

connections

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April 2007

SAVE THE DATES

MARCH 28
WORLD BEAT20

APRIL 22
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL
..... 1

TUESDAYS
GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL
.....20

IN THIS ISSUE

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE .3

SAVE FARMLAND4

YOUTH DO MATTER7

CARDOZA IRAN
DOUBLESPEAK8

STOP IRAN DRUMBEAT9

SACRIFICING OUR KIDS.....
..... 10/11

EGONEWS 12/13

PETITIONING FOR PEACE.....
..... 15

GITMO IS NOT A PRISON
..... 16

Earth Day's time has come

Each year, Stockton ends the first month of spring with a celebration of our amazing and wonderful planet Earth.

The Earth Day Festival is now in its 18th cycle, coming at a time when environmental awareness is growing. The popularity of the Al Gore documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* has uncovered a latent desire for the truth and its regrettable consequences. It's time to act.

If people seem to be more receptive to changing past habits, for whatever reason (be it \$3.25/gallon gas, increased local asthma, inedible Delta fish or bumper-to-bumper everywhere), then this Earth Day Festival can help show the way to a better future.

Come learn about new green technologies, think about changing old habits, and teach your children how easy it is to leave a smaller footprint on the planet. With over 100 booths, you'll pick up something new.

Join in the bicycle parade—starting at 11:30 am. Decorate your ride and take the short round-trip journey from Victory Park to Louis Park and back along the Smith Canal. It's a pretty trip, real fun and good for you, too.

As always, the music is great— headlined by Bucho at 2 pm. And that great lower-on-the-food-chain veggie food will feature Chinese, Middle Eastern, Cajun and Italian cuisine. Tasty!

Admission to the biggest environmental event in San Joaquin County is, of course, free—so you have no choice but to stop by and check out our common future.

If you are interested in having a booth, it's not too late—call 467-4455. But, however you celebrate Earth Day, make Victory Park part of your plans on April 22, 2007. We'll see you there.

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL
Sunday, April 22, 2007
Victory Park 11 am to 5 pm

Food! Music! Free Admission!
Come and Learn!

Family Bike Parade
10:30 am registration

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Now is our best time to start

Bruce Giudici

April brings the green of baseball fields and a fresh warm air of possibility. Earth Days are celebrated as frogs sing in the darkness outside my window, little realizing the mere presence of their sound is an indication of a healthy local ecosystem. "We have survived."

As we spring into 2007, realize that the earth we cherish is still a marvel and as resilient as an abused child. Work for its protection—in big and small ways—and you will

be rewarded. Local community efforts to preserve our eco-heritage are described in these pages. Please attend the Earth Days on April 22 in Stockton, Angels Camp or wherever you live—you will meet like-minded people, wanting to help.

Spring also reminds us that our government comes at a cost. April 15 is a day of opportunity, of hope and of renewal. As with spring itself, our very rich economy has resources that can be put to great use. The billions that are

now wasted on war profiteers, politicians' pimps and personal greed are waiting to be used for the betterment of our communities and environment. In a democracy, all we need do is demand it.

So, as we enter a new era where Congress looks into wrongdoing and maybe does something about it, we must push for more than the status quo. Demand of your representative that we take control of the money. First, stop digging; withdraw the troops from Iraq, enact no new tax cuts, and repeal

Bruce Giudici



the tax holidays only enjoyed by the richest 1%. And second, start climbing out: seriously consider Medicare for all, invest in solar energy as if the world depended on it, and find ways to make this world a better place for children. We have wasted too much time; the window of opportunity is closing. Now is our best chance to start. Begin.

Surge for peace: bring the troops home

It's time for Congress to exercise their oversight authority and pass binding legislation to deal with the costly and deadly situation in Iraq. We must demand that our Representatives co-sponsor H.R. 508, introduced by Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.), a comprehensive plan to disengage from Iraq within 6 months after enactment and make reparations for the damages

that our invasion and occupation have caused to Iraq's people and infrastructure.

NOW members and millions of others have voiced their opposition to the war and the occupation of Iraq, both in the streets and at the ballot box. Yet President Bush affirmed his plans to send over 20,000 additional troops to Iraq in his State of the Union address.

Last month, Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.) and members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus fought back by introducing the binding Bring Our Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Act, H.R. 508. Others have introduced similar bills, including Reps. McGovern and Nadler and Senator Feingold, but NOW supports H.R. 508, the most comprehensive of these measures.

unknown cost of rebuilding Iraq and the future physical and mental health services needed for returning troops. This enormous outlay of public funds not only racks up debt for future generations, but also re-allocates money that should be used for domestic human needs programs, including expanding education, healthcare, and support for Katrina victims to name a few.

By continuing his ill-advised war, Bush is prolonging the physical, psychological and economic suffering of women and their families. Tens if not hundreds of thousands of women, men and children—both soldiers and civilians—have been killed, injured, and sexually abused in Iraq. Rape and abduction of women and girls increases significantly under military occupation and perpetrators are rarely apprehended and prosecuted in such a violent and hostile environment. Families are destroyed, and women and children are left as refugees.

ACTION: Ask your Representative to sign on to HR508 to Bring Them Home and Help Rebuild Iraq. Take Action NOW.

Source: NOW Action Alert 2/20/07 www.now.org

HR508

This comprehensive bill not only ends the occupation of Iraq and repeals the now infamous vote that allowed us to invade Iraq, the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002. It also puts U.S.-trained security forces and military operations into the hands of the elected Iraqi government within 6 months of the date of enactment. H.R. 508 supports U.S. soldiers by funding health care commitments to returning veterans. To prevent future abuses of power by the president, this bill prohibits funding for any more troops in Iraq, and bans permanent U.S. bases there.

So far the Iraq invasion and occupation has cost U.S. taxpayers almost \$400 billion, plus the

National effort to impeach Bush & Cheney

The National Committee to Impeach for Peace announces a coordinated

effort to organize a US corporate shopping boycott April 15 (Tax Day) to April 22 (Earth Day) to end the Iraq war and Impeach Bush and Cheney.

We are asking people to suspend corporate shopping for one week by delaying major purchases, avoiding chain stores and shopping malls, and finding local retailers and small business owners to support.

The message to corporate America—we are not buying it—is a response to Bush's declaration after 9/11 to quietly go shopping. We are

not going to be quiet in the face of torture, WMD lies, civil liberty losses and hundreds of thousands civilian deaths.

Endorse the Shopping Boycott at: <http://www.wearenotbuyingit.org/>

We need regional volunteer coordinators though out the US. Sign up today and download a support kit.

National Committee: Impeach for Peace: Peter Phillips, Dennis Loo, Dahr Jamail, Larry Everest, Mary Lia, Lew Brown, Bridget Thornton, Mickey Huff, Michael Nagler, Andy Roth, Camelia Gannon, Liane Casten, Myrna Goodman, Lenore Foerstel, Susan Guest

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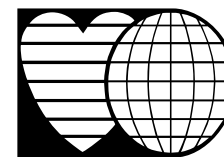
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Community Calendar: vacant

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SB 840 in good health at State Capitol

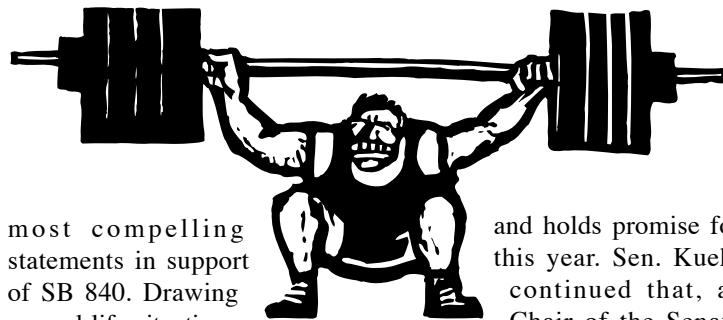
Carol Bailey, Health Care for All—San Joaquin

The halls, press room and hearing rooms were alive and well when Sen. Sheila Kuehl reintroduced SB 840, the California Health Insurance Plan to a standing-room-only crowd on February 27, 2007.

Supporters far outnumbered the media present for the press release “party”, held in the Governor’s Press Room. Sen. Kuehl gave her opening remarks to loud cheers and clapping, prompting a reminder that the press release is an opportunity for the press corps to learn information: the event was not to be a rally. While the crowd sat quietly for the remainder of the hour, heads nodded, faces smiled and there was no missing the exuberance of those present. There are now over 40 co-sponsors for the bill.

Local media coverage lacked: the Record was absent, with only Channel 10 observed in the press room. There were a couple of cable and in-house TV channels recording the event. Dan Weintraub of the Sacramento Bee did his best in his line of questioning to discredit SB 840, as did another reporter with slanted questions against the bill. Sen. Kuehl was well prepared and countered every argument presented.

Kyle Harvey of the California School Employees Association (CSEA), speaking on behalf of the Carpenter’s Union representing the Carpenters of Stockton Unified School District, gave one of the



most compelling statements in support of SB 840. Drawing on real-life situations involving Stockton Unified Carpenters and part-time hourly employees, Kyle’s remarks drew looks of amazement and actual gasps among those on stage and those in the audience.

During the press questioning period, one of the more interesting exchanges came when Sen. Kuehl was asked if she would participate in the inevitable committee hearing, where legislative options will be vetted for the most viable compromise to be presented for vote this year. Sen. Kuehl’s response: “My bill doesn’t play well with the other legislation.” As opposed to other half measures, SB840 is a comprehensive solution to our health care needs. Her discussion continued that, if nothing else, this year is providing a discussion format for health care legislation. This discussion is a necessary step. When all of the issues are out in the open, it will lead to SB 840 legislation—maybe not this year, maybe not next year, but a step closer each time.

California is the only state in the union to have passed a health care plan for all residents, only to have it vetoed by the Governor. Having a Legislature that supported the effort last year is a great victory

and holds promise for this year. Sen. Kuehl continued that, as Chair of the Senate Health Committee, all legislation will be considered in the light of “Do No Harm.”

In committee

Following the press conference, activity moved to the Assembly Health Committee Hearing. The hearing lasted two hours, the room filled to capacity over a half-hour before the hearing started. The overflow rooms, the hallways with monitors available for viewing, the basement cafeteria and the sixth floor former cafeteria (now meeting rooms) were filled to capacity. Those who are “veteran” around the Capitol acknowledged not remembering such a crowd in the past. Excellent questions were asked; excellent answers given.

Assembly member Nakanishi, once again, seemed to have limited understanding of the bill. His most interesting comment needed clarification, and it finally seemed that what he was saying was that, under current practices, doctors have to make up Medicaid losses through private insurance. His concern was how those losses would be covered under Sen. Kuehl’s plan, betraying a fundamental misunderstanding of the single-payer concept.

Participants who came to testify had their remark time limited to two minutes. Those who wanted to give just name, organization affiliation, and support did not have the opportunity—there were too many.

Now the work begins: 1) Attend the many events that are scheduled in San Joaquin County; 2) Talk with friends and neighbors and co-workers; and 3) Stay involved. The grass-roots can—and will—win.

For more information, contact Carol Bailey at cjbhcfasj@hotmail.com.



MSM = truth? Check out the alternatives & decide for yourself

If you tap in to some of the alternative media, you will get a very different perspective on events. Especially now, when the mainstream media often acts as a cheerleader for whatever the administration does, it’s necessary to go a little further to get your news. An internet connection is helpful.

KPFA (94.1 FM) provides the best coverage around for many issues. You can listen on the internet at <http://www.kpfa.org>

Democracy Now! on KPFA, 94.1 FM at 9am, on KVMR, 89.5 at 7pm or on the web at: <http://www.democracynow.org>

Firedoglake <http://www.firedoglake.com>

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

Eschaton <http://atrios.blogspot.com>

Huffington Post <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

Hullabaloo <http://digbysblog.blogspot.com>

Media Matters <http://mediamatters.org/>

Talking Points Memo <http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com>

TPM Muckraker <http://www.tpmuckraker.com/>

Daily Kos <http://www.dailykos.com>

Common Dreams: <http://www.commondreams.org/>

Truth Out: <http://www.truthout.org/>

AlterNet: <http://www.alternet.org/>

<http://www.reclaimthedia.org>

Independent Media Center: <http://www.indymedia.org>

Black Voices for Peace: <http://www.bvfp.org/>

Froomkin’s White House Briefing <http://washingtonpost.com>

The Nation—<http://www.thenation.com/>

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Global Alliance Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space — <http://www.space4peace.org>

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Angry Arab News Service—<http://www.angryarab.blogspot.com/>

Corporate Watch—<http://www.corpwatch.org/home/PHH.jsp>

We’re on the web too!

The Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County (pjnsjc) website has information, calendar, media links, and more. Under construction and growing. Share your ideas on how the website should evolve.

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>



Volunteers needed!!!

Come help with this year’s Earth Day Festival, April 22, Victory Park. Call 209 467-4455.

Stop sprawl, save farmland: circulate petition now

Byron Roberts is coordinating volunteers to circulate the petition for signatures. To volunteer, please contact him at byronrobert@comcast.net. Take the petition to your club, your church, your family reunion, or stand with a partner in a public place. We need thousands of signatures to bring our message home to the City Council as they ponder the General Plan for the future growth of our city. This action is even more critical in light of the failure of the States' Transportation Commission to fund the improvements of Interstate 5 and State Route 99. As the March 2, 2007 editorial in the Record stated, "Interstate 5 is the key transportation link between Sacramento and Los Angeles. The greatest potential for gridlock in those 350 miles is the 11 miles through Stockton." The time for the City to stop this sprawl is now. Please help to get this word out by volunteering to circulate our Petition.

ACTION: Contact Byron ASAP. When you have completed your petitions mail them to Campaign for Common Ground, P.O. Box 693545



CAMPAIGN FOR COMMON GROUND

**To: Mayor Edward Chavez
Stockton City Council Members
Re: Growth and Development in Stockton**

Petition: Stop the Sprawl; Save the Farmland

We the undersigned Citizens of Stockton respectfully request you stop the sprawl into the farm lands surrounding Stockton.

- **There are currently at least 17 major development applications in various stages of processing and evaluation by the City of Stockton's Planning Department.**
- **Most of the applications are for development beyond the boundaries of the 1990 General Plan.**
- **These applications represent the destruction of 17,000 acres of prime agricultural land and have a projected population increase of over 200,000 new residents.**
- **Many of these proposals expand North of Eight Mile Road and into prime farm land.**
- **A majority of Stockton voters, in 2004, voted for Measure Q, to limit sprawl and protect our farm lands.**
- **It is in Stockton's best interest to focus on downtown revitalization and maximize infill development prior to developing beyond our existing urban service boundaries.**

We request the City Council to declare a moratorium on development applications for lands that extend beyond the current 1990 General Plan boundaries until the General Plan 2035 has been adopted and all challenges to it have been resolved.

Print Name: _____ _____ (Signature)	Residence Address: _____ _____ (City)
Print Name: _____ _____ (Signature)	Residence Address: _____ _____ (City)
Print Name: _____ _____ (Signature)	Residence Address: _____ _____ (City)
Print Name: _____ _____ (Signature)	Residence Address: _____ _____ (City)

Decide future of San Joaquin at March workshops

[Editors note: To paraphrase an old saying, bad things happen when good people do nothing. Here, we are being explicitly asked to participate in creating the foundation of our communities. We are many. Please help, meet like-minded people and get involved.]

The population of San Joaquin County is projected to double by 2030, and to grow by over a million new people by 2050. Such dramatic growth raises major questions: Where and how should we grow? How do we want this growth to affect our economy, agriculture, education, transportation, housing, air quality—in short, the quality of life for our children, our grandchildren, and ourselves?

The time for action is now. Please forward this email to all of your co-workers, clients, members, contacts, friends and family. You and your neighbors have an unprecedented opportunity to help shape the future of San Joaquin County at five upcoming workshops:

Fun, fun, fun

These Community Workshops will be fun and very participatory, including a “card game” and other hands-on activities. The workshops are part of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, which will help develop a vision to guide San Joaquin County’s growth over the next 50 years, beginning with input from residents like you. Where and how we grow presents many challenges that we need to address together. Whatever we as a community decide, you can be sure there will be trade-offs, so your input is critical.

We strongly encourage you to register in advance—and to let us know if you have any special

Workshop Schedule

Manteca
Wednesday, March 21, 2007, 6:30-8:30 pm
Manteca Branch Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca, CA

Countywide Workshop in Spanish
Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 5:30-8:00 pm
El Concilio, 308 N. California St., Stockton

North & Central Stockton/Morada
Wednesday, March 28th, 6:30-8:30 pm
United Cerebral Palsy Association, 333 W. Benjamin Holt Drive, Stockton

South & Central Stockton/Linden/French Camp/Weston Ranch
Thursday, March 29, 2007, 6:30-8:30 pm
San Joaquin Council of Governments, 555 East Weber Avenue, Stockton

Tracy/Mountain House
Thursday, March 29, 2007, 6:30-8:30 pm
Tracy Community Center, 300 E 10th Street, Tracy

Light refreshments will be available at all workshops.

Workshops were already held in the following communities: Ripon, 3/1/07; Escalon, 3/7/07; Lathrop/French Camp/Weston Ranch, 3/8/07; Lodi/Lockeford/Acampo/Clements/Thornton/Woodbridge, 3/15/07

needs for transportation, language interpretation, or accommodation for a disability to attend. To register, please visit <http://www.sjcog.org> or contact Anthony Zepeda, SJCOG Regional Planner, at 468-3913 or zepeda@sjcog.org.

We especially encourage young people to attend—after all, they are the ones who will be living in our vision.

San Joaquin is one of eight San Joaquin Valley counties sharing a \$2.5 million grant to conduct this type of public planning process.

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) and other counties are organizing this public visioning process to help residents develop a preferred scenario for future growth leading to a higher quality of life for everyone.

For an announcement and brochure with more details on the workshops and Blueprint process, visit <http://www.odyssey.org>. Other workshops are still being scheduled in different locations in the unincorporated area, and will be posted on the SJCOG website once finalized. Please feel free to call the SJCOG office for more details, and encourage your co-workers, friends and family to attend, too. We want to hear from you.

Source: San Joaquin Council of Governments, <http://www.sjcog.org> and the transportation contractor Odyssey, 1414 K Street, Suite 660, Sacramento, CA 95814 <http://www.odyssey.org>.

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Recommended reading

Universal Medicare: to keep health prices down

Dan Hodges,
Chair, Health Care for All

The book *Medicare Prospective Payment and the Shaping of U.S. Health Care* by Rick Mayes, Ph.D. and Robert A. Berenson, M.D. is the best political history I've read about how health care financing has been dealt with, by the federal government and business, during the past 30-some years. It focuses on ways the federal government has reined in Medicare costs (and how the reasons for doing so often had little to do with wanting to check health care inflation per se).

It's also about the impact of these cost control measures on non-Medicare health care costs, and the actions businesses then took. This history is relevant to both events at the capitol two weeks ago. In Sen. Kuehl's press conference, she had a very interesting give-and-take with *Sac Bee* columnist Daniel Weintraub. His questions focused on how SB 840 will control costs (which, with Kuehl's answers, formed the contents of his column a couple of days later). At the Assembly Health Committee hearing, the Republican Vice-Chair, Alan Nakanishi (Lodi), asked Kuehl questions about the rapid escalation of physician payments in the years immediately following enactment of Medicare in 1965.

This 156-page book has significant, clearly presented arguments, tables and graphs that are pertinent to each of their lines of questioning.

Recommended reading:

Medicare Prospective Payment and the Shaping of U.S. Health Care by Rick Mayes, Ph.D. and Robert A. Berenson, M.D. Johns Hopkins University Press

From the introduction

The biggest and most intense battle within the U.S. health care system during the past two decades has been over two interrelated questions: first, who will control

the manner in which medical care is paid for, and second, how much will it cost? The primary argument of this book is that—contrary to conventional wisdom and whole libraries of books and articles that point to managed care as the biggest "change agent" in American medicine in the last twenty years—the private sector neither initiated this battle nor provided the critical innovation that transformed health care in the United States.

Instead, it was Medicare's transition to a prospective payment system (PPS) that triggered and repeatedly intensified the economic restructuring of the U.S. health care system. With prospective payment, "Medicare sets prospectively the payment amount (rates) providers will receive for most covered products and services and providers agree to accept them as payment in full," according to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). "Thus, in most instances, providers' payments are based on predetermined rates and are unaffected by their costs or posted charges."

Medicare payment reforms have empowered the federal government, making it similar to health care systems in other Western countries. They have given the U.S. government control over the price of most medical care and ended the era—dating back to the 1920s—in which doctors and hospitals' authority over medical prices and decision making went

virtually unquestioned.

The key to Medicare's role as the leading catalyst for change in the U.S. health care system is the program's immense size and influence. As the single largest buyer of health care and the "first mover" in the annual payment game between those who provide medical care and those who pay for it, Medicare invariably drives the behavior of medical providers and private payers.

From the conclusion

We think that the Medicare program is well positioned to take on many of the most important stewardship responsibilities for the government, while continuing to serve as a crucial social insurance program for the more than forty-two million seniors and people with disabilities who depend on the program.

Medicare's prospective payment systems have created a stable funding base for the nation's providers. They have led to important changes in how providers deliver care, producing improved quality and efficiency that have spilled over to better the care provided to Americans. Medicare can shape health care in other ways as well—such as improving access to care, expanding individuals' protection against the cost of illness, and lowering administrative costs - if allowed to do so.

http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title_pages/3463.html



Do Youth Matter? You decide

Samuel Nunez

"The Community Partnership challenged us: Can you create a youth group that will help address community issues and, at the same time, learn to better yourselves while bettering our community?" Youth Advocate Ruben Mesta

Since mid-2005, we in Youth Matter have responded to the challenge. We have engaged



Ruben Mesta, Youth Advocate in front of Youth Matter Headquarters at the West Lane Oaks Family Resource Center.

this community to empower our youth. We've done outreach and education to the community at large, to governmental agencies and local youth service providers. We say again and again, youth development in our community is urgent, and providers must work together.

Youth Matter is a program established through Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin (CPFSJ), and supported and funded by collaboration with ESPINO, Escuelas Si! Pintas No! = Schools Yes, Prison Bars No! Central Valley Youth Organizing Coalition. We also have a support

grant from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation to assist in the creation of a pilot or model for Youth Empowerment Zones across the Central Valley: Stockton youth today, the Valley tomorrow.

Researching youth concerns

"We sat down with several different groups of youth," explains Michael Provencio, who's been with the program 3 years. "We helped develop a survey, collect survey replies and analyze the data to answer the question: what services are needed in the community?"

Reflecting on a laundry list of over 30 needs, the youth finally agreed on the following issues as top priorities:

- Gang prevention & intervention
- Curbing youth substance abuse
- Youth homelessness
- Educational equity
- Alternatives to incarceration

These are urgent: our youth research and outreach showed that there are too few opportunities available that foster positive development of the youth in our community.

With survey information in hand, the group organized a training in Urban Photography. We wanted to document our findings and capture the essence of the community.

Participants learned about the power of photography and its ability to communicate messages both positive and negative—and how that power is often used to portray youth and communities in a negative light rather than positive. The cameras were a new set of eyes open to the streets of Stockton capturing the everyday life of youth in the ghetto experience.

Holding true to the concept of youth empowerment, it was imperative that the strategic planning was youth-driven. Our final outcome was a strategic plan that not only represented the youth that created it, but spoke in their voice.

Findings

Specific findings and recommendations from Youth Matter Action Research Project were as follows:

Finding #1: Stockton needs the following support services: youth employment/job training, clinical/reproductive health services, mental health services, substance abuse services, gang intervention services, tutoring services, mentoring, teen parenting classes, exploratory field trips and higher education services for youth.

Recommendation: Stockton needs a youth empowerment center funded by local government funds, grants and private donations.

Finding #2: Schools do not have enough resources to help youth in Stockton prepare for the future and succeed in academics and life.

Recommendation: Schools in Stockton need more resources to teach students. Teachers and

2007 Mayor's Youth Conference

The Peace & Justice Center was 'in the house' for the 2nd year and, once again, met many wonderful young people from the area. Youth from 8th grade through high school—with a few young adults as well—gathered for a full day of speakers, break out sessions and discussion groups that focused on the theme: Tipping the Scales, or how to change the balance from a city billed as the least literate and the most crime-ridden to one of full literacy with no crime.

The P&J table posed the questions: How will you create peace in your community, how do you demonstrate equality of all persons, how do you resolve conflict nonviolently, and what do you do to take care of the earth's resources? The youth wrote their responses on a large sheet of paper and once again demonstrated how thoughtful they are. If you wish to see their responses, it is posted in the Peace and Justice Center.

Christie Kelley and Derrick Shavers staffed the table and spoke with teens throughout the day as they passed out *Connections* and socially-relevant buttons and pins. Youth Matters was also there and contributed throughout the sessions. During the lunch break several young men presented a well-prepared powerpoint presentation on the overwhelming negative statistics that young poor people of color face in our society today. Through their testimonies, these men talked about personal responsibility and choice and that Youth Matters, a community organization, is here to support young people ready to make positive changes in their lives.

Each year, this Youth Conference brings together a wide variety of young people. I look forward to seeing more and more of them contributing in positive ways to their communities. The future is indeed bright.

administrators need to better understand the lives of their students.

Finding #3: Gangs are certainly a problem in Stockton. However, most survey respondents believe that gang members can be productive members of society.

Recommendation: Stockton may not have enough gang intervention services, or community members may not be aware of what gang intervention services are available.

Presentations on our report to the community have been provided to:

- Stockton Mayors Office
- Kiwanis Club
- Peace and Justice Network
- Juvenile Probation Department
- Adult Probation Department
- California Youth Authority

The future

Youth Matter will continue outreach and education efforts with the intent of 1) identifying and

educating key leaders and service providers in the community, 2) implementing a formal 'Youth Empowerment strategy' that is predominantly youth-organized and 3) creating a system of services throughout the community with Youth Matter representatives at each high school and services at each Community for Partnership community center.

Currently the youth have been working on a Youth Matter Luncheon and plan to invite agencies and organizations that impact youth. At this event, YM will present their findings, generate support, and hold a press conference to highlight their work with the broader San Joaquin Community.

ACTION: If you want further information regarding the CPFSJ Youth Matter Program, please call us at (209) 644-8621. Samuel 'Sammy' Nunez is Director of the Father Involvement and Youth Development Programs with the Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin.



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Iraq question, Iran answer

Cardoza doublespeak on Iran

Jim Walsh, key organizer of the Stockton Peace Convergence March 17, contacted Rep. Dennis Cardoza's office about Iraq defunding and the Jerry McNerney co-sponsored troop pullout bill HR508.

What follows is Rep. Cardoza's response (reader response for the next Connections—and to his office—is welcome):

Dear Mr. Walsh:

Thank you for contacting my office to express your concerns regarding our policy towards Iran. I greatly appreciate your insight on this important issue.

The biggest impediment to improving U.S.-Iranian relations is Iran's continued pursuit of a nuclear program in defiance of U.N. resolutions and international law. As you may know, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported in 2003 that Iran was engaging in efforts to enrich uranium and separate plutonium and had been covering up its activities for almost two decades. On September 24, 2005, the IAEA found Iran to be in noncompliance with the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty safeguards agreement and reported Iran to the United Nations Security Council in February of 2006.

The Security Council, in adopting Resolution 1696 on July 31, 2006, called upon Iran to re-suspend enrichment and reprocessing, reconsider construction of its heavy water reactor, ratify and implement the 2003 agreement Iran entered into with Germany, France, and the UK to suspend enrichment, and implement transparency measures. In response to Iran's defiance of Resolution 1696, the Security Council passed Resolution 1737 on December

23, 2006 which adopted limited sanctions. Iran has continued its enrichment activities, failing to meet multiple deadlines, the most recent being February 21, 2007.

I am deeply troubled that Iran has accelerated its nuclear development program in a direct challenge to the IAEA and the international community. In addition, I believe that the recent posturing and inflammatory rhetoric of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad are cause for serious concern.

It is important to note that, according to the 2005 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE), Iran is at least 10 years away from developing the key ingredients needed to make a nuclear weapon. Given these facts, I believe that a multilateral approach, either through the United Nations or other channels, is the best strategy to achieve a diplomatic settlement regarding its nuclear program.

Despite numerous challenges, I remain hopeful that a diplomatic solution can be found. There have been limited diplomatic opportunities between the U.S. and Iran in the last couple of years that, if strategically pursued, could bear fruit.

In November of 2005 U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad said that he received approval from President Bush to begin a dialogue with Iranian officials on the issue of Iraqi stability and Iran's aid to Shiite militias. Unfortunately, due to Iranian intransigence, the talks never occurred.

More recently, the idea of talks between our two countries was suggested by the Iraq Study Group (ISG). Specifically, the ISG recommended that the U.S. open multilateral talks with both Iran and Syria to enlist their assistance in stabilizing Iraq.

The Bush Administration has recently announced it plans to



join multilateral talks with Iran and Syria over the subject of stabilizing Iraq. I am heartened by this recent development and hope the Administration will pursue constructive and meaningful dialogue with these countries.

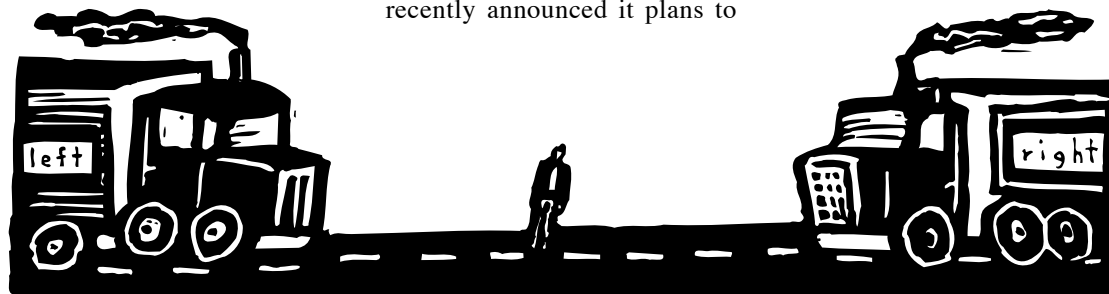
While we should always retain all our options, I believe we should use all the tools at our disposal, including our diplomatic tools, in trying to resolve our outstanding disputes with Iran. As President Kennedy once said, "Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate."

Please be assured that I will continue to monitor the situation in Iran closely. I will certainly keep your views in mind as debate on this important issue continues in the 110th Congress.

Thank you again for taking the time to inform me of your views. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress

If you have any questions, please call my Washington, DC office at: 202/225.6131.



How to not be fooled again

Dan Froomkin

Lessons we thought had been learned from Vietnam were forgotten in the rush to invade Iraq. And now, as we cover President Bush's ratcheting up of the rhetoric against Iran, it's looking like the lessons we should have learned from Iraq may not have been learned at all. So at the risk of stating the obvious, here are some thoughts about what those lessons were. (Feel free to add more in comments.)

You can't be too skeptical of authority

- Don't assume anything administration officials tell you is true. In fact, you are probably better off assuming anything they tell you is a lie.
- Demand proof for their every assertion. Assume the proof is a lie. Demand that they prove that their proof is accurate.
- Just because they say it, doesn't mean it should make the headlines. The absence of supporting evidence for their assertion—or a preponderance of evidence that contradicts the assertion—may be more newsworthy than the assertion itself.
- Don't print anonymous assertions. Demand that sources make themselves accountable for what they insist is true.

Provocation alone does not justify war

- War is so serious that even proving the existence of a casus

belli isn't enough. Make officials prove to the public that going to war will make things better.

- Demand to know what happens if the war (or tactical strike) doesn't go as planned?
- Demand to know what happens if it does? What happens after "victory"?
- Ask them: Isn't it possible this will make things worse, rather than better?

Be particularly skeptical of secrecy

- Don't assume that these officials, with their access to secret intelligence, know more than you do.
- Alternately, assume that they do indeed know more than you do—and are trying to keep intelligence that would undermine their arguments secret.

Watch for rhetorical traps

- Keep an eye on how advocates of war frame the arguments. Don't buy into those frames unless you think they're fair.
- Keep a particular eye out for the no-lose construction. For example: If we can't find evidence of WMD, that proves Saddam is hiding them.
- Watch out for false denials. In the case of Iran, when administration officials say "nobody is talking about invading Iran," point out that the much more likely scenario is bombing Iran, and that their answer is therefore a dodge.

Don't just give voice to the administration officials

- Give voice to the skeptics; don't marginalize and mock them.
- Listen to and quote the people who got it right last time: The intelligence officials, state department officials, war-college instructors and many others who predicted the problem we are now facing, but who were largely ignored.
- Offer the greatest and most guaranteed degree of confidentiality to whistleblowers offering information that contradicts the official government position. (By contrast, don't offer any confidentiality to administration spinners.)

Look outside our borders

- Pay attention to international opinion.
- Raise the question: What do people in other countries think? Why should we be so different?
- Keep an eye out for how the international press is covering this story. Why should we be so different?

Understand the Enemy

- Listen to people on the other side, and report their position.
- Send more reporters into the country we are about to attack and learn about their views, their politics and their culture.
- Don't allow the population of any country to be demonized. All humans deserve to be humanized.
- Demand to know why the administration won't open

His name is Walter Reed

Here in the land of Corporate Greed
A ravenous war machine is looking to feed
Scouring the countryside, they promise, they plead,
Staking out high schools, drawing a bead.

"You're serving your country in her hour of need.
We'll always be grateful for your gallant deed."
Suited up and shipped out, the young sprouts of a seed
Sent to faraway lands where they die and they bleed.

History's lessons? We paid them no heed
A continuing sacrifice—no chance to succeed
Some return home, hoping to be freed
From nightmares and pain, the curse of their creed.

Now shattered and limbless, it's heartbreaking to concede
That cunning Uncle Sam had a last trick up his sleeve
"No need to worry," he soothes, "We'll see to that—yes indeed!
May I introduce my good friend? His name's Walter Reed."

— Dave Waldon

a dialogue with the enemy. Refusing to talk to someone you are threatening to attack should be considered inherently suspect behavior.

Encourage public debate

- The nation is not well served when issues of war and peace are not fully debated in public. It's reasonable for the press to demand that Congress engage in a full, substantial debate.
- Cover the debate exhaustively and substantively.

Write about motives

- Historically, the real motives

for wars have often not been the public motives. Try to report on the motivations of the key advocates for war.

- Don't assume that the administration is being forthright about its motives.
- If no one in the inner circle will openly discuss their motives, then encourage reasonable speculation about their motives.

Talk to the military

- Find out what the military is being told to prepare for.

Dan Froomkin is the deputy editor of the Nieman Watchdog Project. froomkin@niemanwatchdog.org



Blood Diamonds and Blood Oil

Ann Wright
Retired Colonel, US Army
Reserve

We have a myth that we can transform children and kids in their teens into men and women by sending them to war. If they fight young, we give them adulthood. Children and kids who fight eventually do grow into adults —adults with lifetimes ahead of them filled with emotional pain and anger. Is that what we want for our children and for our country?

Last week at Fort Hood, Texas, I attended the court-martial of US Army Specialist Mark Wilkerson. The night before his second deployment to Iraq, he went AWOL for 18 months. You learn a lot about a person's life during court proceedings. I learned that Mark joined Junior ROTC (high school Reserve Officer Training Corps) when he was 15, a sophomore in high school. He said that in grade school he was not inclined toward the military, but his grandmother showed him photo

albums of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather in uniform. Joining the military was his family tradition. As a junior in high school, Mark signed up for delayed entry into the military. One month after graduating from high school in May 2002 at age 17, Mark was in basic training in the US Army. In December 2002 he got married and in February 2003 he deployed to Kuwait and on into Iraq. Mark served in Iraq for one year and returned to Fort Hood in March 2004.

Upon his return to the United States, he began having nightmares. He had a full-blown case of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from the sights, sounds and actions in Iraq. After his one year in Iraq, Mark decided he could not kill others; he submitted an application for Conscientious Objector (CO) status in March 2004. In July 2004 he was told his unit would return to Iraq in January 2005. His CO application was denied in November 2004.

In January 2005, the night before Mark's unit was to depart for Iraq, he and his wife closed their apartment, canceled their cell phone accounts and left Fort Hood. Eighteen months later, in August 2006, after a press conference at Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas, Mark voluntarily returned himself to military control at Fort Hood. During the press conference and before turning himself in, Mark said: "I made the difficult decision to go absent without leave (AWOL) for political, spiritual and personal reasons. I am not willing to kill, or be killed, or do anything I consider morally wrong, for reasons I don't believe in." Mark was tried by a US military general court-martial on February 22, 2007, and was convicted of missing military movement and being absent without leave. He was sentenced to seven months' imprisonment and a bad conduct discharge.

At the same time as I was attending Mark's court-martial, I was reading *A Long Way Home: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by

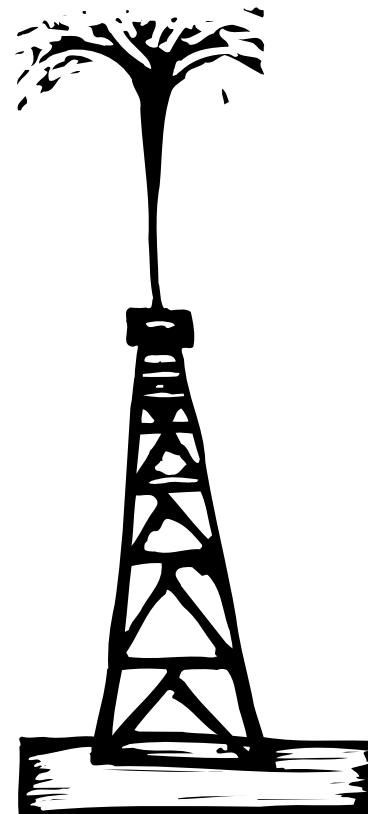
Ishmael Beach, a book that describes his experience as a child soldier in Sierra Leone. I also had seen recently the movie "Blood Diamond," a film about rebels in Sierra Leone. The rebels captured young Sierra Leoneans and made them kill family, neighbors and others in bloody initiation rites, then kept them in the rebel family through techniques for developing loyalty to a group whose mission was to kill those designated by their superiors. Thousands of five- to 20-year-olds were used by the rebels in the war for control of the diamond fields in Sierra Leone.

I was the deputy ambassador at the US Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone, when the rebels took over the capital of the country in 1997 and led the evacuation of over 2,500 persons from the violence of Freetown. I returned to Sierra Leone the following year when the embassy reopened. I interviewed many victims of the machete rampages of the child soldiers. I visited the child/kid soldier rehabilitation centers in the Freetown area.

Using the youth of one's country to fight old men's wars is the history of most countries. Child soldiers in Sierra Leone helped rebel forces to wreak havoc in villages, creating instability that enabled the rebels to gain control of diamond fields. Teen soldiers in the United States are recruited and put in uniform at age 15 (JROTC) to fight at age 17 for oil in Iraq.

Some child soldiers in Sierra Leone escaped their rebel "family" and the violence in overrun villages by running far into the jungle and eventually finding refuge from the violence. Some teen soldiers in the United States escaped their military "family" and the violence in Iraq by going AWOL in the United States or in Canada. Those from both countries who stayed with their "families" remained because of "family ties and bonds" formed by either rebel or national indoctrination and by steel—either machetes or guns.

I would argue that the result is much the same. Young men and women in Sierra Leone and in the United States are filled with lifetimes of nightmares from actions they have committed or from sights they have seen



in war. Killing by machete or killing by guns results in the same emotional issues for those who have committed the acts. In Sierra Leone, child soldiers eventually were helped in internationally operated rehabilitation centers. In the United States, teen soldiers have gone to US military or Veterans Administration hospitals for assistance. Child soldiers from Sierra Leone are learning to deal with why they burned huts, and why they chopped off arms and legs. Teen soldiers from the United States are dealing with why one busted down doors and terrorized families, and why they sent blistering streams of lead into buildings and homes.

Having been in the US military for 29 years, I understand the need for a professional military. However, Junior ROTC should end in our high schools and the recruitment of high school students in the schools must stop. The United States should not relegate its youth to a future of nightmares and emotional damage from wars. We do not need child/teen soldiers in the United States.

Children and teens should not have to fight for diamonds or for oil.

Ann Wright served 29 years in the US Army and US Army Reserves, retiring as a colonel. She resigned from the US Department of State in March 2003 in opposition to the war in Iraq.

Source: truthout.org 3/6/07 http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006

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Our moral duty to counter military recruitment

Camillo Mac Bica

Counter recruitment is a strategy for bringing attention to deceptive recruitment practices and to the immorality and illegality of the war in Iraq. Its ultimate goal is to discourage enlistment into the military, primarily through counseling and educating prospective recruits and by denying recruiters access to our schools and to our children.

Let me begin by saying that counter recruitment is motivated neither by hatred of America nor hatred of the military. Rather, it is inspired, first and foremost, by love, like that of a responsible parent who realizes that, besides praise and approval, sometimes love and responsibility require providing direction and even correction to a child who has gone astray. Further, it is motivated by an awareness of a moral and civic responsibility to oppose immoral and unjust wars, and by a sensitivity and concern for the plight of war victims and for the young men and women who are dishonestly recruited into the military and asked—no, required—to fight, kill and die unnecessarily.

Although it is beyond the scope of this essay to argue the issue at length, the preemptive invasion of Iraq, a sovereign nation, is clearly a violation both of international and moral law, based as it was on misinformation, faulty intelligence and lies. There were no weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein was not the mastermind behind the events of 9/11, nor was he harboring al-Qaeda terrorists. Further, since it was never intended as a war to save the Iraqi people from mass slaughter, there was no ongoing or imminent genocide. Neither can it be justified as a humanitarian intervention. It is a war not of necessity, nor of last resort, but of choice.

As we begin our fifth year of occupation, with the situation in Iraq continuing to degenerate into sectarian violence and civil war, it is clear as well that a military resolution of the debacle is impossible and that our continued military presence in Iraq merely serves to exacerbate the turmoil and violence.

Continuing this war is criminal

Even were there a glimmer of hope for a successful military resolution, to continue to wage, perhaps even to escalate, an illegal and immoral war and occupation to finish the job and achieve victory because it is in our national interest to do so, or because to admit a mistake or a crime of aggression would negatively affect our nation's prestige and standing in the world and devalue the sacrifices of those who have already suffered and died, makes no moral sense. It is like arguing that a rapist must persevere in his assault, perhaps even escalate his violence and kill his victim and eye witnesses, because it is in his interest to eliminate anyone who could identify him, or because his reputation as a bully and a thug would be diminished were he to admit a crime of aggression and cut and run. Further, to continue to wage an immoral and illegal war despite recognition of its unjustness indicates a wanton disregard for the dictates of morality and international law.

Such criminal behavior, arrogance and hypocrisy are the characteristics of a rogue nation. They bring no credibility, prestige or standing in the world - only disdain, animosity, hatred and righteous indignation. Nor do acts of aggression bring glory or vindication to those already killed or wounded in battle. Justice and morality require that an immoral war be ended immediately; that the aggressors possess the moral courage to acknowledge their crime; that they make retribution to the victims of their aggression, and apologize to the citizens of the aggressed nation and the rest of the world community for their transgression.

Given the dangerous world in which we live, maintaining a proficient and well-trained professional military is prudent. However, faced with the reality of increasing recruiter wrongdoing and unscrupulous enlistment practices; of a continuing, even escalating, illegal and immoral war; of a president who has contempt for, and arrogantly ignores, the Constitution, international law and treaties, the recommendations of

his military leaders, the advice of Congress and of historical allies, and most important, the will of the American people, prudence must give way to the dictates of morality and justice. Prudence must give way to the dictates of morality and justice.

Consequently, when our beloved nation has lost its moral compass, when alternative means of conflict resolution have not been creatively explored, when our youth are aggressively recruited through deceit, misrepresentation and/or coercion to kill and be themselves killed or maimed unnecessarily, and the military becomes, not an instrument of national defense or deterrence, but of aggression, oppression and murder, it is not only permissible, it is morally required, that we counter recruitment.

A moral obligation to resist

This obligation to counter recruitment requires that we protect those most vulnerable, impressionable young people in our high schools and colleges and the underprivileged who see the military as their only alternative to poverty, crime and unemployment from being enticed, seduced, brainwashed and deceived into becoming complicit in crimes of aggression and cannon fodder for corporate war profiteers and opportunists. Therefore, we are morally obligated to remove recruiters from our schools; rescind the No Child Left Behind Act's military recruitment provision which requires schools, in order to receive financial assistance under the act, to provide military recruiters with students' contact and other information; and to inform prospective recruits and their parents of the realities of military service, the horrors of war, the immorality and futility of the war in Iraq, and of other educational options and employment opportunities available to them other than by joining the military. I doubt this information is contained within a recruiter's motivational packet of hats, tee shirts, bumper stickers and violent video games.

In conclusion, the duty to counter recruitment is not absolute but situationally relative. Given the unethical and unscrupulous

practices utilized by recruiters to meet their quotas, the immorality and illegality of the Iraq War and occupation, the needless sacrifice of thousands of American soldiers and Marines, the unconscionable killing of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians, the expenditure of billions of taxpayer dollars that could have been better spent elsewhere, it is clear that counter recruitment is a moral and civic duty. To do anything less would be unpatriotic—nay, treasonous and morally irresponsible.

Camillo Mac Bica, Ph.D., is a professor of philosophy at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. As a veteran recovering from his experiences as a United States Marine Corps Officer during the Vietnam War, he founded, and coordinated for five years, the Veterans Self-Help Initiative, AKA the HOOTCH Program, a therapeutic community of veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic



Stress Disorder, at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Brooklyn.

Source: truthout.org 3/7/07 http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/

Curb the runaway military budget

Members of Congress from both major political parties have finally found an issue they agree on. Unfortunately, that issue is the need to spend more money on the military.

Right now, as part of budget proposals for 2008 and supplemental appropriations for 2007, nearly a trillion dollars is on the table to pay for current military operations and past wars. Members of Congress aren't shocked. Members on both sides of the aisle are entertaining proposals to increase those numbers to something truly impressive.

The desire among members of Congress to "support the troops" can't explain why this bloated budget is necessary. Medical facilities like Walter Reed Army hospital, stretched to the limits to care for soldiers injured in the Iraq war, cannot get the resources they need to keep up with burgeoning demand. Instead, about one-third of the military budget proposed for 2008 would support next-generation weapons and transport


systems that have nothing to do with the troops on the ground in Iraq or Afghanistan. This budget subsidizes defense-industry companies here in the U.S. that are making record-breaking profits.

This runaway military budget comes at the expense of investing in programs to feed the hungry, allowing low-income parents to work by giving them access to safe and affordable child care, and addressing looming challenges such as climate change and health care. These kinds of investments, not more money for waging wars, would provide true human security.

ACTION: Contact your representative and senators today. Urge them to reduce military spending by at least \$60 billion this year to make room for investments in real human security.

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), 245 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795 <http://www.fcnl.org> (800)630-1330

There never was a good war,
or a bad peace.
—Benjamin Franklin



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1135 W. ROSE: \$385,000. 4 Bdrm 2 ba home on huge lot in Victory Park.
1201 N. VAN BUREN: \$375,000. English Tudor beauty with 2 bdrms, family room, more!
345 W. VINE: \$475,000. Smashing Craftsman with 3 bdrm 2 ba, full basement, WOW!
1913 VENETIAN DR: \$365,000. Tri-level beauty with 4 bdrm 2 1/2 baths, family rm.


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Endangered species act turnaround

Help for private landowners

Last year at around this time, Rep. Richard Pombo was using his power as Chairman of the House Resources Committee to push an anti-wildlife agenda and gut the Endangered Species Act. But just months after his defeat, a more wildlife-friendly Capitol Hill is moving forward on legislation that helps wildlife on the brink of extinction by giving incentives to private landowners for conservation.

Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Charles Grassley (R-IA), and Max Baucus (D-MT) have introduced the bipartisan Endangered Species Recovery Act which provides financial incentives for private landowners to help save endangered plants and animals. The legislation would provide \$400 million annually in new tax incentives for private landowners who take steps to help endangered or threatened species on the properties they own.

Bald Eagle delayed decision

Last month, more than 15,000 of you gave the Fish & Wildlife Service an earful on their last-minute tinkering with protections

for the bald eagle. Just days after our call to action, the Fish & Wildlife Service announced that the final decision on removing the bald eagle from the Endangered Species Act will be postponed until June. We can only hope that they will use the extra time to ensure that our national symbol will be adequately protected for future generations.

California Condor support

Lead poisoning is the primary threat to the wild condor population—and a major obstacle to a successful recovery. But thanks to new action in Sacramento and help from private landowners, California may soon get the lead out—and give a boost to these highly endangered birds. California condors are obligate scavengers, meaning they only eat dead animals. They have been known to feed on animals killed by lead ammunition, ingesting toxic bullet fragments that can poison and kill these unique raptors.

A new bill introduced by Assemblyman Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara) requires the use of non-lead ammunition for all big game hunting within condor range. In addition, the California Department of Fish & Game has proposed similar measures through their big game mammal hunting

regulations.

But perhaps the most exciting development comes from private landowners in the heart of condor country. Tejon Ranch -- the largest privately-owned parcel of land within condor territory with a substantial hunting program -- will ban the use of lead bullets on its land starting with its 2008 hunting season.

ACTION: Contact your assembly representative to support the non-lead ammo bill.

Conservation with your coffee?

Did you know that the right kind of coffee can help save wildlife? Shade-grown coffee is produced in a way that provides vital habitat for migratory birds, bats and other wildlife. To support these farming practices, Defenders of Wildlife has teamed up with the Thanksgiving Coffee Company to create the Java Forest line of Certified Organic, shade grown, and Fair Trade Certified coffees. With each purchase of these beneficial beans, Thanksgiving Coffee will donate \$2.25 to Defenders. Check out our selection of coffee at <http://www.javaforest.org/>

Source: *Defenders of Wildlife California eNews 3/7/07 DEN, 1130 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 www.defenders.org*

Citizen suit beats CA pulp mill

Citizen groups and California's last remaining pulp mill today lodged a settlement with the federal court in San Francisco that will significantly reduce emission of fine airborne particles that have plagued Eureka and the surrounding Humboldt County community in recent years. The settlement was reached eighteen months after the groups initiated an enforcement action against the pulp mill.

Noting that Evergreen Pulp, Inc.'s 43-year-old mill on the Samoa Peninsula across the bay from Eureka regularly discharged air pollution beyond the limits of its federal permit, Californians for Alternatives to Toxics (CATs)

and the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) then filed suit in federal court in January, 2006, to make the company install modern pollution-control equipment to comply with the federal Clean Air Act.

"The outcome we've reached today underscores the importance of citizen enforcement of the Clean Air Act," said Patty Clary of CATs. "It's what motivated Evergreen to clean up its smokestack and become a good neighbor."

The terms of the agreement require Evergreen to install a pollution-control device called a "Venturi scrubber" on the smelt dissolver tank by September 2008. One of the pulp mill's most

polluting pieces of equipment, the smelt dissolver emits dangerous airborne particles small enough to lodge in the lungs, heavy metals and toxic gasses.

In an earlier agreement with local air-quality regulators, Evergreen agreed to update pollution control for the lime kiln, which also discharges particulates, by installing an electrostatic precipitator.

Both pollution-control devices are considered to be "state of the art" by experts worldwide and should reduce overall emissions significantly at the pulp mill.

Source: *Californians for Alternatives to Toxics release 3/13/07, 315 P Street, Eureka, CA 95501 www.alternatives2toxics.org*

Eco notes

On global warming and climate change

Sally Galiste

The *LA Times* reports that a California lawmaker, Assemblyman Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys), has introduced a bill to ban the sale in California of incandescent bulbs, beginning in 2012. By replacing the old-style bulbs (invented by Thomas Edison 127 years ago) with energy efficient, long-lasting compact florescent bulbs, electricity consumption would be cut by 75%, according to proponents. Even Australia is going forward with plans to phase out incandescents by 2012.

Corporate CEOs in America are urging Congress to require limits on greenhouse gases this year, saying that mandatory emissions caps are needed to reduce the flow of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, as they do not believe voluntary efforts will suffice, according to the Associated Press.

Members of a coalition called the U.S. Climate Action Partnership expressed their views in a letter to the President early this year, indicating that mandatory reductions of emissions can be imposed without economic harm, and would lead to economic opportunities. "It must be mandatory, so there is no doubt about our actions," said Jim Rogers, chairman of Duke Energy. "The science of global warming is clear. We know enough to act now. We must act now." Other members of the group include Alcoa Inc., BP America Inc., DuPont Co., Caterpillar Inc. and General Electric Co.

Legislators are responding. A new bill proposed by Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.) and backed by presidential candidate Barack Obama, would reduce heat-trapping emissions through a "declining cap" provision that cuts emissions steadily over time, capping global warming emissions in 2012 comparable to 2004 levels, and in 2020 comparable to 1990 levels, according to the

Associated Press. "This first global warming bill of the new Congress shows our leaders in Washington are declaring that the era of delay has ended and the year of action has begun." (press statement

by Natural Resources Defense Council.)

Three out of four (78%) of Americans want President Bush and Congress to impose a 40 mile per gallon (mpg) fuel-efficiency standard for American vehicles, according to a new Opinion Research Corporation national opinion survey released in November 2006.

Among key findings: most Americans think Detroit is to blame for being blind to U.S. consumer needs by focusing on producing and marketing fuel-inefficient SUVs and trucks (76%); that Americans want to be able to purchase the highly fuel-efficient vehicles that Detroit automakers build and sell overseas (an overwhelming 90%); and see Japanese automakers ahead of U.S. car manufacturers (half said Japan was in the lead, compared with only 6% who put U.S. up front). For full survey findings, go to: www.civilsocietyinstitute.org.

2008 may hopefully find more choices in energy efficient automobiles on the market, reported the Washington Post. Catering to increased demand for low-emission, fuel-efficient vehicles that aging baby boomers want, automakers are rolling out a growing list of vehicles for environmental and economical-conscious consumers.

Choices beyond Toyota Prius and Honda Civic hybrids will include



high-mileage sub-compacts, other hybrids and ethanol-powered vehicles, brought to us primarily by Toyota and Honda, again. They include the Toyota Yaris (29 city / 36 highway mpg), Honda Fit (28 city / 34 highway mpg), Toyota Corolla (28 city / 37 highway mpg), Toyota Matrix (26 city / 33 highway mpg), and the Pontiac Vibe (26 city / 33 highway mpg), base-priced between \$12,000 and \$17,000. Hybrids are higher priced and higher mpg-rated, but Toyota expects to sell 150,000 Prius cars this year, up 50% from 2006. We'll just have to keep waiting for all-electric cars to become widely available, however, until 2010 or later.

And what would be eco-news without including Al Gore—who announced in February that simultaneous concerts, worldwide, will be held over a 24-hour period on July 7th to kickoff the Save Our Selves—Campaign for a Climate in Crisis. Promoters say the concerts, billed as Live Earth, will take place in China, South Africa, Australia, Japan, Brazil, in London, England and in cities here in the US.

One concert will take place in Antarctica. Proceeds will create a foundation to combat climate change, led by The Alliance for Climate Protection, which is chaired by Gore. "We have to get the message of urgency and hope out," says Gore, and it well may turn out to be the biggest party on Earth.



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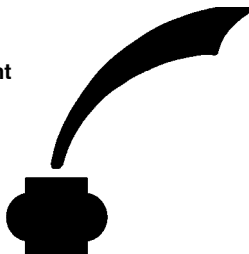
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Rep. Dennis Cardoza (R-District 18) 137 E. Weber Ave, Stockton, CA 95203. 209-946-0361, 503 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-6131.

Rep. John Doolittle (R-District 4), 2130 Professional Dr, Ste 190, Roseville, CA 95661. 916-786-5560; 1524 Longworth Bldg, Washington, CA 20515. 202-225-2511

Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, 2201 C St, NW Washington, DC 20520

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2841

State Sen. Michael Machado (District 5), 31 E Channel St, Room 440, Stockton, CA 95202. 209-948-7930; State Capitol, Rm 4035, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2407

Assemblyperson Kathleen Galgiani (District 17), 31 E. Channel St., Rm. 306, Stockton CA 95202, 209-948-7479

Somebody cares

Beth Luna

At Main and Aurora, it looks like somebody had forgotten that this is an 'up and coming' city called Stockton: a group was gathering. It was toward the end of the month on a Saturday morning at 9 am.

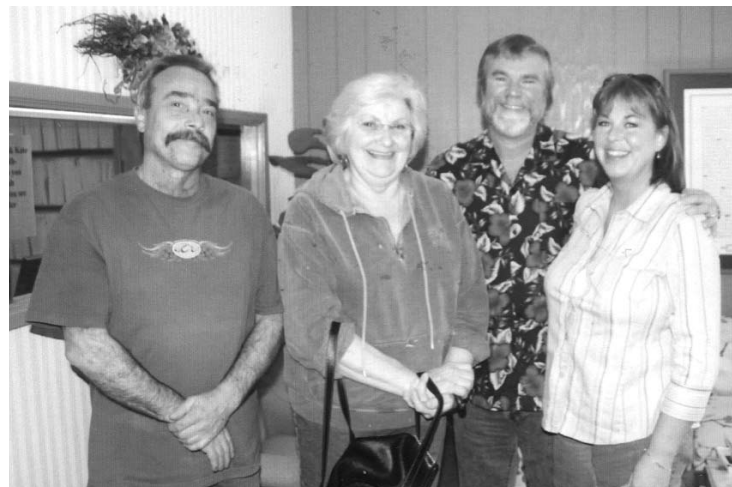
The most unique part of this group was a man who had such a happy smile that everyone was smiling as they passed through the open door. At the end of the month in this neighborhood money is scarce. Here they were being given a good breakfast, at no charge, seated at tables. By the time the meal was over, 200 people had enjoyed a free breakfast.

The sponsor of this is Dr. John (Jack) Holler. For 3 days each week, he is a dentist-dental surgeon. The rest of the time, he takes satisfaction in helping others in its many ways. Essentially, he helps those who cannot help themselves. This includes people with mental disorders, physical problems, and dependencies of every sort.

Back in the 90's, Jack and his wife set up a hot dog stand in their spare time. One night, he watched a man down nine hot dogs without a pause. He often said: These are people like us, except their lives took a wrong turn.

Throughout the years, he joined other like-minded people and a network of services was created, with him as a pivot point. Some of these were part of the church he attended. They were charity-minded also. They would turn to Jack to help get supplies for the various services that they were providing. Like this morning, Jack had helped get food supplies together so that Karen and Mike Corder (also from the same church) could do their part.

Mike Torrennte gave help and friendship in the hide-outs where a number of the homeless would gather, perhaps as many as 17 in one place. He had developed a skill in locating these spots. It could be under a cluster of shrubs and trees near 1-5, always concealed from the police. Sometimes Jack Holler would helpm by bringing in a needed item such as toilet paper. The toilet was a hole dug in the ground. It's like a camp of sorts

*(l-r) Mike Torrente, Lynda Boteller, Mike Corder, and Karen Corder.*

with food cooked over a fire.

Another important worker is Terry Klemm. His wife is a caterer for large events. It was not unusual to find untouched left-overs, so Terry rescued these and channeled them often with Jack's help. They faithfully made their church work a vital part of their lives.

Linda Botiller discovered the group that Jack was with, always turning to Jack for help when she felt the need. She was active with another church.

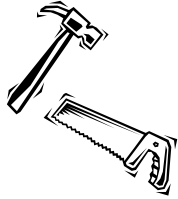
Jack said that once there was a need for 20 pairs of jeans. He was delighted that he had found them. He said he always did his best to fulfill a request.

It is interesting to note that those who serve attend church ,but they never impose their religion. However, if someone asks, then they share. Jack Holler says "You never know who you will touch as you fill and care for people physically. This is the first step, just knowing that somebody cares, whether it is a mental problem, or self-abuse such as drinking. Sometimes they are looking for work. Sometimes they exist just `one pay check away.' Needs might be food or clothing or shelter."

Some who serve, think God is using them through their service. Regardless, the spirit of giving is most important.

Earth Day 2007
 April 22; 11 am - 5 pm
 Stockton: at Victory Park
 Angel's Camp: at Utica Park





Sawznhammers

"Saw": a tool for analysis, taking things apart; a proverb, often trite
"Hammer": a tool for synthesis, putting things together; to pound away

Signing up for Sanity

John Morearty

"We're trying to end the war in Iraq. Bring the troops home safely, stop spending money to hurt people there and spend the money here, on things that people need like clean energy and health care."

Two weekends recently, volunteers led by Colleen Beilby gathered eight hundred signatures for peace at Stockton malls. Our MoveOn.org petition read,

"From health care to energy to the war in Iraq, America needs bold leadership. We call on Congress to remember the people who sent them to Washington and address our concerns."

The signatures, along with another eight hundred gathered at the auditorium on Martin Luther King day, at the downtown bus depot and on both college campuses, will be given to representatives Jerry McNerney and (primarily) Dennis Cardoza at the Peace Convergence rally March 17. (McNerney has signed on to HR 508 to withdraw the troops, Cardoza has not.)

Mall outreach

Shopping malls are the modern equivalent of the public square, says the California Supreme Court in the Pruneyard decision, and We the People have the right to political speech there. Lieutenant Eric Ingersoll of the Stockton Police Department understands, and phoned the mall managers. Sherwood cheerfully gave us a nice table inside. Weberstown fussed and delayed, but their Ohio lawyers eventually acknowledged our constitutional rights—"outside, bring your own table, give us a hundred dollar cleanup deposit."

Many volunteers participated: Beilby, Mario and Jeanne D'Angeli, Jim Walsh, Stanley Thomas, Brandy Mack, Derrick Shavers, Jerry and Carol Bailey, myself. Usually teams of two, but Brandy and Derrick showed up with 6 children who held up big signs and handed out flyers and Connections while adults did the

petitioning. The oldest daughter chimed in, asking people to sign. One mother stopped with two daughters: "Absolutely we'll sign. My son and their brother is over there and we want him home." The two daughters signed on to volunteer at the rally—among the two dozen who signed up over six days.

It was Democracy on our Hind Legs, person to person, and I was thrilled. Every hour a couple dozen people would stop and sign. They humbled me, these Americans who understand - young and old, men and (maybe more) women, every ethnicity, educated and simple, prosperous and hard-scrabble working class.

One mall employee asked, "What's your petition about?" "We want to end the war and spend the money here, on clean energy and health care." "Health care! Give me that, I'll sign!"

An elderly couple stopped and signed. "This war is a disgrace," he said. "I fought in World War Two, and I'm proud of it. But we are the aggressors here."

Two strong young men came striding by. "We're trying to end the war in Iraq," I said. "Yeah. A couple of big bombs, that would do it." A little later they came the other way, and one grinned. "A couple big bombs."

A bright-eyed slender old woman came briskly by, a mall-walker. She smiled regretfully. "No, I won't sign." Five minutes later she returned. "I believe in what you're doing, but I've signed so many things over the years, and they keep on with the wars."

Next day I saw her again, and said hello. "I just want you to know that I'm with you," she smiled. "Thank you for what you're doing." I gave her a flyer for the Peace Convergence rally, and we parted. Maybe she'll sign at the rally.

Two young men came up to the table. One had piercings and a wild haircut, the other looked ready for church. "We're Delta College students," the clean-cut

one said. "So, what is this?"

We explained that we were petitioning our congressman to bring the troops home safely and invest the war money instead in things Americans need, like health care and clean energy.

"Well, I doubt that it will be effective," he said. "But even if it were, I believe that we Americans should look beyond our own short-term advantage, and consider the good of all humanity. We have a responsibility to the people of Iraq, to hold the terrorists at bay, and to help them build schools and clinics and so forth. The human race is one."

Well, he and D'Angeli got into it, student debater and college professor each holding his own. When it got a little hot I stepped in.

"May I recommend one book? Jonathan Schell's *The Unconquerable World: Power, Nonviolence, and the Will of the People*." They wrote it down, each took a copy of Connections, smiled and were gone.

Fifteen minutes later they were back.

"You guys are so sincere," the debater said, "so passionate and so dedicated, we want to sign your petition, even though we doubt that it will do much good."

"This is the only reasonable thing to do!" said D'Angeli. "We don't do anything unreasonable."

"I disagree a little bit with my colleague," I said. "I believe in committing acts of hope."

They signed the petition, we shook hands.

After five minutes they came sweeping by.

"We've changed our minds," they called out. "We'd like to take our signatures off the petition."

Before we could stutter, they both flashed huge grins. "No, we're just messing with your minds!"

A young mother stopped, holding her little daughter's hand. "Yes, absolutely, I'll sign your petition. This war is terrible." The

New Orleans notes

Mallory Josol

This month we have included brief notes from Mallory. For a really good read and to contact her go to her Blog at www.nolamal.blogspot.com



They're living eight to a trailer, some of them... most of them. And they leave that trailer

Martin Luther King day—a day off or a day on?

I'm not quite sure what you were doing back home, but here, there was a whole lot of service projects and activism. It was treated as a day of service. A Martin Luther King Day on, if you please.

We finished that school in three days!

The students had gone home on Friday and came back to a new school the following Tuesday. The principal of the school was crying as he did a walk-through. I would never in one million years guess that that many people would volunteer to save a school, most of whom didn't even have children attending. It was amazing.

Who knows what will become of the children affected by Katrina?

(which will be taken away from them within 2 to 6 months depending on their Parish) every morning to go to schools with nonfunctional facilities, poorly-educated teachers, no learning materials, and no safety. What will become of them? My opinion is that some of the most powerful activism, art, music, writing, will be borne out of the Gulf Coast survivor children.

I am very proud to be a part of an organization that recognizes the need and is addressing it quickly.

Mallory Josol is writing for Connections from New Orleans, Louisiana. Note: an error was made last month, Mallory has not graduated from Sacramento State. She hopes to complete her studies in New Orleans.

little girl watched intently, her head just above the tabletop, as mother wrote name and address. Then she spoke up, with perfect clarity.

"I want to sign too. May I?"

"Of course," said her mother.

"How old are you?" we asked.

"I'm four years old."

A elegantly dressed middle aged woman, rings on her fingers, listened to our spiel.

"Certainly not! I'm a Republican, and I believe we are doing absolutely the right thing in Iraq. If we don't fight them there, those people will come over here. Don't you know they could bomb this shopping mall?"

An older couple signed the petition gladly. "The cannery workers union is supporting the rally," I said. "Oh, we know them well, those are good people," she said. "My husband was an executive with one of the canneries here in town."

But so many walked by with condescending smiles. It was the cool teenage sophisticates who got to me the worst. Young ones, I kept thinking, what a world of sorrow you're heading into, and you don't even know.

At four o'clock on a Friday we were weary. We packed flag, table and clipboard in my truck. Suddenly there stood a short thin boy, maybe thirteen years old. He hesitated.

"Are you leaving? I came back."

How could I not stay? I dug in the cab, got the petition out again.

"I was afraid, but now I want to sign," he said. "My dad and my brother are both in the military, and I want them to come home."

He handed back the clipboard, put out his hand and looked me in the face. "My name is Matthew."

"I'm John," I said. The old guy and the boy shook on it.

Guantanamo is not a prison

Karen J. Greenberg

Several weeks ago, I took the infamous media tour of the facilities at Guantanamo. From the moment I arrived on a dilapidated Air Sunshine plane to the time I boarded it heading home, I had no doubt that I was on a foreign planet or, at the very least, visiting an impeccably constructed movie set. Along with two European colleagues, I was treated to two-days-plus of a military-tour schedule packed with site visits and interviews (none with actual prisoners) designed to "make transparent" the base, its facilities, and its manifold contributions to our country's national security.

Here, in a nutshell, is what I picked up. Consider this a guide of sorts to what the officially sanctioned report on Guantanamo would look like, wrapped in the proper decorum and befitting the jewel-in-the-crown of American offshore prisons—or, to be Pentagon-accurate, "detention facilities."

1. Guantanamo is not a prison. According to the military handlers who accompanied us everywhere, Guantanamo is officially a "detention facility." Although the two most recently built complexes, Camps Five and Six, were actually modeled on maximum and medium security prisons in Indiana and Michigan respectively, and although the use of feeding tubes and the handling of prisoners now take into account the guidelines of the American Corrections Association (and increasingly those of the Bureau of Prisons as well), it is not acceptable to use the word "prison" while at Gitmo.

2. Consistent with not being a prison, Guantanamo has no prisoners, only enemies, specifically, "unlawful enemy combatants." One of my colleagues was even chastised for using the word "detainee." "Detained enemy combatants" or "unlawful enemy combatants," we learned, were the proper terms.

3. Guantanamo is not about guilt and innocence—or, once an enemy combatant, always an enemy combatant. "Today, it is not about guilt or innocence. It's about unlawful enemy combatants,"

Rear Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., the Commanding Officer of Guantanamo tells us. "And they are all unlawful enemy combatants." This, despite the existence of the official category "No Longer an Enemy Combatant" which does not come up in our discussions. Nor was the possibility that any of the detainees at Guantanamo might have been mistakenly detained ever discussed. As the administrator for the tribunals that are to determine the status of each detainee explained to us, the U.S. Government takes "a risk when we transfer" detainees out of Guantanamo.

4. No trustworthy lawyers come to Guantanamo. Our handlers use the term "habeas lawyers" as a seemingly derogatory catch-all for lawyers in general, both defense attorneys—those who are defending their clients before the military commissions—and habeas attorneys, those who seek to challenge in U.S. courts the government's right to detain their clients. The U.S. military and its Public Affairs Officers are convinced that the terrorists are transmitting information to their colleagues in the outside world via their lawyers. According to our escorts, "habeas lawyers" may be the unwitting pawns of terrorists. As a power-point presentation at the outset of our formal tour (and as subsequent remarks make clear to us), it is the belief of the American authorities that the detainees are using their lawyers in accordance with the directives outlined in the al-Qaeda training manual that was discovered in Manchester, England in 2000. This manual, they assure us, encourages terrorists to "take advantage of visits with habeas lawyers to communicate and exchange information with those outside."

5. Recently, at least, few if any reliable journalists have been reporting on Guantanamo; only potential betrayers are writing about it. "The media" arrive with ostensibly open eyes. Yet these guests, graciously hosted from morning to night, go home perversely refusing to be complimentary to their hosts. They suffer from "the chameleon effect," as I was told more than once by military public

information office personnel, and "we just don't understand it." For our part, we visitors didn't understand why we were forbidden to walk anywhere—even to the bathroom—by ourselves, talk to anyone other than those we were introduced to (none actual prisoners), or even take a morning run up and down the street we were lodged on, although there was not a prisoner in sight.

6. After years of isolation, the detainees still possess valuable information - especially today. When asked what kind of useful information the detainees could possibly have for interrogators, many already locked away in Gitmo for over five years, the answer was: "I believe that we are, in fact, getting good and useful and interesting intelligence - even after five years."...

7. Guantanamo contains no individuals - inside the wire or out. The prisoners are referred to not by name, but by number. The guards and others, even outside the confines of the prison camp, remove the Velcroed names which are on their uniforms, leaving blank strips on their chests where their identity would normally be, or they replace their names with their ranks. Either way, they strive to remain anonymous.

8. Guantanamo's deep respect for Islam is unappreciated. All the food served in the prison is halal, prepared in a separate kitchen, constructed solely for the detainees. All cells, outdoor areas, and even the detainee waiting room in the courthouse where the Military Commissions will be held, have arrows pointing to Mecca. All compliant detainees have prayer rugs and prayer beads. All detainees, no matter how they behave, have Korans.

9. At Guantanamo, hard facts are scarce. This, we are told, is a security measure. "As the 342nd media group to come through here, you'll notice that we speak vaguely. We can't be specific. You will notice that we talk in approximate terms and estimates only. Those are operational security measures. We don't want to take away position" - a phrase which I took as shorthand for revealing actual numbers, names, locations, dates, etc.

Typical examples of preserving Gitmo security through a refusal to give out specific facts:

"What is that building?" [I am referring to one directly in our view.]

"Which building?"

"How long has the lieutenant been here?"

"Since she got here."

"Where is Radio Range?" [This is the area on which the camps are built.]

"I never heard of it."

10. Guantanamo houses no contradictions. And if you notice any—and they're hard to miss—it's best to keep quiet about them, unless you want a sergeant without a name chastising you about the dangers posed by enemy combatants, or one of the officers without a name reprimanding your lower ranking escort for giving out "misinformation." Stories are regularly presented to portray a policy as particularly generous to the detainees; only later does someone mention that it might have been an answer to the needs of the guards themselves. A typical example:

"We allow two hours of recreation a day in order to comply with the Geneva Conventions," they tell us. But a guide at another moment leads us to believe that there is actually a more pressing reason for allowing the recreation. "We need them to go outside so that we can search their cells for weapons and contraband."

Finally, for those of us who want to write about Guantanamo and who are grateful for having been shown around and had the myths and realities of the Bush administration's most notorious detention facility laid out so clearly, a final lesson:

11. Those who fail to reproduce the official narrative are not welcome back. "Tell it the wrong way and you won't be back," one of our escorts warns me over lunch.

Only time will tell if I got it right.

Karen J. Greenberg is the Executive Director of the Center on Law and Security at the NYU School of Law and is the co-editor of *The Torture Papers: The Road to Abu Ghraib* <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0521853249/nationbooks08> and editor of *The Torture Debate in America* <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0521674611/nationbooks08>.

The Activist Carpenter Poet Reflects

Twixt hanging doors and stopping wars there's little time for poring, wondering, soaring, thundering rain and rainbows, do-si-do swallows swirling above green grass swooping high catching bugs as the sun sinks down, black wings tracing particle paths in blue cloud chamber sky.

'Cause giving birth to poetry takes time takes rhyme and season, and pleasin' the muse takes paying dues to quiet. My, it goes on quite a while, just doing nothing in particular, funicular, lenticular, auricular, railroads up the mountain, lenses in silent senses, ears without fear.

Oh hear dear heart the parting sobs of fathers burying soldier sons untimely young; hear the wails of mothers for babes cut down by those same soldiers, songs unsung.

If you open the door on war all hell comes screaming—so close the door, turn the bolt, find peace for dreaming, yes.

But well I know: no prose nor poesy, no nose in posies can make un-so what lies and cries beyond that dreadful door.

I rest, make poems, but after a few short hours will I step through that door into war, arms full of flowers?

John Morearty 2007

www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0521853249/nationbooks08 and editor of *The Torture Debate in America* <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0521674611/nationbooks08>.

Source: *truthout* via *TomDispatch.com* 3/8/07

Joe visits the future

Joe Palooka

Hi everybody, it's time to get reacquainted with the guy right-wing folks love to hate - yours truly, Joe Palooka. When we met last time, Joe was on a tirade about the need to bring our troops home and end the fiasco in Iraq. Unfortunately, another month has gone by and we are no closer to that objective. If anything, with the recent troop surge, we're more committed than ever to another occupation executed by the nuclear power of the West and sure to cause increasing resentment as time goes by. Even though Joe is often consumed with this problem, there are other issues, of course, which all of us must face and which need to be addressed.

Joe, feeling bored one evening, went digging in the closet and brought out his old Ouija board. Ahh, it felt good to get hold of it again. Joe felt deliciously evil for one split-second. Could he foresee the future? As he placed his fingers on the board, he indeed saw something that pertains to all of us living in this Valley. The words were cloudy at first, but then became clear. Here's what they said:

Real Estate News—March 6, 2017. Potential home buyers excitedly greeted the news of the grand opening this week of a new subdivision, nestled in the heart of Stockon—Asthma Creek will offer 3, 4 and 5-car garage options on any home. An expanded garage is perfect for keeping the old SUV or truck you can't afford to drive any more, safely tucked away. No more parking lot dings, bird droppings, costly operating and maintenance fees or car thieves! Thanks to the insightful developers of Asthma Creek, your ride stays looking new indefinitely.

Of course, Asthma Creek is more than just garages. Other amenities include advanced breathing-assist apparati strategically located within the home and the luxury of foregoing yard work once and for all. How, you ask? It's simple—there is no yard! The custom, graffiti-resistant homes in the Creek are ingeniously placed side by side and back to back, relieving you of time-consuming,

back-breaking yard duty, thus allowing more time for potato chip consumption, coughing, wheezing and channel surfing. Due to the close proximity of your neighbors, Creek buyers are required to sign a "no personal emission" contract. Potential buyers should be aware that rules including, but not limited to, uniform paint schemes and prohibition of basketball hoops and hopscotch, will be strictly enforced. Please visit our other home offerings at Acrid Acres, Ozoneless Oaks, Bronchitis Bay and Hacking Hills."

Baseball news - March 6, 2017: The recent successful contract negotiations between slugging outfielder Rocky Testosteroni and the New York Yankees have resulted in a deal of epic and historic proportions. Rocky was all smiles as he became pro Ssorts first billion-dollar-a-season man. Explaining why he had turned down the lowly Pittsburgh Pirates' insulting offer of \$990 million, a contrite Rocky said he had to consider the welfare of his family and the thrill of being able to play in the Big Apple. Stepping onto the field to pose for photographers, the festive mood soon turned tragic. New York Times reporter Jimmy Ball informed Rocky that bleacher seats in Yankee Stadium would now cost \$1,000 a whack due, in large part, to the necessity of paying player contracts. Rocky, clearly angered by the remark, shocked reporters by seizing Ball and swatting him over the left-field bleachers with this trademark 80-ounce bat. Eyewitness testimony confirmed Testosteroni had never hit a ball so far.

Global warming hoax—March 6, 2017: Conservative critics of man-made complicity involving global warming held their convention in San Francisco recently. What seemed an unusual choice was meant to reveal the real reason: visitors to once-famous Fisherman's Wharf now needed a snorkel. A spokesman for "Compromised Scientists of America" said that the proliferation of condoms flushed down Bay Area toilets and released into San Francisco Bay had ballooned, causing water levels to rise dramatically. Also, the George

W. Bush Presidential Library opened today in Crawford, Texas. Visitors leafed through "G.I. Joe" and "Archie" comic books, quoted scripture, ate pretzels and dozed off while keynote speaker Karl Rove read stirring excerpts from Machiavelli's "The Prince."

After these few tidbits of "encouraging" news, Joe put the Ouija board back in the closet and decided to take a look at the latest Joe Quiz:

1. Richard Nixon's middle name was:
 - a) Whitehouse
 - b) Bighouse
 - c) Milhous
 - d) Steak house
2. Iraq gained independence (in return for a military alliance) from Great Britain in what year?
 - a) 1917
 - b) 1924
 - c) 1943
 - d) 1932
3. During World War II, future Cold War warrior and Commander-in-Chief Ronald Reagan was excused from active combat duty for this reason:
 - a) Gipper-lipped
 - b) Poor eyesight
 - c) Itchy trigger finger
 - d) Communist affiliations
4. The Sixteenth Amendment, enacted on February 25, 1913, does this:
 - a) Removes Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Rider boxer shorts from the White House
 - b) States minority congressional party buys lunch during sessions
 - c) Provides the legal basis for a graduated income tax
 - d) Allows Southern states one lynching per week
5. After his term in office expires, George W. Bush should explore these job opportunities:
 - a) Grave digger
 - b) Lie-detector operator
 - c) Geography teacher and part-time linguist
 - d) Submit your ideas to *Connections*



[Answers: 1C; 2D; 3B (can anyone remember seeing Ronald Reagan wearing a pair of glasses?); 4C; 5 (Your choice)]

Well, I guess that about wraps it up. My thanks go out to the ever-growing legion of Palookaholics who bravely endure the meanderings of an old barroom philosopher. Whatever joy there is to be had within the hallowed

halls of Palookaville is frequently and temporarily muted due to the constant reminder of the death and destruction being perpetuated in all our names. Joe Palooka is proud to be an American, yet Joe is ashamed of what America is doing. Hope to see you again next month, and don't forget that first cold one's for me. This is Joe Palooka signing off.

From down under

Top Secret memo— destroy after reading

Don't know if your press reported it but your VP was in Australia recently. Or WAS HE? Supposedly he arrived by:

1. submarine
2. airforce 2
3. was parachuted in
4. all of the above
5. none of the above

Whatever happened it was TOP SECRET.

We do know that a vast contingent of support equipment and men (women too?) arrived before his supposed visit.

Traffic in a city of 5 million (Sydney) was brought to a halt as police blocked off most major arteries allowing a contingent of 30 cars or so to race through. Several were bulletproofed and the VP (indeed he was here) could have been any one of these cars.

Snipers (US of course) were on the rooftops, to do whatever snipers do.

About 100 university students turned out to protest outside wherever he was supposed to be—if indeed he WAS here. I

am happy to report that none of them was shot by a sniper or if they were, it was hushed up. A couple were arrested by the local gendarmes.

I don't think any live footage (TV) was shown, although it was purported that a meeting occurred between him and our prime minister.

Sometime and Somewhere.

In any case, what an awful waste of time and money and manpower.

It was reported that he intended to visit Tasmania to do some fishing—no duck shooting. Maybe it's the wrong season.

Some days later he was reported to be in Baghdad. A bomb went off about 1 km away.

He may or may not be living in the US now. Exactly where he lives is a secret apparently.

Maybe he's in Stockton? if so, ignore him.

Your correspondent from the 51st State.

Brian

PS: I didn't write this.

From the Board... not the Bored

Christie Kelley

MARCH 1, 2007 MEETING

The Board discussed the importance of being actively aware of the sponsors of Earth Day and their relationship to the preservation and restoration of the earth. The March 17 Peace Convergence update was given; the organizers look forward to having more people join in the planning and implementation of the event. We reviewed our policy of sharing our mailing list with like-minded groups and continue to stand by the belief that we will not loan the list out. Any interested group is welcome to purchase an ad in the *Connections* newspaper and/or write an article at anytime related to their activities and financial needs. A new film festival will begin

the end of March. We reviewed the By-laws and will continue with the Standing Rules. When the Board is prepared to make changes, a general membership meeting will be called to involve everyone. We will be writing a proposal for a UOP intern to help with fundraising. The Treasurer's report reminded us that, although we are bringing in money, we need to work hard to build a consistent support from our members and supporters. The next meeting will look at a membership fee and possibly charging for Connections...what do you think about that?

Our next meeting will be held on April 5, 2007, 7 p.m., at the Peace and Justice Center-Bedford Rd. just off of Pacific Ave. All are welcome.



Pre-Columbian art exhibition at the Haggin

More than 130 artifacts and art works spanning two continents and more than 2,000 years will fill The Haggin Museum's temporary galleries when the Mississippi Museum of Art's "Pre-Columbian Art" exhibition goes on display March 18-May 13.

Pre-Columbian civilizations across Peru, Mexico and Central America flourished prior to the arrival of Europeans in the New World. The majority of the artifacts in this exhibition came from elite burials and offerings, the possessions of religious figures and divine kings.

The showing here in Stockton is part of a seven city national tour over a two-and-a-half year period.

Haggin Museum is located in Stockton's Victory Park at 1201 N. Pershing Ave., and is open Wednesday-Sunday, 1:30-5:00 p.m. and 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 1:30-9:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults 18 and up; \$2.50 for youth ages 10-17, students with a valid I.D., and seniors 65 and over; and free for museum members and children under 10 accompanied by an adult. First Saturdays are free.

Basic Mediator Training

The Mediation Center of San Joaquin County will be offering "Basic Mediation Training," beginning Thursday April 26 through Sunday April 29 at 829 Rose Marie Lane, Ste. D in Stockton.

Mediation is a way of resolving disputes between two parties by assisting them to reach an agreement. The training fulfills requirements for the state Dispute Resolutions Act or Continuing Legal Education for attorneys.

Mediation is a great way to resolve disputes between family members, neighbors or businesses. Mediations have an 80% success rate in comparison with court decisions where one party ALWAYS loses.

The cost for basic mediation training is \$585 and \$225 for individuals who commit to volunteering for the Center. Call now for an application; space is limited.

Basic Mediation Training consists of four consecutive training days:

Thursday, April 26, 1-5 pm
Friday, April 27, 9 am-5 pm
Saturday, April 28, 9 am-5 pm
Sunday, April 29, 9 am-5 pm

These courses are open to the public and are an exciting opportunity for personal growth and community service. For more information on this training and/or the Center's other services, contact the Center at (209) 474-8794, www.MediatorsRus.org

Delta Dash Regatta

Sunday, April 1st, from 8am to 1pm

Morelli Park, on W. Weber Ave, underneath the I-5 Overpass, Stockton. Free to the Public. Hosted by Delta Blades Junior Rowing Team. Sponsored by Stockton Sports Commission. Call (09) 943-2449

March 30 - April 1

New Dance Company's 2007 spring concert

New Dance Company presents "Celebrating American Dance Traditions" at Stagg High School's Manlio Silva Theatre on Friday / Saturday, March 30 & 31, at 7:00pm, and Sunday, April 1, at 2pm.

The concert brings together several of the area's jazz, modern, and tap choreographers including Jennifer Ross, Michelle Allen, and Valerie Gnassounou-Bynoe. These choreographers, as well as New Dance Company's Co-Artistic Directors, Ana Frenes-Sobaszkievicz and Lisa Rie, will present new works drawing from dance forms originating from this country.

Tickets are \$12 adults and \$6 seniors and children 12 and under. For more information, please call 642-4025.

DFA: online tools for offline action

Democracy for America Night School, a pioneering online training program, is back for the 2007 Spring Semester. The next class is titled *Anyone Can Run*, and will be held March 20th, at 5:30pm. If you are interested, RSVP to: www.dfalink.com/event.php?id=18356.

In addition, the highly respected 2-day DFA Training Academy is coming to Sacramento on July 14-15, 9am-6pm. For more information and to sign up, go to Democracy for America, www.DemocracyforAmerica.com.

May 12

Join AIDSWalk San Joaquin Heart & Sole

AIDSWalk of San Joaquin is hosting "The Heart and Sole" event of the year on Saturday, May 12, at Oak Park in Stockton beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The AIDS walk is an opportunity for friends and family members to commemorate the lives of loved ones who have died of AIDS. We are currently recruiting individual walkers, teams and team captains, as well as corporate sponsorship of the event. In addition to the walk, there will be entertainment, food and prizes.

AIDSWalk of San Joaquin was founded 1993. The goal is to raise awareness and support for those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. It is also about remembering those who have lost their battle.

Proceeds from the event are donated to HIV/AIDS agencies in San Joaquin County. The donations are used to provide aid to HIV/AIDS clients with food and transportation vouchers, help with basic living needs, and assist with burial funds. AWSJ also collaborates with these sister agencies to raise public awareness about the epidemic with other annual events such as World AIDS Day in December and National Condom Week in February.

Early registration is encouraged, check-in is at 9:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to register or get additional information, please contact AIDSWalk at (209) 608-WALK (9255) or go online to www.aidswalkSJ.org.

Connections may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in our efforts to advance understanding of environmental, political, human rights, economic, democracy, scientific, and social justice issues, etc. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material in this paper is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes.

April Calendar

[Editor's note: if your event isn't listed, let us know. Send all copy to: bguidici@caltel.com by the 7th of every month.]

Mar 5 - Mar 31

John Nagle Photography. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

Fri, Mar 16

Drinking Liberally — Promoting Democracy One Pint at a Time. An informal inclusive progressive social group—bring democratic discourse to your local democratic space. Stockton Grand Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton. Free to attend, support event host. 7 pm. 351-3397.

Sat, Mar 17

Peace convergence at high noon, Huge peace rally at Martin Luther King Plaza, Stockton, to commemorate the 4th anniversary the start of the Iraq war. 981-0544 or 464-3326.

Sun, Mar 18

Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace will mark the 4th anniversary of the war in Iraq with a Rally for Peace, 1 - 3 pm. Courthouse Park, downtown Sonora. 533-3516, tccp@lodelink.com

Mar 21 - Apr 15

Blithe Spirit comedy by Noel Coward, 7:30 pm Thu, 8 pm Fri/Sat, 2:30 pm Sun Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Ln, Stockton \$22 adult, \$18 senior, \$15/\$10 student, \$8 child under 12. 473-2424.

Sat, Mar 24

Ying Quartet chamber music concert, playing Mozart, Shostakovich and more. 7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP. \$25, students free. 956-2128

Celebration of Life benefit concert by Stagg HS bands for Heifer Project. Afternoon of family fun. 2 pm, Kohl Open School Amphitheater, 4115 Crown Ave \$1. 933-7445 x8505

Tue, Mar 27

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace—"that we may become people of peace, so that war will end." Annunciation Catholic Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose. 7 pm. Bring a candle. All welcome! Sponsored by Pax Christi. 462-3340, 464-3326.

Wed, Mar 28

Drumming for Joy to a World Beat at the Peace Center. 7 pm. Refreshments served, bring your dancing shoes. 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 482-5088 Fourth Wednesdays. (see page 20)

Dance Your Dreams open house. 6:45-8 pm. New School Aikido, 8909 Thornton Rd. Free. 951-8080

Mar 30 - Apr 1

New Dance Company spring concert. F-Sat 7 pm, Sun 2 pm. Manilo Silva Auditorium, Stagg High School, 1621 Brookside Rd, Stockton. \$12 adult, \$10 senior, \$6 student. 642-4025.

Fri, Mar 30

Hispanics for Political Action dinner honoring recently elected candidates. 6 pm Karl Ross Post, Country Club Blvd, Stockton. 464-9205

Sat, Mar 31

Songs of Cesar Chavez and the Labor Movement, by Adam Miller, celebrates Cesar Chavez Day. 6 pm. Cesar Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St. Free. 937-8221.

Mar 28 - Apr 1

Monteverdi's Opera L'Incoronazione di Poppea. W, F 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Long Theatre, UOP, 3601 Pacific. \$15 adult, \$8 student, \$5 senior. 946-2867

Sun, Apr 1

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, 5:30, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$2 with food, \$9 without food. Menu theme: Appetizers and Desserts. Tableware and beverages provided. Please bring enough food for 8. All are welcome. RSVP to sjvegans@hotmail.com First Sundays.

Apr 2 - 30

Troke Teen Art Show, M, Th 10-8, Tu, Wed 10-6, Fri, Sat 12-5 Troke Library community room, 502 W Benjamin Holt Dr, Stockton. 937-8221

Thur, Apr 5

Peace & Justice Network board meeting, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 7 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

Thur, Apr 12

Health Care for All San Joaquin group meeting, 6-8 pm. 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. Second Thursdays.

Apr 12 & Apr 14

Christopher Brubeck plays with the Stockton Symphony, Stockton Chorale, UOP Chorus and SJDC Chorus. Th 8 pm, Sat 6 pm. Warren Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$7.50 - \$44. 951-0196

Tue, Apr 17

California Poet Laureate Al Young helps celebrate National Library Week. 7 pm. Cesar Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. Free. 467-4455

Sat, Apr 21

Project Delta Runway, a drama and art contest celebrating creating and wearing costume. Performance begins 6 pm. Delta College Studio Theater, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. To participate or for info, call 954-5462.

Sun, Apr 22

Earth Day Festival, free fun family festivities. 11 am - 5 pm. Victory Park, 1201 Pershing Ave, Stockton. 467-4455

Calaveras County Earth Day, free fun family festivities. 11 am - 5 pm. Utica Park, Angels Camp. All welcome. 786-3109

Monthly

First Sundays

Vegan potluck, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 5:30 pm \$2 donation bringing food, \$9 without. Info: sjvegans@hotmail.com.

Third Thursdays

Hispanics for Political Action - HPA meets 6 pm at 2080 E 4th St, Stockton. Info, call Louis Gonzales 464-9205

Pacific Theatre University of the Pacific

Spring 2007 Film Schedule

Thurs, Mar 22	Nina's Tragedies (Foreign, Israel)
Fri & Sat, Mar 23 & 24	Little Miss Sunshine
Thurs, Mar. 29	Bob Roberts
Fri & Sat, Mar 30 & 31	Stranger Than Fiction
Thurs, Apr 5	Time Regained (Foreign, France)
Fri & Sat, Apr 6 & 7	Marie Antoinette
Thurs, Apr 12	Howl's Moving Castle (Japanese anime)
Fri & Sat, Apr 13 & 14	The Prestige
Fri, Apr 13	Beerfest (Tiger Nights Late Movie: 10:30pm)
Wed, Apr 18	Dorian Blues (Independent)
Thurs, Apr 19	The Science of Sleep (Independent)
Fri & Sat, Apr 20 & 21	The Departed
Thurs, Apr 26	Old Joy (Independent)
Fri & Sat, Apr 27 & 28	Casino Royale
Thurs, May 3	The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros (Foreign, Philippines)
Fri & Sat, May 4 & 5	Dreamgirls
Sat, May 5	Employee of the Month (Tiger Nights Late Movie: 10:30pm)

Showtime: 8:00pm unless noted.
Doors open: 7:30pm
Pacific Students: FREE
UOP Staff/Faculty/Alumni: \$3.00
General Admission: \$5.00
Call (209) 946-2025 for Show Recording

Talking It Through

Talking It Through is now two half-hour shows.

The Real Show hosted by Margee Ensign is on Monday at 6pm

Talking It Through is hosted by Adrian Nichols and Sammy Nunez every Monday evening at 6:30pm

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network, InterFaith Council of San Joaquin County, Pacific Complementary Medicine Center

Check the TV page of Wednesday's Record for latest info.

Studio volunteers wanted! All ages...we'll train. Call 467-4455.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"We may have come here on different boats, but we're all in the same boat now!"

—Jesse Jackson, Sr.

Courtesy of John Morearty, 464-3326

The Center is ours...please help

The Peace & Justice Center is a tangible expression of our commitment to a just and peaceful world.

While PJN operates on a shoestring, the Center requires a bigger shoestring. Our costs are simple: rent, lights, phone, insurance. We believe the benefits to our community are well worth the cost.

Consider a monthly pledge. That is a big help. Or a one-time donation of \$100,000...whatever you are comfortable with.

Thank you for being part of this great adventure.

It's All Happening At the P&J Center

German Film Festival

The Peace & Justice Center is proud to announce our spring film festival, which will include 10 films to be shown each Tuesday night beginning April 3, 6:30 pm at the Center, 231 Bedford Road off the Miracle Mile.

We are delighted that Dan Hettmannsperger III has chosen our Center to present his rare and

incredible film collection. Dan has studied film for more than 20 years. When asked what types of film he enjoys most, he says, "good films—the rarest kind."

If this film series proves to be popular, we plan to continue with other choices from Dan's film collection including Italian, Japanese, French, Anti-War, and

Film Noir.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be an exciting, inspirational and thought-provoking event. Introduction and discussion will be on agenda each evening. A \$2.00 entrance fee to support the Center includes popcorn and refreshments. For more information call 467-4455.

German Film Festival Schedule

Tuesdays 6:30 pm

Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road, Stockton 467-4455

Admission \$2.00

April 3 **Metropolis** (1927) Directed by Fritz Lang. This astonishing film combines elements of German expressionism, messianic myth, class warfare, dehumanization, Mary Shelly's Frankenstein, and the dangers of technology run amok. This film was the first true science fiction epic in cinema history. Silent. 124 minutes

April 10 **Pandora's Box** (1929) Directed by G. W. Pabst. Based on a famous German play, this film established American actress Louise Brooks as an international icon. A masterpiece of obsession and intrigue. Silent. 133 minutes

April 17 **M** (1931) Directed by Fritz Lang. The genesis of film noir can be seen in this harrowing story of a serial killer in the darkened streets of depression-era Berlin. This harrowing picture film stars Peter Lorre in his first starring role in the film that would later influence such masters as Hitchcock, Godard and Scorsese. German with subtitles. 110 minutes.

April 24 **The Testament of Dr. Mabuse** (1933) Directed by Fritz Lang. This sequel to "M" ratchets up the suspense when the secrets of Berlin's greatest crime lord are finally uncovered. Fritz Lang would later admit that Dr. Mabuse was, in fact, a metaphor for the then-rising Nazi party. A scathing social commentary. German with subtitles. 121 minutes.

May 1 **Titanic** (1943) Directed by Herbert Selpin. Few people know that the first film based on the famous sea tragedy was a German film. This film was censored heavily in its day, due to the scenes of panic being deemed inappropriate for audiences that were at the time facing daily bombing raids. A masterpiece directed by a man later killed for daring to speak out against the Nazis. German with subtitles. Black and white. 85 minutes.

May 8 **Why does Herr R. run amok?** (1970) Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. This is the story of Herr R (Kurt Raab), a middle-class working man who leads a life of boredom and quiet desperation. This grim study of contemporary life seems to borrow equally from Kafka and Neil Simon. German with subtitles. 88 minutes.

May 15 **The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant** (1972) Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. This controversial film about the destructive force of obsessive love will challenge both the casual film-goer and the most committed cinephile. German with subtitles. 124 minutes.

May 22 **Nosferatu-Phantom der Nacht** (1979) Directed by Werner Herzog. Not to be confused with the 1922 silent film Nosferatu, this astounding remake with Klaus Kinski is filmed with more flair and mood than any dozen modern horror films. Werner Herzog's masterpiece is based on Bram Stoker's Dracula. German with subtitles. 107 minutes.

May 29 **Aimee & Jaguar** (1988) Directed by Max Farberbock. This is the true story of a married German woman and her secret love affair with a Jewish woman during the darkest days of the second world war. Based on the international best selling book, this true story is not to be missed! German with subtitles. 125 minutes

June 5 **Downfall** (2005) Directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel. Nominated for best foreign film, this is the frank study of Hitler's final days before the defeat of Germany in 1945. Based on the testimony of the few witnesses who survived (including Hitler's still living secretary), this is a fascinating exploration of the nature of megalomania. German with subtitles. 155 minutes.

World Beat—the Beat Goes On

Video and Live Workshops

Demonstrations of percussion instruments from around the world and discussions of their cultures Lots of drumming, dancing and chanting. Complementary instruments welcome (flutes, strings, etc.).

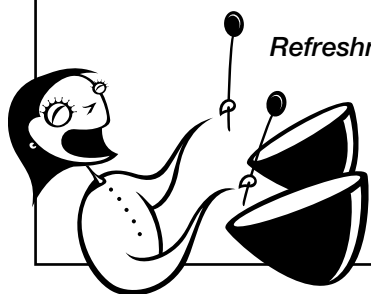
DRUMMING FOR JOY, 7:00pm

- **March 28** – Shamanic Drum Journey, focusing on good health and joy.
- **April 25** – Celtic Styles of Drums and Music, lots of dancing
- **May 30** – Calypso, Reggae, Salsa, Claves, Congas, How Low Can You Go?, Beats from the Caribbean.
- **Future sessions** – Arab and Israeli drumming, peace trough the beat and belly dancers too, Djembes from Africa, Didgeridoo from Australia and more.

Refreshments served, bring your dancing shoes

Bring a Drum if you have one, we will have some extras you may use. Any drum will do.

Fourth Wednesday each month; 7:00 pm; (209) 482-5088
P&J Center, 231 Bedford St. Stockton 95204.



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volunteer.