



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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

WORLD WATER DAY

No one had experienced a World Water Day (March 22) like this one in 2023 in a very long time! Standing on the patio of the San Joaquin River Conservancy headquarters just above the SJ River off Friant Road, the majesty of the swollen river was truly a sight to behold. Nothing stood in its way, and we were transformed as we watched this wonder of nature.



The flooding of the San Joaquin River on World Water Day. Photo by LVR

WILPF invited any environmental group and/or environmentalist to come and celebrate a day first introduced by the UN General Assembly in 1993. This year's theme: Accelerate Change.

Our Fresno WILPF Earth Democracy Committee, composed of Kyla Mitchell, Joan Poss, Kay Pitts and Jean Hays, was overjoyed to be able to have our event at the Conservancy headquarters after the original venue, Lost Lake Park, was closed due to flood damage.

Our sub-theme was: Water from an Indigenous Perspective. We began with Native American flute music by Lance Canales of the Yokuts Tribe. Then Dirk Charley, Dunlap Band of Mono Tribe, shared some of his life experiences and talked about water through the eyes of native peoples.

Then everyone was invited to do a 15-minute quiet walk near the river and return to the patio to draw a small picture and/or write words inspired by being near the river.

Next, we heard brief remarks from representatives of various environmental organizations, such as Rachel Clark, president of the Fresno Audubon Society.

Anita Lodge of Friends of the Gorge spoke of the struggle against the Temperance Flat Dam.

Ron Martin, representing the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club and Fresnans Against Fracking, spoke of the importance of water.

Walt Shubin, who has lived by the San Joaquin River all his life, spoke of its changes throughout the years: some for the better, and some for the benefit of money and power.

There was a good crowd. Each of us took something from this extraordinary experience that reminded us that WATER IS LIFE!

Our thanks to John Shelton and Cheryl Moxley of the San Joaquin River Conservancy and Alyssa Flores of the Sierra Resource Conservation District for making it possible to have our event at this extraordinary place!

—Jean Hays

NANCY HATCHER AND FRESNO BRANCH FEATURED AT APRIL 12 ONE-WILPF NATIONAL MEETING

I described our monthly radio broadcast, *Stir it Up*, as well as our having a full page in the local progressive newspaper, the *Community Alliance*, as two means by which our Fresno branch is promoting our work in the greater Fresno area.

I also briefly described our collaboration with other organizations in the Fresno area that share common goals of creating peace, social justice and individual liberties.

Then I discussed my volunteer work in other countries, which involves working directly with members of the local communities to build, rebuild and restore safe, durable and affordable housing in areas that have been devastated by hurricanes, earthquakes or simply grinding poverty.

I also described my work in Oaxaca, Mexico, in a program that now enables nearly 700 children to attend school who might otherwise be on the streets selling trinkets or working as unskilled, child laborers to help support their families.

—Nancy Hatcher

YOU'RE INVITED: FIRST OPEN HOUSE AND POTLUCK AT DAKOTA ECOGARDEN SINCE COVID

Saturday, May 6, 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

2231 W. Dakota Ave., Fresno

There is no charge, but please bring something yummy to share with others. Eating will come first, and there will be live music as well. Then we will introduce board members and residents who are present.

There will be testimonies from a few current or previous residents who would like to share their feelings about the DEG.

Next, we will hear from our special guest, Annalisa Perea, who is the new City Council member for our district (District 1). She has shown an interest in our project before and has visited our site on more than one occasion.

We will end with tours of our three Arthur Dyson–designed structures, the rest of the site and of the garden.

Please park out in front of DEG or next door in front of what used to be the police parking lot.

Unfortunately, no parking is allowed across the street. Please don't block anyone else's car or block the vehicle gate.

Please sign in and note if you'd like a call to answer questions or would like to volunteer to give us some help in some way.

—Nancy Waidtlow

VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES: WHAT DO MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND MALCOLM X HAVE IN COMMON?

What do Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X have in common with how they viewed the United States?

Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X are frequently seen as opposing forces in the struggle for civil rights and against white supremacy; King is often portrayed as a nonviolent insider, whereas Malcolm X is characterized as a by-any-means-necessary political renegade.

Nonetheless, it's impossible to tell the ongoing story of the movements for Black liberation without speaking of both Malcolm X and Martin Luther King in the same breath.

Although Malcolm's name is widely recognized, his omission from school curricula and what has been referred to as his "radical" stance on Black liberation mean that many people have little to no understanding of who Malcolm X was, what he did and what he stood for.

Malcolm X was more than a mythic historical figure; he was a human being, the sum of many parts, whose views were constantly evolving before his life was tragically cut short.

Yet, when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said that "I fear that I'm sending my people into a burning house," Dr. King seems to be dismissed by the political sectors with few willing to interpret what Dr. King was referencing.

Like Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Honorable Minister Malcolm X was an orator of tremendous wit and power as well as an indefatigable and effective political organizer.

On a fateful and horrible 1965 day, he was murdered in cold blood, in front of his wife and children, while addressing a full house of more than 400 people, under the auspices of the Organization of Afro-American Unity, the non-religious political formation he founded after his split from Elijah Muhammad's Nation of Islam (called the "Black Muslims" in the U.S. media).

What is the difference between "The Ballot or the Bullet" speech (Malcolm X) and the "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. King?

Both speeches emphasized the need for civil rights and the need for action to achieve them. However, "I Have a Dream" is more optimistic in its tone, emphasizing the need for hope and perseverance,



Two sides of the same monument in Havana, Cuba. In this image, el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz Malcolm X. Photo by LVR



On the other side of the monument, the image of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Photo by LVR

whereas "The Ballot or the Bullet" is more urgent and direct in its tone, emphasizing the need for immediate action.

So should we be celebrating Malcolm X's birthday in May? Unfortunately, our communities at large will not celebrate him or his birthday; rather, they will choose to be "politically correct" by not acknowledging Malcolm X's contribution to our Black communities. Yet, we pay homage regularly to Martin Luther King. Why is that?

I invite you to join us on the last Sunday of each month to discuss the "whys" and "how comes" of "Unpacking Racism and Understanding our Blind Spot(s)." After all, how can we unpack racism if we cannot acknowledge our own feelings and thoughts toward these two men who had some things in common, such as their fathers were ministers and their widows continued the vision and stood strong in light of their husband's assassination. In fact, these two men left their mark on this world, and we simply cannot talk about one without the other.

Pastors for Peace Caravan/el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz Malcolm X Birthday Celebration

Join us in person on May 15 for a special event at the Free AME Church Social Hall (806 Collins Ave., Fresno) at 6 p.m., where we will host and discuss the Pastors for Peace (P4P) Caravan for our upcoming Cuba trip in July and celebrate by acknowledging Bro Malcolm's contribution to both our Black communities and the liberation of all people, including his meeting with Fidel Castro, Cuba's long-standing president. We are inviting the Fresno community to this event.

Dr. King said that "an injustice to one is an injustice to all." "All means All."

For any questions, call 559-270-1023.

—Dr. Jean Kennedy, PsyD., OB/OD

Teresa at taca_03@gmail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

May 24 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

UNPACKING RACISM

May 28 (last Sunday), 6:30 p.m. With Dr. Jean Kennedy. To join and get a link, RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

May 3 (first Wednesday), noon, Courthouse. Check first with Sue Kern at skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777.

YES! 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, e-mail Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

WILPF MEETING

May 11 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., online and in person at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number. For more information, contact

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