



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

Raging Grannies

The Fresno gaggle of the Raging Grannies had an uplifting pal-entine brunch on Feb. 15. Uplifting everyone with friendship, good conversation, good food and especially singing "granny" songs ♡, thank you to all who gathered.



Democracy Valentine Song
Tune: We Love You Conrad, from Bye, Bye Birdie

We love democracy oh yes we do,
We cherish voting power, it's true.
We won't relinquish them to this coup
Oh, democracy, we love you.

Photo by Teresa Castillo

Make the Call

The new federal administration is creating so many adverse changes it's hard to keep up, but it's important to be heard. We need to pace ourselves and find easy ways to get things done. A new phone app, 5 Calls, was created by like-minded volunteers who wanted to "make advocacy accessible, for regular people to have a voice when it's needed most."

The research has been done. "Calling members of Congress is the most effective way to have your voice heard. Calls are tallied by staffers and the count is given to your representatives, informing them how strongly their constituents feel about a current issue." This app makes it easy.

Volunteers have researched the issues, listed them and connected the most influential representatives for each topic, added phone numbers for the offices, and written scripts that articulate the progressive position. This app is inclusive and so easy to use.

The goal: Make 5 calls in 5 minutes, be focused and have your say and then move on with your day. We need to pace ourselves. Personally, it took me more than 5 minutes, but the app is so concise and easy to use.

When you open the 5 Calls app, you will see a list of issues (there are many). Just select an issue, it opens with a brief write-up/explanation with key representatives listed at the bottom of the page, click the link "See your script" to get your representative's phone number and the script to read.

You just make the call and read the script or use your own words. Note, you are speaking to a staffer, so be respectful and articulate in giving your points so they can tally your opinion correctly. It's that easy!

Go back and select as many topics as you like, and make the calls as often as you can. Be aware that different offices are open at different times, so leave a voicemail if you cannot speak directly to a staffer. Download the 5 Calls app and make those calls—you'll get faster and more familiar with the system every call you make. Let your voice be heard; your representatives need to hear from you!

—Teresa Castillo, Fresno WILPF Branch Chair

Valley Voices for Peace Podcast

This new podcast is moving forward and will be published online soon. If you would like to be a guest, that is fantastic. Contact Carol at gburn55@sbcglobal.net or 559-981-4770. Also, if you have a daughter or son who would like to be interviewed, that is also fantastic. No one is too old or too young to talk about peace.

Valley Voices for Peace is made possible by a grant from WILPF-US.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! HERE'S HOW:

Send dues to WILPF-Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

WILPF-US membership is \$35/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20.

For questions and information updates, contact Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

WILPF MEETING

March 13 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., via Zoom and sometimes also at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. This meeting is open to all. Watch your e-mail for an

announcement. For more information on the in-person option, contact Teresa at taca_03@ymail.com.

STIR IT UP-WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

March 26 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

WOMEN IN BLACK

On the first Wednesday of the month we are now joining Raza Against War's protest in front of the Federal Building at 2500 Tulare Street in Fresno. Check with Sue Kern at skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777.

Cemex Rockfield Mining Expansion Proposes 100 Years of Hard Rock Blasting, Resulting in a 600-Foot Deep Pit

On Feb. 13, a strategy meeting was held at the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust office located at 11605 Old Friant Road in Fresno. The meeting was well attended, and a lot of information was shared about the Draft Environmental Impact Review (DEIR), the project itself, stories from people living nearby the mining site and the like.

The focus of the meeting in addition to identifying viable strategies to avert a 600-foot deep-rock mining pit, the explosives required for such mining and damage to the environment such an endeavor entails was to emphasize the need for people to comment on the DEIR, which basically assesses that the CEMEX mine will only cause "scenic" damage to the area.

We must help protect the San Joaquin River and surrounding lands. You can make a difference by commenting on this document, which can be found at fresnocountyca.gov/Home. Enter "Cemex Rockfield Expansion" in the search bar to access DEIR.

It's a massive document (more than 1,000 pages), but do not let that stop you. A tip offered up at the meeting is to browse the Table of Contents to locate an area you prefer to read and potentially comment on. Submit your comment(s) to drandall@fresnocountyca.gov by March 10, no later than 5 p.m.

Also, when submitting comment(s) to the county, cc your e-mail to Sharon Weaver, executive director of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (e-mail below), as per her request at the Feb. 13 meeting.

To learn more about the Cemex Rockfield Expansion and how you can help stop this project, contact Sharon Weaver at sweaver@riverparkway.org or Sarah Parkes at sparkes@riverparkway.org.

Strategy meetings will continue on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. or Fridays at 3 p.m.

—Carol Goiburn and Teresa Castillo
for the Earth Democracy Issue Committee

Save the Date: Saturday May 3, noon-3 p.m. Dakota EcoGarden Open House, Potluck and Announcement of the Bev Fitzpatrick Scholarship

Join the dedication of the newest (fourth) Arthur Dyson-designed ecostructure, which will be named in honor of Stan Poss, who was a longtime supporter of Dakota EcoGarden.

Plus, Wings Advocacy Fresno and the Eco-Village Fresno Project are launching a Bev Fitzpatrick scholarship in Bev's memory and legacy to help empower Fresno City College students to make positive changes in the community. Please consider contributing to endow this scholarship. Donations can be made at the open house or contact Gerry Bill at gerry.bill@gmail.com.

Fresno City College, Spring Diversity Day event, Reclaiming Our Voices, Tuesday, March 25. OAB-251 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

The event focuses on fostering diversity awareness, promoting community engagement and offers an opportunity to build connections, share resources and collaborate on initiatives that support social justice and community activism. Our Fresno WILPF Branch Chair, Teresa Castillo, has been invited to participate as a panelist for this event. The panel discussion will be from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., followed by a Volunteerism Tabling Session from 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY WILPF. THE WILPF PAGE IS USUALLY COMPILED AND EDITED BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES (LENIVREEVES@GMAIL.COM).