

John McCutcheon Returns to Modesto with Tom Paxton in January!

By **KEN SCHROEDER**

Folk Legends John McCutcheon and Tom Paxton Perform Together in Concert Fundraiser for the Modesto Peace/Life Center on Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto.

Their music addresses injustice and inhumanity, laying bare the absurdities of modern culture and celebrating the tenderest bonds of family, friends, and community. Between them they have ten Grammy nominations. This will be John's 23rd appearance in Modesto. Tom has performed thousands of concerts around the world and 2025 will be his last year touring. They co-wrote and created the album *Together*.

In-person tickets are available at Intrinsic Elements (1214 J St., Modesto 209-409-8510) by cash or check for \$30 or at the door for \$35. New price for 30 years old and younger is \$10.

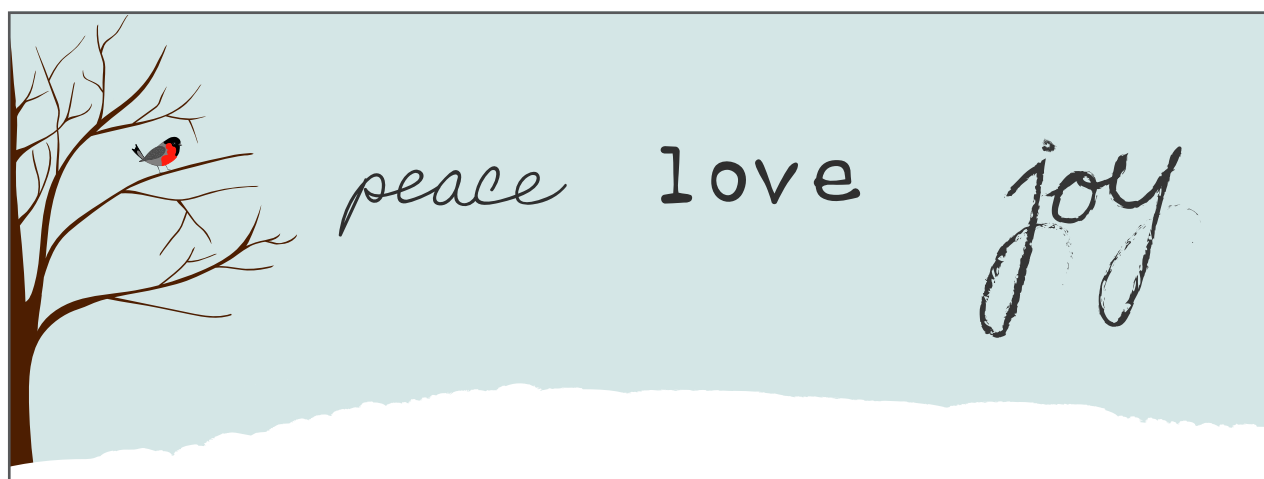
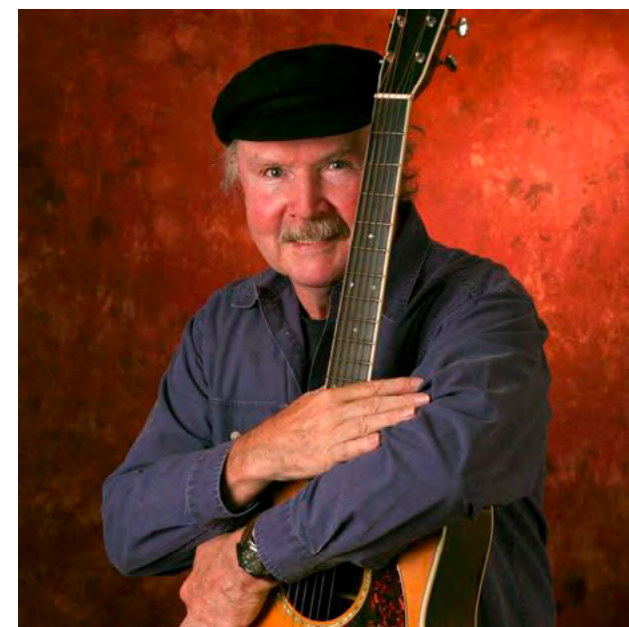
Please consider becoming a sponsor. You will receive tickets to the concert, your name in the program, and reserved seating. Five levels of sponsorship are available:

- Autoharp \$50 One ticket,**
- Guitar \$100 Two tickets,**
- Banjo \$175 Four tickets,**
- Piano \$300 Eight tickets,**
- Hammer Dulcimer \$500 Fifteen tickets.**

You may send your sponsorship donation check to the Modesto Peace/Life Center, PO Box 134, Modesto CA 95353. Please write "concert sponsor" in the note on the check.

You may also buy your sponsorship at the Eventbrite website. For more info, contact Ken Schroeder at kschroeder70@yahoo.com or 209-480-4576. Let Ken know if you would like a dedication to appear in the program (such as "In Honor of" or "In Memory of.") Tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/john-mccutcheon-and-tom-paxton-concert-tickets-1070250260339?aff=oddtcreator>



INSIDE CONNECTIONS	
LOCAL	2
AMONG NEIGHBORS	3
OUTSTANDING WOMEN	5
RESISTANCE	6
DIALOGUE	7
POETRY FESTIVAL	8
GATHERING OF VOICES	9
KCBP RADIO	10
HOPE & FASCISM	11

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MAPS Showcase of Scintillating Experts. A gateway for the exploration of the wonders and mysteries surrounding us. MJC West Campus Sierra Hall 132* at 7:30 pm, FREE.

Fri, Dec. 6: Isabelle Haddad, UC Merced Ph.D. candidate. “The Intersection of Climate Change and Environmental Justice with Central Valley Focus.” ihaddad@ucmerced.edu



Join the Modesto Threshold Singers

We are the local chapter of Threshold Choir International (Thresholdchoir.org).

We sing at the bedside when someone nears the end of their journey on this physical plane. We also sing at a few skilled nursing facilities and Board & Card homes for those with dementia. Our chapter meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County (2172 Kiernan Ave, Modesto, CA 95356).



We are looking for additional singers who love to sing, feel called to volunteer service, and can match pitch and blend their voices with the other singers. We train new singers in our Core songs and train for singing at bedside before a new singer goes to a home for a true Threshold event.

Please email, text, or call our director, Bernadette, if interested. DrBearsong@aol.com

The Peace Essay Contest Needs Your Help

By **ADRIANA FELIX and DEENA ELLIOTT**

The Peace Essay Contest has been a beloved part of our community for over 30 years, offering students a platform to think critically and write about social justice issues. We extend heartfelt thanks to the committee members, participants, volunteers, educators, judges, and everyone who contributed to making this contest such a valued tradition in our community.

Originally, the Peace Essay Contest aligned with the Modesto Peace/Life Center’s mission by encouraging school youth to explore themes of peace, justice, nonviolence, and sustainability. The contest’s scholarship ceremony brought together students, families, and community members to celebrate the powerful voices of youth with the potential to drive social change and build inclusivity and equity. Today, we are energized by a renewed interest in bringing back a reimagined contest to continue this important work—though “contest” may evolve to reflect new forms of engagement.

One thing stands out in conversations with former committee members: their legacy is irreplaceable. Our role now is to adapt this platform to a new generation, staying true to its mission while embracing diverse voices and leveraging technology to broaden its reach.

Our vision is to create a space that welcomes even more students to participate, including those who may not have joined in the past. We believe in the power of words, creativity, and dialogue to inspire change, and we want to expand this platform to include not only essays but also other forms of expression like poetry and audio. While the world has changed, the call for critical thinking and engagement with global and local issues remains as strong as ever. Now, more than ever, the pursuit of social justice through youth engagement is vital.

Join our committee to help shape this inclusive and accessible platform, inspiring young people to become advocates for peace and justice. We’re looking for a diverse range of skills and perspectives to bring this vision to life and are calling on those who believe that a more peaceful world is possible. Together, we can empower the next generation to envision and build a more equitable world. If you’re ready to engage with passionate young visionaries and play a hands-on role in reimagining this powerful project, we invite you to join us.

ACTION: Contact us at Modestopeacecontest@gmail.com or leave a message at (209) 529-5750. Bring your dedication and talents to breathe new life into this initiative—together, let’s make a lasting impact.

Plankwalker Studios Presents Rockin’ with MJC!



Rockin’ with MJC students that is. KCBP 95.5 FM Community Radio proudly presents a series of 25 one-hour music shows created by Modesto Junior

College Students as part of their Film, Television & Electronic Media (FTVE) class under the instruction of Janeiro Freeda.

For all you night owls out there, our show kicks off at 1:00 a.m. every Saturday (right after Cyber Stallion), with repeats at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. And the best part? A brand-new program will be waiting for you each week.

Dusk in December

A flock of birds
swoops as one,
turns suddenly,
turns again,
changes direction,
lands on telephone wires;
the moon rises above the horizon,
lights flash from a jet over the roof,
the birds take off,
fly again,
restless,
undulate in synchrony,
as an unseen conductor
directs their movements
until they drop
one by one
to a new wire

settle in silence

– Nancy Haskett

Among Neighbors

By **TOM PORTWOOD**

I wrote the following short essay five days after the presidential election in 2016. While the traumas and challenges of the past eight years have revealed Americans are more divided than ever, if we are ever going to tackle the huge problems and injustices we face as a country, we must embrace the gift that we are living among neighbors, that change will only occur if we work within our communities to make it happen.

I took a walk around my Modesto neighborhood this afternoon, a typical Sunday in so many ways. In a nearby park, a young mother was watching three or four kids yelling among themselves as they ran around a fake boulder embedded in sand by the swings. A baby was halfheartedly toying with a rattle in a stroller by the mother's side. The mother wore a hijab, nodded and smiled at me as she pushed the stroller by the bench where I sat reading a book.



A few minutes later, a slight breeze fluttered the branches in a stand of ash trees as I walked across the park's wide grassy field. Across the street, a man and his wife were clipping hedges alongside their driveway, their neighbor, two houses down, was mowing his lawn. Two kids bicycled by, their tires describing great, lazy arcs across the road. An elderly man nodded at me as I walked along Rumble. Having had its landscaping recently freshened up, the elementary school next to the park looked better than it had in years.

As I turned the corner onto Coffee Rd., I saw another elderly man, someone I recognized. The fellow was pushing a shopping cart crammed with plastic bottles and aluminum cans – working his heart out on this day of rest for a couple of extra dollars. We stopped and chatted for a few minutes – we've passed each other on the street many times over the last several months. His name is Armando. Like me, Armando has problems with his back. We chatted about that, joked about getting old and getting by. Unlike me, Armando toils hard every day to get by, courageously, under a hot sun or drenched by rain. Here on the street, we are neighbors. We shake hands in parting, as neighbors do.

Communities are where we find them, where we look for them, if we look for them. Three times a week, I catch the 32 bus around noon to go to the downtown library where I do a little volunteer tutoring. At that hour, the bus riders are mostly regulars, mostly, like me, a little older, a little weakened by disease or injury



or chronic health problems. Most of us require a little hardware to help us get around – motorized wheelchairs, walkers, oxygen tanks, or, like me, one of the luckier ones, a walking cane.

Occasionally, a caregiver will board the bus with a rider who is more acutely ill and accompany her client to his destination. And there's a smattering of younger riders, too – young moms with wide-eyes toddlers in tow, grandchildren off on an adventure to a downtown park with a doting grandmother.

But many board the bus, greying, missing an arm or a leg, or both legs. Always smiling, always cheerfully nodding at the rest of us, at familiar faces. The bus stops and picks up passengers at Marple Manor, the Senior Center, Ralston Towers, deposits many of the riders at Memorial Hospital, Sutter Gould, and the various health services on Scenic Drive. For most of the riders, negotiating through the physical challenges of the day will be strenuous, at best. But on the bus they briskly chat among themselves, rarely knowing each other's names, but sharing a moment or two about the weather, or how reassuring it is to see so many kids racing across the playground as the bus trundles by an elementary school. The bus driver often chimes

in, takes special care with every passenger who needs assistance. If someone drops a package or has trouble pulling the cord to signal a stop, other riders help out. The sense of community on that bus, of real warmth and graciousness and caring for the other fellow is visceral. It's a ride I always look forward to.

In a way, we are all riders on that bus. All of us must look out for each other, especially now. We are the community we are all searching for. It's right here. Right now – for we are always among neighbors.

IN MEMORIAM

June Marie Potochnik

June 19, 1926 - October 7, 2024



Don't Miss the Central West Ballet's "The Nutcracker!"

By **KARIN REENSTIERNA**

Holidays aren't complete without Central West Ballet's *The Nutcracker!* Featuring beautiful sets, backdrops, CWB dancers, and 100 community children, this magical tradition is a perfect holiday card for the whole family to cherish. Always new, always magical; follow Clara's adventure to the Land of the Sugar Plum Fairy with all the characters you love! Don't forget the Boutique in the lobby and Sugar Plum Fairy Parties on stage after select matinées where children can meet their

favorite characters.

The perfect companion to the classic Nutcracker, *Nutcracker in Jazz!* is a holiday special that swings the night away with big-band Christmas sounds and jazz in a contemporary setting.

Make your magical season complete with *Nutcracker in Jazz!* As always, your tickets include a gorgeous reception in the Grand Lobby of the Gallo Center after the performance! All for one night only!

Information: 209-576-8957.

Help Prepare "Maker Kits" for the New Express Library

By **MARILYN DREW**

Due to its upcoming renovation project, the Modesto Library closed for approximately 20 months on Wednesday, November 27. An "Express Library" will open on **Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at 1002 10th Street.**

To have about 1,600 "Maker Kits" ready for library patrons to use once the Express Library opens, Jessica Geiss, the Children's and Teen Librarian, is asking for assistance from small groups of Friends of the Modesto Library (FOML) members in assembling these kits.



These groups of 1-5 people will work inside the library from 10:00-12:00 on the Tuesdays and/or Thursdays leading up to the express library's opening. This is a great activity for all FOML members.

If you would like to help assemble "Maker Kits" (See sample photo), contact **Jessica Geiss**, jgeiss@stanlibrary.org, as soon as possible to let her know which days and times you would like to volunteer. You can

sign up for as many days as you would like. You may also sign up friends for the same day, even if they're not FOML members. Volunteers are needed for **Dec 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 31**).

Although the main library will be closed, it will remain open for its employees until January. Once you sign up as a volunteer, Jessica will provide instructions for entering the library.

Information: email WalkingMD@pacbell.net

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TICKETS & INFO
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atthegrand.org

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Rachel Driskill Photography

2024
25
SEASON

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

988

LÍNEA DE PREVENCIÓN DEL SUICIDIO Y CRISIS

Stanislaus County Commission for Women seeks Nominees for Outstanding Women Awards

Modesto has some of the best and brightest women who are doing great things to improve our community. And the Stanislaus County Commission for Women wants to acknowledge them! There are three categories for your consideration for:

Outstanding Woman: For a woman currently living in Stanislaus County who has demonstrated exemplary service to our community outside the scope of her professional life, particularly in an area that promotes issues concerning women of all ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, economic backgrounds, and beliefs.

Outstanding Young Woman: A graduating high school senior or current post-secondary student, living or going to school in Stanislaus County, age 24 or younger, who has demonstrated exemplary service to our community, particularly in an area that promotes issues concerning women or girls.

Outstanding Trailblazer: This may be awarded to a living woman, or awarded to a woman posthumously whose service and accomplishments took place prior to 1980. Visit the SCCW website to apply. The nomination deadline is Dec. 23, 2024, submitted and postmarked. <https://lnkd.in/gzWADMfp>. Please share this within



your networks. Let's nominate these outstanding women! [hashtag#SCCW hashtag#OutstandingWomen https://www.stanislauswomen.net/outstanding-women-award](https://www.stanislauswomen.net/outstanding-women-award)



Be informed!

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



MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER

Working for **peace, justice**
and a **sustainable future**

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Progressive Forces Vow ‘Unprecedented Resistance’ to Trump 2.0

“We’re more prepared than ever to block the disastrous Trump policies we know are coming,” said one climate group.

By **JULIA CONLEY, Common Dreams**

As voters across the United States grappled on Wednesday with the results of the presidential election, progressive organizers expressed disappointment and devastation but said they were “clear-eyed” about the road ahead: one that will require solidarity and a major mobilization to counter the policies and attacks put forward by President-elect [Donald Trump](#).

Anthony D. Romero, executive director of ACLU, did not mince words about the “clear and present danger” Trump poses to U.S. institutions and democratic norms, [noting](#) that GOP president-elect is “dead serious” about targeting “the ‘enemy within’—which, for Trump, means anyone who disagrees with him.”

The ACLU fully expects Trump to seek “retribution against his political opponents and deploying federal law enforcement to shut down protests and muzzle dissent,” but Romero emphasized that the 105-year-old organization has a long track record of defending freedom of speech and combating abuses of power, including during Trump’s first term.

“We filed 434 legal actions against the first Trump administration, often winning landmark cases before Trump-appointed judges,” said Romero. “One week into Trump’s presidency, we were the first organization to challenge his Muslim ban. And when the administration sought to include a citizenship question on the 2020 census, the ACLU took that fight to the Supreme Court and won. Our litigation also stopped the inhumane practice of separating immigrant families.”

The [Center for Biological Diversity](#) (CBD), one of many groups that have [warned](#) a Trump victory would signal a disaster for the planet as scientists warn fossil fuel extraction must end immediately to limit planetary heating as much as possible, said the president-elect can expect to face “unprecedented resistance” from organizers.

“Trump 2.0 is going to get twice the fight from the protectors of our planet, wildlife, and basic human rights,” said Kieran Suckling, executive director of

CBD. “We’ve battled Trump from the border wall to the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, and in many cases we’ve won. This country’s bedrock environmental laws stand strong. We’re more prepared than ever to block the disastrous Trump policies we know are coming.”

Romero and Suckling’s defiant tones were echoed by reproductive rights organizations that have spent the past two years fighting the nationwide effects of Trump’s first term, which resulted in the right-wing supermajority on the U.S. Supreme Court that [overturned](#) *Roe v. Wade*, clearing the way for 21 states to impose abortion bans and extreme restrictions that have had [deadly](#) consequences for at least [four women](#).

Despite those bans, [said](#) Destiny Lopez, acting co-CEO of the Guttmacher Institute, “more than one million abortions occurred in the United States in 2023.”

“The anti-abortion movement, with Trump and [Vice President-elect JD] Vance’s support, are poised to ban every single abortion going forward,” said Lopez. “We’re clear-eyed about what’s coming. Guttmacher will meet this moment—alongside our state, national, and global partners—and mobilize all our resources to counter these attacks in pursuit of a strong, vibrant democracy that protects and upholds all of our rights.”

On Tuesday, voters in seven of 10 states with abortion rights amendments on the ballot voted to protect reproductive freedom—initiatives that were strongly supported by groups such as the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR).

But with Republican lawmakers in the Senate—which will be controlled by the GOP starting in January—supporting a nationwide abortion ban, CRR president and CEO Nancy Northrup [said](#) the group is prepared for the new administration to compound the harms already done “with new, potentially far worse ones.”

“The Center for Reproductive Rights is ready for this next fight,” said Northrup. “We will vigorously oppose any and all attempts to roll back progress. We will scrutinize every action of the White House and federal agencies, amass the factual and legal record to counter agency actions, and work to stop harmful policies from going into effect. If they do, we will take them to court. We will vehemently fight any effort to pass a national abortion ban, to stop the provision of medication abortion by mail, to block women from

“The only way through is solidarity,” said Brosnan.

“We can’t let what happens next divide us. We have to fight the billionaire class together.”

crossing state lines to get care, to dismantle [United Nations] protections for reproductive rights and progress made at the national level in countries around the world, and more.”

With Trump planning to further gut abortion rights, mobilize a mass deportation operation, and roll back climate regulations while keeping his promise to oil executives to expand fossil fuel drilling, journalist Mehdi Hasan of *Zeteo* [urged](#) all progressive organizers to make “‘solidarity’... the most important word in our political vocabulary.”

“Yes, a majority of American voters may have cast their votes for an unhinged racist and demagogue who is promising a ‘bloody’ program of mass deportation and a new and bigger ‘Muslim ban,’ but the rest of us need to stick together,” said Hasan. “We need each other. And so, for the next four years, solidarity is the name of the game.”

The term has been the rallying cry of the labor movement for generations, and United Auto Workers organizer Helen Brosnan echoed Hasan’s call.

“The only way through is solidarity,” [said](#) Brosnan. “We can’t let what happens next divide us. We have to fight the billionaire class together.”

Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich did not hide his despair over Trump’s victory, writing in his [Substack newsletter](#) that he was “heartbroken and scared.”

But Reich urged progressives not to lose sight of “our first responsibility... to protect all those who are in harm’s way,” including women, immigrants, and transgender people.

How will we conduct this resistance?

continued next page

Waging Nonviolence's Guide to Protecting and Expanding Democracy

Reporting and analysis from the frontlines of the anti-authoritarian struggle.

Democracy hangs in the balance this year — not just in the United States but around the world, where a record number of people are heading to the polls in more than 60 countries.

At *Waging Nonviolence*, we have a unique and important role to play in dangerous times like these. In 2020, we published a [series of viral stories](#) that gave concerned citizens the tools to thwart an attempted

coup by Trump. Their success led to the launch of a national organizing effort called [Choose Democracy](#), which trained over 10,000 people ahead of that year's election.

This year, we are once again teaming up with Choose Democracy to provide resources on how to stem the rising authoritarian tide. We present a collection of those resources, divided into sections highlighting [conversations](#) with experienced organizers and movement thinkers, [original reporting and analysis](#) from the frontlines of the democracy struggle, a look back at [our 2020 coverage](#), and [more from WNV's archives](#).

from previous page

“Although peaceful and non-violent, the resistance will nonetheless be committed and determined. It will encompass every community in America. It will endure as long as necessary. We will never give up on America. The resistance starts now.”

By organizing our communities. By fighting through the courts. By arguing our cause through the media. We will ask other Americans to join us—left and right, progressive and conservative, white people and people of color. It will be the largest and most powerful resistance since the American revolution. But it will be peaceful. We will not succumb to violence, which would only give Trump and his regime an excuse to use organized violence against us. We will keep alive the flames of freedom and the common good, and we will preserve our democracy. We will fight for the same things Americans have fought for since the founding of our nation—rights enshrined in the constitution and Bill of Rights. The preamble to the Constitution of the United States opens with the phrase “We the people”, conveying a sense of shared interest and a desire “to promote the general welfare,” as the preamble goes on to say. We the people will fight for the general welfare. We the people will resist tyranny. We will preserve the common good. We will protect our democracy.

The National Immigration Law Center, which joined the ACLU in fighting Trump's Muslim bans and other xenophobic policies during his first term, [said](#) it “knew Trump could win and that is why we helped lead a movement wide effort to plan for this moment.”

“Trump and his allies told us what he plans to do: mass deportations, ending birthright citizenship, ending the right to public education for immigrant children, internment camps, and using the military to hunt down immigrants. We should take him at his word,” said Kica Matos, president of the NILC. “One thing is certain: we cannot and will not retreat. For more than 40 years, NILC has been steadfast in our fight to defend the rights of low-income immigrants and their loved ones. We successfully fought Donald Trump before, and we will do it again.”

Reich reminded his readers that Americans “supported one another during the Great Depression” and other national crises.

“We were victorious over Hitler's fascism and Soviet communism,” he wrote. “We survived Joe McCarthy's witch-hunts, Richard Nixon's crimes, Lyndon Johnson's Vietnam war, the horrors of 9/11, and George W. Bush's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

“We will resist Donald Trump's tyranny,” he added. “Although peaceful and non-violent, the resistance will nonetheless be committed and determined. It will encompass every community in America. It will endure as long as necessary. We will never give up on America. The resistance starts now.”

Shocked, Disillusioned but not Defeated

I am Shocked. Disillusioned. Disappointed. Embarrassed. I am shocked that the USA has willingly elected a dictator. Disillusioned since I believed that watching endless MSNBC, KCBP, MICL, Women's League of Voters, CVDC, and TV nature programming here in the little town of Modesto made me feel I understood the ‘big picture’ of national concerns.

I am deeply disappointed since I had built a way-too-great confidence about our national concern for the ecosystem's fragility here on the little blue marble in space we call Earth.

Embarrassed because I had done the bone-headed stupidity of projecting my own hopes and worldview onto a nation of which I am so grossly ignorant.

Embarrassed, but not defeated! Each of us has the leading star role in each of our lives; we must continue that role with full vigor!

We have a community to create and sustain.

Richard Anderson, Ph.D.

Modesto

MRB

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MoSt to host 13th Annual Poetry Festival

February 1, 2025

Carnegie Arts Center

The Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt) will host the 13th Annual Poetry Festival on February 1, 2025, at the Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock, CA, from 10 am to 2 pm. Facilitated by the award-winning Fresno poet

Michael Meyerhoffer, the festival's workshop will focus on **Pulling Up the Floorboards: Two Radical**

Approaches to Revising Poems, which promises to be very helpful for both new and experienced poets.

Michael Meyerhofer is the author of five poetry books, including [What To Do If You're Buried Alive](#) (free from Doubleback Books). His work has appeared in *The Sun*, *Missouri Review*, *Southern Review*, *Brevity*, *Rattle*, and other journals. He's also the author of a fantasy series and Poetry Editor of *Atticus Review*.

While no luncheon will be provided at the festival, coffee, tea, and table snacks will be furnished, and attendees are welcome to bring their lunch. As in the past, the festival will include an author's table and fellowship with poets and poetry aficionados from Northern California. For more info and an embarrassing childhood photo, visit troublewithhammers.com.

Tickets (\$40 each) for the event will soon be available on the MoSt website <https://www.mostpoetry.org/>



Modesto-Stanislaus
Poetry Center

Modesto Library Improvement Project

The Modesto Library is closed to upgrade critical infrastructure. This project will address heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), elevators, asbestos remediation, lighting, and more.

In 2023, the library was awarded a \$9.97 million grant to tackle these upgrades as part of the State of California's Building Forward Library Facilities Improvement program. In addition to grant funding, the project is partly supported by local library funding and the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors' Building Community Services Investment in the county library system.

Further enhancements within the library, such as a reimagined Early Learning space, have been made possible thanks to donors who contributed to the Friends of the Modesto Library's "Lifelong Legacy" campaign. Additionally, the Modesto City Council allocated \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Library as a Modesto Forward Grant, which will supplement funds for enhanced furnishings, fixtures, and equipment.

Library Services During the Closure

Complete library services remain available at all

Poems by Annie Stenzel

*Meditation on mortality with a line from a poem
by Machado embedded in it*

When you are young, there is no such thing as death, other than the death of days, celebrated by scarlet sunsets, or the death of leaves, deliberately put before you in Technicolor. Oh yes—ants succumb

during picnics, flies must be swatted, and the little turtle that trudged in circles around its plastic domain and seemed to sleep beneath the phony palm tree? One day it will be there, not all that interesting. The next, gone.

But at a given moment, the scenery will change, as though behind the curtain during a pause at the opera. The great-aunt you hardly knew will be described as having died. It turns out, traveler, there is no road;

the road is made by walking. And you may believe you get to choose where you are headed. You do not.

The line, "traveler, there is no road; the road is made by walking" is from #29 of Antonio Machado's Proverbs and Songs

First appeared in *Night Heron Barks*; also appears in *Don't Misplace the moon*, released by Kelsay Books in July 2024



open Stanislaus County Library branches. Library materials may be returned to any library location, and an exterior book drop will remain available in the parking lot behind the Modesto Library.

The Modesto Library collection will be temporarily unavailable for hold requests for 2-3 months while library staff pack and move it to the Salida Library. At that time, items in the collection will be unavailable for browsing but may be placed on hold and picked up at your preferred library.

Information: <https://www.stanislauslibrary.org/>

Shelter. Cage.

Somebody made it elliptical, not angular:
Things that start one-where end
elsewhere. You keep trying, even if thwarted
when, on a grey day, the sun won't work
as a talisman. Might as well be in a maze.

Trumpetvine, wisteria, plus princess flower.
Bougainvillea, with its irksome papery tidbits
dusting the ground. Jasmine that startles you
when its musky hints appear. And what a bother:
the tiny pink rose is mostly eclipsed, too high to see.

What do you think you are doing here,
behind such a complex hedge? A gardener
deals with the tangle, but what a strange
idea it was to cluster these motley plantings
around the patio. And then allow a serpent of ivy in.

First appeared in *rust + moth*; also included in *Don't misplace the moon*

Annie Stenzel: Highly Talented Poet & Poetry Editor

Annie Stenzel (she/her) is a lesbian poet who was born in Illinois but did not stay put. Her second full-length collection, *Don't misplace the moon*, was recently published by Kelsay Books.



Her poems have appeared in print and online journals in the U.S. and the U.K., including *Atlas and Alice*, *FERAL*, *Galway Review*, *Kestrel*, *Night Heron Barks*, *Rust + Moth*, *Saranac Review*, *SWWIM*, *The Lake*, *Thimble*, and *UCity Review*.

A poetry editor for the online journals *Right Hand Pointing* and *West Trestle Review*, she lives on unceded Ohlone land within walking distance of the San Francisco Bay. *A Gathering of Voices* is delighted to feature several of her superb poems in this issue of *Stanislaus Connections*.

Summoned
(with a deep bow to Bruce Lee)

That's when she said it: *be like water*.
or maybe it was, *Oh Annie!*
just be like water.
And I wanted to, then.

But water behaves or misbehaves
in all sorts of mysterious ways.

Ocean-water alone does a dozen
different things—before breakfast.

The Mississippi is a different creature
from the Nile.

And what about ice,
which is absolute water.

Or water forced by a massive dam
to drown a canyon? That's one thing.

The run-off after helicopters dump
scooped-up water on a wildfire? Another.

Or maybe she meant a forest pool, quietly
hosting water-striders.

Well, remember how shocked we were,
in science class, to find out
the human body is 60 percent H₂O?
I'm already a quick cascade through a
weir.

First published in *SWWIM Every Day*; also
included in *Don't misplace the moon*

Here in coastal California

Didn't I always revel in beach freedom?

I recall a long fringe of white froth, a
spent wave's sibilant approach, then
its more subdued retreat. Tide pools to
meditate, complete with crabs prepared
to scuttle—saving themselves from the
menace of my hands. Today I do repent
the wicked provocation of sea anemones
during my youth. I knew no better than to
poke their tentacles, mimicking a meal's
approach. Ignorant, but still mean. By
rights I might have been minced into
sustenance for Actiniae; part of my long
history of oblivious injustice. But no one
had told me (yet) my fingers' murk and
oil were poison to these creatures; that
my touch made it harder for them to trap
their prey. To strip cruelty of intentionality
changes nothing, as other tiny life-forms
crushed beneath my boots might say—or
would if they had speech and wished to
communicate with their destroyer.

First appeared in *Poetry Breakfast*; also
appears in *Don't misplace the moon*

Misreading leads me to sundry wonders

Like the time I read the Audre Lorde line

love is a word another kind of open

just a little wrong
and thought it said

love is a new kind of apron

which in one sense I guess it can be:
a robust amour-propre can help
keep the world's worst soil

off my fancy outfit. After all
these years solo, I am not the object
of anyone else's ardor—I must lap

myself with suitable expressions
of affection to avoid
the cold stain of indifference.

Which is not always
an easy job. Once bloom and beauty
wane, the knee-jerk of ooh-love

and ah-love from other quarters
subsides. But the original pump
for this essence may simply

want priming. Get to work
beneath the apron. A half-teaspoon
of self-love siphoned into your pocket

may turn out to be
plenty.

First appeared in *Nixes Mate*; also included
in *Don't misplace the moon*

First the weather. And now this.

The morning of the first big storm of the year
it was as though the sun simply declined to appear
on schedule. The world is in a dark mood, as usual,
and so the harbinger of a new day paused at the threshold
not sure it was safe to rise and shine.

Same thing happened with the next big storm,
as if Earth's position relative to the nearest star
had been compromised. And what would happen
if Earth's orbit slipped a bit? Science has a lot to say
on the subject, and it's not a pretty picture:

Say the planet spins closer and closer to the sun, then
falls in? That's one possibility, and the story ends. Or
maybe the globe gets colder and colder. Soon enough,
just ice, no us or any of our fellow creatures designed
for approximately this climate. Again, the end.

The odd thing is, we're creeping through mid-January now,
winter solstice safely tucked behind us, our days
in this hemisphere supposedly getting longer, a little light
added to the morning, a morsel tacked on every night. But
lately
when I waken for the crack of dawn, it makes me wait.

After a brief break in the storm sequence, it should be time
for another morning. Meaning, I should be able to draw
the curtains back from the windows that face east
and see some glimmer, even just a soupçon of the sun
that lurks behind the clouds padding the horizon.

One clock ticks. The other is mute. I have lost patience
by the time a dab of watery light creeps in.

(published here for the first time)



Great Programs on KCBP 95.5 fm, the Voice of the Valley

Streaming on www.kcbpradio.org

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Confetti Park - Music, stories New Orleans style, Saturdays at 8:00 am; & Sunday's 12:30 pm.

The Children's Hour - Sundays 3:00 pm. And Mondays at 4:00 p.m.

SCIENCE

Radio Ecoshock – the latest scientific information on Climate Change – Saturdays, 9:00 am.

Explorations – Science explained with Dr. Michio Kaku - 9:00 am Sundays.

Big Picture Science - 1:00 pm Sundays.

Planetary Radio – 2:30 pm Sundays.

PROGRAMS

Letters From An American - ON HOLD.

Trenchant reporting and historical analysis by Heather Cox Richardson.

Ukraine 2.4.2 - a collaboration between Anne Levine, WOMR, the Pacifica Network, and Kraina FM, a 26-city radio network in Ukraine that arranges weekly cutting-edge and exclusive interviews with key people in Ukraine – Thursdays, 10:00 am.

Beethoven to Bernstein - Classical music ranging from Beethoven to Bernstein. Big hits from well-renown composers - Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Ravel, Copland - and many more, mostly in the form of orchestral, chamber, and piano music - Saturdays, 10:00 pm.

The Not Old – Better Show - fascinating, high-energy program of big-name guests, inspiring role models, interesting topics, with entertaining host and former Modestan, Paul Vogelzang – Fridays, 2:00 pm, Saturdays, 12:30 pm.

Down on the Farm - topics important for our San Joaquin agriculture with Madera organic farmer Tom Willey - Saturdays, 6 am

Sounds Irish Music from County Wicklow - Saturdays, 7:00 pm.

Various musical programs during the noon hour: Oldies, Old Piano, and International.

Dead Air - Hear the Grateful Dead with Cory Daniels. Fridays, 6 pm; Saturdays, 3 pm.

Attitude with Arne Arnesen – 3:00 pm. Political and social issues.

Sojourner Truth - 4:00 pm – Tuesdays. Interviews and panels focus on issues that affect people of color.

Democracy Now! - 7:00 am, Monday thru Friday. Reporting by veteran journalists Amy Goodman & Juan Gonzalez.

Flashpoint Magazine - 10:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. Politics, social issues, from KQED's Dennis Bernstein.

Julian Taylor's Jukebox – 4:00 pm, Thursdays and Fridays. Eclectic, contemporary music.

Nuestra Música – 4:00 pm, Tuesdays. Eclectic, Latin-flavored music with a beat!

LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

Rockin' with MJC – One-hour music shows by Modesto Junior College students. 1:00 a.m. Saturdays; 2:00 p.m. Saturdays; 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays.

Triumphant Tuesdays – Noon, Tuesdays. Inspirational thoughts & music with Catrice.

Sports Talk Modesto - Join Jay Freeda and Jimmie Menezes. Snappy banter to catch up on everything happening in the sports world. – Thursdays, 5 pm.

Vib'n with the West Modesto Collaborative - Jasmine Corena and Likhi Rivas. Engage, Educate, and Advocate on behalf of the West Modesto Community. Showcases Voices of the West Modesto Community – Wednesdays, 7 pm.

AREA 5150 UFO RADIO – Spooky music & sounds out of this world, Friday night, 11:00 pm.

Cyber Stallion: Bucks Stallion's Radio Transmission Emporium – Cyber Acoustic Music - Saturdays, 12:00 am, Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

I-On-Modesto - John Griffin interviews local people who reveal their inspiring stories. Mondays & Fridays, 10 am and Wednesdays at 9 pm.

Arts of the San Joaquin Valley with Linda Scheller and Laura Stokes - Mondays, 8:00 pm; Tuesdays, 9:00 am & Wednesdays, 8:00 pm. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp> and on Spotify

Women of the Valley with Linda Scheller and Laura Stokes - 8:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays & Wednesdays, 9:00 am. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbpwotv> and on Spotify.

Modesto Sound - California Audio Roots Project (CARP) – Tuesdays 5:30 pm, Wednesdays 11:30 am, & Sundays 11:00 am & 4:30 pm.

Sunday Cruisin' with your host, DeeJay Rig! Oldies hits from 1959 to 1999 – Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

Faithful Fridays – inspirational music and thoughts with Catrice – Fridays, 7:00 p.m.

Why Not Nice? - Showcases unique music from unique cultures and thinkers worldwide, focusing on world/academic/jazz and roots music – Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

Mars Radio – Hip-Hop Show - Music, interviews from local & regional artists - Fridays, 8:00 pm. A new, second show plays on Saturday nights at 8:00 pm, with a third at 8:00 pm Sundays.

Modesto Area Music Awards (MAMA) with Middagh Goodwin – Mondays 5:00 pm; Fridays 9:00 pm & Saturdays 6:00 pm.

Freak Radio with Christian E. Boyett, 6 pm Thursdays. Replays Saturdays, 9 pm & Tuesdays 11 pm.

This is SKA with Middagh Goodwin - Tuesdays, 9 pm; Fridays, 11 pm; Sundays, 5 am to 7 am.

I'll Take You There - A musical journey with Modesto's El Comandante - Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sundays, 9:00 pm.

Penny Bloods – Fun, Victorian melodrama radio plays, often performed by local actors, written by Arnold Anthony Schmidt, CSU, Stanislaus. As scheduled.

PSAs in English and Spanish produced by the West Modesto Community Collaborative.

LISTEN TO OUR MUSIC PLAYLISTS AT SPINITRON <https://spintron.com/KCBP/calendar>

Find a complete programming schedule on our website, www.kcbpradio.org

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION: Donate here: <https://kcbpradio.org/donate/> Please consider a recurring monthly donation.



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Looming Fascism and the Question of Hope

This deeply perilous time requires realism—but not fatalism. In the worst of times, solidarity is most needed.

By **NORMAN SOLOMON**

When some leading thinkers at the London School of Economics saw fascism take hold in the 1930s, Oxford history professor Ben Jackson [said](#) in a recent BBC interview, they “argued that in those circumstances the people with economic power in society, the property owners, are willing to cancel democracy, cancel civil liberties, and make deals with political organizations like the Nazis if it guarantees their economic interest.”



That analysis has an ominous ring to it now as many tech industrialists swing behind President-elect Trump. They can hardly be unaware that Gen. Mark Milley, who served as the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman under Trump, [described](#) him as “fascist to the core.”

“Big congratulations to our 45th and now 47th President on an extraordinary political comeback and decisive victory,” Amazon founder Jeff Bezos [tweeted](#) the morning after the election. Weeks earlier, as the owner of the *Washington Post*, Bezos had blocked an endorsement of Kamala Harris by the newspaper’s editorial board.

Bezos could lose billions of dollars in [antitrust cases](#), but now stands a better chance of winning thanks to a second Trump administration. During the last decade, Amazon Web Services gained [huge contracts](#) with the federal government, including a [\\$10 billion](#) deal with the National Security Agency.

No wonder Bezos’ post-election tweet laid it on thick—“wishing@realDonaldTrump all success in leading and uniting the America we all love.”

Not to be left behind at the starting gun in the tech industry’s suck-up-to-Trump derby, Meta’s CEO Mark Zuckerberg [wrote](#): “Congratulations to President Trump on a decisive victory. We have great opportunities ahead of us as a country. Looking forward to working with you and your administration.”

As a [nine-figure donor](#) and [leading purveyor](#) of online lies for the 2024 Trump campaign, Elon Musk has been working closely with Trump. The Tesla magnate, X (formerly Twitter) owner, and SpaceX mogul is well-positioned to help shape policies of the incoming administration. A week after the election, [news](#) broke that Musk has been chosen by Trump to co-lead an [ill-defined](#) “Department of Government Efficiency” with an evident mission to slash the public

sector.

Musk, Bezos and Zuckerberg rank first, third and fourth respectively on the Forbes [list](#) of the world’s richest individuals. The three of them have combined wealth of around \$740 billion.

“In recent years, many tech elites have shrugged off the idealism once central to Silicon Valley’s self-image, in favor of a more corporate and transactional approach to politics,” the *Washington Post* gingerly [reported](#) after the election. The newspaper added: “A growing contingent of right-wing tech figures argue that Trump can usher in a new era of American dominance by removing red tape.”

For amoral gazillionaires like Bezos and Musk, ingratiating themselves with Trump is a wise investment that’s calculated to yield windfall returns. Evidently, the consequences in human terms are of no real concern. In fact, social injustice and the divisions it breeds create the conditions for still more lucrative political demagoguery, with the richest investors at the front of the line to benefit from corporate tax cuts and regressive changes in individual tax brackets.

After Election Day, the fascism scholar Jason Stanley offered a grim [appraisal](#): “People who feel slighted (materially or socially) come to accept pathologies—racism, homophobia, misogyny, ethnic nationalism, and religious bigotry—which, under conditions of greater equality, they would reject. And it is precisely those material conditions for a healthy, stable democracy that the United States lacks today. If anything, America has come to be singularly defined by its massive wealth inequality, a phenomenon that cannot but undermine social cohesion and breed resentment.”

The threat of fascism in the United States is no longer conjectural. It is swiftly gathering momentum, fueled by the extremism of the party set to soon control both the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government as well as most of the federal court system.

It’s not only that, as Stanley notes, “the Republican Party’s domination of all branches of government would render the U.S. a one-party state.” Already set in motion are cascading toxic effects on social discourse and political dynamics, marked by widening acceptance and promotion of overt bigotries and brandished hatreds.

The successful relaunch of Trump’s political quest has again rocketed him into the stratosphere of power. Corporate profits for the few will reach new heights. Only humanity will suffer.

And what about hope?

Consider what [Fred Branfman](#) had to say.

In the late 1960s, Fred was a humanitarian-aid volunteer in Laos when he discovered that his country

was taking the lives of peasants there by the thousands. He assembled [Voices from the Plain of Jars](#), a book with the subtitle “Life Under an Air War,” published in 1972. It included essays by Laotian people living under long-term U.S. bombardment along with drawings by children who depicted the horrors all around them.

When I asked Fred to describe his experience in Laos, he said: “At the age of 27, a moral abyss suddenly opened before me. I was shocked to the core of my being as I found myself interviewing Laotian peasants, among the most decent, human and kind people on Earth, who described living underground for years on end, while they saw countless fellow villagers and family members burned alive by napalm, suffocated by 500-pound bombs, and shredded by antipersonnel bombs dropped by my country, the United States.”

Fred moved to Washington, where he worked with antiwar groups to lobby Congress and protest the inflicting of mass carnage on Indochina. During the decades that followed, he kept working as a writer and activist to help change policies, stop wars, and counteract what he described as “the effect on the biosphere of the interaction between global warming, biodiversity loss, water aquifer depletion, chemical contamination, and a wide variety of other new threats to the biospheric systems upon which human life depends.”

When I talked with Fred a few years before his death in 2014, he said: “I find it hard to have much ‘hope’ that the species will better itself in coming decades.”

But, Fred went on, “I have also reached a point in my self-inquiries where I came to dislike the whole notion of ‘hope.’ If I need to have ‘hope’ to motivate me, what will I do when I see no rational reason for hope? If I can be ‘hopeful,’ then I can also be ‘hopeless,’ and I do not like feeling hopeless.”

He added: “When I looked more deeply at my own life, I noticed that my life was not now and never had been built around ‘hope.’ Laos was an example. I went there, I learned to love the peasants, the bombing shocked my psyche and soul to the core, and I responded—not because I was hopeful or hopeless, but because I was alive.”

We’re alive. Let’s make the most of it, no matter how much hope we have. What we need most of all is not optimism but determination.

Norman Solomon is the national director of [RootsAction.org](#) and the Institute for Public Accuracy executive director. His most recent book, *War Made Invisible: How America Hides the Human Toll of Its Military Machine*, was published in June 2023 by The New Press.

calendar

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

december

MAPS - Modesto Area Partners in Science: Free MJC science programs on Fridays in MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 pm. unless noted otherwise. Fri, **Dec. 6: Isabelle Haddad**, UC Merced Ph.D. candidate. *"The Intersection of Climate Change and Environmental Justice with Central Valley Focus."* ihaddad@ucmerced.edu

Modesto Science Colloquium Spring series pending, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., MJC West Campus, SCC 115. Free to the Public. Talks recorded for the Science Colloquium's YouTube Site.

The Prospect Theatre: 24/25 season has continuing offerings. Visit <https://prospecttheaterproject.org/2024-2025-season/>

3 TUES: VIGIL: PEACE-ISRAEL-GAZA-LEBANON at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five Points), 4:00-5:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 209-529-5750 or email jcostello@igc.org.

29 SUN: The State Theatre and Modesto Film Society presents *The Wizard of Oz.*, Digitally remastered. 2 pm. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, and support Modesto's historic non-profit theatre. Visit <https://thestate.org/films/the-wizard-of-oz-122024/>

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, January 14: John McCutcheon Concert. Tickets: see p. 1.

Saturday, March 1: 31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration. Speaker: Judge La Doris Hazzard Cordell.

Saturday, March 22: The Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team returns to MJC for a KCBP 95.5 FM Community Radio fundraiser.

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.

A.R.T.S. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER: All things recycled free arts materials for teachers, scout leaders, childcare, and artists for their projects. Open M - F 8 to 4:30, 917 Oakdale Rd. Modesto, Media Center behind Ross Store. Volunteers needed. Info: 567-4516.

CENTRAL VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB. Monthly meetings. Zoom. Contact jean.cvdc@gmail.com for information.

Habitat for Humanity's RE-STORE: used and new quality materials. Funds benefit homes built by Habitat in Stanislaus County. 2260 Tenaya Dr., Modesto. Mon-Sat., 9:00 AM - 6:00 pm. Closed Sunday. Visit <https://www.habitat.org/ca/modesto/stanislaus-county-hfh>

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

Unity of Modesto meets in person every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at 2467 Veneman, Modesto. Information: 209-578-5433.

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. All are welcome. For more information, please email charlie@imcv.org. Our mailing address is IMCV, P.O. Box 579564, Modesto, CA 95357.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County meets in person and on Zoom every Sunday at 10:30 am at 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto. Info: 209-788-3720; www.stanuu.org

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

MONDAYS

The Compassionate Friends, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter is meeting by Zoom on the second Mondays at 7:00pm. Bereaved parents, grandparents, and adult siblings are invited to participate in this support group for families whose children have died at any age, from any cause. Call 209-622-6786 or email for details: tfmodestoriverbank@gmail.com; <https://www.modestoriverbankctcf.org/>

Suicide Loss Support Group: Friends for Survival meets every third Monday at 7 pm. Details: Norm Andrews 209-345-0601, nandrews6863@charter.net.

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. Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com or call 209.577.1604.

TUESDAYS

Climate Action Justice Network-Stanislaus meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Link-<https://tinyurl.com/CJAN-FirstTuesday>

Attention Veterans: Join us for **Free Coffee & Donuts Meet & Greet** at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am - 11 am

NAACP Meeting. King-Kennedy Center, 601 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto, 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm. 209-645-1909; For ZOOM link, visit <https://www.naacpmoDESTOSTANISLAUS.org/>

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.

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

WEDNESDAYS

Retired Public Employees Association. All seniors welcome! Meetings every third Wednesday. Denny's Restaurant, 1525 McHenry Ave. 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Call (209) 324-2060. Pay \$8.00 and order from the menu.

The Almond Blossom Sangha meets on Wednesdays, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Zoom, and sometimes hybrid, for meditation and Dharma discussions. Call Anne at 209-404-4835 for more information.

The GAP. A place of support for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ or questioning kids every Wednesday 6:30 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1528 Oakdale Rd. Instagram: [thegapmodesto](https://www.instagram.com/thegapmodesto)

Ongoing meditation class based on Qi Gong Principals. Practice a 3 Step Guided Meditation Process I have been doing for over a decade. Fun and Easy. JOIN ME! Donations accepted but optional. Call 209.495.6608 or email Orlando Arreygue, CMT RYT, orlando@arreygue.com

Merced LGBT Community Center offers a variety of monthly meetings and written materials. Volunteers, on-site **Wed-Fri**, offer support. Ph: 209-626-5551. Email: mercedboard@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 PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS: Held THE FIRST TUESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J St. (Five points), 4:00-5:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

MEDIA: Listen to **KCBP 95.5 FM** Community Radio, the "Voice of the Valley" also streaming at <http://www.KCBPradio.org>

PEACE LIFE CENTER BOARD MEETING, FIRST Thursdays, 829 13th St., Modesto, 6:00 pm, 529-5750. Meetings on Zoom. Email Jim Costello for login information, jcostello@igc.org

PEACE/LIFE CENTER MODESTO, 829 13th St. Call 529-5750. We'll get back to you with current info on activities.

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP, 2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 to 9 pm. Info: (209) 338-0855. Email info@stanpride.org, or tgsupport@stanpride.org

THURSDAYS

Attention Veterans: Join us for **Free Coffee & Donuts Meet & Greet** at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am - 11 am

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

LGBTQ+ Collaborative Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month, unless noted. Evening meeting, 1pm to 2 pm, Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St., Suite 2, Modesto, CA. Information: John Aguirre at cell/text - (559) 280-3864/ e-mail: jpmoDESTO@gmail.com

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

3rd Thursday Art Walk, downtown Modesto, third Thursdays, 5 to 8 pm. stroll to art displays and galleries. Info: <https://visitmodesto.com/arts-entertainment/#art-walk>

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 Thursday, Cafe Amore, 3025 McHenry Ave, Suite S., Modesto, 8 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

FRIDAYS

Friday 7:30-9:30 pm (Sept thru May) **International Folk Dancing** with Village Dancers, Carnegie Art Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock \$7. No experience or partner needed. 209-480-0387 for info.

Overcoming Depression: small group for men & women. Every Friday, 7:15 pm. Cornerstone Community Church, 17900 Comconex Rd, Manteca, CA 95366, (209) 825-1220.

Ukulele On Funstrummer Fridays: Every Friday morning from 9 am to 10:30 am Play Along Easy Songs from the Funstrummers Songbooks of over 500 songs. Funstrummers Performing Band Practice from 10 to noon and afternoon gig. Unitarian Church, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto, 209-505-3216 for details. Donations accepted. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mej3gD0ZD40&list=LLB8Y19zZg660qHXCXGc6ojQ&index=1>

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.

SATURDAY

Free Community Drum Circle every third Saturday, 11 am to 12:30 pm, Gallo Center for the Arts, 10th & I St., Modesto. No experience or drums necessary to participate. All levels welcome. <https://drum-love.com/>

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

accepted). Info: RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com

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

CalPride Stanislaus EVENTS

1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto, 209-408-8848.
Open Monday-Friday, 10 am-6 pm.

ONSITE GROUPS & PROGRAMS (Hosted at CalPride Stanislaus)

QUEER POINT: CalPride's harm reduction program supports individuals who use drugs and the broader community and provides on-site syringe services, safer injection kits, fentanyl test strips, and Narcan for overdose prevention. Available Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM.

FOLX Group for LGBTQ+ Individuals between the ages of 25-49, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1-2 pm.

Women's Group, run by women for ALL women every **Wednesday**, Noon-1 pm.

Dreams and Solutions Drugs and Alcohol Support Group, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1-2 pm.

Writing Group Peer Support Group for anyone looking to explore themselves through creativity every **Friday**, 4:30 pm-6 pm.

BEADiFULL Peer Support Group focusing on organic, peer-lead conversation and connection while making friendship bracelets and beaded jewelry, **1st and 3rd Fridays**, 11:30 am-1 pm

Wellness Wednesdays, every **Wednesday** from 1-5 pm, for any individual receiving services in-center to be in community, create art, play games, etc.

Legal Name Change Clinic, every **Tuesday and Thursday**, 10 am-4 pm, and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by appointment only.

Affirmation Station FREE Clothing Closet, open during business hours, Monday-Friday, 10 am-6 pm.

FREE HIV/HCV Testing and Counseling available Monday-Friday, 11 am-5 pm.

OFFSITE GROUPS

(Hosted Elsewhere)

The Men's Senior Group meets every **Thursday** at 1 p.m. at the Queen Bean Coffee House, 1126 14th St, Modesto.

We Thrive POZ Art Group meets every **Wednesday** from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Dragonfly-Art for Life Studio, 1210 J St, Modesto.

DEADLINE to submit articles to CONNECTIONS: Tenth of each month.

Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to [Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.