

## Enjoy Borscht and Balalaikas: Show Your Humanitarian Support of Ukraine

By **TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL**

Many have asked how they might help the people of Ukraine. Modesto Sister Cities International has the perfect answer; a fundraiser borscht dinner featuring Ukrainian foods and music, to be held on June 4 at Modesto Center Plaza, 1001 L St., Modesto, starting at 5 p.m. with a social hour, followed at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and a program.

Richard Navarro, Vice President of the Khmelnytskyi Sister City Committee, and Solange Altman, event organizer, suggest that "by contributing to this fundraiser, you can demonstrate American compassion, generosity and the willingness to stand with our Ukrainian friends, who are fighting for their survival."

Modesto Peace/Life Center founding member, the late Gene Palsgrove, initiated the local Sister Cities program nearly 30 years ago to promote international friendships and goodwill. He worked tirelessly to make the Ukrainian city of Khmelnytskyi Modesto's first Sister City, a choice based upon that

city's similar size, its location, then behind the Iron Curtain, and its agricultural base. Many individuals from Khmelnytskyi and Modesto have traveled to our respective countries for cultural and educational purposes and have developed special bonds over the years.

Tickets for the event are \$40 general admission and \$35 for seniors, students and veterans, and can be purchased online through The State Theater: <https://thestate.org/events/borscht-dinner-062022/> or by check through Navarro Insurance, 2937 Veneman Ave. #A-101, or at American Lumber, 1231 9th St., Modesto. The dinner menu will include Ukrainian appetizers, beef or vegetarian borscht, rye bread, and American apple pie. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

Tables of 8 are available for donations of \$500, and sponsorship opportunities are available for \$1500, \$3500, and \$5000 with special Ukrainian gifts included in each sponsorship category.

Direct sponsorship questions to 209-404-7120, or [solangealtman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:solangealtman@sbcglobal.net).



## SHARE Presents a Compelling Local Story: Benevolent Neglect

Michael Estrada teaches at a Bay Area community college. He is, also, the son of a mother with an untreated serious mental illness. For the last two years of her life, while they lived together in Modesto, CA., he was her caregiver. His documentary film, *Benevolent Neglect*, honors his mom's memory and chronicles his family's struggle to try and get the help they desperately needed for her.

"It is a painful reminder that we are not doing enough to avoid what Estrada notes is "much sorrow, needless suffering, and preventable deaths." - Pete Early

**Showtime: Thursday May. 26, 2022**  
at the State Theatre, 1307 J St., Modesto, CA 95354.

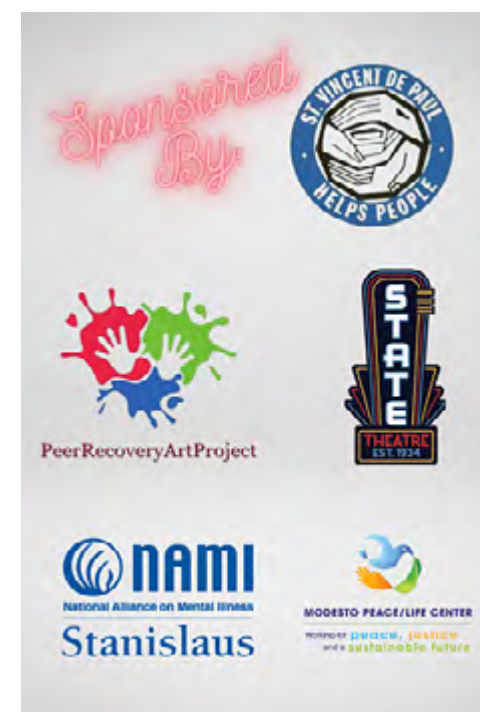
Doors open at 5:30 PM with a reception and light snacks. Film at 6:30 PM.

A panel discussion follows.

Watch the trailer at <https://youtu.be/ta08Lo3ULqo>

Tickets <https://prod5.agileticketing.net/websales/pages/TicketSearchCriteria.aspx?evtinfo=193954~4e8b4fa5-aaf4-4669-af20-791dec4fd008&>

**Come and learn how you can help your community deal with the serious homeless crisis.**



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#### INSIDE CONNECTIONS

LOCAL.....	2
HELP UKRAINE.....	3
LINDA KNOLL - ARTIST.....	4-5
RACISM'S HEAVY WEIGHT.....	6

SAVE THE VOTE! .....	7
PEACE ESSAY WINNER.....	8
GATHERING OF VOICES .....	9
VOICE OF THE VALLEY.....	10
MUDDY WATER POLICY .....	11

## Annual Used Book Sale Slated for May at Modesto Library

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 7 – the annual FOML Used Book Sale at the Modesto Library. Event Chair Pat Glatke has announced that used book donations are now being accepted. Call (209) 985-7156 to arrange to drop off your books. Or, take them to the Modesto Library in boxes or bags clearly marked **MODESTO FRIENDS USED BOOK SALE**.



As always, volunteers are needed to sort books prior to the sale and to work at the event. Contact Marilyn Drew, [WalkingMD@pacbell.net](mailto:WalkingMD@pacbell.net), to volunteer.

## Check out San Francisco Yiddish Combo's Unique Blend of Music at CBS

By **TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL**

The San Francisco Yiddish Combo will perform at Congregation Beth Shalom on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

The San Francisco Yiddish Combo (SFYC) was formed by accident when a love of Klezmer music collided with the group's collective backgrounds in every genre except Klezmer. Now the SFYC is embarked on a journey around the world to present their own unique blend of everything that is Klezmer, mixed with years of experience in the jazz, blues, folk, and even hip-hop world.

Made up of classically trained musicians who enjoy stretching musical boundaries, the SFYC is led by cellist Rebecca Roudman who has fronted groups all over the world bringing her virtuosic and fiery playing to stages from China to Iceland and beyond. Check out the SFYC for a fresh spin on Klezmer with plenty of recognizable nods to an eclectic mix of genres. Oh yeah, and great for dancing!

COVID Requirements - In-Person will be required to (1) provide proof of updated vaccinations including boosters, (2) wear a mask and, (3) maintain social distancing.

Purchase tickets through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sf-yiddish-combo-tickets-262031672787> or by calling the CBS office at 209 571-6060. Learn more at <https://www.cbsmodesto.org/concert-series.html> or on our Sunday Afternoons at CBS Facebook page.



## Support the Mistlin Gallery: Golden Bough in Concert

**What:** The Grace Lieberman Cabaret Series, featuring *Golden Bough*, an internationally known group specializing in Celtic music of Ireland and Scotland.

**Where:** Mistlin Gallery, 1015 J St., Modesto

**When:** May 28, 2022, at 7:30 pm (Doors open 6:30 pm)

**Why:** A fund-raising event for CCAA/Mistlin

**Tickets:** \$50 online at [ccaagallery.org](http://ccaagallery.org) or at the gallery. Price includes beverage and dessert. Additional Irish themed beverages will be available for purchase.

### Golden Bough

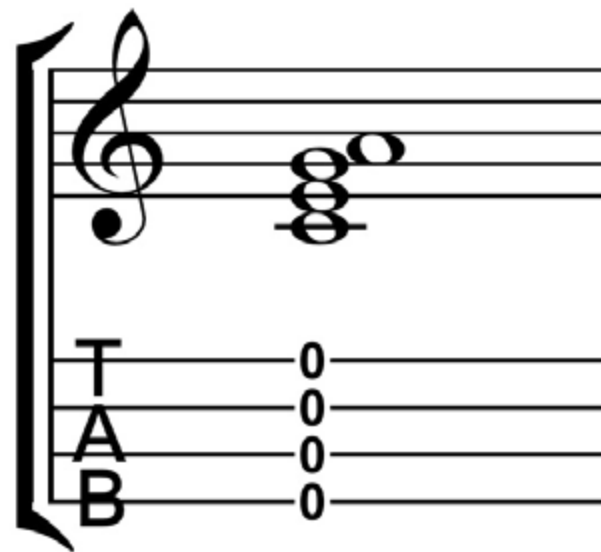
*"There is a love of this music by the performers that is obvious. A great example of how to do something the right way when many are just doing it, period."* Wind and Wire magazine

For four decades of touring and recording, Golden Bough has brought a refreshing approach to the traditional Celtic music of Ireland, Scotland, and the Celtic regions of Europe, as well as from North America. Blending voices in pristine three-part harmony, Margie Butler, Paul Espinoza, and Kathy Sierra capture the essence and joy of traditional folk music, accompanying themselves on an array of acoustic instruments, from harp and fiddle, to guitar, octave-mandolin, accordion, penny whistle, and bodhran. Golden Bough tours nationally and internationally, releasing more than thirty CDs over the years.



All three musicians are active in the arts community. Modesto's own Margie Butler teaches private harp lessons for young adults and adults, serves as local representative for Triplett Celtic harp, and coordinates Celtic cruise tours to Alaska. Paul Espinoza teaches guitar when he is not composing music. Kathy Sierra is a Suzuki Violin Method teacher, offering violin and guitar classes in her Brentwood music studio, as well as on Skype. In 2020, Golden Bough celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of touring with a performance at the Gallo Center for the Arts.

Information: contact Mistlin Gallery by email, [ccaagallery@gmail.com](mailto:ccaagallery@gmail.com), or phone 209-529-3369.



## Play in a Fun-loving Ukulele Group

**Funstrummers:** A Fun-loving Ukulele group gets together live to practice and play. Play along with us or work up to playing out in gigs.

We meet Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Telle Classrooms at Trinity Presbyterian at 1600 Carver Rd., in Modesto.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mej3gD0ZD40&list=LLB8YI9zZg660qHCXGoC6ojQ&index=1>

### KCBP Community Radio Seeks Volunteers

The Modesto Peace/Life Center's Community Radio Station the "Voice of the Valley" KCBP 95.5 FM needs volunteers to help develop the following programs:

Children • Art • Poetry • News/Journalism  
• Education • Health • Science • Social Justice • Multicultural • Music/All Genres

Other Opportunities: Underwriting  
• Fundraising/Event Committee • Community Outreach

Contact Jocelyn Cooper,  
KCBP Development  
Director, (209) 422-0119  
[kcbpvolapp@gmail.com](mailto:kcbpvolapp@gmail.com)







## Threshold Choir Presents: Walking Each Other Home: A Choral Remembrance

Threshold Choir, an international choir with 200 chapters around the country and the world, is holding a day of choral remembrance for those who've died in the COVID-19 pandemic, their families, and anyone who wants to participate as a community. "Walking Each Other Home" will be held at 2 p.m. on May 1, 2022, at the Mini Stage outdoors in Graceada Park in Downtown Modesto.

Threshold Choir's Modesto Threshold Singers chapter sings gentle, comforting songs in groups of two to four to people at the thresholds of life, including sick and dying people. The songs are written by members across the globe and represent messages of peace, kindness, and love.

Threshold Choir's mission is to sing for those at the thresholds of life. Our vision is a world where all of life's thresholds are honored with compassion and shared through song. Threshold Choir has been a 501(c)3 organization since 2010.

Local Contact: [modestothresholdsingers@gmail.com](mailto:modestothresholdsingers@gmail.com), 209-441-8088 or 209-565-1247.

National Contact: Heidi Dressler, Executive Director, [Heidi@thresholdchoir.org](mailto:Heidi@thresholdchoir.org)

(707) 596 8531, [www.thresholdchoir.org](http://www.thresholdchoir.org)



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829 13<sup>th</sup> St., Modesto, CA 95354  
Open by appointment.  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 134,  
Modesto, CA 95353  
209-529-5750

## John McCutcheon Returns Live in Concert

Six-time Grammy nominated folk musician John McCutcheon performs in his 19th benefit for the Modesto Peace/Life Center on **Tuesday, June 7 at 7pm** at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave. John is a master of the guitar, banjo, hammer dulcimer, piano, autoharp and fiddle. John's latest albums, *Bucket List* and *Cabin Fever* will be available at the concert.

COVID precautions will include masks indoors at all times. Precautions may change based on conditions at the time.

Online tickets sales are at [mccutcheonmodesto2022.brownpapertickets.com/](http://mccutcheonmodesto2022.brownpapertickets.com/)

Tickets can be purchased in person by check or cash at Intrinsic Elements, 1214 J St., 209-409-8510 and at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., 209-523-1438. Information: contact Ken Schroeder 209-480-4576s, Visit John's website at <http://www.folkmusic.com>

### Please consider becoming a sponsor of the concert.

You will receive tickets to the concert, your name in the program, and reserved seating. Five levels of sponsorship are available: **Autoharp** — \$40 One ticket, **Guitar** — \$75 Two tickets, **Banjo** — \$150 Four tickets, **Piano** — \$300 Eight tickets, **Hammer Dulcimer** — \$500 Sixteen tickets.

You may send your sponsorship donation check to the Modesto Peace/Life Center, PO Box 134, Modesto CA 95354. You may also go to the Brown Paper Ticket site or contact Ken Schroeder. Please let us know the level of sponsorship and whether you have a dedication. Write "sponsor" in the memo on your check. Specify how you would like the dedication to appear in the program (such as "In Honor of" or "To the Memory of ...") The Modesto Peace/Life Center is a tax-exempt organization under the IRS code section 501(c)(3).

## Fundraiser for Ukraine Modesto Sister City Khmel'nitskiy

**Saturday, June 4, 2022**  
at the Modesto Centre Plaza  
1000 L Street

**Borscht Dinner**  
with other Ukrainian foods

5 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Dinner - Program - Music

**Tickets** — \$40 general, \$35 seniors, veterans, students. Available online at <https://thestate.org/events/borscht-dinner-062022/> or by check at Navarro Insurance Agency, 2937 Veneman Ave Suite A-101 and American Lumber Company, 1231 9th Street, Modesto

**Table Sponsors** receive premium Ukrainian products, call (209) 577-8758.

**\$500** table for 8, with vodka and 8 Kiev commemorative glasses.

**\$1,500** table for 8, sponsor banner, vodka and 8 Kiev com-



"He has an uncanny ability to breathe new life into the familiar. His storytelling has the richness of fine literature."

— Washington Post.



**Modesto Sister Cities**

memorative glasses, 24 count box of chocolates.

**\$3,500** table for 8, sponsor loop on video screen, banner, vodka and 8 Kiev commemorative glasses, 24 count box of chocolates, The New Ukrainian Cookbook (hardcover), 2 lb. jar of organic wild honey, handmade wood honey dipper, butter spreader and mini spatula.

**\$5,000** table for 8, special mention from the stage, sponsor loop on video screen, banner, vodka and 8 Kiev commemorative glasses, 24 count box of chocolates, The New Ukrainian Cookbook (hardcover), Summer Kitchens- Recipes and Reminiscences from Every Corner of Ukraine (hardcover), 2 lb. jar of organic wild honey, handmade wood honey dipper, butter spreader and mini spatula, 6 jars (1250 grams each) of Premium jam (cherry, apricot, strawberry, raspberry, plum and black current)— all from Ukraine.

All proceeds will go for humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Modesto Sister Cities International 501(c)(3)  
[www.modestosistercities.com](http://www.modestosistercities.com)  
[modesto.mscl@gmail.com](mailto:modesto.mscl@gmail.com) or (209) 577-8758



# Linda Knoll: Talented Modesto Artist/Dedicated Valley Art Educator

By TOM PORTWOOD

Whether creating a beautiful homage to the great marine biologist and conservationist Rachel Carson or painting a loving, whimsical memorial to her cats, Modesto artist and arts advocate Linda Knoll's canvases are always vividly colorful and arresting.

But Ms. Knoll is not only an extraordinarily talented artist; she's a gifted arts educator as well who has headed the Central California Art Association's (CCAA) arts outreach program to Valley schools for the past dozen years.

"If there's anything that can help us understand ourselves, and our world and our place in it, it's the arts -- painting, poetry, music, dance, drama. If I can help children with that understanding, then every minute and every dollar invested is worth it," Ms. Knoll recently.



"I was born here in Modesto," she recalled. "My folks moved here from Fresno after college, and I went to all of the local schools. I remember that we lived in a newish subdivision near Downey High School and just beyond our block there were still almond orchards. We actually had almond trees in our yard. I remember running around in the weeds, chasing butterflies. We freely

rode our bicycles around the neighborhood and didn't have any worries."

With family members who were "always artistic," Ms. Knoll was drawn at an early age into the vibrant world of colors and creativity. "I definitely get my love of arts through family," she admitted. "When I was young, we had a pottery studio in our house, and my mom was also a painter. My grandparents were both artists, so I was always around that."

Graduating from Downey High School in the early 1980s, Ms. Knoll then went to the University of the Pacific, majoring in graphic design. All during those formative years, Ms. Knoll kept finding different creative outlets:

"Singing was a big part of my childhood, too. I started as early as possible, singing in choruses and participating in musicals-all through school. I sang in all the choruses it was possible to sing in at Downey High School. I also participated in what was then Modesto Youth Theater for several summers. I went to UOP with the intention of majoring in music but wound-up majoring in art."

"I still love music and participate in the Modesto Symphony Chorus and other choruses pretty consistently since high school, but I didn't think I could make a career out of that. I decided that graphic design was a little better option, and I had some experience there as well."



Following her graduation from UOP, Ms. Knoll went into business with her parents and opened a computer graphics shop in downtown Modesto. Computer graphics were "very new" at the time, so the work was both challenging and exciting for the seven years she was involved with the store. Ultimately, Ms. Knoll left the business to be a stay-at-home mom which also gave her an opportunity to "get back into my own painting practice. And, at that point, I also decided to return to school and get a teaching credential."

For three years, Ms. Knoll worked as a library media teacher at Bret Harte Elementary and then was an art teacher at Waterford Junior High School for two years. Both of these experiences "really showed me the great need" for art education that exists for many kids, particularly those attending underserved or underfinanced schools. Thus began Ms. Knoll's devotion to the cause of providing the high caliber of art education she feels all kids deserve.

When her position at Waterford Junior High was eliminated due to budget cutbacks, Ms. Knoll "took the opportunity to connect with Grace Lieberman and the Stanislaus Arts Council's STARS program. STARS was designed to have local artists go into schools to teach art classes on a contractual basis -- this gave schools the chance to have a real artist come out and present the classes to their kids."

Following Grace Lieberman's retirement, though, the Arts Council folded -- and STARS with it -- but Ms. Knoll's concept for the program was strong and resilient, and in the early years

of the Great Recession the gap in art education in schools was definitely growing, so when the CCAA "contacted me and said 'Hey, why don't we revive the STARS program in our own fashion?' I jumped at the chance."

## CLASS teaching artist program

So, for the past 12 years, Ms. Knoll has been the director of CLASS -- Community Liaison for Art in Stanislaus Schools, and the program has proven to be remarkably successful.

"It started very small, but it's grown to serving tens of thousands of kids every year," she noted. "We present classes throughout several school districts, including Ceres and Salida, and some in Modesto City Schools. We've been out in Riverbank and Patterson, sort of all over the County, offering art classes through this program."

"We visit all of the classrooms in Ceres at least three to five times a year. I've been heading up this program for all those years and have a team of teaching artists - that is artists who are acting as teachers - going out to the different schools. We've had as many as 16 teachers before the pandemic shutdown. Since then, we've reduced our numbers, losing a number of people to other employment. It was really hard for us, as an organization, not to go into classes. During that first year, we weren't able to do much at all, except for a few online classes. But I'm optimistic that in this coming school year, we'll be back up to our previous levels."

As one of the CLASS teachers, Ms. Knoll can personally



attest to the importance of providing art in the classroom: “In art, all kids get a chance to use their brain in a different way than any other kind of activity. Oftentimes, there are kids who may have a hard time with school or social skills, but in art they shine. The visual and kinesthetic aspects of art reach them in a different way. The kids relish the opportunity to do creative projects and learn new ways to express themselves. I love that they love it!”

## StArt Magazine

In the fall of 2020, Ms. Knoll and a few collaborators started producing a quarterly arts magazine for kids called *StArt*. “I just sent our seventh issue to the printer yesterday,” she noted.

“I actually started the project as a result of being shut out of schools during the pandemic. I sat down with our teaching team and asked, ‘How can we reach kids and what can we do to still put the art out there?’ From that brainstorming, ‘my friend and collaborator, Betty Gay and I decided to put together this magazine.’”

“Our concept is to include all of the arts – music, and theatre and dance as well as the visual arts and poetry. In our first several issues, we had interviews with students who are artists. We had a young man who is part of the Modesto



Youth Symphony, a dancer from Central West Ballet; plus we include all kinds of hands-on art projects. We try to keep our projects fairly simple so that kids can do them at home without too many special supplies. We want to make it accessible to most people who can't go out and buy a bunch of art supplies.”

Copies of *StArt* magazine, which is bilingual English/Spanish, are available at both Mistlin Gallery in Modesto and the Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock. They can also be purchased through Ms. Knoll's website: <https://lindaknollart.com/start-magazine>. A buy one/give one subscription is available for those who would like to gift a subscription to

a student or school library.

In addition to her painting and all her efforts with CLASS and *StArt*, Ms. Knoll has illustrated and published two books.

“I feel as if I am always championing local things. Right now, my work is championing the artists and the people who work in the arts here in the County, and that's what my books do as well. One of them is all about the animals that live in the Valley. I use that in my art lessons a lot. Whenever I go to schools, I talk about the animals that are endangered and why their habitats are different than what they once were. And I talk about the natural history of the area. The other book is about our Farmers' Market and the Valley's agricultural niche.”

Ms. Knoll is also championing the local arts by serving on the board of directors of the Arts Council of Stanislaus County, a new effort being led by CCAA. “We are figuring out what an arts council needs to do to promote the arts. The



board of directors is very enthusiastic and includes people from all the various arts sectors as well as all areas of the County. We're also trying to make sure that we are inclusive of all the different cultures and backgrounds that are represented in the Valley. We have a pretty diverse group of people who are embarking on this project, and we hope that it's going to grow in the next couple of years and become something really meaningful.”

As a lifelong resident of the Valley, Ms. Knoll is “always surprised at people who can only say negative things about our County and our area when there are really a lot of positive things happening all the time if they would just turn around and look. I guess that's what I want to say – ‘Hey, these things are happening and these things are good. That's what we need to tell people.’”



Friday & Saturday, May 6 & 7, 2022 • 7:30 pm  
Sunday, May 8, 2022 • 2 pm

Tickets from \$15 • (209) 338-2100 • GalloArts.org • #galloarts • #gcrc



## Webinar Focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma-Informed Care

By ERICA AYALA, Community Engagement Manager, Blue Shield of California

Blue Shield of California would like to invite you to attend an educational webinar focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). The webinar will provide training and practical resources for community-based organizations (including schools) that serve patients and clients who have experienced trauma.

ACEs are stressful events in a child or adolescent's life and can include experiences such as abuse, neglect, substance abuse, witnessing violence, bullying, poverty, and more. Without support and intervention, ACEs can have long-term effects on a children's brains and their bodies, impacting behavior, learning and mental health. While ACEs can lead to an increased risk for our youth, it doesn't have to lead to health problems with the right support for children to feel safe and secure.



This webinar will provide practical training and support, covering topics such as:

- Introduction to ACEs and trauma-Informed care
- Identifying organizational imperative for trauma-informed care
- Explore the ROI for embracing trauma informed approaches
- Practical steps to Integrating trauma Informed care in the workplace

The two-hour webinar is free and is aligned with the California ACEs Aware Initiative. The links below offer four different training sessions during the month of May you may choose from.

May 11th, 10am-12pm

May 12th, 12pm-2pm

May 13th, 2pm-4pm

May 16th, 4pm-6pm



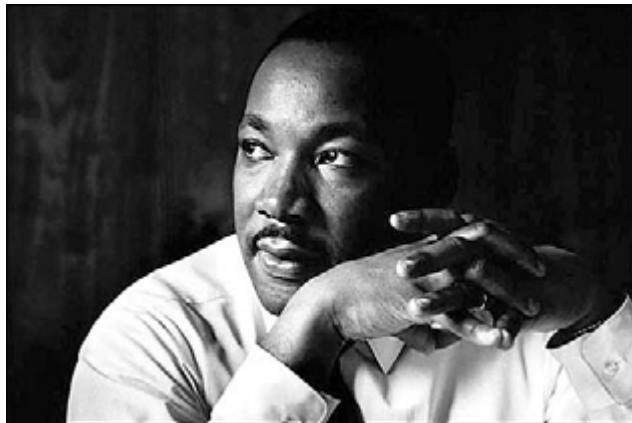
# Discussing Racism

By A'KIA WALKER

*Ed. Note: The author delivered this speech as part of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration held virtually on February 12, 2022. It is slightly edited for print publication. Watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mQhrU4uk4g&t=11s>*

When I was asked to share a few words about racism I found myself perturbed by the thought of speaking in front of a group regarding this topic. I asked myself, “What am I going to talk about? Who am I to speak on this topic?” As I spent more time digging deeper into why I was feeling so anxious, I realized that I wasn’t at a loss of words to express, but rather I was burdened by the need to perform. I thought I had to pull out my data sheets and statistical findings, and ultimately, present proof and evidence that there is an entire community of people enduring the painful rippling effects of a racist, unjust society. But you see, I’ve been down that road one too many times before, and it has left me nowhere but questioning: “Why do I have to prove that my experiences as a Black woman are rooted in racism?” The fact of the matter is, no amount of quantitative data can surmount the emotive weight that systematic racism has placed on my people for too many generations.

I got tired of studying the disproportionate rates of Black men incarcerated and many victimized by a hopeless institution; Black women, far too often, failed at the hands of American health care systems; exceedingly lower graduation rates among Black students in comparison to white and other minority groups; widespread occurrences of



Black families trapped by the hands of the social hierarchy; blatant killings of Black and brown men and woman at the whim of abused police power; dark familiarity of drug and substance abuse amongst Black communities; scarcities, or rather lack thereof, fresh and nutritional resources in minority communities... but I digress. Through years of learning the disproportionate realities of our society, all I could ask myself is, “How did we get here?”

It’s easy to memorize data, present the findings, and state a case to solve a problem. I graduated last year with my B.S in Molecular & Microbial Biology, so zooming in and studying the details is what I practiced for years. You know what’s not easy though? Remembering how it feels to be Black in America.

I’ll never forget how it felt to be the only Black kid in grade school at a predominantly white institution studying “history” — and I use air quotes because we all know our educational system is stripped with curriculum inequities — and getting stares from kids in class when the teacher presents a monotonous lecture covering, what seemed like, one para-



graph discussing the primary contribution Black people offered to American society: slavery. I couldn’t help but wonder, “Were white people the only educators, inventors, doctors, scientists, discoverers, etcetera of the human race, or are these textbooks missing a lot of important information?” I’ll never forget what it felt like watching my mother, a single-parent, work and work tirelessly to raise me

and my siblings while following the superwoman schema practically to textbook standards. I’ll never forget what it felt like standing in the mirror of my middle school bathroom, studying my melanin, analyzing my curls, observing my prominent ethnic features, and thinking “God, why couldn’t you have made me beautiful?” Because growing up, beauty was rooted in Eurocentric standards, and mainstream media still perpetuates these standards.

I’ll never forget what it felt like to learn that my biological father was yet another statistic, another criminal herded

into the system — I guess that made me another statistic too, right? Another fatherless, Black kid. Because society taught me that Black men are willingly deadbeat fathers, so I guess my family dynamic is normal, right? I’ll never forget what it felt like sitting in US history class at the university level and feeling completely numb, checked out, and disinterested because I was already conditioned to believe that “history” did not include me or people that looked like me — at least not in the courageous and triumphant ways the textbooks described my white counterparts. I’ll never forget what it felt like when an elderly white couple walked into the restaurant I used to work at and requested nothing less than a white server... this happened last year. I’ll never forget what it felt like as the Black community collectively mourned the murder of Eric Garner... and then Michel Brown... and then Tamir Rice... and then Philando Castile... and then Ahmaud Arbery, which hit close to home as I reflected on my experiences as a former collegiate distance runner... and then Breonna Taylor... and then George Floyd.... My soul felt like it was suffocating. I remember I didn’t get out of bed all day when the news was released. It felt like a nightmare that was on replay — how many unjust, racially-driven murders did not get press attention? How many of these murders were swept under the rug by a biased justice system? How many families are still mourning the murder of their brother, sister, mother, father, cousin...? My heart ached deeply for my community, and especially for my ancestors who had to fight with whatever ounce of life they had left in them for my generation to be where we are today. But how is it that we still have so much work to do? I felt hopeless, exhausted, enraged, helpless... I thought, “Is this just the way the world is?”

These emotional memories remind me that being Black in America is more than just a racial category you mark off on a ballot, more than just a pigment spread throughout our skin — it’s a daily experience. And the impacts that racism has inflicted on this experience has to be deconstructed, decolonized, and destroyed. Because the truth is, there is so much beauty in being Black. I am grateful that God has placed me in communities where I have been able to learn what it means to love myself as a Black woman. And I pray for a time where our Black youth do not have to endure this

continued next page

KCBP RADIO-95.5 FM - THE VOICE OF THE VALLEY  
SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH

## UNDERWRITING

The right person(s) should  
Be personable  
Have good communication skills  
Have experience with selling  
Be passionate for promoting  
community radio

Businesses: Support a program and have  
your services mentioned on the air.

Contact KCBP Development Director, Jocelyn  
Cooper, [jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com)

Other volunteers needed!



Look for  
**CONNECTIONS**  
online at:  
<http://stanislausconnections.org/>

# Every Citizen Must Be Allowed to Vote!

By FALLON FERRIS

Ed. Note: The author delivered this speech as part of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration held virtually on February 12, 2022. Watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mQhrU4uk4g&t=11s>

False narratives about the election continue to spread and require a rebuttal with **trusted, information**. Until we address this underlying narrative that is driving these falsehoods, we will continue to see **attacks** on voting rights and disinformation attempting to sow distrust in our election system and limit voter participation. There are 4 key points I want to address initially:

The right to vote is a critical principle of our democracy.

Our democracy is stronger when every eligible voter can cast a vote AND have it count.

We should encourage every eligible voter to cast a ballot in every election to make **THEIR** voices heard.

We want our election system to be free, fair, and accessible to all eligible voters (POINT.....BLANK.....PERIOD.)

Very recently, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act was blocked by the Senate. Following this Senator Mitch McConnell told reporters that Black people show up to vote just as much as “Americans” do — I didn’t know “black people” weren’t “Americans.”

This act that was shot down would’ve required several states with a history of voting rights discrimination to get

preclearance from the Department of Justice **for any changes to voting laws**. This means states would have to get PRECLEARANCE to relocate polling places and impose **STRICT** voter ID requirements. It’s no coincidence that these things are coming up NOW, after the last election. Many did not like the outcome. So of course, people will try to RIG the system as much as possible. We as Americans must do our part and remember, although sometimes we may want to do otherwise; we must do **what is RIGHT. Other things this bill would have changed are:**

making Election Day a national holiday to make it easier for all voters to get to the polls.

Allows voting by mail, which was the overwhelmingly popular choice of millions of voters in 2020.

require that states make voting more accessible for people with disabilities, AND

require that states that require IDs for voting would have to broaden the types of identification acceptable.

It would also outlaw partisan gerrymandering — which is, **drawing congressional boundaries to the political advantage of one party or another** (which is something we are currently dealing with here in Stanislaus County).

**I want to finish with some voting truths that I believe we all must think on:**

1. Voting brings us together as Americans – it is the one time when we are **all equal**. No matter who you are or where



you come from, your vote counts just as much as the person next to you.

2. Voting is your opportunity to support your community and have a say in America’s future.

And lastly, shouldn’t encouraging ALL eligible voters to participate in our elections be the intention of all politicians, right?



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FACSIMILE (209) 575-0629  
1120 14TH STREET, SUITE 2  
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354

## Discussing Racism

from previous page

painfully long metamorphosis — from subconsciously hating their ancestral roots due to the psychological harm provided by societal constructs, to then realizing and redefining their self-worth through learning that their beautiful skin was never flawed to begin with. See that’s the thing with racism, it only exists if we let it. That’s why it takes whole communities to dismantle the constraints of a foundation built on white supremacy.

Through my undergraduate studies, I’ve learned that we are all, quite literally, one in the same. When it comes to analyzing our differences as a species at the molecular level, only point one percent of your DNA accounts for the variations we observe between one another — that’s pretty fascinating if you ask me. I pray that one day we can embrace this minuscule difference by appreciating the beautiful com-

plexions, cultures, languages, innovations, and experiences we can share together as one human race. And I believe this is possible through:

**healing:** the most important factor for our communities to empower one another is to heal from the traumatic stress and experiences that racism has created for us all,

**accountability:** we must ensure that privileged and healthy communities are showing up, using their platforms, and fighting to dismantle any gatekeepers in spaces of education and resources,

**serving;** through acts of service, we can understand the inherent responsibility we share for those in need of support — without empathy and humility, there is no authentic change.

And I’ll close with this: I’m certain the statistical data of human evolution can support this notion - we will always be stronger and go farther together.

Thank you.

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# Sea Levels Rising Due to Climate Change

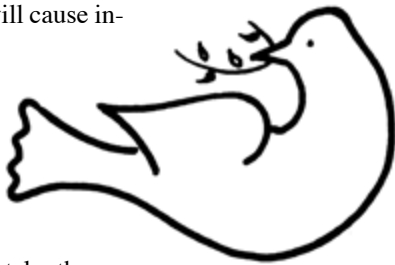
First Place Winner Division II – Peace Essay Contest

Hart Ransom Academic Charter

Teacher: Susan Janis

By TREXLER PORTER

“20 million U.S. residents in more than 1,000 communities will be at risk of permanent flooding” by 2100. (Sea level Rise, Climate Change and Health) Not only that, but millions of dollars in property are also on the line. Recently the sea level has begun to rise, swallowing three times more land than in the past, and increasing the chances of natural disasters such as hurricanes and flash floods. This increase of disasters will cause innocent people who had been leading regular lives to be plagued with the constant worries of weather disaster. These disasters will slowly but surely take the homes and lives of people as time goes on. Global warming is causing sea levels to rise, creating a negative impact on our world, disrupting the peace, and causing multiple people to be at risk of poverty or death.



To begin, sea levels rising is an immense problem. They have begun to rise rapidly due to climate change. This change may not feel important, but as the sea level rises, more ocean-related disasters will occur, such as frequent floods, hurricanes, and downpours. As sea levels rise, natural coastlines erode, causing them to collapse. The surrounding communities that were once protected by the coastline are now vulnerable to massive sea and tidal waves. Around the world, certain communities are more affected than others including Indigenous, and low-income communities. Indigenous communities that practice subsistence farming and fishing are vulnerable to saline intrusions, causing water to be unhealthy for fish and crops. Low-income communities are facing lack of reliable drinking water during the intrusion of saline, due to the rising sea level. Not only is it affecting communities, but poor individuals often lack the amount of money needed or insurance to pay for the damages of sea related factors. (Sea Level Rise, Climate Change and Health)

There are other communities at risk of flooding, due to rising sea level. To begin, in Florida there are king tides (towering waves) that have become common due to climate change. King tides are “causing flooding in Miami and along Florida’s coast.” (Sea Level Rise) Clearly the Florida community suffers from the increase of king tides due to ocean level rise. Another community being affected are the community of people across small islands such as Maldives, Kiribati, and Tuvalu that suffer massive damage from sea level rising as well. “As sea level rises, they face increased flooding and erosion of their shorelines, and sources of fresh water and agricultural land become unusable when seawater seeps in.”

(Sea Level Rise). Clearly there is also the problem of less fresh water due to saltwater making fresh water unstable, causing people to lose their water resources. “In California 260,000 people and \$50 billion in property are now at risk for a 100-year flood.” (Sea Level Rise, Climate Change and Health). Evidently, even our communities here in California are at risk of sea changes.

According to NASA scientists, “Sea level rise is caused primarily by two factors related to global warming: the added water from melting ice sheets and glaciers, and the expansion of seawater as it warms.” (Sea Level Facts) In addition, the rises in sea levels are “all induced by ongoing global climate change: Thermal expansion:... Melting glaciers: ... Loss of Greenland and Antarctica’s ice sheets:.” (Nunez, Christina) These factors are happening because of global warming, causing the sea level to rise. Scientists believe that as “humans continue to pour greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, oceans have tempered the effect. The world’s seas have absorbed more than 90 percent of the heat from these gases, but it’s taking a toll on our oceans: 2018 set a new record for ocean heating.” (Nunez, Christina). Clearly, in order to prevent the sea level from rising we must all work together to help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

Although some communities are building sea walls, this is only a temporary fix until we can all work together to stop global warming. The first thing to do to help prevent sea level rise is calculate your carbon imprint. This allows anyone who decides to help to estimate their yearly greenhouse emissions. By taking care of your car, as well as driving it less often, you can decrease the amount of greenhouse gases released from the car. Planes or flight travel use an enormous amount of gas causing more carbon to be released into the air. If customers buy more clothes than they need, there will be a major increase in landfill. If humans recycle more, the landfills will have less trash causing less carbon dioxide to be released by the degrading material. By reducing the amount of energy used within our homes, and by trying to preserve as much energy as possible, we can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released from our machines. (25 Wonderful Ways to Reduce Greenhouse Gases)

Though thousands of communities are at risk, by working together we can overcome the threat of sea level rising. Protection and comfortability are a necessity for humans to live their lives freely, and the pressing disasters caused by the rise of sea level are destroying these necessities. By helping to stop the rising sea level we can all gain this freedom of protection as well as comfortability. Whether it is convincing your government to operate using the least amount of energy possible, or by taking a bike instead of a fossil fuel car, we can all do our part to promote well-being and bring peace to our world. Once we can accomplish this, we can move forward to protect the many lives of innocent individuals at risk of disasters. By preventing the rise of sea level, we can bring peace to the mind, body, and soul.

Ed. Note: Works cited available upon request.

# Angela Drew – ILL List 16 Poetry Slam Champion

## Tapping into the Power of Words to Soothe, Stir, Solidify Connection

Angela Drew is a mother, dancer, author, poet, and self-proclaimed linguistic artist who has loved the rhythm of words for as long as she can remember. Born in Berkeley, CA, she began writing at age eight and has always understood that words have the power to soothe, stir, or solidify connection. Thus, her lifelong love affair with storytelling began.

Angela is the winner and first-place slam champion of Modesto’s 2021 ILL List 16 Poetry Slam. She has performed at venues throughout Northern CA, including the Gallo Center for the Arts, in a Sankofa Community Theatre production of “The Journey — The African American Experience,” the Hildegard Festival of Women in the Arts in Turlock and “Expose Yourself to Art,” a Mistlin/Central California Art Association endeavor. She is the author of *ElderBerry Wine*, a children’s book written in poetic verse, that celebrates the beauty and majesty of our elders and the richness they bring by simply being a part of our lives.

To learn more about Angela and her word artistry, visit her on **IG** @she\_spits\_fire, **Facebook** @Angela Drew and at [www.linguisticartistry.com](http://www.linguisticartistry.com). Find her book at [www.elderberrywine.org](http://www.elderberrywine.org), at Amazon and other retail book outlets.





Be the Dream

You know me,  
I am you.  
I am hue.  
Colorful, no longer  
colored, skin tinted  
beautiful,  
a patchwork quilt of life’s experiences  
dancing on the tomorrows of love’s  
rainbow. We are connected,  
in ways unseen  
and unspoken but known and  
felt  
like the rhythm of life’s  
heartbeat. I ask,  
How will we survive if we don’t live on love?  
How will we succeed if we don’t lift each other up?  
We’ve come this far through the strength, tenacity and  
courage of those that came before us  
and loved their grandchildren’s  
children sight unseen and no holds  
barred.  
Resisting the oppression and malevolence of injustice and  
inequality, protesting not from the comfort of their living  
room sofas,  
but from the streets of Birmingham, from the walls of DC  
from the pulpits, the lecture halls and community centers  
of inner cities and rural  
valleys. THEIR LIVES... dedicated and purposeful.  
They focused on eradicating all negative  
ISMs: RacISM,  
SexISM,  
ClassISM,

and any other ISM that oppresses the HUE—man race.  
We were handed the Dream and what have we done  
with it? We stand in benefit  
of the Civil Rights Act.  
We stand in benefit  
of the Voting Rights Act,  
what we have received must now be given.  
We’ve seen Black History Week, become Black  
History Month, and we have DEMANDED Black  
History Year,  
but it is now time for US and ALL people of color  
to be etched into the permanent pages of American  
history, a transition of truth,  
where HIS—story becomes OUR—story  
destinies intertwined.  
We saw Black Family Day every day, for about  
eight years as we officially painted the White  
House Black,  
humming melodies of freedom’s song  
soliloquies of sheer joy, drifting on the audacity of hope,  
what seemed like a miracle in my lifetime.  
But what have WE done in the name of love?  
What have WE sacrificed in the name of social and  
economic justice? What have WE spoken up for, spoken  
out for, stood defiantly for?  
How have WE paid it forward?  
It is clear and it is evident, and we all now know,  
that freedom isn’t free, it can’t be paid in  
installments and the prison industrial complex  
is the new slavery. I’m asking y’all, how will  
WE revive the dream?  
Many of our brothers and sisters are currently being held

captive by the perils of poverty, currently alienated by  
economic disparity,  
daily annihilated by police brutality.  
Our children are hungry, our children are hungry,  
let me be clear, in one of the world’s richest  
nations, our children go hungry.  
The American dream has been capsized,  
the Revolution will not be televised because it doesn’t  
make for good reality T.V., and a true, righteous, just  
America must be realized.  
The fire hoses have turned to tear gas and pepper spray  
scorching the tongues of freedom fighters  
in an effort to silence their  
voice, yet we ignore one  
another,  
through the screens of our smart  
phones craving stimulation over  
communication, we have forgotten  
the language of love.  
But this silence, it must now  
cease, we must abandon the  
apathy,  
the time for action is  
now, for now is all we have.  
THIS moment creates tomorrow,  
and tomorrow is our children’s  
future. What will YOU do today,  
to honor and resurrect

the  
Dream.  
*– Angela K. Drew*

Elusion

I am a WOMAN-ist.  
Not just flesh ingested by  
misogynist expression, my  
chromosomes two X’s, cry  
over the world’s injustice. You  
see me and I become what you imagine to be perfection,  
peeping game, parlaying theory  
from the beauty of life lessons.  
I smooth my edges but understand my roughness,  
kick to the curb all first impressions,  
for true beauty lies within  
and is not just the source of a man’s erection.  
I am moon and earth  
warmed by sun, give birth  
to love and all its worth,  
ask do you deserve  
to be touched by life, insist  
that the days you live and breath  
are engulfed in righteousness.  
I am woman tried and true

encased in swirling shades of brown  
and I will stand beside my king  
when he comes forth to claim his crown. War...  
WHAT FOR??  
Not in my nature, for I am not the conqueror of men,  
instead my breath infused with nurturing  
ignites the flame of love within.  
Incredible is my capacity  
to lift, to heal, to hold,  
to teach, to solve, deliberate,  
our children I must mold,  
and show our girls they are furious flowers  
balanced with delicate warmth and strength  
and of all of these pop culture and media portrayals of them  
are BE-trayals, illusion and myth  
created by a domineering patriarchy  
going cha-ching as it fills its wallet,  
some say its “branding” or marketing strategy,  
but oppression is what I call it.  
In a land where freedom rings eternally

tell me what do you see? Mister, what do you see?  
Is it me?  
Really me?  
My flesh that you see?  
As you sexualize me or objectify me.  
Or is it ME? Can it be the true essence of me?  
With a mind running free  
beauty internally,  
radiating from me  
into you  
or  
do  
you  
prefer  
the  
illusion?  
*– Angela K. Drew*





# Selected Programs on KCBP 95.5 FM, The Voice of the Valley

or streaming on [www.kcbpradio.org](http://www.kcbpradio.org)

PSAs in English and Spanish broadcast multiple times a day about Covid-19 vaccination, produced by the West Modesto Community Collaborative.

## PROGRAMS:

Beethoven to Bernstein - Classical music ranging from Beethoven to Bernstein. Big hits from well-renown composers - Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Ravel, Copland - and many more, mostly in the form of orchestral, chamber, and piano music - Saturdays, 10:00pm.

The Not Old - Better Show - fascinating, high-energy program of big-name guests, inspiring role models, interesting topics, with entertaining host, Paul Vogelzang - Fridays, 2:00pm, Saturdays, 12:30 pm.

Mars Radio - Hip-Hop Show - Music, interviews from local & regional artists - Fridays, 8:00pm. A new, second show plays on Saturday nights at 8:00pm.

Bucks Stallion's Radio Transmission Emporium - Cyber Music - Sundays, 1:00 am

I'll Take You There - A musical journey with Modesto's El Comandante - Saturday, 5:00pm; Sundays, 9:00pm.

Down on the Farm - topics important for our San Joaquin agriculture with Madera organic farmer, Tom Willey - Saturdays, 6am & 8pm.

AREA 5150 UFO RADIO - Saturday night at Midnight.

## LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

KeeHive - LaKiesha McDonald talks with men and women who have overcome great odds. Mondays & Wednesdays, 7:00am

I-On-Modesto - John Griffin interviews local people who reveal their inspiring stories. Mondays & Fridays, 10 am and Wednesdays at 9 pm.

Arts of the San Joaquin Valley with Linda Scheller and Laura Stokes - Mondays, 8:00pm; Tuesdays 9:00 am & Wednesdays 8:00 pm. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp> and on Spotify

Women of the Valley with Linda Scheller and Leah Hassett - 8:00pm Tuesdays & Thursdays & Wednesdays, 9:00am. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbpwotv> and on Spotify.

The Peril and the Promise with Pegasus - Wednesdays, 9:30 pm; Saturdays, 2:30 pm; Listen here also: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp-peril>. Recent show focuses on Project Censored.

Modesto Sound - California Audio Roots Project (CARP) - Wednesdays 11:30am, & Sundays 11:00am & 5:30pm.

Where We Were - Fascinating local history with Felton Daniels. Monday & Thursdays 9am. Friday 8:30pm; Sunday at 11:00am & 4:30 pm.

## Local Music Programs

Modesto Area Music Awards (MAMA) with Middagh Goodwin - Mondays 5:00pm; Fridays 9:00pm & Saturdays 6:00pm.

Freak Radio with Christian E. Boyett, 6pm Thursdays. Replays Saturdays, 9pm & Tuesdays 11pm.

This is SKA with Middagh Goodwin - Tuesdays, 9 pm; Fridays, 11pm; Sundays, 6 am.

I'll Take You There - A musical journey with Modesto's El Comandante - Saturday, 5:00pm; Sundays, 9:00pm.



## Weekdays (Monday - Friday)

*Various musical programs during the noon hour: Oldies, Jazz, Old Piano.*

Sounds Irish Music from County Wicklow - Saturdays, 7:00 p.m.

Dead Air - Hear the Grateful Dead with Corey Daniels. Fridays, 6pm; Saturdays, 3 pm

Attitude with Arne Arnesen - 3:00pm. Political and social issues.

Sojourner Truth - 4:00pm. Interviews, panels focusing on issues that affect people of color.

Democracy Now! - 7:00pm. Reporting by veteran journalist Amy Goodman.

Flashpoint Magazine - 10:00pm. Politics, social issues, from KQED's Dennis Bernstein.

## Children's Programming

Confetti Park - Saturdays 8:00am; & Sunday's 12:30pm.

The Children's Hour - Sundays 3:00pm.

## Science

Explorations - Science with Dr. Michio Kaku - 9:00am Sundays.

Big Picture Science - 1:00pm Sundays

Planetary Radio - 2:30pm Sundays

Got Science - 4:00 pm Sundays

**Find a complete programming schedule on our website, [www.kcbpradio.org](http://www.kcbpradio.org)**

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# First Annual Merced Queer Film Festival Thursday, May 19th - Sunday, May 22nd

## Festival Planners Seek to Impact Local Culture Through Cinema

Upwards of 70 feature-length and short films either created by or reflective of the LGBTQIA+ community will be screened and presented at multiple locations throughout Merced, including the Merced Multicultural Arts Center, Merced Theatre, Applegate Park, and multiple business locations downtown. Film submissions will be rated in advance by the official MQFF judging panel, determining which films will go on to be showcased at the festival's main event on Sunday.

Films of any length and genre may be submitted. Categories for award consideration include Best Queer Feature Film (45 mins), Best Queer Long-Short Film (10-40 minutes), Best Central Valley Queer Film, Best International Queer Feature (45 minutes+), Best International Queer Long Short, Best Queer Animated Feature and Short, Best Queer Family Film, Best Queer Microshort, Best Queer Documentary, Best Queer Music Video and Best Queer TV Series/Pilot, amongst others.

Submit films at <https://filmfreeway.com/>



[MercedQueerFilmFestival](https://mercedqueerfilmfest@gmail.com). Submissions are free until March 15th, with an inclusive fee of \$20 required after.

By bringing the art of modern cinema to Merced in such a dynamic way, event planners intend to impact local culture by increasing visibility and awareness of the queer community while providing a rich foundation for future queer artists and filmmakers to thrive.

Questions or want to get involved? Email [mercedqueerfilmfest@gmail.com](mailto:mercedqueerfilmfest@gmail.com)





# California's Muddy Water Policy, Part 1

By **BRANDON DAWSON**, Director, The Sierra Club

Since the day he was elected in 2018, the Governor's water policy has been...muddy.

On that day, as lieutenant governor, he signed onto a letter with then-Governor Brown, instructing the State Water Board chair to postpone a public hearing set for the very next day about new water rules affecting rivers that flow into the San Francisco Bay-Delta.

The Bay-Delta spans about 1,100 square miles where the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems meet the San Francisco Bay complex. It's the largest estuary on the west coast of North America and boasts about 750 different wildlife and plant species, including salmon.



Those rules were backed by environmentalists and supported by science. But big water

contractors wanted out of the rules and suggested a voluntary agreement (VA) approach - an approach Sierra Club California and other environmental and EJ groups have criticized time and time again.

VAs are not effective measures to develop and/or implement water quality, flow standards, or habitat requirements. These likely-unenforceable agreements between state agencies and water suppliers only serve to benefit those water agencies and, ultimately, the interests they serve (primarily large agricultural businesses). Historically, only legal and regulatory action under long-time state and federal environmental and conservation laws have provided enforceable standards and protected California's fish and wildlife, public health, and other public trust resources.

Even then, since 2018, the Newsom Administration has continuously stalled the development and implementation of the regulatory process that would provide the key protective measures for the Bay-Delta in an effort to further VAs. Every few months, the administration and water agencies propose a framework that fails to protect the Bay-Delta's ecosystem, and the communities that depend on that ecosystem.

Late last month, the Newsom administration announced the latest in this never ending saga. The admin announced it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will be the framework of a proposed VA deal. Like earlier announcements, this new VA deal was the result of backroom negotiations that included only water agencies, federal agencies, and the state. No other stakeholders - Native American Tribes, salmon fishermen, conservation groups, environmental justice advocates, or Delta communities - were invited to the table to discuss this MOU despite California's water policy affecting all of us. Sierra Club California and our allies sent a letter to the governor decrying the exclusionary practices of VA negotiators back in 2021. It's now clear the state refuses to change course.

Not only is the process behind the development of this new agreement bad, the agreement itself contradicts the current scientific consensus around water issues and ecosystems.

The new VA deal uses a weak baseline of how much water should be left in the environment established by Trump administration officials back in 2019. These rules - known as biological opinions - were promulgated by the federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service and increase water diversions, as well as weaken or eliminate protections for salmon and other endangered species.

The rules are currently being actively challenged in court by the California government, fishing groups, and environmentalists. To use these rules as a baseline standard for the amount of water flowing into the Delta means that the state isn't serious about providing the necessary amount of water for the environment of Delta communities.

Who's funding this, you ask? Taxpayers. When it comes to costs for the VA, federal and state taxpayers will bear the brunt of the bill for the voluntary agreement - not the water districts that actually signed the MOU.

It's clear that California's water management is in crisis. But this crisis presents the opportunity to push our officials to implement sound water management that doesn't require large diversions from our already strained ecosystems. Thanks to a recent report from the Pacific Institute, we have some recommendations on how to do that.

In their new report titled "The Untapped Potential of California's Urban Water Supply," the Pacific Institute examines the potential to reduce urban water use by imple-



**These likely-unenforceable agreements between state agencies and water suppliers only serve to benefit those water agencies and, ultimately, the interests they serve (primarily large agricultural businesses).**

menting specific efficiency measures, while expanding local water supplies through water reuse and stormwater capture approaches. Together, these strategies can reduce the gap between water supply and use, providing effective drought responses in the near-term and permanent improvements in water-supply reliability in the longer-term.

Why does this matter? Some of the signatories to the VAs include urban water agencies and wholesalers, such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). A behemoth in California water policy, MWD has spent decades trying to get more water from the Bay-Delta.

While the report doesn't detail the measures the agricultural industry should take to lessen its water use, the report's detailed analysis and recommendations for urban water use are just as important.

Adopting the Pacific Institute's recommendations has the potential to reduce urban water use in California by between 2 and 3.1 million acre-feet of water per year, unlocking that water supply for other needs such as increasing flows through the Bay Delta and its tributaries.

The South Coast alone, which includes areas served by MWD, has the highest total water savings potential of any region in California. Water efficiency measures there could save between 1.1 and 1.7 million acre-feet of water annually. These measures include actions like installation of efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances, conversion to climate appropriate landscaping, irrigation efficiency, and fixing leaks in the water distribution system. Water reuse and stormwater capture alternatives could also result in savings upwards of 1 million acre-feet per year each in the South Coast region.

Adopting any of these three methodologies in the South Coast region alone would provide greater reduction in water consumption than would be required under the recent MOU.

If the state is to get serious about environmentally beneficial water management, The Pacific Institute report details some of the actions necessary. I urge Governor Newsom to take a long and hard look.

Now that you know how the state has managed to manage California's water systems horribly, stay tuned for part 2 next month which will detail the "why" part of the state's actions (spoiler: they're trying to destroy Northern California and the Delta's physical environment).



# calendar



## may 2022

*Help keep our readers informed. We urge people participating in an event to write about it and send their story to Connections.*

CHECK WITH MEETING HOSTS. ONLINE MEETINGS MAY BE PLANNED.

**Science Colloquium**, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., MJC via Zoom. To access the program, click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmaymqgHqzxhsAa0RJmYwVg/>.

**MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science)**: free MJC science programs. Fall schedule pending. Watch past presentations at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2pMYnCos9w0xwd\\_5lcw3Pg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2pMYnCos9w0xwd_5lcw3Pg).

**The State Theatre** is open! Visit <https://thestate.org/2021/10/new-website/>.

**The Prospect Theatre** has continuing offerings: Visit <https://prospecttheaterproject.org/2021-2022-season/>

**1 SUN: A Choral Remembrance**. “Walking Each Other Home,” 2 p.m. at the Mini Stage outdoors in Graceada Park, Modesto.

**4 WED: VIGIL: UKRAINE-DEFEND DEMOCRACY**. 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, McHenry & J. St. NOTE: NEW TIME.

**5 THURS: Peace/Life Center ZOOM** Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Email [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) for login.

**22 SUN: Sunday Afternoons at CBS: San Francisco Yiddish Combo**, Congregation Beth Shalom, 1705 Sherwood Ave. Details: see article, this issue.

**26 THUR: SHARE Presents a Compelling Local Story: Benevolent Neglect**, the State Theatre, 1307 J St., Modesto. Watch the trailer at <https://youtu.be/ta08Lo3ULqo>.

## looking ahead

**Saturday, June 4: Borscht-Ukrainian Foods Dinner**. Modesto Centre Plaza. Humanitarian support for Ukraine. See article, this issue for tickets.

**Tuesday, June 7: John McCutcheon Concert** in person. Benefit for the Modesto Peace/Life Center. 7 pm, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Tickets: <https://mccutcheonmodesto2022.brownpapertickets.com/>. See article, this issue.

## regular meetings

### SUNDAYS

**Modesto Vineyard Christian Fellowship**, 10:00 am at the MODSPOT, 1220 J St. Call or text 209-232-1932, email [modestovineyard@gmail.com](mailto:modestovineyard@gmail.com); All Welcome.

**IMCV weekly Insight Meditation** and dharma talk, 8:45 am - 10:15 am, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: [info@imcv.org](mailto:info@imcv.org) Food Addicts Anonymous in Recovery. Sundays 6:30 pm, 2467 Veneman Ave. Modesto. Info: Emily M., 209 480-8247.

**Village Dancers** are not dancing in person but have a Zoom class, every Sunday 3:00-5:00 PM (PST). Lessons and reviews every week are given in international folk dances and are led by different teachers from around the Valley. People from England to Taiwan, New Hampshire to Oregon, Arizona to Denair join us each week to exercise in their own homes to interesting music. Email Judy at [JudyKropp40@gmail.com](mailto:JudyKropp40@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom number and password.

### MONDAYS

**The Compassionate Friends**, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter is meeting by Zoom on the second Mondays at 7:00 pm. Bereaved parents, grandparents, and adult siblings are invited to participate in this support group for families whose children have died at any age, from any cause. Call 209-622-6786 or email for details: [tcfmodestoriverbank@gmail.com](mailto:tcfmodestoriverbank@gmail.com); <https://www.modestoriverbanktcf.org/>

**Suicide Loss Support Group**: Friends for Survival meets every third Monday at 7 pm. Details: Norm Andrews 209-345-0601, [nandrews6863@charter.net](mailto:nandrews6863@charter.net).

**Monday Morning Funstrummers** Beginner Ukulele Lessons. Modesto Senior Center. 10:45am to Noon. Free Scenic and Bodem.

**Walk with Me**, a women’s primary infertility support group and Bible study. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm the first and third Mondays of each month. Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email [WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com](mailto:WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com) or call 209.577.1604.

**Silver & Gold Support Group** for mental health and wellness. Catering to the needs of the LGBTQ+ Community. (Age +55). Every Monday 1pm-3pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D Modesto. Contact Kellie Johnson, 209.918.0271 or Sandra Vidor, 209.859.4299.

### TUESDAYS

**Climate Action Justice Network-Stanislaus** meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Link-<https://tinyurl.com/CIAN-FirstTuesday>

**Attention Veterans**: Join us for Free Coffee & Donuts Meet & Greet at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am – 11 am

**NAACP Meeting**. King-Kennedy Center, 601 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto, 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm. 209-645-1909; email: [naacp.branch1048@gmail.com](mailto:naacp.branch1048@gmail.com)

**Exploring Whiteness & Showing Up for Racial Justice** Meetings, Fourth Tuesday, monthly 7:00 p.m., Central Grace Hmong Alliance Church, 918 Sierra Dr., Modesto. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/247655549018387/>

**Pagan Family Social**, third Tuesdays, Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto, 6:00 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

**Tuesday Evening Funstrummers** Ukulele Jam. Songbooks provided. 6pm to 8pm, 1600 Carver Rd., Donation. 209-505-3216, [www.Funstrummers.com](http://www.Funstrummers.com).

**IMCV weekly Insight Meditation** and dharma talk, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: [info@imcv.org](mailto:info@imcv.org)

**Adult Children Of Alcoholics**, Every Tuesday, 7 pm at 1320 L St., (Christ Unity Baptist Church). Info: Jeff, 527-2469.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Womxns Support Group** for Womxn in all stages of life. Join us in a safe and judgment free environment where you can give and receive support for the many issues that we struggle with as Womxn. Every Tuesday from 1pm-2pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto CA (Ages +18). Contact Sandra Vidor-209.652.3961 or Kellie Johnson 209.918.0271

**The GAP**. A place of support for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ or questioning kids every Wednesday 6:30pm at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church 1528 Oakdale Rd. Instagram: [Thegapmodesto](https://www.instagram.com/thegapmodesto)

**Ongoing meditation class** based on Qi Gong Principals. Practice a 3 Step Guided Meditation Process I have been doing for over a decade. Fun and Easy. JOIN ME! Donations accepted but optional. Call 209.495.6608 or email Orlando Arreygue, CMT RYT, [orlando@arreygue.com](mailto:orlando@arreygue.com)

**Merced LGBT Community Center** offers a variety of monthly meetings and written materials. Volunteers, on site Wed-Fri, offer support. Ph: 209-626-5551. Email: [mercedboard@gaycentralvalley.org](mailto:mercedboard@gaycentralvalley.org) – 1744 G St. Suite H, Merced, CA. [www.mercedlgbtcenter.org](http://www.mercedlgbtcenter.org)

**Merced Full Spectrum** meets the second Wednesday of every month, 6 p.m. 1744 G St., Suite H, Merced <http://www.lgbtmerced.org/> Merced Full Spectrum is a division of Gay Central Valley, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. <http://www.gaycentralvalley.org/>

**GLBT Questioning Teen Support Group** (14-19 years old). 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, College Ave. Congregational Church, 1341 College Ave., Modesto. 7 – 9 pm. Safe, friendly, confidential. This is a secular, non-religious group. Info: call 524-0983.

## MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

**Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS**: Held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), 5:00-6:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

**MEDIA**: Listen to **KCBP 95.5 FM** Community Radio, the “Voice of the Valley” also streaming at <http://www.KCBPradio.org>

**PEACE LIFE CENTER BOARD MEETING**, FIRST Thursdays, 829 13th St., Modesto, 6:30 pm, 529-5750. Meetings on Zoom. Email Jim Costello for login information, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

**PEACE/LIFE CENTER MODESTO**, 829 13th St. Call 529-5750. We’ll get back to you with current info on activities. NOTE THE CENTER’S NEW ADDRESS.

**Transgender Support Group**, 2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 to 9 pm. Info: (209) 338-0855. Email [info@stanpride.org](mailto:info@stanpride.org), or [tgsupport@stanpride.org](mailto:tgsupport@stanpride.org)

**Mindful Meditation**: Modesto Almond Blossom Sangha, 7 - 9 pm. Info: Anne, 521-6977.

### THURSDAYS

**Can We Talk... LGBTQ+ Senior** (age +55) Coffee Meet up! Every Thursday @ 1pm at Queen Bean, 1126 14th St., Modesto. Weekly social group to provide connectedness and community inclusion for LGBTQ+ Senior Citizens. Refreshments, snacks provided. Contact Steven Cullen, 559.799.0464.

**CA10 Progressive Coalition** Monthly Meeting, third Thursdays. Inclusive group of progressive activists to share resources, ideas, and information in order to support all the great organizing work happening in the Valley! Feel free to invite trusted allies. Meet-up and social hour: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. Meeting: 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Follow group on Facebook. Info: Tim Robertson, [tim@nvlif.org](mailto:tim@nvlif.org)

**Laughter Yoga**, Every other Thursday at The Bird’s Nest, 422 15th St., Modesto. The dates are February & March 7th & 21st, April 4th & 18th, May 2nd & 16th. 5:30pm-6:30pm. \$15.00 per class. To register, call or text Nicole, 209-765-8006 or visit [www.nicoleottman.com](http://www.nicoleottman.com)

**Attention Veterans**: Join us for Free Coffee & Donuts Meet & Greet at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am – 11 am

**IMCV Grupo de Meditación en Español**, cada semana 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (edificio trasero al final del estacionamiento este de UUFSC). Ofrecido libremente, las donaciones son bienvenidas. Info: Contacto Vanessa, 209-408-6172.

**LGBTQ+ Collaborative Meetings** are on the 2nd Thursday of the month, unless noted. Evening meeting, 1pm to 2 pm, Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St., Suite 2, Modesto, CA. Information: John Aguirre at cell/text - (559) 280-3864/ e-mail: [jpmamodesto@gmail.com](mailto:jpmamodesto@gmail.com)

**Green Team** educational meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10 to 11 am, Kirk Lindsey Center, 1020 10th St. Plaza, Suite 102, Modesto. [www.StanislausGreenTeam.com](http://www.StanislausGreenTeam.com)

**Third Thursday Art Walk**, Downtown Modesto, downtown art galleries open – take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-8 pm every third Thursday of the month. Info: 209-529-3369, <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

**The Book Group**, First & third Thursdays. College Ave UCC Youth Bldg., Orangeburg & College Ave., 3:30 – 5:00 pm. Info: [mzjurkovic@gmail.com](mailto:mzjurkovic@gmail.com)

**Valley Heartland Zen Group**: every Thurs 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2310 Woodland Ave. Meditation. Newcomers welcome. Info: 535-6750 or <http://emptynestzen.org>

**Pagan Community Meeting**, 1st Thursdays, Cafe Amore, 3025 McHenry Ave, Suite S., Modesto, 8 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

### FRIDAYS

**INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING**-Friday nights - 7:30-9:30 PM March 11 through June 24, 2022. Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock, CA. Beginning dancers welcome. No partner needed. Learn dances from around the world. Exercise to interesting music. \$7.00 per night. Contact info: Judy (209) 480-0387.

**Funstrummers**: A Fun-loving Ukulele group gets together live to practice and play. Play along with us or work up to playing out in gigs. Friday mornings, 10am to Noon at the Telle Classrooms, Trinity Presbyterian, 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mej3gD0ZD40&list=LLB8YI9Zg660qHCXGoC6ojQ&index=1>

**OUT on a Friday Night**, a social and discussion group designed for individuals who identify as transgender, Non-Binary, or any identity on the transgender spectrum. Every Friday at 6:00pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto CA. (Ages +18). Contact Katalina Zambrano: 209-412-5436.

**Overcoming Depression**: small group for men & women. Every Friday, 7:15 pm. Cornerstone Community Church, 17900 Comconex Rd, Manteca, CA 95366, (209) 825-1220.

**Latino Emergency Council (LEC)** 3rd Fridays, 8:15 am, El Concilio, 1314 H St. Modesto. Info: Dale Butler, 522-8537.

**Sierra Club: Yokuts Group**. Regular meetings, third Friday, College Ave. Congregational Church, 7 pm. Info: 300-4253. Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts> for info on hikes and events.

**Mujeres Latinas**, last Friday, lunch meetings, Info: Cristina Villego, 549-1831.

**Hispanic Leadership Council**, 3rd Fridays at noon, 1314 H St., Modesto 95354. Questions? Yamilet Valladolid, [yamiletv@hotmail.com](mailto:yamiletv@hotmail.com)

### SATURDAY

**New HIV support group**: +NET Peer Support Group meets at the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Center, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 12-1pm. Focuses on supporting individuals with their struggles regarding HIV and AIDS. Providing information about community resources, promoting wellness with an emphasis on LIVING! Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto. Contact Vincent, 209.505.2863.

**12-Step/Buddhist Meeting** starts with a 30-minute meditation and then open discussion. Held monthly every second Saturday, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto at the UUFC in Sarana (small building, rear of the east parking lot). Freely-offered donations welcome. Information: 209 606 7214.

**Free Community Drum Circle** every third Saturday, 3 pm, Deva Café, 1202 J. St., Modesto. No experience or drums necessary to participate. All levels welcome. <https://drum-love.com/>

**Refuge Recovery**: A Buddhist Approach to Recovery from Addiction. @Friends Coming of Age., 1203 Tully Rd., Ste. B., Modesto. Saturdays 8-9 am. FREE (donations accepted). Info: [RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com](mailto:RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com)

**Divine Feminine Gathering**. Join us for a time of ritual, song and conversation as women come together to celebrate one another and the Divine among us and within us. 3rd Saturday of the month, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Stockton, CA. Contact Rev. Erin King, 209-815-0763, [orkingenne@gmail.com](mailto:orkingenne@gmail.com)

**So Easy ~ So Good**: Vegetarian/Vegan/Wannabe Group. Potlucks, guest speakers, field trips, activist activities, movie nights, etc. Third Saturday of every month. Info: Kathy Haynes (209) 250-9961 or email [kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com)

### DEADLINE to submit articles to CONNECTIONS: Tenth of each month.

Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)  
Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.