



# Stanislaus Connections

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO  
PEACE/LIFE  
CENTER  
PUBLICATION

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VOLUME XXI, NO. 9

## 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast

Sunday June 2, 2013

8:00 a.m. — Noon

*Benefit for  
the Modesto Peace/Life Center*

Modesto Church of the Brethren  
2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto



## All-Star Favorites

- Blueberry • Buttermilk •
- Scotch Oaties • Sampler Plate •

## Deborah's 2013 Specials:

- Mystery Pancake
- Savory Zucchini Feta
- Vegan Surprise!
- Fresh fruit salad
- Excellent coffees, teas, juices
- Fresh granola, yogurt
- Every order served hot!
- Visit with fellow breakfasters.

**Adults: \$10, Children: \$5**

**Helpers and food needed. Call 545-0590**

*A good community project for students*

~ ~ ~

The Church of the Brethren has graciously  
donated the use of its facility.

## Time to Renounce the “War on Terror”

By NORMON SOLOMON

As a perpetual emotion machine — producing and guzzling its own political fuel — the “war on terror” continues to normalize itself as a thoroughly American way of life and death. Ongoing warfare has become a matter of default routine, pushed along by mainline media and the leadership of both parties in Washington. Without a clear and effective upsurge of opposition from the grassroots, Americans can expect to remain citizens of a war-driven country for the rest of their lives.

Across the United States, many thousands of peeling bumper stickers on the road say: “End this Endless War.” They got mass distribution from MoveOn.org back in 2007, when a Republican was in the White House. Now, a thorough search of the MoveOn website might leave the impression that endless war ended with the end of the George W. Bush presidency.

MoveOn is very big as online groups go, but it is symptomatic of a widespread problem among an array of left-leaning organizations that have made their peace with the warfare state. Such silence assists the Obama administration as it makes the “war on terror” even more resolutely bipartisan and further embedded in the nation’s political structures — while doing immense damage to our economy, siphoning off resources that should go to meet human needs, further militarizing society and undermining civil liberties.

Now, on Capitol Hill, the most overt attempt to call a halt to the “war on terror” is coming from Rep. Barbara Lee, whose bill

H.R. 198 would revoke the Authorization for Use of Military Force that Congress approved three days after 9/11. Several months since it was introduced, H.R. 198 only has a dozen co-sponsors (see <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/198/co-sponsors>). (To send your representative and senators a message of support for Lee’s bill, visit [http://act.rootsaction.org/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=7348](http://act.rootsaction.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=7348).)

**The “war on terror” is now engaged in various forms of military intervention in an estimated two-dozen countries, killing and maiming uncounted civilians while creating new enemies.**

Evidently, in Congress, there is sparse support for repealing the September 2001 blanket authorization for war. Instead, there are growing calls for a larger blanket. Bipartisan Washington is warming to the idea that a new congressional resolution may be needed to give War on Terror 2.0 an expansive framework. Even for the law benders and breakers who manage the executive branch’s war machinery, the language of the September 2001 resolution doesn’t seem stretchable enough to cover the U.S. warfare of impunity that’s underway across the globe . . . with more on the drawing boards.

On Tuesday afternoon, when a Senate Judiciary subcommittee held a hearing on “targeted killing,” the proceedings underscored the great extent of bipartisan overlap for common killing ground. Republican super-hawk Sen. Lindsey Graham lauded President Obama for “targeting people in a very commander-in-chief-like way.” And what passed for senatorial criticism took as a given the need for continuing drone strikes. In the words of the subcommittee’s chairman, Sen. Dick Durbin, “More transparency is needed to maintain the support of the American people and the international community” for those attacks.

This is classic tinkering with war machinery. During the first several years of the Vietnam War, very few senators went beyond mild kibitzing about how the war could be better waged. In recent years, during President Obama’s escalation of the war in Afghanistan that tripled the U.S. troop levels in that country, senators like John Kerry (now secretary of state) kept offering their helpful hints for how to fine tune the war effort.

The “war on terror” is now engaged in various forms of military intervention in an estimated two-dozen countries, killing and maiming uncounted civilians while creating new enemies. It infuses foreign policy with unhinged messages hidden in plain sight, like a purloined letter proclaiming “What goes around won’t come around” and telling the world “Do as we say, not as we do.”

Political ripple effects from the Boston

**WAR ON TERROR. . . . . cont. p 5**

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<http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>

# 31st Annual Peace Camp June 28, 29, and 30, 2013



Camp Peaceful Pines  
near Pinecrest, California



## Registration Form

Early Registration Deadline: **June 2, 2013**

### Adults (age 19 and older)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total x \$80 ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Youth (ages 4 -18)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Total x \$60 ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Infant (ages 0 - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ **NO CHARGE**

Early registration discount by June 2: subtract \$10 per person \_\_\_\_\_ (-) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I need vegetarian meals \_\_\_\_\_ Voluntary Donation for scholarships \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Health needs, allergies, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs for cabin assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

I can offer/need a ride Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**There is an additional \$15 fee for each person  
who comes to camp without pre-registration.**

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

### Parent authorization for minor children (must be signed if applicable)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If adults bring children not their own, the parent/legal guardian of those children must complete and sign a separate parent authorization.*

For camp information and scholarship availability:  
Call Ken Schroeder, (209) 569-0321.

## Register for Peace Camp: Early Discount Available!

By **KEN SCHROEDER**

Join us for The Modesto Peace/Life Center's 31st annual Peace Camp in the Sierras, June 28-30. at Camp Peaceful Pines on Clark Fork Rd. off Hwy 108, about 100 miles east of Modesto.

Friday offers a hike for those who can leave in the morning, stop on the way to camp for hiking and arrive at camp in time for dinner. Hike leaders are John Lucas and Mike Chiavetta. Rob Brittain coordinates our Saturday workshop on economic and racial privilege. Rob has a strong interest in the subject and is leading a church group on a trip through Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana to study privilege while visiting historic civil rights sites. Long-time Peace Camper Sam Olson will facilitate a discussion on "Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods." Sam suggests watching the documentary "Genetic Roulette: the Gamble of Our Lives" on YouTube.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voT\\_Mj5GDKQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voT_Mj5GDKQ)

Scott Gifford, former Fremont Open Plan teacher in Modesto, returns to lead us in music. Jamming with guitars ukuleles and other instruments is welcome. If there's a favorite song that you'd like to sing around the campfire this year, let him know by email ([scottdgifford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scottdgifford@sbcglobal.net)) or on Facebook. Jennifer Perreira will lead morning yoga. Jennifer completed yoga teacher training at Kripalu in Massachusetts and has a yoga club at Modesto High. Kripalu yoga is a style of Hatha yoga that focuses on mindfulness and compassion for self. Also enjoy campfires, the talent show, crafts, recreation and the fresh mountain air.

The \$80 fee covers program, food and lodging for the weekend. Young people 18 and under are \$60. Early registration, by June 2nd, entitles registrants to a \$10.00 per person discount. Partial scholarships and day rates are also available. Registration forms are available in this issue or at [www.stanislausconnections.org](http://www.stanislausconnections.org) where they can be printed and mailed. All ages, families, singles and new campers are welcome. Minors need to be accompanied by an adult.

Campers may arrive after 2:00pm on Friday. The camp opens with supper at 6pm on Friday and closes after the Sunday morning workshop. Directions and other information, as well as a medical form, will be mailed to participants before camp.

Information: Ken Schroeder, 209-569-0321.

stanislaus  
CONNECTIONS

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



## DID YOU KNOW ...

### Each Injured US Soldier Will End Up Costing \$2 Million On Average

Excerpted from the Business Insider

For every one of the 866,181 soldiers officially counted injured casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, the government is expected to spend some \$2 million in long-term medical cost.

The total of \$1.7 trillion is based on a widely cited March 2013 paper by Linda Bilmes at Harvard's Kennedy School.\* It includes \$800 billion already spent on injured veterans along with the cost of long-term care for an additional 50,000 current casualties counted by the Pentagon.

Since 2001, the VA has spent \$134.3 billion to care for veterans. VA spokesperson Genevieve Billia said the department does not produce cost estimates over decades, but that the VA "plans to spend \$6.9 billion in 2013, \$7.6 billion in 2014 and \$8.0 billion in 2015."

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/it-will-cost-2-million-for-each-injured-us-soldier-from-iraq-and-afghanistan-2013-5>

\*Read the full research article at <https://research.hks.harvard.edu/publications/workingpapers/citation.aspx?PubId=8956>



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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

## First Place ~ Division IV, Peace Essay Contest: Billy Gonzalez Agnes Baptist Elementary School ~ Ms. Theodozio/Mrs. David

# Fossil Fuel Pollution

Dear President Obama,

"Practically every environmental problem we have can be traced to our addiction to fossil fuels, primarily oil," said Dennis Weaver, an actor and a renowned, passionate environmentalist. Eliminating fossil fuel pollution is a common goal among all the countries on Earth. Focusing and working towards this goal can bring countries together to create a more just and peaceful world. Fossil fuel pollution is terrible because it causes global warming. Also, when it is burned, it lets carbon dioxide into the air and it is not good to breathe in. The burning of fossil fuels pollutes the air and is a critical global issue. You need to initiate and support solutions to this critical issue.

Solar energy is the largest renewable resource and, as long as we have sunlight, we will have access to this energy. Earth receives 120,000 terawatts of sunlight which is 20,000 times more power than our world needs. Solar energy can be used for many different things and reduces electricity costs. Also, solar power has no moving parts therefore there is no noise coming from it. You can give rebates on solar power cars to encourage people to purchase them. Also, you can give larger rebates for trading in their old gasoline power cars for solar power cars, so eventually there would only be solar power cars.

Wind energy is green energy and is considered the second largest renewable resource. The process of creating wind energy does not pollute the environment and does not involve



any emissions of climate gases. The wind is natural and there is no way we can ever use it up completely. Windmills can be placed anywhere, however, some places could be better than others. Companies and even residential houses can save money in the long run with wind turbines. You can set up wind mills outside major cities on an appropriate land, so the city can independently receive the required electricity.

Hydroelectric energy is the most used energy resource in the world. It is a very reliable and flexible energy source. Water flow can be easily adjusted and gauged. Also, there is no pollution created when electricity is generated from hydro energy. You can build more dams and hydroelectric government plants where they are needed for electricity.

Burning fossil fuels will eventually cause a global catastrophe but if we all stand up and work together against it, we can put a stop to it. Everyone needs to move away from their dependency from fossil fuel otherwise, it will be too late to make a difference. This is why you should try to use solar, wind, and hydroelectric renewable energy instead of using fossil fuel because of the pollution it creates. A world without pollution would be a harmonious place to live in and would help to strive towards world peace.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Fifth Grader

## Covering Ground to Ground the Drones: Walk and Speaking Tour

June 8-23, 2013

Join us in this walk to protest drone warfare. We'll be walking for about 2 weeks and 195 miles from the Rock Island Arsenal (where launch mechanisms and bomb components are manufactured) to the Iowa Air National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines, the proposed site of a new command center where drones can be remotely-piloted to fly over other countries.

### Tentative schedule:

June 8-9 Events in Quad Cities  
June 10 Walk kicks off from Rock Island, IL  
June 11 Muscatine, IA  
June 12-13 West Liberty/Downey/West Branch, IA  
June 14 Iowa City  
June 15 Coralville, IA  
June 16-18 Oxford/Amana/Marengo/Ladora/Victor/Brooklyn, IA  
June 19 Grinnell, IA  
June 20-21 Kellogg/Newton/Colfax, IA  
June 22-23 Des Moines

We'll need help in locating venues for speaking events along the route. We want to reach members of the public who

might like to hear from Voices co-coordinator and activist **Brian Terrell**, of Maloy, IA, who will have just completed 6 months in prison for nonviolent civil resistance at a drone base, and from **Kathy Kelly**, who will have just returned from Afghanistan, where U.S. drones have tragically impacted so many lives.

We will also need help finding places to sleep along the route, including churches, private homes, or, for many of those walking, designated campsites, where available.

Please let us know if you would like to join in for any segment of the walk or assist the walk in any way as we all strive to galvanize public opinion against drone warfare. We welcome your emails and calls!

For complete information, visit <http://vcnv.org/covering-ground-to-ground-the-drones>



# Rocketing off the grid

By JENIFER WEST

In my never-ending quest for self sufficiency, I've come across the concept of "rocket stoves". There are a number of designs and uses for them, but the basic concept is that a chimney effect draws air through a chamber containing fuel. This causes the fuel to burn much more efficiently, which means that less is required to cook food, and less smoke is produced. They are especially useful in areas where cooking fuel is scarce, as they are very efficient at turning lots of things (small sticks, pine needles, dried dung, etc.) into cooking fuel. They can be built out of bricks or whatever other heat-resistant materials might come to hand, and can be used for everything from cooking food to indoor heating.

After toying with the idea of working with a contractor friend to build one, I ended up purchasing the Stovetec Zoom Versa from Amazon (about \$135, including shipping). They do have less expensive models, but because of the double doors on the fuel chamber, I think this one is the way to go. (Wish I'd known about their "Z Plus" program, wherein they'll donate a rocket stove to someone in need for every one that's purchased – [www.ecozoomstove.com](http://www.ecozoomstove.com) for more information.) It came with a pot skirt, which is designed to improve fuel efficiency – there's about a half-inch gap between the top of the stove and the bottom of whatever pot you're using, which allows heat to escape. In fact, we had a little trouble getting it hot enough to cook our food the first time we tried it, so we ordered their



"Super Pot". Probably just inexperience – the stove design itself seems good.

Actually, using the adjustable pot skirt that came with it, it did get hot – so hot that it wreaked a little havoc on my favorite cast iron Dutch oven! I quickly realized that investing in an accessory specifically designed to bring out the best in our rocket stove would be cost-effective in the long run, so I plunked down the additional \$60 for the Super Pot. And boy, am I glad I did! It's a 7-liter pot with a built-on skirt, engineered to allow just the right amount of heat to escape. When it arrived today, I realized it could be used as an oven as well, and it's baking four pint jars of brownies as I write. (You can bake brownies, bread, cakes, etc. in canning jars. Wide-mouth pints work best; be sure to grease before putting the batter in.) So far, the jars have been in about 20 minutes, and now that I've thrown on a few more briquettes, I think they'll start to really get cooking soon.

The upper chamber of the stove itself, which I use for wood, charcoal, etc., is actually quite small – only large enough to accommodate a double layer of about 5 briquettes. We put in a layer of crumpled paper, then a small handful of kindling. It's easiest, we've discovered, to put all of this in through the top. Then, 2 or 3 sticks, laid in through the larger door; light, and let it get going; then carefully add the briquettes, a layer at a time (again, from the top). I'm still

figuring out the arrangement of the doors for the best fuel efficiency, so we're probably going through a little more fuel than is necessary while we learn how to use our stove.

At the 30-minute mark, the sides of the brownies have risen, though the middles are still sunken. The charcoal below is glowing red, and putting off a respectable amount of heat. At the 50-minute mark, the jars hold miniature brownie volcanoes, but they can't quite pass the toothpick test. I think the next batch will go into half-pint jars, which should help them cook more efficiently.

The first thing I cooked on the stove was homemade tortillas. It was a wonderfully primal experience – shaping the naturally yeasted flatbreads in the open air, and then cooking them on a cast iron griddle. (I cheated, and used a tortilla press – would never have known how, if not for a friend's mom, but that's a story for another day.) Don't recall what else we had for dinner that night, but we had tortillas, with enough left over for a lunch or two.

Next thing we cooked was a whole chicken, in my newly re-seasoned cast iron Dutch oven. Took quite awhile, because I didn't realize until the bottom was over-done that we should have flipped it over halfway through the cooking. But it still came out quite nice.

Finally, around the one-hour mark, we decide the brownies are as done as they're going to get. I didn't eat them, but I'm told they turned out well, with a slight smoky flavor. A little more practice, and we'll be able to really get the most out of this cool new piece of equipment!

Our next energy-saving, emergency preparedness cooking device: the solar oven!

## Green Tips for a Green Planet: Be Politically Green

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920, as women won the right to vote, to help women keep abreast of issues and make informed voting decisions. It is now a grassroots movement with both female and male members dedicated to studying national, state and local issues and taking position on political legislation often dealing with peace, justice and/or a sustainable environment.

Ann Krabach, outgoing State and National Legislative Action Chair of the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County, has gathered the following "Ways You Can Mother Earth" political action and legislative watch information:

- H.R. 924, recently introduced in the House of Representatives, encourages public support for the development of alternative energy sources by extending the Investment Tax Credit (ITCC) specifically for offshore wind in order to encourage investment in that growing industry. Call your local Congressperson.
- Oppose the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, which exports oil from Canada through our country to be shipped over-

seas, posing risks to climate, water, health and land, but does nothing to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern Oil and creates only 35 permanent jobs. Call President Obama at 202-456-1111 with comments.

- Protect CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act, which helps assure safeguards against significant environmental impacts, allows for decision-makers and the public to have adequate information to make informed decisions, and provides a forum for public input on major land-use decisions. A major enforcement aspect of the laws would be lost if provisions for citizens to have their day in court are compromised. Call your local California State Legislator
- Follow the progress of CA SB4. Insist on strong legislation of fracking, especially the full and complete disclosure of hazardous material, including those considered trade secrets, in a manner consistent with that for the same hazardous materials in other situations. CA SB4 is one of several bills coming before the California State Legislature this session. Call your California State Senator.



**ACTION:** The League is open to men and women US citizens of voting age. Associate memberships are available to youth and non-citizens. Learn about membership, follow current League studies, and help further other legislation on peace, justice and/ or a sustainable environment at [www.lwvstanislaus.org](http://www.lwvstanislaus.org).



# Healthy communities start with healthy communication

By TASHA MOSELEY

Trisha Ishtar\*, a 24-year-old Assyrian legal immigrant from Iraq that lives in Modesto, will always remember April 24th as being bittersweet. "It's not only my birthday," she says with tears in her eyes, "but it's the day that I was supposed to have my baby!"

Trisha went to Kaiser Permanente-Modesto in August of last year because she had pain in her side. They gave her pain pills and told her to see a gynecologist. When she went, the doctor – through an Egyptian Interpreter- said that she had a small growth on her ovary and prescribed birth control pills in addition to the pain pills.

The next month, during her follow-up appointment, Trisha – eager to start a family- asked the doctor if she could stop taking all the prescribed medicine because she wanted to get pregnant; "... besides, the pills made my stomach hurt even more!" The Interpreter told her that the doctor said to stop taking the birth control pills and prescribed Panadol for the pain as needed. Trisha, not quite understanding the Egyptian Interpreter's Arabic, stopped taking the birth control pills, and started taking the Panadol daily. A month later, a now pregnant Trisha was told that her baby was small. "I thought I had to take the Panadol everyday like I had been doing with the other pain killers!" The next week, Trisha had a miscarriage; "I didn't understand what was going on or why I had a miscarriage! I thought I was following the doctor's orders. If I had an Interpreter who spoke my language [Arabic from Iraq] to tell me the risks of taking pain killers while I was pregnant, I wouldn't have taken them and would have saved my baby!"

Ishtar's ordeal would be terrifying for anyone, but the reality is that it's not an unusual one. More than six and a

half million residents in the state of California, or one out of every five residents, speaks English "less than very well" according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Right now there are 2.5 million people in our state healthcare program who aren't able to communicate with their doctors and half of the people coming in under the Affordable Care Act won't be able to either.

This fall, the state legislature and the governor have the opportunity to create a medical interpreters program through Medi-Cal. Governor

Brown and members of the legislature need to hear more stories like Trisha's in order for them to create a program that truly serves all members of our community. It's a do or die time for getting the state ready to communicate with members of our community who speak English less than well and avoiding malpractice, liability and unnecessary costs that come from failed communication. Call Interpreting for California at 888-673-3930 to record your story of why medical interpretation services are desperately needed. Our families' well-being is too important not to.

Interpreting for California is a campaign for language access in medical settings that involves community members, interpreters and providers. You can find out more by calling 888-673-3930 or by emailing aream@afscme.org

\*Name changed for anonymity

**Right now there are 2.5 million people in our state healthcare program who aren't able to communicate with their doctors and half of the people coming in under the Affordable Care Act won't be able to either.**

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## "War on Terror"

from page 1

Marathon bombings have only begun. While public opinion hasn't gotten carried away with fear, much of the news media – television in particular – is stoking the fires of fear but scarcely raising a single question that might challenge the basic assumptions of a forever "war on terror." See <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/23/polls-show-growing-resolve-to-live-with-terror-threat/>

After a city has been traumatized and a country has empathized, a constructive takeaway would be that it's terribly wrong to set off bombs that kill and maim. But that outlook is a nonstarter the moment it might be applied to victims of U.S. drones and cruise missiles in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere. The message seems to be that Americans should never be bombed but must keep bombing.

The death of Richie Havens days ago is a loss and reminder. Each of us has only so many days ahead. We may as well live them with deeper meaning, for peace and social justice. To hear Havens performing the song "Lives in the Balance" written by another great musician, Jackson Browne, is to be awakened anew:

I want to know who the men in the shadows are

I want to hear somebody asking them why

They can be counted on to tell us who our enemies are

But they're never the ones to fight or to die

And there are lives in the balance

There are people under fire

There are children at the cannons

And there is blood on the wire

Visit [http://www.whosdatedwho.com/tpx\\_55847/richie-havens/tpx\\_21275923](http://www.whosdatedwho.com/tpx_55847/richie-havens/tpx_21275923)

Norman Solomon is an American journalist, media critic, antiwar activist, and losing candidate in 2012 for the United States House of Representatives. Solomon is a longtime associate of the media watch group Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting.


<http://www.nationofchange.org/time-renounce-war-terror-1367157471>



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MARKUS URSTOEGER  
Attorneys/Abogados

# Gas Industry Report Calls Anti-Fracking Movement a “Highly Effective Campaign”

A report intended to help the oil and gas industry squash the anti-fracking movement turns out to be full of useful information—and admits that much of what activists are saying is true.

By KATRINA RABELER

Communities working to stop a controversial gas drilling process are getting what sounds like encouragement from an unlikely source: a report prepared for the oil and gas industry on the risks posed by those communities themselves. Even more bizarre than a risk assessment about grassroots activists is one that basically admits the activists are right.

Control Risks, the global risk and strategic consulting firm that conducted the report, calls itself “independent,” but it makes its alliances clear in the first few sentences. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, could bring “a golden age of cheap, plentiful energy for a resource-constrained world,” writes senior global issues analyst Jonathan Wood, “but only if it makes it out of the ground.”

Entitled “The Global Anti-Fracking Movement: What It Wants, How It Operates, and What’s Next,” the 2012 report uses the term “battlegrounds” to describe more than thirty countries on six continents where the issue of fracking is being debated. Its warnings about the dangers of ignoring the anti-fracking movement were likely a motivator behind last week’s so-called truce between four gas companies and a handful of environmental groups in the Appalachian Basin. Shell, Chevron, CONSOL Energy, and EQT Corporation joined with the Environmental Defense Fund, the Clean Air Task Force, and a few others to form the Center for Sustainable Shale Development. The Center will monitor the 15 environmental standards for fracking agreed upon by the alliance and will certify drilling operations that voluntarily comply with the standards.

Although the report is intended to provide gas companies with a plan for squashing the anti-fracking movement, people concerned about the environment or public health will find it worth reading for at least three reasons (besides entertainment). It contains reams of hard data about the movement, it identifies the tactics that have been most successful so far, and it ultimately backs up many of the movement’s key arguments. Read the report at <http://www.controlrisks.com/OurThinking/Pages/The-Global-Anti-Fracking-Movement.aspx>

The report assembles a wealth of information about fracking and the movement against it. It begins with a world map in which shale gas reserves are colored blue. This reveals huge stores of gas buried beneath areas such as Tibet, southern Brazil, Libya, and almost the entirety of South Africa. Just a glance gives a global perspective on what the anti-fracking movement is really up against.

A few pages later, there’s a chart measuring Google searches for the terms “fracking,” “shale gas,” and “Gasland”—the title of a 2010 documentary about natural gas drilling. The chart shows that before the release of the film, few people were searching for information about fracking. Only after a sharp spike in searches for the term “Gasland” is there a strong, steady rise in search activity for “fracking” and

“shale gas.”

This helps to demonstrate just how important the film was in raising awareness about the process. Wood says it provided the movement with a shared point of reference, and claims that the movement wouldn’t have gone global without the documentary’s scenes of flaming water pouring from people’s faucets.

“They pretty much blame us for the whole thing,” said Gasland director Josh Fox. “Of course, I know that’s not the whole story. The movement happened concurrently with a huge uprising of people.”

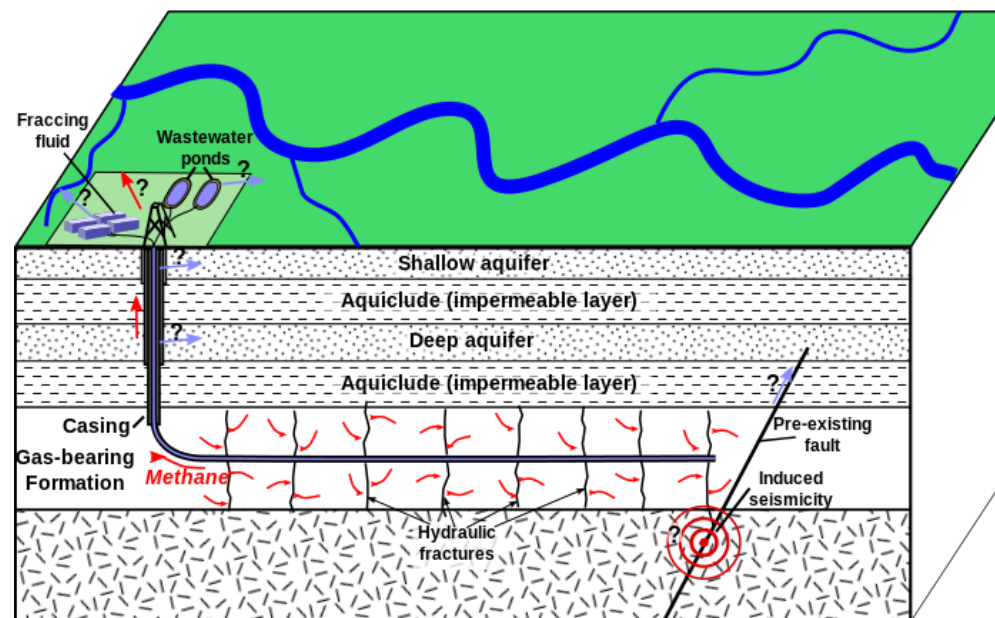
Praise for direct action  
Wood goes on to describe other tactics, besides creating a fiery documentary, that have made anti-fracking activists so effective. Citing national fracking moratoriums in France and Bulgaria, as well as local bans and stricter drilling regulations worldwide, Wood claims the gas industry has “repeatedly been caught off guard by the sophistication, speed, and influence of anti-fracking activists.”

John Armstrong, coordinator for the anti-drilling group Frack Action, has his own theory about why that is so. The anti-fracking movement “grew out of the grassroots—it wasn’t led by any national NGO but stemmed from regular working people who have never been activists before,” he says. “It is born out of children who have become ill, farms that have been ruined, aquifers and wells that have been contaminated, and air that has been poisoned.”

That grassroots urgency has often pushed the movement toward direct action, which Wood predicts will increase if demands for moratoriums and bans are not met. He identifies blockades of drilling operations, for example, as highly effective: “While the costs to activists of blockades are extremely low—both in terms of organization and penalties—the potential for disruption to the target can be significant in terms of lost productivity and extra operating costs.”

## Freedom to frack in four easy steps?

To avoid ever-increasing blockades and moratoriums,



That grassroots urgency has often pushed the movement toward direct action, which Wood predicts will increase if demands for moratoriums and bans are not met.

Wood advises gas companies to follow his four-step plan for quelling the anti-fracking movement: acknowledge local grievances, engage communities, work to reduce the damage fracking does to the environment, and “create more winners” (by which he means giving communities a fair share of the money from fracking). Wood also suggests that, “Movements towards greater transparency and voluntary disclosure, however grudging, are a positive step in this direction.”

In other words, the report advises oil and gas companies to give anti-fracking activists much of what they’re asking for or risk having the process banned altogether. In doing so, Wood concedes that opponents of fracking are often right. He describes the “cozy relationships” the industry has with regulators and power-brokers, and the “crippling trust deficit” it has with citizens. He confesses there really is inadequate knowledge about the environmental, economic, and health impacts of fracking and that the industry has funded most of the studies that do exist, sometimes secretly.

Wood warns the industry to be more careful in its drilling practices because each well blowout and water contamination story makes the anti-fracking argument more compelling. When such incidents do occur, Wood suggests gas companies simply pay off harmed landowners and other citizens who



# Will we ever reach true equality?

By GEORGE LAKEY

In an organizing meeting I attended where I didn't happen to know most people, and all were under 30, I felt the chill. On some faces there was open hostility. On the other hand, when I visit my mom in her retirement community, my rank is high, because to some residents I'm comparatively youthful.

You probably know what rank you hold in the various groups you connect with. In one you might be medium, in another high, in another, low. I'm slowly getting used to being ranked lower in youth-oriented groups because I'm 75 years old.

You can often tell the overall rank that different members have in a group new to you by their body language, as psychologist/activist Arnold Mindell points out. A highly-ranked person unconsciously takes more space, spreads out, puts an arm over the back of an adjoining chair. Men often prefer one leg crossing another over the knee, while women in pants still mostly cross their legs more minutely, across the ankles. After all, society as a whole values men over women, and most people rank each other (and themselves) accordingly.

An upper class man who worked as a community organizer in a low-income neighborhood told me that when he and a few neighborhood leaders walk into a foundation's office, with everyone a stranger to each other, he's aware that even his stride in entering the room predicts whom the foundation officers will address when they speak — even though the leaders are in fact the decision-makers. The higher rank that he carries is signaled in his walk: "I, too, own the world."

The fact that in all groups the members covertly grade each other is discouraging for those of us who value equality. How can we ever shift to a classless society if ranking is so universally human?

I have good news, or at least news that may help you, as it did me, make peace with the reality of ranking.

## Rank reflects values

Members of groups generally rank each other according to their group's culture. At an anarchist meeting I recently went to, it was not a good idea to wear a colorful sweater — I should have gotten out my navy blue one. Sports teams value skill and teamwork, and members usually rank each other accordingly. Drama groups appreciate those who can cry convincingly on command. Quakers rank more highly those who can remain patient and creative through consensus-based business meetings, while Pentecostals rank highly those who speak in tongues.

Rank reflects values. The only way not to have rank would be for groups to give up having values, which is undesirable and impossible anyway. The reward of high rank encourages a group's members to perform in a way that serves the group's goals. A group wouldn't cohere, or couldn't even exist, without values of some kind. Even criminal gangs value courage, loyalty and money.

EQUALITY ..... cont. pg 8

## Fracking

from page 6

file water contamination charges or other complaints, rather than go to court and have to admit they were at fault. This is not a new strategy—Wood cites a recent case where the industry did just that.

Finally, the report validates many activists' claims that fracking doesn't actually provide local communities with significant economic growth: fracking booms typically only supply local jobs for about two to three years.

## Measuring momentum

After laying out this elaborate battle plan, Wood concludes with what activists may read as a challenge. The anti-fracking movement, he believes, "is grappling with the consequences of its successes, struggling to maintain momentum after winning tighter regulation, moratoriums and bans."

Frack Action's Armstrong disagrees, pointing to larger and more frequent rallies in New York. "Momentum is on our side, polls are on our side, the science and truth are on our side, and New Yorkers know that we are going to win."

By winning, Armstrong means a statewide ban on fracking. New York, which he says has been the anti-fracking movement's "catalyst," currently awaits Governor Andrew Cuomo's final decision on whether to lift the ban on fracking following a five-year moratorium. Forty-three percent of state residents oppose the process, while only 39 percent support it, according to a March Siena Poll, and the majority of both the state assembly and senate recently came out in favor of extending the moratorium.

Wood's report is an attempt to use the industry's resour-

es—primarily money—to regain the upper hand in important decisions like this one. But, if studied closely, it could also help the anti-fracking movement plan its next steps.

Katrina Rabeler wrote this article for YES! Magazine, a national, nonprofit media project that fuses powerful ideas with practical actions. Katrina is a native New Yorker who wrote her senior thesis on hydraulic fracturing, and is an editorial intern at YES!

## Interested?

In Ohio, the People Push Back on Fracking. Tired of waiting for their leaders to ban the destructive drilling practice, citizens passed their own resolution—and took over the Statehouse to make it heard. See <http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/in-ohio-the-people-push-back-on-fracking>

A Feel-Good Movie about Fracking? Chris Moore, who co-produced "Good Will Hunting," has a new film starring Matt Damon as a corporate salesman trying to open up a small town to fracking. See <http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/feel-good-movie-about-fracking-interview-chris-moore-producer-promised-land>

Greenpeace's Kumi Naidoo: Time to Stand Against Big Oil in the Arctic. Fortunately, you don't have to occupy an Arctic drilling platform to join the growing movement of people who are putting themselves on the line for our planet's future. See <http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/what-would-nature-do/greenpeaces-kumi-naidoo-time-to-stand-against-big-oil-in-the-arctic>

# Hydraulic Fracturing Draft Regulations – What Happens Next?

From the California Dept. of Conservation

The California Department of Conservation and its Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources conducted five workshops in 2013 to hear public comments on the "discussion draft" of hydraulic fracturing regulations prior to the start of the formal rulemaking process. During 2012, seven workshops were held to gain public input on hydraulic fracturing. So, what happens next? All comments - including those given orally or in writing at the workshops, and electronically through the online comment links located on the Department's and Division's Web sites - will be taken into consideration as the process of developing the next draft of the regulations moves forward. Once the next draft and the required supporting documents are complete, the Department will begin the formal rulemaking process. These next steps in the rulemaking process are expected to take several months, and the public can continue to submit comments during this time via the Department and Division online links. There will also be an opportunity for public input during the formal rulemaking process.

Additional details on many of the important requirements involved in the process can be found on the Department's and Division's home pages:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/Index/Pages/Index.aspx>  
[www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/index.aspx)

Also: A version of the Discussion Draft Hydraulic Fracturing Regulations document is now available with hyperlinks. The hyperlinks provide additional information regarding the content contained in the draft regulations. Links to both the original and hyperlink versions of the Discussion Draft Hydraulic Fracturing Regulations can be found on the Department's and Division's home pages:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/Index/Pages/Index.aspx>  
[www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/index.aspx)

A link to videos of the five 2013 Discussion Draft Hydraulic Fracturing Regulations workshops can be found on the Department's and Division's home pages:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/Index/Pages/Index.aspx>  
[www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/index.aspx)

Members of the public who wish to comment about the "discussion draft" of regulations are invited to email [comments@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:comments@conservation.ca.gov)

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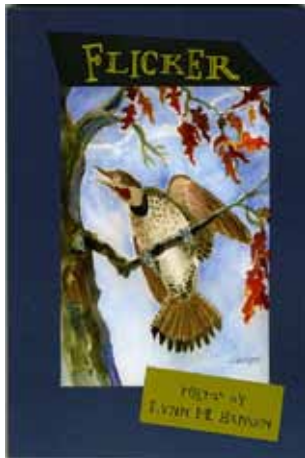
## Flicker: An Unflinching Look at Nature and Human Nature, A Book Review

By LOUISE KANTRO

Lynn Hansen, biology professor, announced at the time of her retirement that she was going to become a poet. In the past dozen years she has done just that.

Lynn's memoir collection, *Flicker*, a celebration of her seventieth birthday, begins the section "How We Come In" with a poem about a breach birth – hers. She chronicles her childhood and adolescence by taking an unflinching look at beatings, poverty, and bullying of and by her. In contrast, she shares poems about how the wise guidance of her grandmother, relationship with her sister, and support of other important adults helped form her.

The other four sections intersperse character sketches and Hansen's reverence for nature, including descriptions of Earth's horrifying and glorious sounds, colors, smells, tastes, and functions, and explore the hardiness and delicacy of both the natural world and human nature. As a biologist, Hansen honors nature, and her connection to plants and creatures is visceral, as when she describes "a blonde, female grizzly" whose "huge head turns until she sees me. / For a long mo-



ment our hearts beat together / then she drops, ambles slowly to the creek."

In "Vernal Pool Vagrants," Hansen likens the "floral forest/ ... two inches above ground / offering shade only to ants," to "the homeless of Kewin Park," noting that such natural vagrants "do not risk arrest, jail time, / as [they] lie, delirious."

Hansen as feminist is apparent throughout the collection, as when she remembers the words of a counselor who said, "Women can't do science, they're not logical, don't ya know," words that "struck in me a fire burning slow" and when she hails Medusa as "a guide / through our terror and anger into our source of power as women."

Her sense of humor shows up in such poems as "Modesto Moon," in which she proclaims, "Loosen up! / drop those belts / down with those drawers," as she announces that, according to a judge's ruling, people can moon others with impunity. Her point: not all activism has to be serious or intense.

Hansen's country roots poke through as she describes how to bake a perfect blackberry pie, explores the tastelessness of rutabaga, and describes "wild red tomatoes [that] hide / among green leaves / like seductive virgins."

The title poem, "Flicker," tells in a sadly accepting tone of the surprising arrival of the northern flicker, a bird that migrates at the end of autumn heralding the coming of winter. This "plaintive call summoning thoughts of winter" serves as a harbinger of old age and is a call we must all face.

As Hansen describes the people, places, animals, insects, and birds that surround us, the reader comes to understand how we fit into our environment, that we must persevere, that our connectedness is an important and beautiful thing, and that the details of life are worth noticing, appreciating, and sharing.

*Ed note: The reviewer is an author, poet, educator*

### An Apology to Senator Robert Portman of Ohio

Because you changed your position on gay marriage only after you found out your son was gay, I am sorry for briefly wishing you had another son with no health insurance, and another with PTSD, and a daughter battered by her husband, and another raped, in need of an abortion, and a black son, and an immigrant son, and a poor son, and a grandchild at Sandy Hook.

Taylor Mali

Poem-A-Day/website/blog, <http://taylormali.com>

## True Equality

from page 7

So we're stuck with rank. We can do a lot to reduce the impact of its downside, however. Here I'm again grateful to Mindell, who pointed out the value of when people who happen to be highly ranked can acknowledge it openly.

"Hey, I know I speak really well to the media," says an activist, maybe adding, "I wish I could do as well building our database."

Being transparent about rank brings relief to the group. Often, rank can become the elephant in the room — felt but not named. The highly-ranked person who acknowledges her rank can use the privilege and power that often go with it wisely, and even initiate ways of power-sharing. These ways include training, mentoring, tweaking the decision-making structure, planning better to reduce crisis-points and deliberately staying out of group spaces where their power might slow others down.

In a workshop in which most of the participants were people of color, I facilitated a first-session exercise that gave me an opportunity to name my whiteness. I said, "It occurs to me that condescension is an attitude I sometimes express when I'm facilitating a workshop. It can be the way my white racism shows up."

The group began to buzz with questions and concerns. Participants of color argued about what it might mean to

them that the trainer was acknowledging his racism. White participants became silent, realizing that the work of the people of color needed space. The participants of color gradually reached a consensus that I was okay as their facilitator and there was benefit to my being aware of possible racist dynamics.

**It's neither quick nor easy to abolish an entrenched ranking system. But it's an enormous mistake to use that fact to excuse that system's existence, or to say it's inevitable.**

The workshop went extremely well, with free and lively interaction by the participants of color as well as the whites. At the evaluation period in the end of the workshop, several participants of color remarked how refreshing it was to have racism addressed in the beginning, so the issue didn't come up again and again as it often did in other workshops they'd attended. (This story is from my book on diversity-friendly workshop techniques: *Facilitating Group Learning*.)

### Values evolve

Some groups decide to change their own set of values intentionally. It's smart for an activist group to retain values like courage when confronting authority, having each others' backs, personal empowerment. But the group might want to discard differential valuing according to gender, race, age and sexual orientation. The most effective way to do this is to invite a trainer to come in and work with the group over time. (It's not easy.) Training for Change specializes in methods that don't blame and shame, and therefore empower everyone.

Individuals can also do something about the downside of groups' inevitable ranking on some value or other. If they want to be ranked more highly in a valued skill or attribute, they can seek training or mentoring. If they want highly-ranked members of the group to become more conscious of their rank, they can talk with them and invite them to become transparent by acknowledging their rank.

### What about class?

The class system usually encourages other ranking systems, because rank can divide people from each other and keep the 1 percent safe from a united movement of the 99





## Lynn Hansen returns to Voices at 70 with musings on a well observed life

Lynn M. Hansen, a regular Connections contributor, is an amateur naturalist and Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences at Modesto Junior College and volunteers in local elementary schools presenting science lessons for children in grades K-6.

Born into a rural community, her poetry celebrates a sense of place and respect for the natural world. Believing that if one learns about nature it will be treasured and protected, Lynn blends her skill of observation as a scientist with poetic acumen and reveals a reverence for nature that is grounded in her connection with the natural environment. A woman scientist pioneer in her community, her poetry also reflects resilience in the face of stereotyping and sexism.

She has published over 100 poems in such journals as Quercus Review, hardpan, Song of the San Joaquin, Stanislaus Connections, The Gathering: Ina Coolbrith Circle Anthology (2005, 2007, 2009, 2011) and More Than Soil, More Than Sky: The Modesto Poets (available on Amazon) and is the author of two self-published chapbooks: Stones in the Road and Loose Energy, Poems About People. Her newest collection of poems, entitled Flicker: Poems by Lynn M. Hansen, published by Quercus Review Press, is available on Amazon. She lives in Modesto, California with her husband, Richard Anderson.

Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Flicker-Lynn-M-Hansen/dp/0615799671/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1368911049&sr=8-2&keywords=hansen+lynn](http://www.amazon.com/Flicker-Lynn-M-Hansen/dp/0615799671/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1368911049&sr=8-2&keywords=hansen+lynn)

### Celilo Falls

I was a child when I first saw Celilo Falls –  
a break in the path of the Columbia  
River  
where mountains of water tumbled  
deep into basaltic canyons.  
Here tribal elders perched  
on ancestral wooden platforms encircled  
with stick rails, hung over roiling pools  
of restless wild salmon –  
Coho, Chinook, Chum, Sockeye,  
Steelhead trout  
dressed in reproductive red with hooked  
jaws –  
snared them in mid-air with nets thrust  
into the chaotic froth.

Today, I see a remnant of Celilo Falls  
stilled by rebar, yards of cement.  
Tamed water stirs the whine of turbines,  
powers our desires.  
Ancestral platforms lie buried in quiet  
pools,  
no longer hanging over thunderous water  
teeming  
with an endless stock of wild fish. Instead,  
few salmon navigate cement stairwells  
directed toward hatcheries, replacements  
of ancient spawning grounds.  
Tribal Elders, estranged,  
fish from boats with long nets  
and sell fish, at a price.

### How We Come In

When life begins breach  
things are upside down,  
the first breath is a challenge,  
slippery umbilical cord  
prevents lifeline  
from becoming a choke hold,  
then comes the cry  
of emergent life.

Such a birth is not as dangerous  
as when life begins in isolation,  
on the doorstep of a church,  
in a box at the police station,  
on the floor of a public restroom,  
where survival depends  
on the goodness of others  
driven by the dependence of the infant  
whose only voice is a cry.

Those attending  
have the language  
to tell the story  
or keep the secret.

### Flicker

When day-length shrinks  
from autumn's equinox,  
pomegranates blush,  
persimmons burn orange  
and a loud signature note  
pierces morning quiet  
announcing the arrival  
of the northern flicker.

I startle at his sound, look  
for the camouflage speckled breast,  
black bib, barred back.  
I don't expect to see him this soon.  
Without clock or calendar, his return,  
is a migratory miracle. In a flash  
of tangerine, he flutters  
down like a cluster of fall leaves  
before northern chill and bluster,  
his plaintive call summoning  
thoughts of winter –

I shiver.

### Vernal Pool Vagrants

#### For Lillian

Unlike the homeless of Kewin Park  
we do not risk arrest, jail time,  
as we lie, delirious  
in a golden pool of flowers,  
drink in the intoxicating perfume  
of Downingia and goldfields,  
cushion our backs with soft low pillows  
of wooly marbles, mouse tail and  
Navarretia,  
allow the bright orange threads of dodder  
to creep slowly around our bodies  
strangle us with delight.

The police do not know we are here  
even though our floral forest  
is two inches above ground,  
offering shade only to the ants  
busy collecting seeds.  
Our laughter is carried away  
by the ever-present whisper of wind,  
muted by loud buzz of native bees.  
We are drunk with pleasure.  
Our sense of security blooms, knowing  
that the broken black horse of fear  
who lurks in the shadow of our dreams  
cannot live here.

### The Bright Side of Being Medusa

Oh Medusa, goddess in the temple of  
Athena  
ravished by lustful Poseidon, made  
monstrous

by jealous Athena, your anguished face  
believes  
your outrage. Take heart. Consider your  
positive aspects.

You are wise. Your power will always be in  
your head.  
At the sight of you, everyone is stopped  
dead.

You command attention. Your image drives  
off evil.  
It was you that saved Andromeda from  
Cetus, the sea monster.

You will always have a full head of hair,  
alive and curly  
and will never suffer joint pain or  
osteoporosis

since those parts of your body no longer  
exist.  
Your blood is life giving. Because of you  
we have

corals in the sea, serpents in the desert and  
our muse, Pegasus.  
A connection to the sacred, your image is  
both powerful

and terrifying. You are an icon of female  
rage  
against the enslavement of women. You are  
a guide

through our terror and anger into our source  
of power as women.  
Even in death you are not vanquished.



# Inequality surges in world's richest countries, especially in times of crisis

From RT News

Not only has social inequality risen in the industrialized nations over the past three decades, the economic crisis of 2008-09 sped up the deterioration as "pain of the crisis was not evenly shared," a new report says.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which unites the world's most developed countries, has published an update\* to its report 'Divided We Stand'. The report published in December 2011 showed that by 2008 the industrialized nations had the worst situation with inequality in three decades.

According to the new data, the gap between the rich and the poor in most of its 34 members has been getting wider since the crisis started at a higher pace than it did before. Inequality grew more over the three years between 2007 and 2010 than it did over the 12 years before that.

Among OECD countries, it appears that "the top 10 percent has done better than the poorest 10 percent in 21 countries," with the widest gaps seen in the United States, Turkey, Chile and Mexico. In the three years described above, their income status had been continuously plunging by 2 per cent every year.

A majority of the countries experiencing the harshest rise of inequality were in Europe, where tough EU austerity policies took hold. Italy and Spain were hit worst. However, a 5 per cent decrease was seen annually in Iceland, Ireland, Estonia and impoverished Greece – which still remains on the verge of economic collapse.

One factor shared by all 34 countries surveyed by the OECD is children and young people. Whether it is due to unemployment or poor family living standards, they appear to have it have the worst.

"Households with children were hit hard during the crisis. Since 2007, child poverty increased in 16 OECD countries, with increases exceeding 2 points in Turkey, Spain, Belgium, Slovenia and Hungary."

What makes the news grimmer is that cash injections into the world's financial elite, via banks and markets, as well as Wall Street, essentially only helped the uppermost 10 per cent multiply their wealth. In the years since 2007, their financial portfolios are said to have grown by a large margin.

But OECD's data also explains that the economic crisis could not have been the sole factor in the widening gap between segments of society and in their redistribution of wealth. There has been a process that has been exploiting these economic conditions since 2008, via the bankrupting and impoverishment taking place in the developed world, most likely for the purpose of competing with the developing world's working classes and their cheap labor. So there is a widening base of severely underpaid working class workers across the entire world. But they don't get nearly the kind of social, economic or healthcare benefits the upper layers of society do.

In the end, it will not get better – the report says. The only reason that 2010 seemed like the worst year is because the growth of the conditions of inequality was somewhat halted by many social state provisions, mostly across Europe. Without them, the report says the real trouble we are in would be more evident, and so would its growth in the years to come. What we are seeing now is only the beginning.

\*Complete report <http://www.oecd.org/els/soc/OECD2013-Inequality-and-Poverty-8p.pdf>  
<http://rt.com/news/oecd-report-economic-inequality-488/>

## True Equality

from page 8

percent. It's very important to the 1 percent to use education to promote rank, which accounts for the obsessive amount of grading that goes on. The big push of the George W. Bush administration in the "No Child Left Behind" initiative meant ever more tests and grading. Note that members of the 1 percent routinely are in the majority on college and university boards; 1 percenters strongly resist equality among races, sexual orientations and genders. (In Norway the Labor/Socialist Left government had to legislate that 40 percent of corporate boards be women in order to make it happen. Much earlier, Labor postponed grading in the schools until middle school!)

Because the 1 percent loves ranking systems, many people jump to the conclusion that the universal existence of rank means that economic class is embedded in humanity. Not so. When the people give up, and mobilize against, a particular value (like that men are best), a ranking system can be changed and even disposed of.

Slave society was once a universal ranking system. After tens of thousands of years in which slavery seemed an inevitable part of human life, society after society decided that it wanted to give it up. In some places on earth there are societies now free of slavery, although of course it's not completely gone. The good news is that gender oppression is following that same path, as well as sexual orientation and racism.

It's neither quick nor easy to abolish an entrenched ranking system. But it's an enormous mistake to use that fact to excuse that system's existence, or to say it's inevitable.

Further, optimistic activists (who are often the most effective ones) will also note that victories along the path to the abolition of a ranking system are hugely significant. I don't know any women who want to go back to the early 1900s, or people of color who would prefer the 1950s, or gays who would say that the oppression we now face is the same as 40 years ago when I first came out. Because I was involved in all three of those struggles, I dare to say that we would not have struggled so hard if we had believed that those systems were locked in place forever.

It's the same with class. Yes, there will always be rank — but no, there is no need for a class society. We can, and do, create alternatives. We already have the track record that shows that there are economies run by the working class that work better than any economy run by the 1 percent.

To paraphrase the great women's liberation slogan, society needs class ranking like a fish needs a bicycle.

George Lakey is Visiting Professor at Swarthmore College and a Quaker. He has led 1,500 workshops on five continents and activist projects on local, national, and international levels. Among many other books and articles, he is author of "Strategizing for a Living Revolution" in David Solnit's book *Globalize Liberation* (City Lights, 2004). His first arrest was for a civil rights sit-in and most recent was with Earth Quaker Action Team while protesting mountain top removal coal mining.

From Waging Nonviolence at <http://wagingnonviolence.org/feature/will-we-ever-reach-true-equality/>

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# What Muslim parents tell their kids

By NAAZISH YARKHAN

*Chicago* – Like all parents, Muslim parents have their fair share of do's and don'ts for their children. Unlike most parents though, terrorism and how to handle its misguided association with Islam figures in some of our talks.

In the wake of the Boston bombings and given that one of the suspects was only a few years older than my own boy, the need for us to talk with Yousuf took on even greater urgency. Conversations usually begin with "most Americans recognise that not all Muslims are violent just because a few are," and progress to "but I still don't want you to talk about bombs, guns or shooting, even if it's a game you're discussing".

These are tough conversations to have with an 11-year old, but they're discussions we cannot avoid. As Muslim parents, we recognise just how vulnerable our children are.

The harder conversations go something like this: "If you are harassed or teased and called a terrorist, tell a teacher." When my 11-year old insists that is tattling, I explain that even if it makes him look weak, it's wiser to tell a teacher than to navigate these waters alone. I don't want him to get into a potential argument because there's a chance it could escalate. Best-case scenario, my child could put up a brave front, maybe while fighting back tears. Worst-case he could push back and end up suspended.

Like the rest of the nation, I feel such regret and sadness that the Boston bombing suspects, both well-liked seemingly well-integrated young men, came to be so terribly misled. As a parent, I also recognise the agony their mother and father must have felt, watching helplessly, from thousands of miles away, as their children were hunted and gunned down.

As much as I fear I will alarm him with talk of the bombings in Boston, I take on the subject. "If there are Muslims who try to tell you it's okay to be violent, remember what your

parents have taught you. In Islam, war is between militaries alone – no civilians, women, children, schools, hospitals and other civic amenities can be targets."

A pre-teen, my son actually listens to me and shares his thoughts and concerns. Shielding him from these difficult discussions today may mean losing an opportunity to imprint the idea that, in Islam, taking an innocent life is tantamount to killing all of humanity. Not talking about this may mean throwing away a chance to warn my child that he needs to be conscious of those who may try to lead him astray.

I talk about how terrible the bombings have been for the victims and their families. "If you, as you grow older, have issues with the policies of any nation or differences of opinion, civic involvement is the way to change the status quo, not violence," I drill into his young mind. I reiterate that there are acceptable and unacceptable ways to address issues and differences of opinions, violence not being an option.

I fear there may be a time when we aren't there to be a sounding board for our kids. As my son takes in every word, I quietly hope I'm not scaring him.

Frustrated, my son asks, "Why do some Muslims have to go and mess it up for the rest of us?" "Because, somehow, they've come to believe that their actions are justified," I respond. "But they aren't," I am quick to add.

But there is more on my mind that I don't bring up. I don't get into a tirade about how the media ties this crime to our faith or calls it a return to terrorism to US shores. What about the Sandy Hook murderer who opened fire on little children? Deemed mentally ill, no ties were drawn to an ideology for his actions. Or the white supremacist, who shot and killed six people at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin? He was not considered a terrorist by the media. Why are only Muslim suspects' and criminals' actions automatically motivated by faith?

These thoughts aren't far from my mind, but I don't need to add that kind of baggage to this conversation with my 11-year old. He has enough on his plate.

\* Naazish YarKhan is a writer, publicist and communications strategist in the Chicago area.

Source: Common Ground News Service (CGNews), [www.commongroundnews.org](http://www.commongroundnews.org)

<http://www.commongroundnews.org/article.php?id=32927&lan=en&sp=0>

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# Take Action! What You Can Do About Climate Change

From EarthVisionTrust

Your personal choices have a positive impact—and save you \$\$\$! Take charge of your world. Pick one of the suggestions below and do it. Later, do another. REPEAT!

## AT HOME

- Reuse and recycle.
- Change your light bulbs. LEDs are best, CFLs second best.
- Control your gadgets! Turn off your computer, TV, stereo when not in use. After batteries are charged, unplug the charger.
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Put on an extra layer of clothing instead of blasting your heater all winter.
- Wash clothes in cold or warm water. Air-dry clothing when possible.
- Reduce consumption of meat from livestock (their flatulence is bad news for the atmosphere!). Substitute plant protein.
- Eat locally grown food if it's available.
- Drink tap water, not bottled water, whenever possible.

For more, see: True Green, K. McKay and J. Bonnin, National Geographic Books, 2006.

## ON THE GO

- Drive less, drive the speed limit, inflate tires correctly (save gas and \$).
- Fly less.
- If you can, walk, ride a bike or take public transport.
- Buy diesel, PZEV-rated, hybrid or electric vehicles.

## IN CONVERSATION

- USE YOUR VOICE. Speak up about what's really happening to the climate.
- Push for action in the communities closest to you.
- Tell your elected representatives where you stand on climate change.

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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

## JUNE

**Continuous: Seeds of Peace Community Garden.**

30 plots, each 19x19 feet with own water spigot for rent to grow fruits, veggies, flowers. Free seeds at sign up, scholarships available! Info: 523-1438 or visit [www.modcob.org](http://www.modcob.org)

**1 SAT: Benefit for Peace: Tri-Valley CARES 30th Anniversary.** Raffle, silent auction; face-painting, games for kids. 3 pm – 6 pm at Awaken Chiropractic, 3515 Grand Ave., Oakland. Info: (415) 990-2070. CAREs = Communities Against a Radioactive Environment, <http://www.trivalleycares.org>

**1 SAT: Insight Meditation Central Valley Daylong** and film screening "*The Gifts of Grief*" with film maker Nancee Sobonya, 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., potluck vegetarian lunch, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748.

**1 SAT: Annual screening of film: American Graffiti.** 35 mm pristine archival print. A&W Root Beer floats! Doors open at 5:30 pm; film at 6:30. Admission: \$3. State Theatre. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/64>

**2 SUN: Modesto Film Society** hosts *Some Like It Hot*. 2 pm, State Theatre. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/100>

**2 SUN: Annual Modesto Peace/Life Center Pancake Breakfast**, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 8 am – Noon. See Ad, this issue.

**17 MON: Mindfulness in Caregiving with Marguerite Manteau-Rao.** Daylong, intensive mindfulness-based caregiving training for professional and family caregivers. Appropriate for health care providers and anyone interested in gaining a better understanding of caregiving from a mindfulness perspective. This intensive daylong requires that you already have an established mindfulness practice or are willing to commit to starting one right after this daylong. Bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share for lunch. Info: contact Lori Wong at 209-343-2748 or visit <http://imcv.org>

**28-30 FRI-SUN: Peace Camp**, Camp Peaceful Pines, Clark Fork in the High Sierras. Registration form on p. 2.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**July 7: 4-week Introduction to Mindfulness Course.** 1:45-3:15pm on Sundays at the UUFSC (Sarana Kuti). 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748.

**July 13: Insight Meditation Central Valley Sutta Study Daylong on the Abhidhamma** with Jeff Hardin, 9:00 am-4:30 pm, potluck vegetarian lunch, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748.

## REGULAR MEETINGS

### SUNDAYS

**LifeRing Secular Recovery:** Sun. 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.** 11:30-1:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <http://insightmeditationmodesto.wordpress.com>

**LifeRing Secular Recovery:** Sunday 6:30 pm, Jana Lynn Room, 500 N 9th St, Modesto.

### MONDAYS

**LifeRing Secular Recovery** Morning Mtg. Monday 7:00 am. Deva Cafe, 1202 J St, Modesto.

**LifeRing Secular Recovery** Women's Mtg. Monday 6:30 pm, private home, 1905 Kienitz Ave, Modesto. Bonnie, 324-7095.

### 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 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver, Modesto. Suggested monthly fee \$25. Info: 505-3216.

**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://insightmeditationmodesto.wordpress.com>

**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

## 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), 4:30-5:30 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

**CENTER TV:** News and interviews you won't find elsewhere on Comcast Public Access TV Ch 26, Wed. & Sat. 9:00 pm - 10 pm. Also: Listen to local Valley Community Radio KQRP 104.9 FM, <http://www.kqrp.com>

**SONG CIRCLE:** a Peace/Life Center Activity. Third Friday each month. All ages and voices welcome. Potluck supper, 6:30 pm, sing at 7:30 pm. Call 569-0321 for location. Free.

**PEACE LIFE CENTER BOARD MEETING**, FIRST Thursdays, 720 13th St., Modesto, 7:00 pm, 529-5750.

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

**CONNECTIONS EDITORIAL MEETINGS:** Meets twice a month. New workers welcome. Call to confirm time and place. 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.

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

**Zen Meditation Class:** Every Wed, 6:00-7:30 pm, Unity Church, 2467 Veneman Ave., Modesto. Introduction to ZEN practice. Zen's aim: achieve enlightenment through meditation, and manage daily stress by utilizing four postures; sitting, standing, walking, and laying down. Class includes meditation exercises, book reading, and discussions. Books available in the church bookstore. Info: Doug Pham, 505-8555, [dadd4221@yahoo.com](mailto:dadd4221@yahoo.com)

**LifeRing Secular Recovery.** Wed 6:30 pm, Reynolds Room, 1700 McHenry Village Way, Modesto. Back of McHenry Village across from the Memorial Health and Education Center. Meeting offering support for people in relationships with people wrestling with addiction.

**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 [tgsupport@stanpride.org](mailto:tgsupport@stanpride.org)

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

**COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS GROUPS**, 2nd Wed., 252 Magnolia, Manteca.

### THURSDAYS

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

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

**ART GALLERY WALK**, downtown Modesto, third Thurs., 5:00 to 8 pm. Info: <http://www.modestoart-walk.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

**OCCUPY MODESTO:** General Assembly meets each Friday, 5:00 - 6:30 pm at Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St. All interested members of the 99% are welcome. Time will change when it stays light later.

**LifeRing Secular Recovery.** Friday 6:30 pm. Jana Lynn Room, 500 N 9th St, Modesto. Every first Friday we alternate between a LifeRing & 12 Step speaker with a discussion following.

**FUNSTRUMMER Ukulele Band** every Friday, Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Begins 9:15 am. Suggested monthly membership fee \$25. Info: 505-3216.

**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.sierra-club.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.