

# connections

PRICELESS

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## Stockton Unified School District Board of Education

### Forging a new direction

[These interviews with new SUSD board members Gloria Allen, Jose Morales and Colleen Boardman were conducted by Sammy Nunez, host of Talking It Through, which airs every Monday at 6:30 on cable channel 26 in Stockton, Lodi and Manteca. The show is sponsored by the Peace and Justice Network and Connections newspaper.]

we don't have an educated workforce all we're going to be doing is increasing the population of the jails, prison and poverty.

**What are the major challenges facing SUSD within your tenure? What are going to be the 3 biggest challenges? As a Board Member, how do you work to address those 3 issues?**

**Considering your life experiences, why did you run for school board.**

**Gloria Allen:** I have lived in this community 47 years, volunteered for 30+ years and I know the system... I was a part of the Parental Involvement Movement in SUSD back 30 years when it was really alive and thriving ...that's the key to educating our children.

**Jose Morales:** I am a product of Stockton Unified, my wife is an educator there, my sons attend there. I have a vested interest in the success of Stockton Unified.

**Colleen Boardman:** My daughter graduated Stagg 2001, I've always been involved in her school activities. I've worked for the county for 34 years in the welfare business. I've been in the homes, I've seen firsthand what a lack of education can do, where it leads and it's tragic. We spend millions of dollars on welfare, prisons, jails, probation and parole in this community. Let's roll it into schools, let's roll it into education. We'll attract better employers. If

**Gloria Allen:** The Governor wants to cut education. I feel we need to invest in education and we've got to be smart enough to go another way to get those funds and get that money in here; or get the in-kind services that we need too. Everybody needs to give back.

**Jose Morales:** First and foremost is the academic achievement. I think once we solve the academic achievement we will see that our drop out rates fall, our crime on campuses will drop.

**Colleen Boardman:** I truly believe that every child in the community belongs to everybody and that we all have an obligation to improve that community. Who's breaking into your houses, who's breaking into your cars and mugging you at the mall? It's not kids that are in school, kids that finish school. I'm passionate about having businesses come in and adopt schools and having people "adopt" so-called at-risk kids. Like a big brother, big sister program.



Gloria Allen



Jose Morales



Colleen Boardman

I think if we all took it upon ourselves to specifically go out and ask friends, acquaintances, business owners that we know, say 'hey, we have this specific need, would you consider doing this to help us' and here's the difference you can make and find something that they're interested in and find out what their passions are and try to work that in. Whether it be reading, writing, helping in the library, PE, performing arts, visual arts, vocational classes.

We can't do it without the community.

**Mr. Amato, the newly hired Superintendent, has outlined 6 goals for the next 4 years. What are your thoughts about them and how do we measure success?**

**Gloria Allen:** I've been a teacher, I know it's hard for teachers to keep changing. So if I was a teacher right now and working in one of the schools, I would not say "I can't do it," I would have a can do attitude and do it to the best of my

ability. But it hasn't been that long. We need to give him more time.

**Jose Morales:** I agree with his small learning communities where we're going to create college career pathways. I believe that the vocational ROP's are needed, because not everyone is set to go to college and not everyone wants to go to college. People want to come out and get a job and work and earn money and live the American dream. So I think we have to create programs that help both.

We need to make certain the budget cuts we make are furthest away from the classroom and do not affect the day to day activities of the teachers and the students.

**Colleen Boardman:** He's not wasting any time getting a Success for All reading program. I went to Tyler School in my area on Monday, and observed many of the Success for All reading classes that morning and it was terrific. It was exciting to see these kids working in their group. Listening to some

(continued page 10)

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# The turning tide

Bruce Giudici

Change accelerates daily. As our finances crumble around us, we continue to find solid ground in the progressive values that have supported us these long years. The small steps we see leaders making at all levels will need to be bolstered and supported beyond what was not even imaginable months ago. Beyond the Democrat-Republican divide lay a vision of a more sustainable world, so long as we continue to keep our eyes on what is vital to our communities. And there is hope out there.

At the Peace and Justice Network annual meeting held earlier this month, a very impressive group of over 30 activists inspired a tangible hope for the future as each described their plans for 2009. In this issue, you will read about groups of extraordinary people we all know, who need help to create a new future. From the Stockton Unified School District board (p 1), the San Joaquin Grassroots Action group (p 3) and the variety of groups focused on non-violent living (p 7), we have a beginning.

In order give that beginning

a future, we must participate. The re-building of a supportive community will take time—and perhaps a bit more sacrifice on behalf of the most well-off amongst us. For better or worse, higher unemployment means folks with more time to take meaningful volunteer action. Your time spent on important local issues can take some of the sting out of a lower paycheck—and refresh the meaning in your life left unfulfilled by market values. For those willing to take part, please make use of this locally produced newspaper to take action. Send in your articles by the 7th of each month, describing what you are doing now and in the future. Support our advertisers

Bruce Giudici,  
editor



whenever you can—and consider advertising, at advertising rates we've not changed for 15 years. Think about distributing this paper to existing and new places you visit. And if you have ideas on how to re-make an economy based on community values, pass them on. Barter, share, re-imagine a new world. The tide has turned—it's time to catch the wave and ride it out.

## A letter you might write

### On torture

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer

I applaud the efforts of President Obama and the new administration in issuing Executive Orders to close Guantanamo, ensure lawful interrogation and end extraordinary rendition and torture. These steps are a giant leap forward in waging a truly effective response in the conflict with Al Qaeda, and also to finally bringing the US back to the rule of law and its traditional role as a champion of international human rights and the Geneva Conventions. I am also heartened by President Obama's words "that we need to reject the false choice between safety and our ideals."

However, I am very concerned about the absence of any clear commitment from the administration to tell the truth to the American people about the development and conduct of US policies, which systematically created the rules, conditions, and climate that led to abuses of which Abu Ghraib is just one sorry chapter. Where these abuses have surfaced—why have we insisted on holding only those who are the most junior, and perhaps the least culpable, to the highest standards?

I am very concerned about the mixed messages that the administration is sending on accountability and seeking the truth. Eric Holder, the Attorney General, flatly stated that waterboarding is a crime and has traditionally been prosecuted as such by the US as a violation of the Geneva Conventions. Yet Leon Panetta, at his confirmation hearing to lead the Central Intelligence Agency, said that he is unwilling even to support an investigation let alone hold those responsible for criminal conduct to account.

The real story eludes us and until we are able to fully account for what happened, and why, the American people will be unable to understand and ultimately take responsibility for what was done in their name. The United States cannot have an effective voice in the world promoting democracy or human rights abroad if it denies its own fundamental values at home. It is time that we had the courage of our convictions and state that we can't go forward until we are prepared to confront the truth about the dark side of our past.

Sincerely,  
This *Connections* reader



## Open letter to library supporters

Dear Stockton2020 Supporter,

The future of Stockton2020's Libraries Change Lives Campaign movement to build a state-of-the-art library in Stockton rests on whoever succeeds Director of Library Services Nataltie Rencher, who was recently laid off. Since our public library system does not have a citizen governing board, as community members we need to make our voices heard if we want the brightest and most qualified replacement. We have drafted the letter below to voice our concerns. We urge you to email the letter to Mayor Ann Johnston and your city councilmember. There is a City Council meeting every Tuesday at 5:30pm. Use the time allotted for public comment to make your voice heard. Or contact Mayor Ann Johnston: mayor@ci.stockton.ca.us. City councilmembers: 937-8244.

Nabeel Cajee, Executive Director, Stockton 2020, Inc.  
www.Stockton2020.org

## Another letter you may write

Dear Mayor Johnston:

The need to appoint a new Director of Library Services for the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library system is upon us. Any new Director of Library Services will face the challenge of sustaining public library services in a time of extraordinary budget constraints. Stockton2020 is a youth-based civic advocacy group dedicated to empower youth to envision and promote a safer, healthier, and more prosperous community.

Mayor Johnston, we believe that a state-of-the-art, world-class library system is an essential building block to a transformed city. In the 21st century knowledge economy, where success depends on our educational systems, our libraries are crucial to a stronger economy and better quality of life.

Libraries play a critical role in helping people get back on their feet. In these perilous economic times, Stocktonians are more than ever turning to their libraries to job hunt, improve their resumes, or mull career changes. We believe, as generations of Americans before us, that public libraries are a primary component of the quality of life in any community. We believe that in order for our city's revitalization to succeed, we need to make our libraries a priority. We hope that the new Director of Library Services will be committed to building a state-of-the-art, world-class library system.

Yours Sincerely,

## Connections

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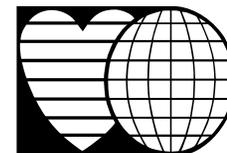
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Community Calendar: vacant

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

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

## Getting organized

# S.J. Co. says "Yes we can"

Are you fired up and ready to talk with your Congressman?

San Joaquin Grassroots Action (SJGA) began as an informal energetic network of San Joaquin activists committed to supporting the Presidential campaign of Barack Obama. We shared a desire to support change in the direction of our country and hope in a democratic government responsive to the needs of its citizens. SJGA worked hard registering new Democrats in San Joaquin County, staffing an all-volunteer office in Stockton, coordinating phone banks to GOTV in the battleground states and building a local grassroots organization for change. We rejoiced on Nov. 4 as the election results gave voice to a newly energized national movement that united to stand up, vote and reclaim America as a government for the people and by the people. While we made many gains here in San Joaquin county, SJGA members realized that our work has only begun. We must reach out to our elected Congressional Representatives and Senators now to support a legislative agenda for positive change.

SJGA invites all constituents of Congressional District 11 to come to a House Party and meet their Congressman Jerry

McNerney. We are holding 3 house parties in the month of February in Lodi, Stockton and Tracy, giving grassroots activists a great opportunity to dialogue with their Congressman in a social setting, as well as hear a report back on current legislative issues and concerns. The Lodi House Party is co-sponsored by SJGA, Lodi Democrats & Marriage Equality SJC Chapter and was held Saturday, Feb. 7 in the Lodi home of Cindy Harris. The Stockton House Party will take place Sunday, Feb. 22 at 1pm in the Edelstein residence: 6888 Atlanta Circle, Stockton, CA 95219. Please RSVP for Stockton event to Dick E. at E-mail: edelstein@gl-networks.com or 209-351-5857. The Tracy House Party will take place Sunday, Feb. 22 at 3 pm in the Austin residence: 165 Victoria St., Tracy, CA 95376. Please RSVP for Tracy event to Lea A. at E-mail: leae23-vote@yahoo.com or 510-290-8952.

Having built a diverse grassroots network of San Joaquin County political activists and community organizers, SJGA continues to work towards progress for San Joaquin County, combining a balance of political action and community service. Key issues identified by SJGA include: Health Care Reform, Economic

Recovery, Education Reform and Energy/Environment. We work with other community groups, activists and local elected officials to enact progress on critical community issues. Our San Joaquin county community service projects will focus on addressing the needs of poor women and children. We already coordinated a very successful Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 19 at St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services in Stockton and we have only begun to serve. During election cycles we will engage in electoral support work, including voter registration and community outreach, and actively campaign for candidates we endorse as responsive to community needs.

We meet once a month and encourage all interested members of the community to join our organizing efforts. The next SJGA meeting will be Monday, March 2 at 6 pm, in the Iguana Wanna Bar & Grill (7555 Pacific Ave., Stockton). If interested in SJGA, call (209) 598-6623. Working together, YES WE CAN create positive change and renew our democracy and our communities.

## Kucinich reintroduces Department of Peace bill with 62 cosponsors

Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) yesterday reintroduced legislation that would authorize a Cabinet-level Department of Peace.

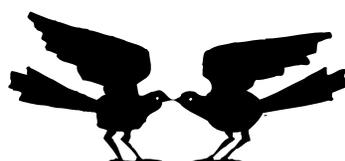
"It is well known that in times of economic difficulty violence increases. When relationships are strained by economic hardship, domestic violence, violent robbery and abuse of children and animals all increase. When the world is facing possibly the largest economic downturn since the Great Depression, now is not the time to ignore social issues and interpersonal relationships, now is

the time to make special attention to make sure that our relations and health do not suffer along with our pocket books," stated Kucinich.

The Cabinet-level Department authorized in the legislation embodies a broad-based approach to peaceful, non-violent conflict resolution at both domestic and international levels. The Department of Peace would serve to promote non-violence as an organizing principle in our society, and help to create the conditions for a more peaceful world.

"Peace is a foundational principle of this Congress and of this country. This bill gives it a chance to have an animating power in our civic life by addressing the issues of domestic violence, spousal abuse, child abuse, violence in the schools and racial violence," added Kucinich.

Source: Rep. Dennis Kucinich website 2/4/09



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## Contact Your Reps

Pres. Barack H. Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC 20500. 202-456-1414; 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

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

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, 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. Arnold Schwarzenegger, 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

# Can the middle class afford health care?

Vinh Pham

Among members of the middle class, it is commonly believed that if one gets a good job, one will receive good health benefits from one's employer. After all, having health benefits through one's employment is one of the distinguishing characteristics by which the tacitly snobby middle class separates itself from the lower class. But times have changed, and middle America is struggling. A March 2007 report published by the U.S. Department of Labor states that although 71% of workers in the private industry have access to some form of employer-sponsored medical benefits, only 52% of workers participate in such medical plans. In other words, nearly half of all workers in the private industry either have no health benefits whatsoever or do not participate in the health plan they are offered. And if the workers chose to participate in the health plan, they pay a monthly average of \$81.37 for single coverage and \$312.78 for family coverage. If the reader believes that the 52% figure is markedly low due to the inclusion of part time workers, s/he should take note that only 64% of all full time workers in the private sector participate in their employer sponsored health plan. Although not as grim as the 52% figure, by no means would one deem 64% to be good.

Indeed, having a job, even a full time job is by no means a guarantee towards any form of health care; thus, the middle class is increasingly finding itself on shaky grounds when it comes to health care. But that is not to say that there is not a solution to this problem. There is a solution, yet it does not lie in being able to buy affordable health insurance—for having health insurance is by no means a guarantee to health care. One must keep in mind that health insurance and health care are two separate entities that are only ostensibly related; they are not synonymous. The solution lies in single payer universal health care, and if the middle class wants health care, we must not sit around waiting for it as though by magic it will spring forth from

the magic box; instead, we must demand it.

Looking at the latest available data from the World Health Organization, only a handful of countries spend more than \$5000 per capita on health care. The United States is one of them at a whopping \$6,350 in 2005 (up from \$4,570 in 2000). In accordance with the mentality that bigger is better, this figure is the highest in the world. To put this number in perspective, consider these figures:

Luxembourg:	\$6,330
Switzerland:	\$5,694
France:	\$3,819
Canada:	\$3,430
UK:	\$3,064

We spend more than twice what the British do, and if we were silly enough to believe what the health insurance industry wants us to believe, the UK would be the land of socialized medicine, the scary bogeyman waiting to prey upon the citizens of the free world. With such an outrageously high figure of \$6,350 compared to the already scary socialized figure of \$3,064, perhaps we should consider reducing our expenditure on health care drastically lest we become a socialized nation ourselves. But what does the \$6,350 figure buy us? Does it provide us with better health care professionals? Does it provide us with superior health care facilities? A look at the data comparing five of the countries listed above to the United States points to no.

#### Nurses and midwife personnel per 10,000 people (2000-2006)

UK:	128
Switzerland:	110
Canada:	101
Luxembourg:	96
U.S.:	94
France:	80

#### Doctors per 10,000 people (2000-2006)

Switzerland:	40
France:	34
Luxembourg:	27
U.S.:	26
U.K.:	23
Canada:	19

#### Hospital beds per 10,000 people (2000-2007)

France:	73
Luxembourg:	63
Switzerland:	57
U.K.:	39
U.S.:	32
Canada:	23

Number one in health care expenditures, the U.S. was ranked 37th in overall health system performance in 2000:

#### Overall Health System Performance Ranking (2000)

France:	1
Luxembourg:	16
U.K.:	18
Switzerland:	20
Canada:	30
U.S.:	37

Indeed, to think that our health care system is satisfactory and that we should continue on the same path of health insurance as the answer to health care is delusional. At the heart of the issue is the irrefutable fact that the health insurance industry is a for-profit venture. Their priority is making money, not providing health care. Health care is simply a means through which the industry makes money, not the goal which it seeks to attain. This reality of life thus leads to only one conclusion: the health insurance industry must be taken out of the picture, and a new system of single payer universal health care must be erected.

Simply put, single payer universal health care is a system in which one entity (the government) collects and pays for health care. In this system, everyone has access to health care, regardless of employment. There is no need to worry about pre-existing conditions, co-pays, deductibles, and so forth. Yet the reader might ask, "Where will the money come from to pay for all this?" And the answer is simple: taxes. We can either pay the insurance industry as we already do now, getting less and less for the high prices which it charges, or, instead of paying the insurance industry, we can take this money and pay taxes to achieve health care for everyone.

Having health insurance is by no means a guarantee to health care. One must keep in mind that health insurance and health care are two separate entities that are only ostensibly related; they are not synonymous.

Do we pay insurance in order to get education? Water service? Roads? Postal service? Why then, must we continue to pay the insurance industry vast amounts of money to get health care? And how is it that we spend \$6,350 per capita on health care, yet there are 47 million people in the States without access to health care and our overall health system ranking is 37th? Single payer universal health care is our best solution.

In Congress, HR 676 (a bill that would provide single payer universal health care) is slowly gaining ground, yet President Obama has yet to support the measure. Here in California we had SB 840, which passed the Legislature in 2008 only to be vetoed by the Governor.

The title of this article asks a simple question: "Can the middle class afford health care?" And the answer is clearly drifting towards "No." Faced with the increasing cost of health insurance, employers will slowly phase out what it pays for premiums, and workers will sooner rather than later pay for everything ourselves. Thus, it is past the time when the middle class can afford to stand back and think, "That won't happen to me." The reality is that it will happen, and in this critical time we must not be complacent and do nothing. We must demand single payer universal health care; we must demand it from our Legislature to pass SB 840 and pressure the Governor to sign it into law, and we must do it collectively. Yet this

is only the first step towards our goal, for an active and watchful citizenry is a prerequisite towards democratic ideals, and in these crucial times, it is all the more important.

To get involved in getting single payer universal health care, contact Jerry & Carol Bailey at 209 951-0499 or [cjbhcfasj@hotmail.com](mailto:cjbhcfasj@hotmail.com) (calling is better).

#### References & Further Reading

U.S. Department of Labor. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. National Compensation Survey: Employee Benefits in Private Industry in the United States, March 2007 <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ebs2.nr0.htm>

World Health Organization. World Health Statistics 2008 <http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/2008/en/index.html>

World Health Organization. The World Health Report 2000 <http://www.who.int/whr/2000/en/index.html>

Kao-Ping Chua. American Medical Student Association (AMSA). Single Payer 101 <http://www.amsa.org/uhc/uhcres.cfm>

Health Care for All California. SB 840: Frequently asked Questions <http://www.healthcareforall.org/faqs.html>  
Websites for getting involved with the issue

One Care Now <http://www.onecarenow.org/>

Guaranteed Health Care <http://guaranteedhealthcare.org/>

# Where does health care go now?

On December 18, a group of Obama supporters met to respond to Obama's request for feedback on his healthcare plan. These are the responses that were generated and sent to the Obama transition team.

### 1. Briefly, from your own experience, what do you perceive is the biggest problem in the health system?

A major problem is that the American health insurance system is not a health care system and is profit-driven and costly. This results in a lack of quality, access and affordable cost of care. We see our friends and others at the Food Bank, St. Mary's Dining Hall and on street corners who don't have the same health insurance as those who are covered by insurance at work or who are able to purchase individual coverage. Every man, woman and child in the U.S. deserves access to preventive health care and ongoing treatment and diagnostic services, including drug coverage, plus tests ordered by their medical practitioner. HR676 (Conyers) addresses these issues and would provide cost-effective, quality, universal, comprehensive health care for all American citizens.

### 2. How do you choose a doctor or hospital? What are your sources of information? How should public policy promote quality health care providers?

We don't. The consumer's insurance provider chooses both doctors and hospitals for participants in their insurance programs. Also, the participant in the insurance plan does not know the quality of the hospital nor the skill of the doctors that are provided in the insurance plan that the participant has purchased because the health care industry is shrouded in secrecy. In addition, there is no available record "up front" of the rate of success of the medical procedures performed by the doctors and the hospitals covered by the insurance plan. HR676 (Conyers) would address these issues better than today's private health insurance companies,

hospitals, and doctors who are looking to make profits from the patients. Health care providers in a single-payer government-financed insurance will need to be in training immediately to accommodate the huge influx of people who have been in "delayed maintenance" mode because of lack of access or funds for medical treatment.

### 3. Have you or your family members ever experienced difficulty paying medical bills? What do you think policy makers can do to address this problem?

Yes, one participant reported a family member had suffered a possible life-threatening illness while on vacation and was taken to the nearest hospital (in Lodi, CA) and treated on an emergency basis. The insurance carrier refused to pay the bill because the Lodi hospital was "out of network." The patient received a \$47,000 bill for medical services provided over a four-hour period.

Another participant reported a family member who had no insurance coverage and was too well employed to qualify for MediCal and too young to qualify for Medicare. This member is diabetic and does not have money to purchase medication. She waits until she goes into a diabetic coma and is taken to the county hospital. She then receives medical treatment and is given prescriptions to fill. She, of course, does not have the funds to fill the prescriptions and goes back to work at her minimum wage job to wait for another diabetic episode.

Another discussant reported standing in the line at a pharmacy behind a young woman with three children. When the woman received the prescriptions, she did not have enough to cover the "co-pays" for all the prescriptions, so, of course, she chose to pay for the children's and left her own for a later time—after she had another paycheck. One of her prescriptions was for Vicoden, a powerful pain killer.

Another discussant related an experience of being in a business office where a woman was holding a baby with a very severe cough.

When asked why she hadn't taken the child to a doctor, the mother replied that even though she was employed, she had no health insurance and was forced to wait until the child was "sick enough" to be seen and provided care at the emergency room of the county hospital.

One participant mentioned that too many people are forced to declare bankruptcy because of enormous health care bills. Another participant related that his daughter was studying in a masters degree program and decided to complete a research project to study how low-paid working single mothers in Europe cope with lack of health insurance in providing health care for their children. The daughter could not complete the study because she could not find a European country where single mothers would be without health care for their children. All had government provided health coverage. Policy makers can support the enactment of HR676 (Conyers) so that Americans don't continue to suffer these hardships.

### 4. In addition to employer-based coverage, would you like the option to purchase a private plan through an insurance-exchange or a public plan like Medicare?

A Medicare-for All plan such as provided in HR676 would be appropriate. Private insurance companies could provide insurance plans to cover selective medical procedures such as cosmetic surgery, botox treatments, private rooms and other premium services. Basic, necessary, (including preventive), medical treatments, should be a right of all citizens of the United States.

### 5. Do you know how much you or your employer pays for health insurance? What should an employer's role be in a reformed health care system?

The retirees are paying from \$576 up to \$1,100 per month for supplemental insurance in addition to Medicare Part B. Employed participants were paying from \$0 to \$500 per month while



their employers were paying an additional \$700 to almost \$1,200 per month. In a reformed health care system, the employer and employee should pay a shared tax on each individual payroll similar to Social Security and Medicare. HR676 has addressed this issue with a percentage for employer and employee. Citizens who are between jobs or too young/unable to work should be covered completely regardless of employment status.

### 6. Below are examples of the types of preventive services Americans should receive. Have you gotten the prevention you should have? If not, how can public policy help?

All participants felt they had received the preventive services only because they are middle class with health insurance coverage, albeit expensive in cost. However, doctors should offer the services, not wait for the patients to request the services. These services are not "money-makers" and are

sometimes overlooked. HR676 (Conyers) would address this issue as well. Participants felt that healthful lifestyles and preventive health practices should be a part of the public school curriculum.

### 7. How can public policy promote healthier lifestyles?

Every American citizen should have a "medical home." Primary care physicians are the front line in the fight for healthier lifestyles. These medical practitioners could be given extra compensation for getting people to stop smoking, over-eating and other unhealthy habits. In a single payer, universal healthcare system such as HR676, primary care physicians could be encouraged to practice medicine in rural areas that are now underserved in our private insurance system. Positive, preventive case management (not utilization review) should become the norm and could if HR676 (Conyers) were passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama.

## A peace video series

Peace & Justice ministry at Annunciation Parish presents A Peace Video Series and speakers in March 2009:

Tuesday March 3 : **The Power of Forgiveness** (school auditorium)

Features Bishop Desmond Tutu, Elie Wiesel, Thich Nhat Hanh, Thomas Moore, Marianne Williamson and an Amish View on forgiveness.

Tuesday March 24: **Jerusalem: The East Side Story** (classroom)

We see interviews with Palestinians and Israelis for Peace; Following the video we will have our speaker Dan Onorato who made a peace trip to the Middle East two years ago.

Tuesday March 31: **The Journey to Peace** (school auditorium)

Features, especially Nadia McCaffrey and other "Gold Star" parents who have lost an adult child in the Iraq War. Nadia is from Tracy and will come and tell us of the Veterans Villages for Healing that she is fostering.

Note: All three presentations will be in the Annunciation School Building. Use the main entrance off of Lincoln Street (close to Magnolia). All three presentations begin at 7:00 pm. Discussion will follow. Room number will be posted on the school door as you come in! For information call Ria deGroot at 462-3340.



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# Drop the military budget

The United States is facing an economic crisis unlike any it has seen 80 years. Already trillions have been spent on the bailout by the Federal Reserve and FDIC. The Congress has approved an economic stimulus that will cost \$787 billion. The national debt is over \$10 trillion and the annual deficit is over \$1 trillion. How is the United States going to pay for it? How is it going to fund the new energy economy, schools, education, health care and other urgent needs? One solution: Cut the wasteful and bloated military budget.

The Obama administration is working on the budget right now and will complete it within the month. Neocons and Hawks are urging an increase in military spending, despite a 60% increase since 2001.

When you include the two wars, the war on terror, the Pentagon and military spending in other federal agencies the war budget totals more than \$1 trillion annually. But, in Washington, DC for the first time in more than a decade,

there is serious discussion about cutting the military budget - not just the wars but the DoD budget:

\* In November, the Defense Business Board, an internal management oversight body in DoD told Obama that major systemic cuts were absolutely necessary because the current budget was not sustainable.

\* Obama's Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, said on Meet the Press in January that "in the defense area . . . On an annual basis we have about \$300 billion in cost overruns. That must be addressed, and we will be addressing it."

\* The Chairman of the Financial Services

Committee, Barney Frank, has called for a 25% cut in military spending (10% from ending the Iraq War) and describes the Iraq war as the biggest spending bill in history. He said "If we are going to get the deficit under control without slashing every domestic program, this is a necessity."

A March 2005 poll of Americans, "The Federal Budget: the Public's Priorities" conducted by the Program on International Policy Attitudes found that Americans from across the political spectrum, on average, said they would cut the military budget by 31%. Two thirds of Americans want to see the military budget cut.

The cost of weapons has gotten out of control. The cost of F-35 Fighter Program will equal the combined outlays for fighting the Korean and Vietnam Wars -- \$1 trillion. One Nimitz-class aircraft carrier costs \$6.2 billion; our tenth such ship, the USS George H. W. Bush, was launched in January 2009. A simple navy combat ship costs \$1.4 billion each. And, of course, ending the

two wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan would save at least \$162 billion this year alone. Further, if the U.S. were to close military bases around the world, \$130 billion could be saved.

Finally, investing in weapons is not a good way to create jobs. A report, "The U.S. Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities," found that investing public dollars in military jobs at home in the United States produces fewer and lower-paying jobs for the U.S. economy than does public investment in healthcare, education, mass transit, or home construction. And, wouldn't building subways or high speed rail be more useful to most Americans?

**ACTION:** Contact your Representative, Senators and President to urge a 25% cut in military spending. And meet with your representatives when they return home.

*Source: VotersForPeace.US, 2842 N. Calvert St, Baltimore, MD 21218 443-708-8360*

**"We can't shoot our way out of Afghanistan."**

**-Gen. Barry McCaffrey**

## AFGHANISTAN: MORE TROOPS WON'T BRING MORE PEACE

War Is Not the Answer in Iraq and will never be the answer in Afghanistan. The U.N., the international community, and key U.S. military leaders agree there is no military solution in Afghanistan.

Rather than voting more money to expand the war in Afghanistan, Congress should invest in the long-term diplomacy and development assistance that will lead to a comprehensive peace.



**Afghanistan can't be the exit strategy for Iraq.**

As we approach the 6th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, tell Congress to support a diplomatic surge, not a troop surge, in Afghanistan.

Send your message and get a free War Is Not the Answer bumper sticker at [www.warisnottheanswer.com](http://www.warisnottheanswer.com)!

Friends Committee on National Legislation • 245 Second St., NE • Washington, DC 20002 • (800) 630-1330 • [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org) 2/09

# Effect real change: making contacts

Zing Nafzinger

On December 13, 2008, seven people gathered at the Heartstorming Commitment Obama House Meeting in Stockton because they felt passionately that they had to DO something in this new year of increased hope and possibility. Jerry Jones said, "My passion is to pass along love better, be unembarrassable, and ease suffering." Ruth Stefanac said, "My passion is universal health care. We need a well-thought-out plan." Rolo Juarez said, "My passion is the New Humanism for nonviolence. I want to see an end to discrimination in all its forms."

Nancy Mellor said, "My passion is helping the children of immigrants get to college. We need to change our immigration policy and stop fearing immigrants." Elena Kelly said, "My passion is to advocate for people who are marginalized, discriminated against, or just overlooked. I'm passionate about equality for all."

At this meeting, these seven people decided to organize a community service event for January 19, 2009, Martin Luther King Jr Day, presenting a feast of information about specific actions that people could take to make a positive difference in their world and contribute to bringing peace into our community and hearts.

This event, called View the Dream: A Gathering for Nonviolent Living took place in the community hall at Central United Methodist Church. Over fifty people participated. It was one of over 12,000 events taking place on the day commemorating the work and celebrating the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Zing Nafzinger, MC, reminded participants that although they would be watching a movie about the visions and legacies of Tolstoy, Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr, and Silo, the goal of this event was for them to identify which issues they feel passionately enough about to get up off the couch and take action on. The half hour movie watched was What is Active Nonviolence?, provided by the Network of Active Nonviolence of San Joaquin Valley.

Ten information tables provided

participants with a smorgasbord of action possibilities. John Morearty is passionate about Bio-Spiritual Focusing, a meditation technique in which you experience your connection to that Larger Body, or Higher Power, which is united with all places, times, people, and the universe. For information on how you can participate in an upcoming Bio-Spiritual Focusing workshop, call John at (209) 464-3326.

The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County is passionate about publishing *Connections*, a newspaper for promoting the work of transformative groups and organizations which actively pursue living a Culture of Peace in San Joaquin County. If you have forgotten the elements of living a Culture of Peace, they are: 1) Promoting education for all and revising curricula to promote the qualitative values, attitudes, and behaviors inherent in living peacefully, understanding conflict prevention and resolution through dialogue, consensus-building and active nonviolence, 2) Promoting sustainable economic, social and environmental equality and development, eradicating poverty, 3) Promoting respect for all human rights, 4) Promoting equality of all people economically and socially, eliminating discrimination and violence, 5) Educating all citizens in democratic participation, promoting democratic principles and practices, 6) Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity by promoting dialogue among civilizations and respect for difference and cultural diversity, 7) Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge through independent media promoting a culture of peace, and 8) Promoting international peace and security through general and complete disarmament, greater involvement in the prevention and nonviolent resolution of conflict, and the persistent nurturing of living a culture of peace. Volunteers are being sought to help deliver *Connections* monthly to local shops. Call Bruce Giudici at (209) 786-3109 if you want a route.

The Network of Active Nonviolence of San Joaquin Valley is passionate about nonviolence as

a personal and social lifestyle. To find out more about the upcoming World March for Peace and Nonviolence, which will begin in New Zealand on October 2, 2009, and end in the Andes Mountains on January 2, 2010, go to [www.MarchaMundial.org](http://www.MarchaMundial.org). In the United States the international marchers will arrive in New York and walk to Red Bluff, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Tijuana. If you would like to help organize a feeder march from Stockton to San Francisco, or join with others in the main march, call Thelma or Rolo Juarez at (209) 462-8289.

Inspired by Chopra's book *The Third Jesus*, Suzanne Huntoon is passionate about making placards that attract public attention and get people thinking in a new way. If you would like to share your thoughts with Suzanne, call her at (209) 474-9205.

Martina Virrey is passionate about Marriage Equality USA, which views marriage as a civil right and marriage equality as a basic issue of fairness. You can support marriage equality by signing the Marriage Declaration at [www.MarriageEquality.org](http://www.MarriageEquality.org) and participating in the San Joaquin County chapter to learn how to educate your community about this issue. Call Martina at (209) 518-9102.

Elena Kelly is passionate about Transgender Equality. To download a free poster of *52 Things You Can Do For Transgender Equality*, go to [www.NCTEquality.org/Resources/52Things.pdf](http://www.NCTEquality.org/Resources/52Things.pdf). To learn

more about transgender issues, call Elena at (209) 649-0396.

Suzanne Thompson is passionate about the work of The Peace Alliance, whose vision is a future where practical programs and principles of peacebuilding form the bedrock of personal, national, and global intention and investment. The mission of the Peace Alliance is to empower civic activism for a Culture of Peace. They are campaigning for a Cabinet-level US Department of Peace, like citizens in 32 other countries are campaigning for their governments to establish Ministries and Departments of Peace. Currently, 70 members of the US House of Representatives support this legislation (HR 808). Find out more by going to [www.ThePeaceAlliance.org](http://www.ThePeaceAlliance.org). Specifically, you can help by writing a postcard to Senator Barbara Boxer, 1700 Montgomery Street, Ste 240, San Francisco, CA 94111, asking her to cosponsor HR808 in the House and introduce the bill in the Senate.

Roger Speed is passionate about health care for all. If Single Payer Health Care were implemented (formerly SB840 in California, HB676 in the US), every person would be covered by health insurance, administrative costs would be reduced, cost savings would be realized on the bulk purchasing of prescription drugs and medical equipment, preventative rather than emergency care would be a priority, and businesses would

pay less per worker for coverage. To join the efforts of Single Payer San Joaquin in lobbying to make these happen, call Jerry Bailey at (209) 951-0499.

Gloria Fearn is passionate about justice for the Palestinians. It disturbs her that the United States has blocked international consensus on solutions since the 1970's. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights lists ten things you can do to help the cause of human rights in Palestine. Go to <http://www.pchrgaza.org/about/help.html>. To learn about the activities of the United Methodist Church Israeli/Palestinian Task Force, call Gloria at (510) 910-1586.

Zing Nafzinger is passionate about the Power of Intention in living a Culture of Peace. From [www.Intenders.com/images/CodePoster4.pdf](http://www.Intenders.com/images/CodePoster4.pdf), you can download a free inspiring poster, Ten Intentions For A Better World. There is a second free poster, The Community Code: A Code of Conduct For Coming Together available from [www.Intenders.com/images/TheCommunityCode.pdf](http://www.Intenders.com/images/TheCommunityCode.pdf).

Participants of View the Dream: A Gathering for Nonviolent Living were exhorted to identify what matters to them so much that they would get off their couch and DO something about it. What are you inspired to do this year? If you are passionate about an issue that isn't covered above, Zing wants to hear from you, at [i.m.zing@comcast.net](mailto:i.m.zing@comcast.net), (209) 423-8322.



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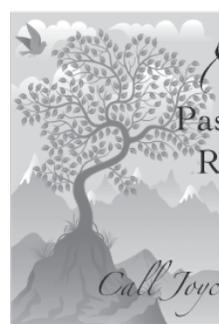
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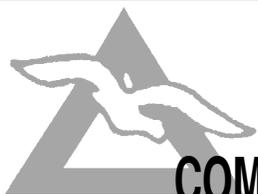
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## Stop the corporate bailout

# For a Workers' Emergency Recovery Plan

What seemed only a possibility a few months ago has now become a reality: The financial crisis that swept Wall Street has spread to all sectors of the economy at a pace that has alarmed even the most cautious analysts. Economists are now stating openly that the recession will be deeper and longer than the preceding nine post-1945 recessions. Professor Jack Rasmus, writing in Z Magazine (December 2008), warns that, "[t]he U.S. economy could be thrust toward a full-fledged Depression by early 2010."

The layoffs are mounting daily and at a staggering rate. According to official government statistics, more than 500,000 workers lost their jobs in each of the last three months -- the highest three-month job loss since 1931. Taken over the last year, the number of jobless rose officially by 3.2 million, but when the "discouraged" (no longer seeking employment) and minimally employed are added, the totals are close to 5 million jobs lost.

Economists predict that if the recession continues its current course in 2009, there will be an additional 7 million workers left jobless. This would mean between 8 million and 12 million jobs lost in the span of 2008-2009. Prof. Rasmus warns that as many as 20 million jobs could be lost by 2010.

The situation has become intolerable for working people. On every front, the country is confronted with a catastrophic situation: in addition to the massive job losses, more than 2 million people have lost their homes to foreclosure -- and it is estimated that another 5 million to 7 million people risk foreclosure in the coming 18 months. A disproportionate number of those losing their homes are Blacks and Latinos.

Meanwhile, social services are being dismantled left and right as state and local budgets are facing unprecedented deficits. In California, a \$16 billion budget

deficit is being wielded as an axe to cut tens of thousands of public education and healthcare jobs. The depth of the economic crisis calls for a job-preservation and job-creation program unlike anything known in the history of the United States, including during the New Deal. It calls for a total re-ordering of the economy through a Workers' Recovery Plan.

### Obama bails out Wall Street

In the aftermath of the Nov. 4 election, the question of the way forward for working people is posed immediately and urgently. Obama continues to call for "change" -- and many of his supporters remain convinced that he will deliver on this pledge. Never mind all his right-wing cabinet nominations or his full-court-press to promote "bipartisanship," they insist. All this is unavoidable and means nothing; Obama "is in charge, and he will make all the corporate folks do what he wants." This assumption is being dispelled, however, with each passing day.

In relation to the war, Obama has backed the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which would keep U.S. troops and bases in Iraq till 2011 and beyond. He has insisted that it is necessary to send 20,000 to 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan to "fight the good war" on Al Qaeda and "terrorism." His silence in relation to Israel's murderous onslaught against the Palestinian people in Gaza was perceived widely around the world as acquiescence and ... complicity.

And Obama has insisted on the need to bail out the Wall Street speculators and to grant massive tax cuts to the corporations as a means to "stimulate" the economy. As this article goes to press, Obama is working out a deal with Senate Republicans that would grant even greater tax cuts to Big Business and would cut greatly needed expenditures for education and healthcare.

Obama's call for curtailing CEO salaries in bailed-out corporations, or for greater accountability in further financial rescue packages, is simple window-dressing in response to the massive popular outrage over the continued Wall Street bailout. The business press acknowledges this openly.

### Workers' Emergency Recovery Campaign

More than ever, working people, with the trade unions in the lead, need to mobilize massively to put a definitive stop to this corporate bailout and to demand an economic recovery plan that bails out America's working people and the oppressed. We need to move fast to let Obama and the new Congress know that we won't let the corporations and the bankers pay for the crisis out of the hides of working people.

Organizing the fightback around this perspective is the goal of the Workers' Emergency Recovery Campaign (WERC) -- a campaign that has gathered important support nationwide, including from prominent labor officials and nationally recognized leaders of progressive political campaigns. A recent posting from the WERC campaign lays out the next steps in this campaign:

"As the economy sinks deeper into economic turmoil and the ranks of the unemployed swell, the need for working people to organize themselves becomes increasingly urgent. Only if we mount a collective struggle to demand programs that will address our needs -- jobs, healthcare, housing, and so on -- will we have any prospects for success. The banks have lobbied vigorously for their bailouts and then spent the money on bonuses, office renovations, buying up other institutions, and dividends for shareholders. We oppose bailouts for the banks. We need to press for programs that will benefit working people. After all, we constitute the vast majority of the population.

*(continued next page)*

# Why GOP blocks the stimulus

Robert Reich

Why are Senate Republicans (all, that is, except the lonely moderates Collins, Snowe, and Specter) nixing the stimulus package, as House Republicans did? Not because Obama failed to compromise - he gave them the tax breaks they wanted, included a whopper for business. Not because Senate Democrats failed to bend - they agreed to trim more than \$100 billion out of a previous version of the bill. Not because Senate Republicans are doctrinally opposed to deficit spending - many of them happily voted for Bush spending and tax cuts that doubled the federal debt.

The reason has to do with the timing of the economic recovery. If everything goes as well as possible and the stimulus and next round of bank bailouts work perfectly, a turnaround could begin as early as mid-2010. But even under this rosy scenario, employers wouldn't start rehiring until late 2010 because they'll want to be sure the upturn is for real (employment typically lags in a recovery). This means that under the best of circumstances - assuming the stimulus is big enough to jump-start the economy and the next bank bailout big enough to get credit moving - most Americans won't feel much better than they do now by November, 2010. Unemployment could easily be hovering close to 8 percent;

underemployment, close to 14 percent; and many other indicators, still in the doldrums.

That's if all goes extremely well. But what if the stimulus isn't big enough? (I fear it won't be, given the large and growing gap between what the economy can produce at near full-employment and the meager demand coming from consumers and businesses.) And what if the bailout doesn't quite work? (It may not, given that the banking system is collapsing and many banks are actually insolvent.) The economy in November of 2010 may be worse than it is now, with no turnaround in sight.

Which brings us to the midterm elections of 2010.

Yesterday, while sitting across from Newt Gingrich on George Stephanopoulos's Sunday morning television show, 1994 came roaring back into my head. Gingrich, you remember, turned that midterm election into a national referendum about Bill Clinton's leadership. (No one today remembers what was in Gingrich's "Contract with America," but almost no one did then, either.) Because Clinton's presidency had had a rough start and because House and Senate Republicans had kept remarkable unity in opposing him at almost every turn, Gingrich in the election of 1994 could claim that and the Republican Party offered a clear alternative, and had earned the

chance to control Congress.

Fast forward to today and listen to Senate Republicans referring to the stimulus: "This is neither bipartisan nor is it a compromise," said Sen. John McCain this morning. "It is ... generational theft" that will increase the role of government and provide no mechanism for paying back the money. Sen. Mike Enzi said the package "spends everything we've got on nothing we're sure about. I'm supposed to be giddy that we're only spending \$827 billion. Frankly, I've had enough of this bailout baloney." Sen. Tom Coburn's office released a list of projects that he calls earmarks and pork, totalling more than \$55 billion. And so it went today.

Last week, House Republicans were equally vitriolic.

And wait until they hear about the next stage of the bank bailout. I'd be surprised if more than a handful of House or Senate Republicans support it.

Republicans don't want their fingerprints on the stimulus bill or the next bank bailout because they plan to make the midterm election of 2010 a national referendum on Barack Obama's handling of the economy. They know that by then the economy will still appear sufficiently weak that they can dub the entire Obama effort a failure - even if the economy would have been far worse without it, even if the economy is beginning to turn around. They'll say "he wanted more government spending, and we said no, but we didn't have the votes. Elect us and we'll turn the economy around by cutting taxes and getting government out of the private sector."

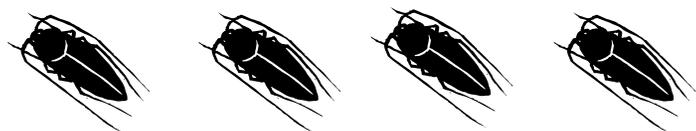
Obama believes Republicans will eventually embrace bipartisanship. I hope he's right but I fear he's wrong. They want to take back Congress the way Newt Gingrich retook the House (and helped Republicans retake the Senate) in 1994 - with hellfire and brimstone. Once in control of Congress, they'll be able to block Obama's big initiatives on health care and the environment, stop any Supreme Court nominees, and set up their own candidate for the White House in 2012.

Source; Robert Reich's Blog 2/9/09 <http://robertreich.blogspot.com/2009/02/>

crisis intensifies, the need for working people to understand the causes of the problems plaguing society and to provide solutions to them will become increasingly acute. In this way working people can proceed to mobilize effectively to fight for their interests."

We call upon all our readers and supporters to get involved actively in building the Workers' Emergency Recovery Campaign in your cities and communities. Please contact the organizers at [<wercampaign@gmail.com>](mailto:wercampaign@gmail.com) or go to [www.wercampaign.org](http://www.wercampaign.org).

Source: *The Organizer* newspaper editorial 2/09, P.O. Box 40009, San Francisco, CA 94140. (415) 641-8616



"Now, we want to move aggressively forward with the WERC. We are calling on people to volunteer to help organize committees that could take the first steps toward translating this campaign into reality in their specific geographic locations. In particular, these committees could reach out to labor or community struggles in their area in order to help cement ties among working people. More immediately, these committees could begin to organize forums that would analyze the problems currently confronting working people and propose solutions. ...

"As the severity of the economic



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

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

KPFA (94.1 FM) provides 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>

Firedoglake <http://firedoglake.com>

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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/>

Tom Paine.common sense <http://www.tompaine.com/>

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

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

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

## We're on the web too!

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

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

## SUSD interviews *(continued from page 1)*

of the conversations of these 3rd graders was fascinating to me. I got a lot of good feedback from the principal there about Success for All. I think we have to not be afraid to try new things. What we've been doing is not working.

I think it's a very exciting idea, Mr. Amato's idea of the full service community schools, opening our school in the evenings and the weekend to not just the students but to their families, offering them services; they can come here, do their homework, there can be a clinic, there can be English classes for the parents, there can be a number of things. The taxpayers and citizens are the ones who pay for the schools; they shouldn't be locked, not able to be used. It doesn't make sense to have the school sitting here 24 hrs a day and have them be used maybe 6-8 hrs a day. We need to engage non-profits and community businesses to come in and work as a team to put this together. Everybody throw in their support for what their specialty is and what they can do to help. Single parents don't always have the time in the day time to come to the child's school, so for them to be involved in the evenings and be a part of things is terrific. The kids will obviously thrive with parental involvement.

### ***What if anything do you think we need to change about No Child Left Behind (NCLB)?***

**Gloria Allen:** We need to stand firm on what we feel our children need. When my son was in the 6th grade, the school sent a note home that he was reading at below his level. What? My kid? So I went over and talked to the teacher. Randy my son, he's quiet, he's shy and he's not gonna be as aggressive as his mother. I asked "so where does he sit in the class"? He sits in the back; I said move him to the front. I told her, We've got work to do. And I'm gonna hold you accountable and you can hold me accountable and we're going to make this work. By the end of that 6th grade year, he went to Marshall and ran for his student body council. By the time he got to Edison, he maintained 3 sports and his grade point average and he was vice-president of his senior class.

**Jose Morales:** I think that the one size fits all approach of NCLB is where we really are seeing the effects. Children learn in different

manners and children learn at different rates. The one thing that really gets to me is that NCLB really hinders our ability to use the arts and I believe arts is a huge component of learning. We must continue to find creative ways of implementing arts and dance into our schools and music, so the arts are involved in every aspect of learning, in math, in reading and science.

**Colleen Boardman:** As I campaigned and talked to a lot of residents, I said "tell me one thing good about NCLB". Everybody just rolled their eyeballs. All I hear is having to spend so much time teaching to the test. Teachers have a six and a half hour day to zero in on each of these kids. It's tough to deal with their social issues, their family issues, their home life. I don't know how teachers do it. I think principals need to recognize them, the board needs to recognize them. A pat on the back does a lot. We all know the financial situation; we all know they're not going to get paid what they deserve.

### ***What is the role of the community?***

**Gloria Allen:** We've got to get retired business people back in tutoring, volunteering their time, that's what it's going to take. Each one, reach one to teach one. I know we have a lot of people out there with a lot of smarts, a lot of expertise in different areas. We need an army of tutors. That would be my hope, to get these people back in the system because to me, to retire and not do anything is a sin. Everybody is part of the village and everybody needs to give back. Take some time out of your busy day if you're retired and come back and adopt a school and say I'm gonna come here for one hour, two hours, whatever you can do, but do something.

**Jose Morales:** Community schools are a great idea—that are going to be open till 10 pm—they'll be able to supply services and resources that are needed in the community. That's our community school, it should be the heart of the community. Many times in the Latino Community, we have language barriers and I think by having these community schools, we can offer English classes to the parents, computer classes. They can feel that they are now being included in their child's education

process. There's a program called PIQE in Stanislaus county which is great and that's what they do. They come in either in the morning or at night, whenever they're scheduled. They keep the parents engaged in the learning of their students, how to research something on the internet, how to study, how to teach their son or daughter how to study at home. PIQE has a 99% graduation rate with anyone that's a parent involved in PIQE. The parents get computer training; they get high school diploma training. It is inclusive, it's a culture of education. That's my mission on my 4 years on the school board is to create a culture of education in my community, in the community that has seen inequity for many years.

**Colleen Boardman:** It goes back to community involvement, pooling our resources in the community. Pooling our collective knowledge and experience and rethinking the way we've been doing things. My first dream is that people would come to schools and volunteer. Here I am, what can I do? I would like to see parenting classes offered for free at the schools, maybe in the evenings; help these parents learn how to help their kids. A lot of parents didn't finish school, they didn't have good guidance. They need education also and we owe it to them because it benefits the community and it benefits the kids. To reach out to the parents, have parenting classes, small sessions with parents maybe to explain how important a role they can have in their child's life and other children too, not just their own children, would be a big help.

And businesses, I mean I know these are dire times for everybody with the budget and everything, but I know there are businesses out there that can help financially. Sponsoring events, playgrounds, buy some supplies, go to the schools and teach kids about their business. How exciting to me to think of giving these kids options of exploring career opportunities! Just to try it even, not that you're going to end up doing that. We can coordinate with a lot of the groups that are in the neighborhood and work with the school and the after-school programs and getting local groups involved and having parent meetings. I would love to see Trustees go out and have town hall meetings for our district.



### ***What do we need to change regarding the current education system?***

**Gloria Allen:** The teachers that have been in the trenches, they are out there doing the work and I respect them wholeheartedly. I think that we need to do something for the principals, the teachers and all the people that work in the schools, we need to give them a shot in the arm or give them a pat in the back, you're doing well. It doesn't hurt, it doesn't cost a thing. Give honor to those people. And we need the parents to come and say how I can help you, what do I need to do. More parents need to do that. Some of them feel like "I can't read, or I can't do this, I can't help them," yes you can. There is something that you can do. Everyone can do something.

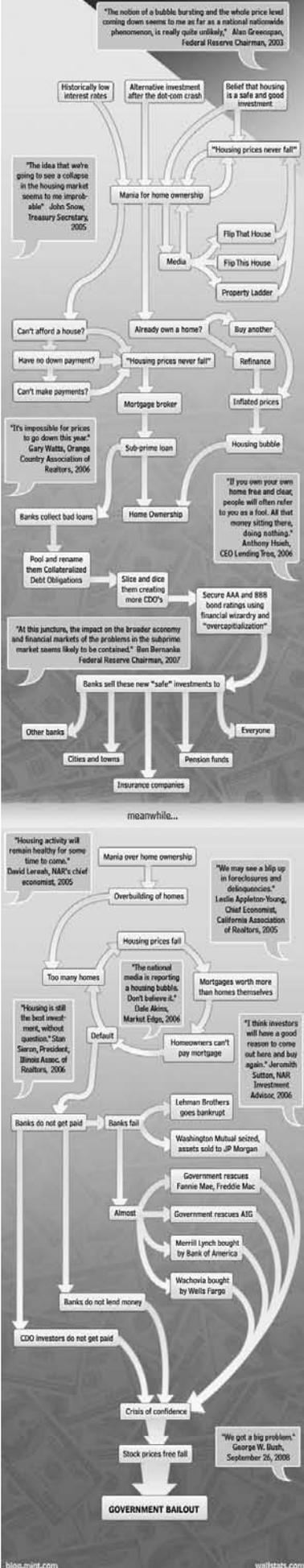
**Jose Morales:** How does someone that has not had anyone in their family go to college, why would they care about going to college? They don't understand what the benefit is. So we need to have parents out there, taking field trips, the more you're exposed the more likely you are to be involved. I believe the private sector needs to buy into this. Something we need to work on at the district level is public-private partnerships. My idea would be that we'd include former students that have gone to get their degrees and come back to Stockton. So we must try to keep these people in our community. Like my wife, who graduated from Franklin High School in 1997, she went on and got her degree and is working on her master's now. She came back and taught in her alma mater, Franklin. Many of the young ladies found out she was an East Side graduate, that was bigger than anything she could say to them. I think that

our counselors are over-burdened also. My main goal is to bring accountability back to our district. We need to change the culture of Stockton Unified. That would be the biggest thing, the culture. We need to understand that when someone graduates from Stockton Unified, they have gotten the best possible education that they can get. And right now that's not what's consistently happening. Let's work to really give our students the best education possible.

**Colleen Boardman:** Obviously there are kids that are going to have great support at home, these kids are extremely bright and have everything going for them, they'll make it through and we should provide for them also. But we've got to find ways to reach every child and that's what concerns me, the ones that get left behind and fall behind. There's been a lot of criticism of different programs with the Success for All, some people say oh we don't need another reading program. But we should not be afraid to try new things. There are a lot of ways to teach. We need to look at other schools in other districts and say hey, how is it working for you? There are very successful school districts, what are they doing right? So I'm very excited about Mr. Amato being here, he brings a lot of experience with him and a lot of passion and a lot of great ideas and I'm just really looking forward to the next 4 years. I think we'll get a lot of things done. That's our plan and our staff will be delighted with what we can do and our kids will thrive. I'm very optimistic.

*Article submitted by Samuel Nunez, Executive Director of Fathers & Families of San Joaquin. Learn more about FFSJ @ www.ffsj.org*

# VISUAL GUIDE to the FINANCIAL CRISIS



# On landmines and cluster bombs

## A letter to Obama from 67 orgs

Dear Mr. President:

In early December, as half of the world's governments signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, a spokeswoman for your Transition Team said that you would carefully review the new treaty and work closely [with] our friends and allies to ensure that the United States is doing everything feasible to promote protection of civilians.

We welcomed this statement. We write now to urge you to launch a thorough review within the next six months of past U.S. policy decisions to stand outside the treaty banning cluster munitions, as well as the treaty banning anti-personnel landmines. We expect that such a review will give appropriate weight to humanitarian and diplomatic concerns, as well as to U.S. military interests.

The closest allies of the United States negotiated the Convention on Cluster Munitions based on their conclusion that these indiscriminate and unreliable weapons pose an unacceptable threat to civilian populations during and long after combat operations have ceased—in much the same way as do landmines.

British Foreign Minister David Miliband, representing the world's third largest user of cluster munitions in the past decade, asked states at the signing conference to tell those not here in Oslo that the world has changed ... that a new norm has been created. He went on to say: Our global community must continually keep challenging itself about the way it behaves. Political leaders must show they are prepared to listen and respond to the voices of victims, of civil society, and of ordinary people.

We recognize the U.S. Government's significant contributions to demining operations around the world, but note that these contributions are undermined by U.S. nonparticipation in the decade-old Mine Ban Treaty and the new Convention on Cluster Munitions.

As you stated during the campaign, U.S. forces have been moving away from using cluster munitions and anti-personnel landmines. The United States has not deployed anti-personnel landmines since 1992, and it has not used cluster munitions in Iraq since 2003 or in Afghanistan since 2002.

Indeed, Secretary Gates has recognized that cluster munitions are weapons of grave humanitarian concern and recently issued a policy to begin destroying them in 2018. U.S. policy on landmines, as articulated in 2004, also encompasses phased elimination of most mines from operational planning.

These steps, while positive, are not nearly enough. The use of weapons that disproportionately take the lives and limbs of civilians is wholly counterproductive in today's conflicts, where winning over the local population is essential to mission success.

Your election stirred great excitement in this country and abroad in large part because of your clear commitment to restoring U.S. moral leadership in the world.

Reconsidering these two treaties and eliminating the threat that U.S. forces might use weapons that most of the world has condemned would greatly aid efforts to reassert our nation's moral leadership. We look forward to hearing that the policy review is underway.

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# Obama needs prep for internat'l climate talks

*Michael Northrop and David Sassoon*

President Obama will face one of the most important moments of his presidency this year on Dec. 18, the final day of the global climate meetings in Copenhagen, a day that will signify whether the world community has finally mustered the will to rein in soaring greenhouse gas emissions. That fixed date, combined with escalating scientific urgency and unparalleled political opportunity, make 2009 the do-or-die year for comprehensive federal climate action.

Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, says that emissions must be stabilized by 2015 and in decline by 2020. For Obama, he is in a position to seize 2009 and do three things to meet the climate challenge: properly educate the American public about climate change and the need for immediate action; exercise the full might of his executive powers and regulatory discretion under the Clean Air Act to jump-start action and spend freely from his enormous store of political capital to lead the government to enact comprehensive federal climate legislation. If he does, the United States will reclaim the mantle of global leadership when it takes its seat in Copenhagen.

The president must travel to Copenhagen with real regulatory and legislative achievements. Signs are good that Obama genuinely means business. He is talking frequently about energy and climate change, and his economic recovery package makes important commitments toward green jobs, clean energy, and energy efficiency — \$54 billion worth. This is more than a third of the \$150 billion he promised over the next 10 years for clean energy investments. By itself, though, this investment is not an energy and climate plan, and Obama will still face heavy regulatory and legislative lifting to turn promise into reality before Copenhagen.

Expectations are high that he will exercise the executive authority he already has under the Clean Air Act

to achieve some quick victories and put pressure on Congress to act boldly. As expected, the EPA's first order of climate business is already moving forward: granting a long-delayed waiver to California to allow the state to impose more stringent auto emissions rules, which 13 other states are poised to adopt as well. Manufacturers will soon have to deliver higher mileage vehicles on an accelerated schedule. By approving the waiver after a formal review process, EPA administrator Lisa Jackson will guarantee steep future emissions reductions from the transportation sector, and allow the thorny bailout of Detroit to proceed without any doubt as to where the industry must head, despite currently low fuel prices.

## Coal plants key

The boldness of Obama's regulatory strategy, however, really hinges upon the fate of coal-burning power plants under the Clean Air Act. Since the Supreme Court affirmed in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that carbon dioxide could be regulated as a pollutant under the law, it has become an open question as to how existing coal plants and permits for new ones will now fare under the act. The EPA plainly has the right to control CO2 emissions, and the real issue is how aggressively the law will be applied. In the short term, the question of coal rests largely in Obama's hands, and he has the authority to stop new dirty coal plants cold. He proved it his first week in office when the EPA revoked an air permit for the Big Stone II coal plant in South Dakota, pending further review.

If that first signal gets amplified, it will certainly change the tone of what happens with coal in Congress longer-term, where powerful lobbies have held science at bay. At Obama's direction, the Clean Air Act can jump-start climate action by speeding aggressive federal standards for building and appliance efficiency and placing limits on other carbon-intensive sources of pollution — steel mills, cement plants, other heavy industries, and shipping.

Coming to Copenhagen with the necessary legislative accomplishments — in addition to regulatory ones — will be harder still, but it is essential to Obama's success. The proposed economic recovery package has been disappointing to advocates of public transit, light rail, and smart growth, with sparse dollars allocated to those needs. But with the federal Transportation Bill up for reauthorization in 2009, Obama has another chance to redirect land use away from highway sprawl and in a low-carbon, mass-transit direction. The administration should also strengthen energy efficiency incentives and clean energy tax credits, adopt a mandatory federal renewable energy target, and increase investment in a clean energy grid.

As the global economy starts to rise from collapse, it must do so with a price on carbon as part of its cure. There is considerable debate about the form which a cap and a price signal should take — in recent weeks a carbon tax has even been a topic of renewed discussion. None of the options is perfect, but one of them is rising as a preferred choice because it protects low- and middle-income families from rising energy prices. It's called "cap-and-dividend." Under this program, permits to pollute the air with greenhouse gases would be auctioned and the proceeds returned to citizens. The extra income, which should be targeted especially to the poor, will protect the most vulnerable American families from rising energy prices and will help build a long-term constituency for climate action. In the present economic crisis, the prospect of sending monthly dividend checks to families is a political winner. It makes a cap-and-dividend plan largely immune from criticism that it will be costly to the public, and it increases the chances of passage this year.

Now is the year for President Obama to act, while the window of opportunity is wide open.

Source: *Yale Environment* 360 2/9/09 <<http://e360.yale.edu/>>



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# Cleaner air—an elixir of youth

*Trip Van Noppen*

Americans who love to grumble about regulations now have some they can cheer about. The New England Journal of Medicine is reporting that we now live an extra five months, thanks to regulations that have cleaned up air pollution over the last few decades. By breathing air cleansed of particulates, the federally-funded study said, Americans in 51 cities are enjoying those extra months—and people in the most-polluted cities are getting 10 months of bonus life. "It shows that our efforts as a country to control air pollution have been well worth the expense," said Dr. Joel Kaufman, a University of Washington expert on environmental health. We heartily agree with Dr. Kaufman, as cleaning up the air has been our mission for decades.

Protecting the air from invisible particulate pollution isn't terribly sexy work. Most of the time it's hard to inspire the public to join the fight against this type of air pollution. A smoke-belching factory, coal-fired power plant or mercury producing cement plant next door generates lots of public outrage. But, when it comes to particles much smaller than the width of a human hair, most folks will say, "Out of sight, out of mind."

At Earthjustice, a non profit, public-interest law firm, we

have represented community and national organizations working to reduce all forms of air pollution for more than 30 years.

One of our most frequent clients is the American Lung Association. We have filed hundreds of legal actions to ensure the federal Clean Air Act is fully enforced, and we have won these cases repeatedly. We are not surprised at the new confirmation that these efforts now show scientifically measurable results. But the battle is far from over. Many old coal-fired power plants still pollute the air and new pollution sources are popping up all around. For example, factory farms can emit as much air pollution as a power plant, but they remain unregulated. And air pollution continues to hurt the most vulnerable.

In the Central Valley of California, elderly residents breathe dirty air and far too many children tote asthma inhalers to school. Meanwhile, bureaucrats make excuses about why they can't enforce the law. Sure it costs a little more to clean the air, but the savings to society are huge. Hospitalizations, sick days off work and kids out of school cost society far more than cleaning up air pollution. Not doing so is penny wise but pound foolish. Let's quit being foolish. Fortunately,



we are no longer saddled with the Bush administration's anti-environmental agenda, which tried to ram through a host of rule changes and exemptions for industry that tie the hands of the Environmental Protection Agency. Earthjustice overturned many of those in court, but unfortunately, some of those loopholes are still in place.

The Obama administration has a mandate to restore strong clean air standards and, armed with the results of this new study, should do so immediately. The new administration can start by taking a good look at mega-dairies, oil and gas drilling operations, chemical plants, refineries, paper mills and metal smelters, all of which are still dumping pollution into the air we breathe. Cleaning the air isn't just good for our economy, it's good for ourselves, especially those among us who want to breathe a few months longer than their parents did.

*Trip Van Noppen is president of Earthjustice, 426 17th Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 510-550-6700 www.earthjustice.org*

## The T is not silent

*Elena Kelly*

It is all about love. It is ALL about love. Many people have the mistaken notion that the No on 8 campaign was about gay marriage. It was NOT about gay marriage, it was about marriage equality. Marriage has always been about two people who love each other and have a desire to commit their lives to each other.

Imagine if you were not allowed to marry the person you love. How would you feel if all your friends and family could marry the one they love, but you could not? Imagine further that a group of your neighbors got together and decided that your marriage should

no longer be valid in your state. That is what Prop 8 was truly about.

Yes, the California Supreme Court is going to hear arguments from both sides as to whether Prop 8 should stand or be repealed. Either way we will not have a state that believes in real equality for all. There will still be our friends, neighbors, and even our own families who will believe that our equality should to be denied.

As a transgender woman, I am not sure what Prop 8 does to my marriage. I am blissfully married to the love of my life. I am a transwoman, so we are in truth two women. But I have not had

that surgery yet, so maybe we are a man and woman. But I hope to have that surgery this year. Will our marriage become invalid on that day, or is it my DNA that will determine my marital status?

Gender isn't as simple as male and female. It is a continuum. But marriage has never been about gender. It is about love. It has always been about love.

*Elena Kelly is a transgender activist living in Stockton and she loves to work with Marriage Equality San Joaquin and the Central Valley Stonewall Democrats. She can be reached at elena.kelly@comcast.net .*

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# Priorities for peace in 2009

[Editor's note: the following may be used as an activists' framework for change in 2009. At years end, we will issue a progress report on these priorities.]

For 65 years, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has brought

the spiritual experience of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to bear on federal legislative processes and public policy decisions. Every two years we consult with Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country to help discern

priorities for our lobbying and public education work during the next Congress.

More clearly than ever before, Friends recognize that the critical and interconnected issues of energy and environment relate not only to climate change, but also to war, military spending, the nation's budget, and the capacity of the United States to meet domestic human needs and invest in the well-being of vulnerable populations abroad. We are called to redefine the human and national security of the United States to include freedom from deadly conflict, freedom from abuse of power, assurance of basic human needs, and protection of the Earth's commons—the air, land, and water on which all life depends.

At this historic and hopeful moment, FCNL selects the following priorities for our legislative work and public education during the 111th Congress.

## I. We seek a world free of war and the threat of war:

**Build U.S.** government capacity for peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflict. Actively support the United Nations and multilateral problem solving, including respect for international law and treaties.

Promote arms control, disarmament, and nuclear nonproliferation. Seek U.S. ratification of and compliance with bans on nuclear testing, cluster munitions, and landmines.

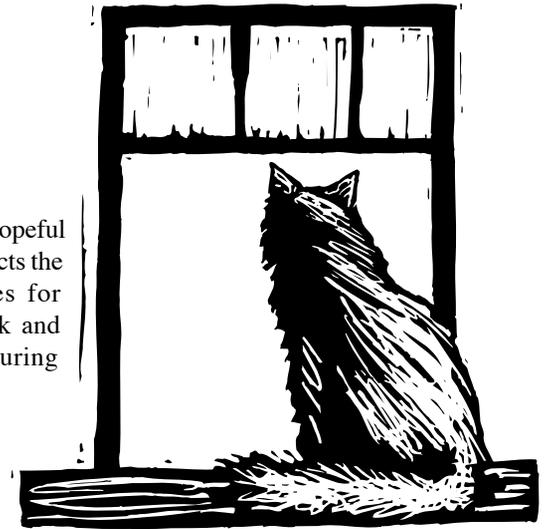
Work for demilitarization of U.S. foreign policy and aid programs. Urge reductions in the overall military budget and in worldwide U.S. military operations. Emphasize joint aid, civilian peacebuilding, and regional diplomacy, especially in relation to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Promote fulfillment of U.S. moral and legal obligations for reconstruction.

Press for the removal of U.S. bases and combat forces from Iraq.

## II. We seek a society with equity and justice for all:

Support the restoration of full civil liberties and habeas corpus protections for all persons. Oppose torture and secret prisons. Promote human rights around the world especially through international institutions and law.

Support immigration reform that respects the rights and dignity of all immigrants; demonstrates compassion for families; protects children, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable persons; realistically addresses the need for foreign workers both temporary and permanent; and provides practical pathways to legal residency and citizenship. Urge Congress to demilitarize U.S. borders.



Promote and preserve tribal sovereignty of indigenous peoples within the United States. Support legislation that respects their rights, promotes their well-being, honors treaty commitments, and fosters understanding.

## III. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled:

Support the government's constitutional role "to promote the general welfare" by urging Congress to provide adequate resources for human security and the public good. Support programs to alleviate poverty and address pressing human and community needs, such as food, housing, education, and opportunities for meaningful employment. In particular, we call for equitable access to health care.

## IV. We seek an Earth restored:

Support bold and immediate measures to counter global climate change and assist threatened human populations at home and abroad. Promote deep, quick, and fair reductions in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions through regulation and incentives for energy conservation and efficiency, accelerated development and use of renewable energy resources, sustainable agriculture, public transportation, and other effective means.

Support establishment of and compliance with multilateral environmental agreements that promote equity and sustainability.

Source: FCNL Washington Newsletter 1/09. FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 <http://www.fcnl.org>

*"We must learn actually not to have enemies, but only confused adversaries who are ourselves in disguise."*

—Alice Walker to Barack Obama, Nov. 5 2008

John Morearty's memoir *Walking to Omega: Tales of a Peacenik Carpenter* is at [www.johnmorearty.com](http://www.johnmorearty.com).

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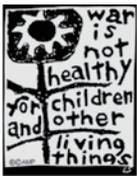
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## Spirits and Visions

# Without Vision, the People Perish

Welcome to a new regular page in Connections: a page of dialogue, "diversa-logue."

Our country and planet are going through changes, to put it mildly. It's a convergence of many crises, an historical crossroads; some call it the Great Turning. We at Connections believe that the voices and wisdom of all must be heard, if humankind is to make it over this rocky mountain pass to green valleys beyond. We need "open source democracy," a sharing of our many and diverse traditions, spirits, experiences and visions. We must articulate our differences, find common ground, respect and learn from each other. We must find new ways to help each other "get through this thing."

This month we present three perspectives on the energy/vision/spirit in which we work for justice and peace. This page needs YOU. We invite your responses and contributions to the dialogue/diversa-logue. Send them, 400 words maximum, to our Spirits and Visions editorial committee, Zing Nafzinger, Paula LeVeck, and secretary John Morearty: 1205 W. Acacia St., Stockton CA 95203. Email preferred: john@morearty.com .

### Science, spirit and nonviolence

John Morearty

At 70, I'm a Catholic Buddhist peace educator and activist who hopes for evolution, and dearly loves his ten grandchildren and a good joke. A Chinese curse says, "May you live in interesting times." The joke is, these are the times.

I remember the Hiroshima headline when I was seven: "A bomb like the sun." When I was 40, Jewish socialist and pacifist Einstein jolted me awake: "Through the release of atomic energy, our generation has brought into the world the most revolutionary force since prehistoric humans' discovery of fire. This basic power of the universe cannot be fitted into the outmoded concept of narrow nationalism. For there is no secret and there is no defense; there is no hope for the control of atomic energy, except through the aroused understanding and insistence of the peoples of the world."

Jesuit paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin described cosmic fire: "The day will come when after harnessing the ether, the winds, the tides, gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And on that day for the second time in the history of the world, human beings will have discovered fire."

These sages inspire my work. I wear a button with roses, "Bread not Bombs," and a button with a smiling whale, "Save the Humans."

Understanding, insistence, love, the co-evolution of species, the future of my grandchildren—all our grandchildren.

Lately I've been trying (friends say I'm very trying) to practice "loving insistence." Say No, loud and firm, to cruel actions and institutions, but don't judge consciences; rather, walk in others' moccasins, understand how their experiences have led them to do what they do. Act so as to model our common humanity. A therapist friend says, speak to that part in each person which you would like to see grow and blossom. Water flowers, not weeds.

The day after the miracle of Barack Obama's election, poet Alice Walker wrote him an open letter: "Most damage that others do to us is out of fear, humiliation and pain. We must learn actually not to have enemies, but only confused adversaries who are ourselves in disguise. There must be no more dehumanizing as a means of ruling a people's spirit. This has already happened to people of color, poor people, women, children. We see where this leads, where it has led."

Jesus said, Love your enemies. Buddhists pray, May all beings be happy.

John Morearty, Ph.D., is a peace educator and activist. His memoir *Walking to Omega: Tales of a Peacenik Carpenter* is available on his website, [www.johnmorearty.com](http://www.johnmorearty.com).

### A humanist perspective

Jim Walsh

A youth educator in my early fifties, I have been shaped by a life of social activism and (as a young man) Unitarian Universalism. I've developed a strong belief system based on secular humanism, and an economic outlook very informed by Marx and Marxist economists. My socio/political/economic views are considered radical or extreme by many. I accept radical; I reject extreme. To me these terms are opposites.

Peace does not exist in a vacuum. Peace does not mean merely the absence of war. If you want peace, work for justice. Social justice, to be specific, calls for a certain level of social/political/economic equity. But our economic system puts justice up for sale. A person without plenty of money or connections finds it nearly impossible to get justice from our court system, quality care from our health care industry, a quality education from our public education system, not to mention effective political engagement—one voter, one vote is sold out to slick advertising and campaign contributions from the wealthy. I believe in radical change, namely: filling the basic needs of humanity. But such a thing is considered "extreme" by the free market extremists who populate our government and business world.

From an early age I understood that misinformation was perpetuated by "mainstream" corporate news agencies and our public education system. I honed

my opinions and studied history, observing that most conventional knowledge and popular opinions are based on lies and confusion documented by historians whose agenda is to build empire. My goal now is to clear away this fog for our youth.

My father rejected Catholicism at a young age. Raised in Southern Ireland in parochial schools, he was brutalized by Catholic nuns and by his family both physically and emotionally—punishment to make him change his ways, for his own good. He cast off this poisonous pedagogy when he discovered that violence and emotional humiliation such as corporal punishment undermine our evolving into peaceful human beings. He understood this by studying and respecting the history of oppressed communities—a subject matter omitted and ignored in most history courses.

I now pursue educating our youth of the falsehoods ingrained in empire building and individualism. I seek to nurture a social activist mentality within our youth community; I believe they must actively engage in decision making processes, in order to positively affect the future of humankind. They must think globally, and act locally, for all our sakes.

### One world consciousness

Zing Nafzinger

I am a "spirit of the earth." The particular work I do for peace is to dare to listen to my highest self for maneuvering my way through the challenges and delights of living in a female physical body with emotions, intelligence, and creativity. I am a mentor and a healer, reminding others of the glorious truth which lives through them. I flow from project to project, teaching, healing, and publishing about psychological health and well-being, balance and peace.

I believe that each of us holds within us our key to longevity of life. We can strive to be like others or we can explore that immensity that lies within ourselves, tagged as the Mystery, or God/Goddess,

of our nature. When we are assured of our own identity, we can live life fully and fearlessly, creating for ourselves a world in which all people and aspects of life are valued and respected for their place in the grand scheme, or play, of things.

The vision which drives me is a feeling and a knowing from deep within myself. I call it the "City of Light." The City of Light is made manifest anytime a person listens to his/her highest self and works cooperatively with others to spread ripples of peace, love, light, and laughter. I see it like the spreading appearance of a rainbow, which has a way of touching each person's heart.

Healers are balancers. They are by nature positive and optimistic in outlook. Being a healer is a choice. Cultural Creatives use the abundant resources available on the earth to co-create new ways of running a life or a world which value the sustainability of the earth and everything living upon it.

When approached by the negative thoughts or emotions of others, I work to stay attentive to what is yet possible, rather than to what has shown itself to be ineffective. I believe that when we work together, miracles happen. Possibilities unfold like flower petals, surprising us with beauty we could not have predicted. In working with others, we see our own beauty enhanced and expanded, even as our cooperation enhances and expands others' beauty.

I choose to be defiantly positive. This is my "spirituality," the spirit I bring to the earth.

Zing Nafzinger, MA, CHT, RM, is a teacher and counselor in private practice in Stockton. Her next project is teaching Energy Medicine workshops through St. Joseph's Medical Center and the University of the Pacific. Her books are *Mediumship As A Way Of Being* and *the Stockton Alternative Guide to Wellness: Mind, Body, and Spirit*. She can be reached at (209) 423-8322 or [i.m.zing@comcast.net](mailto:i.m.zing@comcast.net).



# Easy Social Security solution? TARP recipients paid \$114 million to lobby lawmakers

Mickey McGuire

[Editor's note: Consider responding to the following prescription for social security. Letters are welcome by the 7th of each month. Medicare solutions are also welcome.]

President Obama enters the White House with a constellation of challenges not seen since Franklin Roosevelt. Among those problems are two that were left over from previous decades: Social Security and Medicare. Of the two, Social Security is the easiest to fix. Public policy experts have lots of simple and relatively fair ideas of how to put the program on a sustainable track. Unfortunately, that's not true of Medicare. Two scholars at Stanford University, John Shoven, director of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, and George Shultz, veteran of the Reagan administration, wrote

a book recently, called "Putting Our House in Order," which deals with these problems. The Social Security system is not on its way to bankruptcy. But it could contract to a point in the future where it could pay out only 75 percent of what future retirees expect. This is unacceptable.

There are only two ways to bring the Social Security system back to long-term solvency: increase taxes or decrease benefits. Shoven and Shultz believe that a tax increase should be the last resort, as we still have to contend with the unsupportable expense of the Baby Boomers on Medicare. They offer two proposals that would provide long-term sustainability with fairly modest compromises in benefits.

During the 1970s, inflation drove up prices at a rapid rate. The people who faced the greatest harm were those whose incomes were not adjusted upward on a regular basis—people on fixed incomes.

After years of complaints and stories of elderly Social Security recipients being forced to survive on cat food, Congress passed a law that would increase Social Security benefits yearly to keep up with rising prices. But the adjustment was indexed to the increase in the average wage and not to actual inflation.

At first, it didn't make much difference. But wages and prices don't actually increase at the same rate. Over time, wages increase faster than prices. That is why we grow wealthier over time.

One simple solution would be to switch Social Security's indexing to the Consumer Price Index, the actual increase in costs for the elderly, instead of tying the adjustment to the increase in the average wage. The problem with this proposal is that over time, it would leave the elderly behind. Social Security recipients would never lose buying power over the years, but they wouldn't gain any either. Meanwhile, people who are employed would enjoy the benefits of greater efficiency in the economy and improved productivity. Their wages would grow faster than inflation.

Shoven and Shultz have a relatively simple solution to this quandary called progressive price indexing. Under this proposal, the poorest third of Social Security recipients, the ones who depend most on the system for their incomes, would continue to have their checks indexed to wages, the higher rate. The wealthiest third of recipients, who don't depend so much on Social Security for their retirement, would be indexed to actual inflation, the lower rate. Those in between would see a yearly adjustment that would be some combination of both. Long-term, progressive price indexing would fix about 75 percent of Social Security's sustainability problem.

Step 2 of the Shoven/Shultz plan would take care of the rest. It's no secret that people are living longer. Studies show that people are living better longer, too. Research actually demonstrates that there is something to all those comments about 70 being the new 60. This is another source of Social Security's sustainability problem.

## TARP recipients paid \$114 million to lobby lawmakers

Tierney Plumb

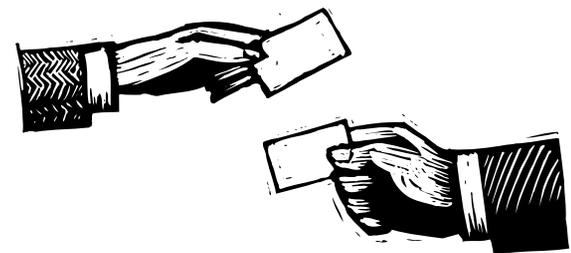
Recipients of the \$700 billion federal bailout package in the finance and auto sectors may view their contributions and lobbying as the smartest investments made in years, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. More than half of the 300 companies helped by the federal government's Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) have dished out \$114.2 million for politicking, with \$77 million spent on lobbying last year and \$37 million spent on federal campaign contributions for the 2008 election. Those political activities have, in part, yielded the companies \$305.2 billion from TARP, or a massive return of 267,208 percent. "Even in the best economic times, you won't find an investment with a greater payoff than what these companies have been getting," said Sheila Krumholz, the center's executive director, in a statement. McLean-based Capital One Financial Corp., which got the fourteenth-highest bailout share of \$3.6 billion and the most out of all local recipients, spent about \$700,000 on campaign contributions and \$1.1 million on lobbying. The top three bailout recipients also spent big on campaigns and lobbying, according to the D.C.-based nonprofit.

Bank of America, combined with Merrill Lynch, spent \$14.5 million and got \$45 billion from

the bailout. General Motors spent \$15 million and got \$10.4 billion, and American International Group spent \$10.6 million and was paid out \$40 billion. Of all companies that have been helped by TARP, 25 paid lobbyists \$76.7 million to represent them on Capitol Hill last year. They spent the most during the third quarter of last year, dishing out \$20.4 million on lobbying. "Taxpayers hope their money is being allocated entirely on the merits, but with Congress controlling how much money the Treasury gets to hand out, it will be impossible to completely exclude politics from this process," said Krumholz, in a statement.

Some of the top recipients of contributions from TARP beneficiaries are members of Congress who chair committees that regulate the financial sector and oversee how well the bailout program works. In total, members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Senate Finance Committee and House Financial Services Committee received \$5.2 million from TARP recipients in the 2007 to 2008 election cycle. President Obama collected at least \$4.3 million from employees at those companies for his campaign, said the center.

Source: Washington Business Journal 2/2/09 <http://washington.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2009/02/02/>



On average, life expectancy has been advancing about one month each year. Shoven and Shultz suggest advancing the date for a full-benefit Social Security retirement by one month every year or two. Progressive price indexing combined with increasing the retirement age slowly over time would turn Social Security into a

permanently sustainable system. Then we could turn our sights to a truly intractable problem: Medicare.

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

## What's the word for Wall St greed?

Jim Hightower

America's titans of finance have caused the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression, and what is their reaction? Party time!

"Break out the champagne/ We're feeling no pain/ Let the bonuses rain/It's all to our gain!"

Obtuse? Self-indulgent? Narcissistic? What's with these people? Let's review just three examples of their insanity:

While Merrill Lynch was collapsing last year, requiring a \$25 billion salvage job from us taxpayers, its CEO was merrily redecorating his office, picking out such necessities as \$28,000 worth of curtains, a \$35,000 antique commode, and a \$1,400 waste basket. Then he magnanimously doled out \$4 billion in executive bonuses.

Citigroup, which lost \$28 billion in the past 15 months, has now been given a \$345 billion bailout from Washington and is presently holding a fire sale of its corporate parts in a desperate effort to survive. But this didn't stop top executives from trying to buy a new, \$50-million, Dassault Falcon corporate jet for themselves. Nevermind that the bank already had five executive jets.

Despite losing billions of dollars last year, then going hat in hand to the government for multibillion-dollar bailouts, Wall Street investment bankers paid themselves \$18 billion in bonuses at the end of the year. In a poll of these bankers, 46 percent felt they deserved bigger bonuses.

We have to have some new words. "Greed" doesn't say it. "Outrageous" falls way short. "Shameful" has no effect on bankers. In times like these, words fail.

Source: Hightower Lowdown 2/9/09 <http://jimhightower.com>



## Sawznhammers

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



## Yeast

John Morearty

Ria and granddaughter made bread last evening, whole wheat raisin, kneaded by hand. Lauren was amazed at the loaves rising. She cut a slice hot and buttered it, but was disappointed they didn't put in enough raisins.

Yeast is a lively organism: it foams and ferments, eating grain and fruit sugars, bubbling out alcohol and carbon dioxide, then drowning in the beer or wine or baking to death in the oven. Living and dying, it gives nourishment and joy. We can learn from yeast.

The Americas are fermenting. Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Venezuela, Nicaragua: all have progressive elected leaders, and so do we-maybe. Barack Obama's community organizer style energized millions. My son donated money and made a hundred phone calls to swing state voters. A well-to-do Republican relative told me, "Obama's book makes a lot of sense." Here in Stockton, the Obama campaign hummed on the energies of African-Americans, Latinos and young people. And at the inauguration festival in Washington, not one person was arrested. Who would have thought? The Berlin wall, now the Washington wall?

Locally, I've been amazed at the ferment. Black folks smile at me on the street. A hundred people marched downtown to Martin Luther King's statue, and a black preacher told the young, "You've got no excuse any more. Look at President Obama. Yes We Can!" The crowd murmured approval.

That was Volunteer Day, and seventy Obama campaign workers fed the hungry at St. Mary's.

That evening, forty people turned out for a nonviolence festival at Central Methodist. We heard about Gandhi and King, local actions, and a global peace march coming our way this August. Six people subscribed to this paper.

At the Stockton inaugural ball, hundreds feasted to blazing jazz from Cesar Chavez High School; oldsters rocked out.

The Espino Coalition (Schools si, Prisons no) drew twenty people for a Saturday meeting; young volunteers stepped forward to lead the organization.

New members of the Stockton Unified board, long-time community volunteers themselves, are calling for parents, businesses and retired folks to step forward and help the schools in the current budget crisis. (See interviews by Sammy Nunez in this issue).

San Joaquin Grassroots Action, newly formed by Obama volunteers, drew thirty people to their first organizing meeting, to plan a strategy of house meetings with McNerney and Cardoza; seventy people came to a house meeting in Lodi.

A class in Peace Studies at Sierra Middle School invited me. Thirty bright students asked, "Are you a vegetarian? Do you support animal rights? Why should I work so hard to make other people happy? Is peace possible?" I offered whale buttons, "Save the Humans," and hands reached out.

At UOP a thousand people applauded Martin Luther King's speech "When Silence is Betrayal," on the folly and immorality of the Vietnam War, and Danny Glover's reading of Langston Hughes' poem "Let America Be America Again."

(It never was America to me.)...

Yet out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,

The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,

We, the people, must redeem

The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.

The mountains and the endless plain--

All, all the stretch of these great green states--

And make America again!

We the People are rising up like yeast, to make America again. It's time. Unemployment is near 8% and climbing, health insurance gougers are devouring Detroit (and the rest of us), the climate is changing faster than anyone predicted, Stockton cops are being laid off, the schools are going broke, Schwarzenegger admits he's clueless, California Republicans refuse to tax the rich, and U.S. Senate Republicans slash money for Head Start-who needs an educated citizenry? Predatory capitalism thrashes about, while the bosses buy new jets and guzzle champagne. Party while you can....

Meanwhile there's Afghanistan-that graveyard of empires from Alexander the Great to the British and Soviets. Afghanistan equals Vietnam with mountains and caves. Forty-two million fierce Pashtun live by an ancient code of honor, they play polo with dead goat carcasses-and they know how to shoot. (Oh, and Pashtun spill over into Pakistan-new-fangled borders mean nothing to them.)

Obama and his secretary of "defense," Robert Gates, are sending another 36,000 U.S. troops there. To do what? They'll be 36,000 more targets, like the Redcoats of our own Revolutionary War. If Obama persists in that folly, he will go down like Lyndon Johnson-a president with good intentions at home, lost in a hopeless faraway war. Will we hear "I not only screwed up, I blew it"?

But he could get out. He could admit, "We just can't afford this war. We will donate bricks and mortar to Afghanis to build clinics and schools (for Muslim girls, too-read Three Cups of Tea), and then come home so they can sort out their own troubles."

He could say, "The current economic disaster is an opportunity to get beyond the industrial growth society and gross consumer culture. We will put tens of millions of people to work

producing things you can't buy at the mall: a modern transportation network with trains, light rail, buses and bicycles. A single payer health care system that covers everyone, emphasizes prevention and primary care, and cuts out greedy insurance companies. Clean energy. The restoration of our land, lakes and rivers. Head Start for every child. High quality public education, free to all (Iraq had free education for everyone through graduate school, before the Gulf War-all you had to do was pass the tests). A Global Marshall Plan with clean water, clean energy and modern schools for the whole world (including

Israel and Palestine). Peace on earth, and just in time. This is the era of the Great Turning."

We the people must put these words in President Obama's mouth. His instincts are good; read his books. But he needs a massive popular mandate behind him-in our meetings, on the internet, in the streets.

As President Roosevelt told A. Philip Randolph, the great black labor leader: "You've convinced me to stand behind integration and working people. Now go out and make me do it." We are the breadmakers, we are the yeast. Rise up! and be sure to put in plenty of raisins, for sweetness.



Latest Edition Now Available

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

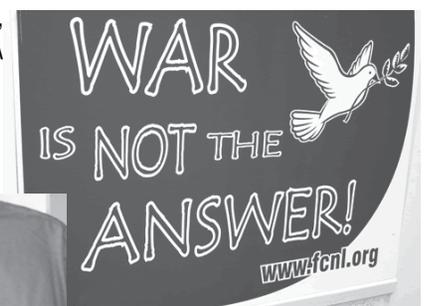
An 88-page holistic community directory containing articles on Self-Healing, local practitioners, healing opportunities, and healing affirmations.

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

\$10.00 for Paperback, Only \$3.00 to Download

## Lawn signs, mugs, T-shirts

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



# Democratic organizations in San Joaquin County

**Democratic Central Committee of San Joaquin County**  
 First Saturday of each month at 8:00 am.  
 Location changes through out the county.  
 Chairperson: Richard Blackston at 415-342-2244  
 richardblackston@yahoo.com  
 Web site: www.sjcdems.org/

**Greater Lodi Area Democrats "GLAD"**  
 Fourth Saturday of each month at 9:00 am.  
 Held at Dee Dee's, 1170 S. Cherokee Lane, Lodi.  
 Chairperson: Bob Mattheis at 209-712-8866  
 bishopma@lodinet.com  
 Web site: www.LodiDemocrats.org

**Latina Democratic Club**  
 Last Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.  
 Held at UJ's, 7628 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.  
 Chairperson: Niki Smith at 209-476-9281  
 steveandniki@hotmail.com

**Central Valley Stonewall Democrats**  
 Third Sunday of each month at 4:00 pm.  
 Held at Valley Brew, 157 W Adams St, Stockton.  
 Contact is Renee Hall at 209-462-7489  
 sunnyhoney47@yahoo.com  
 Web site: www.cvstonewall.org/

**Democrats of Greater Stockton "DOGS"**  
 Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.  
 Held at UJ's, 7628 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.  
 Chairperson: Richard Blackston at 415-342-2244  
 richardblackston@yahoo.com  
 Web site: www.StocktonDogs.com

**Manteca Democratic Club**  
 Fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.  
 Location varies throughout Manteca.  
 Chairperson: Bill Perkins at 209-239-7560  
 perkins.bill@comcast.net

**Democratic Club of Greater Tracy**  
 Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.  
 Held at Jorge's El Tapatio, 572 W. 11th St., Tracy.  
 Chairperson: David Sul at dsul\_99@yahoo.com  
 Web site: www.TracyDems.org

**San Joaquin County Young Democrats**  
 This is our newest group and meetings are called by the Chairperson.  
 Chairperson is Talia Benson at talia.benson@gmail.com  
 Web site: www.youngdems.org/

**10th AD Task Force**  
 Meetings are held four times a year at the calling of the Chairperson.  
 Meetings are held through out the 10th Assembly District.  
 Contact is Marcie at mbayne@amadorca.com  
 Web site: www.bayneweb.com/ad10/archive/charterapprov.html

**Blacks Women Organized for Political Action**  
 Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm.  
 Valley Brewing Company, 157 West Adams Street, Stockton.  
 Chairperson: Charlene Leathers Sibblis at 209-957-7315  
 charlene\_leathers@yahoo.com  
 Web site: www.bwopastocktontracy@yahoo.com

**Harry S. Truman Club**  
 Third Friday of each month at Noon.  
 Held at Tio Pepe's, 135 East Lindsay, Stockton.  
 Contact is Donna Brown at dmbrown737@Comcast.net

**Drinking Liberally**  
 Third Friday of each month at 7:00 pm.  
 Held at , Iguanna Wanna (front bar), 7555 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.  
 Hosted by Joel Carignan (209) 351-3397 and Nicholas Hatten  
 Web site: www.Stockton.DrinkingLiberally.org

**Marriage Equality USA, San Joaquin County Chapter**  
 Second Wednesday of each month at 6:30-7:30.  
 Location varies throughout Stockton.  
 Chairperson: Martina Virrey at ca-sanjoaquin@marriageequality.org  
 Web site: www.marriageequality.org

**San Joaquin Grassroots Action with Obama**  
 First or Second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.  
 Iguana Wanna Bar & Grill, 7555 Pacific Ave, Stockton.  
 Contact is Sara Cazares at (209) 598-6623  
 tonantzin1212@sbcglobal.net

**Single Payer San Joaquin**  
 Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.  
 Held at Peace and Justice Network Office, 231 Bradford Place, Stockton.  
 Contact is Jerry Bailey and Roger Speed at jerry\_l\_bailey@yahoo.com

**Take Back Red California "TBRC"**  
 Council Meetings are held every six weeks and called by the Chairperson.  
 Council Meetings are held throughout Northern California.  
 Chairperson Four Waters at four@fourwatersmedia.com  
 Web site: www.takebackredcalifornia.org/index.cfm



## From an Iranian Mother to an American Mother

by Farideh Hassanzadeh-Mostafavi



If as a tourist  
 your son comes to my country  
 my son will be kind with him  
 Simply because in our religion  
 a guest is a gift of God  
 even if he is our long-standing enemy.  
 We will share our bread with him  
 And we'll offer him  
 the green shadows of trees  
 So that your son feels at home  
 And walking in the streets with your son,  
 Shoulder to shoulder,  
 like a kind sister My daughter will dedicate to him  
 poem by poem  
 The spirit of her motherland  
 Like Marina Tsvetaeva  
 Who dedicated Moscow to Mandelstam  
 Church by church  
 And the small pigeons also that rise over them.

If as a soldier  
 your son comes to my country  
 My son will be a defender  
 While your beloved son has no choice  
 But to be a killer  
 And if he, my only son, dies  
 My sigh will kill your son everyday.  
 His tongue will shrivel to dust  
 Because it didn't say no to the dictator  
 His eyes will fall out of their sockets  
 Because they didn't see the human rights  
 And lastly  
 His heart will be the portion of hungry dogs  
 Simply because an aggressor doesn't deserve a heart.  
 Surely because an aggressor doesn't deserve a heart.  
 And who more than you as a mother believes  
 In the power of my sigh as a mother?  
 a burning sigh which turns into an invisible fire  
 stronger than nuclear bombs.  
 Much stronger than nuclear bombs.

In the absence of our beloved sons,  
 you and I will have no one but God  
 The same God who makes flow the milk  
 in mother's breast.

*Farideh Hassanzadeh-Mostafavi is an Iranian poet who has translated poems from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas into Farsi. She lives in Tehran.*

from: *The Fellowship of Reconciliation, Fall 2008*  
 www.forusa.org

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# March Calendar

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

## Feb 3–Feb 28

Graphite and Clay exhibit at the Tidewater Gallery featuring Turlock artist Don Hall. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. Reception Mar 13, 5-8 pm. 463-4033

## Feb 7–Apr 5

78th annual Robert T. McKee Student Art Contest and Exhibition. Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. Opening Feb 7, 1:30–3 pm. Hundreds of art works by SJ County students from K-12. Wed-Sun 1:30–5 pm. 1st and 3rd Thurs 1:30–9 pm. \$5 adult 18 & older, student/senior/youth age 10-17 \$2.50. Under 10/first Saturday free. 940-6300 info@hagginmuseum.org

## Sat, Feb 21

Pedaling Paths to Independence bike ride, benefits services for the visually impaired. 8:30 am–4:30 pm. Linden Elementary School, 18100 East Front Street, Linden. Maps through orchards/vineyards (25 & 62 mile routes), rest stops, food and more provided. \$35. 466-3836.

## Sun, Feb 22

Friends of Chamber Music Concert featuring Voices of London, 2:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP. \$25, students/children free. 946-0540.

## Mon, Feb 23

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

## Tue, Feb 24

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

Oh My Hammer: African-American storytelling featuring Kirk Waller. 5 pm. Chavez Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. 937-8221.

## Feb 26–Mar 26

Creative Vision Exhibition featuring the art of blind and the visually impaired in a variety of media. T 11am-4pm, W-Th 11am-6:30pm, F 11am-1pm. LH Horton Jr Gallery, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5507

## Feb 27–Mar 8

Shakespeare's A Mid-summer Night's Dream, 8 pm, Sun 3/8 2 pm. Studio Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10–\$12. 954-5110.

## Sat, Feb 28

A People's Vision for the Delta symposium (p 13). 8 am–4:45 pm. Wine and Roses Hotel, Lodi. \$40. Registration: www.restorethedelta.org.

## Tue, Mar 3

"The Power of Forgiveness" video, Annunciation School, Lincoln/Magnolia, 7pm sharp. Ria, 462-3340

## Thu, Mar 5

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

Sharon Isbin, Grammy-Award winning guitarist, guests with the Stockton Symphony performing Respighi, Rodrigo and Tchaikovsky. 8 pm.

Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$20–\$50. 951-0196.

## Sun, Mar 8

Chinese New Year Festival, 10 am–5 pm. New Years specialty dishes, cooking demos, lion dance, martial arts and more celebrating the Year of the Ox. Stockton Civic Auditorium, 545 N Center St. \$2 donation. 931-2609.

## Tue, Mar 10

SJ Delta College Band and Orchestra Festival, starting 8 am. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5110.

## Mar 11–Apr 5

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change comedy, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton \$12–\$23. 473-2424.

## Mar 12–Mar 22

Anything Goes, presented by St. Mary's High School, Thu 7 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sat 3/14 & Sun 3/15, 22 2 pm. Empire Theatre, 1825 Pacific Ave, Stockton \$10–\$15. 957-3340 x250.

## Thu, Mar 12

Artist demonstration—painter Charles Waldman, 7-9 pm. Elsie May Goodwin Gallery, 1902 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 466-6604.

## Sat, Mar 14

Artist reception—painter Dick Massa, 4–7 pm. Elsie May Goodwin Gallery, 1902 Pacific Ave., 466-6604.

## Thu, Mar 17

Community Band Concert. 7:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$8 adult, \$5—student/senior. 954-5110.

## Thu, Mar 19

Women's Center 29th annual luncheon, Civic Auditorium, 525 N Center St, Stockton. 11:30 am-1 pm. \$30. 467-2334.

SJ Spring Festival of Bands, 7:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$8 adult, \$5—student/senior. 954-5110.

## Sat, Mar 21

SF Bay Area Peace March, coordinated with national march on the Pentagon, marches in L.A. and New York. Info: <http://bapd.org/n0650.html>

Na Hoku Mai Kanoelani Ho'ike Polynesian dance, music and history. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15–\$20. 954-5110.

## Wed, Mar 25

Delta College Jazz Band Concert. 7:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$8 adult, \$5—student/senior. 954-5110.

## Sun, Apr 19

21st annual Earth Day Festival, Victory Park, Stockton. Over 100 booths, great local music, veggie food, family bike ride. A highlight of every year. 11 am - 5 pm. Free. 937-8389

## Thursdays

Peace demonstrations continue, 4-5:30 PM, edge of Delta College campus along Pacific Avenue. Signs provided, or bring your own. Free parking in Sherwood Mall lot. After daylight saving time begins, 5-6:30 PM. Info John 464-3326.

## Saturdays

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

## DFA campaign academy coming soon to Fresno

The DFA Campaign Academy mission is to focus, network and train grassroots activists in the skills and strategies to take back our country, manage successful campaigns or run for office themselves. As the nation's largest progressive political action community, the DFA provides campaign training, organizing resources and media exposure to help participants support progressive issues and candidates up and down the ballot. The next DFA Campaign Academy on the West Coast will be held at the LAB School, California State University, Fresno, March 28–29 from 9 am–6 pm.

The Campaign Academy weekend is 16 hours of interactive workshops that bring together local activists, campaign staff and candidates for two days of intensive campaign training. Experienced campaign professionals lead sessions in voter contact, fund-raising, communications, online organizing and much more to empower progressive activists with the skills to win. Attendees also meet local progressive candidates and learn about exciting opportunities in their area. The cost runs from between \$30 and \$75 and space is limited. To register, contact: [www.democracyforamerica.com/fresnotraining](http://www.democracyforamerica.com/fresnotraining).

*Co-Sponsors of the DFA Training: San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club; Fresno County Democratic Central Committee; California for Democracy; DFA of Chowchilla; DFA of Stanislaus County; DFA-CFA of Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties; DFA-CFD of Fresno and Madera Counties; Fresno Stonewall Democrats; Madera County Democratic Central Committee; Oakhurst Democratic Club; The Democratic Club of Coarsegold; West Fresno Democratic Club.*

## Clear cut discussion

SPI has received permission to clear cut large parcels of forest lands along Winton Road outside of West Point and above the Licking Fork Creek on Silver Mountain in Wilseyville. From the air you can see the checkerboard of clear cuts. (You can't see it from the road because they leave trees along the roads.) Please come to a talk by Bruce Castle, a biologist and member of Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch at the Blue Mountain Center for Youth and Families, on Main Street in West Point at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

Learn the difference between clear cuts and sustainable timber harvest practices and the global warming impacts of clear cutting. The land belongs to SPI but the planet belongs to us. For more information, call 293-4953.

## Talking It Through

Talking It Through is now two half-hour shows.

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

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

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

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

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

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

April 19, Victory Park

## Come enjoy our 21st annual Earth Day Fest

Come learn how to live more sustainably at this year's annual Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 19th, from 11 am to 5 pm at Victory Park, behind Haggin Museum in Stockton. This is the premiere environmental event in all of San Joaquin County and, as always, the focus of the day-long festival is to show how to take care of our natural resources—the earth, air and water. With global warming, conservation, and other environmental issues taking center stage with a new administration, we expect a crowd hungry and eager to learn how to take responsibility for the only planet we have. It is a fun day for families and best of all, admission is free.

The Festival will have dozens of informative, interactive booths, displays and exhibits, plus there will be plenty of great food and exotic crafts. Local area schools will be teaching you how to better take care of our earth with a variety of hands-on activities; environmental organizations will educate on the important issues that impact you and how you can make a difference. Community agencies

will help you live a healthier, more positive life, and green businesses will assist in making changes to your home and workplace. Over 100 vendors will border the oak trees and cross the grass field at Victory Park, making this Earth Day Fest the biggest ever.

Companies and organizations are encouraged to sponsor this non-profit event. This year's event is sponsored by the City of Stockton Solid Waste & Recycling Division and Stormwater Management Program, the Peace & Justice Network, University of the Pacific Associated Students, San Joaquin County Public Works-Stormwater Management and Mayaco Marketing & Internet.

Volunteers are still needed so call (209) 946-2083 to get involved. All schools, organizations, and individuals doing environmental projects are encouraged to become exhibitors. Whether you have educational information to share, crafts or food to sell, or projects to demonstrate, please join the thousands who will gather here. For more info: (209) 937-8389 or stocktonearthday@gmail.com.

## Restore the Delta symposium

*A Bold Direction: The People's Vision for the Delta*  
February 28, 8 am to 4:45 pm  
Wine and Roses Hotel, Lodi

The Delta is under siege. People in the Delta feel permanently on the defensive, fighting agencies and interests throughout California that think they know better than local people how to use and manage this utterly unique place and the water that nature sends through it.

Sometimes State and Federal agencies and task forces ask for local input. Then they ignore that input and go ahead with their plan to forever alter the Delta. As Congressman George Miller said, "wasting time and energy chasing the cumbersome and expensive infrastructure dreams of the past century."

What happens to the Delta will affect everyone who lives in San Joaquin County and the rest of the Delta region. Proposals now on the table for conveying water through or around the Delta

will irreparably damage a \$2 billion agricultural economy. Sport fishing and commercial salmon fishing will suffer. Recreation will suffer. Tourism will suffer. And altering Delta hydrology will impact groundwater, levees, and flood risk in surrounding areas.

Restore the Delta, a coalition of over 2,100 Delta residents, business leaders, civic organizations, community groups, faith-based communities, union locals, farmers, fishermen, and environmentalists seeks to strengthen the health of the estuary and the well-being of Delta communities. Restore the Delta works to improve water quality so that fisheries and farming can thrive together again in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

To this end, we are asking for your time on February 28, 2009 for a symposium: "A Bold Direction: The People's Vision for the Delta." We'll be looking at alternatives for addressing issues of water reliability, environmental protection, and governance in the

Delta. Congressman Miller will deliver the morning keynote.

**ACTION:** This event is open to the public; however, only one representative from State or Federal agencies involved in Delta management may attend. The symposium registration fee is \$40.00. This fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available for volunteers and community members requiring financial assistance. If a scholarship is needed, please contact Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla at Barbara@restorethedelta.org. To register to attend, visit restorethedelta.org to download a registration form. Return the completed form with a check for \$40 made out to Restore the Delta. Please mail to PO Box 691088, Stockton, CA 95269. Registration forms and checks must be received by 2/25/09 to guarantee a spot. A registration form must be complete by each person attending.

## War is not healthy

Lorraine Schneider, the printmaker who designed War is Not Healthy for children and other living things, delivered the following speech, September 26, 1972 at the Palace of Nations in Geneva Switzerland. She died at 47, one month later.

"This is a very rewarding moment for me. I never dreamed that my modest little etching would turn into a huge banner. It is also an unusual position for me to be in because, as you know, most artists work in contemplation and solitude. It is a bit different. It is very hard to talk about art, how one creates something, where do I begin—with my anger, my pain, my concern for the children of Vietnam, for my own children, for all children. What could I do, what could any one person do.

Opportunity usually has a funny way of presenting itself: I heard of an exhibition of miniature etching, and I was intrigued by the condition of entry—the subject matter was open, but the entire

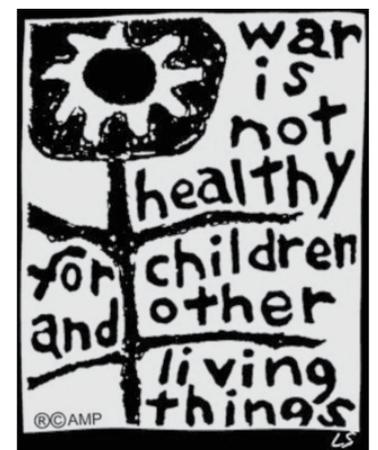
dimension of the work must not exceed four square inches. I felt...I knew what I wanted to say, but wasn't sure how to say it.

Then I realized that what I wanted to make was my own personal picket sign. It had to say something, something logical, something irrefutable and so true that no one in the world could say that it was not so.

*War is not healthy for children and other living things*

The nuclear age has retired war; it is not an obsolete institution. Now that we have the awesome power of destroying mankind, we must and we will evolve toward a higher level of civilization. Man will learn to resolve his inevitable differences through non-military alternatives. But it is up to us, the artists, the people who work in media, to prepare the emotional soil for the last step out of the cave.

We can create the symbols of the new day and light the



world with our hope and the Neanderthals that attempt to restrict our freedom of expression, that attempt to frighten us into silence, that give you only four square inches with which to cry out your anger—use it. Garcia Lorca, the revolutionary Spanish poet, said of the censor, "if they give you lined paper, write the other way." They gave me four square inches and this is what I did with it.

—Submitted by Ellen Lyons

### connections

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