



stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable future

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Community Profile: Poet & KCBP Radio Programmer Linda Scheller

By TOM PORTWOOD

Stanislaus County is home to an exceptionally vibrant and prolific poetry community, nurturing, as it does, a rich diversity of voices and styles from spoken word performances to multiple readings at various venues every month. Whether by coincidence or not, many of the most accomplished and well-respected poets in the area are teachers or former teachers – people with a deep commitment to learning and an equally strong passion for social justice and interconnectedness.

A Central Valley resident for more than forty years, an elementary school teacher for Ceres Unified School District for thirty-six of those years, Linda Scheller is one of those extraordinarily talented poets who have come from the ranks of the teaching profession. Ms. Scheller is the author of one of the most eloquent and illuminating collections of poetry in recent years, 2017's *Fierce Light*. (FutureCycle Press, Amazon).

Sacramento Poet Laureate Emeritus Indigo Moor has written of the book: "Unflinching in its singular desire to resurrect the myriad voices drowned in history's wake, Linda Scheller's *Fierce Light* is an exquisite, often painful harvest of women forgotten, overlooked, and buried by cultures unwilling or



unable to accept their brilliance. More than a collection of poems, *Fierce Light* is a dazzling episodic song, a series of battle cries, wails, and whispering beauty."

"I came to the Central Valley in '78 or '79," Ms. Scheller recently recounted. After earning her multiple-subject teaching credential and CLAD at Stan State, she began teaching in 1981. "I loved teaching, and I really loved the children. And I very much admired their families who were often in very difficult circumstances. Many of the families were poor, many of them had immigrated, and a lot of the parents did not speak English at all. But they knew how important education was to their children's future and they were completely supportive and worked beautifully with the schools and with the teachers to provide the best opportunities possible for their children. What was beautiful was that there was often such diversity in my classroom, say a student from Vietnam, or another one from the Ukraine, or a Hmong student. It was

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Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team To Play In Modesto For KCBP Community Radio

The Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team, sponsored by the NBA Golden State Warriors, will visit Modesto for the third time for a fundraising game for KCBP Community Radio 95.5 FM.

This one-of-a-kind audience-interactive event takes place from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Modesto Junior College Gymnasium, 435 College Ave., Modesto, on Saturday, March 28, 2020.

You will witness the Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team play top level basketball, all from their wheelchairs! The strength and determination from these players will not only surprise you, they will inspire you! Bring your friends and family out for an uplifting, fast paced, fun-filled afternoon.

The total experience will consist of a full-blown scrimmage game: The Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team verses school basketball team members and various community celebrities. Members of the audience will play in wheelchairs and experience the sport. There will be live and silent auctions, raffle prizes, and local entertainment.

Modesto's dynamic Chris Murphy will be MC.

The public is invited. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$5 for students, seniors and people with disabilities. Contact Jocelyn Cooper, 209-422-0119, jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com online to www.kcbpradio.org.

One of the members of the Golden State Road Warriors team, Chuck Gill, has been inducted into the Wheelchair Basketball Hall of Fame as well as their Coach, Paul Jackson, who was the Men's Basketball Paralympic Coach in Beijing.

Sponsors are needed. Get perks with your



sponsorship. Information: Contact Jocelyn Cooper, 209-422-0119, jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com

ACTION: Come out for an exciting, inspiring game AND to support your community radio station!

The Modesto Peace/Life Center
invites you to

The Peace Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

at the Mary Stuart Rogers
Student Center

Modesto Junior College West
Campus

2201 Blue Gum Ave., Modesto

Top Winners will read their
essays!



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To sign-up, send your email address to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org
If you do not have Adobe Reader, download it free from <http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>



38th Annual Peace Camp June 26, 27, and 28, 2020

Camp Peaceful Pines
near Pinecrest, California

Registration Form



Adults \$75 before May 1; \$85 before June 4; \$95 after June 4

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Total \$ _____

Youth (ages 4 -18) \$55 before May 1; \$60 before June 4; \$65 after June 4

1. _____ Age _____ 2. _____ Age _____
3. _____ Age _____ 4. _____ Age _____

Total \$ _____

Child (ages 3 & under FREE)

1. _____ Age _____ 2. _____ Age _____

Voluntary Donation to provide a camper scholarship = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353-0134

There is an additional \$15 fee for each person coming to camp without a pre-registration.

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

MEALS: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Gluten-free Other dietary needs: _____

☐ I have a special need for a cabin assignment: _____

☐ I can offer a ride Friday/Saturday. ☐ I need a ride Friday/Saturday

Parent authorization for minor children

I give permission for decisions to be made in my absence about the need for medical care. I give permission for my child to be treated by a physician or hospital in case of an emergency. I understand and agree that the Modesto Peace/Life Center is not responsible for my child/children. I will not hold the Modesto Peace/Life Center, its officers or leaders liable for medical aid rendered.

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (PRINT) _____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

I authorize the Modesto Peace/Life Center to photograph and/or videotape my child, and reproduce my child's photographs and videotapes for publicity and/or educational/promotional purposes related to Peace Camp.

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (PRINT) _____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Note: If adults bring children not their own, the parent/legal guardian of those children must complete and sign a separate parent authorization. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

For camp information and scholarship availability: Call Marian McBride-Luman, (209) 765-0604; mmcbrideluman@gmail.com

38th Annual Peace Camp, June 26-28

By **MARIAN McBRIDE-LUMAN**

The Modesto Peace/Life Center's 38th Annual Peace Camp in the Sierras will take place on June 26-28, 2020 at Camp Peaceful Pines. We'll enjoy a weekend of workshops, good food, singing, drum circle, crafts, talent show, recreation, and stimulating people of all ages in a beautiful mountain setting. Families and individuals are welcome. Register early for a discount.

Leng Power will present the Saturday workshop "Joy: The secret sauce of self-renewal and community transformation." "If I can't dance, I don't want to be in your revolution." - Emma Goldman, Russian Feminist Activist.

Leng will explore the work of social movements that use centered joy and lightheartedness as a subversive and effective strategy to create collective resiliency. Participants will learn practical ways in which joy can be incorporated into their lives as a critical component towards building a resistance to fear and despair. This workshop will incorporate movement of body and breathing exercises.

Leng is a mindfulness practitioner and draws upon her experience as an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow as well as her time with the Modesto Peace/Life Center.

Camp Peaceful Pines, on Clark Fork Road off Hwy. 108 in the Stanislaus National Forest, is the venue for Peace Camp. In 2018, the Donnell Fire burned much of the surrounding area but the Camp itself remains intact and is still a place of beauty and tranquility surrounded by Mother Nature's continuing restoration.

Camp Peaceful Pines features a kitchen and bathroom facilities, rustic cabins and platform tents and a cabin for those with special needs. Depending on the number of campers, cabins may be shared. Campers share in meal preparation, cleanup, and other work.

The camp fee covers the program, food and lodging for the weekend. Adults are \$75 before May 1st, \$85 before June 4 and \$95 after June 4. Young people, 18 and under, are \$55 before May 1st, \$60 before June 4 and \$65 after June 4. Ages 3 and under free. Minors under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult. Partial scholarships and day rates are also available. Donations for scholarships are appreciated. The camp opens with supper at 6:00pm on Friday and closes after the morning gathering on Sunday. Directions and other information will be provided to participants before camp. Registration forms are available online at www.stanislausconnections.org and www.peacelifecenter.org to download and mail. The online registration payment option can be done by searching for Peace Camp 2020 at www.brownpapertickets.com. There will be a wait list if registration becomes full.

Information: Marian McBride-Luman, 209-765-0640, mmcbrideluman@gmail.com

Be informed!

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

March With Us to Combat Climate Change April 18

The Modesto Peace/Life Center is collaborating with people and groups throughout our county to organize for April 2020 an historic March and Rally to Combat Climate Change. The event will take place on Saturday, April 18, the date the City of Modesto will sponsor Earth Day. The march will start at 10:00 a.m. from the intersection of Briggsmore and McHenry avenues. The rally at the Graceada Park Bowl will start at 11:30 and will feature climate action youth leaders from our local schools. Earth Day marks its 50th year in April, so our march and rally will be a fitting way to express our commitment to preserving our Earth and safeguarding our future.

The Center is contacting high school and college students throughout the county, urging them, as youth are doing world-wide, to take on a leadership role in this project. The Center will work with them and with all people and groups who want to participate and possibly help plan the event and follow-up actions people can take, both personally and with government and businesses.

What we do in Modesto and Stanislaus County will be part of a nationwide effort to underline the urgency for action—creating real change at all levels of civic life, from what we as individuals can do to how we together can help re-direct business practices and public policy at the city, state, and national levels.

Join us in helping to build a sustainable future. Please mark your calendar and spread the word about this march and rally. For updated information in early April see the April edition of the Peace/Life Center's newspaper, *Stanislaus Connections*, (www.stanislausconnections.org), or our Facebook page (Modesto Peace/Life Center). **If you'd like to volunteer to help us organize, please contact us soon** by leaving a message on the Center's phone, 529-5750, with your name, phone, and email; or by calling or emailing Valley Improvement Projects, 589-9277, valleyimprovementprojects@gmail.com; or contacting Dan Onorato (526-5436); onoratod@att.net. Thank you.

Together let's make our future more hopeful.



CLIMATE JUSTICE MARCH & RALLY

PLANNING MEETING

Join local community members and organizations in planning a **YOUTH-LED** Climate March on Sat. April 18th and become part of a global effort to underline the urgency for ACTION TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE!

For more info:
 Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750
 Valley Improvement Projects (209) 589-9277
valleyimprovementprojects@gmail.com

Saturday, March 7th 12-2pm
StanCo Library Auditorium
1500 I Street Modesto

YOUTH ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

light lunch provided 🍕


MistlinGallery
 Central California Art Association

Young@Art Student Exhibition
March 3-28

1015 J Street, Modesto • (209) 529-3369
 Tues. - Thurs. 11:30-5, Fri. 11:30-8, Saturday 12-4
www.ccaagallery.org



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



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Modesto Junior College Civic Engagement Project's Film & Lecture Series

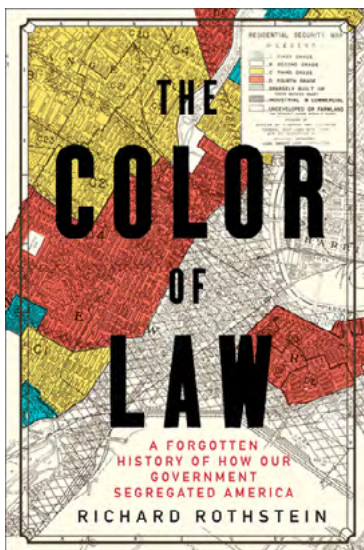
MAR 12 – *The Great American Lie* Thursday 7-9 pm in Forum 110 (East Campus): *The Great American Lie* calls the American Dream into question by focusing on examples of social and economic immobility in our country. The film argues that many of the equity gaps we see increasing today are rooted in cultural values that prioritize stereotypically “masculine” ideals, such as individualism, power, and wealth, at the expense of valuable qualities often regarded as “feminine,” such as caring for and cooperating with others.

MAR 25 – Richard Rothstein Lecture Wednesday 7-9 pm in the Mary Stuart Rogers Student Center (West Campus): In *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, Richard Rothstein focuses on mid-twentieth century government policy that was used to enforce residential racial segregation. His research suggests that many inequities African Americans face today are the result of this history of injustice. According to Rothstein, “The core argument of [my] book is that African Americans were unconstitutionally denied the means and the right to integration in middle-class neighborhoods, and because this denial was state-sponsored, the nation is obligated to remedy it.”

Ricard Rothstein is a distinguished fellow at the Economic Policy Institute and a fellow at the Thurgood Marshall Institute of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He resides in California, where he is a fellow of the Haas Institute at the University of California, Berkeley. His book *The Color of Law* was nominated for a National Book Award for best nonfiction book in 2017.

Following the lecture will be a Q & A session with Rothstein and a panel of invited guests: local activists **Dave and Sharon Froba** and NAACP President of Stanislaus County, **Wendy Byrd**.

APR 9 – *No Small Matter* Thursday 7-9 pm in Forum 110 (East Campus): *No Small Matter* shares stories of families and teachers struggling to provide young kids with quality education, and showcases the science that suggests how important it is that they receive it. The film argues that the most overlooked, underestimated, and powerful force for change in America is investing more in the care and education of our young children.



Stanislaus Service Center's Equity Team presents *East of Salinas*

Join us for a free screening of a documentary about a bright student and a dedicated teacher on March 21, 2020, 11:00 a.m. at the State Theater, 1307 J. St., Modesto. Stay after the movie for a discussion led by Oscar Ramos, the teacher featured in the film. Limited seating available. First come, first seated.

About the Film

East of Salinas takes us to the heart of California's “Steinbeck Country,” the Salinas Valley, to meet a bright boy and his dedicated teacher — both sons of migrant farm workers. With parents who are busy working long hours in the fields, third grader Jose Ansaldo often turns to his teacher, Oscar Ramos, for guidance. But Jose is undocumented; he was born in Mexico. Like many other migrant children, he is beginning to understand the situation — and the opportunities that may be lost to him through no fault of his own.

East of Salinas follows Jose and Oscar over three years: the boy is full of energy, smarts, and potential, while his teacher is determined to give back to a new generation of migrant children.

Many of the students that enter Oscar's third grade class at Sherwood Elementary School in Salinas have never been to the beach, even though it's only twenty miles away. Their parents work from sunup to sundown. They live in cramped apartments in neighborhoods plagued by gang violence. The kids take on the day-to-day stresses of their parents: making ends meet, dealing with acute health issues, fearing deportation. In the face of these challenges, Oscar gives his student's



access to a world that often seems beyond their reach.

Jose is one of Oscar's most gifted students. Despite having moved between seven different schools in three years he still excels in math. But Oscar can only do so much. For Jose, a student with such promise, *East of Salinas* demonstrates the cruelty of circumstance — a cruelty that touches on the futures of millions of undocumented kids in America.

Information: stanislausccc@gmail.com or call (209) 537-0702. Connect with the filmmaker at <http://rocksaltcreative.com/films/>

Central Valley Spelling Bee

Support amazing young spellers as they compete in the 2020 California Central Valley Spelling Bee! The winner will represent our region at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

When: Tuesday, March 10, 9:30 a.m.

Where: Golden 1 Center, 500 David J. Stern Walk, Sacramento.

Free and open to the public.



**“Now is the accepted time,
not tomorrow, not some
more convenient season. It
is today that our best work
can be done”.**

— W.E.B. Du Bois, sociologist, historian,
civil rights activist.



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Homeless: “Ready or not, here we come”

By **ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen**

When local authorities shut down the Modesto Outdoor Emergency Shelter (MOES) early last December, no one pretended the numbers were going to work. With 450 or so people at MOES and the new low-barrier shelter in the Salvation Army’s Berberian building serving only 182, the math was simple.

Even after the Salvation Army added 50 beds, the spillover was about half—over two-hundred people were left with no place to go. Some of the craftier MOES residents, realizing the QAMP tents they’d been living in were going to be destroyed, made off with tents that were still in good shape.

Many of those tents became part of encampments that formed small enclaves in places traditionally favored by homeless people—around and under bridges, along roads and freeways, and in poorly supervised vacant lots. Those sites, many already occupied by small groups of people who never made it to MOES, burgeoned. In addition to ingress from MOES, there was already a compounding effect from closures of resident motels like Modesto’s condemned Budgetel and the temporary closure of the Budget on south 9th Street in Bystrum, between Modesto and Ceres.

Not long after MOES closed, authorities in Modesto announced that “accountability” would be part of a newly-developed approach to homelessness. No one was fooled. “Accountability” wasn’t new; it was just a euphemism for a return to the city’s, “chase ‘em around town,” homeless policy. An added feature was the, “get tough on shopping carts,” order, which sent cops out in search of poor souls shuffling around town with all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.

Modesto Mayor Ted Brandvold, likely reeling a bit from



advance knowledge that local kingmaker Mike Zagaris had switched his support from the mayor to one his opponents in the upcoming election, announced he was seeking budget money to hire more cops.

“We are not dealing with traffic violations in our city, people driving the way they want to and killing people. And it’s also about vagrancy issues in our city that we are not able to keep up with. This directly affects quality of life.”

“Vagrancy,” like “accountability,” was part of the mayor’s new vocabulary, likely intended to make voters forget that after almost four years in office the only thing anyone remembered him for in regard to homelessness were his reputed remarks that, “Homelessness isn’t the city’s problem.”

As for more cops, the city can’t afford them. The city can’t even afford to trim its trees. And hiring more cops to chase homeless people after closing down the place that made it easier to police homeless people seems more like a, “shoot

yourself in the foot,” strategy than smart leadership.

The bullet in the foot analogy seems even more apt when one realizes that homeless people in tents had no need for shopping carts because they had a place, however humble, to keep their stuff. They also, according to local crime data, committed fewer “quality of life” crimes, because those numbers went down when MOES was open.

None of these things matters to local leaders’ intent on showing how tough they can be on poor people with nowhere to go—but they may matter soon.

The latest chapter of the “accountability” strategy has featured rousting people from places they fled to after they left MOES. That means that more and more homeless people are on the move, looking for places to rest their bodies and lay their heads—mostly in and around the City of Modesto.

Those who had tried camping near the new shelter on 10th Street—a site that put them near services, security, and law enforcement—were chased away. Instead of being centralized in a location easily accessed and served by volunteers and outreach workers, they’ve been given reasons to hide and avoid help.

And word from three of the larger homeless camps is that they’ve been given notice to leave within the next few days, so many will be on the move right after the holiday. The old-timers, those who’ve been homeless for years, will return to favored hiding places, and wait. Then they’ll be back. As one man said, after being on the streets for many years,

“We just go somewhere else and when they make us move from there, we go back to the other place. And when we go back, it’s all cleaned up.”

So much for accountability.

Radical Hope - Stories of inspiration

By **LENG POWER**

Stories have the power to shape our understanding of the world, compel us into action and provide connection through inspiring a shared vision of the world we seek to create. In such polarized times where ideological extremes are rooted in every aspect of our lives, it has become increasingly difficult to find a safe place to hear and understand one another. Many of us are committed to or are in support of transformative work to improve the quality of our social and human networks. This work is hard and slow and is oftentimes underscored by limited capacity and scarce resources to achieve measureable, sustained results.

For one evening of Radical Hope, we invite you to con-

nect with the experiences of four storytellers who will share their journey as they walk alongside some of our most vulnerable community members on their paths to a meaningful tomorrow.

Gillian Wegener will read original poetry on matters related to homelessness and children in the juvenile justice system.

Frank Ploof will describe his community work as a navigator assisting individuals get out of homeless.

Marian Martino will share about her experience as a mentor for children in the juvenile justice system.

Greg Pensinger will share about his role and the work of Downtown Streets, a program designed to help individuals who are homeless build employment skills.

WHAT: Radical Hope - Stories of Inspiration.

WHEN: Friday March 27th 2020, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

WHERE: Prospect Theater, 1214 K St., Modesto.

Suggested donation: \$5. Light refreshments

All donations will support the Modesto Peace/Life Center Homeless Project Account which serves as a funding source to assist individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with one-time expenses such as car repairs, out of state ID cards, birth certificates etc.

Love Art & Music? Want to help people in your community grow and prosper through music?

At Modesto Sound we empower youth with real-world job skills to create music and artistic media. This benefits everyone!

Consider joining our monthly board meetings where decisions are made on things such as outreach for our artistic media programs funded by individual grants and ones received from large organizations such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council.

Since 2005 Modesto Sound

- Recorded 740 artists
- Trained 248 youth on audio and job skills
- Held many community concerts
- Recorded hundreds of radio shows

When: The first Monday of every month 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Get a warm welcome from Janet Seay, Executive Director of Modesto Sound, who welcomes your ideas! Call for location—we change it up! 209-573-0533

Why

- Network in the community
- Help others
- Have fun

Modestosound.org
209-573-0533 janet@modestosound.org

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APRIL 25-26

**STANISLAUS ARTIST
OPEN STUDIO TOUR**

The capacity to care

I believed, and still believe, that the basin of knowledge available in my backyard is infinite and ever-changing, that there is always more to discover, always another section of the map to explore, always another lake to swim in. This constant sense of wonder has crafted the lens through which I see the world.



By CAELEN MCQUILKIN

This essay was originally published in the 2020 Mono Lake Calendar by the Mono Lake Committee.

Born and raised in Lee Vining, I have lived and breathed Mono Lake, and the Eastern Sierra, from before I learned to walk. I remember family backpacking trips to Cascade Lake, where I would sit on the cooling granite and watch the sun sink below the Sierra crest, staining the swooping granite pinnacles with rosy pink. I remember floating in Mono Lake on warm summer days, gazing up at the soft blue sky and letting the sun soak into me.

As the years slipped by and I began adding more peaks to my summit list and learning the names of wildflowers, I became more and more curious about the world around me. I believed, and still believe, that the basin of knowledge available in my backyard is infinite and ever-changing, that there is always more to discover, always another section of the map to explore, always another lake to swim in. This constant sense of wonder has crafted the lens through which I see the world.



At seventeen, I still fall in love with Mono Lake every day. Driving home from school, I often pull over to gaze at the lake's ever-changing surface and the sweeping sky above it. What I understand about myself and the world around me is an idea that I have pieced together from these views over seventeen years of life, seventeen years of being awed by Mono Lake, glassy and water-colored with dusty pink, or deep and rippling, bright against the snow-covered banks, or flat and silvery, reflecting a sky matted with clouds.

Today, I'm pondering these memories and feelings as I sit here and type on a grassy slope beside the lake's north shore. I've been hiking in this area for all of my life, but the way this place makes me feel has never changed. I remember being seven years old, hiking to this same spot and feeling so incredibly small, just one dot beside the enormous and ancient salt lake resting within a huge basin ringed by towering snow-capped peaks whose names I had only recently begun to learn. Today, the only noise for miles is the wind's whisper through the grass and the gentle lap of the lake upon the shore. Beside the water, silver-white and barely rippling, and beneath the sky, which stretches in a vast expanse over wide, snow-splotted plains of yellow grass growing out of the once-submerged mud, a sense of clear and all-encompassing freedom drapes itself over me.

I'd feel nostalgic if it weren't for the fact that Mono Lake, too, is a place of constant transition, something that has changed alongside me over all these years. On the days when words don't flow from my heart to my pen like I want them to, or days when I feel as if I am losing sight of who I am, I go back to the mountains or to the lake for my answer.

Places like Mono Lake matter because they allow us to identify that part of ourselves that gives us the power to care — care with a deep capacity.

Lake was saved from the excessive water diversions that almost destroyed it exemplifies how passion and dedication have the potential to change the world. It shows that using hope and love is more powerful than resorting to hatred, or simply giving in. Looking at the rising lake of today makes this idea so clear it is almost palpable—doing what we believe to be right, even if it feels hopeless or futile in the moment, always means something in the end. Places like Mono Lake matter because they allow us to identify that part of ourselves that gives us the power to care—care with a deep capacity, care in a way that transforms us into more empathetic people. This capacity to care, I believe, is what makes us more than just human, but the genuinely compassionate versions of ourselves.

In today's world, a world facing vast challenges including the descent into climate disaster, we must use passion and

continued next page



dedication similar to that which launched the effort to save Mono Lake over forty years ago. In the same way that the Mono Lake Committee's founders fought to protect a lake whose value they believed in even when it seemed that nobody else did, our ability to care has the potential to change the course of our whole nation and world. When things feel disastrous or hopeless or just

downright confusing, I believe that Mono Lake's lessons are some of the most straightforward cures we have: the ability to remain hopeful despite the circumstances, to remain grounded through deep passion, and to persevere despite lack of clear answers or opposition, have the power to initiate movement towards tangible change.

Mono Lake has inspired my passion and hope about the world and its people, and I strive to spend my life sharing these sentiments with others. As I approach the end of my time living in the Mono Basin, I have begun to hold these lessons even more closely to my heart. I am certain that the compassion I have learned living at Mono Lake will stay by my side always, in the same way that the Sierra poetry my parents read aloud to me as a child still informs my view of the world.

There's a poem by Gary Snyder which reads "range after range of mountains, year after year after year, I am still in love." In the same way that ranges of Sierra mountains unfolding out into the distance will always tug at something

In the same way that the Mono Lake Committee's founders fought to protect a lake whose value they believed in even when it seemed that nobody else did, our ability to care has the potential to change the course of our whole nation and world.

deep inside me, I am certain that the way Mono Lake's glassy reflected sunsets compel me to look into myself more deeply, will always be central to who I am. I hope that, for the rest of my life, this connection to the lake and the landscape around it will help me share my understanding of the world with others, and create the type of meaningful change that I have grown up admiring and hoping to lead one day.

Caelen McQuilkin, a 2019 graduate of Lee Vining High School, attends Amherst College in Massachusetts, where she is excited to focus on writing, debate, and action to raise awareness about and solve issues relating to climate change.

She has lived in the Mono Basin for all of her life, growing up with a close connection to Mono Lake and the Sierra. Adventures like night swimming with her friends have made her realize the true value of wild places, something she continues to share with others in her life outside of the Mono Basin.

Green Tips for a Green Planet: Don't Complain, Refrain!

By **TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL**

A recent Facebook post pointed out that groceries and consumer products are packaged in plastic containers and bottles of every shape and size. The post finished with "and [the store] won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home, because the plastic bag is bad for the environment?"

It's not about the plastic bag. It is about the attitude of the buying public, which is complaining about not getting a free plastic bag, while at the same time purchasing items in plastic that creates the demand for ongoing use of plastic bags and containers.

Here is a "Yes You Can" choose to take responsibility, save a few dimes, and in the big picture save your family's life here on planet earth by:

- **REFUSING (TO USE UNSUSTAINABLE PLASTICS WHENEVER POSSIBLE-** i.e. powdered laundry detergent comes in recyclable carboard container...refuse Styrofoam take home containers at restaurants (I take reusable containers from home in a little insulated soft-sided carrier.) Be creative.

- **REUSING (ANY NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL MANUFACTURED ITEMS, IN THIS CASE REUSABLE BAGS).**

- **REDUCING AND REFUSING THE USE OF UNNECESSARY ITEMS, LIKE ONE-USE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES AND BAGS.**



- **HAVING the AWARENESS** and understanding that VERY FEW ITEMS ARE LEFT TO RECYCLE AT THE TAIL END OF THIS 4R PROCESS.

ACTION: REFUSE! REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE (IF ANY THING IS LEFT). Up to YOU! Choose the Four R's! As Ken Schroeder, a leading Modesto Peace/Life Center activist cautions, "We are drowning in plastic...it comes from fossil fuels, which are causing climate crisis. We need to cut down and stop using plastic..."

Central California Art Association and Sandy and Randy Clark present



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Aileen Jaffa Memorial Youth Poetry Contest is Open for Submissions

By LYNN M. HANSEN, Contest Chair: National League of American Pen Women & MoSt Poetry Center

In October of 1982 the Poets' Corner Chapter of the California Federation of Chaparral Poets received its charter and became known as the "poetry center" of the San Joaquin region, later renamed as The Poets of the San Joaquin. Among the charter members was Aileen Jaffa, poet, artist, sculptor and retired agricultural reference librarian at UC Berkeley for 34 years. Author of over 3,000 poems, in 1984 she was the President of the Poets of the San Joaquin, past President of the Piedmont/Oakland Branch of the National League of American Pen Women and prolific writer.

Aileen Jaffa is said to have composed her first poem at age 2 years, nine months, and her mother wrote it down. It is in this spirit of encouraging young writers and to remember poet



Aileen Jaffa that the Modesto/Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt) in collaboration with the National Association of American Pen Women (NLAPW), Modesto Chapter sponsors a youth poetry contest each spring, The Aileen Jaffa Young Poets Contest.

To participate, youth must be enrolled in a Stanislaus County school Grades K through 12. There is a \$1 entry fee for each poem, up to three submissions, submitted. Poems submitted will be placed in categories according to the student's year in school: 1. Grades K-3; 2. Grades 4-6; 3. Grades 7-9; 4. Grades 10-12.

First, Second and Third place winners in each category

will receive cash awards from the contest sponsors. Prizes are First place \$25, Second Place \$15, Third Place \$10. In addition the Modesto Chapter of NLAPW will award a \$60 Aileen Jaffa Outstanding Poem award in each of two combined categories: Categories 1 and 2, and categories 3 and 4. Complete submission guidelines and entry form are posted on line at www.mostpoetry.org

The *deadline for submissions is Friday, April 3, 2020*. Winners of the contest are invited to present their work at the Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N Broadway, Turlock at 2 pm Sunday, May 17, 2020.

If you are a young writer, consider sending your work to this contest. We look forward to your submissions.

Profile: Linda Scheller

really lovely to learn about different cultures and to work with the children and their families."

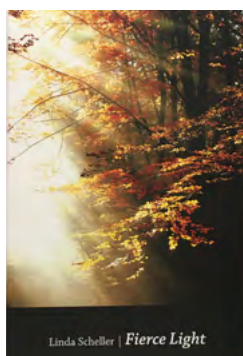
As it turned out, teaching led Ms. Scheller into a deeper connection with poetry. "I became far more serious about writing poetry after I became a teacher and experienced those moments when you really get a glimpse into the lives of your students, or when something tragic would occur that would affect the whole class, the whole school. Poetry was the best means of expressing my grief privately, so that I could grapple with these emotions, some painful, some very joyful. I'm really glad I was a teacher. It really unlocked not only my creativity, but my emotional side."

"I came to write *Fierce Light* as a challenge from my students when they argued with me that a woman couldn't be elected President – actually they said that 'a girl' can't be President. Most of the students were arguing that girls need to be at home, take care of children, cook meals. I was frustrated by that, and I had also seen our Social Studies text book become smaller and more patriarchal, and that led me to want to address a much larger audience where I could educate readers about the marvelous accomplishments of at least some of the women in world culture."

To prepare for the daunting task of accurately depicting the thoughts and emotions of the 36 remarkable women who are portrayed in *Fierce Light*, Ms. Scheller researched deeply, reading their autobiographies, if they existed, watching films, hunting down highly-regarded biographies for each of the women, immersing herself in their written works, photographs, and paintings.

"I wanted to read *their* words, *their* perspectives, especially since I was writing *persona* poems – what were the words they were apt to use, what were the sentence structures. I wanted to grasp their voice as much as possible."

Fierce Light has recently received accolades from outside our area, earning prizes in the National League of American Pen Women's 2020 Catherine Cushman Leach Poetry Award



from page 1

competition. "The Ballad of Dr. James Barry" received 2nd place, and "Hill Top" earned 3rd place. The awards will be given in Washington, D.C. in April.

A founding board member of the **Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center** and a dedicated adult literacy tutor, Ms. Scheller has long been active with local theatre companies as well as the **Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus**. But retirement from her career in education brought her opportunities in a new field.

"When I retired in 2017, I wanted to do something to give back to the community, because that is an important part of my identity. As a teacher, I had been trying as hard as possible to help make a better world. When I retired I thought, oh gosh, I can't just sit in my house and read. So I was very happy to see an email come into my inbox from Jim Costello at the **Peace & Life Center** saying they needed volunteers for the community radio station.

"Now, as a programmer with community radio, I'm able to shed a light on what we have here, and who lives here and all the marvelous projects they're involved with. I've interviewed poets, photographers, painters, dancers and dance troupes, a tattoo artist, non-fiction writers. There is so much going on in this area. It's extraordinary. I want to do as much as possible to promote good will and kindness and interconnectedness. You hear so much about the crime and the poverty, and heaven knows we certainly have a lot of problems, but the human spirit is so strong and so resilient, and the best thing we can do is to support and be there for each other."

"I'm grateful to live in this area where there is so much diversity," Ms. Scheller concluded. "One of the very best things about moving to the Central Valley is how much I have learned. I know there's a lot we need to do here, to help each other, to help the environment, to combat poverty and hatred, and I feel lucky to be able to do my part. It's good to be here."

Linda Scheller can be heard on KCBP Radio 95.5 FM several times a week: Arts of the San Joaquin Valley (co-hosted by Sandy Graham) airs Monday and Wednesday at 8:00pm. Women of the Valley (co-hosted by Leah Hassett) airs Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 pm.

PROSPECT THEATER PROJECT

At The Prospect Theatre

THE EFFECT

By Lucy Prebble

March 6 – 22, 2020

THE EFFECT is a clinical romance. This funny, moving, and perhaps surprisingly human play explores questions of sanity, neurology, and the limits of medicine alongside ideas of fate, loyalty, and the inevitability of physical attraction. "Rich and rewarding. As intelligent as it is deeply human."

TICKETS: https://prospect.vbotickets.com/event/The_Effect/37042

The Prospect Theatre, 1214 K St., Modesto. 209-549-9341, ptp.modesto@gmail.com

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POET: Lynn Coleman

Lynn approaches life as an adventure. She grew up performing and touring the US and Europe in circus shows and Holiday on Ice with her family

She has had a varied career path that includes running an aerial acrobatics business, producing an aerial arts festival, writing poetry, and doing healing work. She flew trapeze professionally and taught aerial workshops in the US and internationally as a movement specialist. She holds a BA in Leadership Development and is currently enrolled in a certification program in Feldenkrais. She moved from Colorado to Modesto in 2018 and is happy to be included in the Meter Maids poetry writing circle.



Minute Maid Musing

Children of the world
Border confinement
Not seen as sojourners
Viewed as invaders
Treated like criminals.

The nation's leader, sated on greed
And separatist values
Structures more policies of xenophobia.

New policies of exclusion
Supported by righteousness
Fear of other tribal associations.

Guardians of the border
Powerless to comfort, trained for prison duty.

Airless cells
Children crying
Windowless chambers

A bitter after-taste
Following 4th of July Watermelon.

7.8.19

Poem from inspiration of:

Bitter after-taste, Watermelon, confinement, house guests, sojourner, put on your Tourist hat at home, tribe, Children of the world, La Terra Fina, Earthquake, Message from Red Tailed Hawk

NY Times Article, 7.7.19: Hungry, Scared and Sick, Inside Clint's Razor Wire

Affection August 2019

Affection for passion
Dancing with motes of energy

Allowing notes of the river
To seep through to consciousness

Appreciation of the mundane
Broom and sponge
Pencil and paint brush

Affection in small gestures
Stirring pots, fluffing pillows

Allowance of harmonious wind chimes
Playing randomly

And tuck the random wisps of doubt under the rug.

Allowance August 2019

Keep my heart open to affection
And the song of tree bark
singing

Keep my hand soft with appreciation
Of differences in clouds
floating

Keep my ears listening in allowance
Of a bee buzzing and pollen
flying

Keep my feet dancing with attention
To syncopated rhythms
Drumming

Keep my eyes wide to acceptance of
Train tracks and dusty roads
Expanding

Diminish doubt with hope
throbbing

Attention August 2019

So much attention given to the noisy
So much appreciation given to the greedy
So much acceptance given to polite silence
So much allowance given to a few
Where is the affection for the quiet
The generous
The thoughtful
The many in this now or any past

Self Worth

Worth wrought with filigree of the past
Who helped shape the concept of self?
The womb then the kindergarten
Bumped knees and shame at falling
Gritting teeth through tears of rejection
Vows of doing better
Then not

Decisions to escape in books, movies, hobbies, puzzles
Getting lost in what another sees
Not wanting to look in the mirror for fear
For fear of seeing who is there
Who is there?
After the children are grown a new beginning
After joining and parting from marriages
Who is there?

After joining in ventures with strangers and small
friendships
Who is there?
Peering in windows, through doors, traveling to different
cultures
Who is there?

Who is it that tends the garden?
Fixes the roof, cleans the gutters?
The young woman who built the house with sheer
determination
The middle-aged woman who found the house empty but
could not let it go
The now older woman who wonders who will be there
In the house when she stands on a ladder
Alone is a risk on the roof
But she climbs the ladder
Reaches the roof
Has a view of the yard, the trees, and neighborhood
She finds her worth on the roof
On the roof of the house she built
In the memories of adventures
In the letters and essays from past accomplishments
In her children's adulthood

The worth is in new ventures
Friendships that seem tenuous
New ways of movement
Entering dimensions of emotion
Sadness a theme that weaves with the joys

Is the accomplishment of her business her worth?
The savings
The security of sameness?
She worries at all that is slipping from memory
Past deeds that have faded
Gardens overgrown with weeds
Can she untangle the web of the past before it slips away?

Listen to KCBP 95.5 FM for Local Programming

Arts of the San Joaquin Valley - Mondays, 8:00pm;
Tuesdays 9:00 am & Wednesdays 8:00 pm
Women of the Valley - 8:00pm Tuesdays & Thursdays &
Wednesdays 9:00am
The Peril and the Promise - Wednesdays 9:30 pm;
Saturdays 2:30 pm
Modesto Sound - California Audio Roots Project
(CARP) Season 1 - Wednesdays 11:30am, & Sundays
11:00am & 5:30pm
Modesto Area Music Show - Mondays 5:00pm Fridays
9:00pm & Saturdays 6:00pm
Where We Were - Fascinating local history with Felton
Daniels. TBA.
Freak Radio with Christian E. Boyett, 6pm every Thursday.
Replays on Saturdays at 9 pm and Tuesdays at 11pm.
Weekdays (Monday - Friday)
Letters to Washington - 1:00am
Sojourner Truth - 4:00pm
Democracy Now! - 7:00pm
Flashpoint Magazine - 10:00pm
Children's Programming
Confetti Park - Saturday's 8:00am; &
Sunday's 12:30pm
The Children's Hour - Sunday's 3:00pm
Find a complete programming schedule on our website,
www.kcbpradio.org



What programming do you like or would like to hear?
Help put community into community radio! Interested in
being part of our Community Advisory Board? Contact
operations @kcbpradio.org or call (209) 353-3066.

Equality California Institute: Applications for 2020 legislative fellowship

Equality California Institute, with generous support from
the Comcast Foundation, is pleased to announce that appli-
cations for our 2020 legislative fellowship are now OPEN!

A four-week intensive fellowship program for six (6)
students who have completed at least their first year of
undergraduate studies at college or university. Apply today:
https://action.eqca.org/page/s/Comcast_Fellowship_2020



2020
Equality California Institute-Comcast
LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIP

Applications Due
Friday, March 20

EQUALITY
CALIFORNIA

Interfaith Ministries to Host Third Annual *Feast for the Eyes* Gala, Dinner and Auction

By VERONICA JACUINDE

Interfaith Ministries of Greater Modesto (IFM) will host
their Third Annual *Feast for the Eyes* on March 14th at **The
Century** in downtown Modesto. Presented by **Modesto
Subaru**, this year's theme is "Star Spangled Gala" inspired
by the United Service Organization and World War II era
aesthetics, spirit and fashion. It will be an evening of sumptu-
ous décor, eye-catching fashion, exquisitely prepared food,
signature cocktails and live entertainment. Funds raised will
benefit their "*Feed Modesto*" program.

Founded over 40 years ago, Interfaith Ministries works
as a caring and sharing group of faith-based congregations,
organizations and individuals that help those in the greater
Modesto area who need food, clothing and other humanitar-
ian services. IFM serves the equivalent of almost 2 million
meals a year to the neediest in the local community, where
over 20% of the population live below the poverty line. This
includes more than 36 thousand children.

Interfaith Ministries' "*Feed Modesto*" program feeds
needy individuals and families through their food pantry and
home delivery services. They also provide healthy food to
other non-profits and churches that feed the community as
well. There are other programs such as their *Clothes Closet*
which provides clothing to low-income families and home-



less individuals at
no cost.

Chief Executive
Officer, Elizabeth
Wright, says, "We
are excited to once
again host this spe-
cial evening of fun
while raising im-
portant funds that
enable us to provide
healthy food to over
40,000 people year-

ly." She adds, "With this special event we bring the commu-
nity together to celebrate the work we do and join us in our
mission to bring the social change we need to end hunger."

Don't miss this opportunity to support this festive event
with a sponsorship. Various levels are available.

Information: For sponsorship opportunities, email sponsor@interfaithmodesto.org. Purchase Individual tickets
(\$100) online at www.InterfaithModesto.org/feast. Media in-
quiries: Contact Veronica Jacuinde, La Luz Public Relations,
(310) 508-1896 or veronica@LaLuz-PR.com.

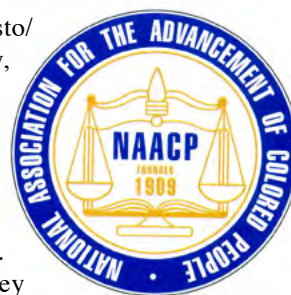
Modesto/Stanslaus County NAACP to Host Freedom Fund & Community Service Awards Banquet

By VERONICA JACUINDE

Join the NAACP of Modesto/
Stanislaus County on Saturday,
March 7th for their annual
Freedom Fund and Community
Service Awards Banquet. With
a "*Stronger Together*" theme,
the event is a celebration of
our rich and diverse community.
The event also recognizes key
individuals who embrace the spirit of
the NAACP and work tirelessly to carry out its mission to
advocate for civil rights and realize social justice.

Attorney Rosetta E. Upshaw, President of the Black
Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, is the event's
featured presenter. She will share her journey to success with
her uplifting, unique and inspirational story. Local leaders
Jeremiah Williams, Odessa Johnson, Meena Tadimeti and
Sebastian Jones will be recognized as the 2020 Awardees.
Organizations including the Central Valley Pride Center and
Hispanic Youth Leadership Council will also be showcased
for their powerful contributions in support of equal rights.

"Each year this event grows bigger and better," Modesto/
Stanislaus NAACP President Wendy Bryd says. "We are
thrilled to bring together in celebration those making a
profound impact in our community," she adds. "We also
appreciate the many sponsors and volunteers who make this
yearly event possible. We're stronger together, and together



we can affect real change for the betterment of us all."

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's foremost,
largest, and most widely recognized civil rights organization
with more than half-million members and supporters
throughout the United States and the world. Locally, the
Modesto/Stanslaus County chapter is the

premier advocate for civil rights in our community, leading
grassroots campaigns for equal

opportunity and conducting voter mobilization.

The event will take place at the Stanislaus Veterans
Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto. Purchase tickets at
naacpmolestostanislaus.org. Individual tickets are \$65. Table
sponsorships are \$520. Contact Wendy Byrd, (209) 345-9275
for event information.

Veronica Jacuinde, (310) 508-1896, veronica@LaLuz-PR.com

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Finding John Muir Via Train and Hiking Poles

By **ELAINE GORMAN**

On the 15-minute drive to the Modesto Amtrak station, I was happy that the day would be warm and sunny, even in early November. Shorts, T-shirt, and a back-up sweater would be adequate for the day-long adventure to visit the John Muir National Historic Site (JMNHS) in Martinez.

Arriving a few minutes early for the 8:03 AM northbound San Joaquins, I stopped in the station to check the departure schedule. Yep, the train was on time. On board, the train was only about half full, so I located a seat/table combo for 4, on the east side, for the best views. After greeting the conductor, I headed to the cafe car for a cup of coffee. Then I settled in for the short trip to Stockton, where amigos Paul and Russ joined me.

After we pulled out of the Stockton station, we passed by wetlands of the San Joaquin River. I enjoyed watching the ducks, geese, and other waterbirds. Paul and Russ added commentary about the industrial buildings, naval yards, and



Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir at Yosemite. Library of Congress.

electrical grids that we passed as we approached Martinez.

Arriving at 9:30 AM, we used paper maps to locate nearby Rankin Park, which would give us access to Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park, part of the East Bay Regional Park District. Darn it, there were no mileage or directional signs to guide us, but we followed a gravel road that was heading in the correct direction. After a short climb, we started to drop, losing our elevation gain. We decided to bushwhack and, after Paul checked his GPS, we eventually found another dirt road. We met a passing runner and he indicated the correct trail junction. (Note: try the Foster St. entrance to Rankin Park.)

We hiked for 3 miles on the ridge top, passing through cattle gates, which control the movement of the seemingly benign grazing cattle. Arriving at the back of the JMNHS, we asked a staff member to open the gate for us. I had arranged with the staff to call them when I arrived, otherwise there is an additional 1/2 mile walk to reach the front entrance.

On the JMNHS grounds, we visited the Martinez Adobe, built in 1849, which is part of the San Juan Bautista National Historic Trail. After a quick snack, Paul and Russ headed out to hike around nearby Mt. Wanda (named for one of Muir's daughters) while I checked out the visitor center and took

myself on the cell phone tour of the 9-acre site. The JMNHS is a remnant of the original 2600-acre ranch/orchard that was farmed by the Strentzel and Muir families.

At 2 PM, we met Ranger Tory for the daily tour of the Strentzel-Muir home. Few of the items in the house are original to the Muir family but are faithful to the time when the family lived there. Muir's "scribble den," where he wrote many of his articles and books, is reproduced and it is easy to imagine Muir sitting at the desk, thinking and writing about nature and conservation. These writings have inspired millions of nature-lovers and have helped to grow the Sierra Club.

After admiring the native plant garden in front of the visitor center, we walked to downtown Martinez. We passed several historic buildings, that have attached interpretive plaques, which informed us about the founding of the town. Looking to quench our thirst, we located Del Cielo Brewing Co. where I downed a refreshing Michelada. There are lots of dining options in this part of Martinez and we had a delicious meal at Royal Thai.

It was dark as we headed toward the Amtrak station, and as we walked over a bridge, Russ spotted a giant raccoon splashing in the creek below. It was a good reminder of the connection that Martinez has with the natural systems of the San Francisco Bay and San Joaquin River Delta. Donning my sweater against the chill, we boarded the 6:25 PM train, and joined commuters and other travelers in the near-full car. Two miles north of the Modesto Amtrak station we slowed to a stop and had a 20-minute delay while we waited for a passing freight train. This gave me a chance to reflect on the day and to appreciate how easy it was to have this fun adventure without depending on my car.

<https://www.ebparks.org/parks/carquinez/default.htm#trailmap>, <https://www.nps.gov/jomu/index.htm>, <https://tickets.amtrak.com/itd/amtrak>



Photo of John Muir's desk in the "Scribble Den" in the John Muir home in Martinez, CA.

NPS Photos/Luther Bailey

Cut global emissions by 7.6 percent every year for next decade to meet 1.5°C Paris target

UN report

On current unconditional pledges, the world is heading for a 3.2°C temperature rise.

Technologies and policy knowledge exist to cut emissions, but transformations must begin now.

G20 nations account for 78 per cent of all emissions, but 15 G20 members have not committed to a timeline for net-zero emissions.

A new UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report warns that unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6 per cent each year between 2020 and 2030, the world will miss the opportunity to get on track towards the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

UNEP's annual [Emissions Gap Report](#) says that even if all current unconditional commitments under the Paris Agreement are implemented, temperatures are expected to rise by 3.2°C, bringing even wider-ranging and more destructive climate impacts. Collective ambition must increase more than fivefold over current levels to deliver the cuts needed over the next decade for the 1.5°C goal.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

has warned that going beyond 1.5°C will increase the frequency and intensity of climate impacts.

"Our collective failure to act early and hard on climate change means we now must deliver deep cuts to emissions – over 7 per cent each year, if we break it down evenly over the next decade," said Inger Andersen, UNEP's Executive Director. "This shows that countries simply cannot wait until the end of 2020, when new climate commitments are due, to step up action. They – and every city, region, business and individual – need to act now."

"We need quick wins to reduce emissions as much as possible in 2020, then stronger Nationally Determined Contributions to kick-start the major transformations of economies and societies. We need to catch up on the years in which we procrastinated," she added. "If we don't do this, the 1.5°C goal will be out of reach before 2030."

G20 nations collectively account for 78 per cent of all emissions, but only five G20 members have committed to a long-term zero emissions target.

In the short-term, developed countries will have to reduce their emissions quicker than developing countries, for reasons

of fairness and equity. However, all countries will need to contribute more to collective effects. Developing countries can learn from successful efforts in developed countries; they can even leapfrog them and adopt cleaner technologies at a faster rate.

Crucially, the report says all nations must substantially increase ambition in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as the Paris commitments are known, in 2020 and follow up with policies and strategies to implement them. Solutions are available to make meeting the Paris goals possible, but they are not being deployed fast enough or at a sufficiently large scale.

To deliver on these cuts, the levels of ambition in the NDCs must increase at least fivefold for the 1.5°C goal and threefold for the 2°C.

The reductions required can only be achieved by transforming the energy sector. The good news is that since wind and solar in most places have become the cheapest source of electricity, the main challenges now is to design and implement an integrated, decentralised power system.

Edited.



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

MARCH 2020

Science Colloquium, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Science Community Center, Rm. 115, MJC West Campus. Free; \$2 parking fee. **March 11: Nzong Xiong**, Outreach and Communications Representative S. J. Valley Air Pollution Control District, “*Air Pollution in our Valley: What we are doing about It.*” **March 18: Bonnie Hunt**, EdD, MPA, RRT, Program Director – Respiratory Care, Modesto Junior College, “*What is Respiratory Care? An Introduction to MJC’s Respiratory Care Program & Beyond.*” **March 25: Teri Curtis**, Professor of Biology, Modesto Junior College, “*Insights into Octopuses & Their Tentacled Relatives.*” **April 1: Tania Barjesteh**, RN, BSN, “*Nursing in Zambia and the Experience of Serving Those in Need.*” **April 8: “Earth Day Turns 50.”** Speaker TBA.

MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science). Free, engaging community science programs. Fridays, 7:30 pm, MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132. **Feb.28:** Colin Milburn, UCD, Gary Snyder Chair in Science and the Humanities. “The History of Our Science.” **March 27:** David Olson, MD., “Our Emerging Infectious Diseases.”

4 WED: VIGIL: Topic to be announced, McHenry & J St., 4:00-5:00 pm.

7 SAT: Climate Justice March & Rally: PLANNING MEETING to stop Climate Change, 12–2pm Stanislaus County Library Auditorium, 1500 I St., Modesto (see notice, this issue).

7 SAT: The State Theatre and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory present: **Science On Screen: The Martian**. A FREE science education program for teens and adults that pairs prominent LLNL scientists presenting cutting-edge science with popular Hollywood films. Meet and talk with scientists. More information: https://thestate.org/special_events/1the-state-theatre-and-the-lawrence-livermore-national-laboratory-present-science-on-screen/

10 TUES: California Central Valley Spelling Bee. Winner advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Golden 1 Center, 500 David. J Stern Walk, Sacramento. 9:30am. Free.

15 SUN: The Modesto Film Society presents *Cabaret*. The State Theatre, 1307 J. St., Modesto. 2:00 pm. <https://thestate.org/movies/cabaret/>. Join the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <https://thestate.org/memberships/>

15 SUN: Sundays at CBS presents Opera Modesto. Opera Modesto (formerly Townsend Opera Players) sing music of the Celtic Diaspora, including the Northern Celtic Fringe (Brittany, Cornwall, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man), and the sounds of the Iberian Peninsula (Portugal and Spain). [operamodesto.org]. Order tickets at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4280707>, or at the CBS Office, 209.571.6060.

21 SAT: Stanislaus Service Center’s Equity Team presents *East of Salinas*. Free screening of a documentary about a bright student and a dedicated teacher. State Theatre, 1307 J. St., Modesto. A discussion led by Oscar Ramos, the teacher featured in the film follows. Limited seating available. First come, first seated.

25 WED: Richard Rothstein Lecture, 7-9 pm, Mary Stuart Rogers Student Center (MJC West Campus): **The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America** focuses on mid-twentieth century government policy that was used to enforce residential racial segregation.

27 FRI: Radical Hope - Stories of Inspiration. Prospect Theater, 1214 K St., Modesto, 7:30pm – 9:00pm. \$5 suggested donation. See article, this issue.

28 SAT: The Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team returns to Modesto for a fun-filled event to support KCBP 95.5 FM. Modesto Junior College Gym, East Campus, 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 3: Peace Essay Contest Awards Ceremony. Roger’s Student Center, Modesto Junior College, West Campus. 7 pm.

June 7: Annual Modesto Peace/Life Center Pancake Breakfast, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. 8:00 am to Noon.

June 26-28: Peace Camp at Camp Peaceful Pines on the Sierra. For all. Leng Power will be a presenter. Details 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. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: info@imcv.org

Food Addicts Anonymous in Recovery. Sundays 6:30 pm, 2467 Veneman Ave. Modesto. Info: Emily M., 209 480-8247.

MONDAYS

Suicide Loss Support Group: Friends for Survival meets every third Monday at 7 pm. Details: Norm Andrews 209-345-0601, nanrews6863@ccharter.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 (September only meeting 9/15/14 due to Labor Day). Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com or call 209.577.1604.

Silver & Gold Support group for our senior LGBT communities’ unique concerns and experiences. Come to a group that will understand and accept you where you are. For LGBT folks over 50 yrs. old. Every Monday at 3 pm to 4 pm at the various locations in Modesto. Information: Steven Cullen/Facilitator. Cell/text - (559) 799-0464. Email: stevencullen@sbcglobal.net

TUESDAYS

Teen Tuesdays every week from June-August, 2-5 pm., Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St. Peer Support, Games & movies. Safe space for teens to socialize, work together on projects, and learn about LGBTQ history. Each week will be a little different as we want YOU (youths) to guide the direction this group will go!” Info: Maggie Strong, Political Activist Director/ GSA Liaison, mstrong@mopride.org, 209-284-0999.

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.

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), 4:00-5:00 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, 720 13th St., Modesto, 6:30 pm, 529-5750.

MEDIA COMMITTEE of Peace/Life Center. Meetings TBA.

PEACE/LIFE CENTER MODESTO, 720 13th St. Call 529-5750. We’ll get back to you with current info on activities.

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

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: mercedboard@gay-centralvalley.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/>

Modesto Folk Dancers All levels welcome. Raube Hall, Ceres (call for address), 480-0387.

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.

Compassionate Friends Groups, 2nd Wed., 252 Magnolia, Manteca.

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.

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: jpamodesto@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

Third Thursday Art Walk, Downtown Modesto art galleries

open – take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-9 pm every third Thursday. <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

The Compassionate Friends, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter. 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact: Joanna Rose-Murray, 209-484-8276, jrmcompassionate@gmail.com, <http://www.tcfmodesto-riverbankarea.org>

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

Game Night and Potluck, third Friday of each month. For 21+ only. Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St., Suite 2, Modesto. 7 pm to 10 pm. Info: John Aguirre, (559) 280-3864;

jpamodesto@gmail.com

Friday Morning Funstrummers Band Rehearsal. Donation 9:15am to Noon. College Avenue United Church of Christ, 1341 College Ave., Modesto. 209-505-3216, www.Funstrummers.com.

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

Village Dancers: Dances from Balkans, Europe, USA and more. Fridays, Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock. 7:30-9:30 pm, \$5 (students free). Info: call Judy, 209-480-0387.

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

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 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
Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.