

# connections

PRICELESS

Volume XXIX, Number 6

Published by the Peace & Justice Network since 1986

July 2011

## SAVE THE DATES

TUE, JULY 12  
89.5 RADIO MEETING (P 19)

SAT, AUG 6  
CONNECTIONS 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY (P1)



Nonprofit Org. U.S.  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 488  
Stockton, CA

## The Boggs Tract Community Farm

Jeremy Terhune,  
Patricia Miller-Battiste;  
Interview by John Morearty



Half a mile from the yachts of the downtown marina is Boggs Tract-surrounded by the Port, I-5, and train tracks. Houses rundown or well-kept, three liquor stores, barely a grocery store. Few sidewalks, lots of dogs, Washington Elementary School. The Record recently reported that unemployment in the area is about 30%.

Behind the bus stop and the little community center stretches a three acre patch of raw dirt, surrounded by chain link. In one corner stand two tractors, with a scraping blade and a deep plunging blade. A shiny green and white sign reads, "Coming Soon! Boggs Tract Community Farm. PUENTES-bridging sustainable communities."

Connections interviewed two key organizers of this dirt patch: Jeremy Terhune, the CEO of Stockton-based nonprofit Puentes, and with him the chair of the Community Farm Advisory Committee, Patricia Miller-Battiste. Patricia was in a wheelchair; she broke her ankle this spring, just as work on the Farm was launching.

**CONNECTIONS:** why do you call this a Farm, not a "garden"?

**JEREMY:** A garden has mixed vegetables, compost and so on, whereas a farm has animal products, produce, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, a fruit orchard, and it's more of a business.

The primary purpose of this farm is to look deep into the root of hunger in our

community. There are plenty of programs and people who fill the immediate need of a hungry stomach. But there aren't very many people looking at the root of that problem, which is a planning issue-actually allowing people to use the skills and talents they have to feed themselves.

The goal of the farm is to be a self-sustaining business at the end of roughly five years.

**PATRICIA:** This urban farm is meant to help families produce healthy, nutritious and affordable food for the long term. When I came here in 1989, poverty level was at 22%. That's grown to almost 30%. When you look at how poorly children do in school, and you look at their background, there is a correlation, because these children are not eating food that is healthy, nutritious, and affordable.

Hungry children can eat at school, but what are they actually eating? Are they eating brain food, are they eating food to give them power, are they eating food to help sustain them to get through school, and be within that top ten or fifteen percent? This is an organic farm, with fresh food.

**JEREMY:** There needs to be a Garden To Table program, involving the local school, Washington Elementary. We have a talented individual on the advisory committee with Patricia - Dr. Dale Sanders - who is very excited about running a curriculum at the school with the kids, showing them where food comes from, and having them see something grow from a seed to a vegetable that you can eat, and also getting them outdoors. No Child Left Indoors! We're not getting our children outdoors to really learn, hands on the dirt, what's going on. Dale is

*Continued on page 4...*

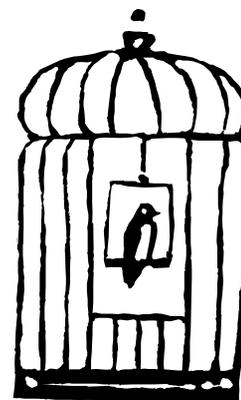
Aug 6

## Celebrating our 25th birthday

We here at Connections invite you, our loyal readers, to a birthday of sorts: 2011 marks the 25th year of Connections publication in San Joaquin County.

On August 6, between 11 am and 3 pm, on the Banks of the Calaveras River, 3536 Rainier Ave in Stockton, we will enjoy great food and drink and the company of those who have kept the progressive voice alive in Stockton and beyond. Bring a dish or drink to share if you like; in any case, don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime affair.

## The State of the Hood



Up through 1982 — during the first 132 years since its admission to the United States of America in 1850 — California had built a total of twelve state prisons. During the thirty-year span from 1982 through the present, the number of state correctional facilities has expanded to 33. And several more are scheduled to begin operation soon, of which two are located in San Joaquin County.

Switching the unit of measurement from correctional facilities to human beings, we get a 500% increase in the

incarcerated population during this thirty-year prison expansion period.

During roughly the same period, the general population of CA increased by 38%; the number of people who get locked up has grown thirteen times as fast as the general population. And the San Joaquin Valley is at the pinnacle of this trend, with the highest incarceration rate in California: 865 inmates per 100,000 residents.

The effect of this trend on people of color has been utterly devastating. African Americans have a dramatically higher probability of being imprisoned relative to other groups. Latinos are also disproportionately affected. Here are some specifics:

In 2005 African American males were incarcerated at a rate of 5,125 per 100,000 in the population — 550% more than white males.

In 2008, one in nine black males ages 18-25 was incarcerated. In contrast, within the general population, the rate is one in a hundred. We're talking about a 1000% difference.

Latino were incarcerated at a rate of 1,142 per 100,000 — a rate 48% higher than for whites.

The data show the more a society relies on increased incarceration as a strategy for achieving public safety, the more difficult it may become for that society to achieve the goal of income equality across racial divides. The disparity-creating effects of incarceration may tend to cancel out the opportunity-equalizing effects of affirmative action and other similar efforts.

Fortunately, there are alternatives. A 2007 study by the Vera Institute of Justice concludes that punitive approaches that rely on a heavy

*Continued on page 20...*

# The more you look, the more you see

Bruce Giudici

The eye doctor clicks in a new lens: how does it look now? Click. And now? With repeated clicks, the letters come into focus and you can see.

News headlines these days are cumulatively becoming the clicks that remove the blur designed to distract us from the upsetting reality of war. And it's not new, as a re-reading of Orwell's 1984 or Huxley's Brave New World will attest. Still, in a country that proudly forgets even it's most recent history, it bears reminding ourselves of: who we are fighting, why we are fighting, who profits from the fighting and where those we are fighting got their weapons.

The most current conflict is in Libya, where the cost of battle is about to exceed \$1 billion - a large amount in food stamps, but the equivalent of paper clips and military bands when speaking of the defense of the nation. As we purposefully destroy lives, buildings and infrastructure in Libya (which surely will be rebuilt, through contracts with Western construction companies, using Libyan oil money), we fight against foes using weapons sold to them only a few years ago from the same companies that supply our military.

As we've pointed out in these pages before, the United



States has a major comparative advantage in military weapons - and it is in our economic best interest to either foment or encourage armed conflict worldwide: it is simply good for business. At a time of high unemployment, it also makes for a great jobs program - reenlistments are up, and, outside of our wasteful health care system, "security" is our only industry producing jobs. (For anti-productive military work, we could substitute productive alternative energy, transport and

training jobs - but that would be like choosing winners and losers in a free market - blasphemy). And at a time when trade deficits are at record levels (mostly due to the increased cost of oil imports), military exports help. Of course, we need to have a State Department - generally to prepare for or wind down our military adventures. But be sure of one thing: the diplomacy tail will never wag the military dog. This isn't news - but becomes more stark and evident with every new conflict: Iraq, Afghanistan,

Bruce Giudici, editor



Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Bahrain... It will be instructive to see how these wars play out. Monetary self-interest is the bottom line; people's lives are not.

Locally, we see the willful destruction of public services due to the worship of free-market forces that have benefited only the richest 5% of our population (the rest of us have tread water, financially, over the past 30 years). In a democracy, the 95% who benefit from these services (public schools and rehabilitation services, roads, bridges, police and fire services) should be able to vote for their continuance. Due to (about to be un-)rigged political districts, however, safe seats have resulted in unrepresentative government. Perhaps with re-districting, this will change. What can we do? Run, run, run for office. Only change can cause change. The picture is now clear - and it's not what's advertised. Let's jump into summer.

## Replacing "big government" with what?

Editor,

Apparently a lot of anti-liberal, anti-socialist, anti-communist small government advocates think that socialism is evil and capitalism is good.

They seem to think that the government is the enemy of the people and Wall Street is our friend. That isn't true... There is no such thing as a power vacuum. If you take a bone away from a dog in a dog fight, some other dog will take the bone. If you take power from one force in a power struggle, the power struggle doesn't end. Some other power will immediately fill that power vacuum. We're going to have a government whether we want one or not. If we don't have the government we have, we will

have something else. We will have a warlord, a dictator, military junta, a panel of judges, a Pope, or something else. That something else will be Wall Street. We will have a corporate plutocracy, a corporatocracy (which is what we already have).

If Washington takes a penny from us in taxes, everybody knows about it; it's a visible tax. But we actually get something for that tax penny - roads, clean air, fresh milk, mail delivery, police protection, paramedics who will rush to your house when you have a heart attack, and many other services that we all take for granted.

Right now, the United States is sitting at an 18-year high in gasoline supplies. We're paying 75 cents on a gallon

of gasoline to speculators who don't drill for any oil, who don't produce any gasoline, who don't transport gasoline, who don't pump gasoline. That's a tax. We're paying gasoline taxes to Wall Street predators who don't provide any gasoline and who don't provide any services for the tax money they're collecting. Zero!

Governments are predatory, but that is true of any government, not just socialist governments. There can be such a thing as enough taxes. There can never be such a thing as enough profit. There are people who are trying to diminish, defund, demolish, dismantle and disenfranchise the government we have with no clear idea as to what is going to replace it. The government

we have is legally limited as to how predatory it can be and it has a constitutional mandate to serve the "general welfare" of "We the people." Those who are trying to disempower the government that we have are merely handing more power over to Wall Street capitalism which is an even greater predator than the government is. They are granting an unrestricted license to the primary predator on the planet to prey upon "We the people." with no legal limits and with no mandate to serve the "general welfare." Yeah, taxes are high, but government for profit will be ever more onerous.

Will Moore

## Connections

Editor: Bruce Giudici, 786-3109;

bgjudici@caltel.com

Layout: Luis Gonzalez

Proofreader: Debbie Cousyn

Ad Rep: Vacant

Distribution Coordinators: Dean and Marcia Savage, 209-339-1599

Distribution Site: Green's Nutrition, 1906 Pacific Ave, Stockton

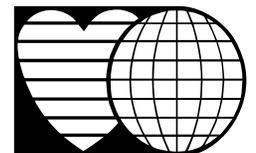
Distributors: Suzy Arnett, Rosemary Atkinson, Antoinette Celle, Jerry Croskrey, Clarence Edwards, Daniel Fong, Catherine Mathis, John Morearty, Heather Ryan, Dean and Marcia Savage, Julie Vaughn, Susan von Sosten, Stan Thomas, Patrick Wall, Jim Walsh, Bill Witz

Community Calendar: Vacant

Deadline: 7th of each month (except Aug & Dec)

Circulation: 7,000

CONNECTIONS is a monthly publication of the Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County. The views expressed in CONNECTIONS are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Network. News, articles, letters and calendar items should be sent to the Peace & Justice Network, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204. The editor reserves the right of final decision on copy. Call (209) 467-4455 for more information. P.J.N is on the internet: <http://www.pjnsc.org>



### Peace & Justice Network Board of Directors

Co-Chairs: Christie Kelley  
Vice-Chairperson: John Morearty  
Treasurer: Bruce Giudici  
Secretary: Paula LeVeck  
Members-at-large:  
Luis Gonzalez, Gary Barrington

Organizational members: 89.5  
Stone Soup Radio (Tony Kiser),  
Fathers & Families (Jim Walsh),  
Hispanics for Political Action  
(Daniel Fong), MoveOn (Mario  
D'Angeli), National Youth Rights  
Association (Alyssa Palomares),  
Puentes (John Morearty), Single  
Payer San Joaquin (Paula  
LeVeck), United Nations (Larry  
Pippin)

"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."

# Nuclear weapons budget overview

Robert Civiak & Marylia Kelley

The Fiscal Year 2012 budget request contains \$7.63 billion for the Nuclear Weapons Activities of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration - an increase of \$1.27 billion over the 2010 appropriation for the same programs. Even though the U.S. stockpile contains only one-fifth as many warheads as it used to, the 2012 request is the largest ever for Nuclear Weapons Activities.

After accounting for inflation, the \$7.63 billion request is 21 percent more than Ronald Reagan's largest nuclear weapons budget and 19 percent more than President George H.W. Bush's highest spending level. That those Republican Presidents were comfortable with much lower spending to maintain a much larger nuclear stockpile is a clear indication of the excess in this year's request.

The "outyear" budget calls for annual increases of 4 percent per year for Nuclear Weapons Activities, bringing the 2016 request to \$8.9 billion.

These escalating billions are part of the political "deal" that President Obama made to garner Senator Jon Kyl's (R-AZ) support for the New START treaty [which the President did not get, though the Treaty was ratified without it].

To mask the large increases to the DOE budget, the Obama Administration plans to shift \$2.2 billion from the Defense Department's Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation account to the DOE's Nuclear Weapons Activities account between 2013 and 2016.

The Fiscal Year 2012 budget request includes increases for each of the major spending programs that are part of the DOE Nuclear Weapons Activities account -- and for all of the laboratories and production facilities that constitute the U.S. nuclear weapons complex, including Livermore Lab. The budget is presently being debated in Congress and can be cut back, if enough pressure is brought to bear.

As a resource to empower your activism, Tri-Valley CAREs offers an 8-page, program-by-program analysis of the budget request for Nuclear Weapons Activities, with recommendations



for cuts and adjustments. The report is written by Dr. Robert Civiak, a former budget examiner for DOE weapons programs at the White House Office of Management and Budget. Go to <http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/reports.html>.

## TAKE ACTION

Current plans would spend \$85 billion or more over the next 10 years to build new bomb plants and \$100 billion to \*modernize\* the existing nuclear arsenal. These projects don't make sense if we are working to rid the world of all nuclear weapons. And, meanwhile, efforts to lock up loose bomb-grade material, and to dismantle the weapons we already have are chronically underfunded. Action: It is time to tell Congress to fix our priorities! What can you do?

- (1) Call, Write or Email a Letter to Congress. Use the sample letter bellow to call, write or email a letter to your congressperson or our California Senators today.
- (2) Write a Letter to the Editor. Using this same information, send a LTE to your favorite paper.
- (3) Donate to Tri-Valley CAREs. This will help us continue the opposition to nuclear weapons in your name.

The most important letter - yours

Dear Representative/Senator:

I urge you to support a forward-looking federal budget that reflects America's commitment to eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons. While Congress is

slashing important domestic programs, the proposal to increase nuclear weapons spending by almost 20% over 2010 levels to pay for new bomb factories is unacceptable.

I strongly encourage you to:

- Stop funding projects that would increase the US capacity to produce new nuclear weapons. Planned new facilities at Los Alamos, NM (CMRR) and Oak Ridge, TN (UPF) are now projected to cost taxpayers many billions in the coming years.

- Stop funding the multi-billion dollar Life Extension Program for the B61 nuclear bomb.

- Suspend construction of the mixed-oxide (MOX) plutonium fuel fabrication plant and its risky processing activities.

- Move the funds to Non-Proliferation programs that track down and secure nuclear material around the world, and to clean up toxic and radioactive wastes caused by nuclear development.

- Increase funds for dismantlement and require increased dismantlement rates for retired nuclear warheads. Please write to tell me what action you will take on this issue.

Sincerely,

Your Name, Address, & Email

Source: Tri-Valley CAREs' Spring 2011 newsletter, Citizen's Watch. <http://www.trivalleycares.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.

Firedoglake <http://firedoglake.com>

Emptywheel <http://emptywheel.firedoglake.com/>

Calitics <http://www.calitics.com/>

Eschaton <http://www.eschatonblog.com/>

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

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

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

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

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

FiveThirtyEight.com <http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/>

Congress Matters <http://www.congressmatters.com>

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

Down With Tyranny <http://downwithtyranny.blogspot.com/>

Crooks and Liars <http://www.crooksandliars.com>

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

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

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

Raw Story <http://www.rawstory.com>

Open Left <http://www.openleft.com/>

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

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

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

Hightower News <http://www.webactive.com/hightower/>

Mother Jones <http://www.motherjones.com/>

In These Times <http://inthesetimes.com/>

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

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

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

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

## 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>

# Community Farm

...Continued from page 1

initiating conversations with the principal, he feels very positively that we'll be able to make headway.

**PATRICIA:** We are targeting fifth and sixth graders, in the after-school component called Step Up, and we are hoping to have those children come to the farm three days a week, after school.

**JEREMY:** Social Entrepreneurship is also basic. These families may not have enough income to buy healthy produce, and the neighborhood has no access to produce, but we see these families as future business people, and owners of this farm! And we're matching skill sets that people might have.... Instead of you going and picking cherries, working your fingers to the nub, and getting paid a small amount of money per bushel, why don't you go ahead and learn how to be an entrepreneur and be an owner of the farm?

So we're teaching farm experimentation and planning, and building entrepreneurship within the community, so that they can take this thing and run with it, while we in turn go and start another farm somewhere else, after five years.

**CONNECTIONS:** So this is intended to be the first of many farms?

**JEREMY:** Yeah, starting in Stockton, and outwards. San Joaquin County, the state of California, and from there who knows. But we need to make Boggs Tract work. We have to demonstrate that the idea works, before we can take it elsewhere.

Last summer Patricia and I went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the Growing Power Farm, directed by Will Allen, and saw a working model. It's been running for twenty years, in a community very similar to Boggs Tract. Somebody pulled it up by the bootstraps, and started dealing with Food Security there. We liked that model, we thought we could adapt components of it.

Then we signed the lease for Boggs Tract Community Farm. We're starting out with 2.8 acres, and we have an additional three acres across the street. We have a five year renewable lease

from the Port of Stockton, for up to twenty years, at zero dollars. I'm sure if we get something viable running in the first five years we'll consider trying to purchase the land outright from the Port.

**CONNECTIONS:** What's growing there now?

**JEREMY:** Just soil micro-organisms and bacteria.

**PATRICIA:** After we got the land in February, Eagle Scout Troop # 170 here in Stockton erected our fence. The materials and supplies were donated, from the KOA campground out on Eight Mile Road. They wanted to recycle. Ron Heinzen, of P.E. Kleinfelder, Inc., is very committed to our project. They put up a beautiful chain link fence on two sides of our property, with a 32 foot gate for trucks in the compost area, and a resident entrance. All this was volunteer labor, and donated materials.

The Farm needs water. California Water Service has donated a thousand dollars to Puentes, and they have installed three two-inch water line meters, for free. Cal Water wants to be in our partnership, because they believe in this project. I've had numerous conversations with Wayne Lechich and Stephen Russell, long-time employees of Cal Water, who have seen these projects come and go, and they are really very responsive to our needs.

The land itself had one basin area, with pooling water. So Darrell Baylor with Baylor Services is now [early June] in the process of ripping, disking and grading the property.

**CONNECTIONS:** Held up no doubt by the long rainy spring?

**PATRICIA:** That was God telling us to wait - a true test. After our ground blessing back in February, we had a lot of discussion about the next logical step. The fence was finished on Easter Sunday, April 24. I am very convinced that God has his hand in this farm. And patience is a virtue. We have to really understand. We cannot push this thing, because we want it to be a showcase, we want it to work, we want it to be a dynamic end result. And as a business, it is a legacy that we are building, right

in Boggs Tract.

**CONNECTIONS:** What other organizations and businesses are supporting this project?

**JEREMY:** So many! Landscape architect Jeff Gamboni, Cal Water, Kleinfelder, Darrell Baylor, the Port of Stockton. The University of Pacific's Global Center for Social Entrepreneurship and Eberhardt School of Business helped us with our business plan. Health Plan of San Joaquin gave us a \$25,000 grant. Spanos and Company, Food for Less, and Bank of Agriculture and Commerce all donated significant amounts of money. The Unitarian Church donated money, a broad array of small donations from locals. Mayor Ann Johnston, Council member Susan Eggman, Catholic Charities. Congressman Dennis Cardoza has been incredibly supportive. California Institute for Rural Studies, Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County. Espresso Coffee House is recycling their coffee grounds with us for composting, Waste Management is giving us green waste. San Joaquin County Fair, Washington Elementary School and Stockton Unified School District, the City of Stockton, Gillian Murphy with the Delta College Small Business Development Center. The list goes on and on. We've had incredible support in the community.

**CONNECTIONS:** Why?

**JEREMY:** What is the nature of a good idea? This is a good idea.

**PATRICIA:** Everyone we've ever talked to has supported the idea of feeding children who are less fortunate, underprivileged. And when we were able to identify the Boggs Tract area, it was so underserved and so underprivileged that this was just the natural area where we should be.

**JEREMY:** We're in the right place. To me, it's not an issue of not having enough support. The real issue here is being able to push forward this innovative idea of ours, that this is not just another Feed The Children project. We're building families and small business owners, we're building entrepreneurship,



and we're hacking away at the root of the problem. Everybody loves the Feed the Children idea - no one would ever argue with that. So the real challenge we have, as far as I see it, is we need to get the results. This needs to work.

**CONNECTIONS:** How many families in the neighborhood are involved, at this point?

**PATRICIA:** We have five on board, and there's a potential of twelve more. And there's twenty-two Hmong families in South Stockton that are very much interested, but our first goal is to get the families in Boggs Tract on board.

**CONNECTIONS:** How many families can have a plot?

**PATRICIA:** Thirty.

**JEREMY:** We're not rushing to just fill up any family in there, because we're asking for a five year commitment, and a drive to be a business owner. It costs them twenty dollars a year, payable five dollars quarterly.

**PATRICIA:** Another agency on board with us is Boggs Tract Community Center, very important. They're right next door to the farm, and any time we've ever asked them to open up the center on a weekend, they've done it. They have allowed us to come in one day a week for our community outreach, so we go out Wednesdays from twelve to three and talk to families. I got pushed around in my wheelchair. Just getting out there and talking to people, they know about it, they are very excited about it. We go up and say "Hi, we are here, please come over, let's sit down and talk about it."

**CONNECTIONS:** Is this a multi-lingual community?

**JEREMY:** Yes, large Latino population, African-American, some Asians. Our team speaks Spanish.

**CONNECTIONS:** You're a white guy from Stockton, how do you speak Spanish?

**JEREMY:** I'm a returned Peace Corps volunteer, I lived in Panama for four years.

**CONNECTIONS:** When winter comes down this fall, what do you hope this community farm might look like?

**PATRICIA:** We will have our composting process up and running, we will have a very large cover crop planted in front, and we plan to get pumpkins out of there. Before winter we will have one hoop house up for our chickens. And the Washington School garden.

**JEREMY:** And all the steps that lead up to that will be completed. We hope by the end of December that we will have all thirty families.

**CONNECTIONS:** What will these families be growing in their plots?

**PATRICIA:** They will have the opportunity to grow everything they want-as long as it's legal! We make fun of that, but they understand. They have the right to grow whatever they want to in their own family plot. But then they come together to make sure that the daily business of the farm is run-composting, the cover crop area, and the hoop house.

**JEREMY:** The concept of the farm is that the 400 square foot family plots are for learning, and to grow their own culturally appropriate foods for their family. They can do whatever they want to with that food-sell it or consume it, it's totally up to them.

Then there's other components of the farm, the aquaculture inside the hoop houses with the tilapia and all that stuff. Selling compost, the orchard, the farmers market, the chickens-all the families are going to be trained and they're going to work together to manage it. Once a month we'll all get together and have farm

work day where everybody will be there.

**CONNECTIONS:** Where does the expert knowledge come from?

**PATRICIA:** From the gardeners program. We have people who have been connected with so many various types of programs in the past, experts on our team—Dale Sanders, Rey Ledesma, Paula Davis, Jeremy, Dave, Eric Firpo.

**JEREMY:** Next year, when we get the funding and we build out the fish tanks, the aquaculture, we'll probably bring someone in from Wisconsin to do the training. They'll hang around for a couple weeks, and show us how to run the system. For the fruit orchards, we don't need to go outside of San Joaquin County. We can go to the Farm Bureau, or UC Davis Agricultural Extension. All the knowledge is already out there.

The key problem, and you'll find this in the developing world too, is not resources: it's access to information, understanding how to access information and the flow of information. So the key for us is to bring all the information in, and train our families, so that by the end of three or four years we'll have a tight running system. As new families move in and out of the project, the families themselves will be able to train them.

**CONNECTIONS:** Is anybody on your team getting paid?

**JEREMY:** No. The Revolution will not be funded! (Laughs)

**PATRICIA:** Not yet, anyway!

**CONNECTIONS:** How did each of you come to be involved in this work?

**JEREMY:** I started this when I was studying humanities at Chico State. A job opportunity opened to run the organic garden for Cal State Chico and the composting program, and I did that, very well. That's what got me into the Peace Corps.

**PATRICIA:** I have eighteen years of community relations building for the Stockton Police Department. I lived on the south

side, I saw the need, and had an opportunity eight years ago to create the Hmong Garden out at San Joaquin Fairgrounds. Prior to that, I built a community garden in the backyard of Gemini Incorporated, at tenth and Bieghle Street in South Stockton.

And in my own backyard I had almost an acre and a half of land. With my neighbor Jerry Smith, we started farming. We grew everything. The big patch of what we grew was greens, and we would take them around to senior citizens who couldn't get to the stores, who didn't have access to cars, so they got fresh fruits and vegetables on a weekly basis, from our backyard garden. I didn't get paid for that either, but I had a job, and I was able to help.

**JEREMY:** There's just no excuse to be San Joaquin County, and have 44,000 people who are food insecure. If the agencies are not going to do anything about it, then damn it we are! And we don't need tons of money to do it. We are extremely grateful to Health Plan of San Joaquin for believing in us and investing in us. They can feel great, because they know that every drop of their funding is going directly into a project; it's not going to pay the salaries of anybody. And we're making it happen.

**CONNECTIONS:** In coming years, what are you hoping to see happen on this land in Boggs Tract?

**JEREMY:** In five years, I hope the project is no longer in need of Puentes. In ten years, I hope we can send all the people from our other farms for training at Boggs Tract, on how to get these things done.

**PATRICIA:** My hope is to create a farmers market, so that business can stay in the neighborhood, to help the Boggs Tract community. That is part of the next phase. We'll start working with the Planning Commission, to change some of those rules and regulations in the Stockton Municipal Code. Then they will have a farmers market right across the street from the farm, and families will understand that business can work. They can bring money back into their community, and

not feel hopeless.

**JEREMY:** Patricia comes from the Bay Area, and she knows that a farmers market is not just a place where you go to buy food. A farmers market is a cultural happening! At a farmers market in Berkeley or Oakland or San Francisco, there are people juggling in the streets. There are musicians, carnival barkers; there are all sorts of things going on; it breathes vibrancy into the community; it gets people excited to go to that part of town and see and experience what's going on—and maybe buy some food too.

I think that's what Patricia means when she says, changing Boggs Tract one family at a time. We are working at the root of the problem, by creating a cultural shift. That's what Puentes is about, as we say in our mission statement: to create critical, cooperative and positive attitudes, to motivate people. That's what we're really trying to do. That's where long-term change starts happening, when there's a shift in that paradigm. And that's the hardest thing to change, because that takes a continued maintained presence in a community, over five or six years of time. And it takes people who are patient, to understand true development work is slow and painful. Two steps forward, one step backward. It's not a straight shot.

**CONNECTIONS:** Are any festivals or events planned for this year?

**PATRICIA:** Harvest Festival in October, that's one of the big ones. Our next one is our dedication, when we actually have seeds in the ground, and people walking around on a daily basis, and movement. We have not picked a date yet for that. And a fundraising Gala. There's no more money coming in from grants, so we will have a Community Farm Gala, to show people what we are doing in our backyard, in Stockton.

**JEREMY:** Stockton needs to step up to the plate and make this happen, and not depend on faraway foundations and organizations. Thankfully, all of our funding has in fact come from the Stockton area, and that's how it should be.



Stockton should lift itself up by its bootstraps. We can do this ourselves.

**CONNECTIONS:** How do people want to get in touch with this project?

**PATRICIA:** Call me: 209-598-3647.

**JEREMY:** We need layers and layers of volunteers, people who believe in the idea and want to help, like putting up the fence, or when we build one of our greenhouses and we need some extra community hands aside from our families. Helping with the Gala, or just getting hands in the dirt.

**CONNECTIONS:** This an organic farm?

**JEREMY:** Yes. Our lease with the Port says we have to follow certified organic best practices.

**CONNECTIONS:** So where are the neighborhood folks going to get organic fertilizers, organic pesticides?

**JEREMY:** Puentes is registering a number with the Agricultural Commission. All pesticides and fertilizers will be purchased under that number, and will be stored on site in a tool storage shed. Families that want to use them, after being trained, may go ahead and experiment with the different types of products that we have purchased. But people may not bring any fertilizer, certified organic or not, in from outside.

We're going to move forward, slowly but surely. We're going to make mistakes, but we're all going to work hard, hold each other accountable, and be accountable to the community, and we need as much help as we can get. And we need many people to attend our fundraising Gala, and make a

commitment to Puentes.

**CONNECTIONS:** What have each of you learned from this project so far?

**PATRICIA:** I'm not in charge.

**JEREMY:** Actually, I'm not in charge either.

**CONNECTIONS:** Jeremy, you're the CEO? and you, Patricia, are chair of the garden committee?

**PATRICIA:** It's an interesting road to travel down, when people believe in something. It's like a pyramid: there's a head, and you have extensions of friends and family, the whole nine yards. But it's a collective effort. When people come to you and say, "This is something we need to have done," there is always a process of collaborative partnership of people who are of the same accord. We all take ownership of it, and that's why I say, I'm not in charge.

**JEREMY:** And I'm not in charge. I picked up an idea that was blowing in the wind, so to speak, and I organized various folks to try to get this collaborative started. But it's not my idea any more; it doesn't live in my head anymore, and frankly that feels pretty nice. I know that whether I'm in the picture or not, the idea will continue to move forward now because it's started to take root in the community. That to me is very satisfying, because the best type of organizer is somebody who works themselves out of a job.

**CONNECTIONS:** Do you have anything you would like to say to the soil bacteria and microorganisms?

**JEREMY:** Hugs and kisses, keep up the good work! ◇



**Tiger's Den Kid School**

Strengths Based Education

Infants & Toddlers  
Preschool  
K-8 Professional Tutoring  
Extended Care

1:6 Teacher/Child Ratio

Home Environment

Cloth Diaper Service Available

Exceptional Baby Care

Free meals provided - pesticide & trans fat free, locally grown

209-467-0171 tigersdenschool@gmail.com

**J. F. DONALDSON**  
**TIRES • BRAKES • ALIGNMENT**  
*Committed to excellence in customer service for nearly 100 years.*

Bridgestone • Michelin  
Auto Repair • Oil service

Monday-Friday 7-5

Phone: 466-4393 Fax: 209-466-2310  
240 N. Hunter St. @ Miner, Stockton 95202

**Operating a Successful Business in a Down Economy!**

Free and confidential business consulting  
Affordable training (no charge for many workshops)  
Call the SBDC to see how we can assist you

56 S. Lincoln Street • Stockton, CA 95203  
209-954-5089  
www.sbdc.deltacollege.org



Membership includes a subscription to *Audubon Magazine & Hoot Owl*.

Make checks payable to ... National Audubon Society.  
Send to: Audubon  
PO Box 7755, Stockton, CA 95207

\_\_\_ \$35 Individual \_\_\_ \$38 Family \_\_\_ \$20 Student \_\_\_ \$21 Senior

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Questions about Audubon? Call Dave Wagner 943-6997.  
www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Join our LOCAL **Audubon**

# Republican budget extremist and cruel

Sen. Bernie Sanders

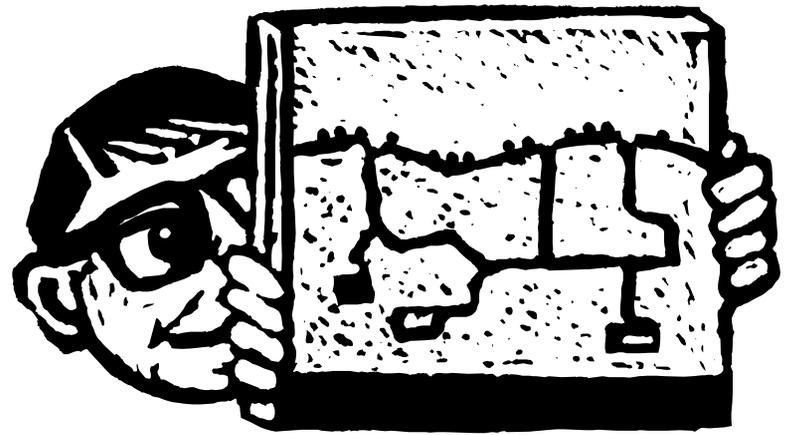
Statement and Senate Floor Remarks by Sen. Bernie Sanders

Congress and the White House are now focused on how we deal with our huge deficit - a crisis brought about over the last 10 years by two wars, tax breaks for the rich, the Wall Street bailout and a prescription drug program - all unpaid for. The deficit also increased as a result of the declining tax revenues during a current recession, caused by the greed and illegal behavior of Wall Street.

The debate over deficit reduction comes at an unusual moment in American economic history. While the middle class is in rapid decline and poverty is increasing, the wealthiest people in our country and largest corporations are doing phenomenally well. Over the last several decades almost all new income created in this country has gone to the top 1 percent, who now earn more income than the bottom 50 percent. Further, the United States now has the most unequal distribution of wealth of any major country with the top 400 individuals owning more wealth than the bottom 150 million.

Given the reality of record-breaking corporate profits and the growing gap between the very rich and everyone else, it should be a surprise to no one that every recently published poll suggests that the overwhelming majority of the American people want the deficit to be addressed through shared sacrifice. They do not believe that the deficit should be reduced solely on the backs of working families, the elderly, children, the sick and the poor - many of whom are already suffering as a result of the recession. Unfortunately, that is exactly what the Republicans have proposed.

The Republicans passed a budget in the House that is breathtaking in its degree of cruelty. It would end Medicare as we know it by giving senior citizens inadequate vouchers to buy health insurance from private companies. The result is that seniors would, on average, see their out-of-pocket expenses more than double - increasing by over \$6,000 a year. It would also cut,



over 10 years, \$770 billion from Medicaid, vastly increasing the number of uninsured Americans, and threatening the long-term care of the elderly who live in nursing homes.

The Republican budget would also make savage cuts in education, nutrition, affordable housing, infrastructure, environmental protection and virtually every program that low- and moderate-income Americans depend upon.

Amazingly, while the Republican budget writers waged a vicious and unprecedented attack on the needs of working families, they do not ask the wealthiest people in this country, whose tax rates are now the lowest on record, to contribute one dime more for deficit reduction. Nor do they propose to do away with any of the loopholes that enable extremely profitable corporations (like General Electric, Bank of America, Exxon-Mobil, Chevron and many more) to pay little or no federal income taxes. Quite the contrary! The Republican budget actually provides \$1 trillion more in tax breaks over the next 10 years for the very rich.

Further, at a time when defense spending has more than tripled since 1997 and now consumes more than half of the discretionary budget, the Republican budget does nothing to reduce unnecessary military spending.

The Republican House budget is the most radical right-wing extremist budget ever passed in the modern history of our country, and the more the American people learn about it the more they are rejecting it. The question is, however: Where are the Democrats? Where is President Obama?

Will the president remain strong in his demand that any deficit reduction agreement include an end to Bush's tax breaks for the wealthy? Will he really

fight to eliminate corporate tax loopholes? Will he end the absurd policies which allow the rich and large corporations to avoid paying tens of billions in taxes by establishing phony addresses in off-shore tax havens? Or, as he has done within the last year, will he give Republicans almost everything they want at the expense of ordinary Americans.

As Vermont's senator and a member of the Budget Committee, I will not support a plan to reduce the deficit that does not call for shared sacrifice. At least 50 percent of any deficit reduction plan must come from increased revenue from the wealthy and large corporations.

Instead of ending Medicare as we know it and making savage cuts to community health centers and children's health care programs, we must ask the top 2 percent of income earners, who currently pay the lowest upper-income tax rate on record, to start paying their fair share of taxes. Instead of making it harder for working families to send their kids to college, we must end the foreign tax shelters that enable the wealthy and large corporations to avoid paying tens of billions in U.S. taxes. Instead of making major cuts in job creating programs in infrastructure, public transportation and sustainable energy we must do away with a wide variety of loopholes that allow Wall Street executives, whose profits and compensation packages are soaring, to have a lower tax rate than middle class workers.

The deficit crisis is real and must be addressed. But it cannot be solved on the backs of the weak and vulnerable. Every segment of our society, including those who have money and power, must contribute and must sacrifice.

Source: Reader Supported News 6/2/11  
<http://www.readersupportednews.org>

# Peace no longer even gets lip service

Norman Solomon

In times of war, US presidents have often talked about yearning for peace. But the last decade has brought a gradual shift in the rhetorical zeitgeist while a tacit assumption has taken hold - war must go on, one way or another.

"I am continuing and I am increasing the search for every possible path to peace," Lyndon Johnson said while escalating the Vietnam War. In early 1991, the first President Bush offered the public this convolution: "Even as planes of the multinational forces attack Iraq, I prefer to think of peace, not war." More than a decade later, George W. Bush told a joint session of Congress: "We seek peace. We strive for peace."

While absurdly hypocritical, such claims mouthed the idea that the United States need not be at war 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. But these days, peace gets less oratorical juice. In this era, after all, the amorphous foe known as "terror" will never surrender. There's an intractable enemy for you: beatable, but never quite defeatable. Terrorists are bound to keep popping up somewhere.

A permanent war psychology has dug a groove alongside the permanent war economy. And so, we hear appreciably less about Washington's ostensible quest for peace. Right now, we're told, President Obama is wrestling with the question of how much to reduce US troop levels in Afghanistan. It's a fateful decision. We should pressure members of Congress and the White House, pushing for military withdrawal and an end to the air war.

But, just as the reduction of US troop strength in Iraq allowed for escalation in Afghanistan, a search for enemies is apt to be inexhaustible. When Uncle Sam's proclaimed global mission is to prevent other countries from being used as a base for a terrorist attack on the United States, the Pentagon's combat tasks are bottomless.

As right-wing attacks on our basic rights and services are growing louder than ever, it's essential to keep independent journalism strong. Whether or not the "war on terror" buzz phrase gets official use, the tacit assumption of war without end is now the old normal,



again renewed in the wake of Osama bin Laden's death. Every day, the warfare wallpaper inside the mass-media echo chamber is a bit more familiar, blurring the public vision into drowsier acceptance of perpetual war.

Years ago, US military spending climbed above \$2 billion per day. Some of the consequences can be understood in the context of words that President Dwight Eisenhower uttered in April 1953, during a speech that began by addressing "the chance for a just peace for all peoples" and ended with the word "peace."

In the speech, Eisenhower declared: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children ... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

Maybe, as a former commanding general, Ike felt some freedom to talk like that. But in the current era, trapped within the

"war on terror" matrix, Washington's political framework leaves very little space for serious talk of peace.

When war ("on terror") is touted as the embodiment of eternal vigilance, war must be eternal - and in that case, why bother to talk much about striving for peace?

So, peace might be a good goal to recommend to some others - but if the United States is terrorism's biggest target and most powerful foe, then this country is the last place that should expect, or seek, peace.

In the process, the warfare state pins a multitude of hopes on war with a perverse acculturated faith that it will right wrongs, avenge cruelty, straighten the crooked, cleanse the fetid, prevent violence. Countless times, those delusional hopes have boosted the spirals of suffering. But who's counting?

In one of Kabul's poorest neighborhoods, when I spoke with a group of about 20 very poor women in the late summer of 2009, I asked what they needed most of all. Their unanimous response translated as one word: "peace."

But at the top of Washington's hierarchy, the yearning is very dif-

## Bush policies dominant cause of national debt

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has updated and refined a widely cited chart, laying out the origins of the country's current fiscal trajectory. And as before, the lion's share of the problem comes from ongoing George W. Bush-era policies -- particularly deficit-financed tax cuts, which eliminated Clinton-era surpluses and left the Treasury poised for a huge hit when the financial crisis and economic downturn further eroded federal revenues.

By the end of the decade, CBPP projects that, on the current trajectory, the Bush

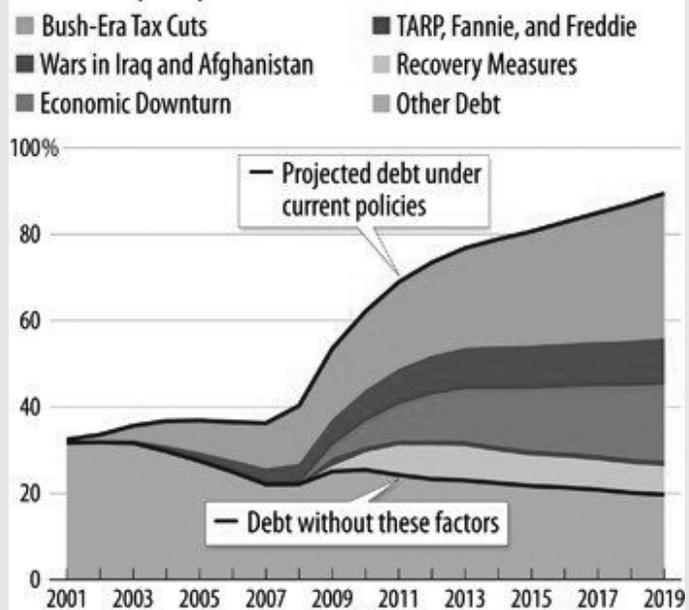
tax cuts, exacerbated by the economic downturn, combined with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will account for the significant majority of public debt as a share of GDP.

Without those factors, and without the need for stimulus measures under President Obama, CBPP projects that the debt-to-GDP ratio would have dropped under both Presidents Bush and Obama.

Source: <http://tpm.d.c.talkingpointsmemo.com/2011/05/chart-bush-policies-dominant-cause-of-debt.php?ref=fpa>

### Tax Cuts, Wars Account For Nearly Half Of Public Debt By 2019

Debt held by the public as a share of GDP



Source: CBPP analysis based on Congressional Budget Office estimates. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

ferent. The nation's decade-long war effort in Afghanistan, where it costs \$1 million to deploy one US soldier for one year, is a grisly symptom of chronic war fever. More enemies are easy to find, and even easier to make.

A country that's committed to being at war will treat the real potential for peace as an abstraction.

Norman Solomon is co-chair of

the national Healthcare NOT Warfare campaign, launched by Progressive Democrats of America. He is the author of a dozen books including "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death." For more information, go to: [www.normansolomon.com](http://www.normansolomon.com) <<http://www.normansolomon.com>>

Source: Truthout 5/26/11 [www.truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org)



Emulating Jesus Christ's  
Radical Acceptance of All People

Come Celebrate With the  
Episcopal Church of St. Anne  
1020 W. Lincoln Road  
Stockton, CA 95207  
(209) 473-2313

Sunday Mass, 8 & 10 a.m.  
(Childcare provided at 10 a.m.)  
Tuesday 6:30 a.m. Mass  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Youth Group  
Thursday 6 p.m. Healing Mass

## U.S. must be more competitive in recruiting teachers

Mickey McGuire

Many people believe that the most important factor driving test scores is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Much of our education policy is predicated on this belief. Research tells us that this is partly, but not completely, true. Research indicates that two thirds of the variation in test scores is actually driven by family variables like socioeconomic status, parent education, family organization, work ethic and community factors. Influencing these factors through public policy is difficult.

Of the one third of causation related to school variables, research confirms that the quality of the teacher in the classroom is most important. Public policy can affect this. McKinsey & Company recently published a study, titled "Closing the Talent Gap: Attracting and Retaining Top-Third Graduates to Careers in Teaching." The purpose of the study was to answer questions about how the world's best school systems attract the best talent. They write, "Research has shown that of all the controllable factors in an education system, the most important by far is the effectiveness of the classroom teacher." The researchers found that the world's best performing school systems, South Korea,

Singapore and Finland, attract 100 percent of their teachers from the top third of college graduates and then screen for other qualities. In the United States, 23 percent of teachers come from the top third of graduates. Of course, academic preparation is not all that is required to be a good teacher. Such factors as motivation, empathy, creativity, organization and even a good sense of humor come into play.

The creation of a first-class education system begins with recruitment. Singapore, South Korea and Finland pay both tuition and salaries for teacher candidates who enter their teacher-education programs. There are eight applicants for every teacher trainee accepted in Singapore. In Finland, it's one in 10. This compares with many of the most competitive graduate schools in the U.S. Once hired, salaries are quite good. The best-paid teachers are in South Korea, where teacher salaries place somewhere between doctors and engineers.

The competition to enter teacher training schools, high salaries and relative prestige of teaching inevitably result in another trait of the best school systems — high retention. The annual turnover rate in Singapore is 3 percent, and 1 percent in Korea. In the U.S., 14 percent of teachers leave

their job each year! Half of all newly certified teachers — about 100,000 a year — never enter teaching. Of those who do, half will quit after five years.

Prior to the Great Recession, we witnessed a decade or more of reports about teacher shortages. Today, there is much talk about reducing the salaries and fringe benefits of teachers. But a simple understanding of supply and demand makes one wonder how teacher compensation could be too high if there is a shortage of highly qualified college graduates attracted to the profession, and if retention is so low.

In the next decade, roughly half of America's teaching force will retire. How will we replace them and catch up with the world's best school systems in an atmosphere of declining salaries, reductions in fringe benefits, increasing class sizes and attacks on the education profession by those who wish to silence unions?

*Mickey McGuire, a retired high school social studies teacher, is among a select group of local residents with columns in the Tracy Press.*

## The Equal Pay Act, 48 years later

"This act represents many years of effort... to call attention to the unconscionable practice of paying female employees less wages than male employees for the same job. This measure adds to our laws another structure basic to democracy. It will add protection at the working place to the women, the same rights at the working place in a sense that they have enjoyed at the polling place."

- President John F. Kennedy, remarks upon signing the Equal Pay Act of 1963

On this day in 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act, a law intended to end gender-based pay discrimination. At the time, women were earning, on average, only 59 cents for every dollar

earned, on average, by men. Companies were posting the same jobs on men's and women's help wanted pages -- with different salaries. Discrimination was rampant and overt; it was still legal to pay unfairly. The Equal Pay Act was intended to be a key first step toward changing the way America did business, for the better.

However, uneven enforcement coupled with hostile court rulings has limited the law's effectiveness. Today, the pay gap sits at 77 cents on the dollar. That means that in nearly 50 years, we've progressed at a rate of only about half a penny a year. This pace is unacceptable.

If the law no longer reflects Kennedy's and members' of Congress intent to outlaw gender pay discrimination, we must update and strengthen the law.

The Paycheck Fairness Act, which came extremely close to passing in the last Congress, would reaffirm our country's commitment to equal pay for equal work. It would restore, as Kennedy put it, a "structure basic to democracy."

### **ACTION:**

Urge your members of congress to support the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 797/H.R. 1519).

Source: AAUW Action Network release, 6/10/11 [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)



**LAW OFFICES OF  
ANN M. CERNEY  
SHELLIE LOTT  
LANGLEY KREUZE**

Attorneys at Law  
45 Hunter Square Plaza, Stockton  
104 N. School St. #205, Lodi  
948-9384 or 369-1333

- Personal Injury
- Social Security
- Wills
- Probate
- Trusts
- General Practice

Se Habla Espanol • Thai • Vietnamese



**Roger K. Lang, D.D.S., Inc.**  
3031 W. March Lane, Suite 318E  
(Go north on I-5, exit March Lane, go west to  
"The Fountain" and turn right)  
(209) 956-0601  
Fax: (209) 952-8845  
Email: [info@drlangdds.com](mailto:info@drlangdds.com)  
Web: [www.drlangdds.com](http://www.drlangdds.com)

"Together, we will walk the pathway to health and wholeness."

**Publications**  
Technical Writing & Editing / Graphic Design / Web Sites

**InfoWright**  
PO Box 162644  
Sacramento 95816  
916.444-5118  
[llitman@pacbell.net](mailto:llitman@pacbell.net)



# County budgets cut workers, not management

According to information in the form of a full-page ad in the June 12 Stockton Record, the Public Works Director of San Joaquin County has a base salary of \$170,186. Add to that his perks in the form of deferred compensation, vacation buyouts and a car allowance - the director makes an additional \$55,000 a year.

That brings his take-home pay to a total of more than \$225,000 - about the same salary as the Vice President of the United States. If the director retires at the age of 60 after 20 years of service, this also spikes his pension to the tune of more than \$9,000 a month.

Contrasted with a road worker that makes about \$42,000 annually, and does not receive any perks, it is clear to the community that the wasteful management spending has got to go, especially as frontline jobs and services are being cut.

County leaders last week handed down more than 97 notices of possible layoffs to frontline workers. To add insult to injury, starting July 1, County managers and executives will get essentially a raise that the remaining frontline workers are paying for, by way of a 25 percent increase in their health care premiums.

Frontline workers say further job or pay cuts would severely impact the ability to provide quality services for the community. Many are worried about health care increases and other proposals that could go through, pushing them to the brink of poverty. "It could

mean the loss of my house, since my wife lost her job about a year ago," said Joseph Jacobs, Jr., a worker in the Utilities Department who also supports three children. "I'm the sole financial provider for me and my family."

The cuts to workers follow a blistering investigative report that shows San Joaquin County executives and managers continue to pocket what amounts to millions of dollars outside of their base salaries. Laying off workers means a reduction in much-needed services for the community and kicking an already hard-hit economy harder. Meanwhile, executives and managers will continue to get perks like car allowances and vacation buyouts in the amount of an average worker's salary - about \$30,000 each year.

"Apparently, these executives' perks and pension spikes are too big to fail," said Patrick Ikeda, chapter president of San Joaquin County's SEIU Local 1021. Ikeda said the fiscal scandal and abuse of power that happened in the City of Bell is happening right here in San Joaquin County. "They have to stop their wasteful spending before it's too late," he said.

Workers and community members rallied at the County Administration Building to oppose management's self-enrichment at a time when everyone else is trying to survive the economic crisis. Speaking on behalf of community leaders, Rev. Terrance Saffold spoke about how the economy has affected his neighbors and



members of his 500-member congregation.

It is unfair that county leaders are actually benefiting from the recession, as was highlighted in a Stockton Record story, "Down Economy? Not for S.J. Execs," on May 27. While the number of management positions has increased in recent years, more than 850 frontline worker positions have been eliminated, and now dozens more are being threatened. These workers take care of the sick, fix roads and maintain neighborhoods and parks. "We are in a recession, and our leaders are failing in their jobs to help the community through it," Ikeda said. Ikeda said his fellow union members have put tremendous effort and research into cost-saving solutions that would save services, to the tune of more than \$40 million.

*SEIU 1021 represents over 4,500 county employees in San Joaquin County. SEIU Local 1021 represents 56,000 employees in local governments and non-profit agencies, health care programs, schools, and social welfare occupations throughout northern California.*

*Source: SEIU press advisory 6/10/11 www.seiu1021.org*

## Redistricting effects

The Citizens Redistricting Commission has released their first draft maps of redrawn Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts. Created by Californians who voted for it in a 2008 ballot measure, the five Democrats, five Republicans and four "decline to state" voters on the Commission have been tasked with the job once held by lawmakers every ten years. Legislators often came under fire when drawing district lines for fear such a process would necessarily protect incumbents from any political challenges.

The release of the first draft of

redrawn redistrict lines comes just days before the June 15th budget deal deadline, and has many wondering what impact (if any) redistricting will have on the budget logjam Californians have grown used to in recent years. While Republicans have typically put their foot down on tax hikes and Democrats have stayed adamant about limiting spending cuts, the \$10 billion deficit slated to follow us into the next fiscal year could change based on the lines drawn. Will members whose districts have been redrawn to be more competitive now find themselves breaking party lines over the budget in

order to keep their seat as their constituency base changes? Only time will tell...and, as always, the Planning and Conservation League will keep you posted on any developments regarding the budget or redistricting that may impact environmental decisions made in the Capitol.

*Source: PCL INSIDER: News from the Capitol, Planning and Conservation League release 6/10/11. PCL, 1107 9th St, Ste 901, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 822-5631 www.PCL.org*

## Framing Medicare as a failure

*James Kwak*

Medicare is a very popular program in its current form; as Jonathan Oberlander details in *The Political Life of Medicare*, it has always been a popular program with the public. The only way to eliminate Medicare is to convince the public that it is causing some other, huge problem - namely, the national debt. So this leaves people like Republican Paul Ryan in the position of rooting for the Medicare budget gap to be as big as possible and trying to shoot down anything that can actually close the gap.

What about Ryan's claim that his proposal "saves Medicare, by reforming it for our generation, so it's solvent"? As everyone knows by now, the Ryan Plan replaces current Medicare with a voucher program, where seniors get a voucher to use to buy health insurance in the private market; the vouchers are set to grow in value considerably slower than GDP, let alone health care costs. This is not Medicare.

Right now, Medicare actually provides two kinds of insurance. First, it is a health insurance plan, which means that once you are a beneficiary it will pay for a lot of your health care expenses. Second, it insures you against not being able to buy health insurance. If you are over 65, it insures you against being dropped by your insurer because you get sick; more importantly (since that is already accomplished by regulation), if you are under 65, it insures that you will be able to get decent (though not particularly good) health insurance when you are 65. Without Medicare, not only would you not have that guarantee (unless you work for one of a small and declining number of employers), but you would not be able to buy that guarantee for any price.

Under the Ryan Plan, both of these kinds of insurance go away. What's left? A forced saving and redistribution program, where you pay Medicare payroll taxes while you work, and once you retire you get some cash back. You can call that "Medicare" if you want, but it no longer provides

either kind of insurance that Medicare currently provides, so Ryan's claim to "save Medicare" is a bit of a stretch.

Is it rationing? Yes, in the vague sense that more people will be getting less of what they want. But the mechanism by which this happens is the same one that already operates in the individual market for people under 65: if you don't have enough money, or you're too sick, you just can't buy health insurance, so you get less health care. If you call that rationing, then the Ryan Plan is just more rationing.

The more relevant question is whether the Ryan Plan will promote the more efficient allocation of health care. In free market fantasy land, employers and individuals will shop around for the most efficient health care plans, so insurers have an incentive to make their plans more efficient. The crux of the argument is that since insurers face a competitive market, they will work hard to make their plans as efficient as possible, which means they should do a better job than Medicare, which doesn't face competition. I'm sure this argument has been advanced a hundred times by Heritage, AEI, and so on.

The problem with that argument is that it's completely false in practice. If that market worked, then we would have a functioning health insurance market for people under 65 (where there is no Medicare); but if we had that, then we would not be talking about health care today.

So yes, the national challenge is spending less on health care in the future, whether or not you call it rationing. The Ryan Plan does it by eliminating Medicare (for all practical purposes) and leaving seniors to depend on their private savings and deliberately underfunded vouchers. Ryan simply wants to toss the elderly into the same toxic pool that tens of millions of the non-elderly are already drowning in. And this is not a rational choice.

*Source: The Baseline Scenario 5/30/11 <http://baselinescenario.com/2011/05/29/health-care-rationing-for-beginners>*

# The GOP's CIA playbook: destabilize country to sweep back into power

Robert Parry

Modern Republicans have a simple approach to politics when they are not in the White House: Make America as ungovernable as possible by using almost any means available, from challenging the legitimacy of opponents to spreading lies and disinformation to sabotaging the economy.

Over the past four decades or so, the Republicans have simply not played by the old give-and-take rules of politics. Indeed, if one were to step back and assess this Republican approach, what you would see is something akin to how the CIA has destabilized target countries, especially those that seek to organize themselves in defiance of capitalist orthodoxy.

To stop this spread of "socialism," nearly anything goes. Take, for example, Chile in the early 1970s when socialist President Salvador Allende won an election and took steps aimed at improving the conditions of the country's poor.

Under the direction of President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the CIA was dispatched to engage in psychological warfare against Allende's government and to make the Chilean economy "scream."

U.S. intelligence agencies secretly sponsored Chilean news outlets, like the influential newspaper *El Mercurio*, and supported "populist" uprisings of truckers and housewives. On the economic front, the CIA coordinated efforts to starve the Chilean government of funds and to drive unemployment higher.

Worsening joblessness could then be spun by the CIA-financed news outlets as proof that Allende's policies didn't work and that the only choice for Chile was to scrap its social programs. When Allende compromised with the Right, that had the additional benefit of causing friction between him and some of his supporters who wanted even more radical change.

As Chile became increasingly ungovernable, the stage was set for the violent overthrow of Allende, the installation of a rightist dictatorship, and the imposition of "free-market" economics that directed more wealth and power to Chile's rich and their American

corporate backers.

Though the Allende case in Chile is perhaps the best known example of this intelligence strategy (because it was investigated by a Senate committee in the mid-1970s), the CIA has employed this approach frequently around the world. Sometimes the target government is removed without violence, although other times a bloody coup d'etat has been part of the mix.

## HOME TO ROOST

So, it is perhaps fitting that a comparable approach to politics would eventually come home to roost in the United States, even to the point that some of the propaganda funding comes from outside sources (think of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's *Washington Times* and Australian media mogul Rupert Murdoch's *News Corp.*)

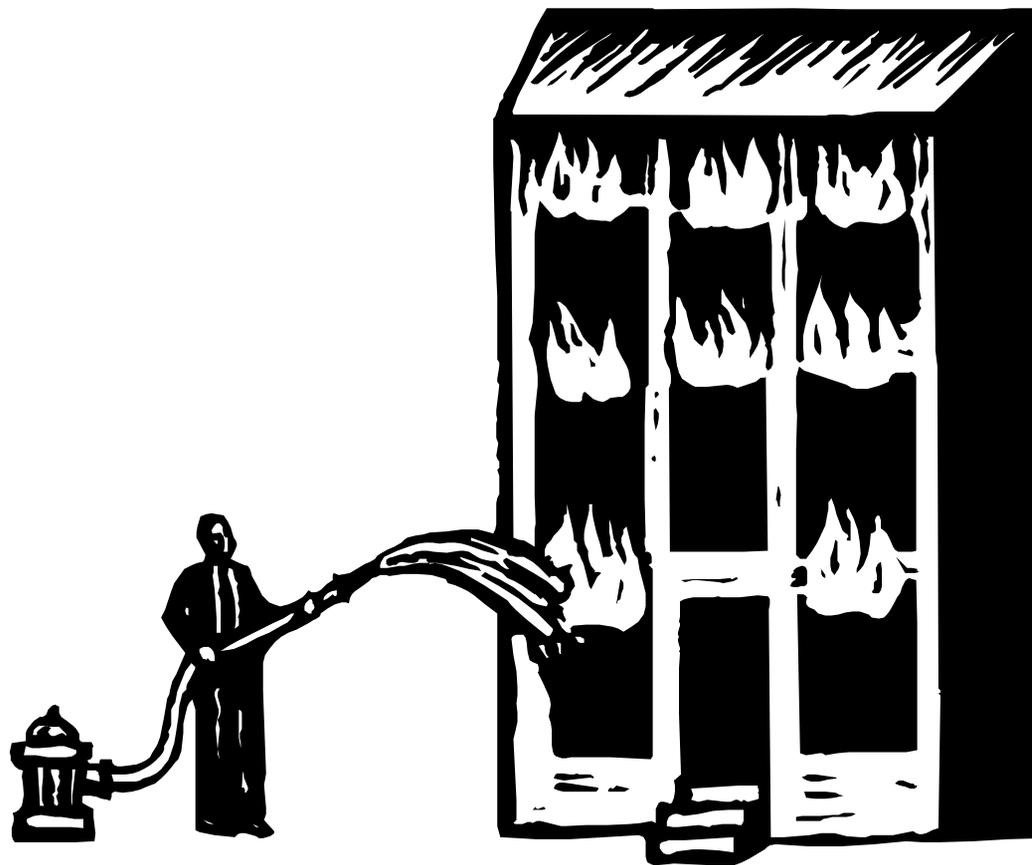
Obviously, given the wealth of the American elites, the relative proportion of the propaganda funding is derived more domestically in the United States than it would be in a place like Chile (or some other unfortunate Third World country that has gotten on Washington's bad side).

But the concept remains the same: Control as much as possible what the population gets to see and hear; create chaos for your opponent's government, economically and politically; blame if for the mess; and establish in the minds of the voters that their only way out is to submit, that the pain will stop once your side is back in power.

Today's Republicans have fully embraced this concept of political warfare, whereas the Democrats generally have tried to play by the old rules, acquiescing when Republicans are in office with the goal of "making government work," even if the Republicans are setting the agenda.

Unlike the Democrats and the Left, the Republicans and the Right have prepared themselves for this battle, almost as if they are following a CIA training manual. They have invested tens of billions of dollars in a propaganda infrastructure that operates 24/7, year-round, to spot and exploit missteps by political enemies.

This vertically integrated



media machine allows useful information to move quickly from a right-wing blog to talk radio to Fox News to the *Wall Street Journal* to conservative magazines and book publishing. Right-wing propagandists are well-trained and well-funded so they can be deployed to all manner of public outlets to hammer home the talking points.

When a Democrat somehow does manage to get into the White House, Republicans in Congress (and even in the Courts) are ready to do their part in the destabilization campaign. Rather than grant traditional "honeymoon" periods of cooperation with the president's early policies, the battle lines are drawn immediately.

In late 1992, for instance, Bill Clinton complained that his "honeymoon" didn't even last through the transition, the two-plus months before a new president takes office. He found himself facing especially harsh hazing from the Washington press corps, as the mainstream media - seeking to shed its "liberal" label and goaded by the right-wing media - tried to demonstrate that it would be tougher on a Democrat than any Republican.

The mainstream press hyped minor "scandals" about Clinton's

Whitewater real estate investment and Travel-gate, a flap about some routine firings at the White House travel office. Meanwhile, the Right's rapidly growing media was spreading false stories implicating Clinton in the death of White House aide Vince Foster and other "mysterious deaths."

Republicans in Congress did all they could to feed the press hysteria, holding hearings and demanding that special prosecutors be appointed. When the Clinton administration relented, the choice of prosecutors was handed over to right-wing Republican Appeals Court Judge David Sentelle, who consciously picked political enemies of Clinton to oversee zealous investigations.

## FINALLY WINNING

The use of scandal-mongering to destabilize the Clinton administration finally peaked in late 1998 and early 1999 when the Republican-controlled House voted impeachment and Clinton had to endure (but survive) a humiliating trial in the Senate.

The Republican strategy, however, continued into Campaign 2000 with Vice President Al Gore facing attacks on his character and integrity. Gore was falsely painted as a delusional braggart, as both right-wing and mainstream media outlets freely misquoted him

and subjected him to ridicule (while simultaneously bowing and scraping before Republican candidate George W. Bush).

When Gore managed to win the national popular vote anyway - and would have carried the key state of Florida if all legally cast ballots were counted - the Republicans and the Right rose up in fury demanding that the Florida count be stopped before Bush's tiny lead completely disappeared. Starting a minor riot in Miami, the Republicans showed how far they would go to claim the White House again.

Five Republican partisans on the U.S. Supreme Court - wanting to ensure that the new president would keep their side in control of the courts and recognizing that their party was prepared to spread disorder if Gore prevailed - stopped the counting of votes and made Bush the "winner."

Despite this partisan ruling, Gore and the Democrats stepped back from the political confrontation. The right-wing press cheered and gloated, while the mainstream news media urged the people to accept Bush as "legitimate" for the good of the country.

For most of Bush's disastrous presidency, this dynamic remained the same. Though barely able to complete a coherent sentence,

Bush was treated with great deference, even when he failed to protect the country from the 9/11 attacks and led the nation into an unprovoked war with Iraq. There were no combative investigations of Bush like those that surrounded Clinton.

Even at the end of Bush's presidency - when his policies of deregulation, tax cuts for the rich and massive budget deficits combined to create the biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression - the prevailing message from the Establishment was that it was unfair to lay too much blame on Bush.

Shortly after Barack Obama took office in 2009, a Republican/right-wing talking point was to complain when anyone took note of the mess that Bush had left behind: "There you go again, blaming Bush."

#### GETTING OBAMA

Immediately, too, the Republicans and the Right set to work demonizing and destroying Obama's presidency. Instead of allowing the Democrats to enact legislation aimed at addressing the financial and economic crisis, the Senate Republicans launched filibuster after filibuster.

When Obama and the Democrats did push through emergency legislation, such as the \$787 billion stimulus package, they had to water it down to reach the 60-vote super-majority. The Republicans and the Right then quickly laid the blame for high unemployment on the "failed" stimulus.

There also were waves of propaganda pounding Obama's legitimacy. The Right's news media pressed bogus accusations that Obama had been born in Kenya and thus was not constitutionally eligible to be president. He was denounced as a socialist, a Muslim, a fascist, an enemy of Israel, and pretty much any other charge that might hit some American hot button.

When Obama welcomed American students back to school in 2009, the Right organized against his simple message - urging young people to work hard - as if it were some form of totalitarian mind control. His attempt to address the growing crisis in American health care was denounced as taking

away freedoms and imposing "death panels."

Soon, billionaires like oil man David Koch and media mogul Murdoch were promoting a "grassroots" rebellion against Obama called the Tea Party. Activists were showing up at presidential speeches with guns and brandishing weapons at rallies near Washington.

The high-decibel disruptions and the "screaming" economy created the impression of political chaos. Largely ignoring the role of the Republicans, the press faulted Obama for failing to live up to his campaign promise to bring greater bipartisanship to Washington.

Hearing the discord framed that way, many average Americans also blamed Obama; many of the President's supporters grew demoralized; and, as happened with Allende in Chile, some on the Left turned against Obama for not doing more, faster.

By November 2010, the stage was set for a big Republican comeback. The party swept to victory in the House and fell just short in the Senate. But Congress was not the Republicans' true goal. What they really want is the White House with all its executive powers.

However, following Obama's success in killing Osama bin Laden on May 2 and with what is widely regarded as a weak Republican presidential field, the Right's best hope for regaining complete control of the U.S. government in 2012 is to sink the U.S. economy.

Already, the Republican success in limiting the scope of the stimulus package and then labeling it a failure - combined with deep cuts in local, state and federal government spending - have helped push the economy back to the brink where a double-dip recession is now a serious concern.

Despite these worries - and a warning from Moody's about a possible downgrade on U.S. debt if Congress delays action on raising the debt limit - the Republicans are vowing more brinkmanship over the debt-limit vote. Before acting, they are demanding major reductions in government spending (while refusing to raise taxes on the rich).

#### A CONUNDRUM

So, Obama and the Democrats face another conundrum. If they slash spending too much, they will further stall the recovery. However, if they refuse to submit to this latest round of Republican blackmail, they risk a debt crisis that could have devastating consequences for the U.S. economy for years - even decades - to come.

Either way, the right-wing media and much of the mainstream press will put the blame on Obama and the Democrats. They will be held accountable for failing to govern.

The Republican propaganda machine will tell the American people that they must throw Obama and the Democrats out of office for stability to return. There will be assurances about how the "magic of the market" will bring back the bright days of prosperity.

Of course, the reality of a new Republican administration, especially with a GOP Congress, would be the return of the old right-wing nostrums: more tax cuts for the rich, less regulation of corporations, more military spending, and more privatization of social programs.

Any budget balancing will come at the expense of labor rights for union employees and shifting the costs for health care onto the backs of the elderly. Yet, all this will be surrounded by intense propaganda explaining the public pain as a hangover from

misguided government "social engineering."

There is, of course, the possibility that the American people will see through today's Republican CIA-style strategy of "making the economy scream." Americans might come to recognize the role of the pseudo-populist propagandists on Fox News and talk radio.

Or Republicans might have second thoughts about playing chicken on the debt limit and running the risk of a global depression. Such a gamble could rebound against them. And, it's hard to believe that even their most ardent billionaire-backers would find destruction of their stock portfolios that appealing.

But there can be a momentum to madness. We have seen throughout history that events can get out of hand, that thoroughly propagandized true believers can truly believe. Sometimes, they don't understand they are simply being manipulated for a lesser goal. Once the chaos starts, it is hard to restore order.

That has been another bloody lesson from the CIA's operations in countries around the world. These covert actions can have excessive or unintended consequences.

Ousting Allende turned Chile into a fascist dictatorship that sent assassins far and wide, including Washington, D.C. Ousting Mossadegh in Iran led to the

tyranny of the Shah and ultimately to an extreme Islamist backlash. Ousting Arbenz in Guatemala led to the butchery of some 200,000 people and the rise of a narco-state. Such examples can go on and on.

However, these CIA-type techniques can be very seductive, both to U.S. presidents looking for a quick fix to some international problem and to a political party trying to gain a decisive edge for winning. These methods can be especially dangerous when the other side doesn't organize effectively to counter them.

The hard reality in the United States today is that the Republicans and the Right are now fully organized, armed with a potent propaganda machine and possessing an extraordinary political will. They are well-positioned to roll the U.S. economy off the cliff and blame the catastrophe on Obama.

Indeed, that may be their best hope for winning Election 2012.

*Robert Parry's new book is [Secrecy & Privilege: Rise of the Bush Dynasty from Watergate to Iraq](http://www.secrecyandprivilege.com/) <<http://www.secrecyandprivilege.com/>>*

*Source: Consortium News 6/9/11 <http://www.consortiumnews.com>*

## Obama fails environment

Early June, former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt uncharacteristically took the spotlight to level charges against President Obama that he has failed to defend the environment against Republicans and industry attacks on environmental safeguards. Babbitt chastised President Obama for failing to "take up the mantle of land and water conservation...in a significant way."

Babbitt opened by stating, "I am returning to the public stage today because I believe that this Congress, in its assaults on our environment, has embarked on the most radical course in our history." He continued, "The intent is to chip away, a blow at a time, at the edifice of environmental laws



and regulations, avoiding a frontal assault that would call attention to the overall objective."

Babbitt's timely statements come in the wake of the negative press surrounding House Resolution 1837, a recent federal bill designed to annihilate protections for endangered species in the California Delta, and the Obama Administration's closed

door discussions with a handful of California Central Valley farmers that could potentially dismantle the San Joaquin River Restoration act. If the Obama Administration succumbs to the political pressure of the republican backed H.R. 1837 and the politically persuasive CA Central Valley agribusiness, California's fisheries, environmental and decade-long restoration work is doomed for failure. To read Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's full speech, visit [www.PCL.org](http://www.PCL.org).

*Source: PCL INSIDER: News from the Capitol, Planning and Conservation League release 6/10/11. PCL, 1107 9th St, Ste 901, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 822-5631 [www.PCL.org](http://www.PCL.org)*

Photographs for viewing at the  
Henry Paine Gallery, 147 E. Alpine Ave.,  
Mon-Fri., 1-6pm. Stockton

## Henry Paine Camera Repair

*An owner-operated shop. You are welcome  
to come in and ask questions about our work.*

147 E. Alpine, Stockton, 95204  
(209) 942-2821 — open M-F, 1:00-6:00 pm

*Efficient and reliable repair of your camera.*

**FREE ESTIMATES**



## Spiritual Counseling

Past-Life Regression • Tarot Card  
Readings • Crystal Sessions  
• 30 Years Experience

*Call Joyce McCallister for an appointment:  
209.565.1173*



## PACIFIC COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE CENTER

*serving Stockton since 1984*

Yi-Po Anthony Wu, M.D., M.P.H.  
Medical Director, Internal Medicine

Teresa M. Chen, Ph.D.  
Program Coordinator

Dorel Rotar, L.Ac., MTOM  
Brian Chee C. Loh, L.Ac., O.M.D.  
Shu-Chuan Susan Wang, L.Ac., Ph.D., O.M.D.  
*Licensed Acupuncturists, Herbalists*

### **The Best of Eastern and Western Medicine for Health and Healing**

- Internal Medicine • Acupuncture & Moxibustion •  
East & West Herbs •  
Chinese Health Exercises (Tai Chi & Qi Gong)

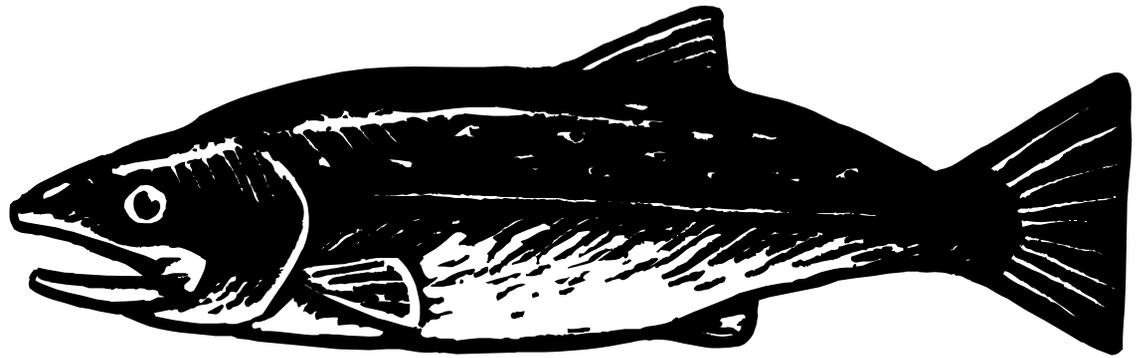
## Shop at the Herb Store

Specializing in Traditional Chinese Herbal Remedies  
wide variety of western herbs & nutritional supplements  
imported teas ☞ vitamins & minerals ☞ health bars  
essential oils ☞ healthcare & educational books ☞  
over-the-counter medications

Store Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**645 West Harding Way • 464-4800**  
Visit our website @ <http://www.wuway.com>

# Pumps kill 6 million splittail; 50,000 salmon



In one of the largest fish kills in California history, new federal data show the Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumps in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta have killed more than 6 million Sacramento splittail in the past six weeks and more than 51,000 imperiled spring-run chinook this year.

“Over the past six weeks, the outlook for Sacramento splittail has gone from bad to dramatically worse,” said Jeff Miller, a conservation advocate for the Center. “Delta pumping operations may have wiped out a significant portion of the juvenile splittail in what could have been a good year for rebuilding the population.” U.S. Bureau of Reclamation data show that the pumps killed 5.9 million juvenile Sacramento splittail in May and another half-million splittail the first week of June.

Splittail were formerly protected as a threatened species but illegally stripped of protection in 2003. The Fish and Wildlife Service last fall made a controversial determination that the species does not warrant protection, despite the fact that numbers of splittail found in annual California Fish and Game surveys have fallen to consistently low levels since 2002, and that the estimated population from 2002 to 2010 has been the lowest recorded since surveys began in 1967.

The massive fish kill at the pumps comes as Republicans in Congress push legislation to exempt pumping in the Delta from Endangered Species Act protections for salmon and other fish and to block restoration efforts on the San Joaquin River. “The massacre at the pumps pushes already-struggling salmon

and native fish populations closer to extinction and is entirely unnecessary,” said Miller. “This is a high rainfall year, and there was no need for continued pumping at this level while so many fish were being killed. Excessive pumping and the highest-ever water diversions from the Delta the past decade have crippled Central Valley fish runs, including commercially valuable salmon.”

### Background

The Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*) is a minnow native to the upper San Francisco Estuary and Central Valley. Splittail are primarily freshwater fish but can tolerate moderately salty water. They are found mostly in slow-moving, marshy sections of rivers and dead-end sloughs, though floodplains are important for spawning. Formerly common in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Feather and American rivers, the splittail has been eliminated from all but a fraction of its former range and now is largely restricted to the Delta, Suisun Bay, Suisun Marsh and Napa Marsh.

The Sacramento splittail was listed as a threatened species in 1999. After water agencies sued over the listing, the Bush administration improperly removed protections for the splittail despite strong consensus by agency scientists and fisheries experts that it should retain protected status. After conservation groups sued, the Service agreed to revisit the Bush-era decision but denied listing in October 2010. A recent analysis of splittail population trends by the Bay Institute shows that there has been a significant decline in the abundance of splittail during

the past several decades.

The splittail and other native fish species that share its habitat in the Delta and Central Valley are threatened by excessive water diversions, pesticides and other contaminants, and changes to the food web from introduced species. The splittail is also suffering from loss of floodable habitat area needed for spawning and rearing. The remnant populations of splittail in the Delta require adequate freshwater outflow and periodic floodplain inundation to thrive.

The Center for Biological Diversity <<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/>> is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 320,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places./

*Source: Center for Biological Diversity release 6/9/11 <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>*

# Faultlines: Fukushima, Diablo Canyon and beyond

Marylia Kelley

The March 11 disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is more than two months old - and still unfolding as additional radiation is being released and new discoveries are being made about the severity of the accident.

Tepeco, the plant operator, has admitted that a containment breach, full exposure of the fuel rods and a meltdown at Reactor #1 occurred. A robotic survey of leaking water found radiation levels up to 2,000 millisieverts per hour.

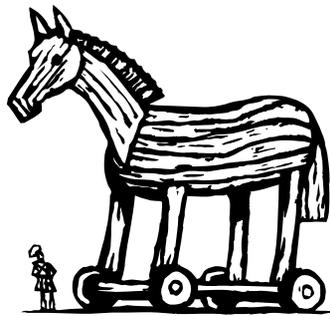
Tepeco also revealed that similar conditions exist at Reactors 2 and 3, further complicating their ability to achieve what the industry calls "safe shutdown" without releasing huge amounts of radioactivity. And, Tepeco's estimate of reaching that shutdown within 9-months is expected to be revised.

Our friends in Japan are

conducting public education and advocacy. One of the things that we at Tri-Valley CAREs can do is to help when asked.

Green Action Japan has launched an international petition at <http://fukushima.greenaction-japan.com/>, calling on the government to roll back its allowable limit for children's radiation exposure. (Yes, the government did raise the limit post-disaster.)

Closer to home, there is renewed scrutiny of CA's two operating nuclear power plants, San Onofre and Diablo Canyon. A recent inspection at Diablo Canyon revealed 20 so-called "minor" safety problems, including a backup cooling pump that failed to operate. PG&E has requested a 20-year extension of Diablo's operating license, while activists and others have called for a halt to the relicensing process. The call is resonating nationwide as numerous U.S. nuclear power plants approach the end of their operational lives.



Congress is also debating whether to give \$36 billion more to the nuclear industry in the form of "loan guarantees" for new nuclear power plants. Tri-Valley CAREs was in Washington, DC in April to oppose this nuclear pork along with the bloated nuclear weapons budget. We invite you to weigh in with our CA Senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and your Representative.

Source: Tri-Valley CAREs' Spring 2011 newsletter, Citizen's Watch. <http://www.trivalleycares.org>

# A link: climate change and Joplin tornadoes? Never!

Bill McKibben

Caution: It is vitally important not to make connections. When you see pictures of rubble like those from Joplin, Mo., you should not wonder: Is this somehow related to the tornado outbreak three weeks ago in Tuscaloosa, Ala., or the enormous outbreak a couple of weeks before that (which, together, comprised the most active April for tornadoes in U.S. history). No, that doesn't mean a thing.

It is far better to think of these as isolated, unpredictable, discrete events. It is not advisable to try to connect them in your mind with, say, the fires burning across Texas - fires that have burned more of America at this point this year than any wildfires have in previous years. Texas, and adjoining parts of Oklahoma and New Mexico, are drier than they've ever been - the drought is worse than that of the Dust Bowl. But do not wonder if they're somehow connected.

If you did wonder, you see,

you would also have to wonder about whether this year's record snowfalls and rainfalls across the Midwest - resulting in record flooding along the Mississippi - could somehow be related. And then you might find your thoughts wandering to, oh, global warming, and to the fact that climatologists have been predicting for years that as we flood the atmosphere with carbon we will also start both drying and flooding the planet, since warm air holds more water vapor than cold air.

It's far smarter to repeat to yourself the comforting mantra that no single weather event can ever be directly tied to climate change. There have been tornadoes before, and floods - that's the important thing. Just be careful to make sure you don't let yourself wonder why all these record-breaking events are happening in such proximity - that is, why there have been unprecedented megafloods in Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan in the past year. Why it's just now that the Arctic has melted

for the first time in thousands of years. No, better to focus on the videotape from the store cameras as the shelves are blown over. Look at the news anchorman standing in his waders in the rising river as the water approaches his chest.

Because if you asked yourself what it meant that the Amazon has just come through its second hundred-year drought in the past five years, or that the pine forests across the western part of this continent have been obliterated by a beetle in the past decade - well, you might have to ask other questions. Such as: Should President Obama really just have opened a huge swath of Wyoming to new coal mining? Should Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sign a permit this summer allowing a huge new pipeline to carry oil from the tar sands of Alberta? You might also have to ask yourself: Do we have a bigger problem than \$4-a-gallon gasoline?

# Urge EPA to require Spanish-language pesticide labels

Farmworkers perform some of the most demanding and dangerous work there is, and they are also among the least protected. Explicitly exempt from most U.S. labor law protections, farmworkers are 39 times more likely to face pesticide poisoning than workers in all other industries combined. And yet pesticide labels are not printed in Spanish - the language spoken and read by an overwhelming majority of U.S. farmworkers. This makes no sense.

Pesticide labels communicate critical information about the health hazards of exposure to pesticides, directions for safer use including use of personal protective equipment, and about first aid actions to take in the event of an accidental exposure. These labels can be the difference between life and death.

Bilingual labels will not eliminate the problem of pesticide exposure among farmworkers, but they will certainly help reduce the

frequency and extent of poisonings. And pesticide manufacturers already translate many of their labels into Spanish and other languages in order to sell them internationally. For nearly a decade Canada has required bilingual labeling in French and English.

## **ACTION:**

Urge EPA to require Spanish labels on pesticide products. More than a year ago we submitted a joint petition calling for the Spanish language labels. EPA finally responded, and is now accepting public comments until June 28. The Federal Register notice and petition are available in docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0014 at [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov).

Source: PANNA release 6/9/11 Pesticide Action Network North America, 49 Powell St., Ste 500, San Francisco, CA 94102(415) 981-1771 [www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)

Better to join with the U.S. House of Representatives, which voted 240 to 184 this spring to defeat a resolution saying simply that "climate change is occurring, is caused largely by human activities, and poses significant risks for public health and welfare." Propose your own physics; ignore physics altogether. Just don't start asking yourself whether there might be some relation among last year's failed grain harvest from the Russian heat wave, and Queensland's failed grain harvest from its record flood, and France's and Germany's current drought-related crop failures, and the death of the winter wheat crop in Texas, and the inability of Midwestern farmers to get corn planted in their sodden fields. Surely the record food prices are just freak outliers, not signs of anything systemic.

It's very important to stay calm. If you got upset about any of this, you might forget how important it

is not to disrupt the record profits of our fossil fuel companies. If worst ever did come to worst, it's reassuring to remember what the U.S. Chamber of Commerce told the Environmental Protection Agency in a recent filing: that there's no need to worry because "populations can acclimatize to warmer climates via a range of behavioral, physiological, and technological adaptations." I'm pretty sure that's what residents are telling themselves in Joplin today.

Bill McKibben is founder of the global climate campaign [350.org](http://350.org) and a distinguished scholar at Middlebury College in Vermont.

Source: Washington Post commentary 5/23/11 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/interactivity/corrections/>

"CREATE A COSMIC RELIGION OF ABSOLUTE LOVE. CREATE A WORLD PARLIAMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

JOHN MOREARTY

209-464-3326 john@morearty.com www.johnmorearty.com



Glenda Maxwell, C.M.T.  
Professional Massage Therapy

Myofascial Release - Accupressure  
Trigger Point Therapy- Pre Natal  
Facelift Massage-Spa Treatments

209-329-1137

By Appointment Only



**LELA NELSON REALTY**  
2222 Pacific Avenue • Stockton, CA 95204

(209) 467-1200  
(209) 942-5673 Fax  
(209) 466-6243 Res.  
E-Mail: LelaNelson@aol.com  
Website: www.lanelson.com

**E. Lela Nelson**  
BROKER



Balance Physical Therapy & Pilates

**Kathleen Smith Wong, PT, MFA**  
Physical Therapist  
Pilates Rehabilitation Specialist

2540 Pacific Avenue  
Stockton, California 95204

Tel 209-946-0806  
Fax 209-946-0927



The Holisticzone

Rev. Gay Lynn Saunders, D.C.



by appointment only (209) 607-2669

- ♥ Pain control, Self-discovery & Emotional Balancing incorporating: Craniosacral Therapy, Reiki, B.E.S.T., Alchemical Hypnotherapy
- ♥ Detoxification and Nutritional Balancing incorporating: Supplementation, Individualized Diet & Live Food Principles

## No tax holiday for multinational corporations

Eileen Appelbaum

If you think that “double Irish” and “Dutch sandwich” are schoolyard jump rope games girls play, think again. These are the nefarious, but legal, games that hundreds of multinationals play to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. According to a report by Bloomberg, Google used these techniques to cut its tax rate to 2.4 percent and its taxes by \$3.1 billion over the three years from 2007 through 2009. The company’s top two markets by revenue are the US, with a 35 percent corporate income tax rate, and the UK, with a 28 percent rate, yet Google - using practices widely employed by global companies - dramatically reduced its tax rate.

At the heart of this strategy is the transfer of rights to intellectual property developed in the US - often, as in Google’s case, with early research funded by US taxpayers through the National Science Foundation - to a subsidiary in a low-tax country. Foreign earnings based on the technology are then attributed to the subsidiary. Google transferred its search and advertising technology for much of the world to its Irish subsidiary at a price sanctioned in 2006 by the IRS. But even the much-vaunted low Irish taxes were not low enough for Google. That’s where the “double Irish” and the “Dutch sandwich” come in.

Here’s how it works. In the “double Irish,” Google establishes two subsidiaries in Ireland. Google Ireland Holdings, managed from Bermuda, licenses intellectual property rights to Google Ireland Limited, which sells advertising rights in Europe, Africa and the Middle East and collects the advertising revenue. Google Ireland Limited keeps a fraction of these revenues and, ultimately, pays the balance in royalties to Google Ireland Holdings which, under Irish law, is a Bermuda company. No taxes are paid on these royalties because Bermuda has no corporate tax.

Ireland does have a 20 percent withholding tax that it would collect if royalties were paid to Google Ireland Holdings directly. That’s where the “Dutch sandwich” comes into play. A Dutch subsidiary, Google Netherlands Holdings,



is “sandwiched” between the two Irish subsidiaries. Google Ireland Limited actually pays the royalties to the Dutch subsidiary, which then pays the royalties to Google Ireland Holdings. Irish law exempts this type of royalty payment to companies in other EU countries from the withholding tax.

Google is not alone. Hundreds of multinationals - including Microsoft, Oracle and Eli Lilly - use these ploys, with a foreign tax haven as the ultimate repository for the firms’ overseas profits. This kind of income shifting - known as transfer pricing - can significantly increase a company’s earnings and share price.

Companies continue to owe taxes to the US government on these overseas earnings - technically, the taxes have only been deferred. But the taxes don’t come due until the profits are brought back to the US - that is, repatriated. And companies do want to repatriate these profits.

A dozen large multinationals have joined the “Win America Campaign” to lobby for a tax holiday, so US companies can bring foreign profits home.

In 2004, when Congress last declared a tax holiday, much of the \$900 billion that corporations held abroad was repatriated at a reduced tax rate of just 5 percent. Today, US corporations hold roughly \$1.43 trillion overseas. The demand for a tax holiday clearly indicates that parking profits overseas is a tax-avoidance strategy, not a business necessity.

The push for a tax holiday has bipartisan support in Congress. However, the Treasury opposes a tax holiday as a stand-alone

measure although it might consider it as part of a broader tax reform package.

### HOW SHOULD THE RULES GOVERNING TAXES ON OVERSEAS PROFITS BE REFORMED?

House Speaker John Boehner has proposed a system of territorial taxation, in which overseas profits of US corporations would not be taxed in the US. This would only increase incentives for US companies to offshore operations and increase the use of transfer pricing. Ultimately, it would mean a race to the bottom in which no country could tax corporate profits, since companies would threaten to move operations to a lower-tax country unless the home country reduced its tax rate.

Here’s a better idea: replace the rules for transfer pricing with rules that allocate a company’s profits among its subsidiaries based on metrics such as the number of employees or the sales revenue generated in each jurisdiction. Currently, about half of US states with corporate income taxes use this method for companies that operate in multiple states. It would not be difficult to apply the same rules to multinational companies.

### ACTION:

Contact your representatives.

*Dr. Eileen Appelbaum is a senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research.*

*Source: Truthout 6/11/11 www.truthout.org*

# Our bloated post-9/11 "defense" spending

Joshua Holland

This week, the National Priorities Project (NPP) released a snapshot of U.S. "defense" spending since September 11, 2001. The eye-popping figures lend credence to the theory that al Qaeda's attacks were a form of economic warfare - that they hoped for a massive overreaction that would entangle us in costly foreign wars that would ultimately drain away our national wealth.

They didn't bankrupt us the same way the Mujahadeen helped bring down the Soviet Union decades before, because our economy was much stronger. But they did succeed in putting us deep into the red - with an assist, of course, from Bush's ideologically driven tax cuts for the wealthy.

## OVER \$7 TRILLION

The topline number is this: we have spent \$7.6 trillion on the military and homeland security since 9/11. The Pentagon's base budget - which doesn't include the costs of fighting our wars - has increased by 81 percent during that time (43 percent when adjusted for inflation). The costs of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have now reached \$1.26 trillion. But that only scratches the surface; it doesn't include the long-term costs of caring for badly wounded soldiers, for example.

One line-item suggests that 9/11 has been used to justify greater military spending across the board: the nuclear weapons budget has shot up by more than a fifth after adjusting for inflation. How intercontinental ballistic missiles that can vaporize whole cities are useful in a "war on terror" is anybody's guess.

The Pentagon itself acknowledges these dollars haven't all been spent effectively - there is certainly plenty of waste. According to the Washington Post, the DoD has blown \$32 billion (enough to offer free, universal college tuition for a year) on canceled weapons programs since 1997. According to the Post story, which is based on an unreleased Pentagon report, "For almost a decade, the Defense Department saw its budgets boom - but didn't make the kind of technological strides that seemed possible."

"Since 9/11, a near doubling of the Pentagon's modernization



accounts - more than \$700 billion over 10 years in new spending on procurement, research and development - has resulted in relatively modest gains in actual military capability," Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said in an address last week. He called that outcome both "vexing and disturbing." Some might find the relentless focus on cutting benefits for vulnerable Americans "vexing and disturbing" in light of this profligate spending. Budgets, after all, are a reflection of our priorities.

Toward that end, let's put these numbers in perspective by looking at some of the other things we might be doing with those dollars. Because a buck spent on guns is one less for butter.

### 1. POST-9/11 DEFENSE HIKES EQUAL FIVE TIMES THE "MEDICARE GAP"

Economist Dean Baker notes that "the projections in the Medicare Trustees report, as well as the CBO baseline budget, show that the program faces a relatively modest long-term shortfall." The amount of money needed to balance the program's finances over its 75-year horizon, he adds, "is less than 0.3 percent of GDP, approximately one-fifth of the increase in the rate of annual defense spending between 2000 and 2011."

### 2. AFGHANISTAN COSTS ALONE COULD PAY FOR 15.6 YEARS OF HEAD START

Head Start provides education, health, nutrition, and parenting services to low-income children and their families. It's an incredibly successful, effective and popular program, but there are only 900,000 places in the program for more than 2.5 million eligible kids. According to the National Priorities Project, what we've spent on the Afghanistan war so far could fund Head Start for all eligible children for the next 15.6 years.

### 3. COVERING THE UNINSURED

A 2007 study conducted by researchers at Harvard University estimated that 45,000 people die every year in the United States from problems associated with lack of coverage. The study found that "uninsured, working-age Americans have a 40 percent higher risk of death than their privately insured counterparts," even "after taking into account socioeconomic, health behaviors, and baseline health." According to NPP's analysis, the costs of the Afghanistan conflict alone could cover every uninsured American for 1.7 years.

### 4. CLOSING STATE BUDGET GAPS

Forty-six states face budget shortfalls in this fiscal year, totaling \$130 billion nationwide. The supplemental requests for fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan this year add up to \$170 billion - that doesn't include the Pentagon's base budget, nukes or Homeland Security.

### 5. IRAQ, JUST IN 2011

Iraq is still a bloody mess, with an insurgency still underway. But our politicians have declared victory and the media have largely moved on. That doesn't mean we won't spend almost \$50 billion on those "non-combat troops" which remain, however. What else could we do with that kind of scratch if we just brought them home? NPP tells us it would buy:

- 24.3 million children receiving low-income health care for one year, OR
- 726,044 elementary school teachers for one year, OR
- 829,946 firefighters for one year, OR
- 6.2 million Head Start slots for children for one year, OR
- 10.7 million households with renewable electricity -- solar photovoltaic for one year, OR
- 28.6 million households with renewable electricity-wind power for one year, OR
- 6.1 million military veterans receiving VA medical care for one year, OR

- 9.8 million people receiving low-income health care for one year, OR
- 718,208 police or sheriff's patrol officers for one year, OR
- 6.0 million scholarships for university students for one year, OR
- 8.5 million students receiving Pell grants of \$5,550

## THE BIG PICTURE

It's a tragic irony that so much of the discussion surrounding the public debt centers on "entitlements" like Social Security (which hasn't added a penny to the national debt) when we're still paying for Korea and Vietnam and Grenada and Panama and the first Gulf War and Somalia and the Balkans and on and on. Estimates of just how much of our national debt payments are from past military spending vary wildly. In 2007, economist Robert Higgs calculated it like this:

I added up all past deficits (minus surpluses) since 1916 (when the debt was nearly zero),

prorated according to each year's ratio of narrowly defined national security spending—military, veterans, and international affairs—to total federal spending, expressing everything in dollars of constant purchasing power. This sum is equal to 91.2 percent of the value of the national debt held by the public at the end of 2006. Therefore, I attribute that same percentage of the government's net interest outlays in that year to past debt-financed defense spending. When Higgs did that analysis four years ago, he came up with a figure of \$206.7 billion just in interest payments on our past military adventures.

*Joshua Holland is an editor and senior writer at AlterNet. He is the author of The 15 Biggest Lies About the Economy (and Everything else the Right Doesn't Want You to Know About Taxes, Jobs and Corporate America)*

Source: Alternet 5/30/11 <http://www.alternet.org/news/151119/>

## Contact Your Reps



Pres. Barack H. Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC 20500. 202-456-1414; [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

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)

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, One Post Street, Ste 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104. 415-249-0707; 331 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3841, [senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov)

Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-11th District) 2222 Grand Canal Blvd #7, Stockton, CA 95207. 209-476-8552. Fax 209-476-8587. 312 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington DC 20515; [info@jerrymcnerney.org](mailto:info@jerrymcnerney.org), 925-833-0643, <http://www.JerryMcNerney.org>

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. Dan Lungren (R-District 3), 2262 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515. 202-225-5716. Local office: 2334 Gold Meadow Way, Ste 220, Gold River, CA 95670. 916-859-9906.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, 2201 C St, NW Washington, DC 20520

Gov. Jerry Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2841

State Sen. Lois Wolk (District 5), 31 E Channel St, Room 440, Stockton, CA 95202. 209-948-7930; State Capitol, Rm 4032, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-651-4005

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

# The Gender Spectrum

Elena Kelly

"It's a boy!"

"It's a girl!"

These words have been uttered by new parents and doctors for generations at the birth of a child. Now there is a sophisticated technology that creates 3-D images of the baby in utero that have amazing clarity and create images that allow us to see the sex of the child far earlier than ever before.

I have a problem with that. Not the technology that permits an early peek into the womb, but rather the announcement that the child is a boy or a girl. The terms boy and girl are descriptive of gender, not sex, but most people do not understand the distinction. The sex of a child is evident at

birth as male, female, or intersex (a term that refers to a child born with both sets of genitals). Gender, however, is not evident at birth. It emerges around age three to five according to child development experts.

It doesn't sound as pleasing to the ear to say, "It's a male!" does it? I'm not on a crusade to get people to stop saying that. I am working to teach people the difference between the sex of a person and their gender. The reason is simple; I want people to learn to accept transgender children as readily as those who are not.

I used to teach that transgender people were an extremely small segment of the population, roughly one in ten thousand births. But according to a recent UCLA study, if you have a room with 57 random people in it, it's

likely that two will be gay or lesbian. For transgender people, you need a room with 333 random folks in it for there to be one transgender person.

This disparity came about because for years there were no accurate numbers, and even this latest study probably underestimates the number of transgender people because so many of us are hiding in a self-imposed closet. Many go to their deaths, and some take their own life, without ever disclosing to another human being that they are transgender.

So what does all that have to do with babies being born female/male or girl/boy? Four months ago a baby named Storm was born in Toronto to parents who already had two male children. They refused to divulge the sex of this baby to anyone, even keeping the

baby's grandparents in the dark. Radical? Maybe so, but listen to Storm's mother and father (Kathy and David) have to say.

David was quoted as saying, "If you really want to get to know someone, you don't ask what's between their legs." Kathy said, "In fact, in not telling the gender of my precious baby, I am saying to the world, 'Please can you just let Storm discover for him/herself what s/he wants to be?!.'" The parents have been vilified in the press. "Knowingly or not, all parents make decisions for their young children regarding gender norms. Those that snub popular standards, however well-intentioned they may be, do so at their peril," wrote one commentator.

Who says that girls have to like pink anyway, or that there is something wrong with a boy that does? The fact is that the child will grow up and choose his/her gender. The parents may be an influence, but so will his/her siblings, friends, teachers and surroundings. Perhaps he/she will decide that the gender that he/she is does not match his/her body. Perhaps not.

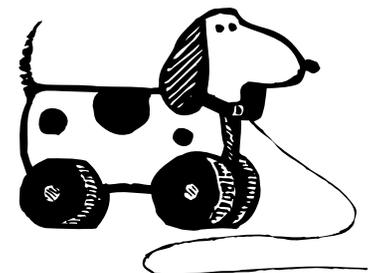
One thing is sure, and that is that homophobia and transphobia are rampant in our culture. Boys get teased and bullied for wearing pink, and are very fearful of being seen as girly. Every day children are being told, "that's for girls," or "only boys do that." Why should anyone care? Can we not accept that there is a spectrum of behavior and allow our kids the freedom to live wherever they are most comfortable on that spectrum?

The gay and lesbian community has done a wonderful job of changing societal attitudes around

homosexuality. Gender identity and expression is the next hurdle we need to face as a society. By enforcing gender roles on our children we tend to deemphasize those things that we all have in common.

God didn't just make night and day. There is dawn and dusk, and every shade of light and dark in between. The sooner we can accept the gender spectrum, the sooner transgender children and adults can live their lives free of bullying, harassment, and the threat of violence. Storm's parents get it, and they are giving their child a precious gift of choice that most children will not have. Whether girl or boy, this child has certainly been well named. Through her/him, the storm of ignorance around gender is being brought into our social consciousness.

*Rev. Elena Kelly is a minister to the people of Stockton and the Central Valley, and is the Director of the Stockton Transgender Alliance. She can be reached at elena.kelly@comcast.net.*



## Become a PEACE PAL!

Please consider giving to PJN month by month. It will give us stable, predictable funding to continue providing our services. It's easy for you and cost-effective for us. Our website online donation is recommended for ease and convenience. Your monthly donation can be automatically withdrawn from your bank account.

### Monthly Giving Enrollment Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I accept your invitation to become a charter member of Peace Pals.

Here is my monthly pledge contribution of:

\$10     \$15     \$20     \$25     \$(Other) \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to donate by one of the following methods:

- U.S. mail; please send me envelopes
- Online donation through PJN website: [www.pjnsjc.org](http://www.pjnsjc.org) (click on donation button)
- Automatic Bank Transfer
- I've enclosed a check for my first contribution. Arrangements will be made by me with my bank for future pledges.

Mail checks to: Peace and Justice Network, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton CA 95204

*The Peace and Justice Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.*

## Place an ad in Connections!

Business card size (3.75 x 2) .....	\$35
3.75 x 4.....	\$65
3.75 x 6.....	\$96
1/2 page.....	\$220
Full page.....	\$425

Discounts for longer terms and nonprofits available. Send camera-ready copy to: [bgjudici@caltel.com](mailto:bgjudici@caltel.com) or PJN, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton 95204

# Police state - in your town

Cindy Sheehan

*Totalitarianism is patriotism institutionalized.* —Steve Allen

“Patriotic” Americans are still berating me for “demeaning” my son’s “sacrifice.” A typical message goes something like this:

“Your son died to give you the right to spew your filth against this country. If it wasn’t for the military and people like your son, you wouldn’t have the freedom to protest.”

Oh, really? If I have the “freedom to protest” then why have I been arrested so many times and why did I have a four-month restraining order from protesting near the White House last year that would have landed my buns in jail for six months if I violated it? Why are activists still being arrested for solely exercising what used to be our fundamental rights?

In fact, attorney Bill Quigley has documented that more than 2,600 activists have been arrested since Obama was sworn in, in 2009.

The Constitutional Lawyer turned POTUS is committing atrocities against peace, justice and human rights at a pace that Bush and Cheney only dreamed possible. If Obama can’t have one of us arrested or executed on his orders, then he will gladly diagnose our principled questioning as a mental disorder. Obama even told Steve Pelley of 60 Minutes that if any American dare question his obvious lies around the death of Osama bin Laden, then he/she should have “their heads examined.”

I find it extremely interesting that the fundamental values of peace, truth, and justice have been turned into a mental disorder by the POTUS who, as I have pointed out before, has committed innumerable atrocities against these values. However, what I am finding increasingly alarming is the USA’s rapid descent into a police state.

## HERE WE ARE

On June 7th, my sister and I were driving from Sacramento to Los Angeles on I-5 - this is a trip that both she and I have made dozens of times since my family moved near Sacramento in 1993. We almost immediately noticed the

elevated presence of cop ‘copters hovering over the interstate and over nearby communities. Neither of us had ever witnessed so many military convoys and such a police presence in any of the previous times we made the trip. We speculated what it could be all about and I even had to come to a complete stop on I-105 when it looked like a Los Angeles Sheriff’s ‘copter was about to land on the roof of my car. Hmm, there is definitely a shift happening, but it’s often hard to pin things down.

Well, the very next day I learned about two events that shocked even me - I thought the Empire couldn’t shock me, but I was wrong.

The very day that my sister and I were traveling the length of our gorgeous state, a Stockton, California man was having his door broken down by what he thought was a SWAT Goon Squad.

According to Kenneth Wright, a single father of three young children ages 3, 7 and 11; he heard some commotion outside his Stockton home, so he looked out his upstairs window and saw 15 cops that looked like members of SWAT. Before he could get downstairs to the door, they had battered it down and entered his home. Wright spent the next six hours handcuffed in the back of a cop car with his three frightened children.

Is Kenneth Wright the alleged murderer of thousands of brown people in the Middle East and North Africa? Has this scoundrel cheated millions of people out of their retirement/life savings? Did Mr. Wright authorize the use of torture, or even invade one country illegally?

No, of course not. It turns out that the cops who broke down Mr. Wright’s door, brutalizing him and traumatizing his children, weren’t local or state law enforcement, but an Education Goon Squad that had been granted some kind of vicious police state authority because Mr. Wright’s ex-wife allegedly committed “fraud” on her student loans. How many of us have student loans that are in danger of being defaulted on because we can’t find a job? The primary question is, though, why do most of us have to commit ourselves to years of debt to get a University education which should be free in the most wealthy country in the world?

The scandal of the rising cost

and increasing inaccessibility of higher education can be directly related to the oppression and exploitation of the people that handle Obama like the Marionette that he is. If the above story doesn’t terrify you, then what about this one:

In the wee hours of Memorial Day, cops in Miami were involved in a high-speed chase that ended with the injuries of four innocent bystanders and the shooting execution of the SUSPECT. Witnesses to the crimes of the PD videotaped the entire incident and were then, themselves, subjected to police brutality as the Miami cops held guns to their heads and smashed their cell phones. Luckily, one of the victims had the presence of mind to secure the sim card of his phone in his mouth.

Ask yourself: “How terrified would I be if I just witnessed cops brutally shooting a man to death, then holding a gun to my head?”

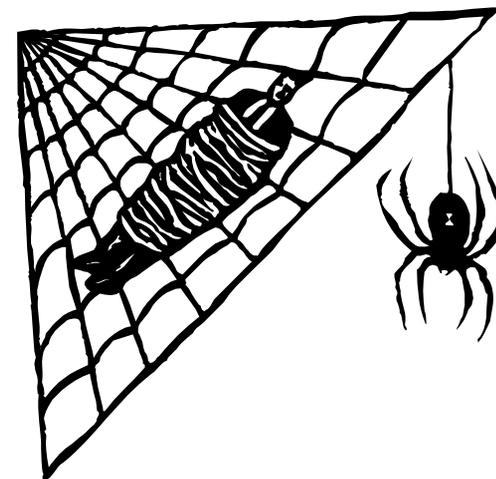
Incidentally, the Miami PD has also recently been involved in arresting activists from the organization Food Not Bombs for having the audacity to feed the area’s homeless.

The Robber Class obviously doesn’t want hungry people fed, sick people healed, uneducated people schooled, homeless people housed, or poor people prosperous. Their agenda is total domination of the world’s resources and complete income inequality in our own country.

The next time you fly and either have to subject your body to unacceptable levels of radiation in one of the Pervo-Scanners or get molested by the TSA - think to yourself: “This is how it starts - my nation is being turned into a police state with nary a whimper.”

At least I loudly protest these violations when I fly, and I educate everyone within earshot (including the TSA) that Michael Chertoff (former director of the NSA under Bush) profits from the full-body X-ray machines in airports. The last time I was being illegally molested by a TSA agent because I refused to go through one of the Pervo-Scanners she said: “Am I hurting you?” And I answered: “Yes, you are beating the crap out of my 4th Amendment.”

The above stories illustrate that we no longer even have the pretense to the rights to privacy or against illegal search and seizure. Even if the state grants



warrants, or passes laws that our privates are now fair game for government perversity, oftentimes these laws directly contravene the Constitution. However, with the recent reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT ACT, the Constitution has again been rendered “null and void.”

The obvious solution to what ails our nation is to end the wars and invest part of the money in education - forgive student loans and provide free/low-cost university education to everyone in this country. Ending the wars will not only have a positive effect on our economy, but we won’t be creating enemies faster than

we can kill them, so all of this jack-booted police state thuggery would not be necessary.

With the profit motive being so tempting to the Robber Class, it seems like one of the only recourses left to us now is to film everything that happens around us and hide the sim cards of our phones in one of our body’s crevices - we can at least be witnesses to and document Obama’s rush to total totalitarianism.

*Source: Reader Supported News 6/11/11, from <http://www.michaelmoore.com/words/mike-friends-blog/police-state-much>*

## War and Peace

by Max Vargas

Their Eyes Were Watching God...Atlas Shrugged.  
The Plague--War of the Worlds.

The Good Soldier...At the Mountains of Madness.  
The Age of Innocence--Gone With the Wind.

The Secret Agent...The Catcher in the Rye.  
The Ambassadors--Of Human Bondage.

The Sound and the Fury...Fear.  
A Stranger In a Strange Land--Enemy of the People.

The Heart of the Matter...Catch 22.  
For Whom the Bell Tolls--Les Miserables.

The Grapes of Wrath...Of Mice and Men.  
The Way of All Flesh--In Cold Blood.

A Handful of Dust...As I Lay Dying.  
From Here to Eternity--Darkness at Noon.

The Awakening...This Side of Paradise ?  
In Our Time--A Farewell to Arms ?

# Tahrir Square comes home...a proposal

John Morearty

## D-DAY:

October 6, 2011, the tenth anniversary of the US war on Afghanistan.

## LOCATION:

Freedom Plaza in Washington D.C., between the White House and the Capitol.

The trumpet's been sounded, calling fifty thousand people to occupy Freedom Plaza, starting October 6. On the website "October2011.org", many individuals and organizations have already taken this pledge:

"I pledge that if any U.S. troops, contractors, or mercenaries remain in Afghanistan on Thursday, October 6, 2011, as that occupation goes into its 11th year, I will commit to being in Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C., with others on that day with the intention of making it our Tahrir Square, Cairo, our Madison, Wisconsin, where we will NONVIOLENTLY resist the corporate machine until our resources are invested in human needs and environmental protection instead of war and exploitation. We can do this together. We will be the beginning."

## WHO WILL CAMP OUT IN WASHINGTON?

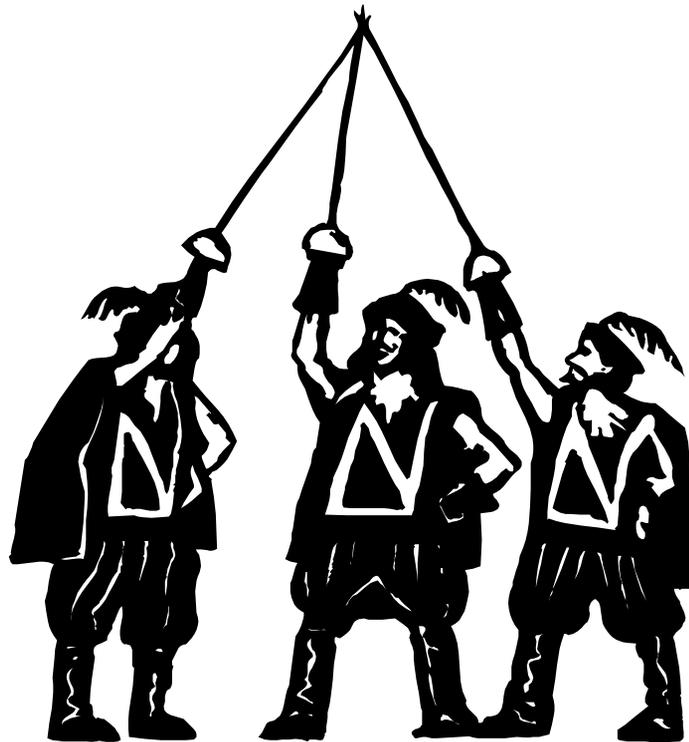
This we know:

*Ongoing nonviolent witness has great power.*

*When it spreads to many places, even more so.*

Some history: This "Arab spring," the peaceful uprising in Tunisia and the long occupation of Tahrir Square in Cairo broke dictatorships, and still inspires uprisings around the Middle East. The long occupation of the capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin is sparking recalls of union-busting lawmakers. Madison in turn inspired actions around the U.S. in support of working people, including 200 people who marched singing through Stockton City Hall on April 4.

In 1931, Gandhi's Salt March actions all over India shook the foundations of the British Raj. In the early sixties, lunch counter sit-ins and voter registration campaigns in the American South



broke Jim Crow, and led to the voting rights law of 1965.

In 1969, the "October 15 Moratorium" against the Vietnam War brought millions of Americans into the streets, in hundreds of American cities and towns. President Nixon scowled,

"Now, I understand that there has been, and continues to be, opposition to the war in Vietnam on the campuses and also in the nation. As far as this kind of activity is concerned, we expect it, however under no circumstances will I be affected whatever by it." But Nixon changed his mind when the "November 15 Moratorium" called forth millions more, all over the country. He writes in his memoirs that he had planned to drop nuclear weapons on North Vietnam that fall. But the immense outpouring convinced him that the American people would not tolerate that.

## SO HISTORY SHOWS US THE WAY.

Here's my suggestion:

Here in Stockton, starting Thursday October 6, let us create our own Freedom Plaza for an immediate end to the Afghanistan War. Let's make our own Tahrir Square, in conscious solidarity with the thousands in Washington,

We could gather every day, maybe all afternoon, at the "customary demonstrating spot" along the grassy edge of the Delta campus, across from Elephant Bar and Sherwood Mall. That's where dozens of us have waved "Afghanistan=Vietnam" and "Honk for Peace" signs every Thursday for years. Those honks have been multiplying. (As our flag-waving Barre Stadtner says, "you know you're succeeding when the honking gets annoying!") More and more local people have come to recognize that this Afghan war is folly, draining our blood and treasure, making enemies not peace. Congressman Jerry McNerney recognizes it too; this spring he ended his support for the Afghan war. He voted (with 92 others) to stop funding it by the end of 2011.

So the time is right, the moment is now. As the Washington pledge says,

*"We can do this together. We will be the beginning."*

Let's talk with our friends, our churches, our clubs and organizations, our labor unions, our businesses. Perhaps different groups could each take responsibility for a day, to bring their members out to demonstrate for peace at our very own Tahrir

Square, our Freedom Plaza. For information, or to help put this together, contact John Morearty, 464-3326, john@morearty.com, or Mario D'Angeli, 477-4015, ROLABAL@aol.com.

Twitter, email. That's how Tahrir Square happened.

Let's bring the troops home, now. There's work to be done in America.

PS: If this idea strikes a spark, spread the word to friends in other cities and towns! Facebook,



## HydroVeggies.com

Year-Round Organic Hydroponic Gardening Supplies

Online retail resource:  
<http://www.hydroveggies.com>

Phone: 866-266-4953  
Fax: 209-931-5708  
E-mail: [tgerber@hydroveggies.com](mailto:tgerber@hydroveggies.com)

Tamara Gerber



Now a proud distributor for AeroGrow Worldwide

WALDO HOLT SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY PROUDLY PRESENTS

# the 4th Annual WALDO MUSIC FEST

Postponed 'till  
**September 2011**

3536 RAINIER AVE, STOCKTON  
on the Banks of the Calaveras River  
**THREE 'til 8 PM**

Food, Art  
Silent Auction  
Music & More!



**ONLY \$20  
KIDS FREE!**  
*No Credit Cards,  
Please*

Music by  
**DIRK HAMILTON  
STEPHANIE D TRIO  
BEN VOGEL  
and KATIE HELL**

for MORE INFORMATION:  
check out "Waldo Music Fest" on Facebook  
visit [waldoconservancy.org](http://waldoconservancy.org)  
or call 209.463.0216

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE WALDO HOLT SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

# July Calendar

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

## June 7-30

Tidewater Artists presents Small Works & Beyond. M-F 10-5. Reception June 10, 5-8 pm. Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave., Stockton. 463-4033.

## Wed, Jun 22

Concert in the Park featuring Tropical Nights. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave., Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

## June 20 - July 29

Summer Zoofari Camp, 9 am - noon. Micke Grove Zoo, 11793 Micke Grove Rd., Lodi. Hands-on activities, live animal presentations, create work, discover animals. \$75 members, \$85 non. Info 331-2010.

## June 20 - July 23

DeltaFusion at UOP, 9 am - 5 pm. Celebrating Stockton's cultural diversity, with story telling, workshops on environmental practices and cultural beliefs, culminating in a parade and performance. Info on Facebook, [deltafusion.wordpress.com](http://deltafusion.wordpress.com) or 946-3097.

## June 23-July 20

SJ Delta College Regional Artists Group Show: photography, paintings, etchings, ceramics, and glass. T,W,Th 11 am - 5:30 pm. Reception June 23, 5-7 pm. LH Horton Jr Gallery, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave., Stockton. 954-5507.

## Sat, June 25

Solar Cooking at Oak Grove Nature Center, 2 - 4 pm. Bev Blum, former Exec. Director of Solar Cookers International, will present. Oak Grove Regional Park, 4520 W Eight Mile Rd., Stockton. \$5 parking. 953-8814.

## Mon, June 27

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.

## Wed, June 29

Concert in the Park featuring the Valley Concert Band. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave., Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

## Wed-Sun

### June 29-July 24

42nd Street. Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton \$15 - \$25. 473-2424. [www.setlivetheatre.com](http://www.setlivetheatre.com)

## Wed, July 6

Concert in the Park featuring the Would Be Famous Band. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave., Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

## Thu, July 7

Peace & Justice Network board meeting, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd., Stockton. 6:30 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

## Sat, July 9

Astronomy in the Park, 8 - 11 pm. Telescopes provided by the Stockton Astronomical Society. Oak Grove Regional Park, 4520 W Eight Mile Rd., Stockton. \$5 parking. 953-8814.

## Tue, July 12

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 7 - 9 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd., Stockton. All welcome. 467-4455

## Wed, July 13

Concert in the Park featuring RB/X. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave., Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

## Wed, July 20

Concert in the Park featuring the Swingaires. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave., Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

## First Mondays

Campaign for Common Ground meeting, 7 pm, Towers Building, 509 W Weber Ave., Stockton. [ccgmemb@gmail.com](mailto:ccgmemb@gmail.com)

## Fourth Mondays

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.

## Second Tuesdays

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 7-9 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd., Stockton. 467-4455.

## Second Thursdays

Single Payer San Joaquin meeting, 6:30 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd., Stockton. [bailey\\_heasj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bailey_heasj@sbcglobal.net)

## Fourth Saturdays

Greater Lodi Area Democrats (GLAD) breakfast meeting, 8:30 am, Dee Dee's Family Dining, 1170 S. Cherokee Ln., Lodi. 209-663-3717

## Mondays

Jazz at the Blackwater 8:30-11 pm. Mike Rocha, Rick Russell, Giulio Cetto, Michael Klooster and more. Acacia & Yosemite, Stockton.

## Thursdays

More honks for peace! Peace demo, Pacific Ave edge of Delta campus, north of light & bus stop at Yokuts. 5 pm. Parking at mall across the street. Signs available, or bring your own. Bring a friend! Info Patrick Wall, 954-5438.

Dinner and a show, 6:30 - 9:30. Blackwater Cafe, Acacia & Yosemite, Stockton.

## Saturdays

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

*Volunteers needed to distribute Connections to well-established routes. About two hours per month. Easy and fun! Call Dean or Marcia Savage, 209-339-1599.*

# Tidewater Art Gallery remaining open

The Tidewater Art Center and Gallery will remain in its current location in downtown Stockton for the near future. Discussion was made about leaving its current site and moving to an interim location in cooperation with the San Joaquin County Administration Building while it looked for a new permanent home. An anonymous donor stepped up recently with a contribution to help the gallery keep up with expenses for the upcoming months. The gallery will begin developing a new fiscal plan and strategy for its continued growth over the upcoming years. In cooperation with the San Joaquin County Administration, the Tidewater Gallery now has recently expanded its wall space beyond the original gallery. Friday, June 10th the Gallery hosted a reception for its most recent exhibit "Small Works and Beyond" and next month on July 14th Whirlow's Tossed and Grill on the Miracle Mile will host a fundraiser with the Tidewater Art Center, contributing 20 percent of funds raised to the Gallery. In addition, Tidewater is actively looking to grow its Board of Directors and artist members and is now accepting applications from interested parties.

The Tidewater Art Gallery has recently hired Patricia Jordan Rutan as Managing Director to oversee the gallery's operations. Patricia has a Master's Degree in Arts Administration from New York University and a Bachelor's degree from UCLA. After spending three years in the Peace Corps in Romania working to launch one of the first arts-in-education NGOs in the country, she worked in development with Manhattan Theatre Club, a Broadway theatre company in New York City and at The Drawing Center, a gallery/museum in SoHo. Patricia will be working closely with the Board of Directors to continue to raise funds and develop a new campaign to ensure the longevity of the gallery, implement new education initiatives, and partnerships with fellow organizations within the local community.

The Tidewater Art Center and Gallery is a cooperative of local artists and a strong member of the downtown business community, having existed in its current location across from the county courthouse on Weber Street since its opening in October 2000. Its mission is to encourage awareness of and an appreciation for the arts, to sponsor education of the arts and to facilitate creation, instruction and display of the arts. The gallery exists on community support through those who get involved with fundraisers, volunteerism, and donations.

## June 20 - July 29 Micke Grove Zoofari - signup time

Winter blues got you down? Well spring into summer at Micke Grove Zoo's Summer Camp 2011! Summer time means Zoofari! camp time and this year's themes will excite, engage and inspire your child. Discover zoo animals, learn about habitat conservation, engage in hands-on activities, see live animal presentations, and create art. Zoofari! camp sessions will be offered from June 20th - July 29th for children ages 4 - 12 years. For more information on how your child can have a "WILD" summer, visit [www.mgzoo.com](http://www.mgzoo.com) or call (209) 331-2010.

## Talking It Through

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

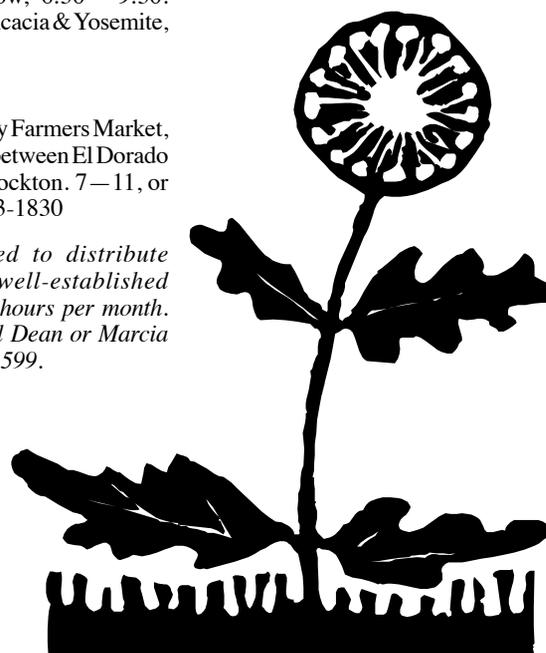
Peace & Justice Network sponsors two half-hour shows:

"Let's Talk" hosted by Margee Ensign features speakers at University of the Pacific and elsewhere documentaries of important community meetings and events. Mondays 6 pm

"Talking It Through" hosted by Sammy Nunez features live discussions of important community issues, especially with young people. Mondays at 6:30 pm.

Both shows are produced by Peace and Justice volunteer Vince Kotecki on SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26.

For up to the minute listings of current shows, see our website: [www.pjnsj.org](http://www.pjnsj.org), click on Talking It Through.



## State of the hood

...Continued from page 1

investment in law enforcement are not the only way to reduce crime. Other crime-reducing factors include a reduction in unemployment; an increase in real wages; increased educational attainment; a decrease in the demand for crack cocaine (e.g. through preventive programs for youth).

Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ) and its partners are committed to preventive programs, contributing to a society-wide effort to address issues such as educational inequality and high employment among Boys and Men of Color. We want to get at the root causes of crime and incarceration through an approach that "Heals the Hood, Changes these Odds" and builds a united society — not one divided by prison walls.

Consider the following social economic disparities which ultimately contribute to the higher incarceration rate of Boys and Men of Color:

- About 36% of San Joaquin County's population was Latino, yet Latinos constituted 52% of SJC's low-income population.

- About 7% of the county's population was African American, yet African Americans constituted

29% of the county's low-income population.

- About 40% of the county's population was white, but whites constituted only 20% of SJC's low-income population.

- In 2000 black children made up 15.1 percent of the children in this country but 36.6 percent of the children in the child welfare system.

- Nearly 60 percent of our nation's children who live in foster care are children of color.

- The 2011 Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equality report states that there is "hard evidence that parents of color are no more likely than white parents to abuse or neglect their children."

- African Americans continue to be the most over-represented group among persons sentenced for a felony conviction, represented at 4.5 times their proportion in the population.

- Caucasians continue to receive sentences to the First Time Offender Waiver at higher rates than people of color. Hispanics and African Americans receive the Waiver at the lowest rates.

- Children of certain groups have victimization rates per 1,000 children (Pacific Islanders—17.6; American Indians/Alaska Natives—15.5; and African Americans—19.9) that are twice

as high as white (10.7) children (U.S. DHHS, 2006).

- Various studies over the past twenty years have found that minority children are reported for abuse more than white children, and that abuse/neglect for white children, when it does actually occur, is less likely to be reported.

- The county's 07-08 drop-out rate for African Americans was 150% higher than for whites.

- The drop-out rate for Pacific Islanders was 93% higher than for Whites

- The drop-out rate for Hispanics was 64% higher than for Whites.

- The drop-out rate for Asians was 21% higher than for Whites

- Latinos make up about 32% of the state's adult population but only 17% of the registered voters who are likely future voters based on their past voting behavior.

- Many Latino adults are not U.S. citizens and are thus ineligible to vote; only 31% of Latino adults are considered likely voters, compared to 75% of whites, 59% of blacks, and 49% of Asians.

- Asians also make up a smaller share of likely voters than their share in the adult population (6% vs. 13%)

- African Americans represent 6% of both residents and likely voters.

- In contrast, whites constitute 47% of the state's adult population--but the constitute 68% of the state's likely voters.

In 2010 Fathers & Families of San Joaquin launched the Healing the Hood, Changing the Odds Campaign to strengthen vulnerable communities and families in Stockton. The overarching goals of this effort were to: 1. Carry out policy and systems, changing activities that decrease structural barriers affecting people of color and low income communities; 2. Mobilize the community and increase the participation of underserved and underrepresented people in collective activities that facilitates health and healing; 3. Empower communities through advocacy training and advocate that values consistent with the empowerment of people of color be reflected in the activities of the legislative process; 4. Develop a framework among stakeholders that will guide a collaborative effort to

## Truth, justice - the Connections way

It actually started before 1986 - when the nuclear freeze movement needed a messenger and Ellen Lyons started a newsletter for activists. She found support among the many protesting at that time - and both Connections and the Peace & Justice Network were born.

In 1986, when Laurie Litman took to editing a real tabloid newspaper 10 times a year, Iran-Contra was in the news; computers were big, slow and not networked. In practice, Connections was printed onto ledger-sized sheets, the copy and advertising cards were cut and hot-waxed onto huge gridlined pages, and then driven to Herberger Publications in Galt for printing. Over the 5 years of Laurie's editorship, circulation grew and the community became more involved.

Into the 1990's, as the first Gulf war spun down, Laurie handed over the editorship to Marjie Fries, while continuing to do layout along with Alexandra Conner. The technology progressed, although we still made the monthly trip to Galt and to the post office to deliver the papers. Janet Tucker's Woodshed in Stockton was a great distribution point. Adding Marjie's artist sensibility to the paper brought new readership - and Connections thrived.

Of course, Bush begat Clinton and, in 1996, Bruce Giudici began his editorship of Connections - and Laurie came back to do layout. Though Bruce's economist lens on the news, the paper has since included more information on fiscal injustices, as well as the environment in which they occur. Technology now allows edited copy to be emailed between editor and layout person; the paper is emailed to Herburger, which now delivers the papers to the post office and to the Greens store in Stockton. Just this year, Luis Gonzalez began doing the layout for Connections: the next issue will reflect the new look he brings to the paper.

Regretably, the issues of 25 years past remain with us - but, with quality information, Connections readers can effect long and lasting change - as they have done in the past.

### ACTION:

Please come to our 25th anniversary celebration on August 6 (see page 1). We have a lot to be proud of - and 25 more years of history to create.

## connections

Would you like Connections delivered to your home? It's FREE!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Peace & Justice Network, Box 4123,  
Stockton, CA 95204 (209) 467-4455

Peace & Justice Network does not sell or donate our mailing list. Connections is supported by donations and advertisers.

empower youth and adults from marginalized communities.

The underlying themes of the project were: 1) Intentional involvement and engagement of youth & communities of color as stewards of the community. 2) Community healing and spirituality preserved, respected, shared & explored. 3) Bridging ethnic divides; promote racial healing through cross-cultural and inter-generational learning.

If we can address these issues, it is impossible to imagine that we would fail to decrease crime and incarceration among Boys and Men of Color. We are committed to drawing on the strengths of communities and systems in order to find solutions, and we're excited about the future. Things can only get better! Join us, and let's "Heal the Hood and Change

these Odds" together.

Please call us if you would like further information or would care to join a Community Network of groups and individuals who will move an agenda forward in our community focused on shaping a world in which young people thrive, supported by communities that nurture their development toward their full potential. We look forward to hearing from you. Please call us at: (209) 941-0701. Email us at: youthmatter@ffsj.org.

In Health & Community!  
Fathers & Families of San Joaquin,  
PO Box 30674, Stockton, CA  
95213