

# connections

PRICELESS

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## SAVE THE DATES

DEC 5&6  
PEACEFUL HOLIDAY FAIR  
.....20

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## Community leaders

# David Brewer: On the front line

John Morearty

On David Brewer's office wall hangs a woodcut by Jewish-Quaker-Catholic Worker artist Fritz Eichenberg: "Christ of the Breadlines." Also a photo of pacifist Dorothy Day, who founded the Catholic Worker movement in the 1930s with Houses of Hospitality in the slums, a cooperative farm, and a monthly tabloid which still sells for a penny a copy.

Dorothy and Father Alan McCoy shaped David Brewer's life: "Between them lies the truth of the American church," he says.

David spends little time in his office, other than hand-writing thousands of notes to the donors who sustain St. Mary's: 500 hot meals a day prepared in a sparkling commercial kitchen ("If you wouldn't eat it, don't serve it"), 300 bag lunches, 250 breakfasts. On holidays over a thousand people dine on turkey or ham, taking home boxes of leftovers. There's a medical and dental clinic, pharmacy, showers, clothing exchange, barbershop, a

K-6 school for homeless children ("TLC"), and a Head Start preschool. All free. Flowers bloom everywhere; "the poor deserve beauty." While co-director Ed Figueroa manages operations, eighty-year old David walks about and talks.

"I love working with the people, it keeps me going. A lot of them have drug problems, alcohol problems, women problems, but there's something about them that's very good.

"We have an older man, Domingo Lopez. He's 87, has an apartment down by the old Stockton Hotel, rides his scooter here every day for the hot meal. But he forgets to charge the

(continued page 2)



## 22nd Annual Peaceful Holiday Gift Fair...



## Come celebrate

Imagine all the people, sharing gifts from all over the world... Please join us!

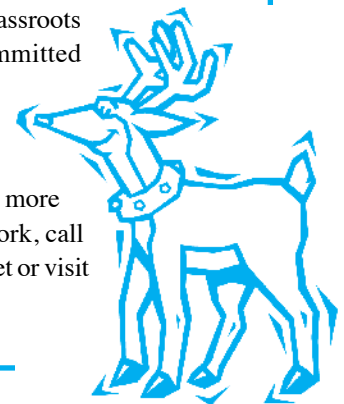
Once again, the greater Stockton community will benefit from the 22nd annual Peaceful Holiday Gift Faire, offering international and local handcrafts for sale to the public on Friday, December 5 from 4-9 pm and Saturday, December 6, from 10 am-4 pm. The popular gift faire will be held at the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. Admission is free.

Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County, the Peaceful Holiday Gift Faire provides the community with a place to find unique and high quality handcrafts that benefit local and global artisans. This year's include Concern America, Stockton Camera Club, BodyBliss Holistic Wellness Center, Delta Sierra Club, Alan Short Center, Serrv International and various other presenters showing their handmade jewelry, woven textiles, children/infant items, and more, including chakra analysis and a massage therapist.

Join the Stockton community in celebrating the spirit of global peace! Come in from the cold and enjoy hot soup, bread and other refreshments. Hear delightful music and mingle with others as you find a special gift for everyone on your holiday list!

The Peace & Justice Network is a local grassroots educational nonprofit organization committed to nonviolent resolution of conflict and education on peace and justice issues.

For more information about Gift Fair, call Maria Torres at 462-3489. And for more information about Peace & Justice Network, call 209-467-4455, email [pjesjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjesjc@sbcglobal.net) or visit our website: [www.pjnsjc.org](http://www.pjnsjc.org).



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# So far, so good

Bruce Giudici

The past election, coming at this critical time, offers opportunities to re-make our world in profound ways. First, there is one basic change that should inspire us from this day forward: we now have a multi-racial president. And while this should not matter in a race-blind society, this election has changed the way the world sees American leadership for the better.

More importantly, on every issue readers of *Connections* care about, we now have a real chance to make a difference. Civil liberties? How about an end to torture as policy, closing Gitmo, stopping wiretaps,

... Environment a concern? What of re-starting a Kyoto treaty with teeth, stopping drill baby drill, taking climate change seriously ...The military? Maybe getting outa Iraq, talking with Iran, Afghanistan, North Korea, Venezuela, Russia and the rest, canceling missile defense, dumping Haliburton and other war profiteering contractors, and saving some money. Science? Making stem cell research a go, allowing honest climate change data out into daylight,... Justice? Should we fire the prosecutors suppressing the vote, make election day a holiday, and enforce the law without politics, ... Health care? Providing Medicare for all, re-

employing workers productively. And of course, repairing the economy...building schools, bridges and rail tracks, solar panels and windmills, and housing for the homeless—and investing in teachers, students, energy workers and ... re-deploying workers from the wasteful to the productive will benefit our economy as will re-deploying our investments from war to peace. Find details in this issue.

All is possible, when the economy is crashing and conventional options fail. For activists ready to change the world, moments like this are rare. It's time to step up. Publicize your efforts,

Bruce Giudici, editor



coordinate your activities, and make change happen. Elections only offer possible paths—it's up to us as citizens to drive the agenda forward. In this issue are also noted obstacles to change—with money underlying it all. But, through it all, today, we're finally in the game.

This issue is full of hopeful ideas. Imagine...that everything listed here came to pass. Keep your eye on that prize.

## David Brewer (continued from page 1)

battery. I saw him walking back along Weber the other day; his legs aren't that good any more. He was holding onto the scooter, and two fellows were helping push it. I pulled over: was there anything I could do? And those two fellows said, 'Oh, we'll get him over to his apartment.' Just two of the fellows who are regulars here—but there's a generosity.

"Some get violent. But all in all they're good people; they've had a very tough time. We had one fellow, born in Oakland, raised in Mexico City, and he was molested by an uncle when he was about eight. Trapped. Anyway he's basically a bright, good fellow—skilled mechanic, a very good gardener; he knows how to figure out problems. I hire him occasionally and it always amazes me how he does it. But he's a crack user, and this guilt from the molestation crops up. He says, 'I just get to feeling so bad, I don't feel any worth.'

"If I were 20 years younger and had a lot more energy, I would organize a work services project, and a counseling and social service center. We have a building; it just needs remodeling—fifty, a hundred thousand dollars. Trained volunteers are available. When you think of all the money that is here in Stockton...."

How did David wind up at St. Mary's?

"I'm a child of the Depression, born in 1927. In 1934 the Bank

of America foreclosed on my family's ranch, we were essentially homeless until we moved in with the grandparents, who also had a ranch. The following year B of A foreclosed on them. But then the WPA came in and dug by hand the sewer system in Yuba City. Something like that is going to have to happen again. The Civilian Conservation Corps.... We need the rebuilding of the inner cities, it would give people jobs. Obama seems to want to get out of Iraq and go into Afghanistan.

"Well, Dorothy Day visited Kara and me in Palo Alto in 1959, I was making twenty thousand a year. She looked at me and said, 'Yes, David. But what are you doing for the poor?'"

"In 1962 we bought nine acres outside Stockton; land was cheap. I took a job teaching biology at St. Mary's High School for forty-five hundred a year, we did a lot of belt tightening.

"We built an octagonal house for ourselves and our eight children. Hired an old carpenter, an architect helped with tricky angles. A blind Franciscan who could distinguish red from black in bright sunlight did the wiring. Our children helped, friends camped out and helped; I did the dirty work.

"Seven years earlier, in June 1955, Father Alan McCoy had become head of the Franciscans at old St. Mary's downtown. Across the street was the Garden of the

Drunks. An old Italian leased a Gold Rush saloon and warehouse to Father Alan for a dollar a year, and in four months St. Mary's Dining Hall was feeding seven to nine hundred people a day. Fifteen or twenty newly ordained Franciscan priests would cycle through Stockton, to be trained by Father Alan.

"While I was teaching, I volunteered at the Dining Hall. Then we got a group of blacks and Hispanics together, my students helped, we got a Great Society grant and built a community center and park in Boggs Tract, a very poor area.

"Dr. Virgil Gianelli and I agreed that the poor were not being served, giving them one meal a day, and having them line up for half a day just to get that one meal. It was degrading. So we told people we knew, formed a board and began gathering money. In 1987, the dining hall moved from the church to this new facility under the freeway, and the board asked me to be the director. So at retirement age, I began a whole new life! [laughs]

"I feel good about the number of people whom over the years I've been able to help do something about improving their lives. When Dorothy Day challenged us, Kara and I began talking about what our responsibilities were, torn between our children and the poor, and we decided we could do more by working with the poor,

raising our own food....

"Kara died a few years ago, and her death doesn't leave me. C.S. Lewis's wife of two years died of cancer; his Grief Observed writes what I felt. I don't know what I would write after 54 years of marriage.

"Kara was extremely bright, did her doctorate on Flannery O'Connor and her masters on James Connolly, who started the IWW. He was executed by the English. We met his daughter in Dublin, in her eighties; she told us of a meeting at their home with the communist leaders, Lenin and Trotsky, who said that world revolution could only come through violence. But Connolly would not go along with them. He said that a true revolution has to come through a revolution of love, not of hate. It's a miracle, the peace that has come about in Ireland this last year; Ian Paisley, who I thought was the incarnation of evil, has converted.

"Here at St. Mary's, we have people who drive me up the wall, meth users.... There's a fellow, Steve, who was raging to me about Robert, the tall black man at the gate. We went out there and Robert simply said, 'Steve, I love you.' And the problem was resolved. Because he did it in a very kind, gentle way."

I asked David if he had any advice for our readers, and he laughed. "Love your neighbor!"

## Connections

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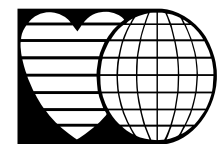
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*"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared responsibly for the well-being of all her inhabitants and all future generations."*

# Stockton council balance depends on new appointment

*Eric Parfrey, Chair  
Campaign for Common Ground*

The election is over and the results were pretty good for progressives all over. Our new president will begin to repair the damage from the last eight years and try to keep the country from sinking into economic depression. Locally, most Stockton City Council, Stockton Unified School Board, and Delta College Board of Trustees candidates favored by the Campaign for Common Ground won.

Incumbent House member Jerry McNerney easily beat back arch conservative Dean Andal and Lois Wolk now occupies Mike Machado's State Senate seat. At the state level, California's voters optimistically agreed to take on another \$10 billion of bond debt

to start building a new high speed rail system, defeated some bad criminal justice and fake "green" environmental initiatives, but, in a heartbreaking move, voted to take away the rights of gay couples.

As the celebration of the national election results dies down, and the reality of the widening economic crisis sobers us all, we look to our own Stockton City Council and ponder what can be done in the next year.

By January, five of the seven seats on our council will be held by new members, representing a tremendous opportunity for change. Mayor-elect Ann Johnston vanquished her rival, councilman Clem Lee, and newcomer Kathy Miller dispatched ghost candidate Michael Merriweather, who was not seen very much during the

election but still managed to pull in 45% of the vote. In south Stockton, local Republican Party leader Dale Fritchen easily won over former councilman Mark Stebbins, who raised less than \$2,000.

The third City Council reform candidate on the informal progressive slate, attorney Chris Eley, was defeated by Diana Lowery. Eley ran a very impressive campaign, but Lowery benefited from a campaign contribution advantage with lots of developer money and from a distressing last minute mailer which touted her endorsement from Democratic Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani. This move by Galgiani no doubt convinced more than a few local Democrats into voting for Lowery, who is a conservative Republican and voted

for every developer in town when she served on the City Planning Commission.

So, at the beginning of January we will have an almost all-female Stockton City Council that will essentially be split 3-3 between conservative, pro-growth forces (Lowery, Fritchen, and incumbent Leslie Martin) and a progressive, slower growth wing (Mayor Johnston, Miller, and incumbent Susan Eggman). Who will this new Council pick to fill the critical swing seventh seat vacated by Steve Bestolarides, who moved on to the Board of Supervisors?

Incoming Mayor Johnston claims to have a couple good candidates lined up as possibilities and some city activists are looking toward Planning Commissioner Chris Kontos to consider the

two-year appointment. Current Planning Commission chair Mark Martinez is also running hard for the appointment. But Martinez probably disqualified himself when he agreed to publicly sign on as one of only a handful of supporters for the ill-fated Spanos referendum drive to overturn the General Plan legal settlement between the City, Attorney General Jerry Brown, and the Sierra Club. It would be difficult to imagine a majority of the new council picking someone who is hostile to this new push to get the City of Stockton on the green anti-global warming bandwagon. Even outgoing Mayor Ed Chavez and Clem Lee strongly supported the legal settlement. Stay tuned.

*(See page 20 for more on the new Council.)*

## A rant on our new leadership

*Laurie Litman*

So far I'm not impressed. No... more than that...I'm discouraged and angry.

Like so many others I worked to get Barack Obama elected. Obama is smart and has the personality and potential to do great things and take the U.S. in much-needed new directions. That's why he was elected. That was the hope.

So why does every Obama decision feel like the same-old/same-old? Like a kick in the teeth? His administration choices so far have all been old retreads from past administrations (read p. 10). No attempt at new ideas, new blood, new directions (how about Krugman or Stiglitz for Treasury?) He's reaching out to Republicans and right-wing Democrats but has shown nothing but disdain for the progressives who worked so hard to elect him.

We know that Obama is not a progressive. He not only voted

for but pushed FISA legislation that protects those who illegally wiretapped us, he whipped for the ill-conceived \$700 billion bailout (how's that working out?), he gave his stamp of approval to keep Joe Lieberman on as chair of one of the most powerful committees in the Senate (where McCain-loving Joe spent the last several years refusing to hold hearings on Katrina or contract abuse in Iraq or any of the other myriad scandals that screamed out for oversight)...So far, Obama has shown no interest in "change."

I realize that it's early days yet, that Obama is not yet officially in office. But the signs are not hopeful. We are going to have to work hard to make this administration come through on its promises.

Want to be part of the solution? Here are a few things we can do to push for progressive policies:

- Don't be a cash cow for the Democratic Party. No money to the DNC, DSCC, DCCC, or any

other Party organization—give only to individual progressive candidates.

- Help elect BETTER Democrats—we can hold bad Democratic accounts accountable through primary challenges (e.g., Accountability Now works to defeat non-responsive congresscritters; Blue America raises money for progressive candidates).

- Pay attention. Get your news from reputable sources. I recommend the blogs Firedoglake, DailyKos, and Think Progress, and the Rachel Maddow TV show to start with (websites on page 9).

- Let them know you're watching. Contact your elected officials often (list on p. 4) to encourage them to do the right thing.

Unfortunately, this election is not going to be the big fix we had hoped. Obama is not going to save the world. Sad to say, that job will have to be up to us.

## Real change...you and I must step up

*Jim Hightower*

Obama elected! Job done, right?

Uh...not quite. If last week's sweeping vote for change is to mean anything substantive, We The People have to stay alert and on the move. And the job begins now. Like fresh-poured concrete, the shape of Obama's presidency is going to set up quickly, and we can't be lulled into thinking that casting a ballot is all that democracy requires of us.

Now is not the time to crank back in our La-Z-Boys, trusting Obama to do the heavy lifting for us. Wall Street, the war machine, Republican Congress critters, weak-kneed Democrats, and other powerful forces of business-as-usual policies will be all over him. These insiders intend to shape him in their mold.

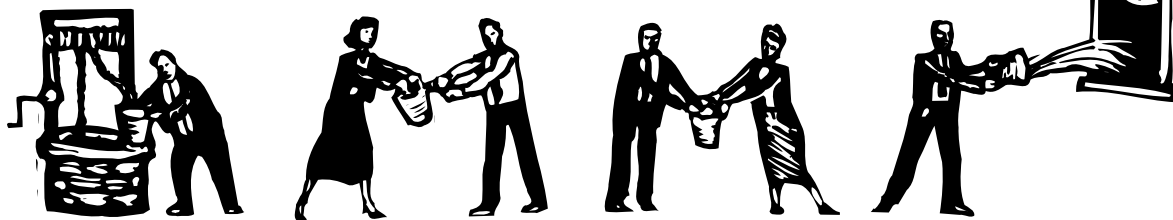
We have to be the counter force—an aggressive and vociferous Loyal Opposition pushing insistently and persistently from the outside. We must stand up and speak out on every move the insiders make; we must propose

and propel progressive ideas and ideals; and we certainly must expose and vigorously oppose any capitulations that he'll be pressured to make to the corporate powers. If his presidency is to be worthy of the deep potential of this political moment in our history, you and I have to step up.

It's real change we're after, a fundamental shift in national direction and policy: Get our troops and our national reputation out of Iraq, provide good health care for all, end "tinkle down" economics, reign in corporate greedheads, reinvest in America's infrastructure, deal with global warming, no more torture, get serious about green energy, restore our stolen liberties—and generally reinstate the Common Good as our nation's governing ethic.

Obama himself has often said that he is not the change, we are. Through him, we opened the White House door to the possibility of change. Now, we must see it through.

*Source: Hightower Lowdown 11/10/08  
<http://jimhightower.com>*



# We can have economic justice, if we fight for it

Arun Gupta

There is no doubt the election of Barack Obama is a watershed. An 8-year-long national nightmare is coming to an end. But there is a tremendous amount of damage to repair. Foremost is addressing the economic crisis that is upon us and which touches on every concern from the environment and health care to wars and energy. So now that the election is over, the next fight begins.

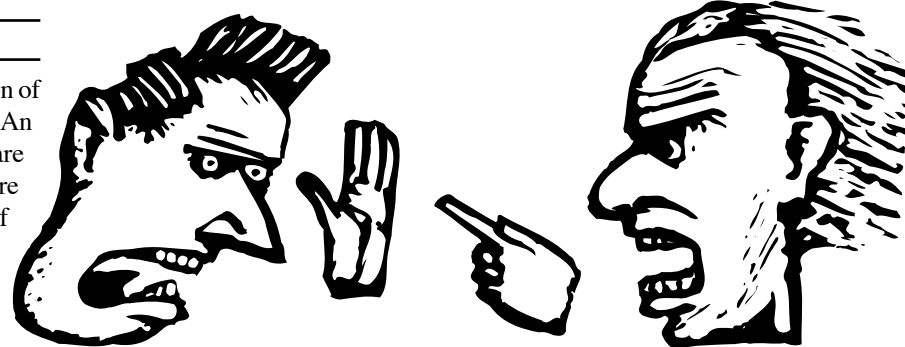
The wealthy and corporate interests who dished out billions of dollars this election season will be swarming over Washington to get their agendas passed. The energy giants will demand "clean coal," nuclear power and offshore drilling. More big corporations facing bankruptcy because of their corruption and greed will demand taxpayer bailouts.

Military contractors and weapon peddlers will push the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The super-rich will cry poverty and demand more tax cuts. HMOs and insurance companies will promote bogus health care "reforms" so they can forestall universal health care. And they won't take no for an answer.

But things are different this time. We have the ideas on our side. The public is politically engaged. And we can hold accountable the politicians we put into office. Because the "free market" has proven a farce and the right is in disarray, there is a huge opening to pass policies that can benefit all Americans. As the economy sinks, only concerted public action can revive it. We need to band together and organize powerful new movements across this country.

We need to organize in the workplace. We need to organize in the schools. We need to organize in the streets, in our neighborhoods, in our communities. And we need to be clear about what we're for: A Just Economy for All Americans. One that creates 21st Century productive jobs, instead of relying on debt-driven consumption to sustain the economy.

We can end our addiction to oil. We can end the wars in Iraq and



Afghanistan. We can solve the health care crisis. We can revive our communities, rebuild our infrastructure, invest in education, slow global warming and transition to a clean, green economy. We need to bring pressure to bear on all levels of government—local, state and national—to enact programs of reconstruction and relief, and to restructure the finance sector.

Here's how we can start:

\*Sign the call to action <<http://bailoutmainstreet.com>> and send it around to everyone you know, urging them to add their name to the call and join this new movement.

\*Set up an organizing committee in your town or city. We need to bring together labor, housing groups, healthcare activists, environmentalists, business owners and all concerned citizens to help draft a plan to dig our way out of this mess.

\*Organize a teach-in on the economic crisis and community-based solutions. (Go to [bailoutmainstreet.com](http://bailoutmainstreet.com) for suggestions on how to organize a teach-in.)

\*Use the teach-in to begin organizing for a day of local action in your community. We are calling for a day of nationally coordinated local actions to push for economic policies that benefit everyone.

\*And we need to start organizing for a big mobilization in Washington, D.C., following the inauguration, to push our demands for a fair, just economy of the future, instead of the failed trickle-down economy of the past.

Just like the 1930s, this unprecedented crisis has given us the opportunity to fix America and create a productive, sustainable economy for all. Let's get to work!

## Signers:

Noam Chomsky, Author  
Howard Zinn, Author: *A People's History of the United States*  
Marilyn Clement, National Coordinator Healthcare-NOW  
Naomi Klein, Author:  
Medea Benjamin, Co-founder CODEPINK and Global Exchange  
Arun Gupta, *The Independent*  
Frances Fox Piven, Professor and Author  
Stanley Aronowitz, Professor and Author  
*Arun Gupta is a founding editor of The Independent <<http://www.independent.org/>> newspaper. He is writing a book on the decline of American Empire for Haymarket Books.*

Source: *Independent* 11/7/09 <http://www.independent.org/>

Just like the 1930s, this unprecedented crisis has given us the opportunity to fix America and create a productive, sustainable economy for all.

Let's get to work!

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## Contact Your Reps

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Sen. Barbara Boxer, 1700 Montgomery St, Ste 240, San Francisco, CA 94111. 415-403-0100; 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3553, [senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov)

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Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-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 Condoleezza 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

## Health quick facts

### Did you know that...

- Bill McGuire of United Healthcare Ins. received \$1.6 billion in salary and stock options (that's 1,600 million! I wonder how many vaccinations that would cover?)?
- there are 2048 health care lobbyists in the federal government (with 535 members of congress that's almost 4 lobbyists (3.895) per member)?
- the United States is ranked 37 out of 91 as a health care system by the World Health Organization?
- Canada and Britain are in the top 10? and
- Canadians live 3 years longer than Americans?

—Suzy Arnett

# Fixing health care: a one time opportunity

Dean Baker

President Obama won an enormous victory this week, one that will change the country. But this is just the beginning as he said in his victory speech. President Obama has the opportunity to establish himself as one of the truly great presidents in his first days in office. He can take advantage of the current economic crisis to announce plans to jump start national health care insurance. Extending health care insurance can be an effective stimulus that will provide an immediate boost to the economy.

More importantly, it will provide the same access to health care that people in other wealthy countries have long taken for granted. For this accomplishment, President Obama will rank alongside Presidents Roosevelt and Lincoln as one of the nation's truly great presidents. The backdrop is straightforward. Economists from across the political spectrum are now calling for a large stimulus package to limit the economy's decline and the rise in unemployment. The consensus is in the range of 2.0-2.5 percent of GDP, or \$300 billion to \$400 billion a year.

This level of agreement among economists is encouraging, but the reality is that it is difficult to effectively spend \$300 billion to \$400 billion a year on short notice. There are some no-brainers that belong in any stimulus package: aid to state and local governments, extended unemployment benefits, and extra money for food stamps and home heating oil assistance. This is money that will be quickly spent, boosting the economy, while helping those hit hardest by the downturn.

A stimulus should also include increases in infrastructure spending, which will come about by moving plans forward for projects already on the books. There should also be a substantial green component, involving retrofitting homes, businesses and other buildings, which will reduce our energy use.

However, after we get through this list, the sum total for the stimulus package is probably still in the neighborhood of \$150 billion

a year, at best half of the targeted sum. This is the gap that will be filled by extending health care coverage.

As a basic outline, the government can give a substantial tax credit (e.g. \$3,000) to employers who cover workers for the first time in 2009 and 2010. It can also offer a tax credit covering most, or all, of any additional payments by employers who increase their coverage. This means that an employer who picked up the workers' share of insurance payments, or got a better plan, would have much of the cost reimbursed by the tax credit. Credits can also be given to individuals who are either self-employed, unemployed, or not otherwise covered through their employer.

If 20 million workers get coverage through this tax credit, that would cost \$60 billion. If another 60 million get an average of \$1,000 in additional health care benefits, this would cost another \$60 billion. If we also throw in funding to reduce the health care burden for Medicare beneficiaries, for example by \$1,000 each, this will cost roughly \$40 billion. The total cost would be \$160 billion a year, a reasonable target for the stimulus package.

At the same time that this health stimulus is enacted, we should open up the Medicare system, allowing all employers and individuals the option to buy into a Medicare-type plan. This is important, because a well-working public sector plan will be important to controlling costs over the long-term.

After 2010, the tax credits would be cut back, with the goal being a system of subsidies that pay the full cost for low-income people, but phase out at higher income levels.

It will also be important to use the Medicare-type plan and other tools to squeeze waste out of the system, since controlling health care costs is essential to sustaining a healthy economy over the long-term.

Extending health care coverage in this way is effectively eating dessert before dinner, but this is exactly what we want to do to counter the recession. It is important that we spend money now to boost the economy. We will be getting double-value if this stimulus can be spent usefully toward meeting a longstanding goal, like providing national health care insurance, rather than just buying things at the mall.

Fixing the health care system so that costs are effectively contained will be a long and difficult political battle. Powerful interest groups, like the insurance and pharmaceutical industries will use all their power to obstruct this effort. The health care system's waste is their profit.

However, we should be reassured by the fact that every other country has managed to more effectively contain their costs. Average per person health care costs in other wealthy countries are less than half as high as in the United States, and they all enjoy better health care outcomes.

Over the long-run the task of containing health care costs is clearly doable. The question for President Obama now is whether he is prepared to take the big leap toward being a truly great president. This opportunity may not come again.

Dean Baker is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Source: Huffington Post 11/6/08, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

Over the long-run the task of containing health care costs is clearly doable. The question for President Obama now is whether he is prepared to take the big leap toward being a truly great president.

## Tobacco prevention vs. high-cost drugs

Cholesterol-reducing drugs called statins have been in the news lately following the release of a major medical study <<http://www.healthnews.com/medical-updates/statins-may-play-dual-role-preventing-heart-attack-stroke-2087.html>> that found that statins can prevent heart disease and stroke in people with no previous history of heart disease. Statins are among the biggest-selling family of drugs of all time. Many articles about the study mentioned above, including one on the credible web site WebMD <<http://www.webmd.com/cholesterol-management/news/20081110/statin-benefits-patients-with-low-ldl-cholesterol>>, also mention the specific drug used in the study: Crestor.

The study has generated hundreds of articles, most of which repeat the same basic framing of the issue: if heart disease is the problem, a drug is the answer. This is the typical framing the public gets from hundreds of news reports about heart disease. Smoking prevention, known to be tremendously cost-effective in preventing heart disease, is never compared to the cost of a new drug touted as doing the same thing. News stories inevitably fail to compare the merits of tobacco prevention when a new and costly drug is promoted as preventing heart disease. An Associated Press article titled "Wider cholesterol drug use may save lives," about the big statin study estimated that "treating [all at-risk people] with Crestor would cost \$9 billion a year and prevent approximately 30,000 heart attacks, strokes or deaths ... That's pretty costly."

Indeed. Every dollar spent on tobacco prevention saves \$2-3 on health care costs down the line, so \$9 billion invested in tobacco prevention could save \$18-27 billion in eventual medical costs—many times more than the cost of preventing heart-related ailments using statins.

The media literacy lesson here is that lifestyle strategies for health get downplayed—even eliminated entirely—when drugs are promoted, even if lifestyle changes are still the most cost-effective and least-risky answer.

Source: Center for Media and Democracy, 520 University Ave, Suite 227, Madison, WI 53703 [www.prwatch.org](http://www.prwatch.org)





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# Wall Street fat cats to pocket billions in bailout cash

*Nomi Prins*

Last week, House Oversight Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., gave the bailout capital recipient firms until Nov 10 to come up with some darn good reasons to be paying themselves so much.

Specifically, he requested detailed information on the total and average compensation per year from 2006 to 2008, the number of employees expected to be paid more than \$500,000 in total compensation, and the total compensation projected for the top 10 executives.

Similarly, New York state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo demanded information about this year's bonuses, including a detailed accounting of expected payments to top management and the size of the firms' expected bonus pool before and after knowing that they would be recipients of taxpayer funds. The deadline Cuomo set for receiving bonus records was Nov. 5. Predictably, the firms in question requested more time as the date approached—it takes a while to massage numbers, after all.

Meanwhile, they have been subtly releasing data to the media regarding how much lower bonuses will be this year, in order to combat inspection and criticism. This is Wall Street in its best defense mode, projecting an aura of accommodation and self-pity (because it's shedding jobs, too), in order to maintain a status quo state of self-regulation.

House Financial Service Committee Chairman Barney Frank is holding his own oversight hearing on the matter next week, having announced that "any use of the these funds for any purpose other than lending—for bonuses, for severance pay, for dividends, for acquisitions of other institutions, etc.—is a violation of the terms" of the bailout plan.

Banks are going to tell Congress that of course they won't use that \$125 billion for bonuses—it will go to shoring up balance sheets and for acquisitions just like they promised. And bonus money will come from earnings, as it always does. If it sounds like accounting mumbo-jumbo, that's because it is. It doesn't matter where in the balance sheet

capital comes from or goes, the point is there's more of it because of taxpayer redistribution in the wrong direction than there would have been otherwise, and that's not just. This begs the larger question: Why pay bonuses in a year of massive financial destruction, anyway?

"Exactly," says Gar Alperovitz, co-author, with Lew Daly, of the new book *Unjust Deserts*. "We're making homeowners take a big hit, and if there's any justification for any of these bonuses—which is dubious—sharing that burden is important." But that's not quite the sharing that Wall Street wanted from the bailout package. Yet, if "change has come to America," as per Obama's promise, then it's high time for Wall Street to shoulder its part—starting with this bonus season. A decisive move by Obama on this topic would go a long way toward solidifying the central promise of his campaign.

*Nomi Prins is a senior fellow at the public policy center Demos and author of Other People's Money.*

Source: *AlterNet* 11/7/09 <http://www.alternet.org>.

## Obama for media access?

If the new president lives up to his campaign promises, we are poised to see an unprecedented transformation of U.S. media. Unlike George W. Bush, the president-elect is a strong supporter of Net Neutrality and universal, affordable Internet access. He is opposed to further consolidation of media ownership, and he is a friend to public broadcasting. Obama's election represents a sea change in leadership that allows us to go from playing defense to offense.

Obama's election rekindles hope that media reform may finally claim its rightful place in American politics as a bona fide political issue. Our job—your job—is to keep our momentum going and make sure President Obama makes good on his campaign pledges in the face of competing priorities and well-financed lobbyists from the phone, cable and broadcasting

companies.

\* The future of our economy and our democracy requires that Congress and FCC pass policies that get fast, open, affordable Internet to every home and business in America, urban and rural, rich and poor.

\* We must foster hard-hitting journalism that holds the powerful accountable and covers the issues that affect you most.

\* There must be no more consolidation of media ownership, and we must create incentives for more independent, local radio, television and print media.

\* We must double funding for public media—for PBS as NPR, as well as for community media and other noncommercial outlets, and ensure that public media are protected from undue political influence.

Over the next few months, we will have a rare moment of opportunity to turn President-Elect Obama's pledges for media reform into a reality in the next FCC and Congress. Together, we will determine whether critical, independent voices will reach living rooms in red states and blue states, East and West, rural and urban. If we do our job right, we could advance several crucial issues in 2009: a permanent Net Neutrality law; redirecting billions of dollars in the "Universal Service Fund" away from subsidizing telephone service and toward high-speed Internet deployment; and laying the groundwork for a major increase in support for public, noncommercial media—the crucial alternative to our failing commercial media system. Stay tuned.

Source: *Free Press* action alert 11/11/08 [www.freepress.net](http://www.freepress.net)

# Opportunity knocks—are we ready?

President-Elect Barack Obama and his administration will take office at a moment when hundreds of millions of people in the United States, and many more around the world, are eager for change and willing to work with him to achieve shared goals. The honeymoon here in Washington, throughout the United States, and around the globe will not last forever, however. These good feelings need to be acted on soon.

The potential is there for change. For 65 years, FCNL has practiced hope by nurturing that kind of change potential. We are hopeful now because:

\* both major party candidates for president ran against the policies of the past eight years;

\* both candidates spoke of the need to repair the image and role of the United States in the world;

\* both parties recognized the importance of working for new international treaties on climate change and reducing the danger of nuclear war, and both candidates spoke out against wasteful military spending;

\* more young people, more African Americans, and more Hispanics voted in this election than ever before, and millions of voters went to the polls for the first time; and

\* both Obama and his former opponent, Sen. John McCain (AZ), have a history of working across party lines.

If the new administration and the new Congress work together, they can make real changes in the first few months of the next administration. Here are key opportunities for the president and Congress to open the doors to hope:

\* Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the Senate.

This treaty is a cornerstone of efforts to control the spread of nuclear weapons. Obama says he strongly supports ratifying the test ban treaty, but ratification requires a yes vote from 67 senators. Our lobbyists believe there are 58 votes now in the Senate in favor of ratification. The first nine months

of the new Congress offer the best chance to get the additional eight votes. Obama needs to signal now that passage of the CTBT is a priority by appointing someone at a high level to secure Senate ratification.

\* Ban cluster bombs.

Half the nations of the world, including nearly all of the NATO allies of the United States, will sign a treaty on December 3 banning these weapons. Even before taking office, Obama could declare his intention to sign the treaty and to work for Senate ratification. FCNL helped persuade Congress to ban cluster bomb exports and has been working to persuade both the new president and the new Congress to support a ban on these weapons. The best chance for action on this treaty will be early in the new administration, while the world is still focused on it.

\* Renegotiate the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with Russia.

The treaty, which limits the number of nuclear warheads and other strategic weapons that each country can maintain, expires in December 2009. After he takes office, the president should propose a 12- or 18-month extension of the treaty to allow for more comprehensive negotiations toward further reducing the number of nuclear weapons in each country's stockpile.

\* Ban torture, no exceptions.

With the stroke of a pen on January 20, 2009, President Obama could end torture by all U.S. government agencies. We at FCNL will also be mobilizing congressional support for the repeal of the Military Commissions Act and the restoration of the full habeas corpus rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

\* Start negotiations for a grand bargain in the Middle East.

Obama has argued for a new, bipartisan U.S. policy in the Middle East. His administration should take a comprehensive approach that establishes a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and embraces negotiations with Iran on

Iraq, on international safeguards against Iran's development of nuclear weapons, on initiatives to resolve the Israeli-Arab conflict, and on stabilizing Afghanistan. However, opposition to these negotiations and initiatives persists in Congress and must be turned around by presidential leadership and grassroots lobbying across the country.

\* Invest in preventing war.

The current financial crisis will put tremendous pressure on the president and Congress to reduce government spending. The president could embrace the call from House Financial Services Committee Chair Barney Frank (MA) for a 25 percent reduction in military spending and urge that these savings be invested in preventing future wars through diplomacy, development assistance, and international engagement. He would still have sufficient money left over for green infrastructure initiatives at home to create jobs and reduce CO2 emissions.

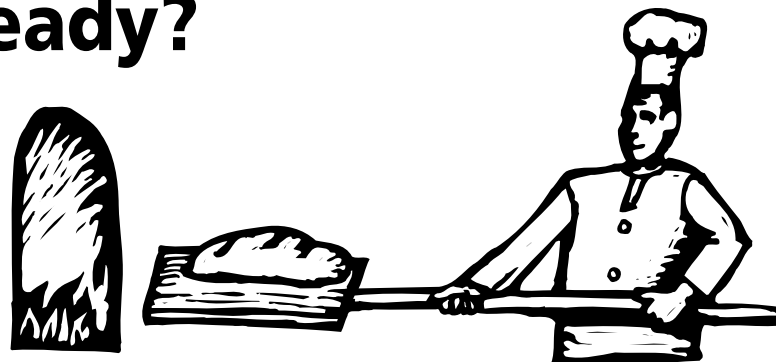
\* Bring our nation's checkbook back into balance.

Too much attention in the current financial crisis has been focused on saving Wall Street, while people on Main Street continue to suffer. Congress will approve a new economic stimulus package sometime in the next four months. The new president and new Congress could use this legislation to invest in reducing income disparities in the United States, making new investments in reducing the number of people living in poverty.

\* Address climate change.

The governments of the world will meet in Copenhagen at the end of 2009 to take new steps to address climate change. What will the next U.S. president bring to the table to show the international community that his country is serious about reducing its greenhouse gas emissions? Will Congress and the president have made real progress by passing legislation to reduce climate change and helping those most harmed by climate change?

\* Bring Native American health



care into the 21st century.

Both presidential candidates and both major political parties have called for new efforts to help Indian Country. In 2008 the Senate passed legislation that would dramatically improve health care for nearly 2 million Native Americans by bringing modern health care services such as hospice and mental health care to Indian Country. Unfortunately, the House has so far failed to act. Reauthorizing Indian health care programs should be on the 60-day agenda for the next president and the new Congress.

On Tuesday night, President-Elect Obama said, "This victory

alone is not the change we seek—it is only the chance for us to make that change, and that cannot happen if we go back to the way things were. It cannot happen without you. So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of service and responsibility, where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves but each other." We at FCNL look forward to working with President Obama on these opportunities.

*Source: FCNL alert 11/11/08, Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 2nd St NE Washington, DC 20002. 800-630-1330*

## The most important letter...yours

Dear President-elect Obama:

I am writing to urge you to dramatically cut military spending which has doubled during the last eight years under the Bush administration. It will be impossible for our nation to achieve economic stability, social justice, a new energy policy, and peace as long as making weapons and war are our nation's priority. We must quickly move to convert our wasteful military industrial complex in order to make funds available to create the green jobs doing sustainable production that you promised during your campaign.

If, instead of building weapons for war, we were to build public transit systems, solar power, and wind power we could significantly reduce our need for fossil fuels and thus reduce the pressure to control oil in the Middle East and Central Asia. Thus peace becomes a tangible benefit of creating a new green economy here at home.

It is my hope that you will focus our national attention on changing the way we interact with the world by creating an Earth friendly economy at home. This way we deal with the harsh coming reality of climate change and offer the world a new and friendlier side of America. I wish you the best and pledge to do our part to help move our nation in this positive direction.

In peace,  
Your Name

*Source: Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space 11/7/08 <<http://www.space4peace.org>>.*

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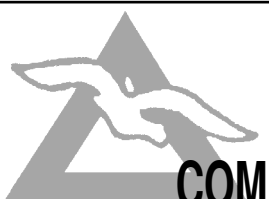
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# A spread-the-wealth mandate

*Norman Solomon*

Two days before he lost the election, John McCain summarized what had become the central message of his campaign: "Redistribute the wealth, spread the wealth around—we can't do that." Oh, yes we can. The 2008 presidential election became something of a referendum on "spreading the wealth."

"My attitude is that if the economy's good for folks from the bottom up, it's gonna be good for everybody," Barack Obama said on October 12, in a conversation with an Ohio resident named Joe. The candidate quickly added, "I think when you spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody."

McCain eagerly attacked the concept, most dramatically three days later during the last debate. While instantly creating the "Joe the Plumber" everyman myth, McCain sharpened the distinctions between the two tickets while the nation watched and listened. He charged, "The whole premise behind Senator Obama's plans are class warfare—let's spread the wealth around."

Obama has routinely reframed the issue in terms of fairness. "Exxon Mobil, which made \$12 billion, record profits, over the last several quarters," he replied during the final debate, "they can afford to pay a little more so that ordinary families who are hurting out there - they're trying to figure out how they're going to afford food, how they're going to save for their kids' college education, they need a break."

This fall, the candidates and their surrogates endlessly repeated such arguments. As much as anything else, the presidential campaign turned into a dispute over the wisdom of "spreading the wealth." Most voters were comfortable enough with the concept to send its leading advocate to the Oval Office.

In the process, the top of the GOP ticket recycled attacks on the principles of the New Deal. Like Franklin Roosevelt when he first ran for president in 1932, Barack Obama put forward economic prescriptions

that were hardly radical. Yet, in the next few years, Obama's

When President Franklin Roosevelt heard pleas for bold steps to counter extreme economic inequality, he replied: "Go out and make me do it." Barack Obama won the presidency after clearly saying that he wants to spread the wealth. Let's make him do it.

administration could accomplish great things—reminiscent of the New Deal, with its safety-net guarantees, (redistributive) progressive income tax, support for labor rights and its mammoth commitment to public works programs that created jobs. Today, we need green jobs that cure our economy and heal our environment.

Let's be clear: Despite their rhetoric, even McCain and Palin know that spreading the wealth from greedy elites to the masses of people is quite popular in our country. That's why their campaign emphasized how Palin "stood up to the oil industry" in Alaska. She did it by imposing a windfall profits tax on big oil that put money into the hands of every man, woman and child in the state. If it's good for Alaska, why wouldn't it be good for America as a whole?

Obama and his activist base won a mandate for strong government action on behalf of economic fairness. But since election night, countless pundits and politicians have somberly warned the president-elect to govern from "the center." Presumably, such governance would preclude doing much to spread the wealth. Before that sort of conventional wisdom further hardens like political cement, national discussions should highlight options for moving toward a more egalitarian society.

Government policies in that direction would be a sharp reversal of what's been happening over the last few decades. No matter how you slice it, more of the economic pie has been going to fewer

people.

"The top 1 percent of households received 22.9 percent of all pre-tax income in 2006, more than double what that figure was in the 1970s," the Working Group on Extreme Inequality reports. "This is the greatest concentration of income since 1928." And: "Between 1979 and 2006, the top 5 percent of American families saw their real incomes increase 87 percent. Over the same period, the lowest-income fifth saw zero increase in real income."

Current tax structures are steeply tilted to make the rich richer at the expense of others: "In the 2008 tax year, households in the bottom 20 percent will receive \$26 due to the Bush tax cuts. Households in the middle 20 percent will receive \$784. Households in the top 1 percent will receive \$50,495. And households in the top 0.1 percent will receive \$266,151."

We can reverse those trends. The time and opportunity have come to "spread the wealth." When President Franklin Roosevelt heard pleas for bold steps to counter extreme economic inequality, he replied: "Go out and make me do it." Barack Obama won the presidency after clearly saying that he wants to spread the wealth. Let's make him do it.

*Norman Solomon, a national co-chair of Healthcare NOT Warfare, is the author of many books, including "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death." He is on the advisory board of Progressive Democrats of America.*

Source: *truthout* Perspective 11/6/08 <http://www.truthout.org>

# Restore role of citizens in government

Joan Claybrook,  
President, Public Citizen

When he takes office, President-elect Obama will face a mountain of challenges – more than any incoming president in recent history: the global financial crisis, the Iraq War, the federal deficit, the energy crisis and more. The most critical thing this new president can do, though – which must be done to make any policy solution a success – is restore the citizen's seat at the government's table. One of the worst outcomes of the past eight years has been the erosion of democracy and the phasing out of the people's voice in the government. It is imperative that this be reversed.

For nearly eight years, virtually the only voices that the Bush administration listened to were those of big business and corporate donors. We paid a hefty price: We saw an emergency management agency that couldn't provide needed aid after a devastating hurricane, a mine safety agency that coddled mining companies at the expense of worker safety, the dominance of politics over science at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an energy policy written by and for the fossil fuel industry, and an economic meltdown after the deregulation of the financial services industry.

Citizens raised their voices loud and clear on Election Day, casting a vote for significant and enduring

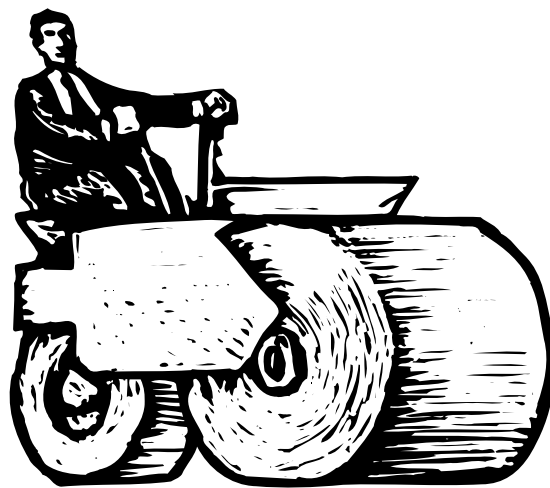
change. But that must only be a beginning. President-elect Obama will send key signals about his administration in the type of inauguration he organizes (whether it features fur and limousines or is a people's party), his new appointees and his first budget. He needs to walk the walk for all those voters who are counting on his leadership. Public Citizen calls on the Obama administration and the new Congress to work together to:

- \* Govern the financial bailout to ensure that homeowners receive some benefits, that financial companies don't take advantage of the taxpayers' largesse and that the financial markets are re-regulated;

- \* Ensure that the regulatory agencies make health, safety and the environment the No. 1 priority, instead of corporate profits;

- \* Repeal the subsidies that Congress lavished on the fossil fuel and nuclear industries and instead invest in alternative and renewable energy and mass transit;

- \* Ensure that the next elections for president and Congress will be publicly financed, so we can rid the government of the corrupting



influence of money;

- \* Reverse the dangerous trend to curbing citizen access to the courts through pre-emption and mandatory arbitration clauses;

- \* Repeal the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA), wherein drug companies pay more than \$500 million directly to the FDA to fund drug review and other programs related to prescription drugs, creating a direct conflict;

- \* Change the status-quo model of globalization and the "trade" agreements now implementing it; ensure that the Colombia, Korea and Panama agreements are not implemented and that future agreements meet basic criteria designed to promote the public interest.

This is a new day in America. The eyes of the world are watching to see if President-elect Obama can pull his team together and live up to the promises he raised for this great democracy.

Source: Public Citizen release 11/5/08 <http://www.citizen.org>

## Amnesty International

# Top three actions for Obama

During his first 100 days in office, Amnesty International is urging President-elect Obama to take three crucial actions:

- \* announce a plan and date to close Guantánamo;

- \* issue an executive order to ban torture and other ill-treatment, as defined under international law;

- \* setup an independent commission to investigate abuses committed by the US government in its "war on terror".

There is much more that needs to happen, but we believe these three concrete actions are crucial to resetting America's course and to letting the world hear from the America we believe in. Do not doubt the power of your action. The same grassroots energy that propelled Barack Obama to victory can now be the driving force behind America's renewed commitment to human rights. And, because the impact of bold action

on human rights can and must be heard around the world, Amnesty's 100 Days effort is global in its reach. This is but a first step in our 100 days campaign. See the rest of our checklist for President-elect Obama's first 100 days in office at <http://www.amnestyusa.org/>.

Source: Amnesty International USA release 11/11/08 Amnesty International USA, 5 Penn Plaza, NY, NY 10001 <http://www.amnestyusa.org/>



## 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.

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

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The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/>

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>

# Rahm Emanuel's history as a warrior Democrat

Stephen Zunes

Obama has asked conservative Clinton vet Rahm Emanuel to be his chief of staff -- it's not a good sign for progressives. The chief of staff essentially acts as the president's gatekeeper, determining with whom he has access for advice and analysis. Obama is known as a good listener who has been open to hearing from and considering the perspectives of those on the Left as well as those with a more centrist to conservative perspective. How much access he will actually have as president to more progressive voices, however, is now seriously in question.

Illinois Congressman Rahm Emanuel is a member of the so-called New Democrat Coalition (NDC), of group of center-right pro-business Congressional Democrats affiliated with the Democratic Leadership Conference, which is dedicated to moving the Democratic Party away from its more liberal and progressive base.

Numbering only 58 members out of 236 Democrats in the current House of Representatives, the NDC has worked closely with its Republican colleagues in pushing through and passing such legislation as those providing President Bush with "fast-track" trade authority in order to bypass efforts by labor, environmentalists and other public interest groups to promote fairer trade policy.

Emanuel began his political career as a senior adviser and chief fundraiser for the successful 1989 Chicago mayoral campaign of Richard M. Daley to seize back City Hall from reformists who had challenged the corrupt political machine of his father, Richard J. Daley. Emanuel later became a senior adviser to Bill Clinton at the White House from 1993 to 1998, serving as Assistant to the President for Political Affairs and then Senior Advisor to the President for Policy and Strategy, and was credited with playing a

major role in shifting the Clinton administration's foreign and domestic policy agenda to the right. Emanuel was the single most important official involved in pushing through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the bill ending Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), and Clinton's draconian crime bill, among other legislation.

Leaving the administration in 1998, Emanuel worked as an investment banker in Chicago, where he amassed an \$18 million fortune in less than three years prior to being elected to Congress.

As head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee since 2004, Emanuel has promoted pro-war and pro-business center-right candidates against anti-war and pro-labor candidates in the primaries, pouring millions of dollars of donations from Democrats across the country into the campaigns of his favored

conservative minions to defeat more progressive challengers.

Emanuel was a major supporter of the Iraq War resolution that authorized the invasion of Iraq. Indeed, he was the only one of nine Democratic members of Congress from Illinois who backed granting Bush this unprecedented authority to invade a country on the far side of the world that was no threat to the United States at the time. Even more disturbingly, when asked by Tim Russert on "Meet the Press" whether he would have voted to authorize the invasion "knowing that there are no weapons of mass destruction," Emanuel answered that he indeed would have done so, effectively acknowledging that his support for the war was not about national security, but about oil and empire. Not surprisingly, he has also voted with the Republicans in support of unconditional funding to continue the Iraq War and has consistently opposed efforts by other Democrats to set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. occupation forces from that country and related Congressional efforts to end the war.

At a time of record budget deficits, Emanuel has been a passionate supporter of increased spending for the Pentagon and has resisted efforts by fellow Democrats to trim excesses in the Bush administration's bloated military budget. For example, he has repeatedly voted against amendments to cut funding for Bush's dangerously destabilizing missile defense and even voted against an amendment to identify unnecessary Pentagon spending by examining the need, relevance and cost of Cold War weapons systems designed to fight the former Soviet Union.

A major hawk regarding Iran, Emanuel has also voted against Democratic efforts to prevent the Bush administration from launching military action against that country and has joined the administration in exaggerated claims about Iran's alleged nuclear threat. He is not opposed to nuclear proliferation if it involves U.S. allies, however. Emanuel has consistently voted against a series of Democratic amendments that would have strengthened safeguards in the Bush administration's nuclear cooperation agreement with India

to prevent U.S. assistance from supporting India's nuclear weapons program.

Emanuel is also a prominent hawk regarding Israel, attacking the Bush administration from the right for criticizing Israel's assassination policies and other human rights abuses. He was also a prominent supporter of Israel's 2006 attacks on Lebanon, even challenging the credibility of Amnesty International and other human rights groups that reported Israeli violations of international humanitarian law. Emanuel's father had emigrated from Israel in the 1950s, where he had been a member of the terrorist group Irgun, which had been responsible for a series of terrorist attacks against Palestinian and British civilians in mandatory Palestine during the 1940s. Emanuel himself served in a civilian capacity as a volunteer for the Israeli army in the early 1990s.

It is unclear how serious of a blow Obama's selection of Emanuel is to those who hoped that Obama might actually steer the country in a more progressive direction. It's easy to see it as nothing less than a slap in the face of the progressive anti-war elements of the party to whom Obama owes his election, particularly following his selection of Sen. Joe Biden as vice president.

However, this does not necessarily mean that Obama as president will pursue nothing better than a Clintonesque center-right agenda. Someone with Obama's intelligence, knowledge and leadership qualities need not be unduly restricted by the influence of his chief of staff as less able presidents have. At the same time, this shocking appointment of Emanuel is illustrative of the need for the progressive base that brought him to power to not celebrate too long and to refocus our energies into pushing hard to ensure that the change Obama promised is something we really can believe in.

*Stephen Zunes is a professor of politics and chair of Middle Eastern Studies at the USF and serves as a senior policy analyst for Foreign Policy in Focus.*

*Source: VotersForPeace release 11/11/08. Voters For Peace, 2842 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21218 <http://votersforpeace.us>*

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# What is "self sustainability"?

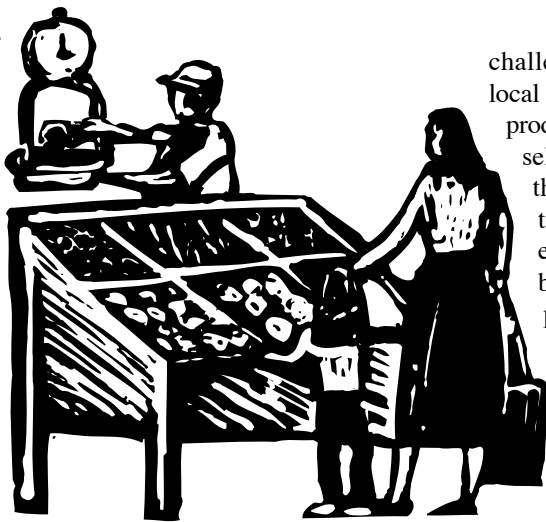
Alan Willard

I guess it's not so much that we don't know what it is; it's that we fear what it might mean. In order to be self sustainable, it may be true that we will have to be happy with less stuff. We may have to be happy with less traveling in our family car. It may help to get better at growing a garden in the summer and winter. It may be an idea to learn what a pressure cooker is all about. We may have to re-learn why the sewing machine was out all the time in our parents' or grandparents' house. Self-sustainable might mean buying expensive clothes—not because they're the latest fashion—but because they're well-made work clothes made by local people who are trying to make a living. After running a sewing machine myself for the last few years, I know I wouldn't want to sell a pair of jeans that I made for much less than \$50.00, and I sure as hell will be repairing them until it's no longer possible.

In addition, working to design communities to be compact, with employment, stores and bus or other public transportation within walking or biking distance will help everyone just from an efficiency point of view. Working to create bike-friendly roadways in our rural area is a challenge but a necessary piece of the puzzle.

Zoning needs to take into account these issues. Mixed-use zoning (including residential, commercial, and light industry) can go a long way toward reducing commutes and energy consumption. Mixed residential (including lofts, apartments, duplexes, and individual homes all equally interspersed) will prevent gentrification and keep taxes lower for everyone.

Building departments, contractors, and owners with all eyes focused on efficiency, low-energy use, green design, and easy maintenance will help support a structure of self reliance. In that same vein, very efficient water design (such as composting toilets, gray water systems, drip systems and rain water catchment)



will help all of us to cut down on water bills and the need for extensive and very expensive reworking of public water systems. Include solar hot water, passive solar, and PV systems on and in structures (including homes and businesses) and, as we go down the road, our communities will be net producers of energy, bringing those costs down as well. You can see the trend. Reducing the overall cost of living and keeping our dollars within our community as much as possible is all part of self reliance.

Self-sustainable may mean working with community organizations to create child and elder care. Having the ability to deal with youth in a pro-active way will be essential to any self-reliant community.

Dysfunction is a part of all communities that is often manifested in teen and preteen behavior. A youth center that can deal with all aspects of youth, family and community interaction could be at the epicenter of a vibrant, healthy and inspired citizenry. By the same token, a local elder center that can deal with helping our elders take care of themselves and handle those hard-to-do chores and other issues will help close our care-giving circle.

Homelessness is a little-talked-about issue in our area, but is with us. With foreclosures and the general economic downturn in our and many other communities, managing it on the local level will become integral to a goal of self reliance.

Local economies that depend on many sources of employment from many different kinds of local small business will always be a

challenge—and supporting our local businesses, especially food production, will be essential to self-sustainability. Balancing this need with maintaining the value of our natural environment will have to be in the forefront of any planning process.

Our local, rural forest environment (and the watershed protected and maintained by that forest) is our life blood and needs to be jealously guarded.

As a forest-interface area, it is our responsibility to do what we can to address the issue of global warming by preventing deforestation. Part of being self-reliant is to take on this obligation, giving us the opportunity to say to the world that we are not going through our lives with our eyes closed to the devastation going on in our back yard.

Energy, especially fuel for our vehicles and machinery, is one of the most compelling factors in a goal of self-reliance. Finding ways to make energy locally in a grassroots way will be a huge challenge that has to be addressed first and foremost—by utilizing agricultural and other bio-waste for creating bio-fuels such as vegetable oil, bio-diesel, and ethanol. Let me repeat, fuel from organic by-products. We want our agriculture to concentrate on food production, using what's left over to produce fuel. One example might be thinning excess brush and small trees for fire safety along our roads and around vulnerable structures, chipping this material, then using it to make wood alcohol for fuel. After that process, the remaining material could be turned into pellets for pellet stoves.

I have no illusions that any community can make all the fuel it needs in this way. Because we can't fill all our fuel needs, doesn't mean we shouldn't create a fuel production infrastructure to help cut down on our reliance. It's not an all or nothing situation. The more efficient our equipment is—and the less driving we do—the closer we can come to filling a good percentage our fuel and other energy needs.

*Alan Willard is an environmental activist who lives in West Point, Calaveras County.*

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# Will Obama be the leader we need on climate change?

*Gillian Caldwell*

On Election Day, millions of Americans voted in record numbers for a dramatic change in our country's direction. After eight years of near-paralysis on the climate front, and in the midst of our biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression, the election of Barack Obama and a host of new Members of Congress—many of whom support clean, renewable energy, green-collar jobs and caps on carbon emissions—gives us hope that we'll finally get the bold climate leadership we've been looking for in Washington. But if this election is going to bring real change on the climate front, we'll have to hold our new leaders accountable for most of the promises they made on the campaign trail—and get them to drop some others.

There's much to like in the climate agenda that an Obama administration would put before the new Congress. For example, Obama has called for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050—a target in line with what the Nobel Prize winning panel of scientists at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have said we must do if we are to avoid catastrophic climate impacts. While we need to press for much more aggressive short-term targets, such as cutting emissions by at least 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, Obama's long-term target is a good start.

He has also proposed a cap-and-trade policy in which all pollution credits would be auctioned. The proceeds would go towards investments in clean, renewable energy, helping workers affected by this economic transition and helping lower-income families with their energy costs. Obama has also called for 10 percent of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2012 and 25 percent by 2025, greater investment in energy efficiency, and the creation of five million green-collar jobs.



Obama is also right in his cautious approach towards nuclear energy. He has warned that, before an expansion of nuclear power is considered, key issues must be addressed, including: security of nuclear fuel and waste, waste storage, and proliferation. Given all the risks nuclear power carries, and the exorbitant cost of building new plants, it isn't a realistic alternative to fossil fuels and we're glad to see the President-elect is cool to the idea.

Now that the heat of the campaign season is behind us, we hope President-elect Obama will stop pretending that so-called "clean coal" is a realistic way to reduce carbon emissions and achieve energy independence. "Clean coal" is nothing but a myth. Carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) is unproven and exorbitantly expensive. At best, the technology will not be commercially available until 2030, and installing carbon capture systems will nearly double plant costs, which won't provide any relief to Americans' soaring utility

bills. We need real solutions, not coal industry myths. As president, Obama should feel free to stop pandering on clean coal and focus on real solutions to our energy and climate crises.

At 1Sky <<http://www.1sky.org/>>, we have developed a three-pronged approach to solving the climate challenge:

- \* Create five million new green jobs and pathways out of poverty focused on climate solutions and energy efficiency;

- \* Reduce global warming pollution at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050;

- \* Impose a moratorium on new coal plants that emit global warming pollution, and end our dependence on oil through strong standards and incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

By shifting to a sustainable, low-carbon economy, we can relieve our dependence on oil, unlock the potential of green industry and usher in a new era of prosperity. The results of the election are encouraging for our economy and our planet's future, but we'll only achieve the change we need by pressing our leaders for bold leadership to solve the climate challenge.

*Gillian Caldwell is the Campaign Director for 1Sky, a new national campaign to build a diverse nationwide movement and convince our federal government to take bold action to tackle the climate crisis.*

*Source: Huffington Post 11/5/08 <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>*

By shifting to a sustainable, low-carbon economy, we can relieve our dependence on oil, unlock the potential of green industry and usher in a new era of prosperity.

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# Manufactured "drought" pushes case for canal & dams

**"This isn't a drought. This is a created shortage"**

Dan Bacher

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has proposed drastic cuts of State Water Project (SWP) deliveries to push for a peripheral canal and more dams.

Conjuring up fears of a prolonged statewide "drought" doomsday scenario, DWR Director Lester Snow announced an initial water allocation of only 15 percent to the SWP contractors in 2009. This would be the second lowest in the history of the State Water Project.

"This further dramatizes the urgent need for additional investments in water storage and conveyance infrastructure to assure an adequate and reliable water supply," said Snow, in support of a controversial \$9.3 billion water bond proposal by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senator Dianne Feinstein to build more dams and a peripheral canal around the California Delta.

"The uncertainty of precipitation patterns due to global warming and deteriorating conditions in the Delta, California's main water hub, demand immediate action to enhance our ecosystem and keep our economy productive in the 21st century. The governor has sounded the wakeup call, and the clock is ticking," Snow claimed.

A broad coalition of recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, Delta farmers and conservationists is opposing the governor's water bond because they believe it will result in increased water exports from the Delta and exacerbate the unprecedented collapse of Central Valley Chinook salmon, Delta smelt, longfin smelt, striped bass, threadfin shad, and other fish populations. Although massive opposition to the proposal prevented the governor and Assemblyman Dave Cogdill from getting legislative approval for the water bond, political insiders expect the pro-canal forces to try to put the bond on the June ballot.

Snow said that the 15 percent allocation figure reflects "the low carryover storage levels in the state's major reservoirs, ongoing drought conditions and court ordered restrictions on water deliveries from the Delta." The lowest initial allocation figure was 10 percent of SWP contractors' requests in 1993, but that number was increased to 100 percent during the water year as conditions developed. Last year, the initial figure was 25 percent and it was increased to 35 percent, according to Snow.

## The real reasons behind the "drought"

Unfortunately, Snow failed to mention that the reason for the low carryover storage was Shasta, Oroville, Folsom, and other northern California reservoirs have been drained to alarmingly low water levels by the state and federal governments to send subsidized water to drainage impaired land in the Westlands Water District and to fill the Kern Water Bank, the Semi-Tropic Water Bank and reservoirs in Southern California.

Articles appearing on October 31st in the *S.F. Chronicle*, *Sacramento Bee*, and other newspapers failed to mention the real reasons behind the alleged "drought." Fortunately, Tom Stienstra, *S.F. Chronicle* outdoor columnist and author, wrote a superb piece, "Drought, or Water Heist?," in the *Chronicle* on October 26, exposing this fraud by the Schwarzenegger administration. "This isn't a drought. This is a created shortage," Stienstra emphasized.

Stienstra cites the Department of Water Resources' data stating that the past two years are only the ninth driest two-year period in the past 88 years, and that California routinely experiences such periods once every 10 years.

"What happened last year is that water managers were betting on a wet spring," said Stienstra. "When it didn't happen, many lakes were drained down to nothing in order to send water to L.A. and farmers."

"True droughts are measured by soil moisture, and in some cases,

water levels at wilderness lakes. In a true drought, soil moisture is so low that plants go into artificial hibernation to protect themselves, as in 1992, and that has not happened. Up in the high country, most wilderness lakes - outside the reach of water-grabbers - are full," he said.

Stienstra contrasts the condition of Northern California reservoirs with those of a Southern California reservoir that receives its water from the State Water Project.

## Low carryover a result of poor water management

Mindy McIntyre, the Water Program Manager for the Planning and Conservation League, agrees with Stienstra that the "drought" is largely an artificially created phenomenon spurred by bad water management.

In two below normal but nowhere near critically dry years, the state pumps delivered massive amounts of water south to the Kern Water Bank, Diamond Valley Reservoir and the Semi-Tropic Groundwater Bank in Southern California with apparent disregard for the fact that reservoirs would be drawn down to dangerously low levels.

"The DWR didn't call for water conservation this year—so the dry year situation wasn't taken seriously," said McIntyre. "This year we're going into a potentially dry year without a buffer in the reservoirs, so the state and federal governments have managed themselves into a manmade drought."

The state and federal governments in recent years have pumped record amounts of water out of the California Delta. Some of the largest annual water export levels in history occurred in 2003 (6.3 million acre-feet), 2004 (6.1 MAF), 2005 (6.5 MAF) and 2006 (6.3 MAF). Exports averaged 4.6 MAF annually between 1990 and 1999 and increased to an average of 6 MAF between 2000 and 2007, a rise of almost 30 percent, according to the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance.

The problem with California water supply won't be addressed by building a peripheral canal or

## Kesterson water plan due in 90 days

Fifty years after the Westlands Water District began irrigating drainage-impaired lands in the San Joaquin Valley, causing massive accumulation of toxic selenium and other salts in the soils and drainage water, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) has taken action to address the ongoing pollution problem. In a letter last week, the Board gave the water district 90 days to file for a waste discharge permit and present a plan for cleaning up the soils that have been building up salts and toxins for decades.

While federal officials knew that providing water to Westlands from the Delta and Northern California would aggravate the naturally occurring salt-loading problems on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation pushed forward with the irrigation project. As a result, the Westlands area is one of the largest, most heavily subsidized, and profitable agribusiness regions in the world as well as one of California's worst environmental legacies.

The hard clay soils on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley are naturally impermeable, preventing water and salts from seeping into the earth. In many places in the area, the water table is no more than five feet from the surface of the ground. Toxics and salts (including selenium) from the imported irrigation water mix with the groundwater, compromising crop root systems - a problem people in the business refer to as "drainage impairment."

The Board's letter reminds Westlands that discharging toxic laden water is a violation of laws protecting the state's surface and groundwater. We're pleased to see the Board treating the drainage situation as a serious problem and hope their actions mark a turning point in efforts to clean up the area.

Source: *PCL Insider 11/7/08 The Planning and Conservation League, 1107 9th St, Ste 360, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 444-8726 www.PCL.org*

more dams, but by practicing better water management and increased water conservation, McIntyre contends. "This is more a failure of water policy and management than it is of infrastructure," she said. "We will have a water crisis every year unless we find a way to decrease demand."

While Schwarzenegger and Snow continue to push "improved conveyance" and new reservoirs as the "solution" to California's water problems, a number of recently published reports question the need for new dams and canals.

A report published by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LACEDC) compared the price of water produced by conservation, recycling, desalinization and new dams. "The LACEDC found water from new dams to be the most costly option, which prompted the business group to characterize new dams as a 'nonstarter' due to economic and environmental concerns," according to Steve

Evans, conservation director of Friends of the River.

## Water delivery facts

SWP contractors deliver water to more than 25 million California residents and more than 750,000 acres of farmland. This year, SWP contractors requested 4,166,376 MAF of water for the 2009 calendar year, the maximum contractual amount allowed. Actual delivery amounts can increase from the initial allocation depending on the year's hydrologic and water supply conditions.

"In preparing the initial allocation, DWR considered a conservative projection of hydrology, SWP operational constraints including additional 2009 Delta export restrictions per the federal district court's remedy order to protect Delta Smelt and 2009 contractor demands, including carryover water from 2008," said DWR.

Source: *truthout! Report 11/6/08. http://www.truthout.org*

# Trust Paulson with money?

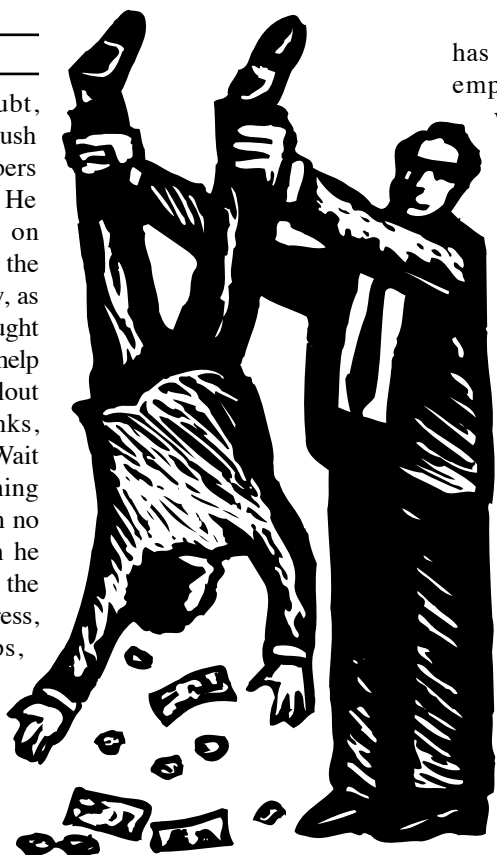
Robert L. Borosage

Hank Paulson is, no doubt, the most impressive of the Bush administration cabinet members (admittedly not a high bar). He made hundreds of millions on Wall Street, ascending to be the head of Goldman Sachs. Now, as Treasury secretary, he has brought in colleagues from Goldman to help manage the \$700 billion bailout of troubled Wall Street banks, including Goldman, and ... Wait one minute. Doesn't something ring false here? Hank Paulson no doubt is honorable, but even he has conflicted interests. When the bailout bill was before Congress, a number of outside groups, including the Campaign for America's Future, pushed hard for the bailout to be managed by an independent agency, with an empowered board that included independent representatives of workers and consumers. Whatever the form of the bailout -- Paulson's initial demand for \$700 billion left that undefined—it was vital that the transactions be accountable to more than once and future bankers.

And now we know why. After initially proposing to buy toxic securities from the banks at inevitably elevated prices, Paulson sensibly decided to follow the British model and inject capital directly into the major banks in exchange for equity. The first nine banks -- Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of New York Mellon and State Street Corporation—are getting \$125 billion. This, plus a guarantee of new debt over the next three years, is designed to reassure other banks of their solvency, and hopefully get them to resume lending to one another and to businesses.

But Paulson didn't exactly cut a great deal for taxpayers. He didn't get the terms that Warren Buffett demanded, putting up a lot less cash, to invest in Goldman Sachs. And as a New York Times editorial complained, he made government a passive investor, leaving in place the boards and the directors that led their banks into crippling losses.

Paulson made no demands that the banks begin lending again



instead of

just hunkering down, girding for future losses. And remarkably—unlike the British—he didn't demand that the banks stop paying out dividends to shareholders. Nor is it clear that bank regulators will perform the triage needed, merging and purging the banks of excess capacity.

That failure is likely to be very costly to taxpayers and very generous to the very folks who led us into this mess. In a New York Times op ed, David S. Scharfstein and Jeremy C. Stein show that dividends, if paid at current levels, will redirect more than \$25 billion of the \$125 billion to shareholders in the next year alone. One in five dollars will go out the door, and thus be unavailable to plug the large capital hole on the banks' balance sheets.

Will those dividends be paid? Most likely, since the directors and officers of the nine banks are leading shareholders. Scharfstein and Stein estimate their personal take will amount to \$250 million in the first year, nothing to sneeze at.

Worse, Paulson does nothing to curb the bloated compensation levels that characterized Wall Street in the days of debauch. Jonathan Weil of Bloomberg News shows the effect. Morgan Stanley, for example, gets \$10 billion in taxpayer dollars. Yet this year it

has racked up \$10.7 billion in employee compensation—the vast majority not yet paid out—even as its stock market value plummeted \$34.7 billion since the beginning of the company's fiscal year. With taxpayers' help, Morgan Stanley may well pay those bonuses.

Weil reports that the "five families of Wall Street"—Goldman, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, and Bear Sterns—lost about \$83 billion in stock market value from the start of the 2004 fiscal year. At the same time, they reported about \$239 billion in employee compensation. For every dollar of shareholder value destroyed, the employees pocketed almost three. And that was before they got taxpayer money. No one doubts that the bailout is needed to prop up the global economy. But under Paulson's plan, we may end up, in Weil's words, "throwing money at an industry that pays too many people more than they're worth, to perform services the world has too much of already."

What's needed is an independent agency with summary powers and an independent board, to work with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and other agencies to sort out the solvent banks from the broke, those that need to be saved from those that should fail. And, as in the Chrysler bailout, a suspension of dividends to shareholders until the government has been repaid.

Now maybe Paulson is making the best choices possible given the extent of the crisis. He's got more information and is a far better banker than the rest of us. But with \$700 billion in taxpayers' money at stake, surely it would be wise to have an independent board that can hold him accountable.

*Robert Borosage is co-director of the Campaign For America's Future, and he has written on political, economic, and national security issues for publications including The New York Times and The Nation.*

Source: Campaign for America's Future 10/22/08 <http://ourfuture.org>

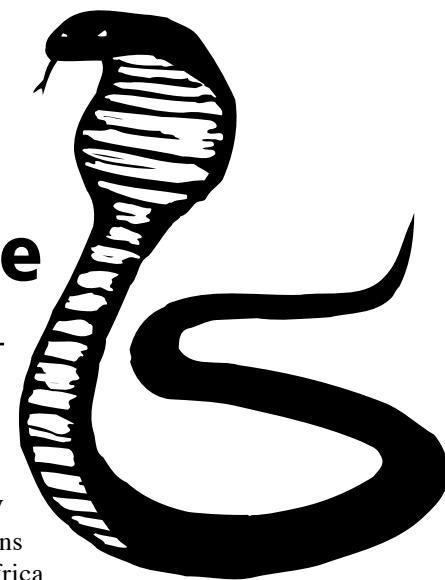
# Big oil's charm offensive

Jim Hightower

Exxon Mobil wants you to know that it cares about poor African children. Several are featured in a recent TV ad touting Exxon's donations to a charitable effort in Africa to fight malaria. Chevron wants you to know that it's a caring corporation, too. It's running a TV ad touting its concern about alternative energy, featuring a touching tagline that says: "This isn't just about oil companies. This is about you and me."

Why the push to show Big Oil's gentle side? Because new profit figures show yet another quarter of the ongoing money grab by these giants. Exxon's take for the three summer months, for example, was nearly \$15 billion—the most profit of any corporation in history. So the money grabbers are putting on masks of altruism, hoping we won't notice their pockets bulging with our dollars—and hoping we won't demand that Congress take away the billions of dollars they get each year in tax subsidies.

To see the true heart of the oil barons, however, don't look at their ads—look at their production numbers. While prices rose in the past year, pinching consumers hard, the big refiners deliberately



cut back on gasoline production to hold prices up. While diesel shortages were squeezing the economic life out of U.S. truckers, the refiners ignored domestic need because they could get a higher price by shipping American diesel to Europe, South Africa, and Australia.

Worse, though, is Big Oil's failure to use its windfall profits for development of new oil supplies. The corporations claim that they need enormous profits in order to explore for oil—yet last year the Big Five spent only \$10 billion on exploration, while dumping \$55 billion into the pockets of their top executives and major investors.

Oil company image ads aren't fooling anyone. Their attempts to appear touchie-feelie are as hopeless as hanging an air freshener on the tail of a hog.

Source: Hightower Lowdown 11/12/08 <http://jimhightower.com>

## All fair trade, all organic, all the time (almost)

Have a great cup of coffee and feel good about it. Workers are receiving a fair wage, the coffee is grown in a sustainable way and drink it here, in Stockton—at the Blackwater Café Downtown, 13 South San Joaquin Street 7 a.m.–1 p.m. Monday–Friday.



The beans are from all over the world, shipped into Oakland (Royal Coffee Co.) and roasted daily in Vallejo, and shipped weekly to the shop. Owner David Qualls is proud to provide this guilt-free, environmentally-friendly coffee...everyone should go and try a cup. You will want to arrange your coffee time around this great coffee in this small shop.

# The marketing of "change"

## Advertisers elect Obama 2008 "Marketer of the Year"

Barack Obama has been named Advertising Age's 2008 Marketer of the Year for the simplicity, consistency and relevance of his campaign. Hundreds of marketers, agency heads and marketing-services vendors attending the 2008 annual Association of National Advertisers conference voted for Obama's campaign over ad campaigns by major companies like Apple, Zappos, Nike and Coors. AdAge called Obama's historic November 4 win the "biggest day in the history of marketing," saying marketers have a lot to learn from his campaign.

At a time when 70% of the population thought the country was headed in the wrong direction, Obama adopted a simple slogan of "Change" that never varied throughout his campaign, while his competitors tried for months to find similarly simple yet powerful messages. Hillary Clinton first tried the slogan "Experience," then shifted to "Countdown to change," and then used "Solutions for America," while the McCain campaign tried on a long list of labels like "Maverick," "Straight Talker," "Conservative" and "Hero." By the time the McCain campaign settled on "Country First," it was too late. The relentless focus on "change" pressured Mr. Obama's opponents to talk about how their changes would differ from his, rather than focus on their strengths, like their experience, track records and relationships with world leaders.

Source: Advertising Age, 11/5/08, found at <http://www.prwatch.org/node/7926>

## Change, of a limited sort, comes to DC

Washington's \$3 billion lobbying industry has begun shedding Republican staffers, snapping up Democratic operatives and entire firms, a shift that started even before Tuesday's ballots were counted," reports the Wall Street Journal. "One signal of the new era" is that the influential Republican firm BGR Holdings (previously called Barbour Griffith & Rogers) is acquiring the Westin Rinehart Group, which is run by

former Clinton administration aides. The Republican-dominated Ogilvy Government Relations (previously called the Federalist Group) will be revamped by "two former Democratic staffers": Dean Aguillen, who worked for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and James Williams, who has worked for Senators Joe Biden, Dick Durbin and Charles Schumer. Ogilvy's clients include "Chevron, the American Chemistry Council, Nascar and shareholders of the 20% of American International Group Inc. that isn't held by the federal government." Lockheed Martin and Boeing "both recently named Democrats as top lobbyists." Comcast's "chief Republican lobbyist" left the company, and the Information Technology Industry Council "passed over its top in-house Republican in naming its new president." The association and three companies all said the changes "weren't made to curry favor with Democrats."

Source: Wall Street Journal, 11/5/08, found at <http://www.prwatch.org/node/7916>

## Lobbyists, register with the President

"President-elect Obama is already backing off his pledge not to hire any lobbyists to serve in his administration," reports Shawn Zeller. "But one prominent hired gun -- Stuart Pape, managing partner at the biggest lobbying firm in Washington -- expects that Obama will soon after taking office set new disclosure requirements for lobbyists trying to influence executive branch officials." Pape spoke at a briefing sponsored by his firm, Patton Boggs, and Qorvis Communications. Pape also pointed out that the Obama campaign's "brilliant plan" was so "well executed" that it has raised expectations for real change. "You saw the enthusiasm of people, not just in the United States but all over the world last night," he said. "It was an outpouring of emotion and hope that I don't recall seeing since John Kennedy was elected president. But that puts an enormous amount of challenge in front of the president-elect to ... meet those expectations." According to Darryl Nirenberg of

Patton Boggs, the incoming U.S. Congress will also feel pressure to deliver "early achievements" by quickly passing "items which they believe will be popular and somewhat easy to get through the House, such as health care SCHIP, energy policy attacking big oil," and "regulatory changes for financial institutions such as an investor and shareholder bill of rights."

Source: Congressional Quarterly, 11/6/08, found at <http://www.prwatch.org/node/7930>

## FCC votes to open up white spaces

On Tuesday, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to open up the "white spaces" on the television spectrum that will be available when the U.S. switches from analog to all-digital in February 2009. Sascha Meinrath, research director of the wireless future program at the New America Foundation, said that "All the PR spin and FUD (fear, uncertainty and doubt) failed in the face of physics and the ground reality of engineering." Wired.com sees consumers as the big winners, but there are corporations that will benefit as well. Intel's chips could power new devices made by companies like Motorola, Philips, and Dell that will be used to access the broadband services in the newly available whitespaces. On the other hand, there are industry losers as well. Verizon, AT&T, and Comcast "have paid billions over the years to gain exclusive rights to the spectrum," which will now disappear. "All those problems of diversity on the airwaves and access to internet broadband connectivity are predicated on the artificial scarcity of airwaves," Meinrath said. "They will be alleviated."

Source: Wired.com, November 5, 2008, found at <http://www.prwatch.org/node/7923>

All articles found in: The Weekly Spin, 11/12/08 Center for Media and Democracy <http://www.prwatch.org>



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EVERY PERSON & ARE A WELCOMING CONGREGATION.

## What Would John Muir Say?

Edited by Bernice Bassor Turoff  
Photographs by David Best

reviewed by John Morearty

John Muir was a mystic-not churchy, but profoundly spiritual. The waters, stones, and trees of Yosemite, its meadows and skies were the temple where he worshipped, experiencing the Divine in his own body. "We are now in the mountains and they are in us," he wrote, "kindling enthusiasm, making every nerve quiver, filling every pore and cell of us. Our flesh-and-bone tabernacle seems transparent as glass to the beauty about us, as if truly an inseparable part of it, thrilling with the air and trees, streams and rocks, in the waves of the sun—a part of all nature, neither old nor young, neither sick nor well, but immortal."

Muir's "enthusiasm" (the Greek word means "filled with God") shimmers on every page of this radiant book, in jewels which Bernice Turoff has mined from his books and letters. "The bloom-time of the year...air quivering with the songs of the meadowlarks...sun-shifted arches...exuberant extravagance, rejoicing everywhere...magnificent bole backbones...divine peace glows on all the majestic landscape like the

giant enthusiastic joy that sometimes transfigures a noble human face."

Cosmic trees "grip the ground as though they liked it, and though fast rooted they travel about as far as we do. They go wandering forth in all directions with every wind, going and coming like ourselves, traveling with us around the sun two million miles a day, and through space heaven knows how fast and far."

And miraculous photographs!

Twelve inches by fifteen, or even double pages, exquisitely printed in India on very thick paper. Lodi photographer David Best has roamed these mountains for years, scouting, waiting for the light, composing like a master, and now he transports us "fast and far." To golden birch woodlands, dogwood over blue streams,



Yosemite Falls above tree roots knotted with their own reflections in a pond, Mono Lake in purple rose sunset and again in black and white, hairline filigree of white twigs against dark hills and black twigs against white, gray rocks and gray storm sky, a vivid green oak dusted with snow against black and white rocks, and down

among mountains a spring valley calling us home....

And stunning photos of Hetch Hetchy, the beautiful doomed valley that Muir called "one of nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples"; he and the fledgling Sierra Club tried to save it from being dammed for San Francisco water. Conservationists

are now struggling to reverse that doom—"the restoration is technically feasible," says Schwarzenegger's Department of Water Resources. Shades of the Conservation Corps of the 1930's; imagine all the young people at work, cleaning, planting trees....

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread," wrote John Muir. "Give us bread but give us roses too," sang the women in the Lawrence Massachusetts textile mill strike of 1912. And

Dostoevsky wrote, "We shall be saved by beauty." I hope so. I've bought two copies of this magnificent book for my grandchildren. All earth's children need saving—by saving the earth.

*What Would John Muir Say?* is available at REI in Stockton, and from David Best's website, [www.panoramaman.net](http://www.panoramaman.net).

## The Hidden History of 9-11

Edited by Paul Zarembka, Professor of Economics, State University of New York at Buffalo, Seven Stories Press, 2008

reviewed by John Morearty

The conspiratorial attacks of September 11, 2001 are an inkblot test: do you see two faces, or a wineglass? a spiderweb, a flower—or a vortex? George Bush and his cronies defined the attacks as acts of war, and justified two wars (thus far) against Afghanistan and Iraq. Some see them as unfortunate but understandable acts of revenge against the American empire, snakes striking the heel that trampled them. Some (including me) see them as a wake-up call to capture international criminals

and try them in the Hague, like the Serbian general who commanded the snipers above the city of Sarajevo. (He got twenty years.)

But who were the conspirators, exactly? The 19 supposedly devout Muslims named by the Bush government, commanded by bushy bin Laden in a cave? 37% of Americans don't believe that, according to a 2006 poll reported in the Washington Post (and the Record) by Michael Powell. Skeptics believe the conspirators included not only the 19 and Osama, but inside members of the

Bush administration itself, eager for a "new Pearl Harbor" to justify trillions for global domination, "full spectrum dominance."

For those who care to face the question, Professor Zarembka's new book provides 375 pages of thought-provoking information, including enough footnotes to choke a villain. His eight authors cover a lot of ground: evidence of insider trading beforehand, the collapse of the towers, the "compromised 9-11 commission," Islamophobia as a pretext for U.S. imperial conquest, Machiavelli's

theory that state terror drums up support for government.

Three chapters were news to me.

\* Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed's "Terrorism and Statecraft; Al-Qaeda and Western Covert Operations after the Cold War";

\* Jay Kolar's "What We Now Know about the Alleged 9-11 Hijackers", including evidence that several are still alive, and several had "doubles"; and

\* Don Trent Jacobs "The Military Drills on 9-11: 'Bizarre Coincidence' or Something Else?" This particularly fascinated me.

At least four different U.S. "War Games" were planned on or around September 11, including at least one involving hijacked planes.

The mind reels; as T.S. Eliot said, "humankind cannot bear very much reality." But the three thousand who died on September 11 have borne the reality, as have the million or so who died in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars—and the dying isn't over. Bush and Cheney are leaving; in this time of hope, maybe we can learn a lesson?

## About the bailout

A look at the numbers tells the story. With thanks to [www.reason.com](http://www.reason.com) ("Bailout Balance Sheet," November 7, 2008 by Katherine Mangu-Ward and Anthony Randazzo) the awful total so far looks like this:

\$29 billion for Bear Stearns  
\$143.8 billion for AIG (thus far; it keeps growing)  
\$100 billion for Fannie Mae  
\$100 billion for Freddie Mac  
\$700 billion for Wall Street, including Bank of America (Merrill Lynch), Citigroup, JP Morgan (WaMu), Wells Fargo (Wachovia), Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, and a lot more  
\$25 billion for the Big Three in Detroit  
\$8 billion for Indy Mac  
\$150 billion for stimulus package (from January)  
\$50 billion for money market funds  
\$138 billion for Lehman Bros. (post bankruptcy, through JP Morgan)  
\$620 billion for general currency swaps from the Fed  
Rough total:  
\$2,063,800,000,000—Two trillion and growing!

Not included in the above: hundreds of billions from the Fed to buy up commercial paper and lend out to other commercial firms.

What on earth is going on here? Simple, actually. Our Treasury and Federal Reserve are loading debt on future generations and transferring the debt money to Wall Street criminals and commercial bankers—the very people who massively breached their fiduciary duties by creating this catastrophe in the first place.

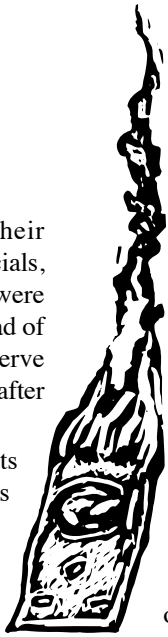
The first post-bailout outrage came from the massive insurance giant AIG. After receiving an \$84 billion taxpayer bailout, AIG turned right around and held a grand party for their executives at a cost in excess of \$440,000. There was outrage on Capitol Hill, including threats to "get the money back." Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D. MD) thundered: "They were

getting their manicures, their pedicures, massages, their facials, while the American people were paying their bills." But instead of any action, our Federal Reserve gave AIG another \$38 billion after the party.

We heard lots of comments from presidential candidates and congressional leaders about not letting CEOs profit from the bailout, but the Wall Street Journal reported that, after the bill was signed into law, bailout czar Neil Kashkari (ex-Goldman Sachs) told a group of Wall Street executives that any restrictions on executive compensation in the bailout bill didn't really mean anything. As Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research wrote: "Of course, anyone who bothered to look at the bill already knew that the compensation restrictions were meaningless before the bill passed. So why do we only see this reported in the media after the fact?"

Goldman Sachs has been scheduled to receive an estimated \$10 billion in bailout money from the government. This firm responded by anointing 92 new members into its exalted status of partnership, and announcing bonuses of \$210,000 per employee for 2008 -- a total bonus pool in excess of \$6.8 billion. Similarly at Morgan Stanley, another giant bailout recipient, bonuses of \$138,700 per employee were announced, with a total bonus pool in excess of \$6.4 billion. Goldman and Morgan are prime offenders, but these firms were not alone-- this grotesque story repeats itself all across the Wall Street community. What we are seeing is crystal clear: our taxpayer bailout dollars flow into these Wall Street firms on one day, and out to their executives and employees as "bonuses" on the next.

The financial suffering of ordinary American (and worldwide). taxpayers, not to mention future generations loaded with bailout debt obligations, seems not to have registered in



the slightest with our bankers and their purchased political patrons. Behind closed doors they surely must be laughing at the foolishness of the people they purport to serve. Already the bankers are announcing that they have no intention of lending out any of the bailout money. Their strategy is clear: rebuild their balance sheets, and wait for better times to acquire new assets on the cheap. Moral hazard? No one in government knows or cares.

The time has come for fundamental change. During the bailout debate, 50,000 letters were sent to Congress and the media through The Campaign for Fresh Air & Clean Politics, and we were just one among many. But this letter campaign was only the beginning of our effort, and more and more of the American people are coming to realize every day that bailout legislation is not going to solve the economic crisis our country is facing. Even on the day the original bailout legislation passed, members of Congress were expressing concern it would not be enough, and already there is talk in Washington DC about Congress coming back to pass an economic stimulus package. Meanwhile, our country has lost trillions of dollars in wealth on stock exchanges in recent weeks, and we are seeing the biggest unemployment increases and reductions in payrolls in many years. The disastrous economic news at home goes on and on, while at the same time the US fights two long (and unwinnable) wars in Iraq and Afghanistan at a price reaching trillions of dollars. Meanwhile, the Congress just approved an additional \$700 billion in defense spending for the next year.

**ACTION:** Contact your Representative and express your concern.

Source: Break the Bailout release 11/15/08 <http://www.breakthebailout.com/>

## Peace at Pacific

In 1992 the Nobel Peace Prize (funded by Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite) was awarded to Rigoberta Menchu, a Guatemalan



peasant woman. In 1979, when she was twenty, her parents and brother were arrested and killed by U.S.-supported Guatemalan security forces for their political activity. In 1981 she fled to Mexico, to begin organizing resistance to oppression, for the rights of the indigenous people. In 2007 she ran for president, and continues organizing an indigenous peace and justice party, door to door.

Speaking at the University of the Pacific on October 21, 2008, she said, "War is a terrible waste. There is so much to be done, for the people and for our mother the earth.

"It is good to work for the young. Everywhere, they are discouraged

and troubled. In my country two and half million children suffer from malnutrition; they will not grow up as equal human beings, able

to contribute to the rebuilding work of our time."

A questioner asked, "What sustained you when your family were murdered?"

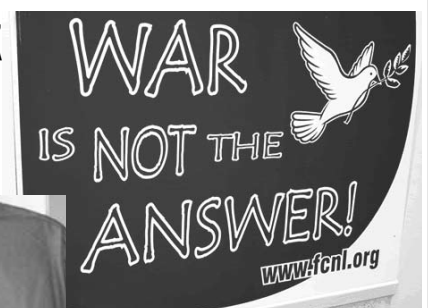
"Many, many people," she said. "I prayed to the spirits of my parents to forgive those who killed them. I meditate often in the sun, raising my eyes to the light. I draw strength from the earth, the waters, the flowers." (Her long traditional dress was covered with flowers.)

Another asked, "What can ordinary people do to help?"

"First become conscious. Then join together with others of like mind, and ask yourselves what you wish to do. Do not try to act alone. Organize!"

### Lawn signs, mugs, T-shirts

"War is NOT the answer" lawn signs come from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We are requesting a \$5 donation to cover costs (sorry, we can't ship lawn signs). We also have elegant pins made of pewter in the shape of the peace symbol for \$10. Also, handsome PJN T-shirts in many colors, and more. Come by the P&J Center to see these items, plus buttons and bumperstickers galore, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton CA 95204. Call 467-4455.



# Annual Run/Walk Against Hunger to benefit Emergency Food Bank

Ready. Set. GO!

5K/3.1 Mile Run & Walk

10K/6.2 Mile Run

1/4 Mile Kid's Run (for Kids 9 and under)

Starts at Stockton Arena and finishes inside the scenic Stockton Ports Ballpark 404 W. Fremont (at Lincoln St.) Downtown Stockton Waterfront.

Join 3,000 runners and walkers, burn calories, have a great time on the scenic Stockton waterfront, and help raise money for holiday nutrition programs of the Emergency Food Bank.



the Weber Point Event Center and out the Deepwater Channel along Weber Street, returning on the same route, finishing by circling the beautiful Stockton Arena, with Finish Line inside the Stockton Ports Ballpark next to Home-plate! Runners and walkers share the same scenic waterfront course.

## Awards

Awards will be presented (for the 5K and 10K Run) for the top three places in each age group (12 and under, 13 to 18, 19 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60 to 69 and 70 and over, male and female).

Kids run participants (age 9 and

below) will receive ribbons.

Jackets to 10K winners, shirts to 5K winners, Brooks shoes to the overall mens/womens winners in 5K and 10K. Shoes and apparel generously provided by Fleet Feet Sports, Stockton.

Kids (nine and under) 1/4 Mile Fun Run is one lap around the interior perimeter of the Stockton Ports Ballpark – finishing adjacent to Home-plate.

For safety, NO dogs, bicycles, skateboards, or roller blades on the course, please. Strollers for kids and wheelchairs highly encouraged.

## Four ways to participate

- \* Runners (or walkers)
- \* Team Competitors
- \* Pledge Walkers or Runners
- \* Virtual Walker/Runner

## We need volunteers

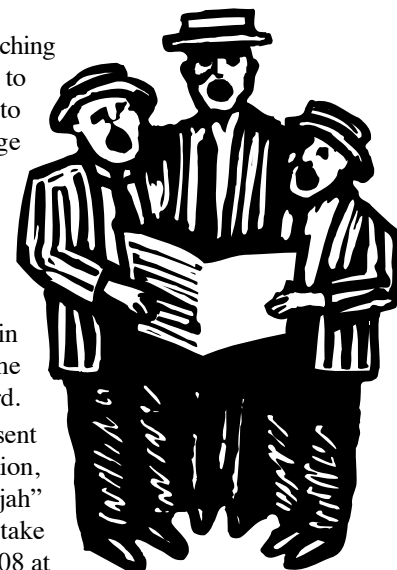
Volunteers are essential to the event's success. You'll receive a handsome volunteer t-shirt and snacks, drinks and fun, working from 6 AM to 10:30 AM!

Call the Emergency Food Bank, 209-464-7369 or email Kristine; kgibson@stocktonfoodbank.org

Dec 5, 7 pm

# Stockton Chorale presents Messiah

The Holidays are quickly approaching and there will be no better way to begin the holiday season than to enjoy a performance of George Frideric Handel's Messiah by the Stockton Chorale. Handel (1685-1759) composed the Messiah in the summer of 1741. The very first performance of the Messiah was on April 13, 1742 in Dublin. Handel, himself, led the performance from the harpsichord.



The Stockton Chorale will present Messiah Part I, the Christmas section, and conclude with the "Hallelujah" chorus. This performance will take place on Friday, December 5, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary of the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton. The Chorale will be joined by chamber strings, oboes, organ and soloists Mark Gladson, Renata Bricka, Dianne England, Elle Runyan, Michael Kizer and Randy Knutson. The Stockton Youth Chorale will perform the soprano aria "Come unto Him."

The Chorale's artistic director and conductor is Dr. Edward Cetto, he is also director of Choral Activities at the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music. The Stockton Chorale, founded in 1951, is a 110-member community chorus of singers from the Central Valley, Contra Costa County and Sierra foothills communities.

Single concert tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for students age 17 yrs. and younger. Tickets may be purchased by phoning the Stockton Chorale office at (209) 951-6494, contacting Chorale members, or at the door.

Call the Emergency Food Bank, 209-464-7369 or email Kristine; kgibson@stocktonfoodbank.org

## Year of Spirituality, Healing, and Peace brings birth of directory

In December of 2007, the Stockton City Council proclaimed 2008 a Year of Spirituality, Healing, and Peace. The proclamation celebrated the work of the Interfaith Council of San Joaquin; Stockton's holistic network for integrated health care serving body, mind, and spirit; and the Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County.

One of the year's highlights was the Weekend of Peace, which featured the Earth Day Festival in Victory Park and a Peace Party downtown. Spiritual groups, healing groups, and peace groups combined their efforts to make this weekend a joyous event for all ages, a vibrant reminder to

ourselves that "There is no way to peace; peace is the way!"

With great pleasure, we announce the birth of a directory of spiritual, healing, and peace practitioners for the Central Valley. It contains almost 100 pages of articles and information for people who believe in making spirituality, healing, and peace a priority in their lives.

You can preview and purchase this directory at <http://www.lulu.com/content/4268467>, Mood Swings at 2125 Pacific Avenue, or Green's Nutrition at 1108 E Waterloo Road. Copies are also available from Zing Nafzinger, (209) 423-8322, [i.m.zing@comcast.net](mailto:i.m.zing@comcast.net).

*Special thanks to all who gave donations in memory of Reid Cerney. Peace & Justice Network received more than \$1700 from Reid's many friends.*



**Latest Edition Now Available**

**Stockton Alternative Guide to Wellness: Mind, Body, and Spirit**

An 88-page holistic community directory containing articles on Self-Healing, local practitioners, healing opportunities, and healing affirmations.

**Preview at [www.lulu.com/content/4268467](http://www.lulu.com/content/4268467)**

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3.75 x 6.....	\$96
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Full page.....	\$425

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 Deadline: 7th of the month, for 20th of month publication.  
 If you submit your ad after this date, please allow one month before seeing your ad in Connections. Send camera-ready copy to: [bgiudici@catel.com](mailto:bgiudici@catel.com) or PJN, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204

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# Dec/Jan Calendar

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

## Nov 1-Dec 14

Cinderella musical by Rogers and Hammerstein, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton \$12 - \$23. 473-2424.

## Fri-Sat, Nov 21-22

San Joaquin Potters Guild 17th Annual Show and Sale, featuring Jeannine Calcagno Niehaus and the 2nd annual SJC High School juried exhibition of ceramics. Fri 5-9 pm, Sat 10 am - 4 pm. St Basils Greek Orthodox Church, 920 W March Lane, Stockton. Free. 477-4273

## Sat, Nov 22

When Slaves Became Masters, a true life story of Pol Pot's Cambodia presented by Rattana Pok. 2pm. Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. Free. 937-8221

## Mon, Nov 24

Delta Sierra Club meeting, 7 pm. Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 7 pm program with social time following. All welcome.

## Tue Nov. 25

Candlelight vigil for peace, 7PM sharp, Annunciation Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose in Stockton. All are welcome, candles provided. "We pray to become people of peace, so wars will end." Info Ria deGroot, 462-3340.

## Wed, Nov 26

New business startup workshop, presented by SJDC Small Business Development Center. 56 S. Lincoln St, Stockton. 12-2 pm. \$25. 954-5089.

## Thu, Nov 27

4th Annual Run and Walk Against Hunger benefitting the Emergency

Food Bank, 5K, 10K and kids 1/4 mile registration between 6 & 8:20, run 8:30, 10:45 close. Stockton Ports Ballpark, downtown Stockton. \$35-\$40. 464-7369

## Sun, Nov 30

Patrick Langham Quartet, 3-4 pm. Haggin Museum, Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing, Stockton. Free to museum members and with regular admission (\$5 adults, \$2.50 age 10-17, free children under 10 with adult) 940-6315.

## Dec 2-Jan 3

Holiday Show and Sake at the Tidewater Gallery. Art of David Hopman, Sean Flaherty, Jessie Wong, Gay Lynn Saunders, Susan Winton, Candy Carlson, John Nagle, Henry Paine, Arturo Vera and many others. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. Reception Dec 12, 5-8 pm. 463-4033

## Thu, Dec 4

El Concilio traditional Mexican Christmas dinner, 5 - 10 pm. Stockton Civic Auditorium, 525 N Center St, Stockton. Proceeds provide food baskets for families in need. 547-2855.

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

## Thu-Fri, Dec 4-5

Delta College Art Club Holiday Sale, San Joaquin Delta College, Shima 138. Free. Proceeds support student artists. 5:30 - 9 pm. 954-5529.

## Fri, Dec 5

Peaceful Holiday Gift Fair - food, music, conflict-free gifts that support community and lots of fun. Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network. Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 4 - 9 pm. 467-4455.

Stockton Chorale sings the Messiah, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 7:30 pm. \$20 adult, \$10 17 yrs and under. 951-6494.

## Dec 5-6 & 11-13

The Princess and the Pea, 7 pm; Dec 13 3 pm & 7 pm. Tillie Lewis Theatre, Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$12 adult, \$10 student, senior & child. 954-5110.

## Sat, Dec 6

Peaceful Holiday Gift Fair - food, music, conflict-free gifts that support community and lots of fun. Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network. Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 10 am - 4 pm. 467-4455.

Miracle Mile holiday stroll, with Santa, local musical bands and groups, and holiday specials. 4 - 7 pm. Pacific Ave between Castle St and Harding Way, Stockton. Free. 933-0441.

Festival of Trees, with over 70 uniquely decorated trees. 10 am - 4 pm. SJ County Historical Museum, 11793 N Mice Grove Rd, Lodi. \$8 general, \$1 kids 2 - 10, under 2 free. All funds raised benefit youth education. 953-3460.

## Tue, Dec 9

Poetry Evening at the Chavez Library, Open Mic 6 - 7 pm and Workshop 7 - 8 pm. 605 N El Dorado, Stockton. Hosts Kenya Mitchell (Open Mic), and Donald R. Anderson (Workshop). 209-405-4041.

## Sat, Dec 13

Rocking Jazzy Kids Family Festival, 1:30 - 4 pm. Haggin Museum, Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing, Stockton. Free to museum members and with regular admission (\$5 adults, \$2.50 age 10-17, free children under 10) 940-6315.

## Jan 14 - Feb 8

Dearly Departed comedy, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, \$12 - \$23. 473-2424.

## Jan 17

Civil Rights Leader Robert Moses to speak at Modesto JC. See MJC website for more info.

## Thursdays

Peace demonstrations continue, 4-5:30 PM, edge of Delta College campus along Pacific Avenue. Signs provided, or bring your own. Free parking in Sherwood Mall lot. Info John Morearty, 464-3326.

Weberstown Mall Farmers Market, Pacific & March, Stockton. 8 am - 1 pm. 943-1830

## Saturdays

Crosstown Freeway Farmers Market, under the freeway between El Dorado & San Joaquin, Stockton. 7 - 11, or when sold out. 943-1830

Dec 6, 4-7 pm

## Miracle Mile Holiday Stroll

On Saturday, December 6th from 4pm to 7 pm, we are having our Holiday Stroll on the Mile. We'd like to have merchants that wish to do so participate in the Stroll/Open House all along the Mile (have your store open until 7pm for shoppers, visitors, neighbors. For example, some stores have already decided to stay open and provide cookies and hot chocolate to visitors). The schedule of events for that night is:

Main Staging Area: Tuxedo and Pacific

4 - 5 pm—Youth Parade with Music

5 - 6 pm—Pacific (UOP) musicians

6 pm—Tree Lighting and Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive

6-7 pm—Tuba/Brass musicians from the Stockton Symphony

More music: 4-7 pm

At Alder and Pacific (by Bella's Bridal)—DJ/music

At Bedford and Pacific (by SF Floral)—Carolers

At Castle and Pacific—music to be announced

## Cold Crawl

The Cold Crawl is also taking place that evening from 5pm to Midnight. Participants in this activity will ride the Trolley to the Mile and Downtown restaurants and lounges. Alder Bistro, Centrale Kithcen & Bar, Cibo di Vino, Taste of Brittany, and Valley Brew will participate so patrons will be walking up and down the Mile to these establishments. The Trolley is FREE for all riders in the Cold Crawl and the general public.

Trolley stops from 6pm to midnight on the Mile are:

Start/End: Univeristy of the Pacific and Downtown

Alpine and Pacific (northbound and southbound)

Tuxedo and Pacific (southbound)

Walnut and Pacific (southbound)

Alder and Pacific (northbound)

Pine and Pacific (northbound)

For more information, contact Emily Ballus, (209) 948-MILE (6453) or emily@stocktonmiraclemile.com.

## 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.**

## Many thanks to those who deliver

Every month, 14 volunteers deliver thousands of free copies of this paper to a couple hundred stores, offices, laundromats, restaurants, fruit stands, smog repair shops and cafes—anywhere people have time to pause and read us. Without these faithful ones, *Connections* would not reach San Joaquin County, and we'd all be poorer.

So here's a great big holiday cheer for our distributors: Art Raab in Lodi, Clarence Edwards in Manteca, Antoinette Celle in Linden, and in Stockton Rosemary Atkinson, Daniel Fong, Doris Haskell, Harry Mersmann, John Morearty, Lela Nelson, Diane Park, Larry Pippin, Stan Thomas, Julie Vaughn and Jim Walsh. Special honor to distributors Reid Cerney (recently deceased), and Beth Luna, who has handed over her route at the age of 95.

So happy Thanksgiving, merry Christmas, a peaceful New Year, mazeltov, salaam, and may the Force be with you!

Note: We need a few more volunteers-to expand, and to help carry the load: one distributor now delivers two routes, another three. Info: John Morearty, 464-3326.

December 5 and 6

## Peaceful Holiday Fair

Friday, Dec 5, 4-9 pm  
Saturday, Dec 6, 10 am-4 pm  
Central United Methodist Church  
3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton  
See page 1 for more information



## Gift giving requires special thought

### Consider these questions before deciding on a gift:

- ☛ Does this gift reflect the values I want to share?
- ☛ Does this gift encourage conservation rather than consumption?
- ☛ Is this gift made of material that does not harm the environment?
- ☛ Does this gift stimulate spiritual, mental or physical growth?
- ☛ Who profits from my purchase of this gift?

### The best gifts are:

- ☛ Appropriate for the person
- ☛ Especially thoughtful or sensitive to the person's needs
- ☛ Gifts of oneself

### The worst gifts are:

- ☛ Oblivious to the person's real needs
- ☛ Reflective of negative values (violent, sexist, racist, etc.)
- ☛ Harmful to the environment
- ☛ Unsafe or socially irresponsible
- ☛ Pointlessly extravagant

## The new Stockton City Council: what now?

*Eric Parfrey*

After the dust settles about the second week of January and we find out who the critical seventh and swing vote will be on the Stockton City Council, what can we expect? First, it's vitally important that we all stay in touch with our new council members and help them. We can't afford to take the attitude that now that we have helped get them elected, all the city's problems will be taken care of. Our new council will need help finding five good appointees to serve on the city planning commission and other boards. They will need ideas about how to balance the budget and how to deal with foreclosures and growth.

Here are some of the tough issues that must be addressed by the new council pronto:

### Closing the City budget gap

Like every other jurisdiction in the state, Stockton has a serious budget deficit that is running about \$23.5 million out of a total general fund of about \$205 million (which doesn't include the very large redevelopment budget). The lame duck council closed the gap with the obvious city employee voluntary buyouts, furloughs and staff reductions including police, but no doubt this issue will not go away due to crashing income, real estate, and sales tax revenues.

### Finding a new police chief

The new council must find a new chief - someone who agrees to stay in the position for period of time, unlike the last two.

### Crime and schools

Stockton's perennial problems with high crime rates and poor performing schools are always at the top of the list of issues the council must address (even though the council has no direct control over schools). Mayor-elect Ann Johnston has a wealth of experience in this policy area. Can she provide leadership for

new programs and initiatives on which the rest of the council will agree?

### Reinvesting and protecting neighborhoods from foreclosures

Other cities are ramping up code enforcement and are proposing to buy foreclosed homes and rent them out, to help neighborhoods struggling with boarded-up eyesores. There are some 5,000 foreclosures in Stockton. The new council has to do something: Mayor Chavez' neighborhood revitalization program should be re-evaluated and continued, if there is the money to fund it.

### "Time out" for new growth

With all the foreclosures clogging the market, now is not the time for the new council to continue approving more mega-development housing projects. The lame duck city council has already approved over 20,000 housing units that won't begin construction for five years. Ann Johnston ran on a platform to take a "time out" on new growth and wait until the market clears itself, allowing the city to catch up on all the growth from the last real estate boom. The new council should back her up on this.

### Stockton goes green for real

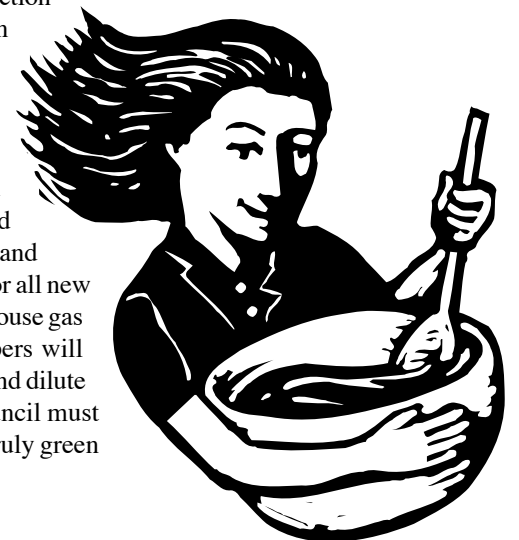
The new council must prepare and approve a Climate Action Plan, as promised in the legal settlement agreement with the Attorney General and the Sierra Club. The Plan will then be applied to all recently approved and future development and will include strategies for all new growth to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The developers will do everything to delay and dilute this effort. The new council must persevere and create a truly green city for the future.

### Show us the water

Many of us doubt that the city has enough water to feed all those 100,000 new homes that have are planned for growth in the city General Plan. The proposed Delta Water Supply project may never be built. There is still a pending lawsuit by the Morada association against the city General Plan over the water issue. It's time to resolve this. The new city council should schedule a series of public hearings and have a long honest look at the water supply projects, grilling city staff as to how real the anticipated future water supplies are. The current Municipal Utilities director has not inspired confidence in answering these questions and, if necessary, he should be replaced.

### Bringing new transparency to city government

Mayor Chavez promised a new openness to city government and he largely failed to deliver. There is still too much secretiveness at City Hall and an unwillingness to tolerate much critical public comment on private development projects or city proposals. Finally, this new council must blast open the doors of City Hall and remind everyone that the decisions are to be made for the good of the city's residents, not developers and special interests.



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