



# stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO  
PEACE/LIFE  
CENTER  
PUBLICATION

OCTOBER, 2014  
VOLUME XXIII, NO. 2

## Huge, Gorgeous Global March Shows How to Win the Climate Fight: At the Grassroots

BY HARVEY WASSERMAN

The People's Climate March underway on Sept. 21 in New York City. (Photo: Kristina Banks via EnergyActionCoalition)

The most hopeful, diverse, photogenic, energizing and often hilarious march I've joined in 52 years of activism—and one of the biggest, at 310,000 strong—has delivered a simple message: we can and will rid the planet of fossil fuels and nuclear power, we will do it at the grassroots, it will be demanding and difficult to say the least, but it will have its moments of great fun.

With our lives and planet on the line, our species has responded.

Ostensibly, this march was in part meant to influence policy makers. That just goes with the territory.

But in fact what it showed was an amazingly broad-based, diverse, savvy, imaginative and very often off-beat movement with a deep devotion to persistence and cause, and a great flair for fun.

For when push comes to shove—and it has—our Solartopian future will be won one victory at a time.

Oh....yes, yes, yes....we will try to influence the policy-makers. The UN, the Obama Administration, the bought and rented Congress, the usual suspects.

But we won't be begging. It needs to be the other way around.

Because what must happen most of all is organizing from the grassroots against each and every polluting power plant, unwanted permit, errant funding scheme, stomach-turning bribe, planet-killing frack well, soon-to-melt reactor, and much much more.

Winning this fight for global survival will



be done not with one great triumph over corporate hypocrisy and greed.

Instead it'll require death by a million cuts, with countless small victories won day-to-day at the unseen grassroots. As the man said, this revolution will not be televised.

Manhattan's flagship march was joined by sibling demonstrations throughout the world. By all counts millions of concerned citizens came out to say, loud and clear, that the debate is over:

Climate chaos is a clear and present danger.

It's caused by "King CONG"—Coal, Oil, Nukes and Gas.

The corporations who threaten us all must be reorganized and held accountable. Corporate greed is no way to power an economy. Corporate personhood is an unsustainable myth. The corporate profit motive is at war with our survival.

But renewable energy, community-owned and operated, can and will green-power our Earth cleanly and cheaply, bringing jobs, prosperity, ecological balance and, in concert,

peace and social justice, without which no green transition is sustainable.

The corporate profit motive is at war with our survival. And it will come to us on the wings of focused local campaigns against each and every polluting project, one at a time, through the grueling, endless hard work of an aroused and focused citizenry.

The magic of today's New York minute was its upbeat diversity, sheer brilliance and relentless charm. A cross between a political rally and a month at Mardi Gras. There were floats, synchronized dances, outrageous slogans, chants, songs, costumes, marching bands, hugs, parents with their kids, and one very sweaty guy in a gorilla suit.

Above all, there was joy...which means optimism...which means we believe we can win....which is the best indicator we will.

This was a march of the regular citizenry, many come a very long way, at great discomfort and expense, deep into the process

## "War Is Not the Answer"

By JIM WALLIS

That was a bumper sticker *Sojourners* published at the outset of the Iraq war more than a decade ago. American church leaders had not only opposed the war but offered an alternative:

"An Alternative to War for Defeating Saddam Hussein, A Religious Initiative." We not only presented it to Colin Powell's personal council and Tony Blair, but also printed full-page ads in every major British newspaper the day before their Parliamentary debate and vote on the war. The U.K.'s Secretary of State for International Affairs, Clair Short, told me the only real alternative on the table in their Cabinet meetings was "The American church leaders' plan," which, she said, was seriously discussed. U.S. and U.K. leaders showed they were drawn to an alternative plan to war that would remove any weapons of mass destruction that Saddam Hussein might have had (which he did not) and even to ultimately remove him from power but without going to war. Pope John Paul II was also opposed to the potential war. Both the Vatican and the American church leaders warned that the potential costs of a war in Iraq could include increasing the scope and threats of international terrorism. ISIS is that sad prophecy come true; the habit of war prevailed (See <http://www.loc.gov/resource/lcwa00010244.J58KeWSVVVoYLR0YwuLX9w/#?time=20030519180300>).

I have always believed that any alternative to war must still address the very real problems at hand — just in a more effective way. To say that "war is not the answer" is

CLIMATE . . . . . cont. p8

WAR . . . . . cont. p10

### INSIDE CONNECTIONS

LOCAL . . . . .	2
PEACE ESSAY CONTEST . . . . .	3
LIVING LIGHTLY . . . . .	4
GREEN TIPS . . . . .	5

ANOTHER NARRATIVE . . . . .	6
BOOKS & ENDING WAR . . . . .	7
CLIMATE CHANGE . . . . .	8
A GATHERING OF VOICES . . . . .	9
BIG MONEY . . . . .	11

### READERS! Sign-up for our e-edition!

Get the latest e-edition of Stanislaus Connections delivered right into your email box!

Can enlarge text to read more easily! Print out if desired!

To sign-up, send your email address to Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

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





## Peace Center Film series to feature *Inequality For All*

The Modesto Peace/Life Center will show Robert Reich's acclaimed film, *Inequality For All* on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Center, 720 13<sup>th</sup> St., Modesto.

In the wake of the U.S. economic crisis, the widening gap between the rich and the poor has gained unprecedented public awareness. Our narrator and guide, UC Berkeley professor and noted economic policy expert Robert Reich, helps us understand how the extreme inequality we are now facing has roots in economic and policy changes that began over 30 years ago. Through newly shot and archival footage, as well as innovative graphics, we learn how we got here and where we are headed if we don't act soon. Punctuated by moments that allow us to know Reich personally, we also see his unwavering passion to return our society to one in which the American dream is possible for everyone.

There will be a discussion after the film. A discussion guide is available at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1jy8dcxk5t8y0a8/Screening%20Discussion%20Guide.pdf>



Wednesday, Sept. 24: the Peace/Life Center was active at two local schools. Above left, the Center's John Lucas (seated) helps Chico activist Charles Withuhn (right) at MJC during the display of Withuhn's Peace Panels Project, picture top right.

Right, John Frailing, the Center's Board President, explains the Center to students at Modesto High School's Community Service Faire.

## Back to the Future: A Benefit for the Tuolumne River Trust

30 years ago Tuolumne River Trust celebrated its first victory for the river: Wild and Scenic designation. Celebrate and honor those who played a key role in this historic achievement and help raise funds and awareness to ensure the whole river is vibrant and flowing as a river should be.

Honorary Host Committee  
Senator Barbara Boxer | Congressman George Miller  
Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom  
Richard Chamberlain | Huey Johnson  
Hon. Richard Lehman | Bill Maher  
Richard May | Don Moyer | Hon. William Newsom  
Awards Presented to: John Amodio and Bob

Hackamack Wild and Scenic Campaign Heroes  
Mark Gonzales TRT Outstanding Volunteer  
When: Thursday, October 9th, 2014, 6pm - 9pm  
Where: Scott's Seafood Pavilion, Jack London Square, Oakland.

Tickets: \$50 per person includes beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres. Register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=ejmefwcab&oeidk=a07e9hv4wmv4d351e4d>

SPONSORSHIP: Contact Karyn Bryant at [karyn@tuolumne.org](mailto:karyn@tuolumne.org) or (209) 996-4652.



MICHAEL R. BAUDLER, CPA  
DONNA E. FLANDERS, CPA

Office (209) 575-2653  
Fax (209) 575-0629

e-mail [b\\_f@modestocpas.com](mailto:b_f@modestocpas.com)  
1120 14th Street, Suite 2  
Modesto, CA 95350





## 2015 Peace Essay Contest



**INTRODUCTION:** 2014 marks the 100th Anniversary of an unusual occurrence that took place during the violence of World War I. On Christmas Day, soldiers on both sides spontaneously put aside their weapons and met in No-Man's Land between the lines of battle. There they sang Christmas carols, shared holiday treats and family photos, played soccer and wished each other well. This welcome "breather" from the intensity of fighting became known as "the Christmas Truce." After a time, both sides went back to fighting at their commanders' orders, but the soldiers' world-view had changed in their meeting of the "enemy." This wartime experience has been told, written about and immortalized in the Christmas In the Trenches song and children's book by singer-songwriter John McCutcheon.

While this example is the exception during a time of war, the fact that it did happen reminds us that, even in the midst of disagreement and strife, people can choose to lay aside their differences, get to know one another, work and play together. Learning to get along with those who are different from one's self is a valuable life lesson that can be applied both on the playground and in war-torn areas of our world, as well as in the rest of daily life experiences. Discovering and affirming that people are more alike than different could allow us to work through our differences in a humane and non-violent way, which is better for all of us and for the planet.

### DIVISIONS I (grades 11 & 12) and II (grades 9 & 10)

Listen to the *Christmas in the Trenches* song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJi41RWaTCs>) and think about what allowed those soldiers to temporarily lay aside their differences. Research other real life situations in which people or groups who were in conflict or considered themselves to be adversaries, made a decision to lay aside their differences and focus on common ground or work toward a common goal. Choose an example to write about.

In your essay of 500-1000 words, be sure to include:

- Descriptions of the two sides and what caused them to think they were adversaries;
- What happened that helped them to shift their thinking and allowed them to get along if only for a time or for a particular purpose;
- How their experience of finding common ground could inspire others to do the same;
- How learning about this experience may give you the courage to reach toward common ground in situations you may face in the future, and thus help to build a more just and peaceful world.

### DIVISIONS III (grades 7 & 8) and IV (grades 5 & 6)

Listen to the *Christmas in the Trenches* song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJi41RWaTCs>) and consider what allowed those soldiers to temporarily lay aside their differences. Think of how your own opinions or what you have been taught about differences (for example things such as race, religion, culture, economic status or ability) have affected how you interact with others. Envision a situation where you could reach out across those differences to befriend or work together with someone who is different than yourself. (You may share an actual experience, if you want).

In your essay of 250-500 words, describe the situation that could (or did) happen & be sure to include:

- The thing(s) that made you feel so different from the other person that you might normally keep your distance;
- The reason you chose to reach out and how it could or did work out;
- How the experience of choosing to get along with someone who is different than yourself might help you contribute to creating a more just and peaceful world for everyone.

**"We all  
do better  
when we  
work  
together.  
Our  
differences  
do matter,  
but our  
common  
humanity  
matters  
more."**

**-Bill Clinton  
42nd President  
of the  
United States**

**Deadline for entries:**

**December 5, 2014**

**Notification of winners:**

**Late February, 2015**

**Awards**

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mention
Division I	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division II	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division III	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25
Division IV	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25

View, download/print the flyers & entry form at [www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest](http://www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest)

Email your questions to [peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com) View/print this flyer at [www.stanislausconnections.org](http://www.stanislausconnections.org)

## MJC Fall 2014 Film and Lecture Series

The Film and Lecture Series provides students and members of the community with the opportunity to engage in topics of social interest and relevance through the screening of thoughtful movies and by bringing in speakers who have demonstrated knowledge on topics. Each film will be followed by a discussion with guest speakers or panelists.

**WHEN: THURSDAY EVENINGS at 7 PM to 9 PM**

**COST: FREE** - and open to the public.

**WHERE: Forum Building Room 110** (on MJC's East Campus)

**Documented - October 16:** *Documented* follows the life of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, an immigration-reform activist who outed himself as an undocumented immigrant in a 2011 *New York Times* article. In the film Vargas shares moving examples from his own life and family history to illustrate his view that our immigration system needs to be changed.

**G-Dog - October 23:** This film showcases the work of Father Gregory Boyle (aka "G-Dog"), the founder of Homeboy Industries, which has helped to redirect the lives of thousands of gang members in Los Angeles by offering them a second chance and by operating on the premise that "nothing stops a bullet like a job."

**The House I Live In - November 6:** In *The House I Live In*, writer and director Eugene Jarecki contends that racial, political, and economic motives have shaped America's drug policies and that the War on Drugs is a misguided battle that hurts our communities more than helps them.

**The Crash Reel - November 20:** This film follows U.S. champion snowboarder Kevin Pearce during an unforgettable chapter in his life. A tragic accident occurs, and the film becomes focused on a critical issue in today's sports: traumatic brain injury.

Questions? Contact Jason Wohlstadter, English Professor at 209.575.6180; [wohlstadterj@mjc.edu](mailto:wohlstadterj@mjc.edu) or Elizabeth McInnes, Biology, at 209.575.6299 [mcinnese@mjc.edu](mailto:mcinnese@mjc.edu)

The Film and Lecture Committee: Jason Wohlstadter (coordinator); Bill Anelli, Judy Cain, Joan Ferrell, Debbie Gilbert, Brian Greene, Ruth Luman, Liz McInnes, Dan Onorato, Mary Swier, Lillian Vallee, Theron Westrope.

<http://www.mjc.edu/president/cep/filmandlecture.php>

stanislaus  
**CONNECTIONS**

is published monthly except in August  
by the Modesto Peace/Life Center  
720 13<sup>th</sup> St., Modesto, CA 95354.

Open by appointment.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 134,  
Modesto, CA 95353  
209-529-5750.

# The “Kefir” Fun, Refreshing Probiotics

By JENIFER WEST

Seems like everyone’s talking probiotics these days. And with good reason – our systems evolved to work with the ‘good bugs’ in our environment. In fact, we actually need them for digestion, and we’ve been so focused on killing off the ‘bad bugs’ in our super-sanitized society that we’ve only recently begun to understand how important the good ones are to us.

I’ve come across a couple of different kinds of probiotics, in strains that are even better for us than those in yogurt. And for those who make their own, they’re even easier to handle than yogurt! In fact, they’re actually kind of fun. The humble little powerhouses to which I refer? Kefir grains (“key fir”). You can obtain them for both water kefir (a healthy, natural version of soda), and dairy kefir. Both are cultured at room temperature, or even in the fridge, with virtually no fuss. (I got mine online from my favorite e-tailer.)

Both varieties of kefir are cultured by mixing the grains with their favorite food (whole milk for dairy kefir; sugar water for water kefir), and allowing them to sit at room temperature for 12 – 24 hours. The resulting mixture is then strained, and the cultured liquid is poured off and either refrigerated (dairy kefir) or flavored, capped tightly and allowed to sit at room temperature for another 12 – 24 hours (water kefir). The water kefir is then refrigerated, where its gentle fizz will gradually continue to increase.

The dairy kefir grains look a bit like cauliflower, and they turn whole milk into a somewhat tart, refreshing drink. And unlike yogurt, the probiotics in kefir can implant in the digestive system, improving digestion and general well-being.

Dairy kefir can also be used for other things – with the grains removed, it can be allowed to culture further and then wrapped in a tea towel or cheesecloth and drained, resulting in a product with a texture anywhere from a soft cheese to cream cheese. In fact, it makes an excellent salad dressing base, and got rave reviews when I used it as the base for a party dip. The whey that drains off is high in protein, and can be used in lots of ways: To replace part or all of the liquid in baking, and to add flavor and depth to soups and sauces, among others. It can also be used to ferment bean dip, making the dip much easier to digest (see “Nourishing Traditions”, by Sally Fallon). I even mix it with chia and hemp seeds, and feed it to my chickens as a high-protein, essential fatty acid-rich snack – they love it!

Water kefir grains, too, are fun to work with, and the process is basically the same. Except the fun part starts after the kefir is cultured. I culture my water kefir in quart canning jars, and strain the kefir from them into a pitcher. (The crystal-like kefir grains are then returned to the quart jar, fed with a sugar-water mixture, and allowed to ferment, resulting in a new batch of kefir.) At this point, the kefir needs to be lightly sweetened, and flavored – it’s definitely nothing to write home about, without a little fruit juice or other flavoring. So far, I’ve made cherry, raspberry and root beer from purchased extracts, as well as lemon and berry from items we had on hand. Haven’t yet successfully made ginger beer (strongly-flavored ginger ale), but I plan to keep trying. Once the water kefir is flavored, it’s ready to pour into re-sealable, tightly-capped bottles. I use bail-top bottles like fancy beer

comes in (again, ordered from my favorite e-tailer). I fill mine just to the base of the neck, to allow plenty of room for expansion. Then it’s ready to cap, and culture again at room temperature for another 12 – 24 hours to continue to develop a gentle, pleasant, fizz. Then, it gets chilled in the fridge, where it will stay good for several weeks, or longer. The resulting drink is like soda, but less fizzy – and way healthier! After feeding, you can either leave the water kefir & grains at room temperature to culture, or you can refrigerate it for up to a week. I’ve found a rhythm that seems to work best for me – strain & flavor the kefir on Saturday or Sunday, then

feed and refrigerate the kefir grains until the next weekend.

Another cool thing about water kefir is that you can experiment with unusual flavors. I’m considering, for example, trying a combination of the lemons and rosemary that grow in our yard. Or lemons and thyme, for that matter. Or plain lime. Who ever said ‘soda’ should be restricted to the sickly-sweet, artificially-flavored stuff you can buy at any convenience store?!

There are several ways to add probiotics to your life, and kefir, whether dairy- or water-based, is definitely one of the easiest – and certainly the most fun!

## Peace Essay Contest 2015

### Rules & Submission Directions

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who are residents of Stanislaus County or attend any public, private, or home school in Stanislaus County.
2. Submit one copy of your essay. Essays in Division I & II must be typewritten, double spaced. Essays in Divisions III & IV must be either typewritten or written in dark ink, double spaced, using one side of white paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Number the pages consecutively. Your essay must be of a quality to photocopy legibly. **YOUR NAME OR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
3. Give your essay a title. Place it on the first page where you begin your essay. **DO NOT** use a separate title or cover page.
4. Print & complete the Entry Form and attach to the front of your essay (may be found at: [www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest](http://www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest) OR [www.stanislausconnections.org](http://www.stanislausconnections.org) OR request a copy via email at: [peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com))
5. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
6. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
7. The Modesto Peace/Life Center reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
8. Entries may be delivered to the **Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto, from 2pm-5pm Dec. 3-5, 2014**. You may also mail all entries, postmarked no later than **December 5, 2014** to:

2015 Peace Essay Contest  
Modesto Peace/Life Center  
P.O. Box 134  
Modesto, CA 95353-0134

### Judging

A distinguished group of local writers, educators, and peacemakers will judge the essays.

Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

#### I. Content:

- A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
- B. How well-developed are the ideas?
- C. Does it address the given topic?

#### II. Style:

- A. Is the essay original and interesting?
- B. Is it written with conviction?
- C. Does the personality of the writer come through?

#### III. Clarity of expression:

- A. Are the ideas clearly stated?
- B. Is the essay well-organized?
- C. Does it have an effective beginning and ending?

#### IV. Mechanics:

- A. Is grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
- B. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
- C. Does the essay stay within the word limit?

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the four divisions which have at least 15 entries. In the event that fewer than 15 entries are entered in any one division, all prizes may or may not be awarded in that division at the discretion of the judging panel. Up to three Honorable Mentions may be awarded in each division. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome however a student may only enter one essay.

The writer of the best essay in a division from a school which has ten or more entries in that division will be honored as the school winner. All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

### Notification of Winners

In mid-February 2015, winners will be notified through the student’s teacher. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in the spring. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

**2015 Peace Essay Committee:** Peggy Castaneda, Indira Clark, Pam Franklin, Elaine Gorman, Linda Lagace, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner and David Tucker

This **28th Annual Peace Essay Contest** is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750 and is co-sponsored by: Department of Literature and Language Arts, Modesto Junior College



## Green Tips for a Green Plane: "When you throw something away, where is away?"

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Does cleaning up around your house mean frequent trips to the garbage can or dumpster? Does your garbage can overflow or does most of your "throwing away" end up in the green can, which in Modesto is taken to the city compost facility to make MoGrow?

If the main effort at neat and tidy at your house means overflowing land-fills or a floating island of plastic bottles the size of Texas in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, it's time to look closely at how your "throw away" focus on spic and span actually translates on our global home.

Mother Earth is running out of room, and the school janitor, street sweeper, or garbage company don't have a magic place to "throw all the garbage away."

Waste to energy plants do some converting into energy, but the effects on our environment are of concern. Some things can be taken to buy-back centers, but converting things like plastic bottles and other recyclables into new products is very costly and draining on natural resources.

So the reminder is to revisit step one – REDUCE – then step two – REUSE – and finally, to avoid step three – recycle – whenever possible.

Alternatives to avoid throwing things away include:

- Instead of store purchased water bottles - Use non-disposable drinking bottles, install water filters on your tap water faucets, use filtered refrigerator water or other reusable water filtration systems.

- In place of paper napkins and paper towels - Use cloth napkins, hand towels, dish rags and drying towels (which can be sanitized with bleach on your fully loaded wash loads and/or through the heated drying cycle). Sponges are reusable, but often harbor germs.

- We all need facial tissues from time to time – Consider buying refills for the boxes you already have or going old fashion by using handkerchiefs.

- Be green while enjoying holiday and family gatherings, picnics, and barbecues – Purchase a set of reusable break resistant dinnerware, reusable cups, cutlery and serving pieces just for these events. If you must use paper purchase the kind that has been made with postconsumer materials and put in the green can after use. As for plastic cutlery...I have used pieces for years that others have "thrown away." They go into the dishwasher and come out just fine. (Of course, I also save energy by never using the drying cycle...dishes dry from the residual heat without it.)

- When you swing buy for that expensive "cup a Joe" or hit the pot at work – bring your own reusable coffee mug to refill. Holiday hint: order picture mugs for stocking stuffers or gifts to friends or co-workers. A face picture or other unique photo for each recipient means no one drinks out of the wrong cup or takes a disposable cup each time. Individual cups/drinking containers can go for all drinks, home or out.

- Printer Cartridges – many places have cartridge refill programs, which will save you lots of \$\$, while being environmentally savvy.

- Wash clothes – can be used over and over for make up



removing cloths, baby wipes...even home made dryer sheets when dampened and sprinkled with your favorite essential oil. Throw in a tennis ball to soften each load.

- Home made static cling solution – An alternative to static cling sheets are home made natural dryer sheets: Cut 8" squares of cotton or other strong cloth from old clothes, sheets or other recycled cloth sources / sew around 3 sides / fill with lavender or other aromatic herbs and flax / sew fourth side and throw in the dryer with your wash. After six months they can be transferred into drawers to use as sachets.

- Coffee filters – Use a reusable coffee filter in place of paper filters. Then be sure to throw the grounds in the green can.

- Paper and plastic bags – Probably the simplest green swap, reusable bags come in many sizes. You probably have a supply from donations to environmental and other causes, and they are available at most grocery and dollar stores. Hint: leave them in your car, so they are with you when you get to stores or anywhere else you may need a bag. There are colorful fold-up bags they take up almost no room in your purse or pocket, as well. There are also insulated lunch bags to take to work or school.

- Other convenience disposables – Yes, it is convenient to use plastic storage bags, disposable mops heads, soap dispensers, razors...even disposable contact lenses. And it is just as convenient, not to mention economical, to REUSE non-disposable alternatives.

- Instead of so many plastic bags, reuse empty cottage cheese and other glass and plastic packaging containers.

- Reusable mop heads can be washed and used over and over, and mop handles are available for all sorts of reusable mops.

- Buy the giant economy refill bottles of dish washing liquid, hand soap, shampoos and conditioners, and numerous other cleaning agents and foods, then refill smaller bottles and boxes. Make hand soap dispensers a part of your bathroom and kitchen decor.

- You can keep a pair of contacts up to a year by keeping them soaked and cleaned, instead of tossing contact lenses every two weeks.

Have any tips on reducing and reusing? We'd love to hear from you, our readers, at [seekerseer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seekerseer@sbcglobal.net)



Anything you can do  
**Two Can Do**  
for you

Personal  
Services

Noel Russell  
(209) 524-2314

**Two Can Do Time Savers**  
errands run • bookkeeping done  
home management services  
information gathering • special occasions

## Guatemala Accompaniment Project accepting applications for international human rights observers in Guatemala

NISGUA's Guatemala Accompaniment Project (G.A.P.) is currently accepting applications for qualified candidates to work as international human rights observers in Guatemala.

Through the Guatemala Accompaniment Project and in coalition with organizations from North America and Europe, NISGUA mobilizes volunteers to join the global struggle for the respect of human rights by responding to the requests of Guatemalan communities and organizations. NISGUA observers provide an international presence to Guatemalans organizing in defense of their rights in a variety of contexts, including precedent-setting legal cases seeking justice for crimes of the past and local communities defending life and territory in the face of mega-projects.

Join us in this global movement! Visit <http://www.nisgua.org> and [http://www.nisgua.org/get\\_involved/join\\_gap/human\\_rights\\_accompanier/checklist.asp](http://www.nisgua.org/get_involved/join_gap/human_rights_accompanier/checklist.asp)

**Application deadline: October 15, 2014.** Next training: January, 2015. Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA), PO Box 70494, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 763.1403

**SUPPORT.  
ADVOCACY.  
LOVE.**

For more information on  
meetings, our programs, and  
ways you can give back to the  
LGBT community, visit  
[www.pflagmodesto.org](http://www.pflagmodesto.org)

Confidential Helpline  
(209) 566-2468



Modesto Chapter  
Parents, Families, and  
Friends of Lesbians  
and Gays

# Changing the Zionist Narrative: A Faithful Response

By GLORIA FEARN

On August 31<sup>st</sup> the Israeli government confiscated 1000 acres of Palestinian farmland owned by five villages near Bethlehem. Wadi Foquin, a farming village and home to 1,300 people already has lost over three quarters of its land to the settlement of Bitar Illit, and now will lose more, as will four other nearby farming villages. The settlement, a small city with a rapidly growing population of 50,000 is projected to expand to 100,000 within five years.

This land confiscation doesn't have the same dramatic effect as the bombs falling on Gaza. It's about what the conflict has always been about, who gets the land, who gets to leave, or die resisting--while Israel Judaizes the area. All of these settlements are illegal under international law. Our last four Presidents have condemned their building and expansion.

President Obama, like his predecessors, expressed his regret and called for the confiscation order to be rescinded. He'll be ignored. And Congress remains silent.

Clearly, while public sentiment is changing on this issue, the Zionist narrative that has dictated American policy for 60 years is still in control. But over the noise of AIPAC and the rest of the Israel Lobby another voice is being heard.

Progressive Christians are starting to do justice for Palestine. Quakers and Presbyterians have voted to divest from Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard and Motorola Solutions, three US companies that are profiteering from the Israeli occupation of Palestine. In 2012 the United Methodist Church reauthorized and amended a resolution from 2004 in opposition to Israeli Settlements. They ask that countries around the world stop sending both public and private money to support the settlement enterprise and also that members boycott products made in the settlements (like SodaStream and Ahava beauty products).

In the churches this conversation is driven forward by a new brand of Christian tourist. Rick Steves, a Lutheran, is one of them. His program on the Holy Land will air in October on PBS. While these tourists do many of the same things that other Christians do in the Holy Land, they don't stop there. They visit Bishop Elias Chacour's Educational Institute in the village of Iblin in the Galilee and the Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron. They hire Palestinian guides, sleep in Bethlehem for a week or so, visit with Palestinians in their homes, attend services in Palestinian churches, visit refugee camps and use materials developed by Palestinian Christians. These tourists become friends with Christians, Muslims and Jews alike. They see the backside of The Wall. On the Israeli side it looks like a well-landscaped sound barrier. On the backside it's a 28-foot high concrete prison wall with guard towers decorated with Palestinian murals that illustrate the occupation.

In 2008 my husband Dean and I took one of these trips with the United Methodists. We sat on the floor in the little living room in the home of the elder Mr. Jaber. Mr. Jaber's children have a large multi-family home on the hill across the road. This home was knocked down by the Israeli Defense Forces numerous times, and was knocked down again a few days

after we saw it. Rebuilding it is an on-going Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions project. Every time the house is demolished 22 people live in the tiny place where we sat. The Jabers resist by telling their story and refusing to leave.

In March of this year Dean and I went back to Israel and Palestine with a small group organized by Friends of Wadi Foquin, a mission project of the United Methodist Church. The project grew out of a five-year partnership between Buena Vista United Methodist Church in Alameda and the village of Wadi Foquin. Village leaders began a beehive project to cultivate & sell honey. Since that time, Wadi Foquin has



established a community center where village members can sell honey & women's embroidery to visiting groups. The community center also housed their first young men's leadership program in the summer of 2011.

We gathered in the living room of a home in Wadi Foquin. We listened to the village elder, 94-year old Yosef Manasra tell the story of his village. "The people of this village are different. We have always lived in peace with Israelis." Yosef told how the villagers fled to the caves in the hills in 1949, and all the houses were knocked down. After the 1967 war the villagers negotiated a return to their village. Villagers rebuilt all of their houses. He ended his talk by thanking us all for coming and begging us to go home and tell the story of Wadi Foquin.-

After lunch we met with the mayor and village council; young, articulate, tech savvy men and women dedicated to saving their village. Several of them accompanied us to the field to plant olive trees. The settlement, with its cameras loomed above us while we dug.

We went on from Wadi Foquin to visit the village of Battir, a beautiful ancient village with springs and terraced hillsides, a Roman era aqueduct and an Ottoman era rail line. We also visited Beit Escaria, a village in the hills that is under extreme pressure from a large and aggressive nearby settlement.

All three of these villages have similar problems: constant camera surveillance, road closures and checkpoints, the loss of much of their land, fields and springs destroyed by settlement sewerage and construction run-off. They are crowded because housing has been demolished and building permits are denied. They aren't allowed to drill the aquifer beneath their land. They are all fighting the building of the Separation Wall that will take more of their land. Older children are chased or stoned by settlers when they have to leave the village to attend school. These visits always ended with, "Thank you for coming. Tell our story back home. Tell others to come. We need a partnership like Wadi Foquin."

Friends of Wadi Foquin has taken their plea seriously. On November 19, 2013, more than 100 Capitol Hill staffers and community members packed a room in Washington, D.C., for "Wadi Foquin Briefing: A Microcosm of the Urgency for Israeli-Palestinian Peace." Rev. Michael Yoshii, Pastor of Buena Vista United Methodist Church in Alameda, California said it best. "Having the villagers come to Washington, D.C., to address an audience that often stereotypes Palestinians as 'the enemies' is a significant step toward changing the dominant narrative of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and moving toward truth-telling on Capitol Hill."

Gloria Fearn is secretary of the Israel/Palestine Task Force of the CA/NV Conference of the United Methodist Church. She lives in Stockton. Her email: gwfearn@mac.com

**STANISLAUS**  
**Artist**  
**Open**  
**Studio**

An initiative of the  
Stanislaus County Travel  
& Tourism Roundtable

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Tour the studios of  
Stanislaus County artists  
**April 25 & 26**  
11a.m. - 5 p.m.

Look for information at  
<http://stanislausaos.wordpress.com>  
or Stanislaus County Artists  
Open Studio Tour on Facebook,  
Email: [openstudio.stanislaus@gmail.com](mailto:openstudio.stanislaus@gmail.com)  
Phone: 209-222-TOUR

## LAW OFFICES OF ROCKWELL, KELLY & DUARTE, LLP

	1600 G Street Suite 203
DAVID N. ROCKWELL	P.O. Box 0142
SHARON E. KELLY	Modesto, CA
JEFFREY DUARTE	95353-0142
MARKUS URSTOEGER	(209) 521-2552
<small>Attorneys/Abogados</small>	FAX (209) 526-7898



Good Medicine for Ending War

By LIBBY and LEN TRAUBMAN  
*“There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another and to preserve and cherish the only home we’ve ever known.”*  
~ Carl Sagan, scientist (1934-1996) in The Small Blue Dot  
*“Go forth and transform your personal relationships, your community, your world. We are all agents of transfiguration.”*  
~ Desmond Tutu (San Francisco, 06 March 2011)

War is Bad Medicine

Let each citizen among us begin the new, needed conversations, even in our grief and stress over today’s events. Why war — mostly crimes — with us and them so quickly throwing fierce, barbarian death at one another?  
Let’s be clear. We and they behead each other and arrogantly plan to “decapitate” one another’s leadership. Some use swords and watch. Others don’t, but from safe distances trigger ungodly explosives that eviscerate and dismember limbs, organs, and heads from children, woman, and men, innocents, increasingly.  
Pretending to be civilized, they and we are not. But we could be.

Good Medicine for Ending War

All is One  
This singular fact of our existence requires respect. Only together, interdependent will we live and survive human-kind’s shared challenges on Earth.  
Let’s be clear again. Each person’s body parts do not survive without the others — heart, kidneys, liver, vessels, fluids, hormones, biological and emotional nourishment. There is no individual survival. And so it is with our human community. Also a living body, we exist to cooperate and improve together. Ways are discoverable — life rewards determination with prescriptions for health.

SEE two videos:  
The Pale Blue Dot 4-min video — Carl Sagan, scientist: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=923jxZY2NPI>  
One Planet — Together We Can Live. Cheryl Melody’s peace anthem: <http://cherylmelody.com/peace-programs-adults/one-planet/>

CASH-DUDLEY SPEILLER & TORRES  
PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION  
E. F. CASH-DUDLEY  
CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN FAMILY LAW  
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION  
STACY P. SPEILLER Patricia Torres  
Attorney at Law Attorney at Law  
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL  
518 THIRTEENTH STREET • MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354  
TELEPHONE (209) 526-1533 • FACSIMILE: (209) 526-1711  
WWW.CDSTLAW.COM

Ten Good Reads for Palestine/Israel Peacemakers

By GLORIA FEARN  
The following does not represent an inclusive list of all of the best books on this issue but ones I have found particularly helpful. The first three are by Jewish writers.  
**Witness In Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories** by Anna Baltzer. My dog-eared and highlighted first copy grew legs and walked away. Anna’s book is the best basic text on what is happening on the ground in Palestine. She takes the myths of the occupation and totally deconstructs each one with basic facts and illustrations.

**The General’s Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine**  
Miko Peled’s memoir tells about growing up in the family of one of the founding generals of Israel. He served in the IDF, traveled the world, and after his niece was killed in a suicide bombing, he dedicated himself to getting to know Palestinians and to working for justice and equality for all peoples of Palestine and Israel. The book grabbed me by the heart.

**Wrestling In the Daylight: A Rabbi’s Path To Palestinian Solidarity**  
by Brant Rosen. Rosen’s book is drawn from his blog posts and the community comments that it engendered in the two years following Operation Cast Lead, the 2008 bombardment of Gaza. This is a courageous book about the struggle American Jews endure over Israel.

Three important books by Palestinian Christian authors:  
**Blood Brothers** by Bishop Alias Chacour. First published in 1984, this book is a classic story of a Palestinian Christian working for peace in Israel. Bishop Chacour, now retired, is still writing and speaking. He introduces himself as a “proud Palestinian Arab Christian Israeli, an exile in my native land.”

His book puts a new frame around Jewish/Christian relations. I also recommend the author’s **We Belong to the Land**.  
**Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope and Empowerment** by Mazin Qumsiyeh sheds crucial light on the practice and history of non-violent resistance to the occupation in Palestine. It’s a valuable counterbalance to the narrative of suicide bombers that dominate the American media.  
**Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes**.  
Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Sr. Pastor of Christmas Church in Bethlehem, is a leader of the Liberation Theology movement. Here he sets the story of Palestinians within a revised theological and biblical frame that offers hope for the future.  
**Against Our Better Judgment: The Hidden History of How the U.S. Was Used to Create Israel** by Alison Weir. Weir is a journalist from Sacramento who wrote a thoroughly scholarly piece on how it is that Zionism became the policy of the U.S. It’s a short and fascinating read of 94 pages with 130 pages of end notes.  
For theological grounding I recommend:  
**Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth**. This sixteen-page document is a statement of faith and hope from Palestinian Christians. It’s also a cry for help from the international community. Get it online: <http://www.kairospalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf>. It is part of a study guide from the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Two other valuable study guides, complete with DVDs from the Presbyterians are:  
**Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace. Zionism Unsettled: A Congregational Study Guide.**

Recommendations on CA propositions

	Prop 1	Prop 2	Prop 45	Prop 46	Prop 47	Prop 48
CLF	Y	-	-	-	Y	Y
CNA	-	-	Y	-	-	-
CTA	-	-	-	N	Y	-
LWVC	-	Y	-	-	Y	-
CLCV	Y	-	-	-	-	-
ACLU	-	-	-	-	Y	-
FCL	N	Y	-	Y	Y	Y
CA NOW	-	-	Y	-	-	-
Dems	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
Repubs	Y	Y	N	N	N	-
CA CC	Y	Y	N	N	N	-

- Propositions  
1 Water Bond. Funding for Water Quality, Supply, Treatment, and Storage Projects.  
2 State Budget. Budget Stabilization Account. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.  
45 Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes. Initiative Statute.  
46 Drug and Alcohol Testing Of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits. Initiative Statute.  
47 Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.  
48 Indian Gaming Compacts. Referendum.
- Organizations  
CLF- California Labor Federation  
CAN- California Nurses’ Association  
CTA- California Teachers’ Association  
LWVC- League of Women Voters California  
CLCV- California League of Conservation Voters  
ACLU- American Civil Liberties Union Northern California  
FCL- Friends Committee on Legislation California  
CANOW- California National Organization for Women  
Dems- California Democratic Party  
Repubs - California Republican Party  
CA CC- California Chamber of Commerce

# Divest/Invest: Global Charities Challenged to Help 'Save Civilization'

## Could world's wealthy philanthropic foundations spur a 'tipping point' on climate action?

By DEIRDRE FULTON, staff writer

A group of 160 leading environmentalists is calling on the world's philanthropists and foundations to use their money to "create a tipping point on climate change."

The collection of activists, celebrities, and scientists—all winners of environmental prizes and representing 46 countries among them—make their case in a full-page ad in the international edition of Monday's New York Times.

The "Environmental Laureates Declaration on Climate Change" reads, in part:

*Terrified that we will lose our ability to feed ourselves, run out of potable water, increase the scope for war, and cause the very fabric of civilization to crash as a consequence of the climate change that global overheating will bring about; devastated that our governments have not succeeded yet in slowing, much less stopping, the flow of greenhouse gases into our thin atmosphere, in the full knowledge of these risks, despite a quarter century of trying; aware that the UN Climate Summit in Paris in December 2015 may be the last chance to agree on a treaty capable of saving civilization; We...call on foundations and philanthropists everywhere to deploy their endowments urgently in the effort to save civilization.*  
<http://www.european-environment-foundation.eu/text/144/en/declaration.html>

The declaration was circulated for signatures by the European Environment Foundation (EEF), which will now write letters to individual philanthropies urging them to help in these ways:

- By investing directly in clean energy companies and low-carbon projects;
- By withdrawing investments from fossil fuel companies or campaigning as shareholders for them not to develop new reserves;
- By making grants to support clean energy start-ups and stimulate the development of low-carbon markets.

A Q&A at the EEF site notes that this declaration is focused on philanthropy in part because many of the laureates' prizes are sponsored by foundations—giving them special influence with such groups—and also because "foundations' substantial financial resources, prestigious supporters and reputations make them well-placed to 'trigger' further action by others including companies, investors and governments."

"A small shift in the collective focus of foundations, and/or an acceleration by foundations already working on climate change, could make a big difference," writes Jeremy Leggett, chairman of Carbon Tracker and coordinator of the declaration, in a [post](#) at Responding to Climate Change. "If they broadened and deepened their activities in line with the magnitude of the threat, this could well create space for

a tipping point in climate action of all kinds." <http://www.carbontracker.org>

Earlier this year, more than a dozen philanthropies with an asset base of nearly \$2 billion (including the Ben & Jerry's Foundation, the Wallace Global Fund, and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust) announced their commitment to divest from fossil fuels and invest in the new energy economy, an effort known as the Divest-Invest Initiative. More than a dozen colleges and universities have also pledged to divest their endowments from fossil fuels. Groups like 350.org have spurred numerous cities, towns, religious groups, and other institutions to divest. <http://divestinvest.org>

"If these trends continue in the rest of 2014 and 2015—as they look very much like doing—then negotiators may sit down in Paris with a sense that 'the markets are already moving' in their direction of travel—i.e. towards significantly less burning of fossil fuels in the future—so making their task of negotiating meaningful targets and timetables easier," Leggett writes.

According to Ceres, a Boston-based non-profit promoting investment practices that incorporate long-term environmental and social risks, the world needs to invest an additional \$44 trillion in clean energy—more than \$1 trillion per year for the next 36 years—in order to limit global warming to 2° Celsius and avoid the worst effects of climate change.

But in an edited extract from her forthcoming book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism v. The Climate*, published Friday at the Guardian, Naomi Klein questions the effectiveness of employing inherently capitalist approaches to mitigating climate change:

*The idea that only capitalism can save the world from a crisis it created is no longer an abstract theory; it's a hypothesis that has been tested in the real world. We can now take a hard look at the results: at the green products shunted to the back of the supermarket shelves at the first signs of recession; at the venture capitalists who were meant to bankroll a parade of innovation but have come up far short; at the fraud-infested, boom-and-bust carbon market that has failed to cut emissions. And, most of all, at the billionaires who were going to invent a new form of enlightened capitalism but decided, on second thoughts, that the old one was just too profitable to surrender.*

Still, she acknowledges that investors and corporations are in a unique position "to do precisely what our governments have been unwilling to legislate: channel the profits earned from warming the planet into the costly transition away from these dangerous energy sources."

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License

[www.commondreams.org/news/2014/09/15/divestinvest-global-charities-challenged-help-save-civilization](http://www.commondreams.org/news/2014/09/15/divestinvest-global-charities-challenged-help-save-civilization)

## Climate March

from page 1

of being community organizers, interveners, plaintiffs, civil disobedients, fundraisers, impromptu speakers, letter writers, and whatever else we might need to us get through this awful corporate disease.

The people I saw, interviewed and rode in on the bus with (from central Ohio; I got the last seat) are working locally while thinking globally. They are our species' planetary immune system.

This march said we are now a mature movement with a great sense of mission, diversity and self.

We know what the problem is.

We know who the perpetrators are.

We know what the solutions are, and that they work.

Will it be enough?

Time will tell. We must, as always, fight like hell. It will be hard, to say the least.

But please, along the way, let's have many more marches like this one.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2014/09/22/huge-gorgeous-global-march-shows-how-win-climate-fight-grassroots>

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License

## Justin Ancheta: Lyricist/poet, environmental activist, community builder

Justin Ancheta is a lyricist/poet, guitarist, vocalist, and composer. The San Francisco native is a bike-touring artist, making waves and setting precedents across the globe with his lyrics, which share the human power of community. His group, Cradle Duende, takes its name from the Spanish word "duende", in reference to a musically heightened state of emotional expression and a merging of disparate musical traditions, which evolved from independent cradles of civilization.

Cradle is actively involved in the community playing local gigs to support Oakland's Sustainable Living Center, neighborhood block parties, Sunday Streets Berkeley & SF, "A Call to Localize" Glen Park, Bicycle Music Festival SF, Tunes & Tubes Benefit for SF Bike Coalition, and worthy political candidates. The group will be in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday October 12 at Sunday Afternoons at CBS (<http://www.cbsmodesto.org/concert-series.html>) More information at <http://www.justinancheta.com> and <http://www.justinancheta.com/founder-of-soul-graffiti-ent/>





Lyrics from “Plant” CD

“Giving thanks to the believers in making a balance between nature and technology for believing we can make a difference, one by one, keeping the hope alive, living strong, and creating community and culture along the way...Let’s make the movement around the world starting here with the ‘call to localize’.”

Forever

Blue skies tell me it’s better  
If all the weather stays the same  
Take it slow because you never know what’s ahead  
You might go back to bed when the stocks forever changed

Who am I feeling now  
Break me and I know it’s not for real  
Take me back to where I can choose  
Which day is bad or good from how I bloomed

Could you ask them to go  
Like they would if you really knew  
Could you see they are meant to  
Give the heart by just being

Truth Existence

I want to take you into the distance where the free life can be found  
no discrimination from your own will put the seeds back in the ground  
let liberty flourish like the fruits if you could place it like the sounds  
of the people joining hands making the world evolve around  
the sun manifested in our own divine being  
allowing omniscient life around us so that we keep on seeing  
where our food is grown and our clothes are mended  
what our houses are made of and why laws should be amended  
because freedom lies within the hearts of the system on how our hearts are created  
close to your heart, close to your heart, you’re closest to your heart with the love that you are.  
pump blood truth existence into the forefront of creation  
elevate your head to see beyond seven generations  
make change in your life so that God’s children are emancipated  
all of you that walk this earth are at the forefront of creation  
make existence of your nation more than consuming fruition  
looking for answers in a haystack of bullshitin’  
i’ll find my own right now in the moment of my being  
see straight through to the ground that creates my seeing  
close to your heart, close to your heart, you’re closest to your heart with the love that you are.

Better Predicament

as seasons start to change from summer to fall rain and back into winter again as we start to display we’re over consumed we’re breathing these fumes it’s getting harder to live without thinking of you. I don’t want your war machines stop making babies crying. is a fool on the street why he use what he need no to you for your greed, it’s a better predicament if I just close my eyes make a system without greed or compromise. evolution of spirit generations that pass make a new order that take down the capitalist crack of the whip to enslave off our shores, so consumed in consuming we become the slaves before we knew what had happened and our backs turned around, the belly of the beast looming for two hundred years on our ground. not ideal for my children’s children to be making products why they steal, coughing up a lung from dinosaur bones, I don’t want your throne. I don’t want your throne. I don’t think it will last as the vision will pass, a day when we don’t see time as nothing but an obstacle, beauty on my mind that will make me whole but a family wise as elders birth vision for aquarius to last...

Simmer Down

simmer down  
tell me there’s a reason  
how right and left they choose these freedoms  
where I’m nowhere on their line  
simmer down  
tell me it was easy  
trading pawns for a queen

give me something I can feel inside my soul  
I wish the change can be things I can truly hold  
a purple haze of a chance to break free this mold  
I wish the chains to be off they are no more

tell me something that I can feel inside my soul  
I wish the change can be things I can truly hold  
a purple haze a chance to break free this mold  
I wish the chains to be off they are no more

simmer down and  
tell me there’s a reason  
why you trade your pawn for a queen

Wander

I saw myself into a dream that was making me believe we have future for our childrens’ children if we start to see the progress with connecting all the life that is protecting spirit and reflecting realize it’s just a change. don’t all run at the same time, under the sun in the east sky, I get along.

I saw myself into a dream that was lingering on the air like a note written to bring people together with the care, stared back into the beast it ceased to move, metaphors of metaphors of fools rimmed-the clock ticked because we told it to. so I stopped it so they don’t yell at you. don’t all run at the same time. isn’t it fun to realize you’re alive. honor los muertos by living strong, I get along.

Counter Culture

let your minds stop. and think before action the best way to get involved in stop stressing your passion. this is the counter culture’s zone respect both sides we must get along this is the counter culture. you hate this and i hate that, you think that’s bliss and i think that’s crap. but everyone got their opinion of things so try not to be so domineering on beings. structure this and structure that, you think that’s bliss and I think that crap but everyone’s got their opinions, so why not come down. I wanna believe these days could be so real, can you believe these days are so real.

The Surface of the Moon

I give you my heart Right from the start There’s no turning back My bags are unpacked Take me away Away from the day When all that they say Is watch to behave I’ll love you so much It hurts to hear I can’t touch The fertile soil beneath the sea The waves keep crashing into me On the surface of your moon  
Something is wrong Must be wrong with my heart I thought I could do it Right from the start But she said my love was untrue disrespectful and vain I hope I can stop All the cause of this pain  
Why does this love hurt so much I just want to express all of my love It’s something deeper than above The surface of the moon

Outer Space

Don’t go on without your soul  
They came out from where you are  
Hold your head before you go  
They came out from where you are  
Send me off to your outer space  
And I’ll be fine, yes I’ll do fine... I’ll do fine  
Go on using words to show  
You have holding eye your way  
Show it like you know your own  
They came out from where you are  
Send me off to your outer space  
And I’ll be fine, yes I’ll do fine... I’ll do fine  
Are we lost yet, or just finding our footing

Downward

go on your way  
figure it out  
you have your own  
downward

rocks in the ground  
sifting in soil  
shut in your whole  
just open your door

how can you be silent  
how can you not see it  
roots in your ground shattered cement with sound  
there’s something bigger around  
there’s something different about  
you



## Letter: Proposition 47

Proposition 47 is an initiative on the November ballot. The Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act or Proposition 47 eliminates the disparities in sentencing for non-violent crimes. As people of diverse faith traditions, our values are aligned to believe in the dignity and value of human life. We believe in investing in our youth through education rather than prisons. Investing an average of \$70,000 per inmate in comparison to \$9,000 per pupil is inhumane.

Proposition 47 seeks to change this dynamic by relocating 65% of the money to mental health programs, drug treatment and rehabilitation, 25% to K-12 public education and 10% to victim assistance. Proposition 47 is common sense policy that will help keep our communities safer.

Uniquely, through the civic engagement work for Proposition 47, Congregations Building Community (CBC) seeks to target low-propensity voters. As an inter-faith based



organization CBC will target the Latino, Asian Pacific and African-American communities, groups that historically are absent from our electorate and infrequently turn out to vote. These communities have been disenfranchised throughout history resulting in educational and socioeconomic disparities. We are all God's valuable children; our lives, families and communities matter.

This fall our communities can participate in civic engage-

ment efforts that can potentially transform our electorate in the Central Valley to become more representative of Stanislaus County as well as the opportunity to save our youth by helping pass Proposition 47.

Our youth matter!

Interested in becoming involved? Contact Adriana Garcia-Hernandez, Restorative Justice Coordinator for Stockton Diocese, Congregations Building Community, Modesto and People and Congregations Together, Stockton (209) 589-4329.

*Congregations Building Community is an inter-faith based organization working to unlock the power of people to create policy changes around education, immigration, violence prevention and access to healthcare. We are active throughout Stanislaus County.*

**Adriana Garcia- Hernandez**

## War is not the answer

from page 1

not only a moral statement but also is a serious critique of what doesn't work; wars often fail to solve the problems and ultimately make them worse. War has to answer to metrics, just as more peaceful alternatives do. The war in Iraq was a complete failure with enormous human and financial costs; ISIS is now one of the consequences.

Yesterday I spoke at a very creative non-partisan conference at the American Enterprise Institute on finding a new approach to end poverty. I was pleasantly surprised when I saw all the press cameras — until I realized they were only there to cover Dick Cheney's news conference on how America should respond to ISIS in the room next door. Dana Milbank in *The Washington Post* said:

"It was just like the good old days. Scooter Libby was in the front row. Paul Wolfowitz was in the second. And on the stage was Dick Cheney, beating the drums of war."

Yet again, Cheney railed against President Obama in a "pre-buttal" to the president's speech coming that night. Cheney's strategy, along with others like John McCain and Bill Kristol, calls for serial American invasions and continued occupations in every Middle Eastern country where there is conflict — one after another. Milbank concluded, "In summary: War, war and more war."

I agree with Pope Francis when he said it is legitimate to stop an unjust aggressor:

"I underscore the verb 'to stop'. I am not saying 'bomb' or 'make war', but 'stop him.' The means by which he can be stopped must be evaluated. Stopping the unjust aggressor is legitimate."

This morning, former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski agreed, saying the war 10 years ago "was a monumental disaster for which we are still paying."

President Obama spoke to the "unique brutality" of ISIS, destroying all who are in their path, including children; turning women into sex slaves; perpetrating genocide against religious minorities, including Christians; beheading their enemies; and turning foreigners into hardened fighters who could bring their terror back to other countries around the

world. ISIS clearly revels in its own brutality by eagerly putting it all up on YouTube. I would add religious "blasphemy" to the crimes of ISIS, doing their proud brutal deeds in the name of God — which is an utter offense to all people of faith.

That the world, including the United States, needs to respond decisively to the real threats of ISIS is beyond dispute, but the practical and moral question is — how? Let's remember the principle that alternatives to war must answer the questions that war promises to answer — but in a better way.

I give President Obama credit for wanting to respond in a "different way" than the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. His strategy will focus on air strikes but also relies on supporting and training Middle East partners on the ground, which will be necessary to defeat a force already as powerful as ISIS.

But who those partners will be is still a huge question at this point. All our potential allies are on one side or the other of the 1,400-year-old Sunni-Shia sectarian conflict, which produces very different visions for the future of the Middle East. Air strikes will always kill innocent civilians, which will fuel the hatred of the outside superpower and be used to recruit more terrorists. And the 1,600 American troops who will soon be in Iraq will have to stand with their "boots" someplace, which will be more likely "on the ground" than in hotel rooms and offices.

To forge solutions to conflict that are an alternative to the endless and failed habits of war demands a much stronger set of other strategies — which the White House has yet to fully understand or embrace. I applaud the president for seeking a multi-national coalition and a more international approach. But that could have begun with the United Nations, where the U.S. will chair the Security Council in just two weeks — rather than taking the *American* plan to the U.N. for support. Strong U.N. leadership could both recruit more Middle East partners and help take the United States out of the role of the most hated target of Islamic fundamentalism.

Aggressive diplomacy and the willingness to impose crippling economic sanctions are both necessary if we are ever to find alternatives to war. For example, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Emirates have yet to be held account-

able — for their enormous inequalities and injustices that have spawned terrorism and for their export of hateful ideologies and funding support for jihadist groups. Stifling money for terrorist groups must extend to any and all nations, businesses, or organizations with any connections to the flow of that lethal money.

Ultimately, we won't see an end to our "war on terrorism" without dealing with the underlying *causes*, and not just targeting the *consequences* of growing terrorism. We must address the *world of oil* that the West has created, that has literally defined nations, changed geography, and institutionalized the injustices and hypocrisies that breeds the grievances of terrorism. Having justified the unjust structure of that oil world to accommodate our *addiction* to fossil fuels has produced both a profound threat to our planet and the rise of an angry terrorism that threatens our own children. We must address the fact that 60 percent of the Middle East population is under 30 years of age, and many of them are unemployed, uneducated, aggrieved, and angry young men — too easily drawn to the rhetoric of revenge. To overcome terrorism we must address the grievances that give rise to it and are exploited by hateful extremists.

Again, we must address all of these *causes*. War and more war will not be able to solve any of it.

Jim Wallis is president of Sojourners. His latest book is *The (Un)Common Good: How the Gospel Brings Hope to a World Divided*. Follow Jim on Twitter @JimWallis

Source: <http://sojo.net/blogs/2014/09/11/war-not-answer>



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



# The Senate Just Voted to Keep Big Money in Politics. Three Reasons to Celebrate Anyway

The fact that the issue reached the Senate floor is a huge victory for the American people, who overwhelmingly say they want something done about corporate influence in elections.

By FRAN KORTEN

It was no surprise that the Senate's proposed "Democracy for All" amendment to the constitution did not pass Thursday. It takes 67 votes to pass an amendment in the Senate. So Thursday's vote of 54 in favor and 42 against spelled defeat. <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/217449-senate-republicans-block-constitutional-amendment-on-campaign>

Senators who voted against the amendment will need to explain their actions to their constituents.

But the vote represents a giant leap on the road to overturning the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, which opened the floodgates to money in elections.

## Here are three reasons for advocates to celebrate:

### 1. The vote demonstrates the power of grassroots activism.

The Senate's 54 to 42 on the "Democracy for All" amendment was widely attributed to the activism in towns, cities,

and states across the country. Since January 21, 2010, when the Supreme Court handed down its decision in Citizens United, 16 states and more than 550 towns and cities have passed resolutions recommending a constitutional amendment.

Advocates are undaunted by the Senate's failure to pass the amendment. John Bonifaz, president of the nonprofit Free Speech for People, noted, "It's just a matter of time. We will get the 28th Amendment."

### 2. It puts pressure on politicians across party lines.

At the national level, regulating money in politics is a highly partisan issue. Not a single Republican voted for the proposed amendment, introduced by Democrat Tom Udall of New Mexico. But among the public, that partisan divide disappears.

The public advocacy group Public Citizen recently released a poll conducted by leading Democratic and Republican pollsters. The numbers showed that Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all share disgust at the outsized influence of moneyed interests in our politics. Of the sample of 800 "likely voters," 61 percent opposed the Citizens United decision, including 58 percent of Republicans. A whopping 78 percent (including 71 percent of Republicans) said reducing the influence of money in politics and elections was important. In response to arguments that restricting money in politics and elections is an assault on free speech, just 25 percent (including 38 percent of Republicans) agreed. <http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=183>

The Senate vote puts 100 senators on record. Those voting against the amendment will need to explain their actions to their constituents.

### 3. It provides language that empowers the states and defines corporations as artificial legal entities.

The proposed amendment specifies that not only the Congress but also the states may regulate "the raising and spending money in politics." If this version of the amendment were to become law, it would mean that states would be able to move ahead, regardless of stalemates at the national level. It seems likely that many states would do so. Already, 16 of them have recommended a constitutional amendment to restrict money in politics.

The amendment also defines the nature of a corporation. Currently, nowhere in the Constitution or in any of its 27 amendments does the word "corporation" appear. The Senate's amendment would introduce the word for the first time and in doing so define the corporation as an artificial legal entity. The amendment states:

Congress and the States ... may distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created

by law, including prohibiting such entities from spending money to influence elections.

Most of us have never doubted that humans are different from corporations. But all the way up to the Supreme Court, some judges have treated corporations as though they have the same constitutional rights granted to natural persons. If this amendment eventually passes, the distinction between natural persons and corporations would be written into the highest law of the land.

Not everyone feels the amendment goes far enough. While the Senate's "Democracy for All" amendment is backed by many organizations working to get big money out of politics, the advocacy group Move to Amend wants wording that specifies that corporations do not have constitutionally protected rights.

Senator Jon Tester, a Democrat from Montana, has introduced a "Peoples Rights" amendment (SJR-18), to do just that. It is meant as a companion to the Udall amendment just voted on, but so far it has not garnered the same level of support. In the House, a parallel pair of amendments have been introduced by Jim McGovern, a Democrat from Massachusetts. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c113:S.J.RES.18>:

No one expects two-thirds of the House to pass an amendment in the short term. But the pressure is on. As The New York Times stated in an op-ed about the issue, a constitutional amendment "...is a last resort to fix a grave civic problem. But the backers of this amendment recognize that the nature of American democracy is at stake." [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/11/opinion/an-amendment-to-cut-political-cash.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/11/opinion/an-amendment-to-cut-political-cash.html?_r=0)

The framers of the Constitution made sure it would not be easy to pass a constitutional amendment. They specified that two-thirds of the House and Senate must vote for one, which then must be ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures. And we know moneyed interests do not want their power curtailed and will fight the amendment tooth and nail. So there is a long road ahead.

The struggle will not be led by the Senate. It will be led by the people.

I like to remember that the fight for women's right to vote began at Seneca Falls in 1848. The 19th Amendment giving women the franchise passed in 1920. It took 72 long years.

In an age of instant mass communications, this campaign is moving far faster than that one. But it's helpful to keep in mind that we're just over four years down the road. We've come a long way. Time to take a moment to celebrate.

Fran Korten wrote this article for *YES! Magazine*, a national, nonprofit media organization that fuses powerful ideas with practical actions. Fran is publisher of YES!

From <http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/senate-voted-to-keep-big-money-in-politics-three-reasons-to-celebrate>

Stanislaus CONNECTIONS, published by the non-profit Modesto Peace/Life Center, has promoted non-violent social change since 1971. Opinions expressed DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the Center or Editorial Committee. We welcome pertinent, signed articles, 800-1000 words or less, and letters with address, phone number. DEADLINE: 10th of the Month PRECEDING the next issue. Send articles and ads to Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org). Submit PHOTOS as high-resolution JPEGs; ADS as PDF files.

EDITOR: Jim Costello

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Jim Costello, Luella Cole, Tina Driskill

LAYOUT EDITOR: Linda Knoll

ADVERTISING: (vacant)

ONLINE EDITION: Jim Costello

COLLATING & DISTRIBUTION: Shelly Scribner, many appreciated volunteers

ADS must be consistent with Peace/Life Center tenets. No ads for candidates for public office or for liquor. Advertisers do not necessarily support Peace/Life Center views nor does the Center endorse advertised products or services. To ADVERTISE, email Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)





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

## ACTIONS FOR PEACE Sonora - Stockton

**SONORA:** Contact Alice at lewisalice090@gmail.com

**PEACE AND JUSTICE NETWORK OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY** (<http://www.pjnsjc.org>). Info: James Walsh, jwprod1956@clearwire.net

# OCTOBER

**Ongoing: MJC Science Colloquium.** Science Community Center, Rm. 115, Wednesdays, West Campus, 3-4 p.m. Contact: Richard Anderson (209) 529-5182 andersonr@mjc.edu **Oct. 1:** Meg Gonzalez, Edward Aguilar, Tuolumne River Trust: "The Tuolumne River, A Lifeline for Modesto." **Oct. 8:** David Seaborg, World Rainforest Fund, "The Threat to Rainforests, Why They are Important, and How They can be Saved." **Oct. 22:** Jessica Blois, UC Merced, "Paleoecology: Environments and Climate Change in the Past." **Oct. 29:** Mike Zweifel, MID Major Account Executive, "MID's Energy Present and Future."

**Ongoing: MAPS: Modesto Area Partners in Science Fall '14 Outreach for the Community** Fridays, 7:30 pm, MJC West Campus. Free parking, admission. <http://maps.events.mjc.edu/> **Oct. 3:** Mary Stuart Rogers Student Center, **Dr. Alex Filippenko**, "Dark Matter and the Runaway Universe." 2004 Carl Sagan Prize for Science Popularization recipient. Voted best professor, UC Berkeley 9 times. **Oct 17:** Sierra Hall 132, **Dr. Lawrence Diller**, "ADHD: Models, Myths and Medication." He has written several books on this subject including *Remembering Ritalin*. <http://murov.info/diller.pdf>

**9 THURS: Back to the Future: A benefit for the Tuolumne River Trust.** See article, this issue.

**11 SAT: North San Joaquin Valley CNPS Plant Day & Sale.** Merrill F. West High School, 1775 W. Lowell Ave., Tracy. 9 am – 1 pm.

**15 WED: MPLC October Film Night:** Robert Reich's film, *Inequality for All* at the Peace/Life Center, 720 13<sup>th</sup> St., Modesto. 6:30 pm. FREE. Discussion after.

**17 FRI:** 31st Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Awards honors local women who have served as role models and given back to their communities while also raising awareness for domestic violence. Keynote speaker: Taylor Armstrong. Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall, 848 M St., 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Tickets: \$60.00, Tables of 10, \$575.00. Visit <http://mmcenter.org/index.php?c=44>

**19 SUN: Modesto Film Society** presents *King Kong*, 2 pm. State Theatre, 1307 J. St. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/323>

**26 SUN: Modesto Film Society** presents *Rosemary's Baby*, 2 pm. State Theatre, 1307 J. St. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/324>

## LOOKING AHEAD

**November 9, 2014: Harvest Gathering.**

**January 15, 2015: John McCutcheon one man show on Joe Hill.**

**February 7, 2015: Annual MLK Commemoration; Keynote speaker: Julian Bond.**

## REGULAR MEETINGS

### SUNDAYS

**LifeRing Secular Recovery:** Sunday 10:00 am, Kaiser CDRP, 1789 W Yosemite Ave, Manteca. Support group for people living free of alcohol and drugs. Each person creates an individualized recovery program. We avoid discussion of religious or political opinions so our meetings can focus on sobriety skills. 526-4854, <http://goldendrippings.com/lifering/>

**Weekly mindfulness meditation and dharma talk,** 12:30-2:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <http://imcv.org/>

### MONDAYS

**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. Email [WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com](mailto:WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com) or call 209.577.1604.

**Occupy Modesto:** General Assembly meets every other Monday, 5:00 - 6:30 pm at Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St. All interested members of the 99% welcome. Meetings: Info: Nancy, 545-1375.

### TUESDAYS

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

**LifeRing Secular Recovery:** Tuesday 6:30 pm, Jana Lynn Room, 500 N 9th St, Modesto. 526-4854

**Ukulele class/play-a-long** led by Lorrie Freitas 5 p.m. Beginners Lessons 6 p.m. Play Along in song-books provided. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver, Modesto. Donation accepted. Info: 505-3216. [www.funstrummers.com](http://www.funstrummers.com)

**Weekly mindfulness meditation** and dharma talk, 6:30-8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori for more information at 209-343-2748 or see <http://imcv.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), (NOTE TIME), 5:00-6:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

**MEDIA:** Listen to local Valley Community Radio KQRP 104.9 FM, <http://www.kqrp.com>

**PEACE LIFE CENTER BOARD MEETING,** FIRST Thursdays, 720 13th St., Modesto, 6:30 pm, 529-5750.

**MEDIA COMMITTEE** of Peace Life Center. Meetings TBA. Call John Lucas, 527-7634.

**CONNECTIONS EDITORIAL MEETINGS:** Info: 537-7818, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

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

**PFLAG Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** support group. 7 pm, 566-2468. First and third Tuesdays. Emanuel Lutheran Church, 324 College Ave., Modesto, <http://www.pflagmodesto.org>

**PFLAG Merced,** Second Tuesday, Merced United Methodist Church, 899 Yosemite Park Way, Merced. 7 pm. Info: 341-2122, <http://s444531532.onlinehome.us>

**PFLAG Sonora/Mother Lode,** third Tuesdays of January, April, July, and October, 6:30 to 8 pm, Tuolumne County Library Community Room, 480 Greenley Rd., Sonora, Info: 533-1665. Info@pflagsonora.org, [www.pflagsonora.org](http://www.pflagsonora.org)

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**LifeRing Secular Recovery:** Wednesdays 6:30 pm, Center for Human Services Building, 1700 McHenry Ave., Room 12, Modesto

**Modesto Folk Dancers:** All levels welcome. Raube Hall, Ceres (call for address), 578-5551.

**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.

**PFLAG Oakdale,** third Wednesdays, Golden Oaks Conf. Room, Oak Valley Medical Bldg., 1425 West H St., Oakdale, 7 pm. Info: [flagoakdale@dishmail.net](mailto:flagoakdale@dishmail.net)

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

**Mindful Meditation:** Modesto Almond Blossom Sangha, 7-9 pm. Info: Stan, 549-7770, [stanhopecunningham@yahoo.com](mailto:stanhopecunningham@yahoo.com), or Anne, 521-6977.

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

### THURSDAYS

**Refuge Recovery: A Buddhist Approach to Recovery** from Addiction Insight Meditation Central Valley, in the Sarana Kuti (in back), Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto. Thursdays 6:30-8 pm. FREE (donations accepted). Info: email [RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com](mailto:RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com)

**Latino Community Roundtable (LCR)** meets on the second Thursday of each month at Noon at Bel Piatto Italian Cucina, 1000 Kansas Ave., Modesto, CA. Info: call Maggie Mejia, (209) 303-2664, <http://lcrstan.org>  
**CVAN (Central Valley Action Network)** 3rd Thursday, 7-8:15 pm, Peace/Life Center 720 13th St. Contact: Jocelyn at [jocelyncoper@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyncoper@gmail.com) or 510-467-2877 or 209-312-9413

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

**The Compassionate Friends,** Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter. 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact: Joanna Rose-Murray, 209-484-8276, [jrmcompassion-](mailto:jrmcompassion-)

[ate@gmail.com](mailto:ate@gmail.com), <http://www.tcfmodesto-riverbankarea.org>

**NAACP.** King-Kennedy Center, 601 S.M.L. King Dr., Modesto, 7 pm, 3rd Thursdays. 549-1991.

**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: 579-9913, <http://www.modesto-artwalk.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

**Funstrummer Ukulele Band** every Friday, from 9:15 am until noon, Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Info: 505-3216; [www.funstrummers.com](http://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. 7-9:30 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: 549-9155. Visit <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/yokuts> for info on hikes and events.

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

**Hispanic Leadership Council:** 1st & 3rd Fridays at 7:00 am, El Concilio, 1314 H St. Other meetings at Terrace Cafe, Double Tree Hotel. Info: Yamilet Valladolid, 523-2860.

### SATURDAY

**So Easy ~ So Good:** Vegetarian/Vegan/Wannabee potluck/meeting every third Saturday of the month, 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM. Info: Kathy or Chris, 209-529-5360; email [kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com)

**SERRV:** Saturdays, 10 - Noon and after church Sundays or by appointment. Call Mary, 522-6497 or 523-5178. Gifts from developing countries. Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland, Rm. #4, Modesto.

**DEADLINE to submit articles to CONNECTIONS:** Tenth of each month. Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing. For up to date information, visit [www.stanislausconnections.org/calendar.htm](http://www.stanislausconnections.org/calendar.htm)