

An Open Letter to the Occupiers from a Veteran Troublemaker

By JIM WALLIS

You have awakened the sleeping giant, too long dormant, but ever present, deep in the American democratic spirit. You have given voice and space to the unspoken feelings of countless others about something that has gone terribly wrong in our society. And you have sparked a flame from the embers of both frustration and hope that have been building, steadily, in the hearts of so many of us for quite some time.

Throughout history, often it has been left to the youth of a society to do that, and you boldly have stepped into the role of the emerging generation, which sometimes means saying and doing what others only think. You have articulated, loudly and clearly, the internal monologue of a nation.

Some of you have told me that you expected only to foment a short-lived protest and that you were as surprised by this "movement" as anyone else. Try to listen and learn from those whose feelings and participation you are evoking by encouraging more reflection than certainty.

While there are some among us who may misunderstand your motives and message, know that you are an inspiration to many more.

One of you told me in New York City last week, "This is not a protest, but a think tank." Another of your compatriots wanted me to understand that you are trying to build something in Liberty Square that you aspire to create for our global village — a more cooperative society.

Most telling to me was the answer to the first question I asked of the first person I talked to at the Wall Street demonstrations. I inquired of one of the non-leaders who helped lead the first days of Occupation what most drew him to get involved in the demonstration, and he replied, "I want to have children someday, and this is becoming a world not good for children."

My 13- and 8-year-old boys came to mind when I heard his answer, and I felt thankful. It is precisely those deepest, most authentic feelings and motivations that should preoccupy you, rather than how best to form and

communicate superficial political rhetoric.

You are raising very basic questions about an economy that has become increasingly unfair, unstable, unsustainable, and unhappy for a growing number of people. Those same questions are being asked by many others at the bottom, the middle, and even some at the top of the economic pecking order.

There are ethics to be named here, and the transition from the pseudo-ethic of endless growth to the moral ethics of sustainability is a conversation occurring even now in our nation's business schools (if, perhaps, secreted inside the official curriculum).

Keep pressing those values questions because they will move people more than a set of demands or policy suggestions. Those can and must come later.

And try not to demonize those you view

as opponents, as good people can get trapped in bad systems and we've seen a lot of that. Still, you are right for saying that we all must be held accountable — both systems and the individuals within them. It is imperative that we hear that message right now.

The new safe spaces you have created to ask fundamental questions, now in hundreds of locations around the country and the world, are helping to carve out fresh societal space to examine ourselves — who we are, what we value most, and where we want to go from here.

Instead of simply attacking the establishment "economists," you can become the citizen economists, like the young economics major I met at the Wall Street occupation who

AN OPEN LETTER cont. p. 10

Tax cuts for the wealthiest 5% of Americans cost the U.S. Treasury \$11.6 million every hour

By JO COMERFORD, Executive Director, National Priorities Project

The National Priorities Project, with support from Citizens for Tax Justice, has launched www.costoftaxcuts.com

A rolling counter depicts the amount of money lost to the U.S. Treasury as a result of tax cuts for the top 5% of U.S. wage earners — \$3.2 per millisecond. The site also features rolling counters for the top 1% and next 4% of households.

In total, the top 5% of wage earners live in 1.4 million households. They earn \$477,453 per year, on average, and will receive an average tax cut of \$66,384 in 2011. Conversely, the bottom 20% of wage earners will receive an average tax cut of \$107 this year. The wealthiest 5% of Americans earn 33% of all U.S. income.

Between 2001 and the current projected end of the tax cut extension, tax cuts for the wealthiest 5% will cost the U.S. Treasury

\$1.184 trillion. If extended through 2021 as some lawmakers propose, the total cost will exceed \$3.2 trillion.

www.costoftaxcuts.com also features a detailed look at the average income and tax cuts for the top 1% and the poorest 20%. Among the findings: the wealthiest 1% receive an average annual tax cut greater than the average income of the remaining 99% of U.S. households.

If tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans are extended through 2021, the projected amount of additional foregone revenue to the U.S. Treasury over the next decade would exceed \$2 trillion. There is another number out there that is strikingly similar — the \$2.1 trillion in total deficit reduction required under the Budget Control Act.

The National Priorities Project also maintains www.costofwar.com. For more information: www.nationalpriorities.org or 413.584.9556.

INSIDE CONNECTIONS

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| LOCAL EVENTS | 2 |
| NEW POETRY BOOK | 3 |
| LIVING LIGHTLY | 4 |
| REMEMBER THE DREAM | 5 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| STAND UP | 6 |
| ARE YOU DEAD YET? | 7 |
| GATHERING OF VOICES | 8-9 |
| ENDGAME | 10 |
| SPECIAL GUITARS | 11 |

Stanislaus Artists Open Studio Tour Seeking Artists

The Stanislaus County Artists Open Studio Tour is seeking artists to open their studios to the public in its April 14 and 15, 2012 event. This event is designed to expose the talents of the Stanislaus County visual artists to the public, in the artists' work spaces. Art is available for purchase as well as display.

Registration is open, with a \$20 per artist fee to get on the official map. No commission will be charged, and artists who apply by the Early Bird registration deadline of November 20, will be eligible to have one piece of art considered for a jury-decided purchase prize. Final deadline to participate is January 6, 2012.

Sponsored by the Stanislaus County Travel and Tourism Round Table.

Request applications by mail, phone or email: ATTN: Graphics Printer, 18091 Hart Ln., Manteca, CA. 95336, Email: openstudio.stanislaus@gmail.com

209-222-TOUR. Additional contact: James Christiansen, 209 521 5559, email: jdc104@yahoo.com or mercenary_graphics@yahoo.com



"Queen of Jazz" to perform Nov. 13 at CBS

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Doreen Ketchens on a hot clarinet and vocals, and husband Lawrence H. Ketchens on an equally hot tuba, valve trombone, bass, and piano, have earned the name "Show Stealers" with their spicy show-stopping New Orleans jazz performances throughout the world. They have received rave reviews, and performed for four United States Presidents.

"We represent New Orleans in a way very few people experience; even those who have visited the city," says Doreen.

This community-based (non-religious) Sunday concert will be held on November 13 at 3 p.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom, 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto. Single tickets (\$20 adults, \$15 seniors and students, \$7) are available by calling 571-6060 or at the door. Group tickets can be arranged in advance. More information? Visit <http://www.cbsmodesto.org/concerts.php>

Interfaith Thanksgiving celebration is back

By ERIN MATTESON

Plan to attend the 16th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Monday, November 21st at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, 1200 Maze Blvd., Modesto.

The Interfaith Ministerial Association and Innerfaith Resources invites persons from a great variety of faith traditions to come and share an expression of gratitude or thanksgiving with others. You are invited to experience the diversity present in our community and to connect with others to build further understanding and respect as a way to

strengthen our community and to promote and build peace. Please encourage others to attend.

Childcare will be provided, and refreshments will be available after.



ACTION: For more information, contact facilitator Erin Matteson at 209-484-5937 or at erin@modcob.org. There will be a free-will offering, canned goods or funds, for the Inter-Faith Ministries food bank. Checks should be made out to IFM directly.

A Call to Care for Our Women Prisoners

By DAVID HETLAND and BILL SANFORD

Did you know there are 4,000 women in Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla? Many are very short on relatives and friends, or those relatives and friends are too far away to visit. So, on one hand there's loneliness, on the other hand overcrowding and limitations on personal freedom very hard to bear.

The Golden Rule challenges us here. It bids us to show we care.

Toward that end, a project has been organized to deliver one-gallon Ziploc bags containing tokens of love during the holidays of December. Inside the bags there will be an assortment of sample/travel sizes of:

Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Lotion, Toothpaste, Tissue, Tooth Brushes (regular adult size), Pencils – wood, full-size, eraser top, unused Greeting Cards with envelopes – holiday, birthday, anniversary, get-well, etc.

The bags will be filled at the United Methodist Church of Merced and delivered to the prison in early December.

You are invited to contribute whatever you can of the items on the list, and/or to make a financial contribution. Items may be brought to the United Methodist Church of Merced, or a call to the individuals listed below will trigger a pick-up. We want everything gathered by Thanksgiving. Checks should be made payable to "United Methodist Church of Merced" with the notation: "Chowchilla Prison Project."

We're doing this:

- To give tangible evidence that people outside care.
- To supply practical items which will be useful and appreciated.
- To raise the awareness of people outside about the circumstances and needs of people inside.

UPDATE: Donations are coming in at a steady pace -- huge amounts of soap and greeting cards. We need lots more shampoo, conditioner, and lotion. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and tissue are the toughest to collect--at least in larger quantities.

We also need cash donations to purchase items that are not donated. Last year we spent about \$2500 for this purpose.

The United Methodist Church of Merced is hosting the project, providing a storage area for our supplies and the use of their large parish hall for Packing Day on Sunday, December 4th, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

On Packing Day, we will need about one hundred volunteers, and several organizations have already committed -- area Key Clubs and UC Merced's Wesley Foundation. We are also expecting volunteer support from Alpha Phi Omega,

a co-ed service club from UC Merced, and the youth from Modesto's First United Methodist Church.

After the bags are assembled, boxed and transferred to a trailer owned by a member of the prison's Inmate Family Council, they will be delivered to the prison's warehouse, inspected by the staff, and delivered to the inmates in time for the holidays.

It takes hundreds of people to carry this off each year. Donated items come from all parts of California, and out of state. Your support is greatly appreciated!



ACTION: Donated items may be brought to the Modesto Peace Life/Center Office. Contact Shelly Scribner, 521-6304, shellys833@aol.com. Other contacts: Bill Sanford, (209) 357-0701, wjsanford@sbcglobal.net; Dave Hetland, (209) 388-1608, dhetland2003@yahoo.com; United Methodist Church of Merced, 899 Yosemite Park Way, Merced, CA 95340, (209) 722-5777.



Stanislaus CONNECTIONS

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SAVE THE DATE: John McCutcheon returns in January

By KEN SCHROEDER

Six-time Grammy nominated folk musician John McCutcheon returns for his 11th annual concert and fundraiser for the Modesto Peace/Life Center on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:00 at the Modesto Church of the Brethren. John's performances have touched our hearts, lifted our spirits, and brought us belly laughs and tears. Join the usual band of suspects and first-timers for an entertaining and inspiring evening of music, songs and stories.

A group of Modestans headed over to Livermore in October to see John's one man show, "Joe Hill's Last Will." The play, written by Si Kahn, relates the life story of labor organizer and songwriter Joe Hill as he awaits execution. Although the events in the play took place in 1915, the issues raised- worker rights, immigration and the death penalty- strongly resonate today. We spoke to John and he sends regards to his friends in Stanislaus County.

Thoughts from John's October newsletter:

It's all torches and pitchforks in the national discussion about how we are to be a country. Discussion is hardly what you'd call it, because there is a lot of yelling and absolutely no listening. Seems it's fine to have government involved when we need to drive someplace, when our house is on fire, when crime threatens our neighborhoods, when we cannot afford private education, when we need to fight a war, when we retire. But when we are sick? When we look and look and cannot find work of any kind? Cheering at debates over state-sanctioned murder, cries to make terminally sick people "pay" for their own misjudgments. Holy cow! The demonization of the poor and unfortunate is reaching frightening levels. There but for the grace of God...

Go to John McCutcheon's website, www.folkmusic.com for news, blog, mp3's, lyrics, and store.

Modesto poets launch exciting new book!

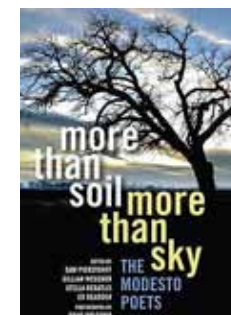
By GILLIAN WEGENER

Editors Stella Beratlis, Ed Bearden, Sam Pierstorff, and Gillian Wegener announce the online book launch for a new addition to our Central Valley literary scene. *More Than Soil, More Than Sky: The Modesto Poets* (Quercus Review Press, 2011) is a book of 51 area poets with ties to Modesto. Each poets' work is accompanied by a great photograph of that poet and a short bio and statement from the poet about how the Valley has affected his/her writing.

Read a recent Modesto Bee article about it: <http://www.modbee.com/2011/10/16/1907588/poetry-offers-modesto-insights.html>

A book party and reading, open to all, will be held on Tuesday, November 8 at Modesto Junior College, East Campus, in the Fireside Lounge in the Student Center from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We are really proud of this book and are ready to share it! Thanks you so much for your support!

ACTION: Purchase this book from Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/>



Green Tips for a Green Planet

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Reminders to those in the know and encouragement to perform further acts of earth steward kindness.

The month of November is very Green Can and Green Tip Friendly from leaf composting and recycling to that over-full feeling Thanksgiving Dinner.

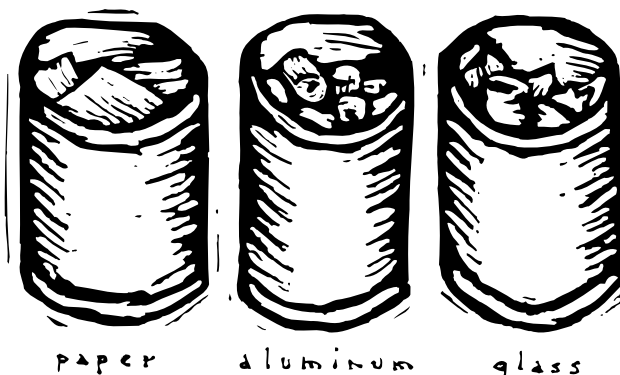
Green Waste/Recycling Tips:

- Each year my husband scatters fallen leaves between rows of winter crops and over his dormant garden, which compost and are worked into the soil prior to spring planting.
- When you clean out those rain gutters, some pretty rich compost is already in process.
- Mo-Gro Grows Mo. The leaves (and yard trimmings during the rest of the year) that are picked up by Modesto waste management companies is composted into Mo-Gro, so be sure to "complete the loop by picking up bags of Mo-Gro at the Senior Center on Bodem and Scenic Drive in Modesto," says Richard Anderson, retired Modesto Junior College biology professor and member of CACOR, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Recycling. CACOR has openings for new members. If interested, apply at http://www.modestogov.com/council/boards/apply.asp?cag_id=4

If you know of compost and green waste activities in other Stanislaus County Communities, please share them with our readers (See below to submit information and suggestions).

Thanksgiving Dinner Tips:

- All food parings, butter wrappers, discarded recipes from magazines and newspapers, paper can labels, cardboard stuffing, bread roll, Jello and other food packages, used flour bags, strained cranberry skins and any paper napkins/plates/cups/serving pieces, paper towels, cardboard appliance or packaging containers, magazines, newspapers, or



- other biodegradable waste items belong in the Green Can.
- Reuse that old turkey-roasting pan or buy a new one in deference to using "disposable" aluminum, which goes to our Waste to Energy plant.
- Use and reuse cloth napkins, tablecloths, dinnerware, glasses and cups. If you choose to use plastic, heavy duty utensils will do numerous rounds through the dishwasher. Washable plastic picnicware can be purchased fairly inexpensively.
- Enjoy that turkey soup made from leftovers, and when you're done, Richard Anderson says he cold composts or buries his remaining bones, fat and skin in his garden 6 to 9 inches below the topsoil. Yes, you can simply toss the leftovers into the Green Can, as well, along with the wilted Thanksgiving bouquet.

Next month we will discuss holiday gifting and packaging. If you have any suggestions on that topic or other green tips ideas, email them to seekerseer@sbcglobal.net. If you would like us to consider a Green Tips for A Green Planet logo design, send that along as well.

Have a Wonderfully Green Holiday Season!



The 2012 Peace Essay Contest is now open

The flyer for Divisions 1 & 2 (Grades 9-10 and 11-12) is at http://www.peacelifecenter.org/docs/PeaceEssay2011_Div1_2.pdf

The flyer for Divisions 3 & 4 (Grades 5-6 and 7-8) is at http://www.peacelifecenter.org/docs/PeaceEssay2011_Div3_4.pdf

Deadline: November 18, 2011

Emergency Preparedness 101

By JENIFER WEST

Earthquakes. Hurricanes. Floods. All of these, and more, have been in the news lately. But there's a difference between a disaster on the news and a disaster in one's own neighborhood. While we may feel compassion for those afflicted, disasters elsewhere don't generally affect us enough to convince us to actually make preparations ourselves. But did you know that the government of New Zealand, which recently suffered two serious earthquakes, has now advised residents there that, in the event of an emergency, they will be "on their own" for 3 days? No water, no gas or electricity, and, unless you've made some sort of provision for it yourself, no food.

So what if there were a serious disaster in our own backyard? What would you need to have on hand, to get through a few days without access to any services?

Well, water would probably be your first concern – a gallon per person per day is considered the minimum. (Those with particular health concerns may require more.) In a pinch, you could hook up a hose to your water heater, assuming it wasn't



damaged in the disaster. You can also store water in the 5-gallon buckets that are used with those ceramic dispensers that lots of people seem to have these days. Or you can recycle the heavier plastic juice containers. Avoid plastic milk containers, though, as they tend to leak over time. (But they're great for storing dried beans or grains – rinse them out well and set them aside until they're bone-dry. A 25-pound bag of beans or grains will fill about three and a half of them.)

Ok, so you've got your water covered. Next, think about food. Ideally, your 3-day (72-hour) kit will contain breakfast, lunch and dinner for 3 days, plus some snacks. A lot of folks store MREs ("meals ready to eat" – aseptically-packaged, military-style meals), particularly for dinners. And there are a lot of other MRE options, as well, if you choose to go that route. Dehydrated foods are also an option, although you'll need to account for the water required to rehydrate them in your water storage. Things like granola bars, small packages of cereal, and dried fruit are also good choices. Remember to rotate the foods in your 72-hour kit, so there won't be any unpleasant surprises while you're coping with the aftermath of a disaster.

How about some first aid supplies? And speaking of first aid, when was the last time you took a course? Techniques and materials have changed dramatically over the past several years, so if it's been awhile, it'd be worth your time and energy to take one. The Red Cross offers first aid training.

In your first aid kit, keep the basics – bandages, antibacterial wipes, antibiotic ointment, aspirin, etc. Keep some liquid grapefruit seed extract on hand. It's good for food poisoning (which is always a possibility, if you find yourself without refrigeration), as well as getting rid of some of the "bad bugs" that might exist in untreated water. If you take medication, include a 3-day supply of it, as well. Rotate it, as you do your food.

You'll also want to include some clothing – at the least, a change of underwear or two. (Who wants to face an already-stressful disaster wearing the same unmentionables for days?!) Some clean socks wouldn't hurt, either. And maybe a windbreaker, or something similar – something that can help keep you warm, yet is lightweight and easy to pack.

Another category of things to keep in your 72-hour kit is games. You could find yourself facing a long stretch with more time on your hands than things to do, so you should have something on hand to occupy your time and mind, and to interact positively with others. A deck of cards is lightweight, and allows everything from one person playing Solitaire to a group of all ages playing "Spoons". Crossword puzzles, Sudoku, and the like are also good possibilities.

Finally, keep copies of important documents easily accessible.



So you've assembled some food, first aid supplies and clothing. Where, and in what, do you store them? There are a number of options. Perhaps the most popular is a daypack – it's easy to grab & go, and can be carried on one's back. But a sturdy 5-gallon bucket will work, as well. Whatever you store it in, be sure to store your 72-hour Kit where it is protected from extreme heat or cold, and easy to grab and go, should you be required to evacuate.

Once you've assembled your 72-hour Kit, work with family members to make a communications plan. In a large-scale emergency, phone lines and internet servers can easily get overwhelmed. Arrange for one friend or relative who lives out of the area to serve as a point of contact for communications.

With a few simple preparations, you'll have peace of mind, and be able to get through the first few days of a major disaster as comfortably as possible!

Got a Green Thumb?

By LEAH KNIPE

Then you should check out The Seeds of Peace Community Garden! Housed behind the Modesto Church of the Brethren, the garden features 30 plots available for rent by individuals seeking to grow their own fruits, veggies and flowers. Each plot is 19x19 feet and has its own water spigot.

Occasional gardener events are hosted and we love to see gardener neighbors exchanging food. Winter gardening is one of the easiest growing seasons in California, so take advantage of it! Free seeds when you sign up and scholarships are available!

ACTION: Call Leah @ (209) 523-1438 or visit www.modcob.org for more information.



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Revisiting Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream

By JAMES E. JONES

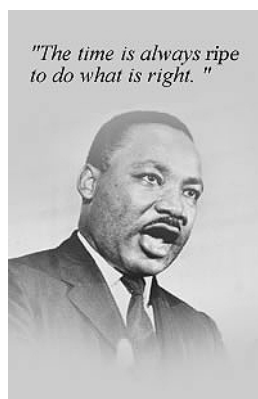
When the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on 4 August 1968, I did not understand how the loss of this powerful, positive presence impacted all Americans.

At the time, as an African American activist and student government Vice President at Hampton University, I was aware that his death meant a lot to black people and young people. Consequently, in this tense environment, I helped organize a peaceful march from the university campus to downtown Hampton, Virginia comprising the majority of the campus community. While this protest focused on the death of King and racial discrimination in Hampton, at that time I failed to grasp the full significance of King's work.

One reason for my myopic vision was that I had fallen in love with The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley. I agreed with the 1960s civil rights activist Malcolm X when he stated repeatedly, "It is criminal to teach a man not to defend himself when he is the constant victim of brutal attacks." What I failed to realize is that King struggled to teach his community how to defend itself by fighting the vicious evil of racism while remaining true to the tenants of their faith.

I had also failed to understand King's efforts as an example of a grassroots Black Power movement. In Black Power: The Politics of Liberation by Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton, the authors define Black Power as "a call for Black people of this country to unite, to recognize their heritage, to build a sense of community. It is a call for Black people to begin to define their own goals, to lead their own organizations and to support these organizations. It is a call to reject the racist institutions and values of this society."

I was so busy critiquing what I saw as the shortcomings of non-violent protest as a path to "liberation" that I failed to see how King's assertive, non-violent strategies were propelled by "Black Power", as defined by Carmichael and Hamilton. For example, the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott – which was a movement to oppose the Alabama city's policy of racial segregation on its public transit system – from 1955 to 1956, spearheaded by King, was a unified effort that was defined, led and supported by black people. The protesters recognized

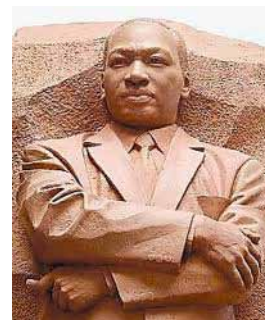


their heritage by directly confronting the institutional segregation that had oppressed them for years.

In the account of his first boycott speech in his book, Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story, King says, "... I faced a new and sobering dilemma: how could I make a speech that would be militant enough to keep my people aroused to positive action and yet moderate enough to keep this fervor within controllable and Christian bounds?"

King's actions were firmly rooted in his deep theological understanding of the Christian Gospel, which demands love, compassion and justice for all humanity. It was not until I was a student at Yale Divinity School many years later that I came to appreciate his approach, and to see that a person who dedicates himself to a transcendent being who insists on love and justice for all humanity could have a powerful influence.

As we reflect on the inauguration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, not far from where he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech 48 years ago in Washington, DC, let us remember that his legacy shows that a movement firmly rooted in one cultural community can be a model for all humanity. And so, following King's example, I urge all Americans to take three actions: to teach, preach and commit.



First, let's teach our young about the complex history of the Civil Right Movement that King gave his life for. The sugar-coated versions we often hear do not serve to teach the tough lessons that can benefit us today. A good place to start is the PBS history series about the African American civil rights movement, Eyes on the Prize.

Second, let's preach the concept of mutuality that King emphasized repeatedly. As he said, "Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Now, more than ever, we need this mind set.

Finally, let's commit to fight for a community based on love, forgiveness, justice and compassion for all by supporting organizations like the Children's Defense Fund, an American child advocacy and research group that embody these principles.

Teach, preach, commit in order to make King's Dream a

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
NATIONAL MEMORIAL

BUILDTHEDREAM.ORG

reality today.

James E. Jones is Associate Professor and Chair of the World Religions and African Studies Department at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York and President of the Islamic Seminary Foundation in New Haven, Connecticut.

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Emanuel Lutheran Church
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A memo from The Make America Again! Project Progressive Patriots, Arise!

Submitted By Bruce Jones

Declare your commitment to a long fight for American Sustainability and shout out your demands!

A Declaration of American Sustainability

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, health, peace, and sustainable economic well-being. When a long train of failures and abuses has created a nation based on class and cultural inequities, favoring the privileged and minimizing democratic processes, it is the right, it is the duty, of patriotic citizens to inform themselves and secure new guards for their future security and prosperity.

The damage done to America has been accumulating for decades and is largely self-inflicted, facilitated by short-sighted political agendas of artifice and duplicity. Reform and remediation will require more time and tools available to any single Administration and can only come from an ongoing citizen movement unprecedented in modern times.

Our progressive leaders must be enabled-and motivated-by voters to fight the battles that deliver those self-evident truths. Reform of America demands intelligent, informed criticism and activism. Revolutions begin with a single patriot, a cry in the night, a shout against the wind.

They are won with knowledge, persistence, and, above all, the courage to speak truth to power.

"We are nothing if we are not sheep

Being told to know our history

However, do not look too deep

For surely you will erase the mystery

Of the wealth and power that they keep...

In New Jersey they say 'Forget about it!'

As for me I'm gonna shout it

Get off of your lazy, apathetic asses

You poor and huddled middle classes.

Before they forever decide your fate

The time it is a gettin' late."

Mike Killingsworth, from his poem, "Like Sheep We Are Lead," Modesto Peace/Life Center, 2011.

A CHALLENGE TO PATRIOTS: Review our "Bill of Injuries and Usurpations Regarding American Sustainability--2012" and recall the power of another such bill presented by our Founding Patriots in 1776. (See below.) THEN DEFINE YOUR OWN GRIEVANCES AND DEMANDS

Draft a "Top Ten" list of your own selection, then pick one key issue or crisis, research it, get your solutions or options on paper, be confident of their accuracy, and shout out your demands from the rooftops ... share them with personal contacts, legislators, and newspapers--hand out

your one-page summary at rallies and at marches--inform this Project of your list for publication (see email address at end) and submit your best thinking to the new campaign named "Rebuild the Dream"(here is its mission statement):

Contract for the American Dream

(www.rebuildthedream.com)

We, the American people, promise to defend and advance a simple ideal: liberty and justice . . . for all. Americans who are willing to work hard and play by the rules should be able to find a decent job, get a good home in a strong community, retire with dignity, and give their kids a better life. Every one of us - rich, poor, or in-between, regardless of skin color or birthplace, no matter their sexual orientation or gender - has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That is our covenant, our compact, our contract with one another. It is a promise we can fulfill - but only by working together.

A Bill of Injuries and Usurpations Regarding American Sustainability – 2012

Let these facts be submitted to a candid world:

- America's systems of governance and economics have been broken for decades and need to be reformed, remediated, repowered, and remade from top to bottom.
- America has enabled corporations to achieve the position of the de facto fourth branch of government with political power that has thoroughly permeated entire public and private systems.
- America has a history of warfare and a military force that exceeds its needs for self-defense.
- America has failed to be the world leader in addressing global deterioration (drought, extreme storms) from climate change, thereby facilitating huge economic and humanitarian crises already unfolding and increasing in the future.
- American politics have been soiled by the widespread extremist use of misrepresentation, fear-mongering, and blatant lies to create in the public an anti-government fervor, when the need for effective and balanced governance is arguably greater than at any time in our history.
- American government and the private sector have not demonstrated the critical urgency (the "moral urgency of war") needed to develop an economy based on non-carbon energy.
- America has a fragmented and undemocratic system of elections that increasingly disenfranchises the poor.
- America has created a system of taxation that lacks common sense, fairness, and unifying philosophy.
- America has been allowing extreme theocratic philosophy to alter the conduct of its governance and its responsibility to remain impartial regarding individual religious philosophy within the rule of law.
- America continues to demonstrate too many acts of bigoted behavior and lack of tolerance for persons of difference.
- America has an electorate that is apathetic and ill-

informed, not understanding history, civics, and world cultures.

- America has not completely its reform of medical processes to guarantee comprehensive medical safety nets that are common in other developed nations, and reactionary political efforts are increasing to minimize all security systems that have been in place for decades.
- America has an economic system that is a mystery in the eyes of the public, benefits the most-rich to the detriment of the least-rich, and is vulnerable to manipulation by institutions and corporations.

We, therefore, as citizens of the United States of America, do solemnly publish and declare our right and responsibility to reform, remediate, repower, rebuild, and remake our nation. And for the support of this Declaration, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

"My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right." Senator Carl Schurz, 1872/1899.

Reform, Remediate, Repower, Rebuild-and Remake-Our Nation. From the books "*Make America Again!*" and "*The Politics of Hell No! vs. Let's Go!*" Contact for details and advance order: brucejones424@msn.com

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The day the Middle Class died

By **MICHAEL MOORE, Open Mike Blog**

Intro: "From time to time, someone under 30 will ask me, 'When did this all begin, America's downward slide?' They say they've heard of a time when working people could raise a family and send the kids to college on just one parent's income (and that college in states like California and New York was almost free). That anyone who wanted a decent paying job could get one. That people only worked five days a week, eight hours a day, got the whole weekend off and had a paid vacation every summer. That many jobs were union jobs, from baggers at the grocery store to the guy painting your house, and this meant that no matter how 'lowly' your job was you had guarantees of a pension, occasional raises, health insurance and someone to stick up for you if you were unfairly treated."

Young people have heard of this mythical time - but it was no myth, it was real. And when they ask, "When did this all end?", I say, "It ended on this day: August 5th, 1981."

Beginning on this date, 30 years ago, Big Business and the Right Wing decided to "go for it" - to see if they could actually destroy the middle class so that they could become richer themselves.

And they've succeeded.

On August 5, 1981, President Ronald Reagan fired every member of the air traffic controllers union (PATCO) who'd defied his order to return to work and declared their union illegal. They had been on strike for just two days.

It was a bold and brash move. No one had ever tried it. What made it even bolder was that PATCO was one of only three unions that had endorsed Reagan for president! It sent a shock wave through workers across the country. If he would do this to the people who were with him, what would he do to us?

Reagan had been backed by Wall Street in his run for the White House and they, along with right-wing Christians, wanted to restructure America and turn back the tide that President Franklin D. Roosevelt started - a tide that was intended to make life better for the average working person. The rich hated paying better wages and providing benefits. They hated paying taxes even more. And they despised unions. The right-wing Christians hated anything that sounded like socialism or holding out a helping hand to minorities or women.

Reagan promised to end all that. So when the air traffic controllers went on strike, he seized the moment. In getting rid of every single last one of them and outlawing their union, he sent a clear and strong message: The days of everyone

having a comfortable middle class life were over. America, from now on, would be run this way:

- The super-rich will make more, much much more, and the rest of you will scramble for the crumbs that are left.
- Everyone must work! Mom, Dad, the teenagers in the house! Dad, you work a second job! Kids, here's your latch-key! Your parents might be home in time to put you to bed.
- 50 million of you must go without health insurance! And health insurance companies: you go ahead and decide who you want to help - or not.
- Unions are evil! You will not belong to a union! You do not need an advocate! Shut up and get back to work! No, you can't leave now, we're not done. Your kids can make their own dinner.
- You want to go to college? No problem - just sign here and be in hock to a bank for the next 20 years!
- What's "a raise"? Get back to work and shut up!

And so it went. But Reagan could not have pulled this off by himself in 1981. He had some big help:

The AFL-CIO.

The biggest organization of unions in America told its members to cross the picket lines of the air traffic controllers and go to work. And that's just what these union members did. Union pilots, flight attendants, delivery truck drivers, baggage handlers - they all crossed the line and helped to break the strike. And union members of all stripes crossed the picket lines and continued to fly.

Reagan and Wall Street could not believe their eyes! Hundreds of thousands of working people and union members endorsing the firing of fellow union members. It was Christmas in August for Corporate America.

And that was the beginning of the end. Reagan and the Republicans knew they could get away with anything - and they did. They slashed taxes on the rich. They made it harder for you to start a union at your workplace. They eliminated safety regulations on the job. They ignored the monopoly laws and allowed thousands of companies to merge or be bought out and closed down. Corporations froze wages and threatened to move overseas if the workers didn't accept lower pay and less benefits. And when the workers agreed to work for less, they moved the jobs overseas anyway.

And at every step along the way, the majority of Americans went along with this. There was little opposition or fight-

back. The "masses" did not rise up and protect their jobs, their homes, their schools (which used to be the best in the world). They just accepted their fate and took the beating.

I have often wondered what would have happened had we all just stopped flying, period, back in 1981. What if all the unions had said to Reagan, "Give those controllers their jobs back or we're shutting the country down!"? You know what would have happened. The corporate elite and their boy Reagan would have buckled.

But we didn't do it. And so, bit by bit, piece by piece, in the ensuing 30 years, those in power have destroyed the middle class of our country and, in turn, have wrecked the future for our young people. Wages have remained stagnant for 30 years. Take a look at the statistics and you can see that every decline we're now suffering with had its beginning in 1981 (here's a little scene to illustrate that from my last movie): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVAPsn3Fpk>

It all began on this day, 30 years ago. One of the darkest days in American history. And we let it happen to us. Yes, they had the money, and the media and the cops. But we had 200 million of us. Ever wonder what it would look like if 200 million got truly upset and wanted their country, their life, their job, their weekend, their time with their kids back?

Have we all just given up? What are we waiting for? Forget about the 20% who support the Tea Party - we are the other 80%! This decline will only end when we demand it. And not through an online petition or a tweet. We are going to have to turn the TV and the computer and the video games off and get out in the streets (like they've done in Wisconsin). Some of you need to run for local office next year. We need to demand that the Democrats either get a spine and stop taking corporate money - or step aside.

When is enough, enough? The middle class dream will not just magically reappear. Wall Street's plan is clear: America is to be a nation of Haves and Have Nothings. Is that OK for you?

Why not use today to pause and think about the little steps you can take to turn this around in your neighborhood, at your workplace, in your school? Is there any better day to start than today?

P.S. Here are a few places you can connect with to get the ball rolling:

Main Street Contract for America:

<http://www.nationalnursesunited.org/affiliates/entry/msc1>
Showdown in America <http://showdowninamerica.org/>
Democracy Convention <http://democracyconvention.org/>
Occupy Wall Street <http://occupywallst.org/>
October 2011 <http://october2011.org/frontpage>

How to Join a Union by the AFL-CIO (they've learned their lesson and have a good president now) <http://www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/how/>

UE Change to Win <http://changetowin.org/>

MoveOn <http://front.moveon.org/>

High School Newspaper (Just because you're under 18 doesn't mean you can't do anything!) <http://mikeshighschoolnews.com/>



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Elena Kanevsky – Child of Cold War Russia, inspired poet, loving grandmother

Elena Kanevsky describes herself as “a stubborn person who writes poems trying to understand what life is about.” A native of Moscow, Russia, she firmly believes in “One Nation Under One Language.”

A graduate of Moscow State University with a Masters Degree in biology, she worked for 25 years in biology research labs and hospitals in Russia and says she has always been interested in literature.

She followed her second husband, Leonid Goranik, to San Mateo in 1995, where he worked as a technical translator for the Caterpillar Company following a career as a patent attorney in Moscow.

“Back then [1995], I was fifty, and I was convinced that learning a foreign language was not my thing, but there was too much temptation not to give it a try.”

“I got a kick out of watching thirty-something men and women talking to their children in Spanish, Chinese, or Russian and the children responding in English. Later, I learned their excuses. “This is a free country, and I choose to keep my native language.” “There is no need to force myself, it will come naturally.” “Too late for me.” “I wanted to scream, “Language makes you what you are!” America is the land of opportunity and you can have brilliant ideas, but if you can’t vocalize them, your brain won’t get you anywhere.”

I am not a fast learner, but apparently I can do anything I set my mind to, because after one and a half years at San Mateo Adult School, I went to MiraCosta Community College, majoring in English. Does grit work miracles, or there is something special in the American air?

Less than a century ago, immigrants used to take America for what it was -- the nation that rose from a torrid melting pot. They were eager to accept American values, and they dreamt about the ability to dream in English. [Proud family] patriarchs used to establish an English only policy in their new households, even if it meant keeping a low profile.

When immigrants ask about the pillars of American culture, they are told about self-reliance, the adventurous American character, and baby showers. However, I would say one of the pillars is an attitude [of] praise [and of complimenting] others that the English language provides: “Great question,” “Good job,” “Your point of view is truly valuable for us,” “How interesting.” English is a mighty tool, able to reshape a feeble personality into an “I can do it” individual.

I was eager to grasp this attitude. There wasn’t a trace of sarcasm or ironic advice on how to improve my English in the college, but rather support and acceptance, along with appreciation of my efforts. My favorite English instructor, Arly Zolinas, said smiling, “Helen, you have the touch for the writing craft, and with time English will adopt you.” I worked even harder to live up to her expectation.

In Humanities class we experienced the American heritage by cooking and tasting the food of pioneers, dancing square dances, and re-enacting the turning points of America’s past. Arly told us, ‘We are different; first, we should learn to tolerate and appreciate each other, and only then can we



afford criticism.’

In my first year at MiraCosta, I learned that tolerance and appreciation are the cornerstones of American culture. English reshaped my perception of the world and my personality and gave me a second chance. I used to be a mediocre biologist, bored with my life, but at 50 I dared to start from scratch. Something in my guts howled to be let out. I had to write in order to keep my sanity, and English helped me express myself better than my mother tongue, because I came to love and respect my new hard-earned identity.

I took American literature, humanities, history, family psychology, human sexuality, interpersonal communication, small group communication, two theater classes, and finally I rewarded myself with three creative writing classes. There were many students in my writing classes who spoke and wrote so eloquently, with such ease. They composed their poems in a 10-minute recess, while I spent hours, struggling to find the right word.

[I was surprised that from] the very first class, my poems and stories were recited aloud by our instructor to the native speakers as an example of what the writing should look like. The structure of my sentences was often far from flawless, but my text had something in it that allowed me to compete for the reader’s attention.

I understand...that no matter how hard I try, English is not my native language. I cannot undo my life, but [last] summer two of my poems were published. Here is one of them:

A solitary naked angel lives in the plum tree in my backyard.
His recycled umbrella is useless,
his hand-me-down idea about this earthen life stinks,
but he sings strident raven’s songs.

Free, disillusioned, diminutive misfit
nests in the blooming rose-pink tree.

At the beginning of his secular life,
he used to preach on Mission Beach
before he was stoned to death with wet pebbles,
however, being a bodiless spirit, he failed to die,
just learned about hatred and dreadful fear.

He is worn-out, and he is unsure of his gender,
thus the old school, comforting sex is out of the question.
He fondles the smooth full-bodied balmy stone in his nest,
he recruits himself in the platoon of happy-go-lucky mortals.

A solitary naked angel lives in the plum tree in my backyard.
Fireflies bring him tremulous light.
He sends his petitions to the indifferent, silent, pitiless world.
He never leaves his barky branch.

I don’t know what kind of car Jesus would drive, but I do know that moving to America he would learn English. If it were up to me, I would include “One Nation Under One Language” in the daily pledge of allegiance recited at schools because today I know for certain that language shapes the individual as well as the nation.

Elena’s work is influenced by Emily Dickinson, Allen Ginsberg, Jacqueline Berger, Vladimir Kruglikov, and Josef Brodsky. She and Leonid live in Modesto.

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Peace Sign

Things are generally going to Hell,
heaven is heavily overpopulated
with the crowds of innocent souls
shoveled there by killers and politicians
drunk with promises of wealth and power,
believing that trendy lawyers
can assure them a comfortable, cool place in Hell
beyond striking distance in space
next door to the Devil's fortress.

The fight for peace is a war
that should never have been fought.
Humankind produced an abundance of profound thinkers,
Shakespeare and Faulkner invented pure love
but I learned nothing
except for the all-importance of words.

I developed the courage to fail
experiencing rejection from an early age --
dyslexic, agnostic, funny sounding Russian
who imagined she could write in English
confusing America with her literature.
Whoever I thought I was,
it is clear I was not.

The importance of time out,
the importance of compromise --
peace doesn't have to be paid for
with human sacrifices,
with mindless bombing,
with holocausts,
with the frozen heaven --
zillions of robust Polar bears are feasting on the schools of
fat cod.

No endangered species,
no nagging Greenpeace,
no Al Gore with his annoying Nobel Prize,
no war for peace,
just me and Jesus
sharing a burger at the Barkin' Dog,
flashing a peace sign
in a desperate attempt to forget
the horrible place things are generally going,
and the endless fight for peace
that starts the infinite wars.

September 11, 2011

The Gelatin Silver Black and White Photograph

To Louis Faurer

Unwatched, helmet-free childhood.
Showdown with the brutal world.
Recreation Period, Philadelphia, 1938,
a gelatin silver black-and-white photograph of
the Italian and Jewish neighborhood,
the three local boys.

Self-fulfilling prophecies work on their fates,
four eyes eat the dusty ground,
a magic glass in the left eye of the third boy
catches a thread of light and
blinds me with the sun spot.

Worn-down clothes, ruffled hair.
Two boys face the reality
while the third builds an unrealistic self-concept,
and I recognize myself in the century-old
gelatin silver black-and-white photograph.

A stubborn refusal to "take it easy."
A lot of confusing questions.
A TV clicker wouldn't understand.
Squeezed out of the vacated picture,
the silhouettes of the two bored boys.

I gaze at the third as he trades his cast-off
for a three-piece and a black tie.
I watch him creating a new type of art
out of the vibrant black and white
flavored with the acrid misery of outcast.
I am stunned by Louis Faurer's talking photographs.

Who cares how hard you try
if you lack a magic glass in your eye
to focus the powerful sun ray
and set on fire the viewer mind.

Colored Dreams

An unpolluted, serene pond,
abundance of vegetables and fish,
the various shapes of the clouds
fly by to entertain me.
Nothing to worry about
but the hot red dream
makes me feel agitated.
The bloody thing evokes
memories of old betrayals.

A chaotic green dream makes me hungry for love,
a sugary white dream makes me thirsty for happiness,
a terrifying black dream makes me cry for help.

I wake up and attend to my business.
I eat All Bran and I enjoy "Seinfeld" reruns,
but once in awhile I wonder
how the airy yellow dream would make me feel
because I never had one.

My Name

Helen means light. It came from the Greek word for
"torch."

I got an epic torch instead of a name,
the youth of soothing self-prophecies,
but the cautious teachers forbade me to play
with the wicked flames.

I wound up without dangerous matches,
cold, bored and uninformed,
curled up inside my crystal coffin.
An unlit useless torch gave me no sense of distance
from the torture of ancient times
to the modern, refined torture.
Aphrodite could not find me at dark,
she gave to a fair shepherd
that impudent upstart Nancy.

Aphrodite exuded an aura of seduction
and Paris fell for Nancy, not for me.
The king of Egypt welcomed Paris and Nancy
when they fled Sparta.

A judgment of mortals is easy to buy,
Aphrodite didn't care for money,
she loosened the clasps of her tunic
and unknotted her girdle.
She promised unsuspecting Paris
the most gorgeous of mortal women,
the crazed fire,
the glowing torch,
Helen,
but she failed to find me at dark
inside my crystal coffin,
cold, bored and uninformed,
curled up.

I have no brother to rescue me
and I never was abducted.
I simply got an epic torch instead of a name,
the youth of soothing self-prophecies,
but the cautious teachers forbade me to play
with the wicked flames.



An Open Letter to the Occupiers

from page 1

discussed with me new approaches for society's investment and innovation. We desperately need new vision like hers to come up with alternative ways of performing essential functions.

Keep asking what a just economy should look like and whom it should be for. They are noble questions. But you'd do well to avoid Utopian dreaming about things that will never happen. Look instead at how we could do things differently, more responsibly, more equitably, and yes, more democratically.

Don't be afraid to get practical and specific about how we can and must do things better than we have in recent years. One of our best moral economists, Amartya Sen, says that "being against the market is like being against conversation. It's a form of exchange." You have begun such a conversation about what markets could and should be. Keep talking.

Even in forums where business and political leaders meet, they too are asking those questions and using terms like "a moral economy" as a way to interrogate our present and failed practices. I've been in such a gathering this week — just days apart from visiting yours — where the participants slept on featherbedding in five-star hotels rather than in pup tents on the sidewalk. And yet, surprisingly, they were asking many of the same questions you are.

Keep driving both the moral and practical questions about the economics of our local and global households, for that is what the discipline was supposed to be about in the first place.

I know you believe that the leadership on Wall Street, and Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues have all failed you. Indeed, they have failed us all. But while you feel betrayed by both our business and political leaders, don't give up on leadership per se.

We need innovative leadership now more than ever. And you are providing some of it.

Think of stewards rather than masters of the universe as the model for leadership.

And remember, non-violence is not just a critical tactic but a necessary commitment to moral and civil discourse that can awaken the best in all of us. There is much to be angry about, but channeling that energy into creative, non-violent action is the only way to prevent dangerous cynicism and nihilism that also can be a human response to the injustice and marginalization many people now feel.

The anarchism of anger has never produced the change

that the discipline and constructive program of non-violent movements has done again and again. (Italics added.)

I remember what it feels like to see your movement as a lead story on the evening news every night, and the adrenaline rush that being able to muster 10,000 people in two hours' time to march in protest against injustice and inhumanity can bring. I was in your shoes 40 years ago as a student leading demonstrations against the Vietnam War, racism, and nuclear proliferation.

I would advise you to cultivate humility more than overconfidence or self-indulgence. This really is not about you. It's about the marginalized masses, the signs of the times, and the profound yearning for lasting change. Take that larger narrative more seriously than you take yourselves.

Finally, do not let go of your hope. Popular movements are the only force that truly brings about change in society. The established order is never as secure and impervious to change as those who preside over it believe it to be.

Remember that re-action is never as powerful as re-construction. And whatever you may think of organized religion, please keep in mind that change requires spiritual as well as political resources, and that invariably any new economy will be accompanied by a new (or very old) spirituality.

So I will say, may God bless you and keep you.

May God be gracious to you and give you — and all of us — peace.

Jim Wallis is the author of *Rediscovering Values: A Guide for Economic and Moral Recovery*, and CEO of *Sojourners*. He blogs at www.godspolitics.com. Follow Jim on Twitter@JimWallis

Choices

By JOHN MUDIE

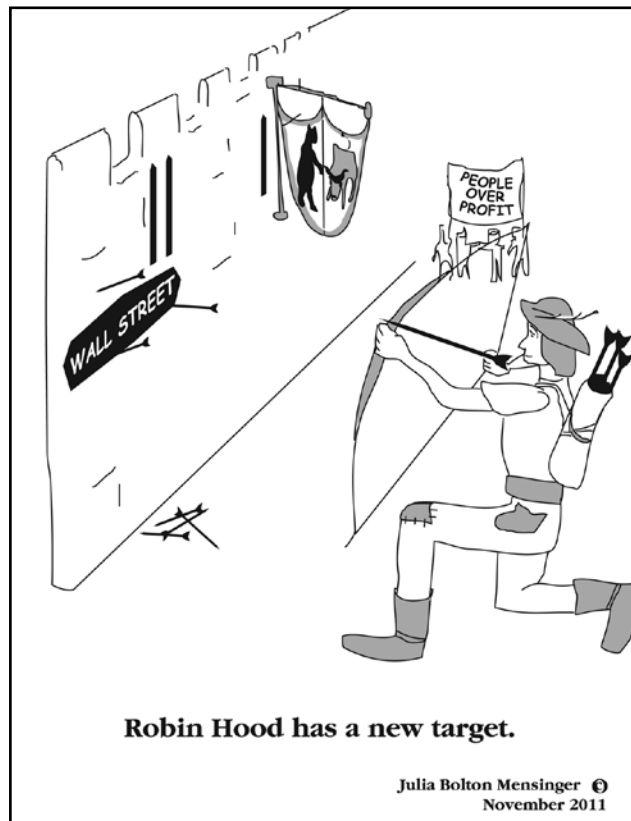
Derreck Jensen's book, *endgame*, is a book that you may not want to read. It is a two-volume work that has been reviewed by several publishing groups that suggest that it is the most important book written in the last decade. The author's twenty premises are quite intriguing and would lead to many spirited debates concerning our future. His first premise is that civilization is not sustainable. His choices for courses of action are a puzzle; one being that civilization should be replaced as gently as is possible so as to forego other violent ends such as nuclear war. Humans must return to the hunter-gatherer stage that precedes the agricultural era.

The difficulty of our choices can be illustrated by considering a simple trilemma. As an example, consider the choices between cheap, spaceflight and survival. You may have spaceflight and survival, but it isn't cheap. Or you may have cheap and survival, but no spaceflight. Similarly you can amuse yourself with the choices among Alaska, fresh fruit, and no oil. You can't have all three at once.

Three real choices we are offered today to maintain civilization include our Free Market System of economics, a "Green" Revolution, or the Endgame suggested by Jensen and other anarchists in the organization ENDCIV.org (End Civilization) <http://submedia.tv/endciv/>.

For the supporters of the Free Market System of economics there is a frustrating dilemma brought up by the hopelessness of unlimited growth with finite resources. Think of a growing world population and declining oil supplies. We cannot feed the world's population when our oil becomes too expensive. After all, agriculture is the process of converting

CHOICES cont. next page



Robin Hood has a new target.

Julia Bolton Mensinger ©
November 2011

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One heck of a birthday party

By DANIEL NESTLERODE

On a glorious early autumn Saturday I found myself on the road to Santa Cruz. The Santa Cruz Guitar Company, a small shop of guitar makers in Santa Cruz, CA, celebrated its 35th birthday in semi-public fashion, and I had scored an invitation from the owner, Richard Hoover.

The Santa Cruz Guitar Company, affectionately known as SCGC, makes high end acoustic guitars in small batches for dealers in the US, Europe, and Asia. They average about 750 completed instruments a year, in deep contrast to Martin Guitars, which makes about 750 instruments a day.

I was happily on my way to Santa Cruz that Saturday to celebrate the birthday of my favorite guitar brand, renew acquaintances with Richard Hoover and the SCGC crew. I was also hoping for the chance to jam with some of Santa Cruz's finest musicians. I was not disappointed.

It took me two and a half hours to get there. But the weather was magnificent, so from Pelandale Avenue to California Route 9, the stereo was up and the windows down. I find it nearly impossible to get frustrated with traffic listening to Eric Skye, Richard Thompson, Maria McKee, and Emmy Lou Harris.

The community hall at Harvey West Park was all done up in cowboy style. Bales of hay were augmented with cowboy boots, saddles, ropes, chaps, etc. And a life-size cardboard cut out of the best singing cowboy around, Don Edwards, stood next to the front door welcoming us to the party. The décor went hand-in-glove with a recent marketing effort centered on a contest to name the cowgirl in the new cowgirl images SCGC may (or may not—I'm not privy to these things) continue to use.

I stowed my instruments and chatted a bit with a few friends. They described the previous night's revels in some detail. Apparently I missed an excellent show. Conversation then turned to the impending completion of a custom-ordered SCGC guitar, one that I hope to get to play sometime. The details of this guitar are likely to be exciting only to those of us steeped in the minutiae of acoustic guitar materials and production, but attention to such details by both the purchaser and the maker ensure that this guitar will be sonically and visually gorgeous.

Discussion of a wonderful new instrument had whetted my appetite to play, so I went looking for my bassist and friend, Matt. When I discovered him, he too was in the throes of new-instrument ecstasy. Matt had acquired a new upright bass and was itching to put it through its paces. Ever obliging, I retrieved my mandolin, and we took our time warming up on some of our more basic material. Matt needed time to get acquainted with the both the tone and the dimensions of his new bass. Getting comfortable with a new instrument can be a bit like breaking in a baseball mitt—in reverse. In this case, the player has to come to an accommodation with instrument rather than forcing the instrument to conform to the player.

The two of us made a non-guitar duo at a guitar party. I felt only a little odd about this because I knew that our hosts enjoyed it, and there were guitars all over the place. So our little impromptu performance could have been compared in an epicurean mind to a sherbet between the meat and fish courses of a large formal meal.

After a bit of chatting, I fell into another larger jam with some of Santa Cruz's finest local talent. Ukulele Dick and his band swapped tunes with me and Matt for a time. Our jam



circle consisted of bass, ukulele, three different varieties of guitar, and myself on mandolin. We filled the deck outside the community building with an appreciative audience when we rambled into a spirited version of Paul Simon's "Under African Skies." We held them for a few tunes with an upbeat 4/4 version of Dylan's "Farewell Angelina" and a blues by Matt called "Duo Glide."

About the same time the audience wandered back into the hall to hear Don Edwards regale them with his effortless and soulful renditions of cowboy ballads. I heard that the performance was amazing from a friend who is not usually a fan of cowboy music, but I remained nailed to my spot. Guitarist and rhythmist Bob Brozman, joined our little jam, and injected an element of challenging musical fun.

Bob led us through some very cleverly written Calypso tunes from the 20s and 30s, explaining the complexity of rhythmic structure and pointing out the simplicity of the harmonic structure. Ukulele Dick and his band added fun jazz-pop tunes from the same era to the mix, so our jam kept rolling along. Matt and I hung on for the ride. I think we sat in that circle for at least 3 hours, because it was nearly time for dinner before I knew what had happened.

After a lovely picnic meal and some seriously rich chocolate cake, we toasted Richard Hoover and his band of accomplished artisans. They make, in my humble opinion, guitars that can only be equaled, never surpassed. SCGC's continued success as a business is an oasis of excellent news in our current economic climate, and it's a testament to the old adage, "Do what you love and the money will follow."

They also know how to host one heck of a party. Hopefully we'll get to do it again before another 35 years goes by.

Ed. Note: for more on the SCGC, visit <http://www.santacruzguitar.com/index.html>

Choices

from previous page

oil into food through the use of land. The Green Revolution requires a new alternative energy infrastructure that offers the promise of unlimited natural energy. This would require decades to implement and install. In the interim The Green Revolutionists have no answers for feeding the planet. Further, the Green Revolution supporters are promoters of growth as well. In this new world if you don't live next to where food is produced, you won't be able to obtain it. With ever increasing population growth the pie will get divided into smaller pieces for each.

It seems that the End gamers may be the only ones that provide a solution to save at least a small number of humans from extinction. All civilizations that have collapsed have shown to be violent in the growth or defense of their existence. The goal of the End gamers is for man to return to the early hunter-gatherer stage of human development. The return, they hope, will be less violent than other modern scenarios that envision nuclear war, worldwide epidemics or starvation. As would-be anarchists they seem to be very aware of the skills needed for our return to nature. There will be a host of old skills to be relearned. So much so, that the relearning process must be shared. We must relearn such things as recognizing poisonous plants, learning natural methods of alternative medicine as well as the techniques of hunting

and gathering. Where indeed do you begin to choose what you would eliminate from our civilization and in what order. What indeed should be saved?

How could people return to their earliest developmental stage? I don't believe that anyone has the answer to that question. It seems that thoughts concerning civilization's failure to sustain itself forces one to accept the stoppage and reversing of its goal of endless growth.

Although growth is relentlessly promoted as an undeniable good, the fact remains that it really only benefits a small number of people at the expense of all others who must contend with externalities such as pollution, environmental destruction, reduced living standard and expense.

It would be a huge paradigm shift in our goals and vision if we focused on the reversal of our desires for growth. For Free Marketers, 'Greeners' and Anarchists it is an idea worth spreading. The modern anarchists are young and expressive of their understanding of the direness of their condition. They see their elders oblivious to the problem of sustaining the civilization that we have. They are unwilling to be the fence sitters they see about them who lack both knowledge and even concern. Maybe they will come up with something which, as yet, goes without discussion.



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