group  
Phone/Fax: (559) 255-9492  
maria.telesco@worldnet.att.net  
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/focus/

Earth Day organizing committee  
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/earthday/  
contact Sandra Guzman at: (559) 243-9338  
sand\_g1995@yahoo.com

El Comité No Nos Vamos • Ph. (559) 498-6033  
IWAPGH@aol.com

Food Not Bombs • (Saturday) Ph. (559) 266-5305  
or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas)  
fresnofnb@yahoo.com  
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB

Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional  
Ph. (559) 499-1178 • Fax (559) 268-0484  
lvasquez@sbcglobal.net  
http://www.laneta.apc.org/fiob/

Fresno Center for Nonviolence 985 N Van Ness  
Fresno, CA 93728 • Ph. (559) 237-3223  
zaygb@csufresno.edu  
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/

Fresno County Bicycle Coalition  
Ph. (559) 277-2693 • fresnobike@yahoo.com

Fresno County Green Party • Ph. (559) 265-3647  
fresno@greens.org  
http://www.greens.org/cal/fresno

Fresno Metro Ministry  
Ph. (559) 485-1416 • Fax (559) 485-9109  
http://www.fresnometmin.org/  
walt@fresnometmin.org

Fresno Free College Foundation/Radio Station KFCF  
Ph. (559) 233-2221 • Fax (559) 233-5776  
Studio, Call-in Line: (559) 225-8888 or 266-8888  
office@kfcf.org • http://www.kfcf.org

The Interfaith Alliance of Central, California  
Ph. (559) 225-1438 • bdj14@cvip.net

The Living Room • Ph. (559) 485-3667  
Fax (559) 485-3669 • livingroom@pacbell.net

National Stonewall Democrats • Ph. (559) 292-4905  
hubbell@online.no  
http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/

Pan-Valley Institute • Ph. (559) 222-7678  
Fax (559) 222-7682 • mnateras@afsc.org

Parents & Friends of Lesbians/gays  
Ph. (559) 434-6540

Peace Fresno • Ph. (559) 237-3223  
peacefresno@neuhouse.com  
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno/

Proyecto, Campesino Ph. (559) 733-4844  
Fax (559) 733-2360 gmartinez@afsc.org  
http://www.afsc.org/pdesc/pd297.htm

Radio Bilingue KSJV 91.5 • Ph. (559) 455-5777  
fsivak@radiobilingue.org  
http://www.radiobilingue.org/

San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Ph. (559) 443-1317 • SJVCoalition@aol.com

San Joaquin Valley Exchange Works  
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The Sleeping Bag Project  
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St. Benedict, Catholic Workers • Ph. (559) 229-6410  
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http://www.stbencatholicworker.org

Sun Mountain  
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http://www.sunmt.org/chronicles.html

Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club  
http://www.sierraclub.org/

United Farm Workers  
P.O. Box 62 Keene, California 93531  
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http://www.ufw.org/

United Students Against Sweatshops  
Ph. (559) 292-1821 • purple80lady@hotmail.com

Women's International League for Peace and  
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