

HOMELESS IN MODESTO II

DOCUMENTARY FILM PREMIERE + COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | STATE THEATRE MODESTO
 DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM | EVENT BEGINS AT 6 PM



Emcee, Sam Pierstorff



HomelessInModesto.com

TICKETS | \$10

all sales benefit Family
 Promise of Greater Modesto

Creator and Sponsor
 Richard Anderson, PhD



Homeless in Modesto II is Coming to the State Theatre

By Richard Anderson, Ph.D.

The original film, “*Homeless in Modesto*,” was screened at the State Theatre in the Spring of 2018. We sure had a great need to house over 1,000 homeless people.

The Fall of 2018 changed the rules about how communities must treat their unhoused. The 2018 Boise Decision of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that homeless people cannot be jailed or fined UNLESS the community has enough shelters for their unhoused.

Then, in June of 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Grants Pass, Oregon, can penalize its unhoused, even if they don’t have shelter beds for their unhoused.

The new film, *Homeless in Modesto II*, covers these struggles since 2018. It will premiere on Thursday, November 13 at Modesto’s State Theater. All proceeds will go to Family Promise of Modesto. The

film presentation will be emceed by MJC’s teacher/poet Sam Pierstorff. There will be a discussion after. See flyer, this issue, or go to <https://thestate.org/films/homeless-in-modesto-ii-112025/>

HIM II has many powerful parts, such as a man who experiences cold-turkey withdrawal from heroin in jail. Yes, a nurse was attending, whose assignment was just to make sure he did not die, but that was it. Other parts include a powerful musical poem by a collaboration of two AI entities. A young woman spitting out some powerful poetry about when she was homeless and numerous vignettes about the care and/or lack of care of our unhoused.

A new documentary team has been adding content to this documentary for about 4 years. This film was supported, in part, by the Modesto Peace/ Life Center.

SAVE THE DATES



January 12
John McCutcheon Concert
 Modesto Church of the Brethren
 TICKETS AVAILABLE at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)



February 7
32nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration
 Modesto Junior College
 Speaker: **Ilyasah Shabazz**,
 Daughter of Malcom X.

INSIDE CONNECTIONS

NOW WHAT?	6
LOCAL	2
NO KINGS!	3
PEACE ESSAY & ART CONTEST	4
PLASTICS: DAVID VS. GOLIATH	5
THE GESTAPO IS HERE	7
POETRY - GATHERING OF VOICES	8-9
KCBP RADIO	10
EMPOWERMENT!	11

READERS! Sign-up for our e-edition!

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

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

To sign-up, send your email address to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org

If you do not have Adobe Reader, download it free from [Adobe](https://www.adobe.com).

DISCOVER THE JOY OF GIVING

LightTheWorld
Giving Machine
MODESTO

100% DONATED TO THOSE IN NEED

NOV 21 – DEC 12, 2025

Vintage Faire Mall
3401 Dale Rd, Modesto, CA
First floor by G by Guess

Create a lasting memory and make a positive impact! Giving Machines are vending machines with a charitable twist. Instead of buying something for yourself, you are donating goods and services to those in need. **PLAN A VISIT!**

LEARN MORE GivingMachinesGreaterSacramento.org/Modesto






Improve Your Music with Modesto Sound's New Engineer

By Brenda Francis

2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year at Modesto Sound, with fresh talent joining our ranks, and we're thrilled to introduce one of our standout new engineers, **TK Moa**.

Hailing from Oakland, California, TK brings a dynamic blend of West Coast energy and island reggae vibes to every recording. With over **40 million streams** and counting, his work speaks for itself. Whether you're looking for top-tier mixes, professional production, or a creative touch that brings your sound to life, TK is ready to take your music to the next level.

Some of his impressive credits include:

Herb, Whiskey & Reggae by Rebel Souljahz (2023) – 15 million+ streams (Producer).

Back 2 My Roots by Rebel Souljahz (2025) – 5 million+ streams.

Take a Hit by K'Nova (2023) – 12 million+ streams (Producer & Engineer)

We're excited to have TK on board and invite you to book a session with him today. Don't miss out on the chance to work with a rising star in the music industry!

Call us at **209-573-0533** to book your session or reply to eagleislandstudio@gmail.com

Also, check out the attached flyer for a **limited-time student discount** — it's the perfect opportunity to bring your music to life without breaking the bank.

Modesto Sound
LIVE
Recording | LIVE Sound | Education

Virginia White at Kruse Lucas Gallery

Kruse Lucas Art Gallery welcomes **Virginia White** (art pictured left) for her upcoming exhibit for the months of December, '25, January & February, '26, for their next upcoming exhibit. Virginia, a Modesto resident, is a lifelong artist and educator who has been painting in watercolor and plein air of landscapes and landmarks. Virginia uses the impact of clean lines, colorful washes, fresh brush strokes, and striking lights and shadows to achieve her unique style. The gallery is located at 525 Tully Road, Modesto, and is open with new hours of Monday - Thursday, 7 am – 6 pm except holidays. Phone: 209-529-911.

15th Annual
STANISLAUS RIVER
SALMON FESTIVAL
Sat. Nov 8
10-3
Family Friendly
FREE EVENT, \$10 Parking (or USACE Pass)
Knights Ferry Recreation Area
12 miles East of Oakdale off Hwy 120
facebook.com/SRSFest



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

NO OTHER LAND
DOCUMENTARY SCREENING FUNDRAISER FOR PALESTINE

501 MODesto FRIDAY, NOV 7, 2025 | 6PM

GRACEADA PARK
401 NEEDHAM ST, MODESTO, CA 95354

SUGGESTED DONATION \$15

FUNDS WILL BE DONATED TO
HUMAN CONCERN INTERNATIONAL
AN ORGANIZATION WORKING ON THE GROUND IN GAZA TO HELP PROVIDE AID TO THE PEOPLE




 **MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER**
Working for **peace, justice** and a **sustainable future**

Connections is published monthly except in August by the Modesto Peace/Life Center
829 13th St., Modesto, CA 95354
Open by appointment.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 134,
Modesto, CA 95353
209-529-5750 / stanislausconnections.org

Modesto No Kings: Truth Trounces Propaganda



By Eric Caine, The Valley Citizen

October 18, Modesto joined the nationwide “No Kings” protest. A crowd of nearly 2,000 people gathered at Standiford Park and along McHenry Avenue to make clear their rejection of despotism.

“King” is actually a misnomer for today’s autocrats, but it communicates the history of America’s rebellion against King George III, the ruler who failed to extend his monarchy when George Washington and his new American Army said “No.”

“No Kings,” Standiford Park, Modesto CA, 18 October 2025

Today’s rogues gallery of dictators and autocratic thugs, Putin in Russia, Kim Jong Un in Korea and Hungary’s Viktor Orban are from a new mold of technocratic tyrants who’ve harnessed the powers of impulse media, wealth inequality and resurgent xenophobia to establish and strengthen totalitarian regimes. The drift away from democratic values and institutions is, with few exceptions, global, and even includes unlikely countries such as France, Japan, Italy and Germany, though these last four nations have thus far held their most extreme parties at bay.

The United States is ground zero during the battle to save democracy and peaceful protest has become almost the only weapon the people command, as both our major political parties have, with few exceptions, been cowed by a president who has embraced repression and retribution as default governing styles. MAGA propaganda about nonexistent threats such as “Antifa” dissolves into absurdist farce when people wear blowup costumes, put on clown makeup and bring their children to protest masked goons in the streets.

Standiford Park, Modesto, CA, 18 October 2025

Portland, with its long protest history, has set the new trend of inflatable costumes to defeat disinformation about mob violence and paid agitators. Anyone familiar with American history recognizes these attempts to demonize peaceful protest and suppress free speech as tactics from

the Red Scare era of the 1950s, when segregation was legal, women were classified as “dependents,” and livelihoods were lost under false charges of communist affiliation.

The Trump regime’s rejection of due process in favor of arbitrary rule undermines the most basic tenets of law-abiding government. No one should be surprised. Economic justice and basic human rights established under Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and the Civil Rights Movement have always been threatened by those who would establish totalitarian regimes based on conformity to standards of racial purity, nationalistic propaganda, and religious dogma.

Standiford Park, Modesto, CA, 18 October 2025

Last Saturday, millions of patriotic Americans faced the darkness and dread spread by the machinations of Russel Vought and Stephen Miller with light hearts, firm

resolve, and the same reservoirs of courage that defeated totalitarianism in World War II.

The most important outcome of Saturday’s “No Kings” event could turn out to be the victory of truth over propaganda. Only the most gullible of dupes could believe such a gathering of patriotic Americans could be anything other than a respectful exercise of Constitutional rights. Modesto’s reality of peaceful protest became the shared reality of majority America, government propaganda notwithstanding.

Standiford Park, 18 October, Modesto, CA, 2025

Last Saturday, millions said “No,” to despotism and “Yes” to liberty and justice for all. That’s the truth and the whole truth. Period.

MORE PHOTOS PAGE 11

No Kings Modesto Report - 10/18/2025

By Peggy Heinkel Wolfe
KCBP Community Radio Correspondent

About 1,500 people gathered at Standiford Park Saturday afternoon before lining the streets along Tokay and McHenry Avenues in central Modesto, part of the nationwide “No Kings” protest that brought together millions of Americans in 2,500 cities.

Handmade signs in English and Spanish underscored the message Modesto residents had for federal leaders, including “Unpaid Protestor,” “Time to Stop the Trump Crime Family,” and “I feel safer in a room filled with immigrants than in a room with a single ICE member.”

People arrived on two wheels and four, from young families pushing toddlers in strollers to the older set using their walkers and wheelchairs. Many participants appear to have been inspired by the ongoing ICE protests in Portland—the crowd was filled with people wearing large or inflatable costumes, including at least one giant potato, dinosaurs, dragons, turkeys, astronauts, and pigs with ICE badges.

Beginning about noon, several speakers rallied the crowd from the park’s softball diamond, including Marjorie Sturdy with the Modesto Progressive Democrats.

She told the crowd that her grandfather died fighting the fascists in France in World War II and that was part of the reason why she helped organize the event.

“Democracy stands strong as long as the people stand with it,” she said.

Sturdy was among several political and activist groups participating in the rally, which included the local chapter of the NAACP, the Service Employees International Union, Central Valley Democrats, Yes on Prop 50, and Indivisible Stanislaus, which organized the event.

Speaking for Central Valley BIPOC Coalition, Eli Coleman reported on recent actions by local representatives and urged the crowd to hold them accountable as well.

“In a time of ICE and deportations, and people being disappeared and taken away from their homes and families, that’s something we also need to be aware, and acknowledging of our leaders as well, and being critical



of our own sides. Recently, Adam Gray (D-California) and Josh Harder (D-California) voted on a resolution that included praising ICE and their enforcement,” he said, interrupted by boos from the crowd. “And we need to be extremely critical of our own side and our own officials,” as the crowd began to cheer.

Two Democratic candidates also called for greater accountability among elected officials, including Jaron Brandon, who is running for State Senate District 4 and Michael Masuda, who is running against Congressman Tom McClintock in District 5.

After organizers lead the crowd in a series of chants on safety tips, hundreds walked from the park back to McHenry Avenue, holding signs to honks and waves from drivers until the rally ended at about 3 p.m.

Several participants wondered whether turnout—which had surged nationwide—was hampered locally by the lack of parking around Standiford Park, which is also about half the size of Graceada Park, where an estimated 4,000 people turned out for the No Kings event in June. In addition, a handful of participants said they had friends that had decided to travel to other No Kings events where the crowds were expected to be much larger.

Local police patrolled on bicycle, instead of from cars, reminding people that the city’s prohibitions for masks, helmets, and poles at protests remained in effect.

To follow-up, national organizers put together a mass call, which can be viewed on YouTube. More information at www.nokings.org.

Make A Difference

Our community that strives for non-violent conflict resolution, equity, justice and ultimately peace - all come from a commitment to hope. As far as I can tell, children are humanity's embodiment of hope. In this moment, when we feel a bit overwhelmed, it is more important than ever to stand on hope and with clarity and commitment, provide opportunities to our children to use their imagination; engage their thoughts with ways to look at their world through a lens of non-violence. This year's Peace Essay and Art Contest provides new opportunities to do as much.

The pandemic left many school-aged children struggling with the basics, reading, writing and arithmetic, but it did not quell their imagination so, ART in its many fields has been included as a category for children to respond to this year's Peace Essay & Art contest theme, "Social Media and Non-Violence". This added opportunity greatly expands the scope of the contest and its fiscal requirements.

This year's contest includes

Judging panels led by experts throughout our community.

People's Choice Awards, where the public can vote for standout pieces.

Public recognition, gallery exhibitions, and cash/gift prizes for winners.

Workshops for participants.

Reception with guest speaker

You can find more information on our website at

www.modestoplacessayandart.org.

We are asking you to make a commitment to our kids and the Peace Essay & Contest.

The following are for those who want to contribute needed funds:

Sponsorships: choose one or make your own category.

Visionary Sponsor – \$1,000+

Helps underwrite a full prize track and awards ceremony.

Name/logo on all event materials, flyers, and press releases.

Recognition during award ceremony.

Opportunity to present an award on stage.

Featured on social media as a lead sponsor.



Peacebuilder Sponsor – \$500

Funds one full category of student awards (writing, visual arts, or performance).

Name/Logo in event program.

Opportunity to present an award on stage. Recognition during award ceremony.

Creative Spirit Sponsor – up to \$250. Any amount is appreciated!

Supports venues, spaces for student workshops, Galleries, or partial prize funding.

Helps purchase art supplies, student certificates and overall award ceremony expenses.

All help is appreciated!

For those that have helping hands, any related skills, there are many partnering positions from ushering to social media, contact Chris, cdavidsonconsulting@yahoo.com to sign up. All partners and sponsors will receive recognition in group thank-you messages on social media and in our monthly **Stanislaus Connections** newsletter.

Now is the time to take part. It has a direct effect on our kids. As always, thank you for your steadfast commitment to the values of the Modesto Peace/Life Center.

Chris Davidson

Interim Chair

Peace Essay & Art Contest

415.572.4572



2025 MAMA Awards Winners Honoring Modesto Music, Entertainment

From The Modesto Focus

People arrive at the 2025 MAMA Awards Tuesday at the State Theatre in Modesto, Calif. Credit: Vivienne Aguilar / The Modesto Focus

Winners were crowned in the 26th annual [Modesto Area Music Association Awards](#) Tuesday night at downtown Modesto's historic State Theatre.

More than 3,600 online votes were cast for the best bands, venues, events and entertainers for this year's awards. The show, which was open to nominees and their guests, was emceed by MAMAs co-founder Chris Murphy and ModestoView Managing Editor Middagh Goodwin.

Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to both KTRB Radio, Modesto's first commercial radio station, and the Swanee Cowboys, Modesto's first commercial band. The show included a [tribute performance of the group's 1936 single](#) "Just Because" by past MAMAs winners, The Good Luck Thrift Store Outfit, joined by the grandchildren of one of the original Cowboys.

2025 MAMA Awards Winners:

Best Alternative Indie Rock: Girls Smash Guitars
Best Hard Rock/Metal Band: Aware
Best Country /Americana: The Blue Line
Best Jazz & Blues: Penetrators Groove Band
Best Punk: Awake 301
Best Unplugged: DeAngelo & Trinity
Best Youth: The Indecisives
Best Blue Collar: Vintage Youth
Best Urban/Hip Hop: Real One
Best Latin Band: Mariachi Raices
Best Drag: Gigi Banks
Best Comedy: Kimberly "Cookie" Williams
Best Event: Porchfest
Best DJ: Lexy Love
Best Brewery: Dying Breed
Best Venue: Queen Bean Coffee House
Lifetime Achievement: KTRB Radio

Lifetime Achievement: Swanee Cowboys

Get local news you deserve! Sign up for [free newsletters](#) from [The Modesto Focus](#) to keep up with the latest stories by locals, for locals.



Plastic Power: How Industry, Media, and Policy Have Shaped Our Society

By **Laura Plascencia**, [Valley Improvement Projects](#)

Did you know that a Global Plastics Treaty is currently being negotiated? Now take a moment to think: why, or why not?

The average person with access to a digital device is estimated to encounter up to 10,000 ads every single day. Now, why wouldn't we see advertisements about things that are having a massive impact on our health and the health of our planet? Well, that's where the fossil fuels industry and the media industries' collaboration comes into play, using media to influence the narrative.

For example, through media, the fossil fuels industry has sold us the idea of recycling as the waste management solution, although the reality is that only about 6% of plastics are truly recyclable, and often can only be recycled 1 to 2 times before becoming garbage again.

In addition, they also silence the topics that really matter by overwhelming us with advertisements for new products, trends, and fashions, almost all of which are partly or entirely plastic, diverting attention from the urgent issues that people should be aware of.

Just as our communities create coalitions to work on shared missions, these 'Kings' form their own coalitions to influence people collectively and attempt to direct society as a whole.

Just as we see monopolies forming in technology and retail, the fossil fuels industry's monopoly is working with the media to influence us in the directions they desire. Just as our communities create coalitions to work on shared missions, these 'Kings' form their own coalitions to influence people collectively and attempt to direct society as a whole.

The same power dynamic patterns we see nationally are also highly visible internationally, including the imbalance of money, power, capacity, and resource distribution; meaning that those with the highest political power have the loudest voices, while the most vulnerable groups impacted by these issues have the fewest resources to defend themselves.

In 2022, the United Nations Environmental Assembly adopted a historic resolution to create a treaty to eliminate plastic pollution by 2040. Initially, it narrowly focused on plastic ocean litter and was planned to conclude in four negotiations. But due to delay tactics and lack of will to

compromise, from the low-ambition group, there have now been six rounds of negotiations (INC-1, INC-2, INC-3, INC-4, INC-5.1, and INC-5.2), with the most recent concluding on August 15. An agreement has yet to be made.

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution Conferences provided a space for country delegates to negotiate items on many topics related to plastic pollution, facilitated by United Nations Environmental Program officials. The conference included Plenary sessions, which summarized progress, and Contact Group sessions where the negotiations actually took place. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) were allowed to attend as observers during plenary sessions, with very few opportunities to take the floor and share statements, and in Contact Groups with observer privileges only which focused on scope, definitions, principles, procedures, products, waste management, just transition, financial mechanisms, technology transfer, capacity building, and more.

Also in attendance were members of the press, industry representatives, and lobbyists, some of whom masqueraded as non-governmental organizations while advocating industry interests. At each conference, the number of industry lobbyists continued to increase, enhancing their influence.

The process is flawed in continuing to allow consensus as a decision-making mechanism on an issue where two very distinct priorities are at play: profits for the few and the health of our people and planet as a whole.

Although the low-ambition groups were successful in their tactics of pushing for consensus which has lost time and ambition, by the end of INC 5.2, engagement from hundreds of (NGO's) across the world, and more than 120 countries out of the 175 present, stood strong in support for more ambitious and science-based measures, and against the considerable pressure from the petrochemical focused countries, and have been successful at engaging in bilateral collaboration and changing the narrative to include plastic pollution impacts utilizing a whole lifecycle approach.

Civil society participation also grew throughout the conferences, with NGOs representing vulnerable groups advocating on how their communities are impacted by one or various parts of the plastic lifecycle. They held side sessions and issued press releases, sharing with the rest of the world on how their communities are being impacted by plastic pollution.

The groups most impacted include waste pickers, formal and informal waste management workers, frontline communities living or working near oil extraction sites, petroleum refining facilities, and plastic production plants, and people living close to transportation routes, landfills, and incinerators. They also include communities in the

global south where ocean currents carry waste from the global north, inundating beaches with mostly trash, often fast-fashion items made from petroleum-based products.

Plastics are affecting almost every living organism on our planet at varying levels, depending on their location and proximity to areas within the plastic lifecycle. The impact disproportionately affects people in the global south and frontline communities, increasing their risk of various cancers, diabetes, cardiovascular, and respiratory issues. Research from Yale University estimates that Americans inhale approximately 74,000–120,000 microplastics per year, while studies from *Environmental Science & Technology* estimate ingestion of 40,000–50,000 microplastics annually. Collectively, this equates to around three to ten credit cards'

worth of plastic per person, depending on exposure levels. Microplastics are present in our air, water, drinks, food, clothes, all plastic products, and packaging. A Harvard study found that inhalation is a major exposure route, as carpets and textiles are increasingly made from polyester, nylon, spandex, Lycra, and other petroleum-based materials.

Plastics aren't just impacting human health; they are causing an ecological crisis affecting every natural system on our planet. In 2019, the U.S. Geological Survey found microplastics in the air and rain across our National Parks, demonstrating airborne transport of microplastic fibers even in remote regions.

Plastics are affecting almost every living organism on our planet at varying levels, depending on their location and proximity to areas within the plastic lifecycle.

The most beneficial goal for societal and environmental health is to truly turn off the tap on unnecessary plastic production and return to natural products, textiles, packaging, cosmetics, and other products made from natural fibers that don't release contaminants, as we begin the transition out of plastic use. We can't expect companies to make this transition themselves as consumer behavior changes. As long as we keep buying and creating demand for plastics, there will be a supply.

We must use our consumer power like our voting power, using it to divest away from petroleum-derived products that are causing severe impacts across our society, killing people and the planet.



What's Next After the Historic No Kings Protest?

Seven million just turned out for the largest protest in US history, and there are growing signs of defections and defiance.

By [Daniel Hunter](#)

This article is adapted from a Choose Democracy newsletter email.

On Saturday, an estimated 7 million people poured into the streets to say it loud and clear: No Kings. (No Kings pointed out that this turnout is 14 times larger than both of Trump's inaugurations combined.) From Anchorage to Atlanta, from tiny towns to huge city squares, the message echoed across the nation — a call back to the founders' defiance of tyranny and forward to a people-powered democracy.

With protests in over 2,700 cities and towns, the movement continues to break further and further into Trump's support. As Erica Chenoweth's and colleagues' data shows, the protests this year — even before No Kings last weekend — have been the most geographically widespread in U.S. history.

The signs at the demonstrations were fun. “Make monarchs for butterflies, not presidents.” “I already have one boss (it's my cat).” “We the People Means ALL the People.” And of course, the many frog memes: “Ribbit. Resist. Repeat.”

We just witnessed the largest protest in U.S. history — more than 2.1 percent of the country mobilized in one day. That's breathtaking. That's history in motion.

And despite the threats, the fears and the rumors of chaos, the day was overwhelmingly peaceful, determined and joyful. That's worth pausing to appreciate.

So, where do we go from here?

Here are four quick reflections on what's next:

1. Note the growing movement — not only in protests

There has never been this many people mobilized over time and geography in the U.S. We showed the country what a massive, nonviolent protest can look like. Such actions make it easier for people to see themselves aligned with the movement, to consider other actions, and to take courage with this connective tissue we're making.

Personally, the last weeks had me feeling scared — and being with this many people boosted my courage. I know that's true for many. It also gives added support for the many other ways people are resisting: Chicagoans protecting neighbors with their bodies, Memphis protesters using tents to talk to people about ways to resist their National Guard deployment, nurses using their voice and actions to protect transgender patients' rights, Adelita Grijalva trying to get sworn in, and many many more. (Find many more of these stories of resistance at [Resist List](#).)

As Hardy Merriman put it recently in a podcast with *The New Yorker*, we are facing a leader who can wake up each morning and do something terrible. If our only yardstick is whether we can stop the next headline, we'll be depressed daily. We have to steadily shift the landscape beneath the regime's feet. That means we have to show greater unity,

greater discipline in the face of violence (because it will grow), greater numbers and greater ability to provoke defections.

Some of these defections and loyalty shifts are already beginning to take place.

2. Defections are growing

You can already see cracks forming. Institutions and individuals are beginning to say “no” with stronger voices.

- Seven universities, including the University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, and University of Virginia, have publicly rejected the White House's new “funding compact,” refusing to trade integrity for dollars. Many made a big deal when universities “buckled” earlier — but some are now finding their backbone. Recall that Brown University and the University of Pennsylvania had made a deal with Trump to restore research money. Now they have both rejected the compact, showing that even early capitulators can transform into resisters.
- En mass, reporters walked out of the Pentagon press corps rather than sign loyalty oaths. This included ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, The Associated Press, Reuters, Bloomberg News, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic*, *Financial Times*, *Politico*, *NPR*, and even conservative outlets like The Wall Street Journal, Fox News and Newsmax.
- Major airports are declining to air Kristi Noem's propaganda videos.
- Joe Rogan, surprisingly, criticized the violence of ICE deportations in no uncertain terms. “Everybody who has a heart can't get along with that,” he told his massive audience. “Everybody with a heart sees that and goes, ‘That can't be right.’”
- For the first time, pushback was severe enough that a tech titan had to publicly backtrack. Over at Salesforce, CEO Marc Benioff called for the National Guard in San Francisco. Immediately, he was lambasted by rank-and-file Salesforce employees and his long-time friend and colleague Ron Conway resigned from Salesforce's board — joining a growing tech-industry dissent. (Salesforce had offered its services to help ICE.) Benioff has now publicly apologized and says he's changed his mind (hey, it's a move in the right direction).
- The commander of U.S. Southern Command resigned rather than oversee attacks on civilian boats in the Caribbean. A Marine colonel recently wrote publicly — quite a feat — that he quit rather than violate his oath to the Constitution.

Defections are one of the most powerful ways to erode authoritarian control. They send a signal: the regime's grip depends on our consent — and that consent is slipping.

Defections often start quietly and then snowball. If we stay organized and keep building moral and social pressure, expect more. Throwing sand in the gears of the system is how it slows down.

3. Expand our noncooperation toolbox

Protests capture attention, create a platform, provide cover and encouragement for defections, and give me courage. Noncooperation changes the balance of power.

As trainers at [Freedom Trainers](#) remind us, every regime relies on pillars of support — the institutions, corporations, media and civil servants that make it function. When we refuse to cooperate, those pillars start to wobble.

That can look like workers walking off the job, cities refusing unjust orders, or everyday people disrupting “business as usual.”

We've seen how this plays out economically. When consumers and workers together withheld cooperation, such as the Disney boycott, it caused measurable financial pain and forced public reconsideration. A recent report from the *Wall Street Journal* estimated a doubling of customers leaving Disney+ and Hulu over normal months — suggesting 1.5 million customers boycotted Disney+ and 2 million Hulu over Jimmy Kimmel's censorship. That's the power of coordinated withdrawal.

There are also boycotts against deportation airlines Avelo and T-Mobile over its ties with Musk and removing its DEI policies — among others happening right now.

Noncooperation is people refusing to participate in their own oppression. It's students declining to repeat loyalty pledges, artists refusing government commissions, tech workers refusing to build surveillance tools. It's being on juries and refusing to put away activists standing up for all of us. Every act chips away at the machinery of compliance — and can lead to large mass noncooperation actions.

4. Expect violence

This weekend's protest faced very little violence. But this country has deep roots of violence. And the media consistently struggles to name *where* that violence comes from. We've seen this dynamic dramatically in Los Angeles: a few thrown stones and it grabs headlines, while the daily violence of deportations, evictions and police abuse barely registers.

We can hold two truths at once — that we prioritize safety *and* that courage, not safety, is what moves history forward. All of us will need to dig into our wellspring of courage and find what actions we are prepared to take.

For now, a good first step is to check in with your local groups. Thank your marshals, medics, artists and organizers. Hydrate and celebrate. Let's make this a stepping off point for more. The next steps — strikes, boycotts, refusals — will need all of us.

Because what we're doing isn't just resisting. We're reclaiming the democracy we always should have had from those who would rule us as kings.

[Daniel Hunter](#) coaches and trains movements across the globe and is a founder of Choose Democracy. He books, include “What Will You Do If Trump Wins,” “Climate Resistance Handbook” and “Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow.”

From [Waging Nonviolence](#).

More People Are in Immigration Detention Than Ever Before

Vera's research reveals what ICE is not sharing with the public and the vast scale and human cost of Trump's immigration agenda.

From the Vera Center for Justice

Recent reports show that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is currently holding more than 59,000 people across the United States—a record and unprecedented high.

To imprison such an enormous group of people, ICE has built a massive, nation-spanning network of detention centers. Beyond the notorious stateand federally-run facilities like the South Florida Detention Facility (cruelly referred to as “Alligator Alcatraz”) and the Camp 57 wing of the Louisiana State Penitentiary (commonly known as Angola), the system also includes private prisons and local jails. Many unexpected places, such as hotels, hospitals, airports, and military bases, are also part of the ICE detention network. People detained in these facilities have reported violence, overcrowding, starvation, and medical neglect.

When ICE moves people into its labyrinthine detention system, it shares only limited, often error-prone statistics with the public. Its failure to regularly release accurate, complete, and accessible data is part of what enables it to operate this multi-billion-dollar network with little oversight or accountability.

But this summer, Vera researchers updated our ICE Detention Trends dashboard with newly available data, providing the general public with the best glimpse yet into the scale of ICE's detention system. Analyzing millions of new detention history records provided by the Deportation Data Project, the tool provides an unprecedented level of detail about ICE detention populations every day over a 16-year period ending this past June—including a detailed picture of ICE's detention operations during the first four months of President Trump's second term.

Here's what we found.

1. The number of people detained by ICE has reached unprecedented levels.

Recent public ICE reports reveal that 61,226 people were detained on August 23, 2025. Vera's dashboard shows that the number of people in detention has *never* reached this level before, even for a single day, during the 16-year period covered by the data.

2. The number of people in detention has increased dramatically since the start of President Trump's second term.

Vera's analysis shows that, in the first four-and-a-half months of the second Trump administration, ICE booked people into detention roughly 119,500 times—a 17 percent increase from the same time period during Trump's first term, and a 46 percent increase from the same period under President Biden (during the COVID-19 pandemic).

3. In early June 2025, ICE was detaining people in 436 facilities—but acknowledged using just 163 of them

on its own website.

Vera's analysis reveals that ICE was using 149 staging facilities and 55 medical facilities in June 2025—places that ICE largely excludes from the statistics it regularly puts out publicly. Among the litigation ICE is currently facing, one case argues that its practice of detaining people in overcrowded holding rooms for prolonged periods of time under inhumane conditions is unlawful and unconstitutional.

4. In June 2025, ICE detained people in facilities across all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; the Northern Mariana Islands; Guam; and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The states with the most facilities in Vera's analysis were Texas (69), Florida (40), and California (27).

5. Since the start of President Trump's second term, ICE has increasingly used mega-detention centers run by for-profit prison corporations with the capacity to detain large numbers of people.

In early June, 17 facilities across nine states—all of which are operated by private companies—held more than 1,000 people in detention per day. Two of these facilities—Adams County Correctional Center (Natchez, Mississippi) and Stewart Detention Center (Lumpkin, Georgia)—exceeded 2,000 people detained daily. These private companies have financially gained from the Trump administration's expansion of detention, despite reports of inhumane conditions, overcrowding, and lack of access to counsel.

The following are the 17 facilities that held more than 1,000 people per day:

- Eloy Federal Contract Facility (Eloy, Arizona)
- Otay Mesa Detention Center (San Diego, California)
- Denver Contract Detention Facility (Aurora, Colorado)
- Krome North Service Processing Center (Miami, Florida)
- Stewart Detention Center (Lumpkin, Georgia)
- La Salle ICE Processing Center (Jena, Louisiana)
- Jackson Parish Correctional Center (Jonesboro, Louisiana)
- Richwood Correctional Center (Monroe, Louisiana)
- Winn Correctional Center (Winnfield, Louisiana)
- Adams County Correctional Center (Natchez, Mississippi)
- Moshannon Valley Processing Center (Philipsburg, Pennsylvania)
- Bluebonnet Detention Facility (Anson, Texas)
- Karnes County Residential Center (Karnes City, Texas)
- Montgomery Processing Center (Conroe, Texas)
- Port Isabel Service Processing Center (Los Fresnos, Texas)
- South Texas ICE Processing Center (Pearsall, Texas)
- Northwest ICE Processing Center (Tacoma, Washington)

6. Local jails were the most common type of detention

facility used by ICE over the 16-year period covered by the data.

In addition to using private and federal detention facilities, ICE has a widespread practice of paying local governments to hold people facing civil immigration charges in jails.

7. The Trump administration has revived—and plans to expand—the practice of detaining families with children.

The Biden administration had phased out family detention because of the harm it inflicts on minors. Yet, ICE resumed holding families at two detention facilities in Texas: on June 10, 2025, the Karnes County Residential Center held 1,187 people, and the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley held 575 people. Two more family detention centers are slated to open by year's end, giving the administration the added capacity to detain 5,500 more people.

8. Since the start of the second Trump term through early June 2025, ICE has detained people in 605 facilities.

By comparison, ICE detained people in 457 facilities in the last quarter of the Biden administration (October 1, 2024, to January 19, 2025).

9. ICE has detained people in 59 new facilities since the second Trump administration began, including 17 federal facilities (two in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba) and 20 medical facilities.

The following are the 10 largest new facilities:

- JTF Camp Six (Guantanamo Bay, Cuba)
- Atlanta U.S. Penitentiary (Atlanta, Georgia)
- Leavenworth U.S. Penitentiary (Leavenworth, Kansas)
- Hopkins County Jail (Madisonville, Kentucky)
- Campbell County Detention Center (Newport, Kentucky)
- Federal Correctional Institution Berlin (Berlin, New Hampshire)
- Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio (Stryker, Ohio)
- Cimarron Correctional Facility (Cushing, Oklahoma)
- Federal Detention Center Philadelphia (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- El Paso Soft Sided Facility (El Paso, Texas)

10. ICE reopened 77 facilities that it had not been using in the year prior to President Trump's second inauguration, including 36 non-dedicated facilities and 17 federal facilities.

The 10 largest of these reopened facilities are:

- Etowah County Jail (Gadsden, Alabama)
- Miami Federal Detention Center (Miami, Florida)
- Glades County Detention Center (Moore Haven, Florida)
- Marion County Jail (Indianapolis, Indiana)
- Greene County Jail (Springfield, Missouri)

Paloma Contreras Poems Correction

In the October issue of *Stanislaus Connections*, mistakes were made in the printing of two of Paloma Contreras' poems. Tom Portwood, co-editor of *A Gathering of Voices*, apologizes for those errors. Ms. Contreras' corrected poems appear below:



I want to fall apart
come back in three days when I'm feeling like existing

Run ahead and I'll catch up
when my legs learn to move again

I will learn to paint you in the dark
for when that is the only color I can see

Me quiero desmoronar regresar en tres días
cuando sienta ganas de existir

Corre que yo te alcanzo
Cuando mis piernas aprendan a moverse otra vez

Aprenderé a pintarte en la oscuridad
para cuando sea el único color en el que pueda ver

Birthday

I stopped counting the years you wouldn't turn
Now I have to stop looking for you in someone else's
mom

And I have to stop looking for you as if I don't know
where you are buried

You haven't aged a day
You don't look a day over fifty-five
Now who do I tell I found death:
the elixir of youth
and will it pay enough to give you the life for which I ran
out of time?

Gathering of Voices: Poet Seth Arnopole

Members of my family have lived in Stanislaus County for over 100 years. Growing up, I stayed with my grandmother in Modesto during school breaks and summers, and I spent my time there visiting aunts, uncles, cousins, and close family friends in the area. With my mother being a school teacher and my father a performing songwriter, I was raised to have great respect for the written word and for the arts in general. I was brought up in a milieu of musicians, poets, filmmakers, actors, and fine artists who reinforced the idea that the arts exist for all people, not just a select few.

I began writing poems and stories at a young age, first for school and then later for fun, to give to friends or to read at open mic events. In my twenties, life intervened, and I stopped writing for a couple of decades until the COVID pandemic, when I took up a meditation practice that sometimes included writing prompts. This opened my mind to writing poems again, much more regularly than I had ever done in my youth. I have now self-published two poetry collections, *It Could Always Be Verse* and *Inner Child Ballads*. In my poems, I enjoy playing with words, but I also write about the world around me, wherever I happen to go. I am inspired by the natural world, yet I am also fascinated by the human-made infrastructure that underpins our lives.

Outside of writing, I work as a Graduate Student Services Adviser at UC Berkeley and am also a professional musician, singing with ensembles such as the American Bach Soloists, Marin Baroque, and the San Francisco Boys Chorus, as well as performing alongside my father, Alan, in the folk/roots band California Zephyr. You can read my poetry and prose writings on Substack: <https://substack.com/@arnopole>



Immigration Detention from p7

- Butler County Jail (Hamilton, Ohio)
- Northeast Ohio Correctional Center (Youngstown, Ohio)
- Mahoning County Jail (Youngstown, Ohio)
- Broome County Jail (Binghamton, New York)
- Aguadilla Service Processing Center (Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)

The scale and scope of ICE's detention network, as revealed by Vera's research, is just a glimpse at the colossal amount of resources the United States has spent on immigration detention and enforcement. And the Trump administration has plans to dramatically expand its scope, recently allocating an unprecedented \$45 billion for detention and \$30 billion for additional enforcement.

Immigration detention terrorizes communities with no valid justification. Detention does not deter migration, nor is it necessary to ensure that people appear in court for immigration hearings. Yet, in the almost 30 years since the start of the modern era of civil immigration detention in the United States, millions of people, many seeking refuge and opportunity in this country, have had their lives irrevocably harmed by this cruel system. The scale of the problem may be vast, but that does not absolve us of our duty to address it.

Explore Vera's interactive dashboard, or download the data through Vera's GitHub repository.



KD UR LAW OFFICES OF
KELLY, DUARTE, URSTOEGER & RUBLE, LLP

Sharon E. Kelly
Jeffrey R. Duarte
Markus R. Urstoegeer
Megan E. Ruble

1600 G St
Suite 203
P.O. Box 0142
Modesto, CA

Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability Attorneys

Know your rights
Call today (209) 521-2552

MRB MICHAEL R. BAUDLER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

mb@modestocpas.com **Michael R. Baudler, CPA**

TELEPHONE
(209) 575-2653 ext 303

FACSIMILE
(209) 575-0629

1120 14TH STREET, SUITE 2
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354

My Wild Iris

My wild iris roves
 Over the varying terrain
 In search of a matching color
 And the sight of a lively scent,
 Whether sweet or not,
 Emanating from a patchwork
 Of sources, of soils, of souls.
 Trees, singly or in groves,
 Vines, clinging to whatever
 Surfaces and structures
 Are relevant in this
 Revelatory glow.
 The rocks cannot hide
 Rogue creatures;
 The clouds cannot hide
 Seemingly secret coves.
 My wild iris relaxes
 To allow the glow in and
 To follow the rainbow
 Wherever it may go.

Star

There are so many pieces,
 But they are not broken,

 Many potential voices,
 Not all have spoken.

 Some swear,
 And yet they are not sworn
 Enemies.

 A star rises again and again,
 Perhaps at a different time each day,
 But it returns for each one.

 The light is always present
 Even when the sky is hiding it.

Bread

The remainder of
 A once-mighty loaf of
 Bread
 Waiting in the cupboard
 Must be
 Seeking a mate.

That would explain
 The thick
 Glossy
 Coat of fur
 It has grown.

Bakery

This bakery is going out
 The good old-fashioned way,
 Buns a-glazing,
 Varieties of icing
 Spicing up the offerings.
 The pastries are puff pieces;
 The cookies crumble, and how!
 Special tools must break
 Through the frosting
 On the cake
 You must take.
 Crack the eggs,
 Let the flour bloom
 And dust the room.
 The baker's dozing.
 Time to wake,
 Shake the crumbs
 To the floor.
 Let us break the bread;
 Whether freshly baked
 Or day-old,
 It is a small miracle.

Blessed Be

Blessed be
 The makers
 The mongers
 The dreamers
 The maunderers
 The meanderers
 The minders
 The menders
 The tenders
 The mystics
 The cynics

Greater Good

On a path from good to great
 In search of a greater good

There are so many goods
 Given to the greats

That greatness is assumed of
 Anybody in good standing

Great is a good deal
 More complicated than good

Great are our fortunes
 (Thanks to good fortune)

Goodness gracious!
 Greatness abounds!

Even though great is
 The enemy of the good

Good will be greatly missed
 In a time of great loss

The loss is
 For good.

Matter of Interest

The roots break through no matter what.

Given time, they will cease hiding.

The ground is uneven,

They are bursting through the sidewalk,

They are warping the asphalt in the street,

They are interfering with the pipes –

When will we address it?

An Offering

This poem is free.
 The verses are free.
 The words are free,
 Ranging from sea to sea
 And back again,
 Straying into lakes
 Great and small.
 This thing appears
 Plain, but is fruitful,
 Faithful, from the source,
 Cold, rich, strangely
 Familiar. Relatable.
 Being free comes
 With responsibility
 With hard choices
 With sacrifices
 With struggle
 With awareness
 With attachments
 Seen and unseen.
 This poem yearns
 To breathe, to find a line,
 To stand on its own feet
 However many there may be.
 It's being born into liberty,
 It lives free or else
 It dies again and again
 For a chance to be reborn.
 It comes to an end, but
 The poem finds renewal
 And rises again.
 It is inclusive and exclusive.
 Black fire on white fire;
 It began with a word,
 One word, the word,
 A word that spoke the
 Entirety into existence.
 It opened the door and
 The others clambered in.



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

Food Sleuth - Dietitian Melinda Hemmelgarn helps listeners “think beyond their plates,” connecting the dots between food, health, and agriculture to uncover the truth about food. Wednesdays at 8 a.m., Saturdays at 6 a.m.

Moccasin Tracks - in Solidarity with Traditional Original Peoples, prioritizes the voices of the original peoples and the issues confronting them today, including the decolonization of our minds, workplaces, and institutions. Includes contemporary and traditional music from Native artists, news, views, and interviews. Tuesdays at 8:00 am.

The Ralph Nader Hour: Citizen advocate Ralph Nader and guests discuss topics important for consumers and our nation on Saturdays at 4 p.m.

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-renowned 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.

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.

Alternative Radio - 4:00 pm – Tuesdays. Interviews by David Barsamian focusing on national and international issues.

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

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

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

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

Sprouts — Mondays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 7:00 am. Produced in collaboration with community radio stations and independent producers, featuring radio productions of national interest. Coordinated and distributed by Pacifica Radio.

LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

The Well-Being of the Community, Your Family, and You 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Tuesdays..

Live, Bilingual in Spanish & English. Hosted by Jose Higareta-Lopez and Nico Torres.

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.

Vibn with the West Modesto Collaborative -Hosted by Likhi Rivas and Oscar Vasquez. Engage, Educate, and Advocate on behalf of the West Modesto Community Collaborative. Showcases Voices of the West Modesto Community – Wednesdays, 7 pm.

AREA 5150 UFO RADIO – Old radio shows, music & sounds out of this world, Friday nights, 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. Interviews on the theme of social justice.

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

Faithful Fridays – inspirational Black Gospel 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.

Bars 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. Boyatt, 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://spinitron.com/KCBP/>

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.



Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

and

KCBP 95.5 FM

“The Voice of The Valley”

Presents A Live Bi-lingual Program:

“THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY, YOUR FAMILY AND YOU”

TUESDAYS 5:00 to 7:00 PM



yüda ayuda

By **Karlha Arias**

What began as a vision between two daughters of immigrants to make technology accessible for families like their own has grown into a movement. Last month, more than 60 community leaders, educators, students, and families came together to celebrate the one-year anniversary and community launch of *yüda ayuda*, a nonprofit dedicated to breaking down the digital barriers that hold back rural and working families in the Central Valley.

Founded in July 2024 by Daisy Mayorga, a computer scientist, and Karlha Arias, a long-time rural community activist, *yüda ayuda* is rooted in lived experience. With Latinas making up only 2% of the tech workforce, both women have felt firsthand the weight of exclusion in technology. They have also seen their communities struggle with everyday barriers: parents unable to access school portals, workers frustrated with healthcare systems that now require apps, families locked out of services because they rely on face-to-face conversations in a world shifting rapidly online.

With an investment from the State of California, and the Stanislaus Community Foundation's Adelante fund, *yüda ayuda* is rolling out its flagship program, *Cafecito y Computadoras*. In partnership with local nonprofits and community organizations, the nonprofit will host free bilingual morning and evening classes that blend digital basics with AI literacy. The non-profit is actively seeking community sponsorships to expand its programming.

"*yüda ayuda* is not duplicating existing work; we are filling a critical gap," said co-founder Karlha Arias. "From classrooms to boardrooms, we are making sure technology serves our communities instead of leaving them behind. And we are doing it in English and Spanish, with compassion and corazón."

Beyond training individuals, *yüda ayuda* also partners with small businesses and nonprofits through technology audits, capacity-building workshops, and community presentations. From realtors to nonprofit directors, the nonprofit is helping local leaders become not just digitally

"As a Latina in computer science, I've often been the only one in the room, and I know how isolating that feels. With *yüda ayuda*, my hope is that our communities won't just be invited in, they'll feel like they truly belong."



literate but AI fluent and ready to compete in a rapidly changing economy.

At the core of *yüda ayuda*'s mission is its BUILD framework. This model guides learners and organizations to Begin with Basics, Understand Tools, Invest in Learning,

Link with Communities, and Develop Solutions. It is a structured, human-centered pathway that ensures people at all levels can build confidence, skills, and real-world solutions step by step.

"Technology can open doors we never thought possible," said co-founder and co-CEO Daisy Mayorga. "As a Latina in computer science, I've often been the only one in the room, and I know how isolating that feels. With *yüda ayuda*, my hope is that our communities won't just be invited in, they'll feel like they truly belong."

The launch celebration at Nine3One downtown Modesto showcased broad support from both public and private partners across Stanislaus County. Community member Vivian Lopez, who joined the event, put it simply: "*yüda* is providing a solution to our tech void across all generations and language barriers." For those who could not attend, the night underscored just how essential *yüda ayuda* has already become to the Central Valley.

The need could not be more urgent. The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 warns that 39% of workers' skills will be outdated by 2030, with AI, digital literacy, and technological fluency topping the list of fastest-growing demands. Without intentional investment, rural and working-class families risk being shut out. *yüda ayuda* is determined to make sure that does not happen.

For more information, visit <https://www.yuda.io>

More "No Kings"



calendar

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

NOVEMBER 2025

MAPS - Modesto Area Partners in Science: Free MJC science programs on Fridays in MJC West Campus, [Sierra Hall, Rm 132](#). **Nov. 14: CRISPR - What is it and how has it revolutionized science and medical treatments for disease?** Dr. Kyle Fink and Dr. Julian Halmai, UC Davis Health, Department of Neurology. CRISPR has revolutionized treatment possibilities for a wide variety of degenerative and genetic disorders. Join us to learn exactly what CRISPR is and how profoundly this technology has changed our potential to develop cures for previously untreatable conditions. 7:30 pm.

Modesto Science Colloquium, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., MJC West Campus, SCC 114. Free and open to the public. Talks are recorded for the [Science Colloquium's YouTube channel](#). **November 19: Biomass and Biomanufacturing MESA Projects.** MJC MESA Student Teams

Learn about how scientists and engineers are creating materials, energy, and products that reduce waste by repurposing biological residues from agriculture and municipal sources. Four MESA student teams will present their semester-long research projects and discuss how this research can impact our region.

The Prospect Theatre: 25/26 season has continuing offerings. Visit <https://prospecttheaterproject.org/2024-2025-season/>

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

6 THUR: Queen tribute concert show, **One Night of Queen** performed by the U.K. band Gary Mullen & the Works. Gallo Center for the Arts. Visit <https://tickets.galloarts.org/10538>

7 FRI: Documentary film *No Other Land*. Graceada Park. Suggested donation \$15. Proceeds go to Human Concern International on the ground in Gaza. Sponsored by 50501 Modesto.

9 SAT: Annual Salmon Festival on the Stanislaus River. Sponsored by [The Tuolumne River Trust](#). See article, this issue.

11 TUES: VIGIL: DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five Points), **NEW TIME** 4:00-5:00 pm. Info: Call the Center at 209-529-5750 or email jcostello@igc.org.

13 THUR: The State Theatre presents *HOMELESS IN MODESTO II*, 6 pm. All proceeds go to Family Promise of Greater Modesto. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, and support Modesto's historic non-profit theatre. Tickets: visit <https://thestate.org/films/homeless-in-modesto-ii-112025/>

13 THUR: Stanislaus Interfaith Council, **Celebrating Gratitude in Our Community**. Mixer, 6 pm, Presentations by community leaders, 7 pm. Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Info: [Stanislaus Interfaith Council Facebook page](#).

15 SAT: Deadline to enter the **Peace Essay and Art Contest**, for 5th - 12th grade students. See page 4 for more information.

16 SUN: The State Theatre and Modesto Film Society present Niagara, 2 pm. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, and support Modesto's historic non-profit theatre. Visit <https://thestate.org/films/niagara-112025/>

21 FRI: Light the **World Giving Machine**, Vintage Faire Mall.

25 TUES: VIGIL: DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five Points), **NEW TIME** 4:00-5:00 pm. Info: Call the Center at 209-529-5750 or email jcostello@igc.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

January 12: John McCutcheon Concert. TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE at [Eventbrite](#)

February 7: 32nd Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration with Ilyasah Shabazz, Daughter of Malcom X.

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

CENTRAL VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB, 3rd Monday of the month, except November and December, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. McHenry Bowl, 3700 McHenry Ave., Modesto. Info: Contact contact@centralvalleydemocraticclub.com

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: tcfmmodestoriverbank@gmail.com; <https://www.modestoriverbanktcf.org/>

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

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.naacpmolestostanislaus.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/24765549018387/>

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.

Merced LGBT Community Center offers a variety of monthly meetings and written materials. Volunteers, on-

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

Modesto Peace/Life Center **VIGILs:** held **2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS** of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five Points), 4:00 - 5:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 209-529-5750.

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 Wednesdays, 829 13th St., Modesto, 6:00 pm, 529-5750. Meetings on Zoom and in person. 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.

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/>

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/559-280-3864 e-mail: jpamodesto@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>

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.

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=LLB8Y19zZg660qHCXGoC6jQ&index=1>

SIERRA CLUB: Yokuts group. Regular meetings, third Friday, Office of Valley Improvement Projects, 1224 K St. Modesto., 6:45 pm. Info: 209-632-5473. 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/>

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

[StanCountyClubs.com](#) was recently created to foster a stronger sense of community in Stanislaus County and the surrounding areas, by helping individuals connect with clubs and groups that align with their interests. Visit to find out more!

CALPRIDE STANISLAUS

Peer Support Groups

Hosted at CalPride Stanislaus
1202 H Street #C, Modesto, CA 95354
209-408-8848

<https://www.facebook.com/CalPrideStanislaus/>

Transcendence: Every Friday, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm. A peer support group for transgender individuals ages 18 and older, providing a safe and judgment-free space to connect and share experiences.

Senior Gay Men's Group: Every Thursday, 1:00 pm. Senior Gay Men's Group is a space to connect, share, and build community. For individuals aged 55+.

Writing Group: Every Friday, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm, This group provides an affirming and confidential queer space to craft poetry and short stories. For individuals aged 18+.

Folk Group: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. An inclusive LGBTQ+ peer support group for individuals ages 25 to 45, providing a welcoming space to connect, share experiences, and build community. Hosted at CalPride Stanislaus 1202 H Street #C, Modesto, CA, 95354.

Dreams & Solutions, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 11:00 am-12:00 pm. A supportive space for those navigating challenges with drugs and alcohol to connect, share, and heal together. For individuals aged 18+.

We Thrive: Every Wednesday of the month, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm. A space to explore your journey through art, connect with others, and create in a welcoming and supportive environment. This group is for individuals aged 18+.

Heart to Heart: First Tuesday of the month, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. A supportive, peer-led group dedicated to exploring and nurturing healthy, respectful relationships within the LGBTQ+ community. For individuals aged 18+.

Strength in Solidarity: Third Tuesday of the month, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. A safe and supportive space for sexual assault survivors to connect, share experiences, and find healing. For individuals aged 18+.

Closet Abierto: First and Last Thursday of the month, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. A welcoming and affirming space for LGBTQ+ Latinx individuals to share experiences, find support, and build connections. For individuals aged 18+.

Queer Karaoke Night: Last Friday of Every Month: 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. Sing along to your favorite tunes with your friends at CalPride! For individuals aged 18+.