



Stanislaus Connections

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO
PEACE/LIFE
CENTER
PUBLICATION

SEPTEMBER, 2018
VOLUME XXVII, NO. 1



Your Community Radio Station is now on the air!

By JAMES COSTELLO, KCBP General Manager

KCBP, your local community radio station is now on the air from 2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. at 95.5 FM. We are also web streaming at www.kcbpradio.org. AND we need your help more than ever.

To truly serve the community, we need volunteers with and without radio experience to help program local shows, music, poetry, plays and discuss current issues and events. We are currently broadcasting from a temporary site in Westley under low-power (see photos of our enthusiastic installers!). Approval of a county building permit is pending. Once we have that, we can start constructing at our permanent site on a hill west of Patterson. Once completed, we will broadcast at full power over all of Stanislaus County and possibly beyond.

ACTION: to volunteer, contact outreach coordinator Jocelyn Cooper at the Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750, or email jocelyncoper2012@gmail.com. To donate, send your check to Dave Tucker, memo: "Radio KCBP" at Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353. Or go the Center's website at peacelifecenter.org and on the Home Page click on Donate, on the right.



Homeless: A Scenic Alternative

By ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen

The all-new Valley Citizen kicks off a new era in public journalism with a story about Stanislaus County's proposed transitional center on Scenic Drive near downtown Modesto.

Mired for years in serial meetings, over analysis, and inaction, Stanislaus County's "Focus on Prevention" leaders finally came forward with a proposal to establish a transitional living center for homeless people last week. There was an immediate public outcry.

The proposed location, on Scenic Drive near downtown Modesto, alarmed residents of the nearby La Loma neighborhood. La Loma is just south of the former hospital where the county would temporarily house homeless people who voluntarily seek help.

Spokespersons for La Loma residents say they are already beleaguered by homeless people living in the parks behind their houses. They also experience a daily outpouring of guests from the nearby Modesto Gospel Mission, which allows nighttime use only.

County authorities settled on the Scenic location after another site near the Salvation

Army Shelter on Ninth Street was rejected. Cities with large homeless populations face a constant conflict with nearby residents and business people when they try to establish homeless facilities.

It's a classic paradox: Everyone wants homeless people off the streets, but no one wants them housed nearby. But La Loma residents, like many frustrated by escalating numbers of homeless people, can't really be accused of NIMBYism, at least not the narrow definition. NIMBYism is when residents don't want a project, people, or institution in the neighborhood.

In the case of La Loma homeowners, homeless people are already in the neighborhood and residents are afraid a facility offering services will attract even more. And when La Loma residents say homeless people are already in the neighborhood, they can also claim they're even in their back yards, at least some of the time.

Most of the time, though, homeless people who frequent the area are on the streets and in the parks along Dry Creek, the charming little oak-lined brook that gives the La Loma

neighborhood much of its character. The parks themselves, Kewin, Moose, Thousand Oaks and La Loma, offer plenty of nooks and crannies for homeless people to set up camp and the oak canopy provides cooling shade during the hot summers.

Opponents of the Scenic location say the presence of homeless people lowers property values, especially in upscale neighborhoods like La Loma. And while most homeless people are docile and even vulnerable, some are scary and violently demonstrative.

Authorities estimate that a third or more homeless people are seriously mentally ill. When mentally ill people use drugs—cheap and readily available everywhere—their illness is exacerbated, and they are far more likely to be violent and unpredictable.

But there's an almost deliberate avoidance of addressing mental illness by local authorities. Political leaders, law enforcement officials, and even many outreach workers tend to frame homelessness in terms of getting people "on their feet" and "back into the workplace."

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Isn't it time for decent public bathrooms in Modesto? Is this the one?

By JAMES COSTELLO

Now that the city of Modesto has several millions of dollars to spend on homelessness and, as of this writing, is applying for a State of Emergency regarding homelessness from the State of California, isn't it past time to provide decent public bathrooms, not only for the homeless, but for citizens and visitors?

There is a bathroom that might meet such a need. It is called the Portland Loo.

Apparently, quite a few cities have found this bathroom to work well for its civic needs,

including the city of Portland Oregon where it originated.

Readers of *Stanislaus Connections*, councilmembers, supervisors, Focus on Prevention: please visit <https://portlandloo.com/> and see what you think. *Stanislaus Connections* welcomes your comments. Email jcostello@igc.org

Note: the author has no financial interests in the manufacturer of this product. He just thinks they look cool and, more importantly, appear to be quite functional.



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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

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

The West Modesto Community Collaborative Invites You to a Community Meet & Greet Information Reception

When: Friday, September 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: King Kennedy Memorial Center, 601 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto

Come and receive information about organizations in the community, what they are doing in the community, and meet newly appointed officials in your community.

Hosted by: Advocates for Justice, Black Community Leaders, Black Student Union, Boys & Girls Club of Stanislaus County, Free Spirit Social Club, King Kennedy Board of Directors, King Kennedy Seniors, Latino Round Table, Modesto Police Clergy Council, Modesto Students First 2018, Modesto Teachers Association (MTA), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Modesto Peace/Life Center, Project Up Lift, Silver Square Lodge #66, SOCOFA, The Men's Group, The Women's Auxiliary, West Modesto Community Action Group. Free-Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

More information: West Modesto Community Collaborative 209 522-7505, King Kennedy Board of Directors 209 402-3406, NAACP Modesto-Stanislaus Branch 209 645-1909.

Homeless

from page 1

The fact is, a very large proportion of those people on the streets who are violent and scary need professional help. Many have been bounced in and out of temporary "holds" and short-term jail stays for years. They're the homeless people who "choose" to be homeless, mostly because their decisions are driven by their illness.

Experts in the field agree by a large consensus that seriously mentally ill people need long-term care supervised by qualified medical professionals. No service that operates on the premise of "transition to the mainstream" will keep them off the streets for very long; they are just too ill to be mainstreamed.

For residents of neighborhoods like La Loma, the real question should be about what it will take to bring lasting solutions to homelessness. A big first step would be to acknowledge there are different factors involved in homelessness, and to begin tackling them one by one.

It's a first step that can't be taken until citizens admit the magnitude, scope, and costs of dealing with a problem that developed over decades of neglect. It won't be solved without enough political will to accept a holistic approach that involves health care, housing, jobs, and, most especially, facing facts.

Modesto's Scenic location, a former hospital, is an ideal place to house mentally ill people who would have to be restricted to the hospital grounds and under constant supervision. As things now stand, those are the people most in need and most likely to be creating problems. They're also the people least likely to be receiving help.

<https://thevalleycitizen.com/homeless-a-scenic-alternative/>

Library Foundation to Host Trio of Local Authors at Gala Fundraiser

Annual event features gourmet meal, guest speakers and live auction

By PAT PORTWOOD

Three local authors will be guests and featured speakers at the Stanislaus Library Foundation's annual Authors Garden Gala fundraising event on Saturday, Sept. 22. The gala will take place at 6 p.m., outdoors at a private Modesto residence. All proceeds will benefit children's programs at the library's 13 branches countywide, including the Summer Reading program, which serves more than 10,000 school-age children each year.

Authors Jeff Jardine ("Home to the Brave: Remembrances of War Brought Home to One Small Dot on a Map"), Ken White ("Touchstones: Life and Times of Modesto") and Paula Treick DeBoard, author of four books including "Here We Lie" (2018) will discuss the writing process and ways living in The Central Valley have influenced their work.

"The Gala is the Foundation's primary annual fundraiser," said Board Co-Chair Pat Portwood. "Guests will enjoy a sumptuous meal and hear three very accomplished and well-known local authors while enjoying an elegant evening in a lovely, intimate garden setting." Event sponsors include TSM Insurance, Mocse, E.&J. Gallo, Bank of the West, Cardoza Foundation and others.

The evening will include a live auction for a dozen high-value items, from golfing packages to exclusive wines and private, gourmet dinners. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the library for various children's and enrichment programs. A limited number of tickets, at \$140 each, are available. For tickets call (209) 634-3592 or (209) 523-9083. Additional information available at www.stanislauslibraryfoundation.org.

About the Stanislaus Library Foundation: Established in 1994, the Stanislaus Library Foundation enriches lives in our community by raising funds to support key library programs, increasing awareness, and advocating for a vital library.

Meeting to start ACLU chapter in Stanislaus County

By TOM HELME

Join like-minded neighbors and friends for our first ACLU Stanislaus County Community Meeting on Wednesday, September 19th from 5:30-8pm at the Stanislaus County Library, 1500 I St., Modesto.

ACLU staff will share information about our work in Stanislaus County and how you can get involved! Let's fight to protect our democracy, end discrimination, expand our rights, and create a nation with liberty and justice for all."

A follow-up meeting is planned for Wednesday, September 26 at 6 pm at the Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto.

Please RSVP to <https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action/16065?source=homepage&akid=>



Yokuts Sierra Club presents Erin Loury: "Fish on Life Support - The Challenging Disconnect of Central Valley Salmon"

When: Friday September 21, 2018.

Where: College Avenue United Church of Christ, 1341 College Ave., Modesto.

School children learn the salmon life cycle as a tidy, closed circle. Fish are born in rivers, migrate to the ocean to grow, and return to rivers as adults to spawn. But in California's Central Valley, a host of threats in the rivers and Delta, from predation to poor water quality, means very few naturally-born juvenile Chinook salmon factually survive to adulthood. Hatcheries are keeping Central Valley salmon on life support by pumping out millions of juvenile fish every year. These fish grow into adults that sustain the commercial salmon fishery and also return to rivers.

FISHBIO's ongoing monitoring has revealed perplexing outcomes of this disconnect. Better understanding of this system can help frame expectations for salmon management and conservation in the Central Valley.

Erin Loury is a fisheries biologist and the Communications Director at FISHBIO, where she supports fish research and conservation projects in California and Southeast Asia. She received her master's degree in marine biology from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and works in FISHBIO's Santa Cruz office.

Refreshments and socializing begin at 6:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Non-members are always welcome! Programs are free and open to the community.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts>

Peace/Life Center looking for volunteers

The Modesto Peace/Life Center needs volunteers to assist with projects, events, our radio project (radio knowledge, skills needed), fundraising, and administrative activities. No experience necessary. Experience in social media, Word, Excel, or other special skills are desired for some volunteer positions. We need volunteers for a few hours per week, or an ongoing commitment.

For more information, contact our volunteer/outreach coordinators: Susan Bower or Jocelyn Cooper at the Peace Life Center (209) 529-5750.

Modesto Peace/Life Center Film Night: 13th

Please join us at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 25 for a film night.

13th is a film about the history of racial inequality in the United States and the state of our racialized prison system: one review calls this film “powerful, infuriating and at times overwhelming, Ava DuVernay’s documentary 13TH will get your blood boiling and tear ducts leaking” - Manohla Dargis, The NYTimes.

Join us and bring a friend! The Center is located at 720 13th St., Modesto. Watch the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V66F3WU2CKk>



Help! “Kitchen Korner” needs small kitchen items for the Homeless

By SHELLY SCRIBNER & SANDY SAMPLE

The Peace/Life Center’s Homeless Project’s “Kitchen Corner” urgently needs donations of SMALL gently-used kitchen items.

We’re especially in need of pots and pans, dishes, serving dishes, pots and pans can openers, and cooking tools of all kinds.

Please look through your kitchen cupboards for items you don’t really need that might be useful for someone who’s finally able to make the transition from living on the streets to living in an apartment or house.

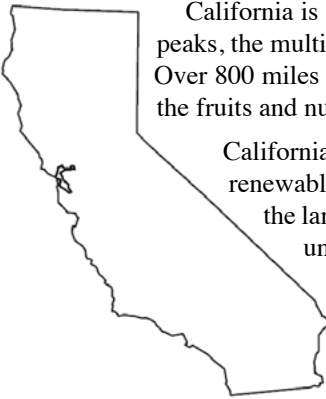


ACTION: Call Sandy (209) 523-8445, Shelly (209) 521-6304, or Frank (209) 556-2376, to arrange a time to meet you at the Peace/Life Center to gladly receive your items and give you a receipt.

If you’re fresh out of gently-used kitchen items, you can donate to the Peace/Life Center marked “Kitchen Korner” and we’ll use it to purchase the items we most need at local thrift stores (using our Senior discounts!)

ACTION: Send your donation to the Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353-0134. Thanks for caring and wanting to be part of the effort to reduce homelessness in our communities.

2019 Peace Essay Contest



California is a diverse and incredible place to live. From the lowest desert to the towering mountain peaks, the multitude of eco-regions are home to a vast variety of plants and animals as well as humans. Over 800 miles of coastline grace our state and a large agricultural economy produces two thirds of all the fruits and nuts and half of the vegetables grown in the U.S.

California has big cities as well as a landscape dotted by small towns. It is a testing ground for renewable energy and is well known for being on the cutting edge of technology. California has the largest public university system in the nation as well as world-renowned public and private universities.

California has a history that includes people from many ethnic groups around the world, who each bring unique experiences & perspectives to our state. A wide range of languages, traditions, stories, arts and music can be found among Californians.

Numerous categories make up the whole experience of a state. Political, environmental, wildlife and land conservation, ethnic diversity, job opportunities, health and social services, education, and housing are just a few. Within each of these categories are the day-to-day experiences of the people who call this state their home.

Wildfires, mudslides, drought and earthquakes are all hazards of living in California. In addition to dealing with these occurrences, we must successfully meet the challenges of creating a community that allows people to live and thrive safely together.

The 2019 Peace Essay Contest invites you to reflect on the many positive things living in California offers and to also think about what might need to be improved. Write your essay of 500-1000 words following the prompt below:

Divisions I (grades 11-12) and Division II (grades 9-10):

Begin your essay by briefly describing what makes you glad to live in California. Considering the general categories listed in the introduction, or adding one of your own, choose a specific area that you think could be improved to provide a better quality of life for those who live in California. Do some research about your choice. Then, continuing your essay,

- **Identify and describe** the specific area that concerns or worries you.
- **Share** some ideas from your research that might help improve it.
- **Explain** why this improvement would make a positive difference in the lives of Californians.

Conclude your essay by explaining how working to improve life in our state is an important step toward creating a more just and peaceful world. (Include your word count at the end of your essay.)

Divisions III (grades 7-8) and Division IV (grades 5-6):

Begin your essay by briefly describing what makes you glad to live in California. Considering the general categories listed in the introduction, or adding one of your own, choose a specific area that you think could be improved to provide a better quality of life for those who live in California. Do some research about your choice. Then, continuing your essay,

- **Identify and describe** the specific area that concerns or worries you.
- **Share** some ideas from your research that might help improve it.

Conclude your essay by explaining why this improvement would make a positive difference in the lives of Californians. (Include your word count at the end of your essay.)



Deadline for Entries:

November 16, 2018 ~ Notification of Winners: Late February 2019
Essays that are outside of the directed word count will not be considered for judging.

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

Download flyers/entry forms/submission rules:
<http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com>

View information:
www.stanislausconnections.org
OR
www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest
Email questions to: peaceessay@juno.com

2019 Peace Essay Contest

Rules & Submission Directions

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who live in 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. **IMPORTANT:** Place the word count at the end of your essay. Essays that are outside of the directed word count will not be considered for judging.
5. Print & complete the Entry Form and staple to the front of your essay. Form may be found at: <http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com> OR www.stanislausconnections.org OR email request: peaceessay@juno.com
6. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
7. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
8. The Modesto Peace/Life Center reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
9. Entries may be delivered to the **Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto, from 2pm-5pm on November 14 - 15 - 16, 2018.** You may also mail all entries, postmarked no later than November 16, 2018 to:

2019 Peace Essay Contest
Modesto Peace/Life Center
P.O. Box 134
Modesto, CA 95353-0134



JUDGING

IMPORTANT: Essays that are outside of the directed word count will not be considered for judging.

A distinguished group of local writers, educators, and peacemakers will judge the essays. Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

1. **Content**
 - A. Does the essay clearly address the assigned topic?
 - B. Does the essay show that the student researched their category and/or specific area of concern?
 - C. Has the writer used relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples to fully develop their ideas?
2. **Style**
 - A. Is the essay original and interesting?
 - B. Does the voice of the writer come through?
3. **Clarity of Expression**
 - A. Does the essay have a distinguishable introduction and conclusion? Is it well organized with clear transitions from one idea to the next?
 - B. Are the ideas clearly stated with factual support?
4. **Mechanics**
 - A. Has the writer attempted to use appropriate transitions, precise language, and an engaging style?
 - B. Are grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
 - C. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?

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 3 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 late February, 2019, winners will be notified through the student's teacher. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception on Friday March 8, 2019. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

2019 Peace Essay Committee:

Indira Clark, Peggy Hoover, Linda Lagace, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner and David Tucker

This **32th 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

Resiliency

(a found, acrostic poem from the Peace Camp workshop)

Reflection, recovery, reliance
Empathy, encouragement, energy
Sensitivity, support, strength
I can!
Live, love, laugh
Imagine
Exercise, expansion, endurance
Neighborhood, nuance, new thinking
Community, communication, compassion
You can, too!

Noel Russell

Modesto Rotary Club welcomes 27th Annual Senior Stride Fun Walk

Modesto Rotary Club is excited to host their 27th annual Senior Stride Fun Walk on Friday, September 7, 2018 which provides senior citizens, friends and families the opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled morning of companionship, music, com-



MoRo!
MODESTO ROTARY CLUB

community resources and exercise. Participants are provided a light breakfast provided by the Salvation Army, exercise on the beautiful East La Loma Park paved walking path, musical entertainment, resources from local community vendors, raffle prizes and more.

The Modesto Rotary Senior Stride event is open to the public and will be held on Friday, September 7, 2018 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. at East La Loma Park, 2001 Edgebrook Drive, Modesto. Registration fee is \$2.00 and includes a Senior Stride t-shirt, light breakfast, raffle, community vendor fair and lots of fun. Pre-registration is encouraged however not required. To learn more about Senior Stride or to register contact the Modesto Rotary Club office at (209) 578-9999.

About Modesto Rotary: Modesto Rotary Club has been committed to improving the world, on a local and global level. With over 240 members, we are among the largest Rotary clubs on the West Coast. Rotary International is a global organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. In more than 200 countries worldwide, approximately 1.3 million Rotarians belong to more than 33,000 Rotary clubs. For additional information, visit www.modestorotary.org or call (209) 578-9999.

Green Tips for a Green Planet: Fremont Open Plan Students Make a Difference

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Fremont Open Plan upper grade students under the guidance of teacher Levi Hanzel-Sello, partnered with the Monterey Bay Aquarium during the 2017-18 school year to study and analyze how different plastics effect our environment, where they end up in the oceans, and which animals may be harmed by specific plastics.

The students collected 1461 pieces of trash from the school yard over a six-week period using Litterati (a geo-tag app available from iTunes). Thirty percent of the trash that was picked up was plastic.

One group of FOP students (pictured) collected all the sporks and straws used in the cafeteria for one day which came to about 287 pieces. In an effort to reduce/reuse cafeteria plastics, they created Falcons from those sporks and straws. In addition to the Falcon project students also handed out napkins separate from spork packets and explained that straws are not necessary.

The group also created a form for all 4-6 graders to fill out to determine which plastics were important and which were



not. They went to all Fremont School classrooms to share the falcon and project data.

A green plan was designed to replace or augment cafeteria plastics use, not just at Fremont Elementary, but throughout the Modesto City School District food service facilities.

A third part of the project was to teach other schools how to take data. Fifth and sixth graders traveled to a local middle school to teach those students how to use Litterati, so they can create their own litter footprint.

The study will be ongoing, as all Fremont School students will be asked to fill out new forms to see if their attitudes and resulting actions have changed toward the use of plastics. The school recycling program will continue as students work toward purchasing a reusable water bottle filler at the Fremont site.

Starting with the beginning of the 2018-19 school year MCS Food Services has started the transition to compost-friendly food service serving products at all K-12 schools as available. Watch for the October Green Tips article about Modesto City Schools Food Services compliance with AB 1826 recycling mandates for reduction of waste in local landfills.

Learn more about Litterati at <https://www.litterati.org/#home>

ACTION: REDUCE, REUSE, (and only then) RECYCLE!

What's happening at the Mistlin Gallery?

The **Third Annual Autumn Art Festival** continues through October 5. This is the Central California Art Association's (CCAA) members-only juried art show and fundraiser at the Mistlin Gallery.

"Healing Journey" Sponsored by Memorial Medical Center

Cancer Survivor Complementary Art Therapy Show
Opening and Reception: Oct. 9. Closes: November 9
Third Thursday Artwalk, 5 PM to 9 PM: Oct. 18
Show Host: Galen Martin
Storefront Window CCAA Member Artist: Eva Hass



**"Home for the Holidays"
CCAA Member Show**

Opens: November 13. Closes:
December 22

Third Thursday Artwalk 5
PM to 9 PM: November 15 and
December 20

Show host: Dixie Zambruno
Storefront Window CCAA
Artist: Howard Reese (2017
Autumn Art Festival First Place
Winner, Oil Painting)



MODSHOP - Participating Downtown Venue: Saturday,
November 24, 5 PM to 9 PM.

See More: <http://www.modshop209.com/>

Gift Shop - Original art, sculpture, jewelry, photography, cards, and more by CCAA members - always on display in addition to the shows in the gallery throughout the year.

See representative CCAA/Mistlin Gallery Art Work:
Beautifully Broken, Acrylic, by Artists in the Complementary Therapy Art Program, 2017. The Song of Life, Acrylic, by Artists in the Complementary Therapy Art Program, 2017. Melany's Lotus, Acrylic, Margo Souza, Artist in the Complementary Therapy Art Program, 2017. Home for the Holidays 2017 - Watercolor by Linda Knoll.

Location: 1015 J St, Modesto; Hours: 11:30 AM – 5 PM, M-F; 12 PM – 4PM, Saturday. (209) 529-3369. <https://ccaagallery.org/>



Top: Gift shop items for sale. Above: Best of Show in the Autumn Art Festival by Nicole Slater

stanislaus
CONNECTIONS

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

Open by appointment.

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

Uri Avnery

Long-time Israeli peace activist Uri Avnery died on August 20, 2018.

Modesto Peace/Life Center Board member Dan Onorato met him and his wife in Tel Aviv as a part of the Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territories in 2005. Here's Dan's reflection:

Uri Avnery left an indelible impression on me. Our delegation met with him at the office of Gush Shalom, the peace organization he founded.

He was quiet-spoken, keenly intelligent, and absolutely committed to a just peace for both Israelis and Palestinians. He had the respect and trust of the Palestinians and was one of the most respected leaders of Israelis also committed to a just and peaceful future for both people. He was both an intellectual and an activist. In weekly essays published in his paper for years, he offered his analysis of recent events and his clear-minded judgment about what needed to happen to bring about peace. And each week he helped organize or join

He was quiet-spoken, keenly intelligent, and absolutely committed to a just peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

non-violent protests against the Occupation and its symbols, especially the Israeli separation barrier that de facto appropriated further Palestinian land.

Despite frequent set-backs, despite the huge imbalance of power between the State of Israel and the Palestinian people, and despite the power struggle and clashing views between the two main Palestinian parties, The National Liberation Organization and Hamas, he never stopped offering and acting upon his insights and convictions about a just peace. His views may not have been popular. But he was honest and utterly steadfast. Nobody, Israeli or Palestinian, could question his integrity or his courage. I am saddened at knowing of his death. The Israeli and the Palestinian peoples have lost a bold, fair-minded, and rare voice of reason.

The article that follows, "Day of Shame" published in May, is an example of his outlook and his steadfast spirit.

The Day of Shame

By URI AVNERY

ON BLOODY MONDAY this week, when the number of Palestinian killed and wounded was rising by the hour, I asked myself: what would I have done if I had been a youngster of 15 in the Gaza Strip?

My answer was, without hesitation: I would have stood near the border fence and demonstrated, risking my life and limbs every minute.

How am I so sure?

Simple: I did the same when I was 15.

I was a member of the National Military Organization (the "Irgun"), an armed underground group labeled "terrorist".

Palestine was at the time under British occupation (called "mandate"). In May 1939, the British enacted a law limiting the right of Jews to acquire land. I received an order to be at a certain time at a certain spot near the sea shore of Tel Aviv in order to take part in a demonstration. I was to wait for a trumpet signal.

The trumpet sounded and we started the march down Allenby Road, then the city's main street. Near the main synagogue, somebody climbed the stairs and delivered an inflammatory speech. Then we marched on, to the end of the street, where the offices of the British administration were located. There we sang the national anthem, "Hatikvah", while some adult members set fire to the offices.

Suddenly several lorries carrying British soldiers screeched to a halt, and a salvo of shots rang out. The British fired over our heads, and we ran away.

Remembering this event 79 years later, it crossed my mind that the boys of Gaza are greater heroes than we were then. They did not run away. They stood their ground for hours, while the death toll rose to 61 and the number of those wounded by live ammunition to some 1500, in addition to 1000 affected by gas.

ON THAT day, most TV stations in Israel and abroad split their screen. On the right, the events in Gaza. On the left, the inauguration of the US Embassy in Jerusalem.

In the 136th year of the Zionist-Palestinian war, that split screen is the picture of reality: the celebration in Jerusalem and the bloodbath in Gaza. Not on two different planets, not in two different continents, but hardly an hour's drive apart.

The celebration in Jerusalem started as a silly event. A bunch of suited males, inflated with self-importance, celebrating - what, exactly? The symbolic movement of an office from one town to another.

Jerusalem is a major bone of contention. Everybody knows that there will be no peace, not now, not ever, without a compromise there. For every Palestinian, every Arab, every Muslim throughout the world, it is unthinkable to give up Jerusalem. It is from there, according to Muslim tradition, that



the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, after tying his horse to the rock that is now the center of the holy places. After Mecca and Medina, Jerusalem is the third holiest place of Islam.

For the Jews, of course, Jerusalem means the place where, some 2000 years ago, there stood the temple built by King Herod, a cruel half-Jew. A remnant of an outer wall still stands there and is revered as the "Western Wall". It used to be called the "Wailing Wall" and is the holiest place of the Jews.

Statesmen have tried to square the circle and find a solution. The 1947 United Nations committee that decreed the partition of Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state - a solution enthusiastically endorsed by the Jewish leadership - suggested separating Jerusalem from both states and constituting it as a separate unit within what was supposed to be in fact a kind of confederation.

The war of 1948 resulted in a divided city, the Eastern part was occupied by the Arab side (the Kingdom of Jordan) and the Western part became the capital of Israel. (My modest part was to fight in the battle for the road.)

No one liked the division of the city. So my friends and I devised a third solution, which by now has become a world consensus: keep the city united on the municipal level and divide it politically: the West as capital of the State of Israel, the East as capital of the State of Palestine. The leader of the local Palestinians, Faisal al-Husseini, the scion of a most distinguished local Palestinian family and the son of a national hero who was killed not far from my position in the same battle, endorsed this formula publicly. Yasser Arafat gave me his tacit consent.

If President Donald Trump had declared West Jerusalem the capital of Israel and moved his embassy there, almost nobody would have got excited. By omitting the word "West", Trump ignited a fire. Perhaps without realizing what he was doing, and probably not giving a damn.

For me, the moving of the US embassy means nothing. It is a symbolic act that does not change reality. If and when

So my friends and I devised a third solution, which by now has become a world consensus: keep the city united on the municipal level and divide it politically: the West as capital of the State of Israel, the East as capital of the State of Palestine.

continued next page

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The Day of Shame cont.

peace does come, no one will care about some stupid act of a half-forgotten US president. Inshallah.

SO THERE they were, this bunch of self-important nobodies, Israelis, Americans and those in-between, having their little festival, while rivers of blood were flowing in Gaza. Human beings were killed by the dozen and wounded by the thousand.

The ceremony started as a cynical meeting, which quickly became grotesque, and ended in being sinister. Nero fiddling while Rome was burning.

When the last hug was exchanged and the last compliment paid (especially to the graceful Ivanka), Gaza remained what it was – a huge concentration camp with severely overcrowded hospitals, lacking medicines and food, drinkable water and electricity.

A ridiculous world-wide propaganda campaign was let loose to counter the world-wide condemnation. For example: the story that the terrorist Hamas had compelled the Gazans to go and demonstrate – as if anyone could be compelled to risk their life in a demonstration.

Or: the story that Hamas paid every demonstrator 50 dollars. Would you risk your life for 50 dollars? Would anybody?

Or: The soldiers had no choice but to kill them, because they were storming the border fence. Actually, no one did so – the huge concentration of Israeli army brigades would have easily prevented it without shooting.

Almost forgotten was a small news item from the days before: Hamas had discreetly offered a Hudna for ten years. A Hudna is a sacred armistice, never to be broken. The Crusaders, our remote predecessors, had many Hudnas with

SO WHY were the soldiers ordered to kill? It is the same logic that has animated countless occupation regimes throughout history: make the “natives” so afraid that they will give up. Alas, the results have almost always been the very opposite: the oppressed have become more hardened, more resolute.

their Arab enemies during their 200-year stay here.

Israeli leaders immediately rejected the offer.

SO WHY were the soldiers ordered to kill? It is the same logic that has animated countless occupation regimes throughout history: make the “natives” so afraid that they will give up. Alas, the results have almost always been the very opposite: the oppressed have become more hardened, more resolute. This is happening now.

Bloody Monday may well be seen in future as the day when the Palestinians regained their national pride, their will to stand up and fight for their independence.

Strangely, the next day – the main day of the planned protest, Naqba Day - only two demonstrators were killed. Israeli diplomats abroad, facing world-wide indignation, had probably sent home SOS messages. Clearly the Israeli army had changed its orders. Non-lethal means were used and sufficed.

MY CONSCIENCE does not allow me to conclude this without some self-criticism.

I would have expected that all of Israel's renowned writers would publish a thundering joint condemnation while the shooting was still going on. It did not happen.

The political “opposition” was contemptible. No word from the Labor party. No word from Ya'ir Lapid. The new

leader of the Meretz party, Tamar Sandberg, did at least boycott the Jerusalem celebration. Labor and Lapid did not even do that.

I would have expected that the dozens of our brave peace organizations would unite in a dramatic act of condemnation, an act that would arouse the world. It did not happen. Perhaps they were in a state of shock.

The next day, the excellent boys and girls of the peace groups demonstrated opposite the Likud office in Tel Aviv. Some 500 took part. Far, far from the hundreds of thousands who demonstrated some years ago against the price of cottage cheese.

In short: we did not do our duty. I accuse myself as much as I accuse everybody else.

We must prepare at once for the next atrocity. We must organize for mass action now!

BUT WHAT topped everything was the huge machine of brain-washing that was set in motion. For many years I have not experienced anything like it.

Almost all the so-called “military correspondents” acted like army propaganda agents. Day by day they helped the army to spread lies and falsifications. The public had no alternative but to believe every word. Nobody told them otherwise.

The same is true for almost all other means of communication, program presenters, announcers and correspondents. They willingly became government liars. Probably many of them were ordered to do so by their bosses. Not a glorious chapter.

After the day of blood, when the army was faced with world condemnation and had to stop shooting (“only” killing two unarmed demonstrators) all Israeli media were united in declaring this a great Israeli victory.

Israel had to open the crossings and send food and medicines to Gaza. Egypt had to open its Gaza crossing and accept many hundreds of wounded for operations and other treatment.

The Day of Shame has passed. Until the next time.

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Stockton Black Family Day, Inc. will celebrate its 50th year as the premier cultural celebration in Stockton. The Stockton Black Family Day Board invites ALL residents of Stockton, San Joaquin County and Stanislaus County to celebrate 50 years of cultural values and family traditions.

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More information: www.stocktonblackfamilyday.com.



Radio Shed Installation Crew: John Frailing, Michael Brown (radio engineer), Dan Onorato, Tim Cole. Photo: Jim Costello

Why Mister Rogers Is the Role Model We Need Right Now

The unconventional children's television pioneer celebrated dignity and kindness in the age of mass media.

By Stephanie Van Hook

Kids have it really hard right now. Many adults have forgotten that a world where children are safe and cared for with dignity is not a utopian vision, but a necessity.

Take Ben, for example, who happened to be sitting in my office recently. I told him about a paid internship opportunity for high school youth at a local nonviolence organization, wondering if he would be interested in pursuing it. But he liked violence, he asserted, with a certain confidence, a wry smile on his face and a mesh of hair falling across his serious brown eyes.

"I'm not very peaceful."

"That could make you the ideal candidate," I replied. "You might actually have the courage it takes to practice nonviolence."

Ben is 17 and had been expelled from school a few days before because he'd threatened, not for the first time, to fight another student. "Just go," responded the school administrator. It was the end of the school year and they were kicking him out for the rest of the year. That evening the other kid sent him threats on Snapchat, ready to pick up the fight now that they were off campus.

"But I swallowed my pride and talked him out of it. I told him I didn't want to fight him," said Ben. He went back to his school administrators to tell them that he and the other guy were "cool now" and there wouldn't be any more trouble, but to no avail. They wouldn't revoke the expulsion. He was not worth their while—he was not worthwhile. "I have one friend who really understands this, too," he told me quietly later in our conversation. "Nothing matters. Life really doesn't matter."

Something in what he'd said caught my attention. And it wasn't his violence.

"Wait, you mean, you figured out how to reconcile with this other kid even though a few hours before the two of you were ready to take each other on? You sound like someone who's done this before."

And sure enough, he told me about another time when he'd not only broken up a fight between two friends, but helped them forgive each other and even reconcile.

"Ben, I'm gonna make a wild guess that you might have a real gift for peacemaking." He became attentive now: Maybe no one had ever seen him in this light—or said so. He'd been typed as a "bad" kid, aggressive, violent; he picks a fight and is punished, but he reconciles a conflict and no one cares.

Ben was not failing school, or society. They—or rather, we—were failing him. One administrator actually told him, "You're going to end up dead or in prison."

"It makes me want to prove him right," Ben said, almost imploringly.

His story made me wonder:

What are we telling ourselves, and our children, about what it means to be a human being? Are we problems or are we problem-solvers? It depends on what qualities we are trained to look for.

The day before my conversation with Ben, I saw the documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, Morgan Neville's

appropriately complex exploration of the unconventional children's television pioneer Fred McFeely Rogers. The messages we send to the very young were of primary concern to Rogers, who chose a career in television—in the early days of the medium—expressly to care for children. As the originator and host of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*,



Rogers celebrated dignity and kindness in a slow-paced, low-budget children's show that was a beloved cultural institution for just over three decades.

Giving his full attention to everyone and everything that came into his neighborhood, especially the challenges, Mister Rogers took up serious conversations normally censored from children, going right to the heart of the toughest problems the world faces: war, racism, assassination, even terrorism. He reminded us of our responsibility to look at how to understand and repair these conflicts, because—and this is the important part—all of us have the capacity to do that work.

In an interview included in the film, Rogers says that in times of "scary news," of tragedy and disaster, his mother taught him not to focus just on destruction or violence, but to "look for the helpers," who are everywhere. Rogers often said that he admired Mahatma Gandhi, another unassuming person with an extraordinary capacity for separating negative behaviors from the fundamental dignity of the person doing them, and then using that relationship as a basis for constructive action. Gandhi coined a special term for nonviolence that takes it out of the conceptual realm of passivity, *satyagraha*. *Satya* means what is good, what is real, what is true, and *agraha* means to grasp, to hold tightly.

With his inner strength hidden behind his homemade sweaters and signature blue tennis shoes, Mister Rogers modeled *satyagraha* in the age of mass media. Look at his boldness, how he taught children to resist mindless indignity: giving lessons on how to turn off a television set—his very own medium—when what is shown is degrading.

Our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is.

Giving back agency to the dehumanized mass viewer? That's subversive. Firmly taking his industry colleagues to task for producing media that was harmful to the development of children? Courage with a capital C.

Rogers' influence was such that he was often invited to give commencement speeches to college graduates who grew up with his show. "As human beings," he exhorted in one of

these, "our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has—or ever will have—something inside that is unique to all time. It's our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression." This is not an easy task when we're exposed to anywhere between 500 and 10,000 brand messages a day telling us the exact opposite.

Won't You Be My Neighbor? offers a scene from the television show: The year is 1969. Officer Clemmons and Mister Rogers sit next to a wading pool, dipping their feet together for a friendly respite from the day's heat. Officer Clemmons is Black and Mister Rogers is White. The film now flashes to news footage of a White man pouring chemicals into a swimming pool where Black and White youth are swimming as an act of nonviolent civil disobedience to segregation and the violent "Whites Only" sign on the wall. Cut back to *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, where Rogers takes a towel and carefully dries Officer Clemmons' feet. What do we see? Two people, profoundly caring about each other, as well as the other people in their neighborhood and world around them. "Pay attention to our message," they quietly urge through their actions.

In early childhood education, as in nonviolence for that matter, there are two key principles: to dignify the child/person and model the behavior you want others to emulate. Like a master teacher, Rogers invites us into this struggle with him, imperfect as we may be now. "It's You I Like" is the famous song he would sing to children (though we know that some grown-ups were listening, too). If we don't love people the way they are, he would say, they can never grow. And if we don't turn off and resist the degrading images of ourselves from commercial media, how can we love? How can we grow?

This is timeless wisdom that Rogers lived, and the challenge of a lifetime: to refuse the degradation that turns us into consumers, offer people dignity even while resisting their behavior, and, above all, love them as they are right now.

Stephanie Van Hook wrote this article for *The Mental Health Issue*, the Fall 2018 issue of *YES! Magazine*. Stephanie is the executive director of the Metta Center for Nonviolence, author of *Gandhi Searches for Truth: A Practical Biography for Children*, and host of *Nonviolence Radio*.

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“Our Fight”

Peace
is something
For which we must fight
each moment,
—

When we avoid
That fight
And merely-hope
Peace
 Will come
We are
Waiting for
A world,
Not fightingforit,
—

Martin Luther King, Jr.
taught us This
 in word
and deed
 that
We must
Fight for
Big J Justice
But that fighting
Is not married to violence
Fighting is
Struggle
Internal, and
Together
A way to
End the racism, misogyny, elitism
So we might
Raise our children,
hopeful
of a world
that could be
 In its place
—

It is that which
compelled us
In the first place
To choose a
Life of strain and exhaustion
For a cause,
The cause
Which
Inspires us,
 Buoy us
 Anchors us
 In deep or
shallow
moments of

self-doubt and dread
Uncertainty
Never letting us drown
In a
 sea
 of
 complacency
—

You are like
Brave, broken Prometheus
The last Titan
who could have lived
A life of endless, euphoric
 delight
and power
 unlimited
But who chose, freely
(Of his own
free will)
a Gown of
 Chains,
Bound
by his own irreversible
words,
His deeds
In defiance of tyranny,
and annihilating megalomania
Selflessly-gifting
firetohumanity
And paying an eternal price
Sparking the embers
of hope
For a new world
Where there was
 only
Foreboding
 only Darkness
 only Despair
For showing
 uncommitted
 un-gaining
Compassion
—

But if you think Justice is
Simple, unthought,
 merely
Impulse,
 Mind
Arendt’s
urgings
That “thinking itself
 is dangerous”
And so critique

is as radical as
Protest
 As boycott
As word
—

But doing whatever
you do
In your way
Is the most special
Thing you can
Do
(Follow it, that thread, that
Inexplicable, visceral
pull
that draws you
inexorably
Onward)
—

Trump is not
the only enemy,
I repeat,
But
A marketing
free
 for
 all
A
 distraction

From the
multiplicity of forces
And inactions and
 Inequalities
The bigotry, racism and
 misogyny
All
Enacted
Institutionalized
Reproduced
In small and large ways
 But also from
Everyone who seeks to gain
From seeing him fall
A s m o k e s c r e e n i n g of
All what gave rise to him

But also, but also,
Remember
 that
We lose when we don’t
 vote
When we
Let our guard
 down

The point of protest is not
partisanship,
but
 Vigilance
It is only
that which
“keeps the bad men
 from the door»
—

Instead,
investigate feeling,
and
Question thought
and your Self
as well as your
Friends as well
 as your Enemies
with the best of intentions
Always
To stir debate,
create
connection
To get to know
the Other
—

Organize
 and mobilize
 and collectivize
Remember that we each need
 one another
So terribly
In so
 many
 moments
—

‘Change’
begins
With an
outstretched hand
A hello to someone
you don’t know
An act of radical
 Love
Endowed upon a stranger
In a moment of grave
Challenge
Someone who has
Otherwise lost
all
Hope, so hard to find
 It is
these

days
(Even though we can
Find it everywhere,
If we look in the right way:
Find that
silver-
lining)
—

But also,
but also
Sow flourishing discontent, the
kind
That swells
 movements
Love defiantly, subversively
(Distrust comfort
at every turn)
Indulge in
Peaceful
Subterfuge
 and detournement,
(The re-signing of signs)
And every other
 demonstrative
act
Which objects to
 Which defies the
Insidious powers that be
And stares them bravely,
straight in Their red-blood eyes
And says:
—

No this will not be



Joseph Homer is a Board Member of the Peace/Life Center. You can read more of his work at yourfierceinvalid.blogspot.com or find him raising funds, directing this or that nonprofit project or posting odd videos and quotes on his Facebook

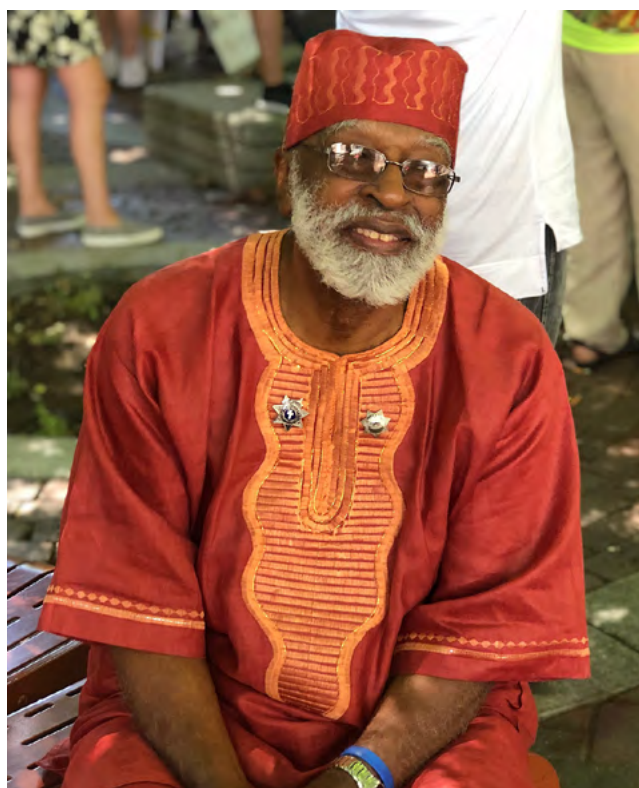
Thank You

To all the committee members of the MLK, Jr. Commemoration group of Modesto Peace/Life Center.

Thank you for your generous gift of \$250 for our James M Anderson Scholarship Fund. He loved all children and desired the best for all of them. Our city will greatly miss this great man!

God bless,

Mrs. Karen Anderson



A Happy Camper

Friends, I just returned from the Modesto Peace-Life Center's annual Peace Camp in the Sierras. I want to say this while it's fresh & on my mind: YOU NEED TO PLAN TO JOIN US NEXT SUMMER!!!

Our Friday afternoon, all day Saturday and Sunday morning were filled with the fellowship of old friends and new, great food, stimulating conversations, thought-provoking presentations, handmade hula-hoops, beginning ukulele lessons, hikes, card games, crafts, two evenings of campfire singalongs, S'mores and a Talent/No Talent show which can't be beat. "Something for everyone" as the saying goes. The youngest campers were about two years old; the oldest... knew what it was like to have a president named Roosevelt. (Is that discreet enough?)

Peace Camp is always held on the last FULL weekend of June (if any part of the weekend falls in July, it's the weekend before that.) Mark your calendar. Make a note on your phone's calendar. Visit the Modesto Peace/Life's Center's website (www.peacelifecenter.org/) in the spring to get information about next year's camp.

It's like supporting NPR (or a favorite charity): it's time to stop telling yourself "Oh yeah, I should look into that" and make a commitment to yourself that you'll really DO IT next summer.

"A splendid time is guaranteed for all!"

Scott Gifford

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Everyone Counts/ Todos Contamos Presents CIVIL

Overview: Conference Integrating Valuable Independent Leaders (CIVIL) will focus on supporting Leadership Development and Voting Registration. As well as working with young people and their parents to discuss and address current immigration issues. CIVIL will underscore the importance of young people registering to vote. As a part of CIVIL, young people will have the opportunity to present issues and their concerns regarding immigration and voter registration. Several activities will be provided. CIVIL will be a partnership with Everybody Counts, Promotoras and other interested community organizations. Youth-focused community groups are invited to highlight how important civic engagement is and local youth organization can provide opportunities for youth to participate in the political arena.

What: **CIVIL:** Conference Integrating Valuable Independent Leaders

Date: Friday, October 19, 2018

Location: Argus High School, 2555 Laurence St., Multi-Purpose Rooms, Ceres. 95354

Day-of Schedule

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Set up
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Conference Team debrief logistics
5:00 pm	CIVIL

Activities:

4:00 pm – 4:10 pm	Welcome (General Session)
4:10 pm – 4:30 pm	Anna Caballero (Speaker)
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Two Individual group of panelists (Lawyers & College Students)

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm Group Discussion (Parents: Immigration & Young people: Voting Registration)

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm Reports (General Session)

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm Voting Campaign Action Plan

Registration: E-mail the registration form to psegovianodepier@yahoo.com

Call Patricia Segoviano de Pier at (818) 357 9416 to request registration form.

Regístrese: Mándenos su forma de registraci3n al Correo de psegovianodepier@yahoo.com o llámenos al (818) 357-9416.

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A reflection on the departed

By **LENG NOU** at the **Modesto Cambodian Buddhist Society**

Many funerals lately. We will honor the lives of two of our congregation members this weekend. It makes the work of completing the worship hall that much more critical so the elders can witness the accomplishment of our small but mighty community.

I can't help but reflect that with each passing, a bit of us leaves with them. We are only who we are through our exchange with others so who will ever know us in the specific and unique ways the departed did? Who we are without one another is as important as Who are we to each other. #templecontemplations



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Silent Persuasion

By **JOE HOMER**

Although memories of our first arguments escape me, my father and I have long and heatedly debated politics, economics, religion and life. It happened on long car rides. In the home. And just about anywhere. Thinking back, I see what little capacity I had for patience, intentional listening and the understanding that comes from it. Informed argument and persuasion were not my aims; being right was.

I grew up in a small town with what I saw as small, misguided ideas. Since a young age, I'd always been critical, and I strove to live out these ideas. No wonder I became a vegan with obscure interests in philosophy. On Sunday mornings, I would take long walks to think through the inconsistencies and contradictions of arguments and actions, working myself into a frenzy. I never stopped questioning, and as I did, I became bolder about expressing my own views.

Every conversation I had on terrorism or the environmental impacts of eating meat became an opportunity for me to establish the veracity of my beliefs, the rigor of my reasoning and my moral superiority. My argumentativeness came with me to class, to school clubs, and to friendships. As the conversation temperature inevitably rose, I began to feel the social drawbacks of being outspoken, and the futility of aggressively propounding my own views.

Late in junior college, I noticed that this wasn't the best – or even a good way – to constructively discuss our shared world. Instead of telling, I began to practice the art of listening and of silence. In disagreements with my father, I focused on paying attention to what he said in order to grasp his individual story, the choices and ideas that composed it, and the background from which he came. Doing so also gave me perspective on my own beliefs, how they were shaped by my personal history and transformed through my experiences and the decisions I'd made.

Drowning Man: a reflection

By **LENG NOU**

Sometimes when I'm in unproductive amounts of space dwelling in despair from injustices, I think about the case not too long ago where the drowning man used his last breaths to reach out to those on the shore because he held the belief that those who can help him, would. The onlooker who saw the drowning man, did not offer assistance and actually laughed at his futile attempts to stay afloat.

The obvious tragedy is the drowning, but this incident stuck with me because the additional ongoing tragedy was the life of the onlooker who saw no connection to the man asking for help. "How does someone become completely removed from the responsibility of being human?" — I ask in genuine curiosity not judgment. In a strange and admittedly insensitive way, the drowning man died still having faith in goodness while the living one walks away carrying on with an inability to act on inherent goodness which is a profound sadness perhaps even beyond death.

It relates to the current state of matters because I sometimes have to dig deep to source inspiration in light of overt futility. What do I hold to be true regardless of outcome and how do I live that belief? Am I the drowning man or the onlooker...

Recognizing this, I saw my vocabulary change; statements like "you're wrong" and "but you missed this" disappeared. My conversations welled with question marks and interrogatives and drained of anxious exclamations and argumentative anger.

Looking at the world outside my immediate surroundings through newspapers and people I knew, it became clear that the practice of stubborn argumentation was incompatible with a larger moral imperative. Hegel, in deploying the term 'dialectic,' hints at – perhaps unconsciously – the primacy of collective deliberation over the narrowness of individual perspectives. Each of us knows a piece of the world better than the others, and ignoring this voice is akin to suppressing a unique vantage point and voice. My life bears out the same truth. Only through attentive listening did I discover the significance of understanding individual nuances in vocabulary and perspective, crucial to both our individual and collective well-being.

My aim is no longer to convince; now, I strive to inform, giving others the opportunity to reach decisions on their own. Debate, on this view, becomes a shared space where I can learn from others, and where they can learn from me.

This essay was a winner of the Lili Fabilli and Eric Hoffer Essay Prize 2011-12 sponsored by the University of California, Berkeley. Joseph Homer is a Board Member of the Modesto Peace/Life Center. You can read more of his work at yourfierceinvalid.blogspot.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Reverend James Anderson

March 20, 1935 – July 17, 2018

Pastor, Christian Love Baptist Church;
prominent community leader

Uri Avnery

September 10, 1923 – August 20, 2018

Israeli Peace Activist

Scott Tzu-Ching Yang, M.D.

September 17, 1969 – July 11, 2018

Pediatrician beloved by his patients and
co-workers

John Sidney McCain, III

August 29, 1936 – August 25, 2018

While many in the peace community often disagreed with his positions, Senator McCain can still serve as an example of forthrightness and integrity when both are in short supply in our national leaders and in Congress.

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MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER



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

SEPTEMBER

STUDENTS: ENTER THE PEACE ESSAY CONTEST. Details inside this issue.

MJC Science Colloquium Schedule, Fall 2018, 3:15-4:15 pm Science Community Center, Rm 115, MJC West Campus. **Sept. 12** – Thomas Davis, *Drone-for-Hire: The Evolution of Drone Applications*. **Sept. 19** – Guy Van Cleave, MJC biology professor, emeritus: *Feathered Reptiles*. **Sept. 26** – Javier Castillon, Ph.D., Duarte Nursery: Clonal Propagation of nut and stone fruits. **Oct. 3** – Tom Crain: Carl Sagan.

MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science). Free, informative, engaging community science programs. 7:30 pm, MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132. **Friday, Sept. 28**: Professor Dan Kasen, Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy at University of California, Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). “Colliding Black Holes, Exploding Stars, and the Cosmic Origin of the Elements.”

5 WED: Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGIL: Vote for Justice. McHenry & J St., 4:30-5:30 pm.

7 FRI: 27th Annual Senior Stride Fun Walk sponsored by the Modesto Rotary Club. 8:00-11:00 a.m. at East La Loma Park, 2001 Edgebrook Dr., Modesto. See article this issue.

7 FRI: West Modesto Collaborative Community Meet & Greet. Information about many community organizations FREE. King-Kennedy Memorial Center, 6-8 pm. Info: 209-522-7505.

16 SUN: The Modesto Film Society and The State Theatre presents Alfred Hitchcock’s *North By Northwest*. 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/index.php?id=1076>. Become a member of the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>.

18 TUES: Proposition 10 organizing meeting, 7:00 pm at the Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto. Contact Joseph Homer at jhomer42@gmail.com or 209-681-3596 for details.

19 WED: ACLU start-up meeting. Basement of the County Library, 1500 I St., Modesto, 5:30 to 8:00 pm. RSVP to <https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action/16065?source=homepage&akid=>. See article this issue.

21 FRI: Yokuts Sierra Club presents Erin Loury: “*Fish on Life Support - The Challenging Disconnect of Central Valley Salmon.*” College Avenue United Church of Christ, 1341 College Ave., Modesto. 6:45 pm. See article, this issue. Visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts>

22 SAT: Modesto Sound Annual Concert Party to support Youth Music Programs. 515 Kimble St., Modesto. 5 pm to 8:30 pm. Adults, \$25; Students, \$10, dinner included. Music, gift baskets. Info: Janet Seay, 209-573-0533.

22 SAT: Library Foundation Hosts Trio of Local Authors at Gala Fundraiser. Live auction; Limited number of tickets, \$140 each. For tickets, call (209) 634-3592 or (209) 523-9083. Info: www.stanislauslibraryfoundation.org

25 TUES: Modesto Peace/Life Center Film Night: 13th. A film by Ava DuVernay. 7 pm, 720 13th St., Modesto.

26 WED: ACLU follow-up meeting. 6 pm. Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto.

LOOKING AHEAD

October 20: El Concilio’s 50th Annual Gala Dinner in Stockton. To learn more, contact Annette Sanchez, (209) 644-2627 or email at asan@elconcilio.org.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

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

IMCV weekly Insight Meditation and dharma talk, 8:45 am - 10:15 am, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: info@imcv.org

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

MONDAYS

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

Walk With Me, a women’s primary infertility support group and Bible study. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm the first and third Mondays of each month (September only meeting 9/15/14 due to Labor Day). Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com or call 209.577.1604.

Silver & Gold Support Group 50+ years of age. Ongoing support group for mental health and wellness to meet the needs of the mature Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community. Every Monday 3:00 - 4:00 pm, Community-Hope-Recovery, 305 Downey Ave. Modesto. Info: Monica O, Tiamonica64@gmail.com or Susan J, SusanthePoet@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

NAACP Meeting. Christ Unity Baptist Church, 601 ‘L’ St., Modesto, 3rd Tuesday @ 7 pm. 209-645-1909; email: naacp.branch1048@gmail.com

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

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

Tuesday Evening Funstrummers Ukulele Jam. Songbooks provided. 6pm to 8pm. 1600 Carver Road, Donation. 209-505-3216, www.funstrummers.com.

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

Ongoing meditation class based on Qi Gong Principals. Practice a 3 Step Guided Meditation Process I have been doing for over a decade. Fun and Easy. JOIN ME! Donations

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS: held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), 4:30-5:30 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

MEDIA: Listen to Peace/Life Center radio, KCBP 95.5 FM streaming at <http://www.KCBPradio.org>

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

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

CONNECTIONS EDITORIAL MEETINGS: Info: 537-7818, jcostello@igc.org

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hispanic Leadership Council, 3rd Fridays at noon, 1314 H St., Modesto 95354. Questions? Yamilet Valladolid, yamiletv@hotmail.com

SATURDAY

Indivisible Stanislaus 2.0 will hold a demonstration every fourth Saturday until the November election at McHenry and Briggsmore Aves., Modesto from Noon to 1:00 pm. All resistance groups invited. Please bring signs regarding the upcoming District 10 election. Info: June Mills, 209-765-5029, millsjunem@sbcglobal.net

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

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

Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Modesto Chapter, meets every first Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 937 Oxford Way, Modesto. Questions: Call Kathy, 523-5907.

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

SERRV: Gifts from developing countries. Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland, Rm. #4, Modesto. Call Marye, 209-523-0449, or email ezjamm@aol.com

DEADLINE to submit articles to CONNECTIONS: Tenth of each month. Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.

accepted but optional. Call 209.495.6608 or email Orlando Arreygue, CMT RYT, orlando@arreygue.com

Merced LGBT Community Center offers a variety of monthly meetings and written materials. Volunteers, on site Wed-Fri, offer support. Ph: 209-626-5551. Email: merced-board@gaycentralvalley.org – 1744 G St. Suite H, Merced, CA. www.mercedlgbtcenter.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

LGBTQA Collaborative Meetings 4th Thursdays. Agendas are the same for each meeting. Lunch meeting: Peer Recovery Art Center, 1222 J St, Modesto, Noon to 1:30 pm. Dinner meetings: Stanislaus BHRS – Redwood Room, 800 Scenic Dr., Modesto, CA 95354, 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Dedicated to promoting well-being in the LGBTQA community. John Aguirre, jpmamodelto@gmail.com, 559-280-3864.

Green Team educational meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10 to 11 am, Kirk Lindsey Center, 1020 10th St. Plaza, Suite 102, Modesto. www.StanislausGreenTeam.com

Third Thursday Art Walk, Downtown Modesto, downtown art galleries open – take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-9 pm every third Thursday of the month. Info: 579-9913, <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

A Buddhist Approach to Recovery from Addiction. Jana Lynn Community Rm., 500 N. 9th St., Modesto. Thursdays 6:30-8 pm. FREE (donations accepted). Info: email RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com

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

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

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

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