The Sun rises on a school filled with challenge, opportunity and hope

By JENIFER WEST

Where I was born and where and how I have lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where have been that should be of interest. — Georgia O’Keefe

Bright and early on a Saturday morning in April, the campus of Rising Sun School in Vernalis is abuzz with activity. A crew of volunteers is working in the barn, clearing away old desks, chairs and other detritus from the school’s very long history. Another group is stringing line and digging post holes.

The Marshall Islands does not seek compensation with the lawsuit. Rather, it seeks declaratory and injunctive relief requiring the United States to comply with its commitments under the treaty and begin clear action towards the agreed upon promises.

The United States conducted 67 nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1958 and the health and environmental effects still plague the Marshall Islanders today. The 1954 “Castle Bravo” nuclear test was the largest the U.S. ever conducted — estimated to be 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb that destroyed the city of Hiroshima.

“Our people have suffered the catastrophic and irreparable damage of these weapons, and we vow to fight so that no one else on earth will ever again experience these atrocities,” said Marshall Islands Foreign Minister Tony de Brum. “The continued existence of nuclear weapons and the terrible risk they pose to the world threatens us all.”

World leaders, international organizations, world-class experts and Nobel Peace Laureates have declared strong support for the lawsuit and denounced nuclear weapons as immoral (see list on the website). The lawsuits are also supported by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF), a U.S.-based civil society organization consulting with the Marshall Islands and its pro bono legal team. http://www.wagingpeace.org/nuclearzero/supporters-of-the-nuclear-zero-lawsuits/

“Nuclear weapons threaten everyone and everything we love and treasure. They threaten civilization and the human species.

TREATY VIOLATIONS . . . cont. p 8

39th Annual Pancake Breakfast
Sunday June 1, 2014
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 2014 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.

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If you do not have Adobe Reader, download it free from http://www.adobe.com/downloads/
32nd Annual Peace Camp
June 27, 28, and 29, 2014

Camp Peaceful Pines
near Pinecrest, California

Registration Form
Early Registration Deadline: June 1, 2014

Adults (age 19 and older)
1. ____________________________ 2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________ 4. ____________________________

Total x $80 $______

Youth (ages 4 -18)
1. ____________________________ Age____ 2. ____________________________ Age____
3. ____________________________ Age____ 4. ____________________________ Age____

Total x $60 $______

Child (ages 3 & under FREE)
1. ____________________________ Age____ 2. ____________________________ Age____

Early registration by June 1: subtract $10 per person = $______
Voluntary Donation to provide a camper scholarship = $______
GRAND TOTAL = $______

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

There is an additional $15 fee for each person coming to camp without a pre-registration.
Address ____________________________ City ____________________________ Zip________

Email ____________________________ Phone______________________________

☐ I need vegetarian meals.
☐ I have a special need for a cabin assignment: ____________________________
☐ I can offer a ride Friday/Saturday. ☐ I need a ride Friday/Saturday

Parent authorization for minor children (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.

Come to Peace Camp!

By KEN SCHROEDER

When Rob Brittain came to Peace Camp for the first time last year, he thought, “I’ve found my tribe.” Please join us this year for a great weekend with people who share your values for peace and justice. Register now for the Modesto Peace/Life Center’s 32nd annual Peace Camp in the Sierra, June 27-29 at Camp Peaceful Pines on Clark Fork Rd. off Hwy 108. We’ll share workshops, hikes, campfires, singing, talent show, children’s activities, crafts, recreation, and a beautiful mountain setting. Early registration by June 1 entitles registrants to a $10 per person discount.

Guadalupe Martinez, Assistant Executive Director of the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE) will facilitate a workshop on environmental justice. CRPE has focused on issues such as clean air, fracking, climate justice, civil rights, toxic waste and green economic development. Lupe lives in Delano where he worked in the vineyards as a farm worker and became a union organizer with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers prior to his work with CRPE.

Julia Stephens of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC) will lead a workshop on the State of the Sierra. Julia’s background includes being a trail worker, a botany surveyor, studies in outdoor recreation and leadership, and a B.A. in environmental geography. CSERC acts as the environmental defender of water, wildlife and wild places within the Northern Yosemite region of the Sierra Nevada.

Scott Gifford will lead us in singing, perform for the children and a lead workshop for ukulele suitable for beginners. Tim Smart will conduct one of his popular star walks. Hike leaders John Lucas and Mike Chiavetta will provide a hike for those who can leave from Modesto early Friday. Rob Brittain will lead teen activities.

At the 6,200-foot elevation in the Stanislaus National Forest near the Clark Fork of the Stanislaus River, Camp Peaceful Pines is a beautiful setting for Peace Camp. Camp Peaceful Pines features kitchen and bathroom facilities, rustic cabins and platform tents and a cabin for those with special needs. Depending on the number of campers, cabins may be shared. Campers share in meal preparation, cleanup, and other work. Families and individuals are welcome.

The $80 fee covers program, food and lodging for the weekend. Young people 18 and under are $60, with a $10 savings for registration before June 1. Ages 3 and under free. Minors need to be accompanied by an adult. Partial scholarships and day rates are also available. Campers may arrive after 2:00pm on Friday. The camp opens with supper at 6:00pm on Friday and closes after the morning workshop on Sunday. Directions and other information will be provided to participants before camp.

Information: Ken Schroeder, 209-569-0321
Two Exciting Summer Delegations to Central America!

**Honduras: Human Rights Accompaniment** — **June 22-July 1, 2014**

On the fifth anniversary of the coup that overthrew democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya, the nonviolent National Front for Popular Resistance, farmers, students, labor unionists, LGBT activists, and regular people request our accompaniment in the face of violence and repression.

This Alliance for Global Justice (AfGJ) delegation joins with a delegation from the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) for a trip to the Southern part of the country where a charter has been granted for a Model City. Never heard of a Model City? Well, this delegation will help make sure that everyone learns about this perverse concept where North Americans set up a city outside the laws and jurisdiction of the Honduran law. This is not uninhabited land. Help AfGJ and the NLG investigate who will be displaced and what other effects this pernicious dream of North American libertarians will have on Honduras.

The delegation, based in Tegucigalpa, will also travel to Zacate Grande where communities that have inhabited the land for generations are being threatened by tourism and environmentalists are under death threat and legal actions for their activism against North American mining business interests. We will also visit Siria Valley where environmentalists are under death threat and legal actions for their activism against North American mining business interests. We will also visit Siria Valley where environmentalists are under death threat and legal actions for their activism against North American mining business interests.

The delegation will visit projects coping with climate change in Managua, Esteli, Somoto, Condega, and Leon. It will visit projects to conserve rain water, small scale hydroelectric plants, sustainable agricultural projects, and geothermal and wind energy projects. Traveling to Granada, learn about the proposed inter-oceanic canal and talk to people for and against it. A cultural night and a beach day will be part of the itinerary.

**Delegation Costs**: The $1,000 cost covers all in-country travel, housing (double occupancy), food, translation, and materials. It does not cover international airfare.

For an application or more information send an email to: Chuck@AFGJ.org or call 202-540-8336 x1. Visit https://afgj.org/two-exciting-summer-delegations-to-central-america

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**Nicaragua: Climate Change** — **August 3-12, 2014**

Rich in natural resources, Nicaragua has one of the world's great stores of fresh water. It is also one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Since the Sandinistas return to government in 2007 Nicaragua is also a country with a growing consciousness of its environmental treasures and that its future depends on preserving its forests and environment, as well as food sovereignty. Over 50% of Nicaragua's electricity is now generated from renewable sources. Nicaraguans are fully aware of the dangers of climate change and are experimenting with how to ameliorate its effects.

The delegation will visit projects coping with climate change in Managua, Esteli, Somoto, Condega, and Leon. It will visit projects to conserve rain water, small scale hydroelectric plants, sustainable agricultural projects, and geothermal and wind energy projects. Traveling to Granada, learn about the proposed inter-oceanic canal and talk to people for and against it. A cultural night and a beach day will be part of the itinerary.

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**14th Annual Benefit Bowl for Habitat for Humanity**

By KARISSA WRIGHT, Youth Volunteer Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity

McHenry Bowl has chosen Habitat for Humanity, Stanislaus for their 14th Annual Benefit Bowl. This event is on Saturday, May 17th from three rounds of two hours of bowling starting at noon till 6:00 p.m. at McHenry Bowl, 3700 McHenry Ave., Modesto.

We need teams to participate in the event. These teams must be set in place before the day of the event. To participate, call Dallas at 209-571-2695; or call (209) 575-4585 ext. 113, or email kwright@stanislaushabitat.org

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**Film night, May 21, features Healthcare – The Movie**

By DAN ONORATO

If you think a Single Payer healthcare system is what we need in this country, or are curious to know more about this alternative, don’t miss Film Night at the Center on Wednesday, May 21. The featured film, starting at 6:30 p.m., is Healthcare—The Movie. Following the film we’ll have a lively discussion with organizers from Single Payer San Joaquin.

The documentary explains how the health care systems in Canada and the United States that were once essentially the same evolved to be so completely different. Most people under the age of 50 are not aware of how intense the political struggle was that led to the universal medical care system in Canada. Nor are they aware of the public relations campaigns, still active today, that have prevailed in the United States since the early 1900’s to dissuade the public from supporting national health care.

Produced by Canadian/American couple Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg, The Healthcare Movie reveals the personal and emotional impact on Canadians who now enjoy access to universal health care because of the heroism of people who took a stand nearly 50 years ago. It also chronicles the continuing struggle in this country between those who fear government intervention and those who regard quality health care as a basic human right for all.

Single Payer San Joaquin is sponsoring the showing as the licensed agent for the film. Carol and Jerry Bailey from Stockton, who started Single Payer San Joaquin in 2004, will lead the discussion and share their organizing experience. They have participated in state-wide and national efforts to educate and legislate for a single payer healthcare system as a human right.

Next month on the third Wednesday, June 18th, Film Night will present The Power of Forgiveness, which explores the last 20 years of research that reveals how forgiveness can transform a person’s life. From Northern Ireland to Ground Zero to the Amish countryside, the film features Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Buddhist master Thich Nhat Hanh, best selling authors Thomas Moore and Marianne Williamson, and others. A discussion will follow.

Mark your calendar now!

For more info, visit www.thehealthcaremovie.net/home
Two or three days after the new moon, when the night sky is dark, clouds are heavy with moisture from the rainy season, and pre-dawn air is thick with humidity tasting of salt, conditions are right for olive ridley sea turtle mass nesting, known as *arribada* or arrival. The location of one nesting beach is Ostonal, Costa Rica, a small community on the Pacific Coast that has become the custodian of this ancient sea turtle ritual, controlling an 800-meter strip of beachfront, Playa Ostonal, accessed through a narrow entry gate.

Once through the gate, a smooth beach of black volcanic sand spreads like a skirt along the ocean edge. On the eve of *arribada*, a flotilla of turtle heads bobs up and down in the adjacent surf zone, awaiting their turn to come ashore. At first, only a few females ride the waves into the shallows, emerge from the surf, gouge dark tracks with their flippers, scarring the smooth sand surface as they drag their gravid bodies up to the back beach where nesting occurs. As they labor up the beach, pressing their noses into the damp sand, they sense that this is their natal beach, the place they left as hatchlings, and proceed to the site where each female begins digging her nest. With her hind flippers working as shovels, she carefully sculpts a basket-shaped nest, narrow at the top and wide at the bottom. Then, positioned over the nest cavity, she deposits her eggs, white shells covered with glistening mucus, singly or in cascades of two or three at a time, their leathery eggshells bouncing harmlessly against each other and the soft walls of the nest.

After eighty to ninety eggs have dropped, the turtle covers the hole, again employing her rear flippers to pile sand into the nest. Rhythmically, she pats, piles and pats until the hole is full. Rocking her body back and forth like a rolling pin, she tamps the sand, which produces a thumping sound and forms a solid roof for the nest. The nest firmly closed, she sweeps the sand surface with her flippers, makes a few circles for camouflage and turns back to the sea. Throughout the pre-dawn hours, the scene is repeated as wave after wave of turtles, sprinkled with confetti of bioluminescent plankton, come ashore to nest in this particular real estate. The beach is alive with thousands of black turtle bodies slowly moving between seashore and back beach digging, tamping, thumping, circling, undisturbed by the presence of humans. By morning, the beach surface is rough with turtle tracks and resembles an off-road vehicle course. Each female will repeat this process at the site where each female begins digging her nest.

The elder male in the group hops, sinking his heel into the sand, and then the whole group jumps. The nest is easy to spot, easily, this is a turtle nest and is marked with a stick or a shallow hole. Women and youngsters follow behind the man to excavate the nest and toss leathery eggs into a pile on the sand. Then eggs are gathered into large sacks, two hundred per sack, and carried by horseback or individuals to trucks. The eggs are driven to a clean beach not used for turtle nesting, washed in sea water, rolled in sand, packed into certified containers, and driven to San Jose or other cities to be sold in bars as *bocas* (a local name for appetizers) or aphrodisiacs for a price one-half of that of chicken eggs. Egg harvest is the economic base for Ostonal.

When listeners hear of this saga, they are often horrified. Aren’t sea turtles endangered? Doesn’t harvesting the eggs in such large numbers undermine the biological potential of this species? Shouldn’t this process be illegal? To answer, we need to know the rest of the story.

In 1972, biologists Joseph Richards and David Hughes, flying over the Costa Rican Pacific coast, observed two sites where *arribadas* were occurring, consisting of hundreds of thousands of olive ridley sea turtles, occurred. One beach was Playa Nancite in Santa Rosa National Park near the Nicaraguan border, and the other was Playa Ostonal, located down the coast on the Nicoya Peninsula. The scientists were both shocked and warmly embraces sea turtle research and conservation efforts.

In the end, the community rebuilt the research station and continued turtle conservation projects and environmental education in the region. Additionally, the egg harvest produced an unexpected positive influence on the survival of other sea turtle species. Because of the cheap price of the legal turtle eggs from Ostonal the incentive to poach turtle eggs illegally on other beaches is undermined, thus protecting endangered solitary nesting turtles such as hawksbills and leatherbacks. In the end, the community rebuilt the research station and warmly embraces sea turtle research and conservation efforts.

Now, during the rainy season, a few days before the new moon when the air is heavy with moisture, the olive ridley *arribada* is robust. Sixty days later, under cover of darkness, the back beach quickens as hatchlings emerge from their capsules, climb their way upward and with flippers flailing, race down to water’s edge and into their future, fulfilling their life cycle mandate.
Joan Baez diffuses right wing protest at Idaho concert

By WAYDOWNSOUTH

Ed. Note: While this occurred 5 years ago, this story is inspirational.

What would you do if you found yourself standing face to face with people bearing signs accusing you by name of killing babies and encouraging the shooting of American soldiers? Might you lose your cool? Might you get involved in an exchange that would ultimately lead to anger or descend into the shouting matches we’ve been seeing at so many Town Halls lately?

Not if you’re Joan Baez, who, in the 50th year of her career, continues to live according to unshakable ideals of non-violence and compassion in ways that should inspire us all.

Last night, four Vietnam veterans protested Joan’s concert in Idaho Falls with signs reading: “JOAN BAEZ - SOLDIERS DON’T KILL BABIES, LIBERALS DO” and “JOAN BAEZ GAVE COMFORT & AID TO OUR ENEMY IN VIETNAM & ENCOURAGED THEM TO KILL AMERICANS!”

Joan was informed that the men were protesting her concert about an hour before it was due to begin and she immediately walked out onto the street to talk to them. When she approached, one of the first things they said was “We appreciate the work you did on civil rights and women’s rights.” They wanted to make that point clear.

She listened closely as they discussed their views. Primarily, they wanted to express the way they felt betrayed by anti-war protesters when they returned from combat. Joan stood by his side and said, “Oh, he’s got the stories all right. But he doesn’t feel the need to talk about them.”

Ironically, a man on his way to the concert approached at this point and, without really following all that had gone on, interjected, “Those who don’t realize that what they did in Vietnam was wrong are kind of SLOOOOOOW.” I watched Jim’s face as he heard that statement - literally getting it from both sides within less than a minute.

At this point I engaged in conversation with the man holding the sign accusing liberals, rather than soldiers, of killing babies. He said “I never killed any babies and I don’t believe in guilt by association.” I asked him how in the world he could justify holding a sign with Joan Baez’s name on it that basically implied she killed babies if he didn’t believe in guilt by association. He replied “It’s an analogy, you probably wouldn’t understand it!”

Uhhh…. yeah.

Jim said he should destroy the sign and he then claimed we were trying to trample his Constitutional right to free speech. We replied that we weren’t questioning his right, by any means, but rather his sense of decency, considering that he was there having a conversation with Joan and she was clearly not a baby killer. Since his entire point was that guilt by association was wrong, it made sense to us. But he replied “I’m Pro-Life and I’m proud of this sign.” With those words, he held it higher.

As we discussed these things, one of them repeated, “Soldiers don’t kill babies.” I said that so many horrible things happen in war that it’s impossible to make such a blanket statement, especially when bombs get dropped from the sky, and I said it all comes down to the truth that “War is hell.”

I continued, saying, “And you all know that far better than me.”

They were surprised by this statement, as if shocked that anyone on the “other side” recognized what they’d been through. It seemed to render them speechless for a moment.

At this point, Joan’s continuing acceptance of their stories and her willingness to hear them out began to melt their anger. In a twist that seems hard to fathom, they then asked her to SIGN THEIR POSTERS! She replied that she would sign the back but not the front of “those horrible things.” Incredibly, the man with the baby-killing sign replied that he would take her name off the poster if she would sign it.

She did end up signing them, and also getting copies of her book for each of them, and offering tickets to the show, which they did not accept. She signed the back of the poster about her encouraging the killing of American soldiers - “All the very best to you, Joan Baez.”

When we got back inside the theatre, Joan broke down in tears. I said to her “You are so brave to face people like that.” She wasn’t crying about the way she had been treated, however, but about the way Jim Stewart had stood up for her. “Did you hear his voice shaking?” she said. “That was bravery….”

And she was right. Stepping back into the mire of Vietnam was not something he did lightly - he bore the literal denigration of his service by another veteran in order to defend her.

During the concert afterwards Joan dedicated a song to the protesters and said “You know, they just wanted to be heard. Everyone wants to be heard. I feel like I made four new friends tonight.”

She took the high road, as always. It wasn’t my name on those signs, yet I gave into anger. She never did. As we deal with tea parties and increasingly violent right wing protests it would do us all good to remember the example of non-violence and compassion that Ms. Baez has exemplified for the 50-plus years of her career.

Her heroes are Gandhi and Martin Luther King. In my book, she’s right there with them, leading the timeless and essential march along the high road.

UPDATE: Thanks to everyone for the recs! I’m so happy that this story has inspired members of this community. You may want to check out the version of “We Shall Overcome” that Joan recorded in her kitchen in June, with some lyrics in Farsi, in the hope of directly inspiring the people of Iran as they stand up for real democracy against real oppression. The link follows... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVcQPaZf-iY

In One Word: Poof!

By URI AVNERY

POOR JOHN Kerry. This week he emitted a sound that was more expressive than pages of diplomatic babble.

In his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations committee he explained how the actions of the Israeli government had torpedoed the “peace process”. They broke their obligation to release Palestinian prisoners, and at the same time announced the enlargement of more settlements in East Jerusalem. The peace efforts went “poof”.

“Poof” is the sound of air escaping a balloon. It is a good expression, because the “peace process” was from the very beginning nothing more than a balloon full of hot air. An exercise in make-believe.

JOHN KERRY cannot be blamed. He took the whole thing seriously. He is an earnest politician, who tried very hard to make peace between Israel and Palestine. We should be grateful for his efforts.

The trouble is that Kerry had not the slightest idea of what he was getting himself into.

The entire “peace process” revolves around a basic misconception. Some would say: a basic lie.

Namely: that we have here two equal sides of a conflict. A serious conflict. An old conflict. But a conflict that can be solved when reasonable people of the two sides sit down together and thrash it out, guided by a benevolent and impartial referee.

Not one detail of these assumptions was real. The referee was not impartial. The leaders were not sensible. And most importantly: the sides were not equal.

The balance of power between the two sides is not 1:1, not even 1:2 or 1:10. In every material respect – military, diplomatic, economic – it is more like one to a thousand.

There is no equality between occupier and occupied, oppressor and oppressed. A jailer and a prisoner cannot negotiate on equal terms. When one side has total command of the other, controls his every move, settles on his land, controls his money flow, arrests people at will, blocks his access to the UN and the International courts, equality is out of the question.

If the two sides to negotiations are so extremely unequal, the situation can only be remedied by the mediator supporting the weaker side. What is happening is the very opposite.

The American side is afraid of a general onslaught of the Zionist-evangelical-Republican-Adelson bulldozer on the Obama administration in the next elections. Already the State Department is frantically trying to retreat from the Kerry “poof”. He did not mean that only Israel is to blame, they assert, the fault lies with both sides. The jailer and the prisoner are equally to blame.

As usual, the Israeli government has many fears. It fears the outbreak of a third intifada, coupled with a world-wide campaign of de-legitimization and boycott of Israel, especially in Europe.

It also fears that the UN, which at present recognizes Palestine only as a non-member state, will go on and promote it more and more.

The Palestinian leadership, too, is afraid of a third intifada, which may lead to a bloody uprising. Though all Palestinians speak about a “non-violent intifada”, few really believe in it. They remember that the last intifada also started non-violently, but the Israeli army responded by deploying snipers to kill the leaders of the demonstrations, and more suicide bombing became inevitable.

President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) has responded to the non-release of the prisoners, which amounted to a personal humiliation, by signing the documents necessary for the Palestinian State to join 15 international conventions. The Israeli government exploded in anger. How dare they?

In practice, the act means little. One signature means that Palestine joins the Geneva Convention. Another concerns the protection of children. Shouldn’t we welcome this? But the Israeli government fears that this is one step nearer to the acceptance of Palestine as a member of the International Criminal Court, and perhaps the indictment of Israelis for war crimes.

Abbas is also planning steps for a reconciliation with Hamas and the holding of Palestinian elections, in order to strengthen his home front.

IF YOU were poor John Kerry, what would you say to all this?

“Poof!” seems the very minimum.

They started by blockading a bus full of detainees—and went on to shake up the immigration debate

A look at the growing influence of undocumented voices in the movement for immigrant rights.

By Rachael Stoeve

At 6:30 in the morning on February 24, Maru Mora Villalpando and eight other people locked their arms together and formed a human chain across the driveway of the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash. A cold rain drizzled down as they stood in the path of a bus departing the facility, which held immigrants being considered for deportation, asylum, or residency. Through the tinted windows of the bus, Maru could just make out the silhouettes of people inside waving, straining to reach their shackled hands above the windowsill.

The movement has apparently gotten the Obama administration’s attention.

Both Maru and one of the other activists were undocumented, so by participating they risked not only arrest but also detention and deportation. But they carried out the action anyway, hoping it would make a strong statement against the policies of the Obama Administration, which has deported more than 2 million immigrants—more than any previous government.

As it turned out, their blockade did much more than make a statement. It helped set off a cascade of mobilizations led by undocumented immigrants themselves, who are increasingly going public about their status and taking the lead in the fight for immigrant rights. Their primary concern is the separation of families—for example, between July 2010 and September 2012, more than 200,000 parents were separated from their U.S.-born children through deportation, according to government data obtained by the online magazine Colorlines in December 2012.

On March 7, less than two weeks later, 750 out of the 1,300 detainees held at the Tacoma facility began a hunger strike, directly inspired by the bus blockade, in protest of detention conditions and the Obama Administration’s immigration policies. On February 24, Maru and her fellow activists blocked back in February. At the rate of two-thirds of the nearly two million deportation cases involve nonviolent minor crimes. And a recent New York Times analysis of internal government records found that under the Obama administration, “two-thirds of the nearly two million deportation cases involve people who had committed minor infractions, including traffic violations, or had no criminal record at all.” Only 20 percent of those deported had committed serious crimes.

And it’s not just undocumented immigrants who can be detained and deported—so can legal permanent residents and refugees seeking asylum.

“We want our mothers to see their parents, to be able to hug them and not arrive to visit their grave.”

A number of national campaigns are calling attention to these policies, from Not 1 More Deportation, started by the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, to #BringThemHome, an effort spearheaded by the National Immigrant Youth Alliance. The exists for undocumented youth, with many call themselves “DREAMers” after the DREAM Act, a legislative proposal that has been introduced in various forms in Congress since 2001 but has never been passed. The act would give certain immigrants brought to the United States as children a path to citizenship. But DREAMers have also added their voices to the call for ending deportations.

“As undocumented advocates, we do want citizenship rights,” wrote DREAM activists around the country in an open letter published January 15, 2014. “We believe that this is our country, and our family’s home. We do want to be able to vote and voice our opinions. We cannot, however, wait for that to happen while our families are being prosecuted.”

Their letter echoes a refrain common among undocumented activists: they are tired of waiting, tired of living in fear. “We want our mothers to see their parents, to be able to hug them and not arrive to visit their grave,” the letter continues. “We want to be able to drive without the panic of seeing a police officer in our rearview mirror. We want to be able to live knowing that we will come home and see our children at the end of the day.”

The movement has apparently gotten the Obama administration’s attention. On March 13, after months of claiming a legal inability to halt deportations, the president announced a review of current immigration enforcement policies.

“We’re not seen”

Jose Moreno was one of the passengers on the bus that Maru and her fellow activists blocked back in February. At 25 years old, he has been living in the United States for almost seven and a half years. He is from Matamoros, a town on the Gulf Coast of Mexico just a stone’s throw across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, Texas. He decided to come to the United States, he says, because he is gay and this was not well accepted in his hometown. He came first to Florida, then made his way to Seattle, where he worked, studied for his GED, and sent money back to his family in Matamoros.

The organizers say the citizenship process should not involve private prison corporations such as GEO Group.

But in November 2013, he was arrested for driving under the influence—and because he is undocumented, he was transferred from the county jail to the detention center.

Inside the center, he discovered that detainees could work—but for only $1 a day. The meals provided by GEO Group were far from nutritious, yet the low wages made it hard to afford extra food from the facility’s commissary, let alone telephone calls to family members or lawyers—if a detainee was able to get a lawyer in the first place.

On February 24, Jose toured a bus that would take him out of the facility to the Seattle suburb of Tukwila, where he would be fingerprinted for his visa application. Others were bound for deportation. But because of the blockade, none of them left the facility that day. After seeing what happened, Jose returned and told the other detainees about the support they had received from outside. Inspired, the detainees decided to organize a hunger strike.

“There were a lot of rumors that people always wanted to do it but they had never done it.” Jose says.

Shortly after the strike began, Jose was released on bond—and the wife of fellow hunger striker Ramon Mendoza connected him with Maru. Today, they are friends, working together to support the Tacoma strikers. Echino the sentiments of activists around the country, they say the citizenship
19th Annual Aileen Jaffa Young Poets Award Ceremony

By CLEO GRIFFITH

Winners of the Nineteenth Annual Aileen Jaffa Young Poets Contest will receive their awards and the winning poems will be read at an Awards ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday May 17, 2014 in the auditorium of the Stanislaus County Library, 1500 I St., Modesto. The contest is offered by the Poets of the San Joaquin as a means of encouraging young writers throughout Stanislaus County.

In addition, the Modesto Branch of the National League of American Pen Women will award a $60 Aileen Jaffa Outstanding Poem award in each of two combined categories. These awards are to honor the memory of Aileen Jaffa, the founding President of the Poets of the San Joaquin and member of the Modesto Branch of the National League of American Pen Women. Carol David, the current President of the Modesto Branch of NLAPW will present the awards.

Visit the Poets of the San Joaquin at http://www.chaparalpoets.org/PoetsoftheSanJoaquin.html

Poets’ Corner Contest 2014 winners announced

The judging results are in for the 2014 Poets’ Corner Contest sponsored by the City of Modesto, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department. Over one hundred entries were submitted for the Adult and Youth divisions of this contest, which marks its 33rd year of celebration of the written word in our community. The special theme for this year’s contest was poems exploring the world of insects and or spiders.

Adult winners for this year include Ed Bearden, Roberta Bearden, Linda Benham, Cleo Griffith, Lynn M. Hansen, Nancy Haskell, Louise Kantro, Nanee Kinkaid Maya, Tom Myers, Clifford M. Parker, Tom Portwood, Linda Marie Prather, Steve Reyes, Doug C. Souza, Nicole Santana Souza and Gary Thomas. Adult Honorable Mentions for this year include Brett Ashmun, Virginia Dall, Clifford M. Parker and Linda Marie Prather.

Youth Winners for this year include Keila Aguayo, Brian Anglim, Grace Benham, Seth Berschneider, Vinay Channaveerappa, Emily Cline, Reece Costales, Arjun Dulai, Keoni Fatanum, James Forkner, Natalie Garcia, David Gorman, Sean Gutowski, Kassidy Houck, Isabel Dakota Jennings, Sarah Mah, Victoria Morales, Sophia Orlando, Lyla Patel, Cory Rogers, Shawn Spani, Kylee Sullivan and Liam Willerup. Youth Honorable Mentions include Ashley Grace, F. Cabral, Katie Holmes, Arnav Krishnamoorthy, Haley Lehikainen, Danielle Rukezo, Julia Schauer.

The Poets’ Corner Celebration Reading will be held on Sunday May 18 at 1 pm at the McHenry Museum on the first floor. The public is invited to hear the winning poets read their works.

Treaty Violations

After 46 years with no negotiations in sight, it is time to end this madness,” said David Krieger, president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. “The Marshall Islands is saying enough is enough. It is taking a bold and courageous stand on behalf of all humanity, and we at the Foundation are proud to stand by their side.”

The lawsuit filed today in U.S. Federal District Court in San Francisco is accompanied by related lawsuits brought in the International Court of Justice in The Hague against all nine nuclear weapons states: United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea.

To learn more about the Nuclear Zero Lawsuits, please go to www.nuclearzero.org

Heirloom

I unwrap the quilt she left, to let it breathe, admire the pattern of still vivid rose and green pinwheels propelling me into another time when I was small and listened to my grandma’s stories, how she and her sisters pieced together the coverlet, competing for the finest stitch. I smooth the fabric, notice with a stab of dread the frayed binding, the batting uneven from countless washings, a new flaw where a moth has made a meal of muslin thread.

I had meant to pass this on, but now I see it will not withstand many more handlings. I try to remember my grandma’s face the last time I saw her, it grows more distant, more remote. Sometimes I glimpse it in my own when I happen on a mirror unprepared. The floorboards creak, the earth is shifting again, her legacy slipping.

— Kathie Isaac-Luke
Wishing all our mothers a Happy Mother’s Day - Everyday!

On this Gathering of Voices page mothers and a father reflect on things motherhood.

**Shadows and Reflections**

My mother’s face and voice, once as familiar as my own signature or the soothing sound of rain, have become mere memories yellowed with age, like lace and appliques on the gown she sewed for my wedding, dimmed like old photographs no longer vibrant with color, her aspects eluding me even as I run my fingers down the surface of an oil painting, searching for the softness of her hand that created it.

Today, in this year that divides exactly our thirty-two years together from thirty-two years apart, I look for traces of her in my own reflection, catching a glimpse, sometimes, in the gray of my hair, the slight swell of my belly, but more often seeing shadows of my father in the set of my jaw the turn of my mouth, and I worry she is lost to me until I find her again, just for a moment

in my daughter’s smile

— Nancy Haskett
(Poem won 2nd place prize in the recent Pen Women Biennial Contest)

**Veneration**

At her death, Grandma left few personal items, nothing anyone wanted, except her Bible, now lost. I was not there to empty the house or hold her things, one last time.

Had I been there, I could have felt her presence by slipping on the yellow calico apron edged in blue piping, stained with tomato juice and rooster blood, buried my face in its folds, inhaling the aroma of biscuits baking in her kitchen. I could have worn her black straw Sabbath hat, skin touching the soft inner band darkened by sweat and oils carrying her scent. My feet could have walked on colorful rugs made from scraps, crocheted together from cast off woolen skirts, shirts, pants. I could have held up the long black scraper she used like Cinderella, to clean soot from the wood and coal-burning stove.

But, at age five, long before her death, I chose how I wanted to remember her. As she sat on the bed, clipping her gnarly, yellowed toenails, I gathered them like sacred relics, gently pressed them to me, discsards, made holy.

— Lynn M. Hansen

**Picnic Easter Sunday**

Bright sunshine warmed the ground awakening multi-colored wild flowers beside a lazy stream. Cold spring wind made sweaters necessary for comfort.

You sat on a blue blanket eating fried chicken. Your hair swept up and out with the wind mocking your usual perfection. I snapped your picture. You laughed.

Years later sorting through old albums I find the picture, remember the picnic, the cold wind, the ground covered with blankets you eating potato salad and chicken from a paper plate.

It was a favorite memory of our time together. You with your chicken, me with my camera, not knowing the memories I made.

— Roberta Bearden

**Stage Mother**

My son made his debut in the post office today. His feet tapping to some unknown musical command. His body swaying, and bobbing and weaving a spell around me so magical I could see Fred Astaire, Bo Jangles, and Gene Kelly merge into one kinetic blur. But lest I forget the most important thing — that boy’s pure, rat-a-tat-tapping and razzmatazzing joy suffused me, overcame me, moved me with all its jazz, and delivered me first-class, signed, and certifiably sealed, straight to love’s door, where we are all treated to an encore performance.

— Calder Lowe
(Published in a recent holiday anthology entitled SPIRIT, PEACE AND JOY by the Pen Women Press)

**Garden Walk**

for Colin

When we see one or two stars inside the ice ring surrounding the usually full moon, we both know rain the next day or the day after and invent just once more a countryside that waits only for us.

It is from the one bad season of sky coming in from another place, unknown and resting here as fog, so that I will imagine once again a simple hunger for water and the straw old-lady-hat you wore all that season, waiting for your second born, watering the summer crocus with all the proper schooling and grace of a bird, a Great Blue Heron or California Sandhill Crane, giving shade as you walked the gravel path of our garden.

Now I have reached the half almond woodpile in the almost dark, to cover these ripened loaves from the coming rain.

Barefooted, two sons run ahead scattering yellow muster-weed blossoms with their sticks.

— Gordon Preston

_The Missouri Review_ Vol. XI #2
School filled with challenge, opportunity and hope

Creating an area for a goat run. Weeds are being cleared from a lavender garden. Inside classrooms, paintbrushes and rollers fly, covering a primary blue with a more mature white.

The calm center of this storm of activity is Nikyra Calcagno, Program Supervisor. For her, Rising Sun is a labor of love; the realization of a long-held dream: An agriculture-based school for students with special needs.

“Transition to Success at Rising Sun” offered to adults with moderate to severe disabilities from the ages of 18 to 22 under the auspices of Patterson Unified School District, currently serves 14 students. The program’s emphasis is on preparing them for the work world, as well as adult life. In the spirit of fostering the transition to the working world, the students are referred to as “consumers”, their peers as “coworkers.” Staff members are “team leaders.” Mornings at the school are spent working on job-related skills; life skills and functional academics are the focus in the afternoons. Today, five of the school’s consumers are on hand and working hard.

The site itself has an interesting history: The original building was constructed in 1879, to serve children from the farming families in the area. Additional classrooms were added in 1954, and the school was in continuous operation until around 2009, when declining enrollment led to its closure. However, leaving the facility closed would cause the 10-acre site to revert to the original owners.

Thus came to be the wonderful program called “Rising Sun” – a blessing for the consumers and their families, and the opportunity of a lifetime for the former Resource teacher and her staff.

But even though it hadn’t been shuttered long, serious work was needed before the school could reopen. “It was like Pompeii,” recalled Ms. Calcagno, or “Mizz” as the school’s consumers call her. “Everything was still in place.” Papers, books, furniture – everything. She first spent a week “cleaning up mouse poop.” The elementary school-sized furniture was then modified for the adult clientele, and the appropriate curriculum items were kept. The school reopened in August of 2010.

A very special person was needed to take on such an ambitious endeavor, and Ms. Calcagno was obviously the right choice. She returned to college at age 38 to pursue her goal of working with kids with special needs. Within a few years, she was working as a Resource Teacher for the Patterson Unified School District. Since 2010, her vision, dedication, and unfailingly positive attitude have taken the school from waist-high in weeds to four functioning classrooms, a cheerily painted multi-purpose room, a kitchen, a raised bed garden and small greenhouse and an herb garden.

As much as has been accomplished, there is much more to do. The goal is to create as many “on-site enterprises” as possible. From the lavender garden, for example, the program’s participants will make items to sell at farmers markets. Unfortunately, one part of the original plan, a CSA garden (community supported agriculture), had to be scrapped – not because of gophers, surprisingly, but voracious squirrels. Ms. Calcagno hopes to eventually acquire a commercial greenhouse, among other things. “Gardening,” she points out, “is an incredibly valuable teaching platform – for science, nutrition, math, reading, and project-based learning.”

Life is everywhere: Mini ‘air plant’ gardens and spider plants start covering the counter next to the bunny’s cage in the art room; flats of African violets fill boxes on an adjacent shelf. Several dogs roam the property. And seedlings of many descriptions fill the shelves of the small greenhouse just outside the multi-purpose room door. In keeping with the ag-themed, enterprise-based focus of the school, Calcagno works constantly to devise ways for the school’s consumers to grow things that they can sell, regardless of their individual abilities.

One of the ultimate goals, when agricultural enterprises such as the lavender garden and commercial greenhouse are up and running, is to bring kids in the District’s after school and other programs to the site. This would allow them to explore growing food, nutrition and other ag-related subjects, while simultaneously providing the program’s consumers the absolutely invaluable opportunity to serve as teachers.

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Green Tips for a Green Planet

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Coconut Oil: The new natural food, health and beauty darling

Tables have turned on the use of Extra Virgin Cold Pressed Coconut Oil, which is now on the “good oil” list. Dr. Josh Axe, author of *The Real Food Diet Cookbook*, a major proponent of the use of coconut oil, says it “might just be the most versatile health food on the planet...and can be used for everything from deodorant to toothpaste...body lotion to weight loss aid.”

Coconut oil contains lauric, capric and caprylic acids, three of the rarest medium chain fatty acids (MCFA’s) in nature. These MCFA’s, according to Dr. Axe and others, “have tremendous health benefits, are easy to burn as fuel for energy, and have anti-microbial properties.”

process should take place through civil court, without detentions, criminalization of immigrants, or the involvement of private prison corporations such as GEO Group. And they both dream of immigration reform.

“So we can have a legal status in the country,” Jose says, “because we practically belong to this country, we live here almost forever.”

There is a long pause as he searches for the words, starting and then stopping. Maru translating the pieces. “It’s hard to explain,” he says finally. “We’re not seen. Everybody that’s inside there, they have a regular normal life here, the only difference is they are not a U.S. citizen or were not born here.”

The invisibility experienced by Jose and many other undocumented immigrants may be changing. The strike he helped organize has garnered local and national media attention. Most recently, U.S. Representative Adam Smith toured the Northwest Detention Center, spoke with the strikers, and subsequently announced his plan for legislation that will address conditions in the detention center.

And activists are keeping the pressure on: April 5 saw more than 80 actions across the country in support of the Not 1 More Deportation campaign, including several hundred people who gathered outside of the Northwest Detention Center. [http://www.notonomoredeportation.com/take-action/april-5th-day-of-action-against-deportations/](http://www.notonomoredeportation.com/take-action/april-5th-day-of-action-against-deportations/)

For Maru, who has lived in the United States for 18 years, supporting the hunger strikers is her first priority.

“I just want them out with their families,” she says of the detainees. “And I hope when they’re out they become activists. I hope our children see that when you do something, things change, and when you stop being afraid, when you start questioning why—Why is this right? Why should I comply?—things change.”

Rachael Stoeve wrote this article for *YES! Magazine*, a national, nonprofit media organization that fuses powerful ideas and practical actions. Rachael is an independent journalist based in Seattle.


The benefits list includes balanced hormones, killing Candida, improved digestion, skin moisturizing, cellulite reduction, decreased wrinkles and age spots, balanced blood sugar, improved energy, fat burning, increased HDL and lowered LDL cholesterol, and help with Alzheimer’s disease.

From Dr. Axe’s book, the following are just a few of the beneficial uses:

- Because of its high smoking point, coconut oil is superior even to olive oil for cooking at high temperatures.
- Spread on toast instead of butter, add a spoonful to coffee to replace dairy creamer and add an extra energy boost, add 1-2 T. to fruit smoothies to improve texture and increase healthy fat intake, use to make popcorn or to pour over popcorn, use on baked sweet potatoes or to make sweet potato fries.
- Use to replace oils in everything from chocolate fondue to homemade mayonnaise to homemade baked goods.
- Energy fuel: Mix 1 T. coconut oil with 7 T. chia seeds.
- Sun screen/Sunburn remedy: Coconut oil is an SPF 4 and can soothe and moisturize sunburned skin. Insect repellent
- Shampoo, face and body moisturizer, lotion, lip balm, face wash, make up remover, and shaving cream.
- Massage oil: Mix with lavender and peppermint essential oils.
- Anti-microbial wound ointment.
- Natural deodorant: mix with baking soda and essential oils.
- Mineralizing toothpaste: Mix equal parts of coconut oil with baking soda, then add a few drops of peppermint essential oil.
- Breath freshener: swish melted oil between teeth for 15 to 20 minutes to kill bad bacteria.
- Cellulite solution: mix 1 T. with 10 drops grapefruit essential oil and massage into cellulite areas after showering.
- Healing bath soak: Mix melted coconut oil with Epsom salts.
- Insect repellent: mix with peppermint, rosemary, tea tree and citronella essential oils.
- Aromatherapy: use as a carrier in home remedies made with essential oils.
- Fat Burning supplement – The MCT’s in coconut oil have been proven to support weight loss and help the body burn fat for energy.
- Hormone balance – supports the thyroid and adrenal glands, which can lower cortisol to naturally balance hormones.
- Digestive support – easy to digest and contains compounds that destroy bad bacterial, promote growth of probiotics and heal leaky gut.
- Anti-fungal for athletes foot and skin fungus.
- Eczema and Psoriasis: use as cream to heal dry and flaking skin.
- Blood sugar stabilizer – can help balance blood sugar and has been medically proven to improve diabetes.

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

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MAY

3 SAT: 2014 Friends of the Modesto Library Used Book Sale. 8am-3pm, East portico of the Modesto Library, 1500 I St., Modesto. Thousands of books, prices: $1 hardbound, 50 cents paperback. The Beard Family Companies are matching our total up to $4,000. For information or to donate books, contact Clare Noonan, 522-5054. clarenos@gmail.com


10 SAT: The UC Cooperative Extension’s Centennial Celebration at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, corner of Service & Crows Landing Rds. This FREE event provides entertainment for the whole family. Info: Russ Hill, 209-525-6800. See article, this issue.

17 SAT: Benefit Bowl for Habitat for Humanity at McHenry Bowl, 3700 McHenry Ave., Modesto. Noon to 6 pm. Call Dallas, 209-571-2695; or email Karissa, kwright@stanislaushabitat.org

18 SUN: Modesto Film Society: Roman Holiday at the State Theatre. 2 pm. See http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/99

21 WED: “Film Night at the Center” features Healthcare—The Movie. Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., 6:30 pm. See article this issue.

25 SUN: Modesto Film Society: Out of Africa at the State Theatre. 2 pm. See http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/112

31 SAT: The State Theatre presents: American Graffiti. 5:30 pm. Root Beer Floats! Film at 6:30 pm. See http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/258

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, June 1, 2014. Annual Peace Center Pancake Breakfast, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. 8 am-Noon.

June 2-7 and June16-21: Modesto Sound’s Summer 2014 Recording Arts Camp. Visit http://www.modestosound.com

June 9-13: Creation Station, the Gallo Center’s summer camp for children. Visit http://www.galloarts.org/promos/whatsnew01.aspx

June 18: “Film Night at the Center”: The Power of Forgiveness, which explores the last 20 years of research that reveals how forgiveness can transform a person’s life.


ONGOING

GREAT VALLEY MUSEUM of Natural History: Classes for children. Museum exhibits and store open Tues. to Fri., 9 am to 4:30 pm. Info: 575-6196. Call for info about classes.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ART ASSOCIATION AND MISTLIN GALLERY: Exhibits by local artists; art classes for children and adults; art teachers for schools. Open Tues. - Fri. 11:30 - 5 and Sat. 12-4. 529-3369 or www.ccaarttassn.org


CENTRAL VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB: Monthly meetings: Modesto, Patterson, and Oakdale. For more information, call Neil Hudson at 847-0540.

CHILDREN’S STORY HOURS: Stanislaus County Library: Modesto, WiggleWorms! Program for children age 2 and younger and their caregivers; combines age appropriate stories and movement activities that promote essential pre-reading skills.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

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

Weekly mindfulness meditation and dharma talk, 12:30-2:30 pm, 2172 Kienan Ave., Modesto. Funds benefit homes built by Habitat in Stanislaus County. Visit http://www.stanislaushabitat.org/home/restore

MONDAYS

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


OCCUPY MODESTO: General Assembly meets every other Monday, 5:00 - 6:30 pm at Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St. All interested members of the 99% are welcome. Meetings: 2/17, 3/3, 3/17 etc. Info: Nancy, 545-1375.

TUESDAYS

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

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

Ukulele class/play-a-long led by Lorrie Freitas 5 pm. Beginners Lessons 6 p.m. Play Along in songbooks provided. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver, Modesto. Donation accepted. Info: 505-3216. www.Funstrummers.com

Weekly mindfulness meditation and dharma talk, 6:30-8:30 pm, 2172 Kienan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori for more information at 209-343-2748 or see http://imcv.org/

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://a444531532.onlinehome.us

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

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS, Every Tuesday, 7 pm at 1320 L St., (Christ Unity Baptist Church). Info: Jeff, 527-2469.

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS: held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), (NOTE TIME), 5:00-6:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

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

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

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

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

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

For complete calendar information and regularly scheduled activities, visit www.stanislausconnections.org/calendar.htm

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.