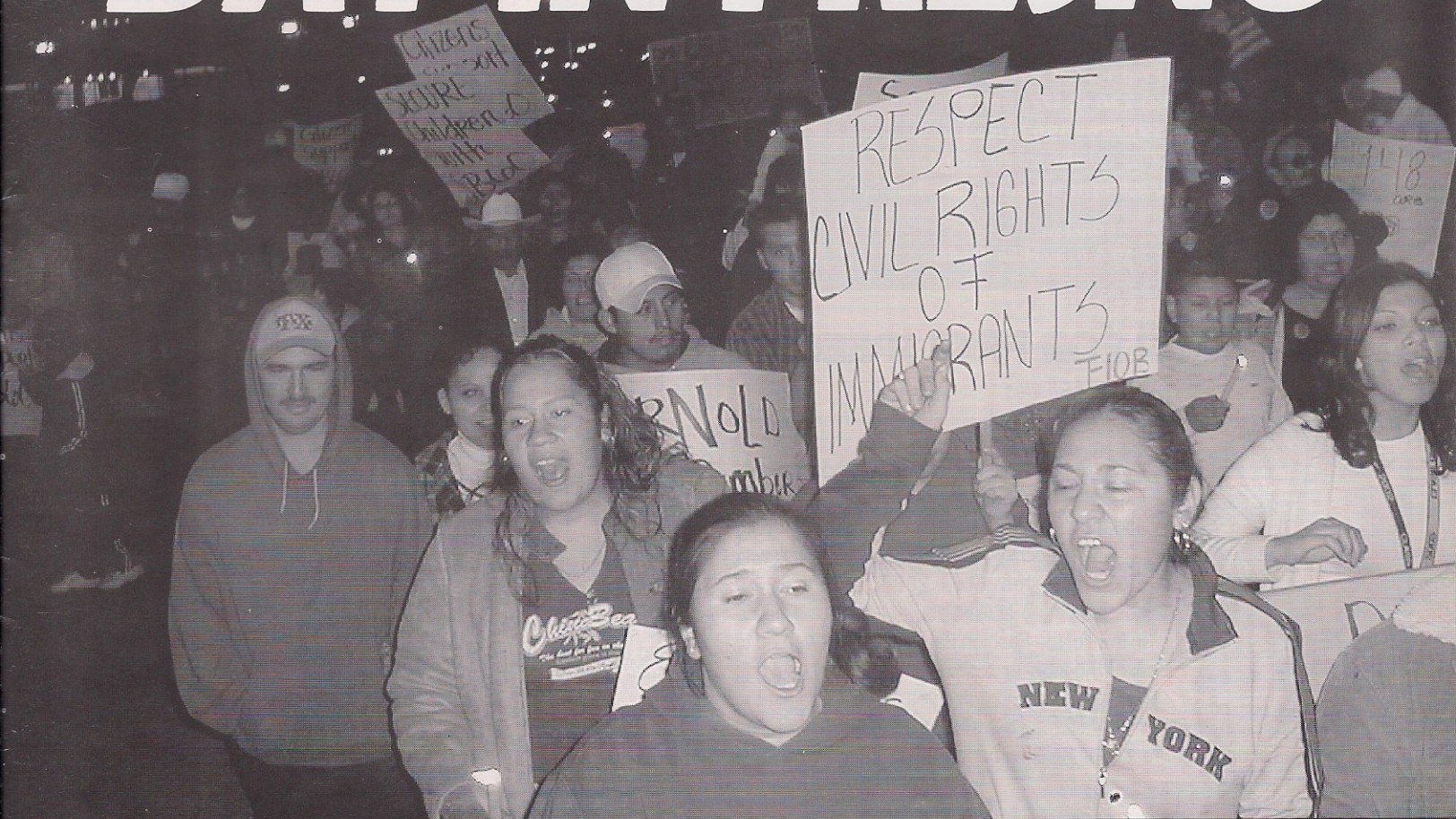


# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY IN FRESNO



On December 10 (Human Rights Day) hundreds of immigrant rights activists and their allies took to the streets of Fresno to protest Governor Schwarzenegger's repeal of the drivers license bill. The right for everyone to have a drivers license is a public safety issue. Everyone who is driving should be tested and licensed rather than having undocumented immigrants driving around in fear on our roads trying to get their kids to school, go to the doctor, or to work.

This march was followed by a boycott on Friday, December 12 that was a huge success in showing the economic power of the Latino community.

### In This Issue:

- WHY WE NEED AN INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR ..... PAGE 3, 10, & 11
- STUDENT REBELLION AT FRESNO HIGH ..... PAGE 7
- REGIME CHANGE BEGINS AT HOME ..... PAGE 8
- WEST FRESNO COMMUNITY VISION PLAN ... PAGE 12



**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.**

**Editor: Mike Rhodes**

**Editorial Board: Maria Abuelas, Carol Bequette, The Rev. Floyd Harris, Diane Scott, Janet Slagter, Richard Stone, Leoncio Vasquez, and Pam Whalen**

**Layout/Design & Printing:  
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**P O Box 5077**

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**(559) 226-0477 (voice)**

**(559) 226-3962 (fax)**

**e-mail: AllianceEditor@comcast.net**

**website: <www.fresnoalliance.com/home>**

**Photos:**

**Page 1, 7, 10 & 11 by Mike Rhodes**

## STANDING UP FOR FREE SPEECH

*by Mike Rhodes  
December 7, 2003*



David Espinoza is a videographer who is producing a movie about shopping centers and malls and the experiences activists have had exercising free speech in them. He was here to talk with me about the May 2000 arrest of 19 antisweatshop activists by riot-gear-clad police in front of the Fashion Fair mall. David wanted to hear the story of how we stood up for our rights by first defending ourselves in court against the

criminal trespass charges, and how we turned this around and filed a civil action against the mall and City of Fresno for violating our civil liberties. It was a story I was happy to tell.

After an interview about this story at my home, David wanted to go to Fashion Fair and see the "scene of the crime" for himself. With digital video camera in hand, David was standing in front of the mall, in the very spot where I had been arrested three and a half years earlier, and I started telling him about the incident. Within one minute we were accosted by a security guard, who told us that this is "private property" and that filming is not allowed. We told him, of course, that it is our constitutional right to be there and that he was attempting to violate our civil liberties. The security guard told us to leave or he was going to call the police. Again, we tried to explain to him that we have the right to be at the mall and to videotape an interview. We were now joined by another security guard. They were *not* playing good cop/bad cop. These were two *bad* rent-a-cops!

On the other hand, David and I could not have ordered two rent-a-cops like this out of "central casting." These guys played their role very well, and David got the whole thing on videotape. The second security guard demanded that David immediately turn off the camera, which he refused to do. The security guard reached for the camera and pushed it into David's face. Ouch! We said something about threats, intimidation, and assault, and now we had these two guys really mad. They said they were going to have us arrested. You could just see the testosterone pumping in their blood. The second before all hell broke out right there at the main entrance of the mall (on a huge pre-Christmas sale day, I might add) the two security guards' supervisor showed up, and not a second too soon.

The supervisor immediately told the more aggressive of the two rent-a-cops to remove himself from the scene. There was a tense moment of hesitation. The guard remained, standing belligerently right in front of our faces. His supervisor again ordered him to leave. Reluctantly, he was forced to back off. The other guard continued to stand menacingly on our other side. He too was told to stand back. When both security guards were a safe distance away, the supervisor asked us what is going on. He is someone I remembered from the many times we had held demonstrations at Fashion Fair mall. We explained that we were doing an interview about the Fashion Fair incident in which I and 18 others were arrested protesting against the Gap's use of sweatshop labor. He said that was fine and told us we could continue.

After we were done at the mall entrance, David and I walked inside the mall and down to the Gap. Nobody tried to stop him from videotaping inside the mall. When we got inside the Gap, we were approached by the store manager, who put her hand up to the camera lens and told us that filming was not allowed inside the store. Of course, David continued filming, more interested than ever to see how this drama would unfold. We talked to the manager for a while, filming the whole thing, and then left when we were ready.

This whole incident was a wonderful illustration of how things have changed (or not) at Fashion Fair. The front line security at Fashion Fair is aggressive and untrained. They will threaten and intimidate anyone exercising their First Amendment right to free speech. Most people, when confronted with one or two aggressive security guards who are threatening to have them arrested, will leave. The mall knows this and counts on the expected reaction. When arrested, most people will "plead out" instead of going to trial to challenge this violation of their civil liberties. When offered a choice of 10 hours of community service versus 1 year imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine if convicted, most people will succumb to the pressure.

Fashion Fair mall knows that some people will stand up for their free speech rights. That is why they didn't arrest us yesterday. Fashion Fair and the Fresno Police Department now know that people have a constitutional right to be at the mall and engage in free speech actions. That is why, if you stand up for your rights, they can't legally arrest you. For more information about your free speech rights and the May 2000 incident at Fashion Fair, go to <<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/GAP.htm>>.

*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*



According to a recent report published by the Fresno Police Department called the "2025 Public Safety Need Assessment," the FPD is estimating that by the year 2025 the police department will have grown to 1601 sworn officers. But what kind of oversight mechanism will there be to ensure that our growing police force won't be plagued by the same types of police misconduct for which the LAPD has become famous?

## END THE BRUTALITY EPIDEMIC IN FRESNO!

by Nicholas DeGraff

The Centers for Disease Control need to be alerted immediately. An epidemic is sweeping California and it's not the flu. . . . Deaths have been reported in cities small and large, including yours. In many neighborhoods, people are in fear of leaving their homes; daily life is different for these residents. This disease can affect any family but tends to prey on our low-income and minority neighborhoods. Survivors who have been affected suffer life-long effects from exposure. The epidemic is police violence.

Not all cops are bad cops, but how are community residents supposed to trust a police department that does not have a strong system for keeping good cops on the street, and dealing with the police officers that cross the line between protector and tyrant? How are families who have lost a loved one to a police shooting supposed to trust an investigation that is led and overseen by the police department itself, by those who have an interest in justifying the shooting?

For many years now, community leaders have been trying to answer that question for our city leaders: Adopt an Independent Police Auditor (IPA). Both the mayor and the chief of police agree that an IPA is needed. The City of Fresno's Independent Police Auditor Study Commission found there are two healthy, viable models for an Independent Police Auditor now operating in California, in Sacramento and San Jose. The Independent Police Auditor study commission would consider both as best practices that would be useful, in whole or in part in developing a Fresno IPA.

(IPASC Report, 10/1/03)

The major difference between the two models is that in Sacramento, the IPA reports to the city manager and in so doing, to the mayor; whereas in San Jose, the IPA reports to the community through the city council. Many working for police oversight as well as the Central California Criminal Justice Committee agree that the San Jose model is better for the City of Fresno. Many feel that having an IPA that reports to the city council will make it more responsive to community needs.

In the City of San Jose, the IPA has made policy changes that have resulted in complaints being reduced to zero for the last year. The three primary functions of the San Jose IPA are to

1. serve as an alternative office for the filing of police complaints. This alternative forum, as opposed to a police station, creates an atmosphere in which people feel safe in filing a complaint.
2. monitor and audit investigations of citizen complaints conducted by the police department. Investigations of complaints are reviewed for thoroughness and objectivity as well as consistency (to ensure that the evidence at hand supports the findings of the investigation). During the investigation, the San Jose IPA is present for questioning and has full access to all information and files regarding the complaint.

3. promote public awareness of a person's right to file a complaint. The San Jose IPA meets with community groups to get community input and makes recommendations for changes in training as well as departmental policy.

At the risk of sounding like John Lennon, let's imagine Fresno with an IPA like the one in San Jose. People who feel they have been mistreated by the FPD will be able to go to a safe place to file a complaint instead of into a police station, which is often intimidating. Families of the victims of police violence will have an office that will ensure that the investigation was fair and impartial. Training and policy will come under review such as the changes which make it more likely that an officer will opt to use lethal force over non-lethal force.

If an IPA would be so great, why don't we have one now? Good question, one to ask your city council member. Members of the city council claim that there isn't enough money in the budget to pay for an IPA. (See story by Gloria Hernandez in this issue.) Perhaps this may be too much for the Centers for Disease Control to cure, but not for your city council member. Encourage the city council to get the cure for Fresno; write to

Tom Boyajian, District 1: [district1@ci.fresno.ca.us](mailto:district1@ci.fresno.ca.us)

Brian Calhoun, District 2: [district2@ci.fresno.ca.us](mailto:district2@ci.fresno.ca.us)

Cynthia Sterling, District 3: [district3@ci.fresno.ca.us](mailto:district3@ci.fresno.ca.us)

Brad Castillo, District 4: [district4@ci.fresno.ca.us](mailto:district4@ci.fresno.ca.us)

Mike Dages, District 5: [district5@ci.fresno.ca.us](mailto:district5@ci.fresno.ca.us)

Jerry Duncan, District 6: [district6@ci.fresno.ca.us](mailto:district6@ci.fresno.ca.us)

Henry T. Perea, District 7: [district7@ci.fresno.ca.us](mailto:district7@ci.fresno.ca.us)



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# WHAT WERE THESE GUYS THINKING?

## **Two-Headed Space Alien Shrinks Labor Movement**

by Gary Huck and Mike Konopacki

Capitalism Sucks Press

112 pages, \$14.95

A book review of sorts by Kathy Wilkes

For many of us who've had the pleasure and pain of working for a union, cartoonists Gary Huck and Mike Konopacki are like old friends: always there when you need them. Their cartoons are a boon to busy labor editors, the bane of bad employers, and a boost to beleaguered working stiffs everywhere.

No, this is not an objective review by a long shot.

Spoofing supermarket tabloids, their fifth and newest book, *Two-Headed Space Alien Shrinks Labor Movement*, gets its name from the fact that people often confuse these self-labeled "hirsute, four-eyed cheese heads" from Wisconsin who, since forming Huck/Konopacki Labor Cartoons in 1983, have documented with their art the shock and awe of a labor movement under siege.

In typical tabloid-ese, the book charges H/K with using extraterrestrial powers to single-handedly shrink union membership in the US by over seven percent. "Lies, lies!" they respond. "We are NOT from the AFL-UFO. Our only crime was working for a lost cause!"

Gary and Mike do, however, admit they had havoc in mind when they put their heads together twenty years ago. Syndicating a monthly package of labor cartoons, they vowed to "use humor and acerbic workingclass wit to subvert the capitalist conspiracy against worker solidarity and creativity."

Apparently they never heard of Murphy's Law.

It comes as no surprise, then, that Pete Mueller, whose own cartoons have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Progressive* and other national publications, begins his foreword to *Two-Headed Space Alien* with the question: "What were these guys thinking?"

The answer is in their art.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, H/K cartoons speak volumes about the stuff that really matters to working people, the stuff the mainstream media usually ignores. Stuff like decent wages and working conditions; safety in the workplace and healthcare for our families; the right and the inevitable fight to support a union; a future for our kids through a good education; a future for ourselves

through retirement with dignity; employment, unemployment and underemployment; free trade vs. fair trade; America's eroding manufacturing base; the "invisible hand of the marketplace" that pumps up corporate piggery and slashes our social safety net.

Despite labor's decline there's still plenty of move in the movement, and it's those movers and shakers who are H/K's most avid fans. Whatever the issue, nothing revs up the ranks like a swift kick in the seat of power, and nothing accomplishes that better than labor cartoons plastered on picket signs, lockers, bulletin boards and all over the union newspaper. Bosses *really* hate that.

And then there's politics. The 2000 Florida election coup; 9/11, war and peace, blood and oil; the Bill of Rights and the USA PATRIOT Act; the twisted brain of our "Pretzel Prez"; our two-faced, one-party system; those ever-present, well-heeled, high-rolling, back-stabbing, hoodwinking, double-dealing, anti-worker, money-grubbing, democracy-destroying corporate criminals—and the politicians they own.

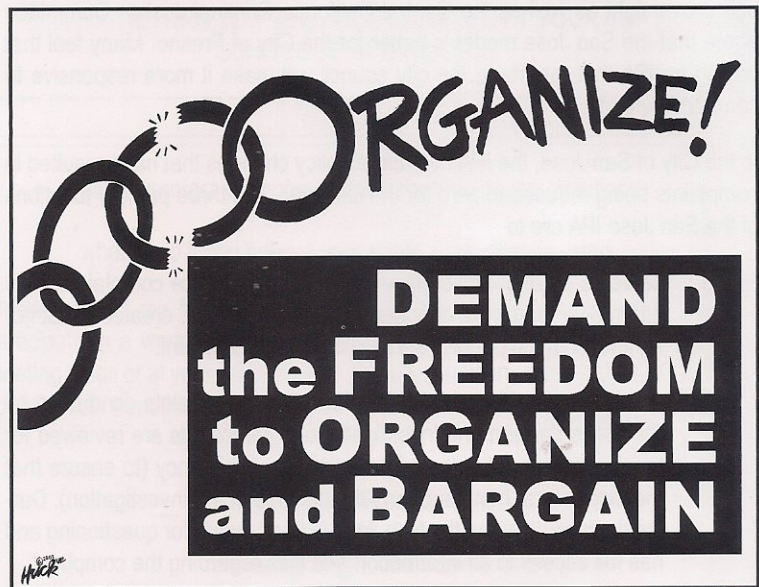
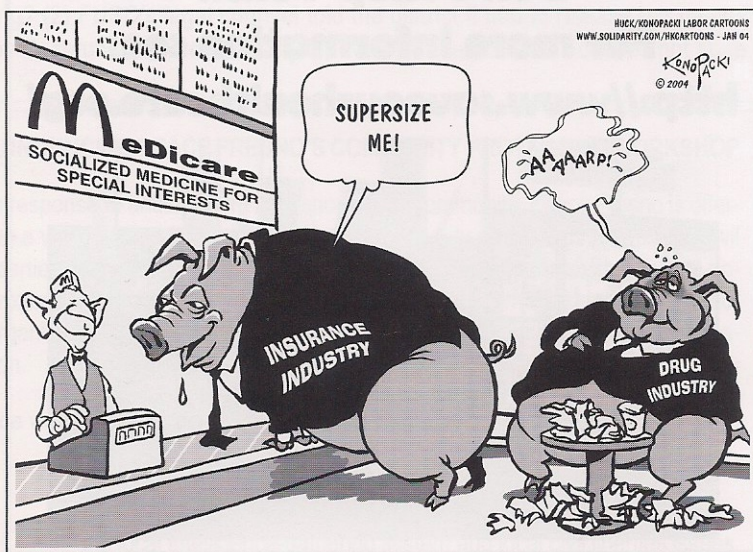
Thank your lucky stars, H/K's got it covered. Otherwise, pass the Prozac, please.

H/K Labor Cartoons aren't just about sorely needed comic relief, though. They make us think, and that's the last thing the powers-that-be want us to do. Masters at emasculating the high and mighty, H/K's enterprise boldly goes where no one has gone before, which is precisely why the "kept press" won't touch them with a two-foot light saber. Maybe that space alien thing isn't so far off the mark after all.

Celebrating Huck/Konopacki's twenty-year collaboration, *Two-Headed Space Alien* also features other works by the artists, including Gary's hilarious gag cartoons, "Oddservations," and moving tributes to John Lennon, Malcolm X and Lenny Bruce, along with Mike's occasional zine, *Wage Slave World News*, and thought-provoking political comics for Amnesty International and others.

Priced for the working class Gary and Mike love and work for, the book is a bargain and can be purchased online at: <http://solidarity.com/hkcartoons/>. Even if you don't buy the book, check out the website for cartoons, animations, political comics, and more. It's fun, it's funny, it's...out of this world.

Kathy Wilkes is past editor of *The Dispatcher*, the house organ of the *International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)*, and has done freelance work for several other labor publications, all on this planet.





# THE U.S. ARRESTS IRAQ'S UNION LEADERS

by David Bacon

BAGHDAD, IRAQ (12/10/03)—US occupation forces in Iraq escalated their efforts to paralyze Iraq's new labor unions with a series of arrests this weekend. On Saturday, a convoy of ten Humvees and personnel carriers descended on the old headquarters building of the Transport and Communications Workers union, in Baghdad's central bus station, which has been used since June as the office of the Iraqi Workers Federation of Trade Unions. Twenty soldiers jumped out, stormed into the building, put handcuffs on eight members of the Federation's executive board, and took them into detention. "They gave no reason at all, despite being asked over and over," says federation spokesperson Abdullah Muhsin. Soldiers painted out the name of the federation on the front of the building with black paint. Because the new Iraqi unions lack basic resources like office furniture and machines, there was little to confiscate in the building. "But we did have a few files, and they took those," Muhsin adds. Ironically, the office had posters on the walls condemning terrorism, which soldiers tore down in the raid. Although the eight were released the following day, there was no explanation from the Coalition Provisional Authority for the detentions.

The bus station raid followed the detention of two other trade union leaders on November 23— Qasim Hadi, general secretary of the Union of the Unemployed, and Adil Saihi, another leader of the organization. Hadi has been arrested twice before by occupation troops, for leading demonstrations of unemployed workers demanding unemployment benefits and jobs. In the latest raid, CPA troops said they'd found two guns in the union's office, which was only permitted to have one. Hadi explained that the organization has been the subject of threats and fatwas by Iraqi religious parties, and needs weapons for self-defense, since US troops are unable or unwilling to provide security.

The two were released after being detained for a day. Both union groups have been organizing Iraqi workers for months. The Iraqi Workers Federation of Trade Unions held a convention in Baghdad last June, at which it established unions in twelve industries. The Unemployed Union belongs to the Workers Unions and Councils group, which has also been organizing since last summer.

The wave of union organizing going on in Iraq is a product of the desperate conditions of the country's workers. As many as seven million people, according to the Union of the Unemployed, or seventy percent of the workforce, have no jobs, go hungry, and are even homeless. Although Congress appropriated \$87 billion for reconstruction, Dr. Nuri Jafer, the deputy minister of Labor and Social Affairs admits he can find "no country willing to fund our plans" for a minimal system of unemployment benefits. Reconstruction is invisible in Baghdad. Work may be proceeding on pipelines and ports for oil exports, but huge piles of war rubble lie untouched in city streets.

US funding in Iraq pays for an overwhelming military presence, and the transformation of the Iraqi economy. Both are intended to make the country attractive to foreign investors. In an October 8 phone press conference, Thomas Foley, director for private sector

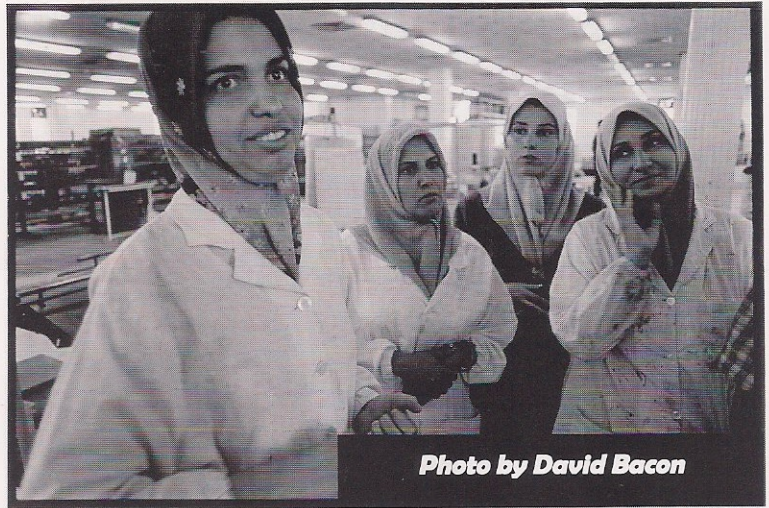


Photo by David Bacon

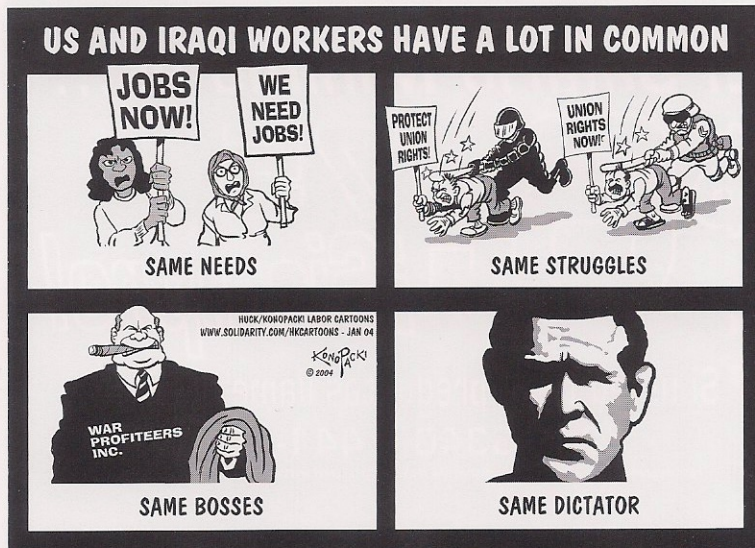
development for the Coalition Provisional Authority, announced a list of the first Iraqi state enterprises to be sold off, including cement and fertilizer plants, phosphate and sulfur mines, pharmaceutical factories, and the country's airline. On September 19, the CPA published Order No. 39, which permits 100% foreign ownership of businesses, except for the oil industry, and allows the transfer of profits outside the country.

Iraqi workers view the prospect of the privatization of their workplaces with dread, fearing the sell-off will bring massive layoffs. The manager of the Al Daura oil refinery, Dathar Al-Kashab, predicted that with privatization, "I'll have to fire 1500 [of the refinery's 3000] workers. In America when a company lays people off, there's unemployment insurance, and they won't die from hunger. If I dismiss employees now, I'm killing them and their families." At the refinery, as in most factories, those with jobs work 11- and 13-hour shifts for a salary of \$60 a month. They have no safety shoes, goggles, masks, or other protective gear. The Iraqi Workers Federation of Trade Unions helped the refinery's workers organize a union and elect its leaders, and have done the same in other industries. In Basra workers have formed a central labor council, and have mounted protest demonstrations. The Workers Unions and Councils group has helped workers elect committees in the State Leather Industry plant, the largest shoe factory in the Middle East, and the Mamoun Vegetable Oil enterprise, among others.

Whenever these new unions try to talk with the plant managers, however, they're told that a law decreed by Saddam Hussein in 1987 forbids workers in state-owned enterprises (where the majority of Iraqis work) from forming unions. The CPA is still enforcing this law. Another order issued by the CPA on June 6 threatens that anyone who "incites civil disorder" will be detained as a prisoner of war under the Geneva Convention. The recent arrests are the latest incidents in this effort by the occupation authorities to suppress unions.

The antiunion campaign lays bare the economic purpose of the occupation—the privatization of the enterprises that employ most workers. While suppressing unions, international conferences take place in Washington and London every week, at which these assets are put on sale. At one recent conference, ExxonMobil, Delta Airlines, and the American Hospital Group all expressed interest. Since new foreign owners can be expected to cut labor costs by laying off workers, resistance at the worksite has been made illegal by laws banning unions and the arrest of their leaders.

In an additional step to make investment attractive, the CPA is holding down the wages of Iraqi workers. The \$60 a month received by most employees was the same salary paid under Saddam Hussein, but the bonuses, profit-sharing payments, and subsidies for food and housing were ended when the occupation began, resulting in a drastic cut in income. "The coalition forces control the finances, and our wages," says Detrala Beshab, president of Al Daura's new union. Iraq's new labor movement is determined to stop the sell-off of worksites, the loss of jobs, and the prohibition of unions and strikes. Jassim Mashkoul, the IFTU's director for internal communications, laments that "at the beginning, we thought our situation might get better, since we got rid of Saddam Hussein. But it hasn't improved." According to another federation leader, Muhsen Mull Ali, who spent two long stints in prison for organizing unions, "Our responsibility is to oppose privatization as much as possible, and fight for the welfare of our workers." But to the Bush administration and the occupation authority, this activity is a crime.





# FFCF/KFCF BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

The Fresno Free College Foundation, owners and operators of KFCF 88.1 FM, recently held elections for their Board of Directors. A total of 134 ballots were counted with the results as follows:

Deborah Speer(l) 112 votes\*

Diane LaRue(l) 91 votes\*

Nicholas DeGraff 70 votes\*

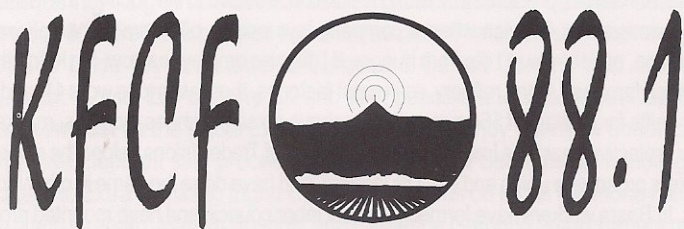
Leni Reeves(l) 68 votes

Waldo Porter 45 votes

\*elected

(l)Incumbent

Board members are now elected annually and serve three year terms.



## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno



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01/11 • "What the Death Penalty Does to Us" by Rev. Bryan Jessup & Donna Larson

01/18 • "Creating Sacred Conversations" by Rev. Bryan Jessup & the SQG Group

01/25 • "Tell Me Why the Stars Do Shine" by George Burman

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*The ad below is from the Workers Rights Center. Look for the ad to appear this month inside all Fresno City transit buses. Thanks to David Bacon for the photos and Hume Printing for design and layout.*

*The Minimum Wage is...*

**\$6.75** - Always!

If you have questions call  
244-5340 or 441-1611

*El Salario Minimo es...*

**\$6.75** - ¡Siempre!

Si usted tiene preguntas llame al número  
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Funding provided by the San Joaquin Immigrant and Worker's Rights Center and the Great Valley Foundation Legacy Fund







# STUDENT REBELLION AT FRESNO HIGH!

by Mike Rhodes  
December 3, 2003

The students say that there are "Cockroaches in the cafeteria, rats are all over the campus, and the bathrooms don't work!" The final insult to the 500 students, who walked out of school on November 14, was when the Fresno Unified School Board authorized a \$25,000 salary increase for Superintendent Santiago Wood. The students were angered and outraged that the school district's top administrator would be given and accept a salary increase when their school was falling apart. More than 500 students walked out of Fresno High School and marched downtown to the school administration building to protest this injustice.

The size of the protest, organized in just a few days, surprised even the organizers. With such a large number of students at the march, all that the police and school officials could do was watch events unfold. The student leadership of the march spoke eloquently to the members of the press that ran to keep up with the march. Through the media, the students told the community that they did not have enough books or desks in their classrooms; they demanded that Dr. Wood not accept the salary increase. Many classrooms at Fresno High are using books that are more than 10 years old—written during the Reagan or first Bush presidency.

Fresno High is a multiethnic school in the center of town, with many students from poor and working-class families. More than 50% of the students that enter this school as freshmen will drop out before they graduate. When students do not have books, have to sit on the floors, and fight with rats for their food, the high dropout rate is not surprising. Why do we not hear about these problems in the more affluent districts' schools? Will the lack of available resources and high dropout rate exacerbate the wide gap between the rich and poor?

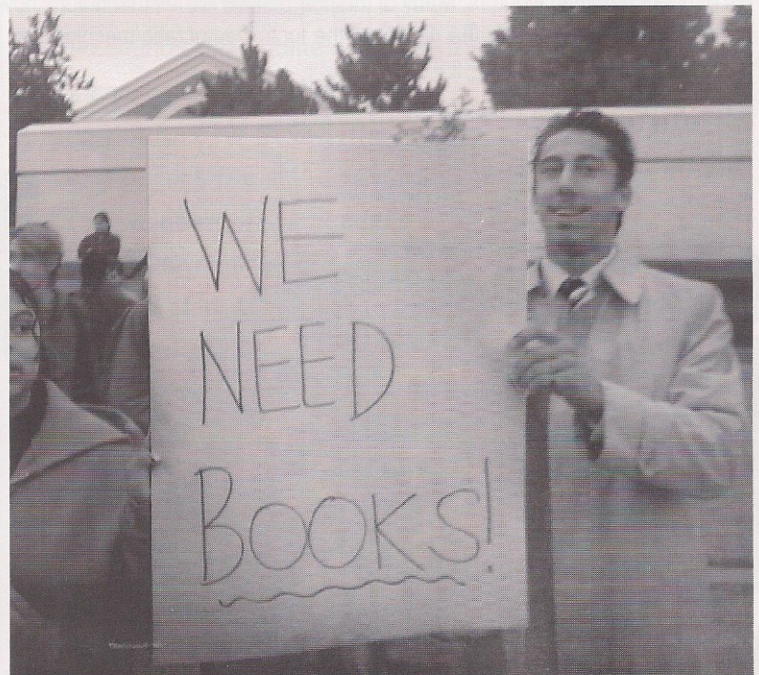
Immediately after the march, the school administration started a campaign to retaliate against anyone, particularly teachers, who might have encouraged the student walkout. Teachers were threatened with disciplinary action or termination if they encouraged students to participate in the walkout. An organizer for Californians for Justice was threatened by one of the investigators for the school district with criminal prosecution for encouraging juvenile delinquency. Many students and their supporters have demanded an end to the threats, intimidation, and retaliation by the school district. They are asking why the school administration has money to investigate the teachers and their allies but not enough resources to kill the cockroaches.

After employing threats and intimidation, the school district started finding money to buy new books and desks. Within a week these supplies started to arrive, and the school administration claims that every student now has a desk. The witch hunt continued, but no witches were burned. At the school board meeting held on De-

ember 3, chairperson Richard Johanson announced that there was no evidence that school employees were involved with the walkout.

The students at Fresno High were consistently ignored until they walked out and said that there would be "no business as usual" until the problems were fixed. This action put a spotlight on the problems at the school, which has led to some improvements. The students who marched to downtown Fresno last month were standing up for their rights. They have won an enormous victory for all of the students at Fresno High and learned an invaluable lesson that would not have been found in their civics books (if they had some). They participated in the democratic process and exercised their First Amendment right to free speech as guaranteed in the Constitution. Chris Schneider, director of Central California Legal Services, said at the December 3 school board meeting that "the students seem to understand the First Amendment of the Constitution better than some of the school board members." Katayoon Majd, an attorney for the ACLU of Northern California, warned the school board against retaliating against students, teachers, parents, or their allies who were exercising their First Amendment rights.

For more information about this issue contact Californians for Justice at 1922 N. Echo, Fresno CA 93704 (right across the street from Fresno High), (559) 443-1394, [fresno@caljustice.org](mailto:fresno@caljustice.org) or visit their website at [www.caljustice.org](http://www.caljustice.org).





# REGIME CHANGE BEGINS AT HOME / READER FEEDBACK

Last month we asked *Community Alliance* readers to look at the issue of the upcoming local and national elections. Here is the question we asked and below are the responses we received.

Are we going to let the Republican Party determine who the next mayor of Fresno will be? Why have we not heard the name of one Democrat mentioned as a candidate for mayor? How about a Green? Does the left/progressive community have a strategy for local elections?

In other news, it looks as though we will have to defeat George W. Bush again.

In one hundred words or less tell us what strategy the left/progressive movement should have in these electoral contests. What is your vision for winning political power both in Fresno and Washington, DC?

\*\*\*\*\*

Your question: "Does the left/progressive community have a strategy for local elections?" The answer is—no! The liberals in Fresno, for the most part, do not entertain the concept of ballot box political action. The few who do entertain the concept of ballot box political action join the Green Party with the result that only Republicans and conservative Democrats enter the political arena and eventually wind up holding powerful political positions in our community. This is most unfortunate since, for better or for worse, laws that affect us from the cradle to the grave result from elected officials' actions. Incidentally, the lack of liberal political action which is found in Fresno holds true for the nation.

Sincerely, Vincent J. Lavery,

\*\*\*\*\*

The Democrats cannot nominate someone against a Republican here in the Fresno area, because they are just as conservative. As moderates, progressives, liberals, and leftists, we should seriously consider the Green Party as a viable alternative. Matt Gonzalez in San Francisco almost won. It was the same coalition of Republicans and Democrats that caused Matt Gonzalez to lose. If the Democrats are not willing to radicalize, democratize their base, then we should all switch to the Green Party. We used to have a problem with unions becoming more radical, and now they have changed their strategy: they are now supportive of undocumented workers. Many of the progressive issues that unions now promote seem to be below the dignity of the local Democratic machineries. I VOTE GREEN.

Aurelio De Los Santos

\*\*\*\*\*

Locally, the Green Party so far has candidates for state assembly and congress. There will be more local Green candidates with each passing election. The rate at which this happens depends on people's willingness to financially support candidates.

Nationally, it is a shortsighted mistake for Greens to change their registration so they can have input into the Democratic primary. Most people are doing this to support Dennis Kucinich, who has *no* chance of being the Democratic nominee. Their time would be better spent convincing Mr. Kucinich to go Green, instead of betraying their own core values to register with a party that did not oppose the Iraq war or the Patriot Act.

Jeffrey Eisinger, California Green Party Regional Representative.

P.S. I will give 10 to 1 odds to anyone who wants to bet \$10 on whether Kucinich is the Democratic nominee for President.

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Paul Hawken assures us in *Natural Capitalism*, "In the United States, more than 30,000 citizens' groups, and organizations, are addressing the issue of social and ecological sustainability. Worldwide, their number exceeds 100,000. Together, they address a broad array of issues, including environmental justice, public policy, conservation, women's rights, corporate reform, climate change, and more. A deeper, extraordinary pattern is emerging. If you ask these groups for their principles, frameworks, conventions, or declarations, you will find that they do not conflict. Never before in history has this happened." As these groups approach a higher consciousness aligned against a common foe of injustice, so will they achieve political and social power.

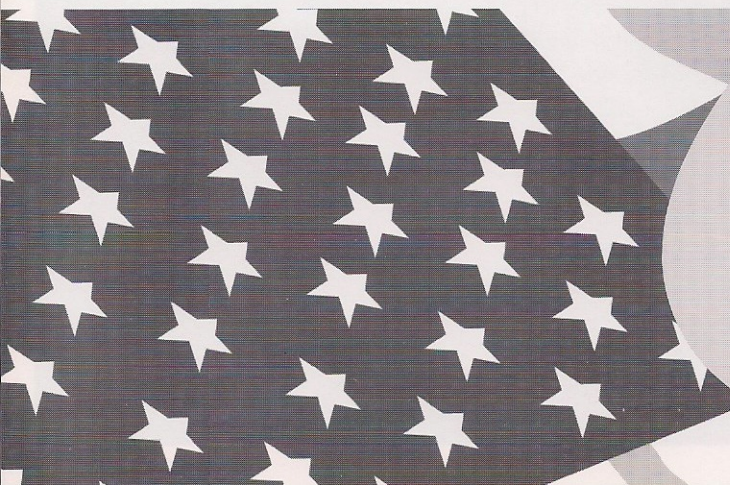
Stephen D. Malm

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The Democratic Party is fragmented. How about it unifying behind *human rights*, which would cover all issues of concern for the majority of caucuses and people: education, food, shelter, environment, immigration. On the local level we must be more concerned about the city sprawl, which is causing congestion, pollution, and scarcity of water and utilities. It is time to stop spending and re-evaluate the budget and expenditures. Let's be more united and confident that this is where it is at.

Lydia Flores

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# REGIME CHANGE BEGINS AT HOME.

# ★ VOTE ★

[WWW.MOVEONPAC.ORG](http://WWW.MOVEONPAC.ORG)



# STOP BUSH!

LOCAL GROUP ORGANIZING DELEGATION  
TO REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION  
IN NEW YORK

by Michael Becker

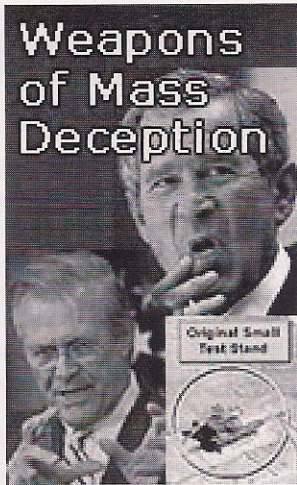
There is a storm brewing across the country. As the Bush administration, its corporate cronies, and their paramilitary dragoons continue to assault civil liberties, the environment, minorities, students, and the working class, the barometer is falling and pressure is building. Heavy weather is predicted for the Republican National Convention taking place at the end of August in New York City.

New Yorkers voted overwhelmingly for Al Gore and resent the staging of the RNC in their city; New York families of 9/11 victims are already voicing their outrage that the Bush junta has chosen to use ground zero to score political points (rumor has it that Bush will lay a cornerstone of the 9/11 memorial during the convention); and New York activists have already demonstrated their organizing skills by bringing hundreds of thousands of protesters into the streets during the recent illegal war against Iraq.

Activists from around the country—indeed, from around the world—have already begun plans to give President Bush a New York greeting he will never forget. Even here in Pleasantville (aka Fresno), organizers are gearing up for next August's RNC. RaNCor—"Radical anti-Neo-Conservative Organized Resistance"—is a Fresno-based group of dedicated activists making sure that their voices will be added to the hundreds of thousands saying No to George Bush, No to his illegal, unilateral, imperialist foreign policy, No to his grotesque and destructive anti-environmental policies, and No to his siphoning off of profits and taxes to corporate criminals. RaNCor has a goal of getting one hundred Fresnoans to NYC for the RNC. Fund-raising efforts have already begun for younger folks and others who will need financial assistance in order to make the trip. New York is beautiful in late August, though it may be hot with severe thunder and lightning at times this year. Don't miss out.

We meet the first Friday of each month at 6:30 PM at City Cafe, at the NE corner of Shaw and Blackstone in the Mor strip mall (after the monthly peace rallies). Security arrangements will be in place to prevent infiltration by Homeland Security/JTTF. If you're sick of the Bush fiasco and would like to tell the neo-cons as much in person, join us. See you in Manhattan!

## Weapons of Mass Deception



# MEDIA DEMOCRACY COMES TO TULARE

by Jimmy Garcia

KNFS-LP 89.1 FM has been granted a permit to build a low-power (community) radio station. The permit requires that we demonstrate the capacity to broadcast 35 hours of programming per week in order to receive a license from the FCC.

We need to raise about \$5,000 to purchase broadcast equipment (antenna, transmitter, etc.) and studio equipment (microphones, mixers, edit/recorder, etc).

A portable "studio-in-a-suitcase" will be made available to members of the community to produce programs. These programs will be syndicated to a national audience through an association of low-power radio stations.

Our community radio station needs your support. Donations to the Lorax Society (not tax-deductible) are being accepted by

Don Manro, 693 E. Kern, Tulare, CA 93274; (559) 686-6836; DonManro@webtv.net; and Jimmy Garcia, 606 South Linda Vista, Visalia, CA 93277-2033; (559) 734-8326; JamesMartinGarcia@yahoo.com.

## AFSC-PROYECTO CAMPESINO/RADIO GRITO HAS MOVED!

They are now at:

208 W. Main St., Suite U-2 • Visalia, CA 93291

Ph. (559) 733-4844 • Fax (559) 733-2360

email: gmartinez@afsc.org

## JANUARY TAKE-ACTION REPORT

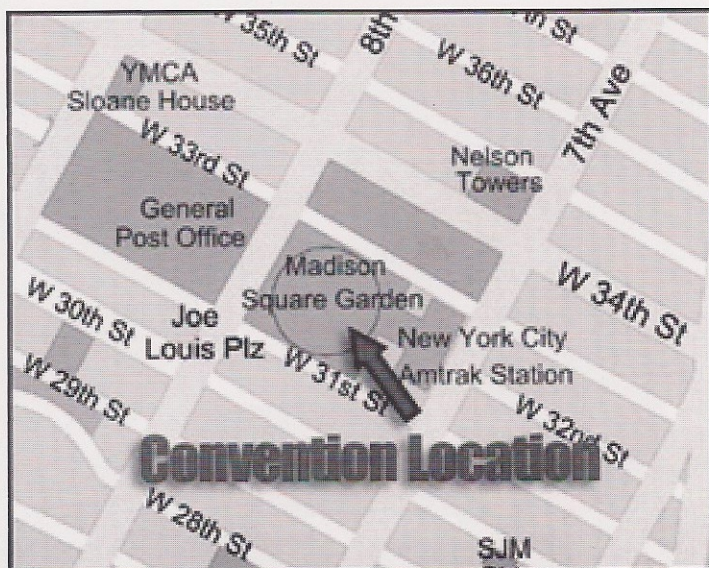
by Vickie Fouts

**Oppose Government Surveillance of Peaceful Protesters:** Peaceful protesters should not be treated as potential terrorists, nor spied upon by federal government agents. Not only is this a misuse of public funds that could be used to find real terrorists; it chills free-speech activities and inhibits the public debate on important issues. Fax Attorney John Ashcroft at <[www.aclu.org/FreeSpeech/FreeSpeech.cfm?ID=14469&c=42](http://www.aclu.org/FreeSpeech/FreeSpeech.cfm?ID=14469&c=42)>.

**Equal Insurance Coverage for Women:** Why are women still paying out of pocket for birth control, while drugs for men, such as Viagra, are covered by insurance? Tell your senator that women deserve full insurance coverage for birth control under the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act (EPICC)! Sign petition at <[www.care2.com/go/z/9329/1049](http://www.care2.com/go/z/9329/1049)>.

**Protect the Freedom to Choose a Union:** New bipartisan legislation (H.R. 3619 and S. 1925) introduced in Congress will help fix the broken process through which workers form unions. Please take a moment right now to send a message to your senators and representative. Urge them to sign on as a sponsor of this important pro-worker legislation. Send them a letter at <[www.unionvoice.org/campaign/sponsorsfca](http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/sponsorsfca)>.

**Don't Let the SEC Drop the Ball on Corporate Reform:** The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is on the verge of adopting significant corporate reforms that could, for the first time, give investors a voice in selecting directors for the corporations they own. However, intense business lobbying is spoiling the integrity of these needed reforms—making recourse for investors unworkable—providing investors options that are not really options at all. Tell the SEC to enact corporate reforms that investors actually can use at <[www.unionvoice.org/campaign/proxyaccess](http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/proxyaccess)>.





# THE HIGH COST OF POLICE BRUTALITY

by Gloria Hernandez

"He ain't heavy, he's my brother." That song goes round and round my head whenever I think about the recent officer-involved shootings or incidents of police brutality and all the property they have managed to get their hands on thanks to us, the Fresno taxpayers. We, the community, can carry our brothers and sisters by insisting that our city have Independent Police Auditor oversight. We have recently read that the police department is seeking accreditation to become more professional but it comes to this city at a cost—a cost that didn't stop the already accredited Cincinnati police from beating a man to death (and the case was sent to the Independent Civilian Review Board there).

The mayor is recommending that the item be placed on the City Council's agenda in mid-January 2004. CCCJC encourages everyone to call the city manager's office and get a copy of the mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee's report recommending that Fresno have an IPA. Read it, make notes, and contact your council members to make sure they have read the report and can answer to you why they object to having an IPA. They will tell you what they told us: It costs too much money.

We have seen more and more lawsuits and claims being filed against the police department for police misconduct. I have before me 61 pages of claims, not lawsuits, provided to our attorney in accordance with the Public Records Act Request. The amounts paid by the City of Fresno for claims filed against the FPD from fiscal year 1998 to fiscal year 2002 are too numerous to list. The claims were filed for incidents that occurred when police officers were pursuing cars, running stop signs, towing vehicles, striking parked cars, and so on. I have listed some that caught my eye:

11/7/98	\$50,295.64	assault/battery against a family
11/27/98	\$44,650.82	excessive force
6/22/99	\$21,819.88	excessive force
7/12/99	\$9,536.51	mental anguish
7/12/99	\$8,675.05	civil rights violation
7/22/99	\$124,652.97	excessive force
7/23/99	\$50,000.00	sexual harassment
9/9/99	\$544,710.42	bodily injury (four minors)
9/19/99	\$8,129.14	assault/battery
9/23/99	\$2,227.12	mental anguish
9/24/99	\$5,973.74	assault/battery
10/9/99	\$3,457.71	excessive force
12/13/99	\$47,476.14	excessive force
3/7/00	\$8,746.59	excessive force
4/1/00	\$29,399.38	civil rights violation
5/6/00	\$42,079.44	civil rights violation
6/2/00	\$9,436.52	excessive force
7/9/00	\$1,751.00	civil rights violation
8/23/00	\$1,336.00	false arrest
8/26/00	\$750.00	animal bite
11/24/00	\$217.66	excessive force
1/24/01	\$1,752.24	excessive force
2/8/01	\$1,185.00	excessive force
3/16/01	\$2,451.69	assault/battery
5/17/01	\$155.29	excessive force
7/18/01	\$597.95	excessive force
7/21/01	\$23,430.86	excessive force
7/22/01	\$63.00	excessive force
9/12/01	\$220.01	civil rights violations
3/26/02	\$1,063.30	animal bite

I also have some information regarding the lawsuits that have been settled or paid out by the city of Fresno. \*Case filed 10/15/99 federal court (assault/battery off duty officer) settled \$575,000. \*Case filed 2/8/96 federal court (sec.1983 action, excessive force settled \$45,000.00

Out of the 32 pending court cases as of December 18, 2002: 12 were filed for excessive force, 15 for anything from civil rights (racial, sexual, etc.) to personnel actions and some for accidents resulting from the officers in pursuit.

This does not take into account the amount of money that both sides paid for court costs or attorney fees. That's *mucho dinero!* So make sure your council member knows that we are already paying too high a price not to demand oversight.

For more information regarding this article, email Gloria from CCCJC; she can be reached at iwapgh@aol.com.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN CONFRONTED BY THE POLICE

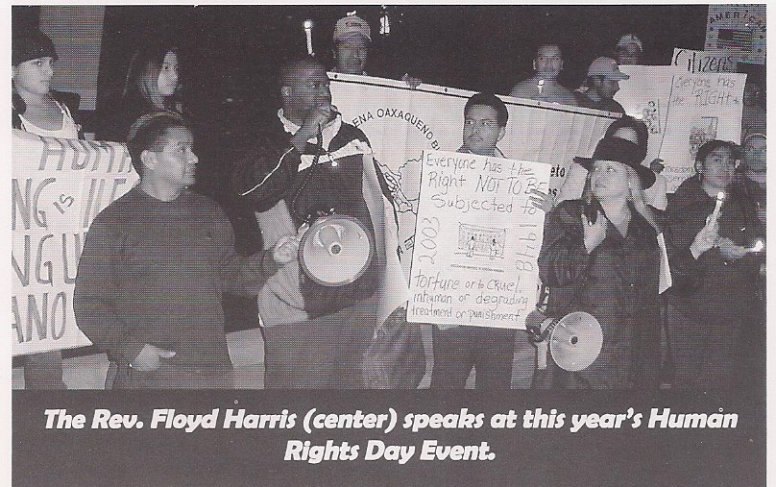
by the Rev. Floyd Harris

On December 13 at Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene in southwest Fresno, thirty residents came to the workshop "Know Your Rights When Confronted by a Police Officer." The National Action Network, CCCJC, El Comite No Vamos have led the charge in bringing accountability to the Fresno Police Department. Gloria Hernandez explained to the group that you have six months to file a claim against the Fresno Police Department if you feel that your civil rights have been violated.

The Rev. Floyd D. Harris Jr., former chairperson of the Southwest Fresno Neighborhood Watch, is now the California State president of the National Action Network under the leadership of the Rev. Al Sharpton. Harris says that he had a situation with a Fresno police officer in his community. Harris asked a police officer to write down his badge number and the officer refused to do so. The officers didn't even ask if any help was needed and then they called for police backup. Harris then went to the southwest Fresno police station to tell them what happened. Ellie Bluestein accompanied Harris to the police station, and the officer wouldn't let Bluestein in the room because he said this was a personnel matter.

At a meeting the following Saturday, Harris asked Lieutenant Callahan (Commander, Internal Affairs Unit): "Is there any department policy that the person filing the complaint can't take someone with him or her in the oral interview?" Callahan replied that there is no such policy. Harris was misled by the southwest Fresno police, and others are being misled. This is why the community workshops are so important: they educate the public on police procedures and accountability.

Another workshop is planned, and that information will be in the *Community Alliance* calendar.



**The Rev. Floyd Harris (center) speaks at this year's Human Rights Day Event.**



# WE NEED AN INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR **NOW!**

by Ellie Bluestein

In January a proposal for an Independent Police Auditor for the City of Fresno will come before the city council. Most of the city council members oppose it, partly on the grounds that the Police Officers Association is not in favor of it, and they carry much weight with politicians who want their endorsement and money. However we know that there are many police officers who favor an IPA, but who are afraid to speak up.

Here's what the president of the Los Angeles Police Department Union had to say:

"A civilian review board will bring common sense and civilian judgment to the specialized world of policing. Police officers are a pretty tight bunch. We tend to talk and think alike a lot of the time. After years on this kind of intense job, it is possible to lose the detachment needed to evaluate fairly the complaints about police misconduct. The experience of police departments in other cities is that civilian review boards can bring the balance and nuanced understanding of disciplinary issues that police-only boards cannot."

She goes on to say:

"... It is only with such a system in place that we can restore the pride we once felt as members of what we still believe to be one of the finest and most professional police organizations in the world. We are committed to rebuilding a culture of trust, honesty, and integrity."

Despite the work that the Central California Criminal Justice Committee has put in for about four years now, working with the police chief, and despite the measures that he assures us have been put in place, we have no sense that these are actually working.

Because of complaints about officers not identifying themselves or telling people why they are being stopped or questioned, we were promised that better communications would be stressed and each officer would be required to give out an identifying business card. We have been told that the business cards are in place, at great expense, but we have no reports indicating that they are being used.

We requested that cultural sensitivity training be given to all police officers. We were shown a video of such training that was totally inadequate, and our requests to use local community people who are trained and sensitive to the needs of our residents has been denied.

We worked very closely with the police chief to formulate a new complaint form, published in four languages, that is to be made available at 10 locations. But the complaint process is still totally inadequate.

No one at any of the locations has had any training as to the use of these complaint forms. Even the officers at the downtown police station are inadequately informed as to policy concerning the complaint process and do not even produce the forms unless pressed to, often requiring ID from people, telling the complainant he must speak directly to an officer first, denying the existence of the forms, and so on.

Central California Criminal Justice Committee has therefore put together the following information sheet that should be included with every complaint form. This is the kind of work that an IPA should be doing and monitoring. If we don't get the city council to put such a police oversight system in place now, we will all lose out. Our committee does not have the power to put such measures in place and to monitor the outcome.

## **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN FILING A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE POLICE**

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER** when you believe the police officer behaved improperly or abused you or someone in your family or property was damaged by them.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO FILE THE COMPLAINT WITHOUT FEAR OF RETALIATION FROM THE POLICE.** The purpose in filing a complaint is so that the police Department's Internal Affairs can investigate to correct, discipline, or terminate the officer(s).

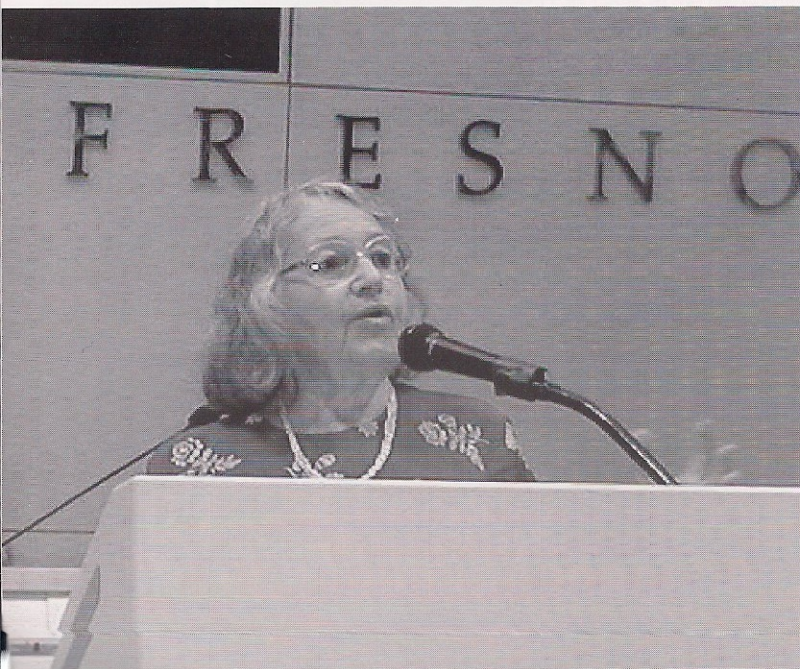
**BE AWARE THAT THE FRESNO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINT FORM** states that it is against the law if you knowingly filed a false complaint against a police officer. **HOWEVER, IF YOU BELIEVE** that your rights were violated by the police officer you are not knowingly filing a false complaint.

**IF YOU ARE CONVINCED AN OFFICER COMMITTED A CRIME,** and you have witnesses and evidence, but the police internal affairs investigation resulted in no action, and your pursuit of justice led to dead ends you should **BE AWARE** that aside from filing a police complaint **YOU HAVE SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE INCIDENT TO FILE A CLAIM AGAINST THE CITY OF FRESNO IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO RECOVER ANY DAMAGES (MONEY) FOR THE INCIDENT.** To do this you must ask for a claim for damages from the risk management department located in the first floor of Fresno city hall.

**YOU CAN FILE A CLAIM IN SMALL CLAIMS COURT FOR LESS THAN \$5,000.00 DAMAGES.** In order to do this you must have filed the claim for damages.

You should document actual damages, whether physical, emotional, financial, or by virtue of having had your constitutional rights violated by the police officers to file with the claim or in court.

The mission of the Central California Criminal Justice Committee is to work to ensure that constitutional and human rights of the people of Fresno will not be violated by the police department.



**Ellie Bluestein explains why we need an Independent Police Auditor.**



# West Fresno Community Vision Plan

by Vickie Fouts

West Fresno recently received a \$50,000 Caltrans Environmental Justice Grant. Caltrans is giving out an estimated \$1,500,000 in grants in 2003/2004 to comply with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It is a known fact that for decades interstate highways have been primarily put through neighborhoods of color. This caused economic, social, and environmental problems for those communities. West Fresno was one of those communities targeted with Highway 99. Others may think it is still taking place with Highways 41, 180, and 168. The grant is a way to mitigate the harm that was done.

The grant was administered by the Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG). The Local Government Commission (LGC) and Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development (FWCED) used the grant to hold community meetings and to write up an action plan. Dan Burden, director of the nonprofit Walkable Communities, Inc., facilitated community meetings March 27–31, 2003, and has recently presented a draft report. Burden was named by *Time* magazine as one of a few Civic Innovators of the 21st Century.

The charrette, or series of public involvement events, was attended by more than 300 people who included representatives of government and non-government organizations and a diverse group of citizens who live in southwest Fresno: African-Americans, Latinos, Caucasians, and Asians. The first meeting was a discussion lead by Burden with members of city, county, and Caltrans agencies followed by a bus tour of key commercial and redevelopment areas in West Fresno. The next phase included community service providers, nonprofit and community advocacy activists, and church leaders and members of the Edison/Southwest Citizens' Planning Advisory Committee. A third meeting consisted of those working with recent immigrants and those who speak Spanish, Laotian, Cambodian, and Hmong. Next came a meeting with Lincoln Elementary fifth-graders, a public workshop at Columbia Elementary, and a walking tour around Columbia Elementary attended by several groups. Information collected from these meetings was put into a conceptual plan by the Walkable Communities, Inc. team and presented to the public. The purpose of the plan is to create a safe, more walkable/livable, and economically viable community.

"Livable neighborhoods promote interaction among the residents, contribute to the well-being of individuals, and create and sustain a sense of community and personal safety." —Safescape: Creating Safer, More Livable Communities Through Planning and Design

A 54-page draft report entitled "West Fresno Community Vision Plan" was completed in October and can be found at [www.lgc.org/fresno](http://www.lgc.org/fresno). The vision plan centers around two areas to make the community more walkable/livable. The first is village centers and neighborhoods. Village centers can be seen in the Tower District and Old Town Clovis, where commercial and neighborhood areas encourage walking and the interacting of people and businesses including some

public space such as a plaza.

The second plan concerns streets and intersections. This plan sees streets as public spaces which can be shared by pedestrians and drivers in a way that all have a safe and pleasant experience and continues



**Children and adults attended a series of events to help form a vision for the future.**

the concept of a walkable/livable community.

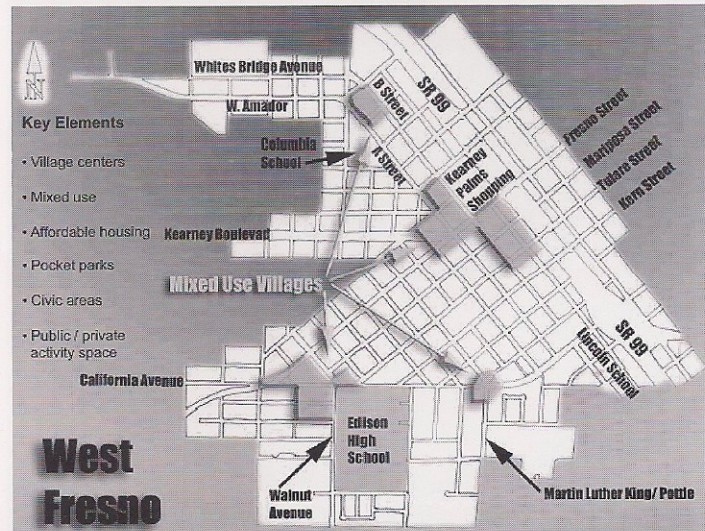
During the public meetings many expressed concerns about implementation; that no changes would occur after the meetings. Outside of the public meetings some were concerned that the plan would be overtaken by big government and big developers. It is hoped that with input from the citizens, community leaders, and government agencies, all will see that the plan belongs to all of them and it will be their responsibility to see it through in a manner that will be in the best interest of the community. Grants are already being written to help implement some of the recommendations.

In an interview with Keith Kelley of FWCED for this article he was asked what he would like to share with *Community Alliance* readers regarding the West Fresno Community Vision Plan. He stated that we need to educate people and politicians on innovative ways they can serve the community in a win-win situation. "For too long we have allowed ourselves to think 'we don't have the power and there is nothing we can do'." Kelley feels that we can definitely mobilize the community to get involved as shown by what FACT (Fresno Area Congregations Together) has recently done in the community. Kelley stated that we need to get people moving on the education curve showing them that when we are talking about mitigation and environmental justice, we are not just talking about an injustice. We need them to understand how we can do this better, to take chances and not maintain the status quo, to think outside the box and go against the grain with long-term approaches to creative community development.

If you are interested in taking innovative steps to do away with social injustices in West Fresno visit the West Fresno Community Vision Plan at [www.lgc.org/fresno](http://www.lgc.org/fresno) and then call FWCED at (559) 485-1119 to see how you can help the vision become reality. West Fresno citizens have as much a right to a walkable/livable community as do North Fresno citizens.



## Vision Plan: Village Centers and Neighborhoods



Village centers identified above take advantage of assets already in place. The largest village is envisioned near Kearney Palms.



# LINK OF LOVE

## An Interfaith Celebration

by Veena Kapoor

A very special gathering of faith and civic leaders and people from diverse religious traditions will take place with the intent of deepening our sense of caring, concern, and compassion for one another. It is a unique opportunity to sow the seeds of love and friendship and to make heart-centered connections among people of our Beloved Community.

Honorable guests include the Most Rev. John T. Steinbock, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Fresno, Pastor G. L. Johnson, the Rev. Bryan Jessup, the Rev. Paul Binion, and Sister Chandrika Desai of San Francisco.

**Date: Saturday, January 17, 2004**

**Time: 4 PM to 5 PM (Reception to follow)**

**Place: Hope Lutheran Church, 364 E. Barstow, Fresno  
(NW corner of Fresno & Barstow)**

**For more information, call (559) 435-2212.**

**There is no charge and all are welcome.**

Sponsored by: Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization, San Francisco Branch; The Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Committee, Fresno; The Interfaith Alliance of Central California; Human Relations Commission, City of Fresno.

# HELP THE HOMELESS

by Jean Chip

The Sleeping Bag Project is still in need of many sleeping bags and blankets to reach as many of the estimated 2,000 homeless people living outside during these cold wet winter months. I'd like to share some of the exciting news about what's been happening at the Sleeping Bag Project this year. We set a goal to collect \$3,000 and to give away at least 300 sleeping bags to the homeless. So far we have received almost \$1,200 and given out almost 100 bags. I have another 50 bags on order. In the past we've been able to give only 100 to 200 sleeping bags for the whole winter. so we are well ahead of any time in the past. Derrel's Mini Storage has been kind enough to donate enough storage to hold as many bags and blankets as we can collect. However, if we are to have a successful winter season, we need your help: all we give away comes from the generosity of others. Check out our new website at <[www.fresnoalliance.com/sbp](http://www.fresnoalliance.com/sbp)>. Donation information: (559) 441-1787.



**CITY COUNCIL PROFILES:** Because of schedule problems during the holidays, there is no profile this month. We will return next month with an interview of council member Mike Dages.

## Poetry Corner

Other poets with a political edge to their work can email or send poems to the Community Alliance, Attn. Richard.

### My latest poem. Uncle Bill

#### THE BOMBERS

by Bill Warner

Abdul

Abdul checks the detonators

As his vest of death awaits

Its fatal lethal mission

Born of duty, faith, and hate.

His last minutes test his courage,

Trembling, as young martyrs do.

He knows Paradise awaits him,

And he knows what he must do.

Sudden deafening explosion!

Sudden terrifying blast!

Midst the dead, the maimed, the dying

He has found his peace at last.

He has struck his blow for freedom,

For his lofty noble cause,

For his homeland, God and family,

For the ancient sacred laws.

Andy

Andy checks the plane's computers

In the icy stratosphere

Dreaming of his home and sweetheart

Dreaming of football and beer.

Just before he throws the levers

Just before the sky-death falls

Andy wonders if the Raiders

Will win any games at all.

Now the plane leaps up, just lightened

As its lethal load's released.

And the bombs fall cold, uncaring

For democracy and peace.

He has struck his blow for freedom

For his lofty, noble cause

For his homeland, God and family,

For its ancient, sacred laws.



# GREEN PARTY RUNS LOCAL CANDIDATES

by Mike Rhodes

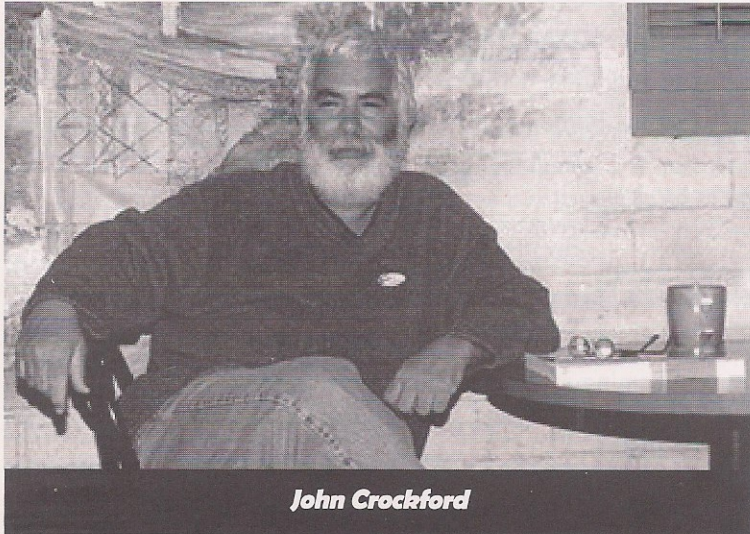
The Fresno County Green Party is running two candidates in local races. John Crockford is running in the 29th Assembly District. That seat is currently held by Steve Samuelian, who is not running for re-election. Larry Mullen is running in the 19th Congressional District, which is currently held by George Radanovich.

Both of these seats are considered "safe" by the Republican Party. In fact, the Democrats are not even running a candidate against Radanovich this year! In past years, when Democratic candidates ran against Radanovich, they received minimal support from their party. This year we have a simple choice: vote for a right-wing, prowar Republican, or vote Green. In the 29th Assembly District there is one Democrat running (Michael Macias) and three Republicans. The Republicans will slug it out in the March primary and the winner will face Macias and Crockford in the November general election.

The significance of Green Party candidates on the local ballot is that they have matured and now have an electoral strategy. There will be a voice in these races talking about environmental justice, peace, and workers' rights. Both John and Larry sent the *Community Alliance* magazine background information about themselves and their campaigns. Here is what they have to say:

.....

It has only been a short while since I decided to run for political office—some-what reluctantly, I admit—but the process has given me the opportunity to re-view and consider all the political positions that I have held in this entire lifetime. And in doing so I have concluded that my beliefs in equality and justice have been with me throughout and are the banners that I have chosen to stand behind in this campaign.



**John Crockford**

It is clear to me that recent social discourse regarding the plight of humankind in modern society has achieved a better understanding of what is needed to heal the wounds and assuage the thirst for peace of all. It is also clear that the ideas generated from these exchanges have not found their way into the political process.

As a matter of fact, it is the current political process, powered by greed and avarice, that is impeding the progress of society toward a more just and equitable place. And it would be my goal as a legislator to work for fundamental changes in the political system—changes that would benefit the whole and not just the few.

To do this, I will endeavor to abide by these guidelines that I have set for my-

self—the ten key values of the Green Party:

- Ecological Wisdom
- Grassroots Democracy
- Social Justice
- Nonviolence
- Decentralization
- Community-Based Economics
- Feminism
- Respect for Diversity
- Global Responsibility
- Sustainability



For more information, you may visit my campaign web site at <[www.crockford.net](http://www.crockford.net)>.

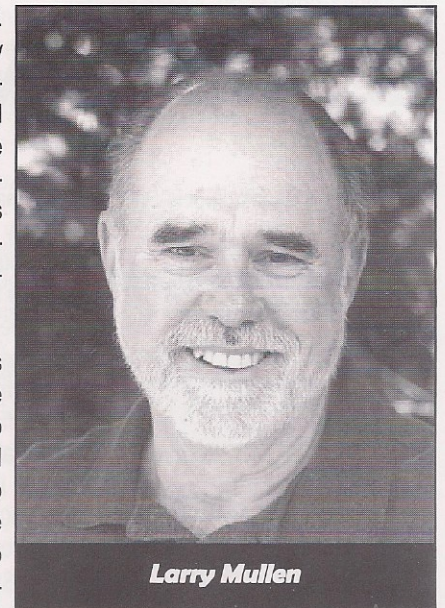
.....

Green Party candidate, Larry R. Mullen, will give voters a new choice for change in the 2004 election. He has successfully gathered enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. Larry is listed as a candidate on the Fresno County Clerk's website. Larry Mullen will be running in the 19th Congressional District.

Mullen is running because he is tired of the lies, believes there needs to be more transparency to the goings-on of government, and thinks fairness and ethics need to return to government. "It is time we consider leaving some clean air to breathe, some trees in the mountains, and maybe even Le Conte Memorial in Yosemite for our great-grandchildren to enjoy."

Running in a partisan race draws attention to the Ten Key Values of the Green Party. A real opportunity exists for voters to choose a grassroots candidate with a nonviolent, ecologically sound, socially just, and sustainable philosophy instead of a candidate from the corporate-sponsored major parties.

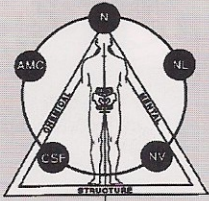
His campaign is accepting speaking requests, soliciting volunteers, and raising campaign funds. Larry Mullen may be contacted at Mullen for Congress, PO Box 17056, Fresno, CA 93744-7056, <[www.4mullen.org](http://www.4mullen.org)>, (559) 222-8683 / (559) 222-VOTE, or [mullen4congress@aol.com](mailto:mullen4congress@aol.com).



**Larry Mullen**







Phone/Fax (559) 248-9527

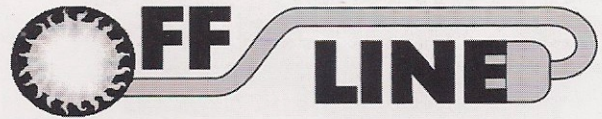
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# Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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

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

## WILPF DATES:

**Wednesday, January 7, Noon:** Women in Black, Fresno County Courthouse breezeway.

**Monday, January 12, 7 PM:** WILPF Board Meeting, 985 N Van Ness Ave. All are welcome to attend.

**Community Peace Faire Report:** What a wonderful crafts faire this year! People were coming and going and visiting like I have never seen before. Great food, music, crafts, information, and friendship! We brought in more than \$2000, which I am sure is a record. We wish to thank all those who helped make the event a success. We give an extra-big thanks to Desi Cortez & Ingrid Carmean for getting the vendors and setting up. Thanks to Julie Young & Elizabeth West for their work in the kitchen and those who brought food. Ellie Bluestein & Joan Poss did a great job in getting us volunteers. Pat Wolk did wonders with the raffle. Catherine Campbell & Laura Fultz handled the silent auction. The entertainment was great thanks to Linda Dryden. Lauralee Carbone & Denise Carmen held down the WILPF table, with Zay & Gerry Bill and their peace crane tree. Janet Capella & Rose Rowe set up the White Elephant sale, while Nancy Waidtlow donated her own White Elephant sale proceeds. Thanks to Carol Bequette for handling the volunteers. Extra thanks to Ingrid Carmean who was on top of the money all day long. Lynn Graham, Marilyn Shelton, and Catherine Garoupa among others made sure the hall was put back in order. Thanks to all who volunteered in so many different areas and to all the shoppers and vendors. There isn't room to mention all of you but we thank you from the bottom of our heart. We couldn't have done it without everyone's help. I received a few suggestions that we hold the crafts faire twice a year. Any one up for the challenge?

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Events:** As WILPF president Vickie Fouts is on the MLK Unity Committee and is in charge of the candlelight vigil program. This will be Sunday, January 18, at 5:30 PM at City Hall. The program is very diverse this year and should be a wonderful experience. Volunteers are needed to pass out programs and candles. Contact Vickie if you wish to help.

**Fresno WILPF Attacked:** In the December 8 issue of David Horowitz's online magazine FrontPageMagazine.Com was an article on the Palestine Day event WILPF co-sponsored on November 21 at CSUF. Lee Kaplan, who is a contributing editor, wrote in his article, "CAL State Palestine":

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, founded in 1915 to support women's suffrage, today organizes trips to Fidel Castro's Cuba and are linked to Women in Black, an organization that blatantly pushes for the PLO. The Women's League, besides showing solidarity with communist

Cuba, labels the Cold War and World War II as "containments" by a greedy America hell-bent on preserving her economic expansionism (imperialism). One guesses Pearl Harbor was part of that plan to enhance America's wealth.

Others attacked were Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Harnish Lecture Series, Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition, and Vida Samiian.

**Uncovered: The Whole Truth about the Iraq War:** On December 8, WILPF joined Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition along with the Fresno Center for Nonviolence and Peace Fresno in a nationwide viewing party of the film *Uncovered: The Whole Truth about the Iraq War*. This film took us behind the scenes of our government's distorted reasoning for initiating war in Iraq. More than 20 experts were among those interviewed, including former ambassador Joe Wilson, weapons inspectors Scott Ritter and David Albright, antiterrorism expert Rand Beers, former CIA analyst Ray McGovern, former CIA operative Robert Baer, and the Washington editor of *The Nation*, David Corn. The viewing of this video was made possible by Moveon.org, which organized more than 2,600 parties throughout the country. Our event, held at CSUF, proved to be a successful one. with an attendance of more than 70 people! The video can be purchased at [www.truthuncovered.com](http://www.truthuncovered.com). If anyone is interested in borrowing the video, please contact Ruth at [ruthoj@csufresno.edu](mailto:ruthoj@csufresno.edu) to make arrangements. Once again, thank you to all our supporters and all the students, faculty, and community members who came out to view the film. It was another successful evening!

**WILPF Members Honored:** At the Metro Ministry 33rd Anniversary Honoree Dinner, two of the four individuals honored were WILPF members. Congratulations to Pat Pickford and Dr. Su Kapoor. Congratulations also to WILPF member Howard Watkins for a successful Human Rights Day event with guest Ann Fagan Ginger.

*"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls. . . ." — Robert F. Kennedy*

**WILPF Loses:** Blanche Nosworthy finally had to let go of life. She was always much stronger than she looked, and her strength of mind and body kept her going longer than anyone expected. We will miss her a lot, but she has prepared many, many children to believe in themselves, in love, and in a peaceful way of life.

Lindell Cross's Bill Baird died suddenly of heart failure. She is feeling lonely and a bit at loose ends because of the unexpected, quick outcome. We offer her our condolences and our friendship.



**Mike Rhodes and Blanche Nosworthy.**  
*Photo by Pat Wolk*



## STRUGGLING TOWARD NONVIOLENCE: The Perennial Paradox

We are members of a violent species in an especially violent society. We at the Center may aspire to nonviolence, but realistically the best we can do is commit ourselves to reducing violence, not ending it. And often we disagree as to what kind, or degree, of violence is "acceptable."

A few situations have recently raised questions about our individual and collective tolerance for differences in assessing violence. One is the format used at the series of "Oxford Debates" currently in progress. There the audience is encouraged to interrupt—even somewhat rudely; and responses like "They should all be killed" are sometimes elicited. The question has been raised, "Is this a nonviolent event that the Center should continue to sponsor?" (So far, the answer is still yes.)

In another case, last month the weekly radio show hosted by Woody Miller and Wally Porter on "our" KFCF highlighted the position held by some African Americans that targeting poor women of color for abortions is genocidal. The situation was complicated by the scant time given to a guest defending abortion, and by the hosts' obliviousness to the many listeners adamantly opposed to any challenge posed by men to a woman's right to choose. This flashpoint brought forth responses tinged with violence in response to perceived violence. Should the Center become involved?

Also, "Palestine Day" at CSUF—a day dedicated to presenting the experiences and analysis of Palestinians—triggered intemperate responses by a faction of

radical defenders of Israel. They claimed that terrorists are being defended with no time given for rebuttal. As sponsors of the event, we at the Center were labeled "Marxists and anti-Capitalists who run with and support the terrorists of the PLO." How to respond?

In each case, regardless of my own position, I start by acknowledging that there is "another side" that must be listened to attentively as part of a dialogue. However, when dialogue is refused or abused (e.g., used as a substitute for seeking solutions), intentional violence is being perpetrated and needs to be opposed. And then the question is, How? What is a nonviolent, or at least a less-violent, response to the violence? Stay tuned for more as we continue to grapple with these questions.

**MISSING IN ACTION:** Our stylish plastic banner, made for us just this spring, has disappeared. We believe it was taken to a demonstration and never returned. Does anyone know of its whereabouts? We'd hate to think the CIA has taken it hostage.

**RETREAT:** Our annual planning retreat will be held on Saturday, January 10 at the Price residence. Visitors are welcome to join in our process of setting priorities and scheduling events for 2004. If interested, call us for time and directions.

**Fresno Center for Nonviolence**  
985 N. Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728  
Ph. (559) 237-3223 • [fcnv2@juno.com](mailto:fcnv2@juno.com)  
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence>

## THE WELCH REPORT

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

The writer of this report has been active with Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) for the past 20 years. PSR came into being in the 1960s with the goal of educating first physicians then others on the great dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear war.



### OUR DEFICIT OF VISION

In October 2003 Russia adopted a US-inspired doctrine of preemption. In November France followed in US nuclear footsteps, giving nuclear weapons a prominent role in dealing with "rogue states" acquiring weapons of mass destruction. France has now joined the United States and Russia in overturning its 40-year tradition of deterrence in favor of targeting its nuclear weapons at "rogue states" with a view to employing them in battle.

The reputable Center for Defense Information sees this shift as another case of the nuclear epidemic sweeping the world. "Nations as strong as the US and as weak as Iran, Pakistan, Russia, and North Korea are reaching for nuclear security in a frantic effort to ward off the demons that frighten them. But this surge of nuclear-ism around the world only erodes our security."

Few harbor the illusion that military force plays no role, or that there are easy answers to the multifaceted dangers that exist today. "But brute force alone, much less nuclear force, is certainly not the answer. Today's over-reliance on military action, particularly unilateral military intervention, stems from weak international institutions, weak diplomacy and, by extension, poor leadership." Academia, the media, and other agencies of civil society as well as government officials have failed to produce the compelling vision and strategy so needed to bring true security to the world. Time is running out on this deficit of vision. (Source: Center for Defense Information, Washington, D.C. 20036, Nov. '03)

### NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUDGET CUTS

An Appropriations conference committee, on which Sen. Dianne Feinstein had a seat, has concluded its negotiations on the fiscal year 2004 nuclear weapons activities budget. The budget for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, now undergoing design activities at both Livermore and Los Alamos Labs, has been cut by the committee to half of the president's 2004 request—from \$15 million to \$7.5 million; the enhanced nuclear test site readiness funding requested by the Administration was significantly limited in scope to ensure that the preparation time to conduct a full-scale underground nuclear blast would not be lowered to less than two years—an important victory. The bad news is that the ban on the development of mini-nukes (weapons having a yield of less than 5 kilotons), in effect since 1994, was lost. These cuts do not fundamentally alter the nation's dangerous nuclear posture. (Source: Tri-Valley CAREs Citizen's Watch, Nov. '03)

### PSR CONNECTS "NUCLEAR DOTS"

On August 5, PSR held a policy briefing at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, to draw public attention to issues being discussed in secret during the week of Hiroshima Day at Strategic Command near Omaha, Nebraska. Defense and Energy Department officials were meeting to plan new nuclear war-fighting strategies and to develop the weapons for those scenarios.

PSR recently has focused on key components of new nuclear policy in order to "connect the dots" of an array of initiatives that the Administration is using to reverse 40 years of progress towards arms control. These programs return the United States to the war-fighting doctrines of the early Cold War. PSR encourages the public to draw the conclusion that "the Bush Administration is deliberately rejecting international arms control in favor of true nuclear war-fighting capabilities." (Source: "PSR Reports," Fall 2003)

**ACTION:** Contact our members of Congress voicing our opposition to a new generation of nuclear weapons and nuclear war-fighting plans.



## FRESNO UNIFIED EXTENDS RECRUITER LIST DEADLINE

by Ken Hudson

High school juniors and seniors in Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) still have time to get their names removed from a list to be released to military recruiters. The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires school districts to release student names, addresses, and phone listings. Students and/or parents have the right to purge students' names, however, by notifying their school district in writing. Pressure from Peace Fresno and the media has forced the district to press back the release date to a fuzzy "sometime in January." *Do not delay!* Students should submit the form below to the office manager at their school immediately upon returning from winter break.

Peace Fresno has worked with FUSD on this issue since June 2003. Still, after its original deadline of December 3, FUSD would have assumed that all students and parents who had **not** notified the district were actually giving their consent to have their information released. This would have been a consent rate of 99%. However, we informed the school board at their December 3 board meeting that many families had not received a letter from the district in time to respond to their deadline. Peace Fresno's Camille Russell asked the many high school students in the audience that night to stand if they had not yet received the district's letter of November 19. About fifty students stood up, giving the board a clear understanding of the problem. We also turned to the ACLU of Northern California. ACLU attorney Julia Mass sent a letter to FUSD, informing them that many parents, like those of Edison High student Nathanael Grant, had not received the district's November 19 letter as of December 9. She went on to inform the district that FUSD would be expected to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act's provision for notifying parents and students of their rights to opt out (see ACLU letter at [www.PeaceFresno.org](http://www.PeaceFresno.org)).

Two FUSD blunders are very telling: (1) The district failed to get its letter delivered because it contracted out the mailing. Why contract out a mailing? (2) FUSD's legal counsel told the district it had to release the names by December 8, when actually the No Child Left Behind Act does not state

any deadline for compliance. FUSD has played fast and loose with the lives of its students, being willing to turn them over all too eagerly to the aggressive tactics of military recruiters, who then offer promises they know in many cases will not be kept. Also evident is that Bush's legislation holds hostage federally funded school programs such as Special Education and school meals in exchange for contact lists for the military.

Peace Fresno is currently asking for names of juniors and seniors (or their parents) who did not receive notification in time to respond to FUSD's original December 3 deadline. It may be valuable evidence that demonstrates a flaw in the "opt-out" process. Please contact Vincent Lavery of the Peace Fresno Education Committee at (559) 455-0821 or [vjlavery@yahoo.com](mailto:vjlavery@yahoo.com) to report the approximate date on which the November 19 FUSD letter arrived.

Peace Fresno holds demonstrations on the first Friday of each month (January 2 this month), 4:30-6:30 PM at Blackstone & Shaw. The theme is "Bring the Troops Home Now!" Meetings are held every Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. The first and third Tuesdays of each month are for discussions and presentations; the second and fourth Tuesdays are for business and planning.

I do **not** want my information released to military recruiters.

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Student **OR** Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO THE OFFICE MANAGER AT YOUR  
SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE.

## ANNOUNCING PEACE FRESNO'S COMMUNITY PROTECTION WORKSHOP

In response to antiterrorism infiltration of our community, Peace Fresno is offering a workshop on how to protect your community or religious group from civil liberties violations under the Patriot Act. The information provided in this approximately 20-minute workshop will serve as a primer to conducting your organization's discussion of how to protect your rights for democratic participation.

The workshop will cover

- common watch-out signs of government spying.
- the local intelligence-gathering system and local civil liberties issues.

- how to protect your organization from civil rights violations.
- what to do if you believe your rights have been violated.

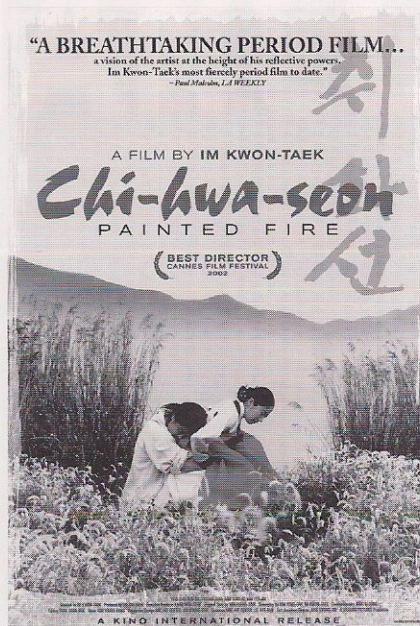
Please contact me for more information or if your organization would like to participate in a workshop. Workshops can be scheduled during your regular meeting times or at your convenience. If you know of any other organization that could benefit from this training, please feel free to forward this message to them.

Nicholas J. DeGraff  
Peace Fresno  
(559) 213-2042  
[ndegraff@hotmail.com](mailto:ndegraff@hotmail.com)



### Friday, January 9 5 PM and 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents Im Kwon-taek's "Chihwaseon: Painted Fire" at The Tower Theatre. Tickets are on sale at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave.; The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave.; and the Fig Garden Bookstore in the Fig Garden Village. Tickets are \$9.00; \$7.00, for students and seniors. For more information, call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to [www.fresnofilmworks.org](http://www.fresnofilmworks.org).



### January 16-18

Eighteenth Annual Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s contribution to the civil rights and labor movements. A weekend of solidarity in an era of war, racism, and hard times.

January 16-18, 2004

1511-1521 Rollins Road, Burlingame CA  
Union Halls of Machinists Local 1781, Plumbers Local 467, and Transport Workers Local 505.  
(Near Millbrae BART)

Song swaps, art displays, workshops, and more!

Invited performers and artists include Holly Near, Jimmy Collier, Bettie Mae Fikes, Freedom Song Network, Luis Rodriguez, Solidarity Notes (Vancouver), Harvey Schwartz, Trio Caminante, Avotcja.

For more information, contact David Winters, (831) 426-4940 or Lincoln Cushing (510) 642-1056. Updated program and even details at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/~lcushing/WWLHF/WWLHF04.html>

### THE MLK EVENTS BEGIN JAN 16TH FRIDAY COURTHOUSE PARK

See events list in the box on this page.

### Saturday, January 17

4 - 5 PM (Reception to follow)

LINK OF LOVE, An Interfaith Celebration. A gathering of faith and civic leaders, and people from diverse religious traditions will come together with the intent to deepen their own sense of caring, concern, and compassion for one another. It is a unique opportunity to sow the seeds of love and friendship, and make heart-centered connections among people of our Beloved Community. Hope Lutheran Church, 364 E. Barstow, Fresno (NW corner of Fresno & Barstow)

For more information, call (559) 435-2212. There is no charge and all are welcome.

### Saturday, January 17

5 - 8 PM

Kucinich the Peace Candidate - House Party Fundraiser. Pot luck Dinner at the home of Lydia Flores, 8316 N. Raisina. Please RSVP 559-435-7560 or [lflores566@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lflores566@sbcglobal.net)

### Tuesday, January 20

7 PM

Health Care for All campaign is coming back to Fresno! SB921, which will provide single-payer health coverage to all Californians, has a decent chance of passing soon

in the Legislature, and Fresno has a plan to help. Come see how you can get involved. Our organizing meeting will be Tuesday evening, January 20, from 7:00 to 8:30, at the SEIU hall at 1279 N. Wishon, north of Olive. Madera County supporters also welcome. For more information, or to find out about speaker training January 11, call Devin Carroll at 291-1715.

### Wednesday, January 21

7 PM

Discussion: "Whites Looking at White Privilege", third in a series of discussions in which whites will be challenged to examine the benefits received from centuries of racism. Fresno City College, Room SO-110. Third Wednesday of each month. Contact Richard Stone to enroll: 266-2559. Contact Gerry Bill for parking permit: 227-2133, or 442-4600 ext. 8348.

### Saturday, January 24

8 AM - Noon

Plant A Row for the Hungry (PAR) is sponsoring community Citrus Saturdays again this winter:

Citrus drop-off, Garden of the Sun, 1944 N Winery (north of McKinley; just south of the Discovery Center)

9:30 to Noon: Free gardening class: Growing Citrus in the San Joaquin Valley

## Events honoring Martin Luther King:

Jan. 16, Friday: Courthouse Park Garlanding Ceremony, 12 Noon.

Jan. 16, Friday: City Hall MLK Awards and Reception, 5: 30 PM.

Jan. 17, Saturday: MLK Breakfast, Ted Wills Center, 8:00 AM plus program.

Jan. 17, Saturday: Link of Love at Hope Lutheran Church, 4:00 PM.

Jan. 18, Sunday: City Hall Candlelight Program, 5:30 PM.

Jan. 19, Monday: March/Carter Memorial Church, 10:00 AM.

Jan. 19, Monday: MLK program, Memorial Aud., 11:30 AM.

**For up-to-the-minute information about what is happening in Fresno's progressive community, join the Community Alliance email alert network. We send out an updated calendar of events once a week and alert you when there is an emergency rally or demonstration. This is a free service. You can join by sending your email address to:**

**<AllianceEditor@comcast.net>**

**and say you would like to subscribe to this service.**



## PEOPLE OF HOPE

*The St. Benedict Catholic Worker "Loaves and Fishes Campaign"*  
by Liza Apper

"Hi, St. Benedict Catholic Worker," I said, answering that night's call. "Hello, my name is Margaret and I need a place to stay." Margaret's voice sounded shaky and desperate. I took a deep breath and replied, "We are full, maybe you could try Naomi House."

Margaret told me that she had tried to get into Naomi House but they were full. Now she faced a night on the streets alone as a homeless woman.—and I faced the frustration of seeing her need and not being able to help her. There was no room at St. Benedict Catholic Worker House for Margaret. Our guests stay in our living room and den and that night we had guests in both rooms. Twice weekly, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, the St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves an evening meal to 150–200 people in front of Fresno County Jail. Our kitchen is extremely small and woefully inadequate for the job of feeding 400 people a week. The St. Benedict Catholic Worker used to have Mass once a month at the Worker House and weekly roundtable discussions every Friday evening, again at the Catholic Worker House. Both the monthly Mass and the weekly roundtable discussions had to be cancelled indefinitely, because our house cannot accommodate more than 10 people for a gathering at any one time.

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker is in desperate need of a larger facility. Last year we launched our "Loaves and Fishes Campaign." That campaign asked for 5,000 people to donate \$50.00 each so that we could purchase a larger house (asking price: \$250,000). The following people have contributed to our campaign:

Joe and Joyce Melton • Annette Licayan • Mary J. Cox • Larry and Lisa Zerwig • Charles and Wilma Weidinger • Bruce and Madeline Droz • Paul and Martha Bolanos • Frank and Beatrice Gallup • Joseph Balkar • Brent and Patricia John • Frances Buelna • Joanne and Robert Gravano Natalia Galan • Daniel • Jenine and Ronald Cortopassi • Zelinda McCammond • Pamela and Carl Schroeder • June Holder • Cynthia Teore • Rita Small Selmon • Daniel Tuell • Marine Echapare • Raul and Irene Perez • Jodell Irola-Pishione • Rosemary Ede • JoannVanetti •



St. John's Cathedral • Christine Gillham • Rudy and Leticia Murietta • Dorman and Anna Turnipseed • James Witherow • Bill Tracy • Dan and Chris Delaney • Thomas J. Singleton • Loaves and Fishes, Sacramento • Pat Dressler • Leticia Sepulveda • Gene and Eleanor Bluestein • James and Joyce Parkhurst •

Jerry Radinoff and Paula Siegel • Sally Vogel • John Thomas • Joseph and Jovita Harrah • Frances Sivak • Isabel O'Bannon • Angie Trauth • Mark and Barbara Matera • Dianne Gassman-Wilburn • Rosemary Correa • Keith and Mary Jura • Dr. Bruce Malina and Diane Jacobs-Malina • Robert and Annabeth Palacios • J. Stanley and Delores Friesen • Diane Marks • Louis and Sandra Gallagher • Chris Elliott • Lionel and Patricia Mathos • Toni Flynn • Elizabeth Seward • Richard and Harriet Andris • William and Mary Hilpert • Jan Peterson and Cheryl Biever-Peterson • Joann Casale • Richard and Endelia Salgado • Richard Jennings, DDS • Silas and Frances Jones • Peter and Julia Menard • Robert and Edith Lockhart • Jennifer Young • Mike Rhodes and Pam Whalen • Camille Russell • Kathleen Ann Henkel • Liz Pianetta • James Fletcher • Judith Wright • Keith and Anne Rickelman • Jonathan and Ann Bowen • Anne Thibault • John Loogman • Silvia and Andrew DeLaTorre • Barbara Yrigollen • John McMahon • Christopher and Christine Edmondson • Paul Ford and Janice Dario • Nancy Hatcher • Shirley Lea • Mary A. Ryan • Peter A. Hansen • Katy Irene St. Marie • JHB • Mary and Rick Eagan •

We are far short of the 5,000 people needed to purchase a bigger house, but we are also people of hope. So, again this year, we are asking for your help.

Would you become one of the 5,000 and send your pledge of \$50.00 (or more if you can) so that the St. Benedict Catholic Worker can purchase a larger house to better serve those in need?

Please send all contributions to:

St. Benedict Catholic Worker  
4022 N. Cheryl Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93705

For further information, you may call us at (559) 229-6410  
or check out our website at <[www.stbencatholicworker.org](http://www.stbencatholicworker.org)>.

Thank you so much and God bless you!

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker