

# Kevin McCarthy: Are you Listening?

By **ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen**

*“A stake was driven through the heart of American democracy on January 6, 2021, and our democracy today is on a knife’s edge.”*

– MJ Luttig

When even Ann Coulter admits that Donald Trump is a grifter, there’s really no sense trying to convince those who still support him of the truth. Coulter is only the latest and most radical of nominal “conservatives” to dump Trump.

Conservative pundits like David Brooks, George Will, and Bret Stephens cut ties long ago. Even party mercenaries like Steve Schmidt and Rick Wilson jumped off the Trump train early on. None of them, however, has been able to loosen Trump’s stranglehold on the Republican Party.

Now, Michael J Luttig has shifted attention from Trump’s big grift to members of the Republican Party itself. Luttig is the retired Judge from the United States Court of Appeals whose conservative credentials are so strong he was on George W Bush’s shortlist for Supreme Court nominees.

Luttig’s measured testimony to the January 6 Committee on June 15 marked an inflection point in American history if only because he was able to speak truth from the disinterested perspective of a retired judge who holds impeccable conservative credentials.

*“Donald Trump and his allies and supporters are a clear and present danger to American democracy.”*

To witness someone who is aware he is talking to history while making history is thrilling enough in itself. But, especially today, to witness a true conservative who takes his mission for righteous justice more seriously than himself is like a watching an alien visitor from another

dimension. Today’s Republicans — Josh Hawley, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Ted Cruz, JD Vance, Kevin McCarthy, Ron DeSantis — take your pick — never manage to achieve moral gravity because the ambition that inflates their lust for power also detaches them from foundational values of truth, integrity, and love of country.

Judge Luttig, on the other hand, has dedicated his life to those same conservative values. Valley Republicans who love their country need to do two things. First, reflect on Judge Luttig’s statement to the January 6 Committee.\* Second, come to the defense of their country by repudiating Donald Trump and the January 6 Insurrection and agreeing that Joe Biden is the dutifully elected President of the United States.

As Judge Luttig says,

*In order to end these wars that are draining the lifeblood from our country, a critical mass of our two parties’ political leaders is needed, to whom the remainder would be willing to listen, at least without immediate partisan recrimination. The logic for reconciliation of these wars being waged in America today dictates that this number needs to include a critical mass of leaders from the former president’s political party and that those leaders need to go first. All of these leaders then need to summon first the moral courage and then the political courage, the strength, and the patriotic will to extend their hands, and ask of the others — and of all Americans — “Can we talk? America needs us.”*

Now is the time for Valley Republicans to come to the aid of their country. Repudiate Donald Trump and pledge allegiance to the United States of America. Kevin McCarthy: Are you listening?

\*Ed. Note: Readers, please read the full, eloquent remarks of Judge Luttig. His words are some of the most important you will ever read.

## Police Oversight: Forward Together’s Final Recommendations

By **JAMES COSTELLO**

The City of Modesto’s Forward Together Work Group finished its work for police oversight and prepared a final report on June 15, 2022.

The Work Group’s report will be presented to the Modesto City Council on August 11. The Council will act on the recommendations on September 27, 2022.

Find the final report, extensive resources, supporting documents, and videos of all meetings at <https://www.modestogov.com/2733/Documents-Presentations>.

The Work Group recommends a combined model consisting of an Independent Auditor and citizens oversight committee based upon the successful model of the City of Anaheim.

**ACTION:** Please review the report’s details and lobby council members to support it. Attend the presentation to the Modesto City Council on August 11.

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# Our Open House: Thanks to All

By DAN ONORATO

Saturday, June 18. The weather was perfect. After days of sultry heat, a refreshing 78 degrees, with a slight breeze. For over two years of pandemic isolation, the Peace/Life Center Board had cancelled most of our projects and community gatherings. But this Open House marked a turning point. We were ready to get re-connected and re-engaged.

With postcards, emails, and telephone calls, we'd invited all our supporters, old and new. And to everyone's utter delight, many came and kept coming. And they didn't just drop by. They enjoyed being together again, updating with friends, mixing with new friends, and just absorbing the upbeat spirit of the event. They checked out our displays and Peace & Justice Boutique of T-shirts, books, buttons, and bumper stickers, and talked with the young people staffing the CJAN table (Climate Justice Action Now) or with representatives from Central California LGBTQ Collaborative, the Latino Community Roundtable, and the ACLU. Inside our office space, they looked at art for sale to benefit the Center and viewed our colorful wall decorations of timely peace and justice posters and our historical displays of the Center's active 52 years. They also enjoyed videos about the Center's goals and projects and especially appreciated a video of personal stories and statements explaining why the Center is important.

Developing community is vital to the spirit and commitment of the Peace/Life Center. In our very troubled society and world, we can readily feel disheartened. At times it's hard to keep the faith that humanity can do better. So, we need to be reminded that we're not alone. Others share our values and try, as we do, to live them. Together, we can make a difference. Our being together that beautiful Saturday morning, all reaching out to one another, all committed to our vision of peace and justice, was a joyous reminder of our need to connect with those who share our values.

Besides nurturing our community, our Open House aimed to awaken involvement. Over 35 people responded eagerly to volunteer for one or more of our projects. And among them were several younger people whose enthusiasm was uplifting. We look forward to their involvement being the first wave in a widening circle of commitment.

For everyone who came to the Open House, for all who filled out volunteer forms to get involved (we'll be in touch with you soon), and for all who helped make this memorable event a reality, on behalf of the Organizing Board of the Center, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

More specifically, special thanks to all who helped set up, staff tables, and clean up: Leroy Alford, Laura Stokes, Jim Abuan, Colleen Norby, Ricardo Córdova, Julie Reuben, Jim Costello, Bill Peck, John Frailing, David Tucker, Ken Schroeder, Mimsie Farrar, John Lucas, Kelly Villalobos, Marianne Villalobos, Drew Monson, Elaine Gorman, Robin Siefkin, MaryAnn Reynolds, Deborah Roberts, and Rachel Tyson.

Special thanks also to the community organizations who were present to share their information and good spirit:



CJAN (Climate Justice Action Now), Bianca López, Robin Siefkin, & Liz Kibler.

Latino Community Roundtable: Aaron Anguiano

Central California LGBTQ Collaborative, Irene Hooper-Gomez.

ACLU Stanislaus: Tom Crain.

And kudos with applause to Jocelyn Cooper, President of the Modesto Peace/Life Center Board, who got us started

in planning and gave a warm welcome to all present and a brief explanation of the Peace/Life Center; to Karlha Davies who was our MC; to Wes Page who filmed and edited the video interviews and created the short clip on the Center's purpose and projects over time; to Linda Lagace who created the PowerPoint on the Center for the Peace Essay Contest Awards Ceremony; to Laura Stokes for organizing the benefit art sale; to Betty Gay who designed the new brochure explaining the Center's vision, history, and projects; to Bianca López who helped the planning committee; to Margie Lewis, who designed a postcard announcement of the event sent out on social media; to Saga Barberis, who designed a postcard sent out on email, updated and consolidated our mailing lists, and created on Google Drive a system to keep everyone on the Organizing Committee in sync in sharing new info; to Richard Anderson\* whose video images preserves our memory of highlights of the Open House; and, finally, to the members of the Planning and Organizing Committee without whose dedication, creativity, and tenacity this Open House would not have happened: Ken Schroeder, Jocelyn Cooper, Jim Costello, John Frailing, Saga Barberis, and Dan Onorato.

The moral of these lists: it takes a community to pull off an Open House and, certainly, to create a more just and peaceful society. As Marian Wright Edelman writes, "It's up to us. It's up to you." Three cheers!

\*Watch Richard Anderson's Open House video at <https://vimeo.com/723049425>

# Amid Putin's Saber-Rattling, 65 Nations Condemn 'Any and All Nuclear Threats'

*"We will not rest until the last state has joined the treaty, the last warhead has been dismantled and destroyed and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth."*

By **BRETT WILKINS, Common Dreams**

Amid Moscow's thermonuclear saber-rattling during Russia's invasion of Ukraine, state parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on Thursday condemned "any and all nuclear threats" while calling on more countries to sign and ratify the landmark accord.

"This is the strongest condemnation of nuclear threats by



## ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Join the Modesto Peace/Life Center's Annual Hiroshima Remembrance and Potluck

At Graceada Park, Modesto on Saturday, **August 6th at 6:00 PM**. Bring food and drinks to share as we converse and rededicate ourselves to reversing the efforts to rebuild and proliferate nuclear weapons. Bring your own table service and a lawn chair as table space is not available,

Social distancing guidelines may be followed. Please bring a mask and wear it if unvaccinated.



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

a multilateral U.N. conference."

As the first Meeting of State Parties (1MSP) to the TPNW wrapped up in Vienna, the 65 countries that have signed and ratified the **treaty** issued a **declaration** and **action plan** unequivocally condemning threats to wage nuclear war, "whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances."

The TPNW signatories committed to "further stigmatizing and delegitimizing nuclear weapons and steadily building a robust global peremptory norm against them."

"In the face of the catastrophic risks posed by nuclear weapons and in the interest of the very survival of humanity... we will not rest until the last state has joined the treaty, the last warhead has been dismantled and destroyed and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth," the declaration concludes.

Beatrice Fihn, executive director of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), **said** in a statement that "this is the strongest condemnation of nuclear threats by a multilateral U.N. conference, and shows an unprecedented commitment by a global alliance of states, survivors of nuclear detonations, international organizations, and civil society to prevent nuclear war and eliminate nuclear weapons."

Masao Tomonaga, a survivor of the August 9, 1945, U.S. nuclear attack on Nagasaki, Japan that killed more than 75,000 people, said that "this political declaration is a very strong document, despite many difficulties we face."

"With this powerful document we can go forward, and all *Hibakusha* support this; it is a great document," Tomonaga added, referring to the Japanese word for atomic bomb survivor.

The declaration and action plan comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin **warned** last week that his country could use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty is threatened.

With **more than 11,000 nuclear warheads** in their combined arsenals, Russia and the United States—the only nation to ever wage nuclear war—are the world's leading atomic powers.

Eighty-six nations have signed the TPNW and 65 have ratified the accord. Notably, none of the world's nine nuclear powers—China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—have signed the agreement.

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## Statement On The Existential Threat Of Nuclear Weapons And On The Treaty On The Prohibition Of Nuclear Weapons

From **Tri-Valley CAREs**

The power to initiate a global apocalypse lies in the hands of the leaders of nine nations. As 122 nations of the world indicated when they adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July, 2017, this is unacceptable.

As concerns about the threat of nuclear weapons re-enter the public consciousness, it is important to know that humankind is not without an answer to the nuclear threat. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on January 22, 2021, provides a clear pathway to the elimination of the nuclear threat.

We call on all nuclear armed states to take immediate steps to:

- engage the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,
- attend the First Meeting of States Parties, and
- sign, ratify and implement the Treaty.



We also call on the US media to recognize the existence of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to include the Treaty in discussions, articles, and editorials regarding the nuclear threat and methods available to address it.

Marylia Kelley, Executive Director, Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment). Main office: 4049 First St., Suite 243, Livermore, CA 94551 (all calls and mail are answered; office is not staffed during the pandemic). Satellite office at WorkVine209: 1005 E. Pescadero Ave Suite 167, Tracy (office hours vary; not open during the pandemic).

KCBP RADIO-95.5 FM - THE VOICE OF THE VALLEY  
SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH

### UNDERWRITING

The right person(s) should be personable, have good communication skills, have experience with selling, be passionate for promoting community radio.

Businesses: Support a program and have your services mentioned on the air.

Contact KCBP Development Director, Jocelyn Cooper, [jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com)

Other volunteers needed!

# Air District Board Approves Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program

## Giving families free in-home air purifiers to improve indoor air quality during wildfires

The Valley Air District Governing Board unanimously voted last week to launch a pilot Clean Air Rooms program. The pilot program, which should open in a few weeks, will provide approximately 1,500 free residential air purifier units with one additional replacement filter to residents throughout Valley disadvantaged communities. The goal of the program is to help mitigate the harmful health effects of wildfire smoke on Valley residents, and in particular the District's most vulnerable populations. Residents within the District boundaries who reside within communities as defined by [CalEnviroScreen](#) (typically low-income underserved communities) will be able to participate and receive a portable air filtration unit to use in their home to help purify the air during episodes of poor air quality. Grants awarded during the pilot phase of the program will be on a first-come first-served basis, yet the District hopes to expand the program after this pilot phase. Residents interested in information about this program can receive information by signing up

for the *Clean Air Room: Residential Air Purifier Program* email notification list.

"Smoke from severe wildfires can inundate the Valley and make its way into homes, causing health impacts to our most vulnerable residents," stated Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO of the Valley Air District. "This program is designed to help families who may not otherwise be able to buy an in-home air purifier to protect their families during wildfires."

"So many Valley residents already face significant challenges with respect to environmental and economic disparities and then are subjected to major smoke impacts during severe wildfires" stated Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner. "Community-facing programs like these provide much-needed tools during these critical times."

In a well-sealed indoor environment (e.g., windows and doors closed and sealed tightly), HEPA air filtration devices, such as those that will be offered under this program, can reduce particulate matter indoors by more than 90 percent. Use of air filtration devices to create "[clean air rooms](#)", such as a bedroom, will ensure that the home has a dedicated space with safe indoor air quality during smoke events.



Particulate matter can trigger asthma attacks, aggravate chronic bronchitis, and increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Individuals with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of PM exposure. Those with existing respiratory conditions, including COVID-19, young children and the elderly, are especially susceptible to the health effects from this form of pollution. Residents experiencing poor air quality due to wildfire smoke should move to a filtered, air-conditioned environment with windows closed. Common cloth and paper masks being used as protection from COVID-19 may not be sufficient protection from wildfire smoke inhalation. For outdoor workers and other individuals that may not be able to remain indoors, state health authorities recommend the use of N95 facemasks as feasible.

For details on current and past wildfires affecting the Valley, as well as resources to protect yourself from exposure to wildfire smoke, visit the District's Wildfire Information page at [www.valleyair.org/wildfires](http://www.valleyair.org/wildfires). In addition, you can access RAAN to check air quality at any Valley location on [myRAAN.com](http://myRAAN.com) or use the "Valley Air" app, free to download on any mobile device, and view the EPA's AirNow Fire and Smoke map <https://fire.airnow.gov/> for information regarding current air quality and smoke impacts. For more information, email: [grants@valleyair.org](mailto:grants@valleyair.org), or speak to Air District staff, call 559-230-5800.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and San Joaquin Valley air basin portions of Kern. For additional information about the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call 559-230-6000.

# How Climate Change Affects the Weather

Nathan Robinson

First Place, Division IV Peace Essay Contest

Sonoma Elementary School

Teacher: Gina Grgich

Tornadoes, rainfall, and hurricanes are becoming more common and dangerous. The cause? climate change. More active tornadoes, more and less rainfall in places that need it, and hurricanes are becoming increasingly more dangerous because of climate change. We

need to stop this if we want to extend our lives on earth.

Scientists have been studying carbon dioxide emissions throughout history, and the 21st century has the highest amount of carbon waste in the air ever recorded. It works together with greenhouse gases, traps the heat that would have regularly been let out of our planet, and makes temperatures rise. Even though it's just a few degrees of difference, which we humans wouldn't notice, it has caused evaporation to happen faster than normal. Although it seems like nothing should change, it creates more downpours in places that have natural rainy weather, and even less in areas that are naturally dry. This causes floods and droughts everywhere in places that already have problems with rain-filled and dry weather.

This isn't just affecting the weather and climate. People's lives are being affected by these changes. People in places with common rainfall will have much more powerful and frequent storms, and people in places with

less will experience droughts and lots of dry weather. With more storms and natural weather disasters, it would cause places to have flash floods, and overflow lakes and rivers, causing water to flood homes and cities in places such as the Midwest and northeast. On the other hand, places with dry weather naturally will have lots of droughts in areas in the southwest and northwest. As heat continues to rise, people would also be at risk of

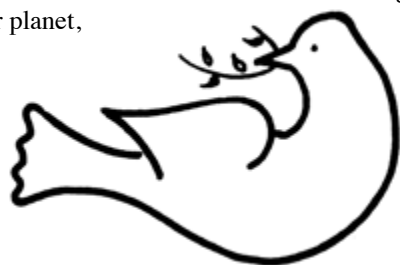
dehydration, heatstroke, and other things caused by lack of water and increased heat or extended periods of time.

We need to stop this before it gets worse by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. If we can make our carbon footprint smaller, then these changes can stop, and our earth can get back to normal. We can reduce our footprint by recycling, using green fuels, and not using so many fossil fuels. We can also reduce it by limiting the use of gas-powered cars and other vehicles and switching to electric cars and bikes.

Our lives on earth and all the other living things on our beautiful planet will become extinct if we continue to destroy it. Tornadoes, hurricanes, and storms are going to get worse, and our lives are going to be horrible if we don't stop this. We must reduce our greenhouse emissions if we want to prolong our stay here. I urge you to reduce your carbon

footprint by switching to an electric or hybrid car, try to recycle so factories don't overproduce, and use your bike or scooter more often instead of your regular vehicle. Just one person can make a difference and you can help stop climate change.

Ed. Note: Works cited are available upon request.



## KCBP Community Radio Seeks Volunteers

The Modesto Peace/Life Center's Community Radio Station the "Voice of the Valley" KCBP 95.5 FM needs volunteers to help develop the following programs:

Children • Art • Poetry • News/Journalism  
• Education • Health • Science • Social Justice • Multicultural • Music/All Genres

Other Opportunities: Underwriting  
• Fundraising/Event Committee • Community Outreach

Contact Jocelyn Cooper,  
KCBP Development  
Director, (209) 422-0119  
[kcbpvolapp@gmail.com](mailto:kcbpvolapp@gmail.com)



# Keeping Workers Poor on Purpose Is Terrible Economic Policy

At America's biggest low-wage employers, chief executives now pocket 670 times more than their workers.

By **SAM PIZZIGATI**, *Other Words*

CEOs at America's biggest low-wage employers now take home, on average, 670 times what their typical workers make.

But we don't just get unfairness when a boss can grab more in a year than a worker could make in over six centuries. We get bungling and inefficient businesses.

Management science has been clear on this point for generations, ever since the days of the late Peter Drucker.

Management theorists credit Drucker, a refugee from Nazism in the 1930s, for **laying down** "the foundations of management as a scientific discipline." Drucker's classic **1946 study** of General Motors established him as the nation's foremost authority on corporate effectiveness.

That effectiveness, Drucker believed, had to rest on fairness.

Corporations that compensate their CEOs at rates far outpacing worker pay create cultures where organizational excellence can never take root. These corporations create ever bigger bureaucracies, with endless layers of management that serve only to prop up huge paychecks at the top.

Drucker argued that no executive should make more than 25 times what their workers earn. And, in the two decades after World War II, America's leading corporate chiefs by and large accepted Drucker's perspective.

Their companies shared the wealth when they bargained with the strong unions of the postwar years. In fact, **notes**

the Economic Policy Institute, major U.S. corporate CEOs in 1965 were only realizing 21 times the pay their workers were pocketing.

Drucker died in 2005 at age 95. He lived long enough to see Corporate America make a mockery of his 25-to-1 standard. But research since his death has consistently **reaffirmed** his take on the negative impact of wide CEO-worker pay differentials.

The just released 28th annual edition of the Institute for Policy Studies **Executive Excess report** explores these wide differentials in eye-opening detail. The report zeroes in on the 300 major U.S. corporations that pay their median workers the least.

At these 300 firms, average CEO pay last year jumped to \$10.6 million, some 670 times their \$24,000 median worker pay.

At over 100 of these firms, worker pay didn't even keep with inflation. And at most of those companies, executives wasted millions buying back their own stock instead of giving workers a raise.

Just as Drucker predicted, this unfairness has led directly to performance issues. Many of our nation's most unequal companies, from Amazon to federal call center contractor Maximus, have seen repeated walkouts and protests from justifiably aggrieved workers.

Lawmakers in Congress, the Institute for Policy Studies points out, could be taking concrete steps to rein in extreme pay disparities. They could, for instance, raise taxes on corporations with outrageously wide pay gaps.

But with this Congress unlikely to act, the new Institute for Policy Studies report also highlights a promising move the

Biden administration could take on its own. The administration could start using executive action "to give corporations with narrow pay ratios preferential treatment in government contracting."

That would amount to a major step forward, since 40 percent of our largest low-wage employers hold federal contracts. If the Biden administration denied lucrative government contracts to companies with pay gaps over 100 to 1, those low-wage firms would have a powerful incentive to pay workers more fairly.

Various federal programs already offer a leg up in contracting to targeted groups, typically small businesses owned by women, disabled veterans, and minorities.

"Using public procurement to address extreme disparities within large corporations," the IPS report adds, "would be a step towards the same general objective."

And a step in that direction, as Peter Drucker told Wall Street Journal readers back in 1977, would honor the great achievement of American business in the middle of the 20th century: "the steady narrowing of the income gap between the 'big boss' and the 'working man.'"

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<https://www.commondreams.org/author/sam-pizzigati>  
**SAM PIZZIGATI**, veteran labor journalist and Institute for Policy Studies associate fellow, edits [inequality.org](http://inequality.org). His recent books include: "*The Case for a Maximum Wage*" (2018) and "*The Rich Don't Always Win: The Forgotten Triumph over Plutocracy that Created the American Middle Class, 1900-1970*" (2012).

## Unequal Power: How the assumption of equal bargaining power in the workplace undermines freedom, fairness, and democracy

From the **Economic Policy Institute**

There is an inherent imbalance of bargaining power between employers and employees. There is, however, a pervasive assumption in **ECONOMICS**, **POLITICAL SCIENCE**, **LAW**, and **PHILOSOPHY** that this is a relationship of equal power. This wrong assumption diminishes our freedoms in and out of the workplace and undermines our legal protections in the workplace. It generates wage stagnation and inequality. And it undercuts civic engagement and representative democracy.

With the Unequal Power project, the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) sets out to shatter this assumption. To do this, EPI is bringing together new research across disciplines arguing that economic policy, employment law, philosophy, and political science need to return to the fundamental understanding of today's workplace reality of unequal bargaining power.

**We need to shatter the assumption of equal power because...**

It creates a lack of freedom in the workplace and beyond.

The assumption of equal power—the idea that if workers don't like a job, they are free to work elsewhere, and this prevents exploitation—enables employers to subject workers to private, authoritarian systems of power in the workplace and

limits freedoms such as free speech beyond the workplace.

It undercuts employee rights and protections.

Courts use the premise of equal bargaining power—defying common sense and economic evidence—to justify limits to employee rights and protections, from at-will employment to forced arbitration in workplace disputes to so-called right-to-work laws. The equal power assumption limits constitutional, statutory, and legislative workplace protections.

It undercuts civic engagement and representative democracy and overlooks issues of workplace governance.

Without rights and protections, workers are unable to build the foundations of civic engagement at work through unionization and free communication. As a result, unequal bargaining power takes away workers' voices not only in workplace governance but in democracy itself.

**It generates wage and income inequality and wage stagnation.**

Equal power underlies the textbook idea of the perfect market, in which employers must pay competitive rates for employees. But the perfect market is the exception, not the rule. With disproportionate bargaining power, employers—not market forces—set wages, benefits, and job quality. Employer power has grown for the last four decades and the

result is widening inequality.

It perpetuates systemic race and gender discrimination.

The equal power model presumes that discrimination can't exist in a competitive labor market because employers must pay appropriately competitive wages. But this disregards the fact that systemic racism, sexism, and lack of citizen status are decisive factors in workers' compensation and treatment—and makes it harder to hold employers accountable through bargaining and legal remedies.

The Unequal Power initiative will directly address all these faulty assumptions and establish the need to center workplace power in legal, economic, policy, political science, and philosophical analyses. This transformational shift is required to advance democracy, freedom, and economic fairness.

The Unequal Power project is dedicated to the memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who recognized the inherent asymmetry between workers and their employers.

*For workers striving to gain from their employers decent terms and conditions of employment, there is strength in numbers.*

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg, dissent in *Epic Systems Corp. v. Lewis*

Follow the project. Receive new publications and updates from the Unequal Power project.

# With a Foot in Two Worlds: One Valley Family's Story of a Dream Fulfilled

By TOM PORTWOOD

For Modesto Realtor Lourdes Bento, it all began by a far-away sea, where time itself seemed suspended in a *chuva* – a fine mist - of happy childhood memories.

Ms. Bento remembers the summers, watching her maternal grandfather, her *Vovó*, whom she adored, and the quiet sunny days she shared with him as he taught her all he knew about fishing. She remembers that he grew his own tobacco and also planted vegetables for the family table, as virtually everyone on São Jorge did, and still does. Ms. Bento remembers the warmth of the brick oven her family used for cooking, and the evenings filled with the music *Vovó* and her older cousins coaxed from their harmonicas. She remembers being transfixed by the ocean as waves crashed against the jagged outcroppings of her tiny island home.

Across the Atlantic, some 870 miles west of Lisbon, lies the Azores, an archipelago of nine volcanic islands that were first settled by the Portuguese in the 1430s, in the time of Prince Henry the Navigator. And this was where Lourdes Bento's family had lived for generations, forging an often hardscrabble life out of what nature had furnished them.

"We didn't have electricity or running water; maybe some of the wealthier homes had those luxuries," Ms. Bento further recalls about those early years. "If you needed to make an emergency call, the township had one telephone centrally located for that purpose. We went to the local *chafaris* – fountain - for our water, and people got around on donkeys or horses, or on foot. You used what you had available to you."

"My father remembers working from when he was 10 or 11 years old, and that was pretty typical for boys of his age, so very early on he was working hard on other people's land, basically working for his meals. Many of his friends didn't have shoes. There was hunger and poverty. So you grew your own food, or fished from the sea."

Born in 1970, Ms. Bento, the oldest of five children in her immediate family, would live on São Jorge until she was nine years old. The close-knit family ties, the wild, transcendent beauty of her Azorean homeland would always be close to her heart, but her mother and father knew that on the islands "there was only so much you can do," for a living and her father had "a passion to thrive and build a better life for his family."

And so, in 1979 the Bentos looked to America for that brighter future, arriving first on the East Coast, "where part of my mother's family lives in Rhode Island," before settling here in the Valley – first in Gustine, then Hilmar, followed by Stevinson, and finally Escalon.

In moving to California, the Bentos were becoming a part of a rich cultural heritage that has seen this state - and particularly the Valley - benefit immeasurably from the infusion of Azorean immigrants, with their strong work ethics and traditions of close community ties.

Over the decades, Ms. Bento's father toiled 16-hour days as he continued to work other people's land – on a dairy - his love for and dedication to his family always a beacon in the



night, as he and her mother eventually saved enough money to buy a home. In the meanwhile, they watched as each of their children flourish in this new land so far from the one they had known all their lives.

"I think I grieve more for the islands now than when we first left them," Ms. Bento reflects. "I'm sure I missed my friends. And school was entirely different. Here, I was living on a dairy, surrounded by dry land, and on São Jorge I had a beautiful view of the ocean and the sky. So there was a grieving process I went through, but moving here was also an adventure – and that sort of offset the grieving."

It didn't take long for young Lourdes to adjust to the Valley, as she "learned a new language and just the everyday mechanics of life. That took me about two years."

"After you migrate here, you're kind of caught between two worlds" Ms. Bento explains. "Of course, you're involved with the local Portuguese community through the church and other activities and what's going on back on the islands, and that's good because the traditions keep growing stronger that way."

"But then you're exposed to the 'American' side of things, and that's mostly through school. School was very diverse, so that was pretty helpful. My father, though, always had a rule: Once inside the front door, you're Portuguese. He didn't want us to lose that. And he was wise to do that, because most of us are fluent in Portuguese to this day."

Four decades later, Ms. Bento looks back on the decisions her parents made with love and a deep sense of gratitude. "Now that I'm older I recognize their bravery in choosing to leave the country of their origin and come to a land where they knew so very few people. They moved us here based on a hope and a wish and a dream. That was very brave."

And for Ms. Bento's parents, the wish happened, the dream came true – their family has thrived here in the Valley, and

their children are deeply rooted in their respective communities. Although for a time she moved away from the Valley, Ms. Bento returned many years ago to raise her son as a single mom, giving him the opportunity to know his *Vó e Vô* – his grandmother and grandfather, and to be influenced by them. "Family's important," she notes, as is community.

"In my opinion, some of the Portuguese traditions are stronger here than they are on the islands. Part of the reason why I think we thrive here in this country is that we came to an area where other Portuguese families had already settled and we helped each other out. And then we all participated in the *Festas* and other local community events to keep the culture and the old traditions thriving."

Ms. Bento readily acknowledges that she will always have a longing for the islands. "There's the Portuguese word *Saudade* – a word that's very hard to define or translate into English, but a longing, a yearning – that's what I feel for the Azores."

When she visited São Jorge and a couple of the other islands with her mother in 2015, "it was quite emotional for me. The second my foot hit the soil, it brought me to tears, I wasn't expecting that I also got to spend all that time with my mother in a way that I had never experienced before, as an adult. That was absolutely amazing."

"I was blown away by the raw natural beauty that's there, and the respect for environment that exists on the islands, that I don't see here in the States on a regular basis. The people on the Azores make do with what they have - everything is recycled and made optimum use of. Nothing goes to waste. If a tree falls, that tree is taken and turned into benches and table tops. Everything is repurposed. That's the one big difference that I saw. There's just more of a reverence and gratitude for certain things, for nature, and for taking care of it."

"On the islands, it was important to slow down. I saw that even in the way that they care for their elderly. And I understand – things are very fast-paced here, so you lose some of those connections and important rituals."

But while Ms. Bento knows she will always be emotionally pulled toward the Azores she is equally drawn back to the Valley, because that's where her family is, where the community she's grown to love and embrace still offers opportunities for herself and her son that wouldn't be possible elsewhere. "I see myself as being both Portuguese and American," she says proudly.

"I feel blessed that I have a foot in two different places – it has broadened my horizons as an individual. I have a strong passion for family and community, and I thank my parents for this. As a family and culture, we have always helped others as we could with what we had. For as long as I can remember, anytime I or others visit my parents, we are greeted with food, drink, and don't come home empty-handed. We are loaded up with produce from their vegetable garden and fruit trees. I think this comes from island living. You help each other to survive."

# What We Lost That Night

By TOM PORTWOOD

A Modesto Bee article, dated February 18, 2022, reported on the first murder of the year in Modesto, which occurred within walking distance of where I live. I started working on this poem a couple of weeks later. The Pew Research Center reports that 45,222 Americans lost their lives to gun injuries in 2020 – 54% by suicide, 43% by murder – as America’s far-too-easy access to guns continues to take a devastating toll across the land.

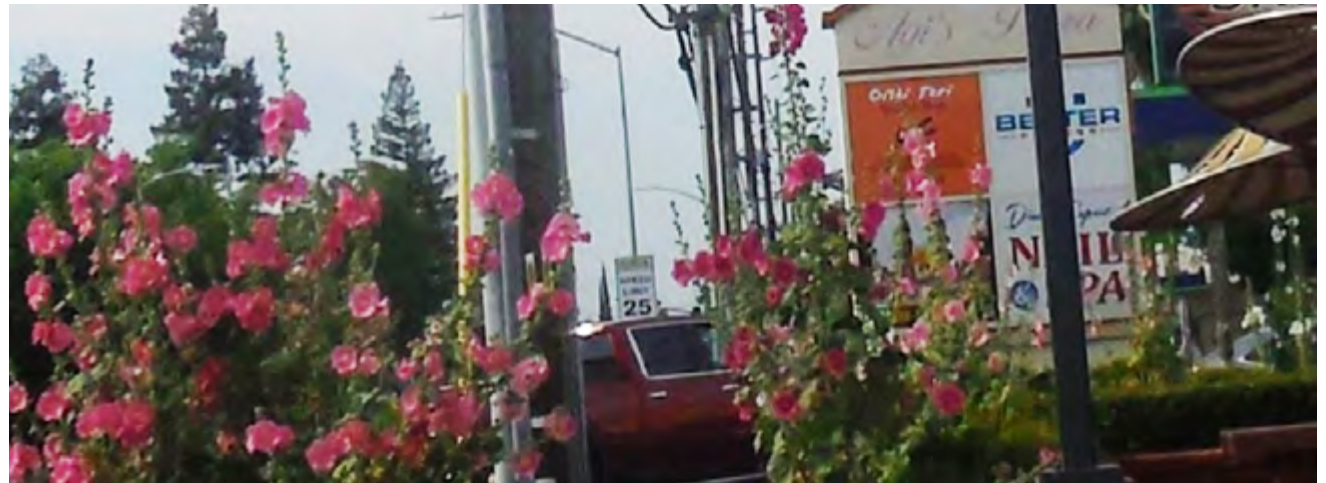


Illustration by Tracy Matsue Loeffelholz

It was February  
 And the shabby palm trees  
 Skirting the rundown shopping center  
 Must have looked distant and desolate  
 Against the cold night sky  
 As you lay bleeding on Coffee Road  
 The 32 bus must have trundled by  
 All but empty of passengers  
 On this, its last run of the day

For eight years I’ve walked the blocks  
 You must have walked that night  
 Past the Jack in the Box  
 On this side of Coffee  
 Where the parking lot floods when it rains

And the Taqueria San José  
 Where the leafy green hollyhocks droop and twist



By the convenience stores selling their  
 Six buck a gallon gasoline  
 Stray muddied facemasks strewn across sidewalks  
 A few blocks down from the schoolyard  
 Where kids were playing T-ball that afternoon

Walked, or driven to the bit of silent concrete  
 Where the *Bee* says the police found you  
 Alive

But dying at the scene

The *Bee* says, too, that you were 24 years old  
 Just a kid, for godsakes  
 That you lived in Modesto  
 Died of a gunshot wound  
 Died at approximately 10:30 that night

But the bare facts say nothing  
 Of how your life intersected at that moment  
 With another’s carrying lethal intent  
 Or of the dreams you might have held fast to  
 That whatever was going on in your life  
 You were alone under a neon sky  
 When the muzzle flashed hot  
 And the night blazed on

Without pause, or a sudden dry catch  
 In the throat

Traffic lights blinking red green yellow  
 A stream of cars roped around Starbuck’s  
 The frantic, distracted bent over phones  
 Swilling down beer at the neighborhood bar  
 Ever in a hurry to move on move out  
 Red green yellow

The *Bee* doesn’t say if you were conscious  
 Or unconscious at final breath  
 Only that the cops on the scene tried to save you  
 But to no avail

When we lost you  
 We forfeited a bit more of ourselves  
 Than we bargained for  
 But we partied on  
 Scrolled, whirled our devices  
 Past the *Bee* piece on the shooting  
 As if you never existed

We’ll never know what we lost that night  
 Near the corner of Coffee and Floyd

All we know that is we failed you

Red green yellow Red green yellow

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## A Compelling Local Story: *Benevolent Neglect* and a New Poet

Michael Estrada, the son of a mother with an untreated serious mental illness presented his documentary film, *Benevolent Neglect* on Thursday May. 26 at the State Theatre. The film chronicled his family's struggle to get the help they desperately needed for her and did not receive.

Members of a panel, held after the film, told their own moving stories about how the mental health system had failed them. People in the audience joined in, often emotionally, recounting their own frustrations in their attempts to help their own children in a mental health system that is clearly broken.

One person who spoke up with a very moving poem was Ruby Hawke. Her poem (see next page), passionately proclaimed, "Do You See Them?" brought a standing ovation.

*Stanislaus Connections* is very pleased to feature Ruby as our Gathering of Voices poet in this issue.

Watch the trailer of *Benevolent Neglect* at <https://youtu.be/ta08Lo3ULqo>

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<http://stanislausconnections.org/>

## What to Eat When You Don't Eat Animals! A Guide for Vegans and Not-yet Vegans

*Originally created by Veda Stram in 1992, this revised and expanded 2022 version is the result of a collaboration with David Hoey/80spoonimals.com.*

### Submitted by VASU MURTY

This guide is for you if:  
You are an animal lover and therefore want to eat in a way that respects ALL ANIMALS

You want to eat delicious, nurturing, inexpensive, healthy meals that are easy to prepare

You've always wondered, "What do vegans eat?"  
You are vegetarian or already cutting back on eating animal products, and you want to go vegan but you don't know how  
You think that you'll have to give up cheese, ice cream, and burgers if you go vegan. You will be amazed at all the scrumptious vegan versions of everything!

You want to improve your health and well-being, as well as the health and well-being of your friends, your family, other humans, and all animals=

You want to do your part to end our climate catastrophe  
You are already vegan and always overjoyed to find more vegan goodies

You want to make a consequential difference for our world with every bite  
To be clear, a vegan is someone who chooses not to participate in any form of animal abuse, exploitation, or slaughter, which includes abstaining from using, wearing, and consuming all animal products, such as dairy, eggs, honey, gelatin, wool, leather, silk, feathers, skin, and fur. Vegans avoid all forms of animal exploitation. Simply stated, veganism is not just about food: It is an ethical stance for total liberation of ALL CREATURES.



## The Breath of the Dragon-A poem about addiction

Deep is the draw to the breath of the dragon  
You can feel the burn melt the flesh at the nape of your neck  
Yet there you still linger  
Caressing the flames of the poisonous tongue as the sparks scar your skin  
You linger  
In the enticement of his mythical snare as your dreams become quicksand in a hypnotic snare of seduction, on a crumbling cliff, each swing brings you closer to death's final wish  
Yet you hinder...  
In the throbbing of his fire-breathing rasp, just one taste of relief but you know it won't last  
Tame the torment and make it through another long night, for daylight brings the craving of an excruciating.  
BITE of the vicious rattler constricts your waning soul, its

### What you'll find here...

In this guide, you will find lots of ideas, menus, product suggestions, and advice about what to eat when you don't eat animals! This resource is designed to get you thinking about what's abundantly available for you to eat that doesn't come from unimaginable suffering and utter devastation. You might be amazed at how many fruits and vegetables you will learn to prepare in a myriad of new ways. Find links to thousands of vegan cookbooks and literally millions of vegan recipes online! That is, if you love to cook, which I DON'T.

This guide is about easy, delicious, satisfying vegan meals, and includes lots of menus, so that you can see how varied, satisfying, and "easy breezy" it is to be vegan. Also included are product brand names, which are in **bold** and linked to websites, so that you can order them online, find them at locations near you, and request that your local stores and restaurants carry them.

To the best of our knowledge, all products in this guide are vegan. We have included companies and brands that provide only vegan products, but, unfortunately, some of them are owned by corporations that sell animal products and/or test on animals; you will have to decide for yourself which brands you purchase.

In this guide you will also find powerful facts about the consequences of our food choices on...oh, just the entire world!

**FIND THE GUIDE HERE:** <https://www.all-creatures.org/strategies/img/what-to-eat.pdf>

Questions? Information? Need inspiration? Please email [vedastram@outlook.com](mailto:vedastram@outlook.com)

poison potent venom tricking your mind  
It's gone beyond remembrance, your mirror bares your shame, as you dance along with demons on a snowy Summer  
DANGLING down your mouth drop lies your shattered glass rock pipe, as you GASP for the escape from the anguish drugs have.  
BROUGHT FORTH LIKE A BATTLE CRY OF A WARRIOR GOING DOWN!!  
I'm still shuddering in defeat as I can still hear their sound...  
"Mommy please stop using, won't you come and get me please!?"  
Their cries remained unanswered for many years  
As I lingered in the underbelly of the dragon unable to break free

– Ruby Hawke

## DO YOU SEE THEM?

They are shunned. They are ignored. They are abused.  
They are deplored.

They are Stepped on, Blamed on, Cussed on, Spit on,  
Kicked on, Beat on. Dumped on. Pissed on.

Hospitals won't keep them, so they are cast on.

Rehabs can't handle them so they are passed on  
Family won't accept them; Society disrespects them; send  
the police to collect them;  
Refusing to help, they dismiss them, a forced compliance  
through handcuffed submission.

Why the hell you crazy? Go get yourself in check.  
You ain't playing solid with a full constructed deck.  
Grab yourself up by the bootstraps. Straighten up. You  
know you can.  
Curtsey sexy like a woman...or proud and stoic like a Man.

Those voices you say haunt you... they're all up in your  
head.

Just make yourself act normal or we'll treat you like you're  
dead.

Society says how brutal. Your words, they sound so harsh!  
Were tender with the sick and those bound by the dark!

But facts take the place of fiction. Call forth discerning  
eyes.

Let truth prevail plainly over societies unspoken lies.  
A debilitating sickness we blatantly dismiss.  
So wrongly diagnosed that so many go amiss.

Quick to label them dope fiends, causes more to be  
mislead.

Let's choose to bypass help and criminalize instead.  
Roped off by shackles and hidden blocked doors,  
Winged off in hospitals with shiny white floors.

White padded playgrounds of locked metal horror,  
Fly by night doctors can't keep things in order.  
Straight Jacket silenced and forced helmet heads,  
County paid Shrinktown prescribes them more meds.

51-50 every month of the year.

Three days of lockdown....now kick'em out... they're  
clear.

Discharge awaiting....new script in hand.

Instructions to head on to pharmacy and stand.

Hit like a brick of undeniable reality,  
Their fears have returned, so has their insanity  
As their feet hit the sidewalk in anxieties pace  
The voices return like a slap in the face.

Who the hell are you? Don't forget that I'm here.

I'm your biggest fucking nightmare...I'm your gut-  
wrenching fear.

Poke Poke...Pick Pick .

I ain't going nowhere, like a dog's relentless tick

I'm the devil in your head and the monster in your dark.

You catch me lurking in your sideview...jumping trees  
throughout the park.

As crazy as I make you, you pray for my depart.

I ain't going nowhere, we will never be apart.

Paralyzed by fear and expelled in deep defeat,

Imprisoned by the nightmares as they constantly repeat.

Plagued by constant worry and a torment that runs deep,

Please someone just help them find a peaceful place to  
sleep!

But how do you talk reason when their behavior is bizarre?

Social norms crack convention when you're gone that far.

So where do they go? What do they do?

How do we offer help when they won't follow through?

Hard as they want to follow the rules?

The voices start rambling and chaos resumes.

The hear sounds of a needling Nelly of nagging necessity,

Or a rambling Roger of raging resistancy.

Nick pick slick flick,

Body contorts in unconscious tick.

Can't force prescription without crossing a line.

Insurance cuts the coverage,

Claiming everything is fine.

They cling to sanity on the brink of despair.

As we're busy pointing fingers, they're pulling out their  
hair.

There's no one easy answer...there's no one quick fix.

While LOVE is not the Whole Answer,

IT'S DAMN SURE PART OF IT!

~~~~~

Please close your eyes for me. I want you to visualize  
something.

A very busy downtown city street.

There is a homeless woman standing on the corner in a  
deep state of psychosis.

She is talking to herself...she is wailing her arms around...

she is screaming obscenities.

She is scared.

Now pay attention to the people who walk by her,

Some stare, some diverting their gaze, some whispering  
about her, laughing at her, pitying her,

Scared of her, hating her.

We are all familiar with this scene, right? Can you see the  
woman? Can you feel her?

Now I want you to imagine that every single person you  
just watched walk by

Responded to her in love instead of fear with a "Hi, How  
are you?"

"Do you need help? I am here to help you. I really want to  
help you.

What is your name? What do you need? I LOVE YOU!"

CAN YOU FEEL THE DIFFERENCE? BECAUSE SHE  
CAN.

## Ruby Hawke: a Voice for the Homeless and Mentally Ill

Ruby Hawke, age 44, was born and raised in Northern  
California. Once a college graduate on a fast track to  
corporate America, addiction would cause her life to take  
a tragic turn, as she would inevitably find herself strung  
out, homeless, and prostituting to survive. Leaving behind  
two kids, the streets remained her place of refuge for many  
years. Eventually, the harsh realities of homelessness  
would bring her to  
her knees, ready  
to accept help.  
Currently resid-  
ing at the Modesto  
Gospel Mission,  
as she completes  
their 18-month  
Life Restoration  
Program.

Ruby's pas-  
sion for advoca-  
cy is fueled by her  
own struggles with  
homelessness,  
drug addiction, and  
childhood sexual  
abuse. Spanning  
across six differ-

ent states, many abusive relationships, rehab stints, jail  
time, and mental ward holds, Ruby's story is one of both  
heart-wrenching survival and heroic triumph. Brought to  
life in her delivery, she combines poetry into her writing as  
she bares her soul with a raw realism that will tear at the  
heartstrings of any listener.

With a particular focus on helping the homeless, and  
mentally ill, Ruby hopes to be a voice for those unable  
to find theirs. What she lacks in professional training she  
makes up for in hands-on experience; having lived on the  
streets and in the homeless shelter she still lives in today.  
She hopes that her experience will not only help other  
suffering people but will serve as a guide to others on how  
best to help.

*Editor's note: Ruby is a true inspiration and a walk-her-  
talk example of how to be in the world.*



# Great Programs on KCBP 95.5 FM, The Voice of the Valley

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PSAs in English and Spanish broadcast multiple times a day about Covid-19 vaccination, produced by the West Modesto Community Collaborative.

## PROGRAMS

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

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

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

*Bucks Stallion's Radio Transmission Emporium* - Cyber Music - Sundays, 1:00 am

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

*Down on the Farm* - topics important for our San



Joaquin agriculture with Madera organic farmer, Tom Willey - Saturdays, 6am & 8pm.

*AREA 5150 UFO RADIO* - Saturday night at Midnight.

## LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

*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, 8:00pm; 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 Leah Hassett - 8:00pm Tuesdays & Thursdays & Wednesdays, 9:00am. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbpwotv> and on Spotify.

*The Peril and the Promise* with Pegasus - Wednesdays, 9:30 pm; Saturdays, 2:30 pm; Listen here also: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp-peril>. Recent show focuses on Project Censored.

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

*Where We Were* - Fascinating local history with Felton Daniels. Monday & Thursdays 9am. Friday 8:30pm; Sunday at 11:00am & 4:30 pm.

## Local Music Programs

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

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

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

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

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## Weekdays (Monday - Friday)

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

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

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

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

*Sojourner Truth* - 4:00pm. Interviews, panels focusing on issues that affect people of color.

*Democracy Now!* - 7:00am. Reporting by veteran journalist Amy Goodman.

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

## Children's Programming

*Confetti Park* - Saturdays 8:00am; & Sunday's 12:30pm.

*The Children's Hour* - Sundays 3:00pm.

## Science

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

*Big Picture Science* - 1:00pm Sundays

*Planetary Radio* - 2:30pm Sundays

*Got Science* - 4:00 pm Sundays

**Find a complete programming schedule on our website, [www.kcbpradio.org](http://www.kcbpradio.org)**

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## Addressing the White Male Governors of "Republican States"

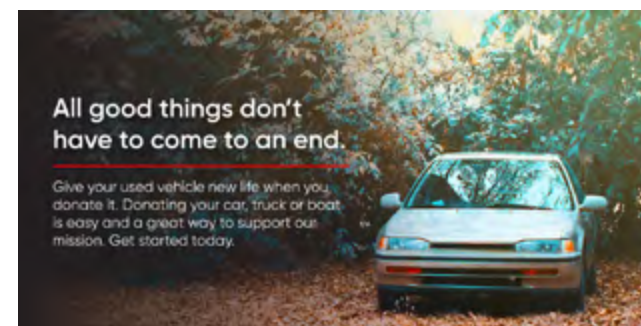
There is no greater child abuse than forcing a twelve-year-old girl to carry an unwanted pregnancy to full term. No abortions? No exceptions for rape, incest, or childhood? You have no right to make that decision for any woman of any age.

There is no greater "discomfort" than the threat of an active shooter invading your school or neighborhood to kill students, teachers, or family unless it is being the actual victim of such senseless violence. Censor guns, not books. Books never killed anyone.

What greater mental health crisis is there than being born "atypical", already facing self-doubt, rejection, and physical danger, and then being told you are not allowed to talk about or read anything about your situation? Loving your neighbor does not exclude neighbors who aren't exactly like you.

What kind of egocentric, under-informed legislators would choose to do these things to children? Whose interests do they think they are they serving besides their own? They are guilty of abuse and don't even recognize what they are doing. Look at them. Tell them how wrong they are.

*Sheila D. Landre*  
Modesto



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# Biden Refuses to Mention the Worsening Dangers of Nuclear War. Media and Congress Enable His Silence.

By **NORMAN SOLOMON**

I've just finished going through the more than 60 presidential statements, documents, and communiqués about the war in Ukraine that the White House has released and posted on its website since Joe Biden's State of the Union address in early March. They all share with that speech one stunning characteristic -- the complete absence of any mention of nuclear weapons or nuclear war dangers. Yet we're now living in a time when those dangers are the worst they've been since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

You might think that the risks of global nuclear annihilation would merit at least a few of the more than 25,000 words officially released on Biden's behalf during the 100 days since his dramatic speech to a joint session of Congress. But an evasive pattern began from the outset. While devoting much of that speech to the Ukraine conflict, Biden said nothing at all about the heightened risks that it might trigger the use of nuclear weapons.

A leader interested in informing the American people rather than infantilizing them would have something to say about the need to prevent nuclear war at a time of escalating tensions between the world's two nuclear superpowers. A CBS News poll this spring found that the war in Ukraine had caused 70 percent of adults in the U.S. to be worried that it could lead to nuclear warfare.

But rather than publicly address such fears, Biden has dodged the public -- unwilling to combine his justifiable denunciations of Russia's horrific war on Ukraine with even the slightest cautionary mention about the upward spike in nuclear-war risks.

Biden has used silence to gaslight the body politic with major help from mass media and top Democrats. While occasional mainstream news pieces have noted the increase in nuclear-war worries and dangers, Biden has not been called to account for refusing to address them. As for Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill, party loyalties have taken precedence over ethical responsibilities. What's overdue is a willingness to insist that Biden forthrightly speak about a subject that involves the entire future of humanity.

Giving the president and congressional leaders the benefit of doubts has been a chronic and tragic problem throughout

**They all share with that speech one stunning characteristic -- the complete absence of any mention of nuclear weapons or nuclear war dangers.**

the nuclear age. Even some organizations that should know better have often succumbed to the temptation to serve as enablers.

In her roles as House minority leader and speaker, Nancy Pelosi has championed one bloated Pentagon budget increase after another, including huge outlays for new nuclear weapons systems. Yet she continues to enjoy warm and sometimes even fawning treatment from well-heeled groups with arms-control and disarmament orientations.

And so it was, days ago, when the Ploughshares Fund sent supporters a promotional email about its annual "Chain Reaction" event -- trumpeting that "Speaker Pelosi will join our illustrious list of previously announced speakers to explore current opportunities to build a movement to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons once and for all."

The claim that Pelosi would be an apt person to guide listeners on how to "build a movement" with such goals was nothing short of absurd. For good measure, the announcement made the same claim for another speaker, Fiona Hill, a hawkish former senior director for Europe and Russia at the National Security Council.

Bizarre as it is, the notion that Pelosi and Hill are fit to explain how to "build a movement to reduce and eventually

**A CBS News poll this spring found that the war in Ukraine had caused 70 percent of adults in the U.S. to be worried that it could lead to nuclear warfare. But rather than publicly address such fears, Biden has dodged the public.**

eliminate nuclear weapons" is in sync with a submissive assumption -- that there's no need to challenge Biden's refusal to address nuclear-war dangers.

The president has a responsibility to engage with journalists and the public about nuclear weapons and the threat they pose to human survival on this planet. Urgently, Biden should be pushed toward genuine diplomacy including arms-control negotiations with Russia. Members of Congress, organizations and constituents should be demanding that he acknowledge the growing dangers of nuclear war and specify what he intends to do to diminish instead of fuel those dangers.

Such demands can gain momentum and have political impact as a result of grassroots activism rather than beneficent elitism. That's why this Sunday, nearly 100 organizations are co-sponsoring a "Defuse Nuclear War" live stream -- marking the 40th anniversary of the day when 1 million people gathered in New York's Central Park, on June 12, 1982, to call for an end to the nuclear arms race.

That massive protest was in the spirit of what Martin Luther King Jr. said in his speech accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964: "I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of thermonuclear destruction."

In 2022, the real possibility of such a hell for the entire world has become unmentionable for the president and his enablers. But refusing to talk about the dangers of thermonuclear destruction makes it more likely.

*Norman Solomon is the national director of RootsAction.org and the author of a dozen books including "Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State," published this year in a new edition as a free e-book. His other books include "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death." He was a Bernie Sanders delegate from California to the 2016 and 2020 Democratic National Conventions. Solomon is the founder and executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy.*





**MistlinGallery**  
Central California Art Association

**People Places & Things**  
July 12 - August 9

**Open late for 3rd Thursday Art Walk, July 21**

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# calendar

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

## july 2022

CHECK WITH MEETING HOSTS. ONLINE MEETINGS MAY BE PLANNED.

**Science Colloquium**, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., MJC via Zoom. To access the program, click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmaymqgHqzxsAa0RjMjYwVg/>.

**MAPS** (Modesto Area Partners in Science: free MJC science programs. Fall schedule pending. Watch past presentations at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2pMYnCos9w0xwd\\_5Icw3Pg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2pMYnCos9w0xwd_5Icw3Pg).

**The Prospect Theatre** has continuing offerings: Visit <https://prospecttheaterproject.org/2021-2022-season/>

**6 WED: VIGIL: SAVING OUR DEMOCRACY**, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, McHenry & J. St.

**7 THURS: Peace/Life Center ZOOM** Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Email [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) for login.

**16 SAT: Humor in Poetry Workshop** with Linda Scheller. Participants will examine poems containing humor, consider methods and ideas for creating humor in poetry, and write first drafts of a poem enhanced by humor. Free and in person! Stanislaus County Library, 15th & I St., Modesto. 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Sponsored by MoSt. Free. <https://www.mostpoetry.org/>

**30 SAT: Synergy Chamber Players** cabaret concert at Mistlin Gallery, doors 6:30, concert 7:30. Dessert & wine included in ticket, \$50 at [ccaagallery.org/shop](http://ccaagallery.org/shop)

## august 2022

**3 WED: VIGIL: SAVING OUR DEMOCRACY**, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, McHenry & J. St.

**6 SAT: Modesto Peace/Life Center's Annual Hiroshima Remembrance and Potluck** at Graceada Park, 6:00 PM. Bring food, and drinks to share as we rededicate ourselves to reversing the efforts to rebuild and proliferate nuclear weapons. Bring your own table service and chair. Social distancing and masks may be required.

**4 THURS: Peace/Life Center ZOOM** Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Email [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) for login. Meeting may be canceled if not needed.

## looking ahead

**Pancake Breakfast** may return. Stay tuned.

**Golden State Warriors Wheelchair Basketball** Team Benefit Game for KCBP Radio. TBA.

## regular meetings

### SUNDAYS

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

**IMCV weekly Insight Meditation** and dharma talk, 8:45 am - 10:15 am, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: [info@imcv.org](mailto:info@imcv.org) Food Addicts Anonymous in Recovery. Sundays 6:30 pm, 2467 Veneman Ave. Modesto. Info: Emily M., 209 480-8247.

**Village Dancers** are not dancing in person but have a Zoom class, every Sunday 3:00-5:00 PM (PST). Lessons and reviews every week are given in international folk dances and

are led by different teachers from around the Valley. People from England to Taiwan, New Hampshire to Oregon, Arizona to Denair join us each week to exercise in their own homes to interesting music. Email Judy at [JudyKropp40@gmail.com](mailto:JudyKropp40@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom number and password.

### MONDAYS

**The Compassionate Friends**, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter is meeting by Zoom on the second Mondays at 7:00 pm. 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: [tcfmodestoriverbank@gmail.com](mailto:tcfmodestoriverbank@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](mailto:nandrews6863@charter.net).

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

**Walk with Me**, a women's primary infertility support group and Bible study. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm the first and third Mondays of each month. Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email [WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com](mailto: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; email: [naacp.branch1048@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

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

**Tuesday Evening Funstrummers** Ukulele Jam. Songbooks provided. 6pm to 8pm, 1600 Carver Rd., Donation. 209-505-3216, [www.funstrummers.com](http://www.funstrummers.com).

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

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**Womxns Support Group** for Womxn in all stages of life. Join us in a safe and judgment free environment where you can give and receive support for the many issues that we struggle with as Womxn. Every Tuesday from 1pm-2pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto CA (Ages +18). Contact Sandra Vidor-209.652.3961 or Kellie Johnson 209.918.0271

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

**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](mailto:CMT RYT, orlando@arreygue.com)

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

## MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

**Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS**: Held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), 5:00-6:00 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, 6:30 pm, 529-5750. Meetings on Zoom. Email Jim Costello for login information, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

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

Wed-Fri, offer support. Ph: 209-626-5551. Email: [merced-board@gaycentralvalley.org](mailto:merced-board@gaycentralvalley.org) – 1744 G St. Suite H, Merced, CA. [www.mercedlgbtcenter.org](http://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/>

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

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

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

### THURSDAYS

**CA10 Progressive Coalition** Monthly Meeting, third Thursdays. Inclusive group of progressive activists to share resources, ideas, and information in order to support all the great organizing work happening in the Valley! Feel free to invite trusted allies. Meet-up and social hour: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. Meeting: 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Follow group on Facebook. Info: Tim Robertson, [tim@nvlf.org](mailto:tim@nvlf.org)

**Laughter Yoga**, Every other Thursday at The Bird's Nest, 422 15th St., Modesto. The dates are February & March 7th & 21st, April 4th & 18th, May 2nd & 16th. 5:30pm-6:30pm. \$15.00 per class. To register, call or text Nicole, 209-765-8006 or visit [www.nicoleottman.com](http://www.nicoleottman.com)

**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.

**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](http://www.StanislausGreenTeam.com)

**Third Thursday Art Walk**, Downtown Modesto, downtown art galleries open – take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-8 pm every third Thursday of the month. Info: 209-529-3369, <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

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

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

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

### FRIDAYS

**Funstrummers**: A Fun-loving Ukulele group gets together live to practice and play. Play along with us or work up to playing out in gigs. Friday mornings, 10am to Noon at the Telle Classrooms, Trinity Presbyterian, 1600 Carver Rd.,

Modesto. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mej3gD0ZD40&list=LLB8Y19zZg660qHCXGoC6ojQ&index=1>

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

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

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

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

**Hispanic Leadership Council**, 3rd Fridays at noon, 1314 H St., Modesto 95354. Questions? Yamilet Valladolid, [yamiletv@hotmail.com](mailto:yamiletv@hotmail.com)

### SATURDAY

**New HIV support group**: +NET Peer Support Group meets at the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Center, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 12-1pm. Focuses on supporting individuals with their struggles regarding HIV and AIDS. Providing information about community resources, promoting wellness with an emphasis on LIVING! Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto. Contact Vincent, 209.505.2863.

**12-Step/Buddhist Meeting** starts with a 30-minute meditation and then open discussion. Held monthly every second Saturday, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto at the UUFSC in Sarana (small building, rear of the east parking lot). Freely-offered donations welcome. Information: 209 606 7214.

**Free Community Drum Circle** every third Saturday, 3 pm, Deva Café, 1202 J. 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](mailto: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](mailto:orkingenne@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**MAKING THE UNTHINKABLE IMPOSSIBLE**  
MAKING THE UNTHINKABLE IMPOSSIBLE



**VIRTUAL RALLY**  
**AND ACTION FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

9 AM PT • Hiroshima Day • August 6, 2022

9 AM PT • Nagasaki Day • August 9, 2022

**Speakers and musicians include:**

Pentagon planner and whistleblower **Daniel Ellsberg**

Nagasaki survivor **Nobu Hanaoka**

Russian peace and democracy activist **Natalia Mironova**

Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab watchdog **Marylia Kelley**

**And more**

VIEW LIVE OR ARCHIVED AT

<https://enlightenedfilms.com/august-rally/>

PLANNING GROUPS INCLUDE: ASIAN AMERICANS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE, ECUMENICAL PEACE INSTITUTE, LIVERMORE CONVERSION PROJECT, NO NUKES ACTION COMMITTEE, SF BAY PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, TRI-VALLEY CARES, WESTERN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION, AND WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

*"Broken Missile" reproduced with permission from original artist Peter Kennard*

# Poetry Reading & Book Signing



Linda Scheller

July 21  
5-8pm

Mistlin  
Gallery

1015 J St  
Modesto

# Trans-Forward

Transgender, Agender, Nonbinary, Intersex and gender non-conforming support group

Every Saturday

12-1 PM Social hour  
1-2 PM Discussion hour

1202 H Street  
Suite D. Modesto, CA

For more info call: (209) 408-8848  
or Email: Katalina Zambrano  
kzambrano@lgbtqcollaborative.org

\*Refreshments will be available, Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination and masks required upon entry.

LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne

# transMENDING

An Ongoing Peer-Support Group Empowering Transgender Men



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Saturday  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

LGBTQIA+/2S Collaborative Advocacy Center  
1202 H St., Suite D  
Modesto, CA 95354

A casual and safe support/social group for transgender / trans-masculine / non-binary identifying men. Conversations surrounding trans men's health, transition, hormones, social changes, navigating relationships, and more.

Friends, fun and snacks!

LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Central California  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne

Questions? Want to get involved?  
asiva@lgbtqcollaborative.org  
Phone: 209 898-4239  
Website: <https://www.lgbtqcollaborative.org/events>  
Social media: <https://www.instagram.com/mr.alexandersilva/>  
@mr.alexandersilva



## "Let's Talk" Over Coffee...

A group for meeting other mature adults and seniors to talk about your week and more!

Queen Bean Coffee House  
1126 14th St, Modesto, CA 95354

Thursdays @ 1 PM

For Info call:  
(209) 408-8848

LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Central California  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne

# POSITIVE SUPPORT

Living Successfully with HIV/AIDS

Join us every first and third Saturday of each month  
Starting at **12:00 PM**

Central California LGBTQIA+/2S Collaborative

Advocacy Center  
1202 H St., Suite D  
Modesto, CA 95354  
Office: 209-408-8848

LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne

Advocacy Center  
1202 H St., Suite D  
Modesto, CA 95354  
Office: 209-408-8848

Office Phone: 209-408-8848  
www.lgbtqcollaborative.org  
419@lgbtqcollaborative.org  
Central California LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
lgbtqcollaborative

## 1202 H Street, Suite C & D

Modesto, CA 95354

Open Monday - Friday:  
10 AM - 6 PM

Open Saturday - Sunday:  
12 PM - 6 PM

LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Central California  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne

# Donna May's Arts & Crafts

Starting with basics & doodles

Starts 12 PM

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month

Place: 1202 H Street,  
Modesto, CA 95354

For more info, contact:  
(209) 408-8848

LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Central California  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne

# Womxn's Group

Every Tuesday @ 1PM

1202 H Street Suite D  
Modesto, CA 95354

An all-inclusive group for all age 18+ womxn in all stages of life. We welcome all cis, non-binary, trans, 2-spirit, genderqueer, people of color and all female identifying individuals to join us in a judgement-free and safe environment where you can speak freely, receive and give support for the many struggles we all face such as: depression, self-esteem, identity, relationships, family, health and so much more...

For more info:  
Sandra Vidor: (209) 859-4299  
Advocacy Center: (209) 408-8848

Masks Required!

LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne

## Casita De Oro

WHERE OUR HEALTH IS WEALTH/NUESTRA SALUD ES RIQUEZA  
Social and educational group focused on Health, Wellness, HIV Awareness, PrEP, PEP, Stigma, & Safe Sex practices for Latin(x) Men offering an open, confidential & safe space.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29TH  
3PM-5PM *scan QR Code*

STANISLAUS / MERCED / TUOLUMNE  
Questions? Want to get involved?  
asiva@lgbtqcollaborative.org  
Phone: 209 898-4239  
Website: <https://www.lgbtqcollaborative.org/events>  
Social media: <https://www.instagram.com/mr.alexandersilva/>  
@mr.alexandersilva

Nosotros Vihviendo  
411@lgbtqcollaborative.org  
LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Central California  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne  
Office: (209) 408-8848  
Centro De Abogacia  
1202 H St, Suite D  
Modesto, CA 95354

EQUALITY CALIFORNIA

# Gay Men's Group

1ST & 3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

1 - 2 PM

A group for gay men to discuss life, challenges and victories

(209) 408-8848

1202 H St. Suite D  
Modesto, CA

LGBTQIA+2S Collaborative  
Stanislaus - Merced - Tuolumne

# KCBP 95.5 FM

A Project of Modesto Peace Life Center

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