

Stanislaus County's Care Crisis Governor Signs #AB 2183.

By **ASTRID ZUNIGA**

As an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provider and caregiver for an adult son with autism, I know first-hand how important home care is. In Stanislaus County alone, 7,615 low-income seniors and people with disabilities get help at home with bathing, eating, cleaning, and paramedical services. This vital support allows them to stay in a familiar setting and out of emergency rooms, nursing homes, and other institutions, saving money and lives.

Unfortunately, Stanislaus County is facing a home care crisis. Hundreds of our loved ones and neighbors are going without the care they need each month. In fact, nearly half a million hours of IHSS care are going unmet in our county, leaving over 700 seniors and people with disabilities vulnerable each month. And demand for these services will only increase as the youngest baby boomers enter their 60s and 70s.

The fact is, there aren't enough IHSS providers to go around. And the reason for this is clear: IHSS providers make just \$15.50 per hour with few benefits. While home care providers have been struggling to make ends meet, other workers are enjoying a 5% wage

increase and pandemic bonuses.

The only way to fix this crisis is to invest in IHSS and make this a job worth doing – one with livable wages and decent benefits. But what Stanislaus County is offering comes nowhere near what IHSS providers need and deserve. We are asking for a modest wage increase, one-time pandemic bonus payments, expanded access to dental and vision care, and a new life insurance benefit.

This investment isn't free, but Stanislaus County has the money to fund our proposed wage and benefit increase, which would impact nearly 6,000 IHSS caregivers. The county invests only 16% of the total cost, or \$2.87 million – while bringing an additional \$17.4 million in federal and state funding back into our community. In fact, IHSS providers – myself included – successfully lobbied the state in 2021 to ensure that the county's share of the cost for this program wouldn't change.

At the onset of the pandemic, Governor Newsom deemed home care providers essential workers for our hard work to keep our neighbors and loved ones healthy and safe. I think it's only fair to show us the respect we deserve by paying us a livable wage.

Si Se Puede!

Farm workers across the state organized and sacrificed to their voices heard and to pass AB 2183 (Mark Stone). California and many parts of the country heard their voices and farm workers felt the deep and historic solidarity from all parts of California and all across the nation.

We look forward to working with Governor Newsom and the legislature to make agreed-upon changes that will ease implementation of AB 2183 so that farm workers can participate in elections free from intimidation and deportation beginning next year.

This victory is your victory. Thank you for all your support!

El gobernador de CA firma #AB 2183. ¡Si Se Puede!

Los campesinos de todo el estado se organizaron y se sacrificaron para hacer que su voz fuera escuchada y se firmara la ley AB 2183 (Mark Stone). California y muchas partes del



país escucharon sus voces y los trabajadores agrícolas sintieron la profunda e histórica solidaridad de California y de todo el país.

Esperamos trabajar con el gobernador Newsom y la legislatura para hacer los cambios acordados que facilitarán la implementación de la AB 2183 para que los campesinos puedan participar, a partir del próximo año, en elecciones libres de intimidación y deportación.

Esta victoria es tu victoria. Gracias por todo su apoyo!

More information/Mas información: www.ufw.org/camarch

[New York Times: Newsom Signs California Bill to Ease Farm Union Voting](http://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/15/us/politics/newsom-signs-california-bill-to-ease-farm-union-voting.html)

[Los Angeles Times: Newsom signs UFW bill aimed at helping California farmworkers organize](http://www.losangeles.com/2022/09/15/newsom-signs-ufw-bill-aimed-at-helping-california-farmworkers-organize/)

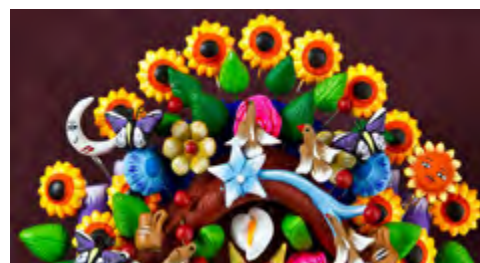
[La Opinion: Gobernador Newsom firma proyecto de ley que fortalece derechos sindicales de trabajadores agrícolas](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/la-opinion-governor-newsom-signs-bill-to-protect-farm-workers-2022-09-15)

United Farm Workers (UFW), PO Box 62, Keene, CA 93531 • <http://www.ufw.org>

Let's Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month!

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public



Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and

Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period.

Resources for National Hispanic Heritage Month

Executive and Legislative Documents: [Legal Resources Guide](https://www.lawlib.org/legal/resources/guide/) prepared by the Law Library of Congress.

National Archives and Records Administration

National Endowment for the Humanities
National Park Service
Smithsonian Education – Hispanic Heritage Month

About this Site: <https://www.hispanicheritage-month.gov/about/> This Web portal is a collaborative project of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

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If you do not have Adobe Reader, download it free from <http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>

Summary of Positions Taken in Favor and Against a Selection of Ballot Propositions

There are a large number of ballot propositions on the ballot in California for this election ending on November 8th. Here is a summary of positions taken in favor and against a selection of propositions.

Organizations listed: LWVCA- League of Women Voters CA, CTA- California Teachers Association, CFL- California Federation of Labor, CA ACLU- California American Civil Liberties Union, CEV- California Environment Voters.

	Proposition	LWV CA	CFL	CA Dem	CA Repub	Sierra Club	ACLU CA	CTA	CA EV	Equity CA
1	Right to reproductive freedom	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26	Allows sports gambling at tribal casinos and at horse racetracks				N					
27	Allows online sports gambling outside tribal lands			N	N			N		
28	Funding for art & music education in public schools		Y	Y				Y		Y
29	Requirements for kidney dialysis centers		Y	Y	N					
30	Tax on incomes over \$2 million to fund zero-emission vehicles and wildfire prevention			Y	N			N		
31	Maintain ban on flavored tobacco products	Y	Y	Y	N	Y		Y	Y	Y

Voting and Candidate Information from the League of Women Voters

Visit [VotersEdge.org](https://www.votersedge.org).



MAPS : free, informative, and engaging community science programs

Approximately monthly on Fridays in MJC West Campus Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 pm (also at 4 pm on 9/30/22). ***Friday, Oct. 28, 2022:** Anna Nierenberg, Assistant Professor of Astrophysics, UC Merced, <https://annanierenberg.com/>. Anna will discuss **the Potential and Results from the Webb Telescope** and her studies of **dark matter**.

Friday, Nov. 18: Nick Stong, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Manager of Public Programs.

The Amazing Life of the Western Monarch Butterfly. A MAPS, GVM and SCOE production. *A second presentation at 4 pm might be added. An art contest for K-16 students will be held prior to this event. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nick-stong-40a61587>

Friday, Dec. 9: Dr. Jim DeKloe, Professor of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, serves as the director and founder of the Industrial Biotechnology program at Solano College. **Microbes, Medicine, and Money: Biomanufacturing in the 21st Century.** An introduction to the field of biomanufacturing, a description of the national state of training in biotechnology and biomanufacturing, <http://www.solano.edu/biotech/educators.html>

MAPS is grateful to MJC, the MJC Foundation, SCOE, the Modesto Teachers Assn. (MTA) and the Great Valley Museum (GVM) for generous support.



October Happenings at Mistlin Gallery

October is a beautiful time to visit downtown as the ginkgoes turn yellow and the weather is cooler.

In addition to its regular hours, the Mistlin Gallery will be open Friday evening, October 7 for Downtown Modesto Partnership (DOMO) walls, a mural painting contest, and will have a special project going in the classroom.

Visit the final days of the **Autumn Art Festival** through October 15.

Everlasting Beauty, the annual show of works by Memorial Medical Center's complementary therapy groups will begin Tuesday, October 18, with a reception on Art Walk, October 20, 5-8 p.m. The group has produced an amazing collage of succulents, created by all the participating artists who are cancer patients, survivors and caregivers.

There are also a number of classes and workshops happening in October! Check it all out at www.ccaagallery.org. The Mistlin Gallery is located at 1015 J St., Modesto.

MJC Science Colloquium

Fall 2022 Schedule. Wednesdays 3:15 - 4:15 pm

In-person in Science Community Center, Room 115, West Campus.

Oct. 12: Heidi Fernandez Meyer, Professor of Mathematics, Modesto Junior College. **John Napier: His Life and Early Calculating Devices.** Sixteenth-century Scottish mathematician, scientist, and inventor, John Napier is best known for his invention of logarithms and for his supposed sorcerous powers. Philosopher David Hume called Napier "the greatest man his country ever produced," and mathematician Laplace said Napier had "doubled the life of the astronomer" by making calculations easier. In this talk you will hear stories of Napier's life and learn to use two of his beautifully simple calculating devices: Napier's Rods and his Location Arithmetic. Oct. 26: Emma Stein, former MJC student (who has been doing graduate research in Wales). **Subject:** Marine Crab Behavior. Nov. 09: Tom Crain, NASA Ambassador. **Here Comes the Sun.** The Sun's origin, its longevity on the main sequence of stellar life, and what will be a very dramatic ending will be discussed. Breathtaking photos and videos from telescope observatories focused on the Sun, providing us with 24/7 coverage of what is happening, will be included.

The Modesto/St Stanislaus NAACP will be conducting its online branch elections

The Modesto/St Stanislaus NAACP will be conducting its online branch elections on November 15, 2022, for officers and members of the executive committee.

To vote, one must be a member in good standing at least 30 days prior to the November 15th election.

Membership fees are only \$30 per year. To join, go to naacpmodestostanislaus.org or use the following QR Code to gain access to the membership application.



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



The Lifesaving Power of Gratitude (or, why you should write that thank you note)

By **RICHARD GRUNDERMAN**, Chancellor's Professor of Medicine, Liberal Arts, and Philanthropy, Indiana University.

Note: Richard Gunderman does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organization that would benefit from this article, and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond their academic appointment.

Gratitude may be more beneficial than we commonly suppose. One [recent study](#) asked subjects to write a note of thanks to someone and then estimate how surprised and happy the recipient would feel – an impact that they consistently underestimated. [Another study](#) assessed the health benefits of writing thank you notes. The researchers found that writing as few as three weekly thank you notes over the course of three weeks improved life satisfaction, increased happy feelings and reduced symptoms of depression.

While this research into gratitude is relatively new, the principles involved are anything but. Students of mine in a political philosophy course at Indiana University are reading Daniel Defoe's 300-year-old "[Robinson Crusoe](#)," often regarded as the first novel published in English. Marooned alone on an unknown island with no apparent prospect of rescue or escape, Crusoe has much to lament. But instead of giving in to despair, he makes a list of things for which he is grateful, including the fact that he is the shipwreck's sole survivor and has been able to salvage many useful items from the wreckage.

Defoe's masterpiece, which is often [ranked](#) as one of the world's greatest novels, provides a portrait of gratitude in action that is as timely and relevant today as it has ever been. It is also one with which contemporary psychology and medicine are just beginning to catch up. Simply put, for most of us, it is far more helpful to focus on the things in life for which we can express gratitude than those that incline us toward resentment and lamentation.

The benefits of gratitude

When we [focus on the things we regret](#), such as failed relationships, family disputes, and setbacks in career and finance, we tend to become more regretful. Conversely, when we [focus on the things we are grateful for](#), a greater sense of happiness tends to pervade our lives. And while no one would argue for cultivating a false sense of blessedness, there is [mounting evidence](#) that counting our blessings is one of the best habits we can develop to promote mental and physical health.

Gratitude has long enjoyed a privileged position in many of the world's faith traditions. For example, the Biblical Book of Psalms counsels gratitude that is both enduring and complete, saying, "I will give thanks to you forever" and "with my whole heart." Martin [Luther writes](#) of gratitude as the heart of the Gospel, portraying it as not merely an attitude but a virtue to be put into practice. The [Quran](#) recommends gratitude, saying "Whoever gives thanks benefits his own soul."

Recent scientific studies support these ancient teachings. Individuals who [regularly engage](#) in gratitude exercises, such as counting their blessings or expressing gratitude to others, exhibit increased satisfaction with relationships and fewer

THE CONVERSATION

symptoms of physical illness. And the benefits are not only psychological and physical. They may also be moral – those who [practice gratitude](#) also view their lives less materialistically and suffer from less envy.

Why gratitude is good for you

There are multiple explanations for such benefits of gratefulness. One is the fact that [expressing gratitude](#) encourages others to continue being generous, thus promoting a virtuous cycle of goodness in relationships. Similarly, grateful people may be more likely to reciprocate with acts of kindness of their own. Broadly speaking, a community in which people feel grateful to one another is likely to be a more pleasant place to live than one characterized by mutual suspicion and resentment.

The beneficial effects of gratitude may extend even further. For example, when many people [feel good](#) about what someone else has done for them, they experience a sense of being lifted up, with a corresponding enhancement of their regard for humanity. Some are inspired to attempt to become better people themselves, doing more to help bring out the best in others and bringing more goodness into the world around them.

Gratitude also tends to [strengthen](#) a sense of connection with others. When people want to do good things that inspire gratitude, the level of dedication in relationships tends to grow and relationships seem to last longer. And when people feel more connected, they are more likely to choose to spend their time with one another and demonstrate their feelings of affection in daily acts.

Of course, acts of kindness can also foster discomfort. For example, if people feel they are not worthy of kindness or suspect that some ulterior motive lies behind it, the benefits of gratitude will not be realized. Likewise, [receiving a kindness](#) can give rise to a sense of indebtedness, leaving beneficiaries feeling that they must now pay back whatever good they have received. Gratitude can flourish only if people are secure enough in themselves and sufficiently trusting to allow it to do so.

Another [obstacle to gratitude](#) is often called a sense of entitlement. Instead of experiencing a benefaction as a good turn, people sometimes regard it as a mere payment of what they are owed, for which no one deserves any moral credit. While seeing that justice is done is important, supplanting

all opportunities for genuine feelings and expressions of generosity can also produce a more impersonal and fragmented community.

Practicing gratitude

There are a number of [practical steps](#) anyone can take to promote a sense of gratitude. One is simply spending time on a regular basis thinking about someone who has made a difference, or perhaps writing a thank you note or expressing such gratitude in person. Others are found in ancient religious disciplines, such as meditating on benefactions received from another person or actually praying for the health and happiness of a benefactor.

In addition to benefactions received, it is also possible to focus on opportunities to do good oneself, whether those acted on in the past or hoped for in the future. Some people are most grateful not for what others have done for them but for chances they enjoyed to help others. To envision gratitude at its best, [imagine](#) a person hoping and perhaps even praying for an opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life.

In regularly reflecting on the things in his life he is grateful for, Defoe's Crusoe believes that he becomes a far better person than he would have been had he remained in the society from which he originally set out on his voyage:

"I gave humble and hearty thanks that God had been pleased to discover to me, even that it was possible I might be more happy in this solitary condition, than I should have been a liberty of society, and all the pleasures of the world... It was now that I began sensibly to feel how much more happy this life I now led was, with all its miserable circumstances, than the wicked, cursed, abominable life I led all the past part of my days."

Reflecting on generosity and gratitude, the great basketball coach John Wooden once offered [two counsels](#) to his players and students. First, he said, "It is impossible to have a perfect day unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you." In saying this, Wooden sought to promote purely generous acts, as opposed to those performed with an expectation of recompense. Second, he said, "Give thanks for your blessings every day."

Some faith traditions [incorporate](#) such practices into the rhythm of daily life. For example, adherents of some religions offer prayers of thanksgiving every morning before rising and every night before lying down to sleep. Others offer thanks throughout the day, such as before meals. Other less frequent special events, such as births, deaths and marriages, may also be heralded by such prayers.

When Defoe depicted Robinson Crusoe making thanksgiving a daily part of his island life, he was anticipating findings in social science and medicine that would not appear for hundreds of years. Yet he was also reflecting the wisdom of religious and philosophical traditions that extend back thousands of years. Gratitude is one of the healthiest and most nourishing of all states of mind, and those who adopt it as a habit are enriching not only their own lives but also the lives of those around them.

From [The Conversation](#)

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District Encourages You to Consider Electric Vehicles

The Valley Air District encourages residents to go electric with their next vehicle in celebration of National Drive Electric Week, happening from September 23 – October 2. National Drive Electric Week is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the many benefits, including improved air quality, of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. The goal of the week is to educate the public about the environmental benefits and economic savings of electric vehicles.

The District augments a robust regulatory strategy with a successful incentive program that includes many ways for the



public
to save
money,
reduce
air pol-

lution and protect public health in the Valley. The District's *Drive Clean in the San Joaquin* incentive program provides Valley residents and businesses with a rebate of up to \$3,000 when purchasing or leasing a battery-electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle.

Electric vehicles are much less expensive to maintain, are better for the environment, and produce zero tailpipe emissions. Additionally, state and federal programs offer significant rebates and tax credits that can be combined with the District's program. See below:

Valley Air District – up to \$3,000

State of California Clean Vehicle Rebate Project – up to \$7,000

Federal Electric Vehicle Tax Credit – up to \$7,500

To learn more about *Drive Clean in the San Joaquin*, visit www.valleyair.org/driveclean. California residents can also visit *Access Clean California* www.accesscleanca.org, for a one-stop-shop to find all the programs offered to help drivers switch to electric vehicles.

Businesses and public agencies are also encouraged to help build the Valley's EV infrastructure by installing electric vehicle charging stations using the District's *Charge Up!* Program. *Charge Up!* provides funding to organizations to install charging stations on-site for public and employee use. For more information on Charge Up! Visit www.valleyair.org/chargeup.

Be informed!

Read the Valley Citizen at
<http://thevalleycitizen.com>

Free Residential Air Filtration Units

To help mitigate the harmful health effects of wildfire smoke on Valley residents, and in particular, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District's most vulnerable populations, the District has developed the **Clean Air Rooms** pilot program to provide residential air filtration units **FREE** to residents in Valley disadvantaged communities.

Para ayudar a mitigar los efectos nocivos para la salud del humo de los incendios forestales en los residentes del

Valle y, en particular, en las poblaciones más vulnerables del Distrito, el Distrito ha desarrollado el programa piloto **Clean Air Rooms** para proporcionar unidades residenciales de filtración de aire GRATIS a los residentes de las comunidades desfavorecidas del Valle.

For information and to apply, visit <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/clean-air-room-pilot-program/>



To help reduce the harmful health effects of wildfire smoke, the District has developed a pilot program to provide residential air filtration units **FREE** to residents in disadvantaged Valley communities.



WHO CAN APPLY?

Valley residents living in disadvantaged communities, as defined by SB535 CalEnviroScreen Map. Scan QR code or visit oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535 to search your address.

(Proof of residency with applicant's name and address must be submitted with an application.

Acceptable forms: PG&E/SoCal Gas bill, public utility bill or cable/internet bill.)

FREE AIR PURIFIER

Eligible applicants will receive one (x1) CARB* certified, HEPA rated, whole room air purifier (up to 220 sq. ft.), and one (x1) filter replacement.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted at valleyair.org/cleanairroom

Without internet access? Call (559) 230-5800 and staff can assist with application submission over the phone.



Supplies are limited. Devices will be awarded on a first-come, first served basis; one device per eligible address. Applicants cannot self-select device brand; orders will be filled using available inventory through Ace Hardware Corporation. Approved applications will receive one device and one replacement filter free of charge. The device and filter will be shipped to eligible address provided by the applicant in approximately 3-4 weeks.



*California Air Resources Board

Entering the Resistance Phase of the Surveillance Education Cycle: Finding Ways to Protect Privacy in Schools

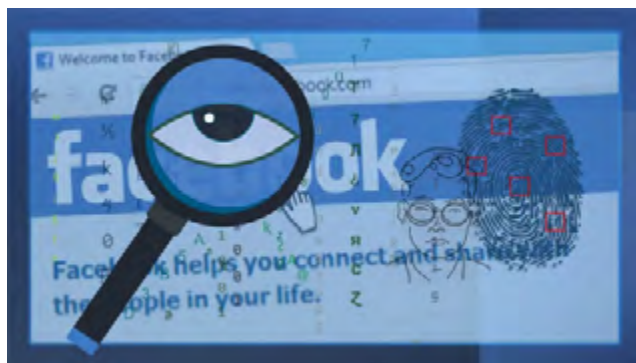
By **NOLAN HIGDON & ALLISON BUTLER**

In August, 2022, two important acts of resistance hinted at a sea change in attitudes toward invasive surveillance technologies. First, New York University's Brennan Center sued the Department of Homeland Security for violating a Freedom of Information request regarding how the agency utilizes social media to monitor U.S. citizens. Days later, it was announced that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is suing data brokerage company Kochava for the sale of geolocation information that may violate the privacy of women seeking reproductive health care.

In *The Master Switch: The Rise and Fall of Information Empires*, technology scholar Tim Wu argues that throughout U.S. history, communication technologies progress in a cycle from a universally accessible medium that brings pandemonium and creativity, to an homogenized, sanitized, and pasteurized vehicle that serves industrial interests. At the start of the cycle, the public has a positive view of the medium, believing it will deliver a utopian future, but by the end of the cycle, the public is left with skepticism and scorn toward the medium.

Digital technologies have followed this trajectory, going from an *information super highway* that promised individual autonomy to a monopoly of platforms that surveil and exploit users. Indeed, responding to the revelations from whistleblowers and investigations that revealed the ways in which tech companies mislead the public, amplify false information on their platforms, engage in inconsistent content moderation practices, knowingly exacerbate mental health issues for users (particularly young girls), ignore privacy concerns when it comes to sharing user data, and prioritize profits over user safety, users have soured the public on tech companies. Only 34% of the public has a positive view of big-tech companies.

Surveillance technologies in schools do not seem to foment the same collective ire. Students, families, administrators, and community members are deeply concerned about the inclusion of these invasive technologies in classrooms. Within moments of publishing an article on the connection between surveillance technologies and book burning, we received copious messages from concerned readers with examples of educational surveillance infractions in their communities not-



ing that they feel isolated in their knowledge of surveillance invasion and powerless in how to respond.

Schools use digital technology such as facial recognition software and school issued devices to monitor students' social media use, mental health, mood, and almost every movement on campus. Big-tech companies have long tried to enter the classroom, and have found success by offering economic incentives to educators and 'free' devices for students such as laptops and Chromebooks. Big-tech has exploited loopholes in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 and Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), by adding and collecting data from monitoring tools to all school issued devices. Under the auspices of helping schools Gaggle, GoGuardian and Securely offer packages to filter content on school issued devices.

These data collected from these devices can be sold to third parties such as the U.S. Military and intelligence agencies, both of which are known to receive and share data with big-tech. Student data also becomes available through data breaches, which occur frequently – 1850 breaches since 2005, or about 108 per year. Data can be used by law enforcement to prosecute students, data brokers and advertisers to predict

or modify student behavior, stalkers to target individuals, and by powerful institutions to disrupt activism.

The shift to online learning during the COVID-19 saw privacy advocates voice concerns for teacher and student privacy, but the subsequent response has ramped up student surveillance. For example, a Washington State program aimed at screening young people for mental health concerns was sharing extremely sensitive information captured from the students with third partners. Unfortunately, most current pushback is largely weak and toothless legislation. This is typified by a Maryland proposed policy that aimed to set boundaries for data collection, but left students vulnerable to data breaches.

As a 2019 judgment against Google reveals, there is little incentive to end problematic practices. Even when legislation holds companies financially responsible for compromising user privacy, – such as Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule (COPPA) or California's Children's Online Safety Bill – the profits made from collecting and analyzing student data far outweighs the fees paid for the violation.

Some of the student awareness and frustration with digital surveillance in schools has actually thwarted the learning process because they practice resistance in the form of less classroom engagement and self-censorship. In a rare example of resistance, in August, 2022, a federal judge ruled that Cleveland State University violated the U.S. Constitution when it allowed instructors to use video and other third party software to scan a student's home while taking an exam. The lawsuit was brought about by Aaron Ogletree, a matriculated student, and represents a major win for students and privacy in schools.

It remains to be seen if these are the early stages of the final phase of Wu's cycle, but these collective efforts represent significant resistance to big-tech's efforts to normalize surveillance and user isolation.

Nolan Higdon is a Project Censored national judge and university lecturer at Merrill College and the Education Department at University of California, Santa Cruz.

Allison Butler is vice president of the Media Freedom Foundation and director of the Media Literacy Certificate Program in the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Image by José Miguel from Pixabay

From: [Project Censored and the Media Freedom Foundation](#)

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and a sustainable future

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Gavin Newsom: End this Cruelty Now

By ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen

It's bad enough that homeless sweeps throughout the state do little more than add to the stress and misery of the poorest among us. Even worse, California Governor Gavin Newsom has taken to bragging about them, especially the sweeps conducted by Caltrans along the state's highways.

One of the most wasteful expenditures of money the state has ever known, sweeps have become a kind of relocation roulette that bounces the same people from the same places and back again time after time and year after year. Sweeps amount to a circle of futility that today operates under the banner of "Clean California," a well-intentioned and much-needed program to rid the state of trash and blight.

Touted as a job-creating enterprise that will, "beautify community gateways and public areas along highways, streets and roads, and provide good jobs to thousands of Californians," Clean California is based on the false assumption that once forced to move, homeless people will just go away. While Governor Newsom has correctly argued that "Our roadways and highways are no place for individuals to live," he's ignored the hard fact that when homeless people are forced to move, they have nowhere to go.

The evidence that sweeps don't abate homelessness is all around us. While state and local agencies have been performing sweeps for years, homeless numbers have only grown. So has the trash that results when people have nowhere to go and nowhere to put their refuse.

For those who've been involved with homeless people for any length of time, the crux of the problem is obvious: At the backend of most sweeps is another place in the dirt, or in a local park, or behind a building, or along a canal or river.

Once told again to move on, homeless people return to same areas they were recently driven from. They bring their trash with them. They also bring the weariness and despair that come from having no place to lay their heads, nor anywhere to bathe their bodies, denied even a place in the dirt.

Nonetheless, Governor Newsom said on August 28 that, "Our efforts are a model for the nation, and more importantly, we're getting people off the streets and into the housing and services they deserve."

Anywhere in the San Joaquin Valley — Modesto, Stanislaus County, and all points north and south — after years of sweeps — there are more homeless people on the streets today than ever. Not only that, the number of people living in their cars is growing exponentially.

The tagline that follows most reports of sweeps — "and connect them to services" — is one of the most pernicious of all misleading statements about homelessness, and Governor Newsom is either clueless or disingenuous when he uses it in connection with Caltrans sweeps.

Not only isn't there enough housing or shelter of any kind for homeless people, there also aren't enough "services." Services routinely cited as available almost always involve an endless round of forms, referrals, labyrinths and dead ends.

Consider just one obvious example: There is a severe shortage of qualified workers and facilities for the mentally ill throughout the state. The shortage for the unhoused is even more acute and punishing; thirty- to forty percent of homeless people are mentally ill.

The situation is especially dire in the San Joaquin Valley:



"A new report from the California Health Care Foundation shows that the Bay Area has 19 licensed psychiatrists and 73 licensed psychologists per 100,000 people — significantly more than the state averages of 12 and 44. At the other end of the spectrum, the San Joaquin Valley has six psychiatrists and 16 psychologists for the equivalent number of people."

The quickest, most cost-effective, and most humane measures for mitigating the homeless crisis — safe ground camping and permitted parking for those living in vehicles — are dismissed as unfeasible while billions are spent on sweeps. Such is California's government throughout the state, with a few local exceptions.

California today has a growing humanitarian crisis, a dire human emergency, and its leaders are for the most part not only helpless, they're counterproductive. When they react, it's through efforts that compound cruelty with yet another sweep, yet another command to, "move along."

With \$14 billion of the California budget dedicated to homelessness, the state's leadership at all levels finds itself unable to provide safe ground, toilets, running water and trash bins for people in the throes of an economic crisis — fellow citizens.

Governor Newsom could end this cruelty now with an emergency declaration and orders to provide safe ground and bare necessities, but he can't do that. Given the choice between the universal command to *Do Unto Others* or continue a regime of cruelty, California's Governor has chosen cruelty.

Beloved Homeless Man Shot in Modesto

By ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen

By Thursday, news that Richard "Channon" Myers had been murdered on the mean streets of Modesto had swept through the local homeless community. Known for his long "trains" of scavenged treasures — some would say "junk" — Channon was beloved among the homeless for his good nature.

"Channon was a beautiful person," said Kim, a woman who frequents Graceada and Enslen Parks, two places Channon often pulled in to rest and catch up on the news. "He was kind to everyone."

"I was the one who taught him canning fifteen years ago," said his longtime friend Carl Waldon, who is now sheltered.

"The first time we went out, we started at 5 pm at a store on McHenry, where I always started. We looked in the dumpster and found 15 bags of marijuana."

It may have been that auspicious start that led Channon to his decade-and-a-half routine of scouring dumpsters along Modesto's McHenry Avenue and other well-traveled routes throughout town.

Wiry-strong from his daily habit of pulling other people's trash, Channon was occasionally somber and thoughtful, but most often buoyant and good-humored. According to sketchy reports, Channon was killed by a 24-year-old man who walked up and shot him and another homeless man. The other man survived. Channon did not.

The prevailing rumor among the homeless is that there had been an earlier confrontation during which Channon fought off an assault by the alleged assailant, a much younger man.

Waldon doesn't doubt that 50-year-old Channon was capable of fending off an attack by someone half his age.

"Somebody might have tried to take his stuff," said Waldon. "You don't do that to a homeless person. Channon was very mellow, but he never backed down from anyone. I found that out when I first met him over fifteen years ago. We had a little disagreement, and we both decided we were better off as friends than enemies."

Most of the time, Channon's hauls were transported on a long chain of most anything with wheels. His trains were made up of little red wagons, wheelchairs, baby strollers, dogcarts, and any other found object that might roll over pitted streets and bumpy sidewalks. Sometimes the load was so heavy and cumbersome that he had to tie a rope to the front end and pull the pile while bent over and tugging backwards.

Even when he found safe resting places at Beard Brook Village and the Modesto Outdoor Emergency Shelter (MOES) before they were closed, Channon made his daily rounds, though both places added another couple of miles to his route.

When people commented on the size of an especially big load, Channon would often respond, "Yeah, I'm runnin' a little heavy today."

He seldom kept anything very long, trading or giving away most of his treasures. One of his all-time favorite finds was an army surplus cot he acquired while camping at MOES. It was almost new and became a welcome bed.

Carl Wolden is convinced that rumors about Channon giving an unprovoked assailant a beating that brought on a senseless killing are true.

"I knew him," he said, "he wouldn't back down from anyone. He stood up for all homeless people who get taken advantage of. He went out like a rock star."

Homelessness has Closed our Minds and Curdled our Hearts

By **ERIC CAINE**, [The Valley Citizen](#)

“Despite enormous funding for homeless programs, and despite the fact that there are many individual successes, overall, the system to date has not reduced homelessness.”
Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury, June 2022

Voluminous evidence shows that most people experiencing homelessness suffer from forces beyond their control. Despite this evidence, far too little has been done to alleviate their plight. The vast majority of American citizens help people in need whenever they can. Why, then, have we failed to help homeless people?

One reason is that facts about homelessness are too often suppressed in favor of misleading memes, myths, and misinformation. Far too many of us have closed our minds to the truth in favor of comforting fictions.

Consider the following conclusions from a study published on May 22 by the [Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research \(SIEPR\)](#):

California’s homeless crisis is associated with high housing costs, inadequate shelter spaces, deinstitutionalization, and changes in the criminal justice system.

To reduce the unsheltered homeless population, more shelter capacity and increased investment in cost-effective housing are needed.

A large share of the chronically homeless suffers from drug addiction and mental health problems. More treatment facilities and lower barriers for treatment are needed.

None of the conclusions reached by the Stanford study suggests that homeless people “choose” to be homeless or don’t want help. Nonetheless, far too many people favor such erroneous claims about homelessness over contrary facts and evidence.

Another popular misconception about homeless people is that most are miscreants who deserve their fate. In this scenario, people become homeless because they’re too lazy to work or prefer a life of crime or drug use to honest labor. In fact, the homeless population features large percentages of mentally ill, physically and mentally disabled, elderly, and working poor who either can’t work or can’t earn enough to afford housing when they do work.

One reason for the widespread belief that homeless people don’t want help is directly related to the need for more treatment facilities. When demand for treatment exceeds capacity, shorter treatment time and longer waits for treatment become routine; most cases of mental illness and addiction need far more treatment than is available.

Moreover, because of a severe shortage of transitional housing options, the vast majority of homeless people emerge from treatment with nowhere to go except back to the streets, where stress and insecurity make recovery nearly impossible. From 2007 through 2020, [transitional housing options in California dropped by almost 50%](#). During that same period, homeless numbers rose dramatically.

It’s not difficult to understand that after several fruitless “recoveries,” many people don’t see the point in another round of rehab, one reason for the deceptive notion that, “they don’t want help.”

Many of California’s political leaders understand the factors driving homelessness but are comfortable with the *status quo* because so many people remain willing to blame

homelessness on the homeless. Because a great many of these same leaders are risk-averse, they much prefer inaction or ineffective sweeps and misleading stories about “outreach” efforts to measures that would actually alleviate the suffering of poor people.

A recent study by the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury offers a case in point. The study discovered a glaring lack of accountability throughout the county’s systems of care:

Despite enormous funding for homeless programs, and despite the fact that there are many individual successes, overall, the system to date has not reduced homelessness.

There is insufficient accountability for the effective use of homeless funds. While many agencies are accountable to their funding sources, primary responsibility for measuring accountability and effectiveness rests with the Community Services Agency, the Community System of Care, and the Stanislaus Homeless Alliance.

Ironically, Stanislaus County officials acted swiftly and efficiently when they felt threatened by litigation after a Ninth Circuit Court ruled that homeless people occupying public spaces couldn’t be forced to move if no other options were available. Almost immediately, county and city officials approved camping in a Modesto city park. Not long afterwards, when the threat of litigation diminished, sleeping in public places once again became illegal.

Though elected officials statewide have the capacity to approve safe ground camping, they are unwilling to do so if the only motive is to comfort the afflicted through acts of mercy. The suffering of physically and developmentally disabled, psychically injured, and destitute people isn’t enough to move them to action.

Their excuses are often risible. They will cite trash and



drug use at low barrier campsites as reasons against camping, even though both trash and drug use are rampant on the streets, in the parks, and anywhere else homeless people are forced to squat.

When the threat of a lawsuit provides more motivation for action than human suffering, we have sacrificed humanitarian virtue in favor of political expedience.

Forcing the mentally ill, the developmentally and physically disabled, the elderly, the infirm, the psychically injured and destitute to live in the dirt without fundamental necessities like toilets and running water is inhumane. Every day we enable such hardened indifference contributes to the establishment of a practice and principle of public cruelty. It is a curdling of our hearts and loss of humanity we will deeply mourn when it’s gone, most likely sooner than later.

We are sowing grapes of wrath and reaping a harvest of cruelty.



‘Nothing is out of Reach’: SPLC celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month amid challenges for Latinx Community

By LIZ VINSON, Southern Poverty Law Center

Since 1968, the histories, cultures and contributions of the Latinx community to the United States are celebrated during National Hispanic Heritage Month. For many people in the Latinx community, this month (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15) is about pride for who they are and honoring their roots.

For Maria del Rosario Palacios, who lives in Georgia but was born in Michoacán, Mexico, this month brings a time for reflection. Palacios’ parents were migrant farmworkers in the U.S. during the 1980s and 1990s, but her father wanted her to be born in Mexico, even though they had established a home in the U.S. by this time. Palacios, who is 32 and uses she and they pronouns, grew up in Georgia and is now employed in the nonprofit sector.

“I come from a very humble family background and have always loved and appreciated living in this country,” she told the Southern Poverty Law Center. “All that I have been capable of doing here has been made possible by my parents who have a third-grade education level, and who have worked in food manufacturing throughout their lives.”

But Palacios understands that while the contributions the Latinx community has made to the U.S. are invaluable, not

all of them get noticed – a problem that has long plagued her and her peers. Recognizing Latinx people as individuals is a problem, she said.

“This month is great because there are national efforts to recognize Latinx contributions, but it’s often done in a way that is a bit tokenizing, to be honest,” she said. “One month is better than nothing, but our community helps significantly – and that often goes overlooked.

“I don’t think we’re fully recognized as people, so until we give people the true opportunity to have real representation – in our schools, our government – our needs aren’t being honored, and we aren’t being recognized.”

Palacios’ comments also come at a time when the Latinx community is facing intense demonization by elected officials and other public figures. The governors of two large states – Texas and Florida – have recently made headlines for transporting Latin American migrants to other states to protest immigration policy.

Their actions come after other elected officials have

fearmongered during election years about protecting the country from Latin American “migrant caravans” arriving at the southern border. It also comes years after Donald Trump launched a successful presidential campaign by infamously declaring Mexico is sending criminals and rapists to the

United States.

‘Myriad of individuals’

Despite the “othering” of the Latinx community for political gain, it’s a community tightly woven within the fabric of the United States. Currently, 60 million people in the U.S. identify as Hispanic or

Latino, representing 18% of the population, and are therefore becoming the minority with the largest presence.

These figures have increased substantially over the years, with the influence of Latinx culture sliding into different aspects of American society at the end of the 1960s, when the Chicano Movement, otherwise known as El Movimiento, advocated for social and political equality through their shared culture.

Obscene,’ Says Sanders After CBO Reports Richest 1% Now Owns Over 1/3 of US Wealth

“In the richest country on Earth, the time is long overdue for us to create a government and an economy that works for all of us, not just the 1%.”

By BRETT WILKINS, Common Dreams

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders reacted Wednesday to new government figures showing the wealthiest 1% of Americans now owns over one-third of the country’s wealth by reasserting calls for systemic reforms to tackle the highest economic inequality of any major developed nation in the world.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on Tuesday published *Trends in the Distribution of Family Wealth, 1989 to 2019*, a report revealing that while the total real wealth of U.S. families tripled over those 30 years, the growth was dramatically unequal.

“Families in the top 10% and in the top 1% of the distribution, in particular, saw their share of total wealth rise over the period,” the report notes. “In 2019, families in the top 10% of the distribution held 72% of total wealth, and families in the top 1% of the distribution held more than one-third; families in the bottom half of the distribution held only 2% of total wealth.”

In a statement, Sanders (I-Vt.) [said](#) that “this report confirms what we already know: The very rich are getting much, much richer while the middle class is falling further and further behind, and being forced to take on outrageous levels of debt.”

“The obscene level of income and wealth inequality in America is a profoundly moral issue that we cannot continue to ignore or sweep under the rug,” the two-time Democratic presidential candidate argued.

The CBO report also highlights the persistent racial wealth gap in the United States. In 2019, white families’ median wealth was 6.5 times that of Black families, 5.5 times that of Hispanic families, and 2.7 times that of Asian and other families.

Additionally, the publication shows that by 2019, student loan debt was the largest component of total debt for families in the bottom 25% — more than their mortgage and credit card debt combined. Among Americans age 35 or younger, 60% of their debt burden was due to student loans.

President Joe Biden last month [announced](#) a plan to cancel \$10,000 to \$20,000 in federal student loan debt per borrower, depending upon income, a move that drew both praise and admonition from progressives like Sanders — who advocates canceling all educational debt and making all college tuition-free.

“A society cannot sustain itself when so few have so much while so many have so little,” the democratic socialist asserted. “In the richest country on Earth, the time is long overdue for us to create a government and an economy that works for all of us, not just the 1%.”

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Award-Winning Poet Linda Marie Prather: Thoughtful Poetics for the Valley

Linda Marie Prather has five published chapbooks and two full-length books of poetry, including her latest, “Searching Shadows, Finding Shade,” Cactus Wren Press, 2022.

Her work has been widely recognized, winning honors and awards including the 2008 Pegasus Prize from the California Federation

of Chaparral Poets. She has received two Pushcart Prize nominations. A pillar of the Valley’s poetry community, she co-edits the poetry quarterly, *Song of the San Joaquin*. Linda is also an artist who has had her work displayed in numerous shows. She is a member of the National League of American Pen Women, under Arts and Letters. Linda lives in the San Joaquin Valley with her husband, the Rev. Elton Nelson.

We are very pleased that six of her outstanding poems are included in this issue of *A Gathering of Voices*, next page.



A Different Sermon

Such redemptive rust,
such glorious orange splotched on thin limbs,
illuminated and holy, against afternoon’s blue sky.

And the little birds, fluttering nearby,
so happy with the cool breeze and warm sunshine
of December.

God follows me out of the church
to show me the colors of maple.

Try This

This business of starting over appears not for the
intelligent,
but rather, the fool.

The idea of beginning again at our age—
so much to build and rebuild,
tear down and replace, throw out and replace.

Where are we going?

Toward light, toward the glowing horizon.

I would get tired, not want to put my next foot forward,
not want to turn cartwheels on the way to the kitchen.
But I’m on the road driving north
where I see the old barn with its boards and slats
slack, sideways, straight and falling down.

The beauty of arrangement with morning sun
on the grain of the wood, again appears new.
And that must be the sort of thing that keeps me a fool,
keeps me coming back to beginning again
to what’s essentially the same.

The bent hinge, rusted nail,
the burnished color in morning light is beautiful.
The bent nail, rusted hinge, broken board,
shifted board, hole in the roof
where the birds come in with the light...
shelter even yet for some.

The creative process of deterioration is not static,
not negative,
but is manifesting other forms progenitive
and regenerative in some out of the way way,
some less obvious place, there for the taking
to those who may see or hear.

The sounds...
voices within structures, wisdom,
history and future,
time, time, time.

To start again there is time...
here and most likely on the other side.

Sky View

Gazing again...
Summer’s wispy clouds—
one wishbone-shaped,
laid out before my kitchen window—
something to ponder at lunchtime.

Susan said,
“If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.”

But the wish and the bone is where we live.

We’re always having to make educated guesses,
tough decisions, leaps of faith.
I tend to want a Jennie in a bottle—
Fast, uncomplicated, instant comfort zone.

But that, I know Lord,
is not where you’re working with me.

Waiting, is it Passive?

Waiting for Godot or waiting for God,
waiting for the creek to rise, or not.

How can we wait, when nothing else does?
Everything in constant motion.

I enjoy a good nap—
go unconscious to the swirl,
but I suppose a part of me remains vigilant,
waiting for me to be done...
Get up...up and at ‘em!

There is something about waiting—
a kind of, sort of appearance of doing nothing
...like that brown dove
sitting in her home-spun basket in expectation.
And her little ones doing the same,
curled up in their oval shells, breathing.

Canal Walk, Late May, 2022

(After watching the news)

The harrowed field—
marks of death, and of progress.
Signs of what was, and may be again.

The corn lies green in someone’s mind.
The shaft is straight and tall
in someone’s vision.

This late May wind might blow such thoughts away,
but probably not.

High water in the canal waves, ripples,
then reflects.
It has eyes too...and it has longings,
desires of slacking something’s thirst.

Tractor tracks crescent, and straighten out.
Ridges of green have sprung up along the perimeters—
corn and weed.

Soggy leaves like pitiful rafts,
meander water.
.....

A hay bale dumped along the side
makes a good place to sit—
look-out over the next field.

Green flutterings rowed and rowed
as far as the nearest orchard
and more green promise,
more green potential, hopes, expectations
that all will come to fruition,
not be knocked down, taken off the map,
slapped, burned and shot out of the picture.
It’s here, and I’m at home for a little while.

Wind rustles through the stalks.
Wind winnows also, in the dream.

Summerset November

Woodpecker taps out a new morning hello—
Thanksgiving Day message, from a tall pine.

Sun shine through the green branches
sheds warmth on the ground just thawing
from last night’s cold.

Below the hill, vineyards still under hoarfrost.
Ice crystals on the walnut, snowy on the grass blade.

Across the way, other side of the road, two flags wave—
symbols of something lasting, we hope.
I sit in the sun on a lichened stone,

next to the huge oak that had it’s heart broke last
winter—

lost a main appendage, but lives, like Jesus,
with wounds and scars clearly visible.

And we might want to emulate this,
roll up our sleeves or strip, allowing ourselves be
known.
The season is doing that just now —
trees denuding, weeds dull and mute....
just letting it happen...as it will anyhow.

Great Programs on KCBP 95.5 FM, The Voice of the Valley

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

PROGRAMS

Ukraine 2.4.2 - a collaboration between Anne Levine, WOMR, the Pacifica Network, and Kraina FM, a 26-city radio network in Ukraine that arranges weekly cutting-edge and exclusive interviews with key people in Ukraine - Thursdays, 10:00 am.

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

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

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

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

AREA 5150 UFO RADIO - Saturday night at Midnight.

LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

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, 8:00 pm; Tuesdays 9:00 am & Wednesdays 8:00 pm. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp> and on Spotify



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

People Not Profit - with Pegasus - Wednesdays, 9:30 pm; Saturdays, 2:30 pm; Formerly Peril and the Promise. Listen here also: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp-peril>.

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

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

Local Music Programs

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

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

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

This is SKA with Middagh Goodwin - Tuesdays, 9 pm; Fridays, 11 pm; Sundays, 5 am to 7 am.

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

Weekdays (Monday - Friday)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Children's Programming

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

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

Science

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

Big Picture Science - 1:00 pm Sundays

Planetary Radio - 2:30 pm Sundays

Got Science - 4:00 pm Sundays

Find a complete programming schedule on our website, www.kcbpradio.org

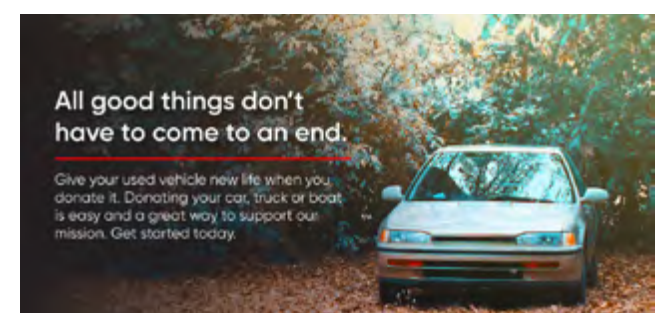


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Animal rights activism

By VASU MURTY

The number of animals killed for food in the United States is nearly 75 times larger than the number of animals killed in laboratories, thirty times larger than the number killed by hunters and trappers, and five hundred times larger than the number of animals killed in animal pounds. To become a vegetarian or a vegan is to carry the campaign against “cruelty to animals” to its logical conclusion. Nearly all animal activism is nonviolent: cruelty-free shopping guides, fake fur, fake leather, leafleting on campuses, vegan cooking demos, vegan parties, vegan picnics, vegan potlucks, dining out at vegan restaurants, etc.

The animal rights movement, representing a cross-section of mainstream secular American society, is *not* “officially pro-choice,” but *is* divided on several issues. Not just abortion. Some activists oppose pet ownership saying owning other animals as property should be as unthinkable to us as owning other human beings as property. Other activists can accept companion animals (pets) with the understanding that they are not our property, we are not their owners, but rather, their guardians. Some activists accept humane euthanasia as a compassionate means of ending the life of an animal in pain. Others embrace a “no-kill” philosophy, and there are “no-kill” animal shelters that do not euthanize animals. So, the animal rights movement is divided on several issues. Friends of Animals (FoA), based in Darien, CT, has buttons and/or bumper stickers saying, “*Veganism Is Direct Action.*” I think nearly everyone in the animal rights movement would agree on that point.

Far from being “self-righteous vegetarians” and/or wild-eyed “leftists,” animal activists are working within the system to bring about social change. In the ‘80s, when a redneck type said he felt animal experimentation was necessary, animal activist Jane Cartmill said diplomatically, “Then we can agree to end the *unnecessary* experiments.”

In the early 2000s, an animal rights publication described the environmental devastation and social injustices caused by animal agriculture as well as the suffering the animals endure on factory farms, concluding about meat: “There’s mouthful of misery in every bite. Cut it down or cut it out.” Sir Paul McCartney similarly endorses a “Meatless Mondays” campaign. *Does this sound “self-righteous”?*

Through a series of email exchanges, animal activist Lauren Ornelas convinced John Mackey, the CEO of Whole Foods Market to go vegan. Mackey editorialized in *Veg-News*, a slick, trendy vegan periodical out of San Francisco, that corporations like Whole Foods Market can put vegan products on the marketplace, but there must be an actual consumer demand for these products if they are to succeed. That’s capitalism. (Mackey later incurred the wrath of the American Left in 2010 when he expressed his opposition to health care reform in the *Wall Street Journal*.)

In *The Case for Animal Rights*, Dr. Tom Regan observes: “The rights view is not antagonistic to business, free enterprise, the market mechanism, and the like. What the rights view is antagonistic to is the view that consumers *owe* it to any business to purchase that business’s goods or services. The animal industry is no exception.” Cruelty-free foods and products must sink or swim in the waters of free enterprise,

like everyone else. But the animal exploitation industries are subsidized by our tax dollars and enjoy special privilege. Vegan congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) was the only member of Congress to vote against the so-called “Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act” which states one can be fined, if through leafleting, one causes an animal exploitation business to lose revenue. That’s a violation of free speech *and* free enterprise!

The system is rigged in favor of the animal exploitation industries! Vegan author John Robbins points out that half the water consumed in the United States goes to support the livestock industry. If these costs weren’t subsidized by our tax dollars, the cheapest hamburger meat would cost \$35 per pound! If the livestock industry and all the other animal exploitation industries had to compete on the open market to sink or swim in the waters of free enterprise, like everyone else, they would collapse overnight!

Social progress means change. The invention of the automobile and the end of the Second World War brought about radical change in the workplace. Anti-abolitionists claimed that the end of human slavery would bring with it the collapse of the economic structure of the Southern United States. In his book, *The Status of Animals in the Christian Religion*, author C.W. Hume noted:

“The major cruelties practiced on animals in civilized countries today arise out of commercial exploitation, and the fear of losing profits is the chief obstacle to reform.”

John Robbins elaborates:

“To supply one person with a meat habit food for a year requires three-and-a-quarter acres. To supply one lacto-ovo-vegetarian requires only one-half of an acre. To supply one

pure vegetarian (vegan) requires only one-sixth of an acre. In other words, a given acreage can feed twenty times as many people eating a pure vegetarian (vegan) diet-style as it could people eating the standard American diet-style...

“In a world in which a child dies of starvation every two seconds, an agricultural system designed to feed our meat habit is a blasphemy. Yet it continues because we continue to support it. Those who profit from this system do not need us to condone what they are doing. The only support they need from us is our money. As long as enough people continue to purchase their products, they will have the resources to fight reforms, pump millions of dollars of ‘educational’ propaganda into our schools and defend themselves against medical and ethical truths.

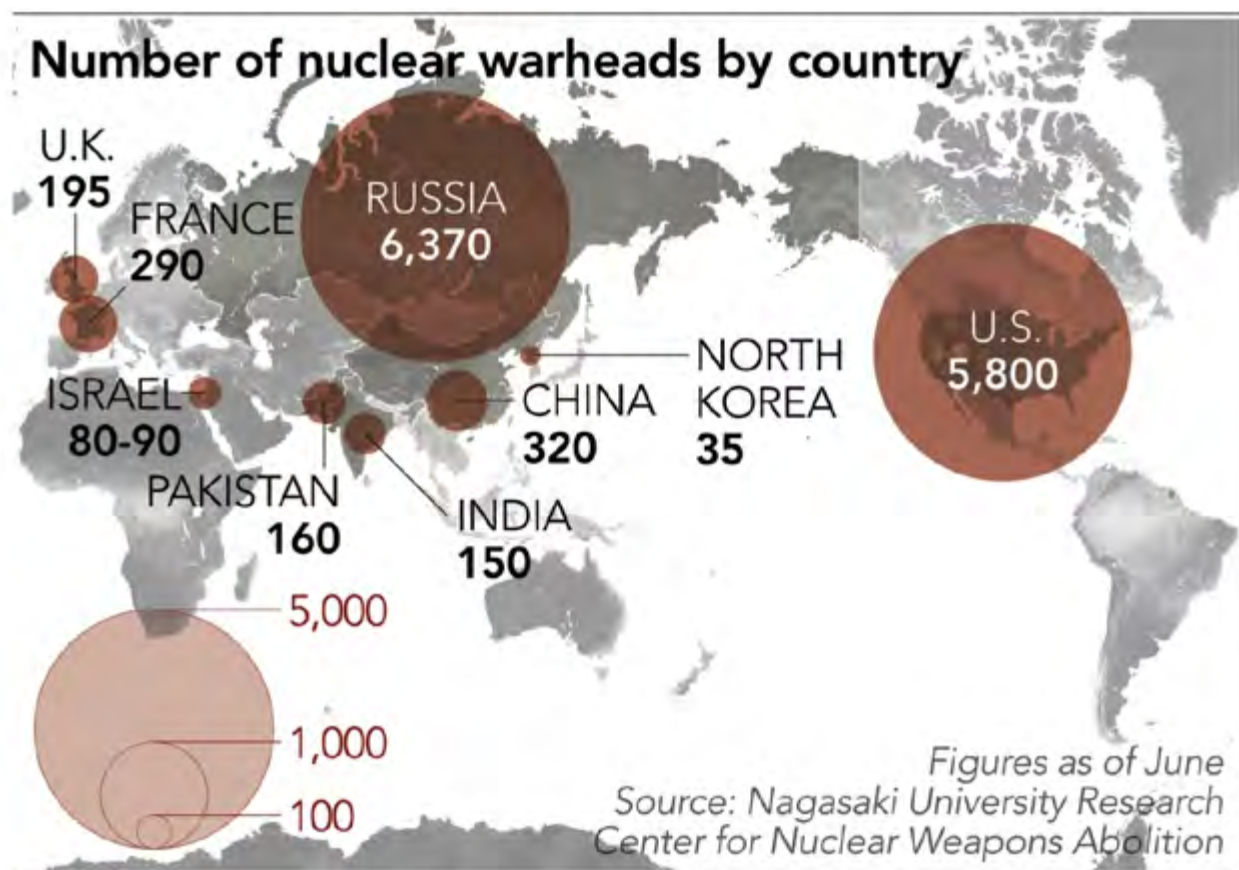
“A rapidly growing number of Americans are withdrawing support from this insane system by refusing to consume meat. For them, this new direction in diet-style is a way of joining hands with others and saying we will not support a system which wastes such vast amounts of food while people in this world do not have enough to eat.”

John Robbins concludes,

“*A new direction for America’s diet-style would be a significant step towards a nonviolent world. It is a way of saying: ‘Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.’ A nonviolent world has roots in a nonviolent diet.*”

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) literature similarly concludes: “*A nonviolent philosophy begins at breakfast.*”

Again, far from being “wild-eyed leftists” or “self-righteous vegetarians,” animal activists are dealing tactfully and diplomatically with the larger meat-eating public in bringing about social change.



calendar



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

october 2022

CHECK WITH MEETING HOSTS. ONLINE MEETINGS MAY BE PLANNED.

MJC Science Colloquium Fall 2022 Schedule. Wednesdays 3:15 - 4:15 pm in-person in Science Community Center, Room 115, West Campus. Talks will also be recorded for the Science Colloquium's YouTube site for later viewing. **Oct. 12:** Heidi Fernandez Meyer, Professor of Mathematics, Modesto Junior College. John Napier: His Life and Early Calculating Devices. Sixteenth-century Scottish mathematician, scientist, and inventor, John Napier is best known for his invention of logarithms and for his supposed sorcerous powers. Philosopher David Hume called Napier "the greatest man his country ever produced," and mathematician Laplace said Napier had "doubled the life of the astronomer" by making calculations easier. In this talk you will hear stories of Napier's life and learn to use two of his beautifully simple calculating devices: Napier's Rods and his Location Arithmetic. **Oct. 26:** Emma Stein, former MJC student (who has been doing graduate research in Wales). Subject: Marine Crab Behavior.

MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science): free MJC science programs on Fridays in MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 pm. **Friday, Oct. 28:** Anna Nierenberg, Assistant Professor of Astrophysics, UC Merced, <https://annanierenberg.com/>. Anna will discuss the Potential and Results from the Webb Telescope and her studies of dark matter.

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

5 WED: VIGIL: Solidarity with Iranian Women. 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, McHenry & J. St.

6 THURS: Peace/Life Center ZOOM Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Email jcostello@igc.org for login.

18 SUN: The State Theatre and the Modesto Film Society present Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, support Modesto's historic non-profit theatre. Visit <https://thestate.org/films/psycho-102022/> 2 pm.

looking ahead

November 5: Peace Center Harvest Gathering. Details next month.

February 25, 2023: 29th Annual MLK Commemoration.

Golden State Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team Benefit Game for KCBP Radio. TBA.

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; 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. All are welcome. For more information, please email charlie@imcv.org. Our mailing address is IMCV, P.O. Box 579564, Modesto, CA 95357.

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 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; <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.

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 or call 209.577.1604.

TUESDAYS

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

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/24765549018387/>

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.

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

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

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: [merced-](mailto:merced-board@gaycentralvalley.org)

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), 4:30-5:30 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

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.

board@gaycentralvalley.org - 1744 G St. Suite H, Merced, CA. 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.

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

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

THURSDAYS

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@nvlf.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

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.

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

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

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://emptynestzendo.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

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=mej3gD0ZD>

40&list=LLB8Yl9zZg660qHCXGoC6ojQ&index=1

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

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 UUFSC 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

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

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 kathyhaynesESG@gmail.com

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

Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org
Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.



League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

Meet and Learn

Thursday, October 20

6:30 pm via Zoom.

“Revisiting Forward Together”

Last year we had a presentation regarding the formation of this committee and its goals. This Meet and Learn will focus on hearing from Kate Trompetter and Police Chief Brandon Gillespie about the recommendations the committee has put forth to Modesto City Council. There will also be information about the C.H.A.T. program which is being developed to help address mental health issues.

Criminal Justice Reform is a priority for LWV, and this program will provide information about progress in our community.

For the link to participate

RSVP StanislausLWV@gmail.com

by 12:00 PM Thursday, October 20th

