

connections

PRICELESS

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This is an invitation to help build a movement—to take one day, October 24, and use it to stop the climate crisis.

First a little background...

So, what is global warming and what's the problem anyway?

The science is clear: global warming is happening faster than ever and humans are responsible. Global warming is caused by releasing what are called greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The most common greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide. Many of the activities we do every day like turn the lights on, cook food, or heat or cool our homes rely on energy sources like coal and oil that emit carbon dioxide

and other heat-trapping gases. This is a major problem because global warming destabilizes the delicate balance that makes life on this planet possible. Just a few degrees in temperature can completely change the world as we know it, and threaten the lives of millions of people around the world. But don't give up hope! You can help stop global warming by taking action here at 350.org.

And what does this 350 number even mean?

350 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide—measured

the safe zone, he's at more risk for heart attack or stroke. The planet is in its danger zone because we've poured too much carbon into the atmosphere, and we're starting to see signs of real trouble:

350

in "Parts Per Million" in our atmosphere. 350 PPM—it's the number humanity needs to get back to as soon as possible to avoid runaway climate change.

If we're already past 350, are we all doomed?

No. We're like the patient that goes to the doctor and learns he's overweight, or his cholesterol is too high. He doesn't die immediately—but until he changes his lifestyle and gets back down to

melting ice caps, rapidly spreading drought. We need to scramble back as quickly as we can to safety.

How do we create the political change to steer towards 350?

We need an international agreement to reduce carbon emissions fast, and 2009 might be our best shot.

The United Nations is working on a global climate treaty, which is supposed to be completed in December of 2009 at a conference

in Copenhagen, Denmark. But the current plans for the treaty are much too weak to get us back to safety. This treaty needs to put a high enough price on carbon that we stop using so much. It also needs to ensure poor countries a fair chance to develop.

This year, we can create a grassroots movement connected by the web and active all over the world.

We can hold our decision-makers accountable to producing a treaty that is strong, equitable, and grounded in the latest science. On 24 October, we're holding a Global Day of Climate Action to do just this.

If this global movement succeeds, we can get the world on track to get back to 350 and back to climate safety. It won't be easy, that's why we need all the help we can get.

How do we get the world on track to get to 350?

We need an international agreement to reduce carbon emissions fast. The United Nations is working on a treaty, which is supposed to be completed in December of 2009 at a conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. But the current plans for the treaty are much too weak

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The fleeting chance to make meaningful change

Bruce Giudici

As another Earth Day passes, and as I edit this issue of Connections, I am struck by how the problems we attack today are exactly the same as 21 years ago, when I worked on our first Earth Day Festival in Oak Park. Regretably, the people, organizations and corporations interested in keeping things the same—profit-wise—have, by and large, been winning. A lot of money has been made at the expense of our planet and future. Some examples:

For all its seeming newness, global warming was covered in a Connections article 21 years ago—same warning, different decade. The cost of carbon remains at zero.

Despite ads that promise that they "care" and are "Beyond Petroleum," oil companies continue to fight against zero emission vehicles (a battle they won years ago, when California abandoned the idea under Governor Wilson in favor of a more industry-friendly—and aptly named—

hybrid) through control of oil prices and strategic purchasing of Senators and Representatives, who short-change our future for personal gain.

While claiming to protect the Delta, a dual-conveyance system for water diversion (read: Peripheral Canal) is surging in popularity, spelling an end to Delta farming as we know it (without a fresh-water push back, salt water intrusion will kill most crops), changing a Delta habitat that hasn't been wild for a century. The true cost of water remains set woefully low.

The issues remain and so do we. And, thankfully, the mood in the country today seems ready for change. More people know of these issues than in the past; more people are hungry for alternatives and answers. Informational fairs like Earth Day are one way to discuss our shared future. Another is in your hands: *Connections* can be used as a local response to global problems—tell a friend that our fragile earth needs help fast.

Earth Day shows that the little

things we do as individuals are important: recycling, using vehicles less and energy efficient light bulbs more, buying recycled products and things produced locally. But they won't save this planet from permanent irreversible change due to global warming, habitat destruction and toxic pollution.

The big problems we face need to be solved by collective action—locally, regionally, nationally and globally. At this point, inaction is not an option. Each of us must choose where we feel most able to help and join in the recovery effort. Look locally: we have the San Joaquin Grassroots Group growing out of the Obama organization, working on issues of energy, health care and education. The Campaign for Common Ground pushes on the key environmental issue of urban sprawl. Regionally, both our local Sierra Club and Restore the Delta provide a voice to those concerned about the quality of life and water in our area. Statewide, the Planning and Conservation League works on legislation that preserves parklands,

Bruce Giudici, editor



encourages energy efficiency and slows vehicle emissions. Nationally, organizations such as the National Resources Defense Council, Defenders of Wildlife and the Organic Consumers Union take leadership on preservation of habitat, animals and the production of agricultural goods that are safe for the environment. Globally, the World Wildlife Fund, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace aim to protect the diversity that will, in the long run, keep this planet from collapsing. You may have your own favorite organization—let Connections know about it! And today, we have a President (who has said some nice things) and a Congress (that has some courageous voices) with an opportunity to act.

In this global time of crisis, we must find the time to volunteer our best efforts in solving problems. The next 30-50 year window is our opportunity to take the sustainable path. The sacrifices we make now—in decreased consumption and increased awareness—will pay big dividends for those who follow us. We must take this fleeting chance to make meaningful change. For this Earth Day, make a pledge to change, to learn and to affect others—to make every day an earth day.

They don't seem satisfied with policing their own neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Watch program. They don't seem content with community development efforts, youth empowerment programs, advocating for after school programs or all of the other "solutions" that community leaders are now discussing. I would like to hear from anyone with any positive strategy to deal with this trend.

Jim Walsh, 209-981-0544

Feedback

Imperialism the true enemy

Editor,

The 'Cheap Strategies' piece collected by John Morearty listed strategy #35 as "Tell Obama: Afghanistan = Vietnam." I find this very disgusting.

First of all, a country (be it Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.) is not solely defined by the fact that an imperialistic power has decided to exploit it. It is not a 'mistake,' 'quagmire,' or 'flaw' of a U.S. president, to be recorded in the annals of history so that future

presidents will not repeat such an 'error.' To make such an analogy is to ignore U.S. imperialism and how pervasive imperialism is in our culture.

As any Native American or Brit will surely admit, the States is founded on imperialism, and every single U.S. president since its founding was/is an imperialist. Juggling conquest with the vexing needs of domestic matters, Obama is merely continuing what others before him did. And people in the U.S. are no different:

the mythology that 'bigger is better'; that the U.S. is a 'beacon of democracy/hope'; that we created the very first president in the history of humanity; that there is no limit to growth; that 'time is money';

that Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, etc. are 'mistakes'—these are all shades of imperialism.

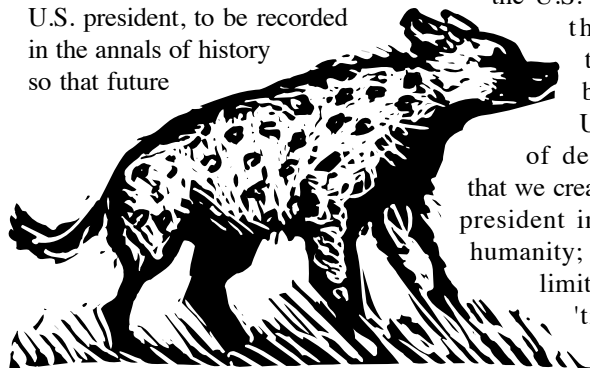
Thus, to hold a mirror to ourselves and reflect upon the image reveals something very unsettling indeed. And if we are honest, we must go beyond such terrible analogy that shifts the responsibility away from us and cease to deny the fact that we must change our culture.

Vinh Pham

Vigilante justice on the rise?

Editor,

A disturbing trend is being expanded in Stockton. A group of gun toting "patriots" are claiming the right to patrol "bad neighborhoods" armed and ready for action in a supposed effort to keep Stockton safe. Our newest "street gang" calls itself SAM (Stockton Armed Militia).



Connections

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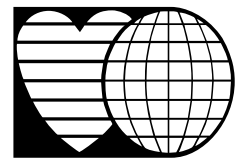
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"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared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

350 (continued from page 1)

to get us back to safety. This treaty needs to put a high enough price on carbon that we stop using so much. It also needs to make sure that poor countries are ensured a fair chance to develop.

How do we actually reduce carbon emissions to get to 350?

Make no mistake—getting back to 350 means transforming our world. It means building solar arrays instead of coal plants, it means planting trees instead of clear-cutting rainforests, it means increasing efficiency and decreasing our waste. Getting to 350 means developing a thousand different solutions—all of which will become much easier if we have a global treaty grounded in the latest science and built around the principles of equity and justice. To get this kind of treaty, we need a movement of people who care enough about our shared global future to get involved and make their voices heard.

Will this thing work? Will world leaders listen?

Only if we're loud enough.

If we can make this number known across the planet, that mere fact will exert some real pressure on negotiators. We need people to understand that 350 marks either success or failure for these climate negotiations. It's not an easy fight—the other side has the power of the fossil fuel industry. But we think the voice of ordinary people will be heard, if it's loud enough. That's all of our job—to make enough noise that we can't be easily ignored.

Where did this 350 number come from?

Dr. James Hansen, of NASA, the United States' space agency, has been researching global warming longer than just about anyone else. He was the first to publicly testify before the U.S. Congress, in June of 1988, that global warming was real. He and his colleagues have used both real-world observation, computer simulation, and mountains of data about ancient climates to calculate what constitutes dangerous quantities of carbon in the atmosphere. The Bush Administration has tried to keep Hansen and his team from speaking publicly, but their analysis has been widely praised

by other scientists, and by experts like Nobel Prize winner Al Gore. The full text of James Hansen's paper about 350 can be found here.

Isn't America the biggest source of the problem? What about China and India?

Yes—America has been producing more CO₂ than any other country, and leads the industrialized world in per capita emissions. Even though China now produces as much CO₂ annually, the US still produces many times more carbon per person than China, India, and most other countries. And America has blocked meaningful international action for many years. That's why many of us at 350.org have worked hard to change U.S. policy—we staged more than 2,000 demonstrations in all 50 states in 2007, and helped spur Congress to pass the first real laws to reduce CO₂. Now we need help from around the world to persuade both the U.S. and the U.N. to continue the process.

China and India and the rest of the developing world need to be involved. But since per capita they use far less energy than the West, and have been doing so for much shorter periods of time, and are using fossil fuels to pull people out of poverty, their involvement needs to be different. The West is going to have to use some tiny percentage of the wealth it built up filling the atmosphere with carbon to transfer technology north to south so that these countries can meet their legitimate development needs without burning all their coal. A great resource for thinking about these questions is the paper prepared by the Greenhouse Rights Network, which can be found here.

350 is just a number. Wouldn't "Climate Emergency" or "Clean Energy Now" be a better call to action?

350 translates into many languages—numerals are among the few things most people around the world recognize. More to the point, 350 tells us what we need to do. Far from boring, it's the most important number in the world. It contains, rightly understood, the recipe for a very different world, one that moves past cheap fossil fuel to more sensible technologies,

more closely-knit communities, and a more equitable global society.

And what about all the other targets people are aiming for?

Climate science is a rapidly evolving field. A few years ago, climate campaigners hoped that goals of 450ppm or a 2 degree Celsius rise in temperature might be "safe levels" for the world to shoot for. We wish they were right—it would make the world's job a lot easier.

But, the latest data and climate models have convinced scientists that these other targets are missing the mark, that 350 is the upper boundary for a safe climate.

For many people around the world, this comes as no surprise—as the glaciers melt and the forests burn, it's clear that the effects of climate change are being felt right now. The scientific models are only affirming what we see all around us, and the longer we're above 350 the longer we're all in the danger zone.

People and organizations all over the world uniting around the 350 goal. In every corner of the planet, we're coming together around a common call to action. And it's working.

The 350 rallying cry is a simple message that can cut through the static, hold our leaders accountable, and motivate our planet to swift and bold action. Take a look at our Messengers page and our Blog for politicians, scientists, and other important supporters getting behind the 350 target.

Why October 24th?

The timing here is crucial—there is a narrow window when we can have the most influence in international climate politics. Too early and we're irrelevant, too late and we've missed our chance to have a real impact.

Though the final climate meeting in Copenhagen doesn't take place until December, governments will be finalizing positions before the meeting takes place. Late October may well be our best chance we have before countries set everyone that negotiates for the United Nations climate talks will get their final orders.

With creative actions happening all over the globe, and photographs of those events appearing online,

October 24, 2009

An invitation to act

On October 24, we will stand together as one planet and call for a fair global climate treaty. United by a common call to action, we'll make it clear: the world needs an international plan that meets the latest science and gets us back to safety. This movement has just begun, and it needs your help.

Here's the plan: **we're asking you, and people in every country on earth, to organize an action in your community on October 24.** There are no limits here—imagine bike rides, rallies, concerts, hikes, festivals, tree-plantings, protests, and more. Imagine your action linking up with thousands of others around the globe. Imagine the world waking up. If we can pull it off, we'll send a powerful message on October 24: the world needs the climate solutions that science and justice demand.

It's often said that the only thing preventing us from tackling the climate crisis quickly and equitably is a lack of political will. Well, the only thing that can create that political will is a unified global movement—and no one is going to build that movement for us. It's up to regular people all over the world. That's you.

So register an event in your community for October 24, and then enlist the help of your friends. Get together with co-workers or your local environmental group or human rights campaign, your church or synagogue or mosque or temple; enlist bike riders and local farmers and young people. All over the planet we'll start to organize ourselves. With your help, there will be an event at every iconic place on the planet on October 24—from America's Great Lakes to Australia's Great Barrier Reef—and also in all the places that matter to you in your daily lives: a beach or park or village green or town hall. If there was ever a time for you to get involved, it's right now.

Our crew at 350.org will do everything we can to support you, providing templates for banners and press releases, resources to spread the word, and tools to help you build a strong local climate action group. And our core team is always just a phone call or e-mail away if you need some support.

in the media, and on politicians' desks, we will change what these negotiators think they can achieve right before they make the important decisions of the UN treaty. Right now most of them know the science of 350ppm, but they don't think it is politically possible. On October 24, we are going to show them that not only is it possible, but it is what everyone all over the world is demanding they do.

Why another organization—there are already too many things going on!

It's true, there are lots of organizations and individuals working hard to solve the climate crisis. This is great news—it means that we don't really need to build a movement from scratch because it's already bubbling up all over the world.

Our hope is that we can shine a spotlight on the work of existing organizations, highlighting everyone's incredible work and knitting these many efforts together for a powerful and unified call to action—a call that is global, scientific, and specific. By providing a common platform with the 350 target, we can help to stitch together a whole that is truly greater than the sum of its parts, a diverse movement that speaks with one collective voice.

350.org is an international grassroots campaign that aims to mobilize a global climate movement united by a common call to action. By spreading an understanding of the science and a shared vision for a fair policy, we will ensure that the world creates bold and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. 350.org is an independent and not-for-profit project. For more info, visit <http://www.350.org>

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*Maturation: from "me" to a my-group
"we" to a human "we," to a living Earth
"we," and ultimately to a cosmic "we."*

—David Korten

John Morearty's memoir *Walking to Omega: Tales of a Peacenik Carpenter* is at www.johnmorearty.com.

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.



Central Stockton organic garden: help wanted

John Morearty

Seven long-time organic gardeners are scouting for three acres (or more) in central Stockton. Not for ourselves, but to create a non-profit land trust organic garden.

Here's the vision: Thirty families, poor in land but rich in gardening experience, working a patch of good valley earth right in town. Building the soil together, sharing toil, tools, crops and the gardening lore of grandfathers and grandmothers. Feeding their families. They feast together, tell stories and make music from many homelands. They may hold a farmers market; to get to the market, walk through the garden....

This sort of thing is happening around the country, around the globe, and it's happening now in Stockton. A committee of organic gardeners has been meeting, scheming, making lists. We meet next to an existing community



Tire-raised bed keeps gophers out. Design from Central America. For food crops, line with plastic to avoid toxics.

garden.

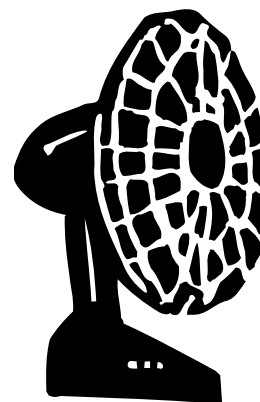
Want to help? We need a chunk of land, gardening and legal skills, tools, financial support,... Contact the Stockton Community Supported Garden Project:

Jeremy Terhune (chair) 922-8215, Rosemary Moon Atkinson 478-4380, Ray Ledesma 983-1258, Jeanne and Jeff Perez, Chris Kovach, or John Morearty. Can you dig it?

Obama: take action on climate change now

The Senate has refused to lead the fight against climate change. Now it's up to President Obama. Ask President Obama to use his executive powers to reduce carbon emissions. If the Senate won't do its job, President Obama can and should. In a little noticed vote last week, Senators acting on behalf of the coal, utility, and auto industries have dealt a serious blow to serious progress on climate change. It's time for President Obama to use his executive power through the Environmental Protection Agency and take action on global warming.

Here's what happened: Republicans were joined by 26 Democrats in the Senate in a vote on a rule to ensure that the filibuster will be used to block meaningful climate legislation. Any truly effective bill will surely suffer death by filibuster because there are more than 40 Senators committed to deferring any real action on



climate change that would threaten the coal, oil, and auto industries. This betrayal by Democrats on one of the most important issues of our time is deeply disappointing. However, President Obama doesn't need Congress' help to take a very important step: regulating carbon.

During the Bush administration, EPA administrators rejected scientists' findings on the dangers of carbon. But on March 20, the Obama Administration's

EPA finally submitted a long-awaited "endangerment finding" to the White House. Now with this finding, President Obama can order the EPA to reduce carbon emissions, including those from coal burning utilities. With the Senate dragging its feet on progress, the time for President Obama to act is now.

ACTION: Contact the President now.

Source: CREDO Action alert, 4/4/09 www.credoaction.com

The startling effects of going vegetarian for just one day

Kathy Freston

I've written extensively on the consequences of eating meat—on our health, our sense of "right living", and on the environment. It is one of those daily practices that has such a broad and deep effect that I think it merits looking at over and over again, from all the different perspectives. Sometimes, solutions to the world's biggest problems are right in front of us. The following statistics are eye-opening, to say the least.

If everyone went vegetarian just for one day, the U.S. would save:

- 100 billion gallons of water, enough to supply all the homes in New England for almost 4 months;
- 1.5 billion pounds of crops otherwise fed to livestock, enough to feed the state of New Mexico for more than a year;
- 70 million gallons of gas—enough to fuel all the cars of Canada and Mexico combined with plenty to spare;
- 3 million acres of land, an area more than twice the size of Delaware;
- 33 tons of antibiotics.

If everyone went vegetarian just for one day, the U.S. would prevent:

- Greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 1.2 million tons of CO₂, as much as produced by all of France;
- 3 million tons of soil erosion and \$70 million in resulting economic damages;



- 4.5 million tons of animal excrement;
- Almost 7 tons of ammonia emissions, a major air pollutant.

My favorite statistic is this: According to Environmental Defense, if every American skipped one meal of chicken per week and substituted vegetarian foods instead, the carbon dioxide savings would be the same as taking more than half a million cars off of U.S. roads. See how easy it is to make an impact?

Globally, we feed 756 million tons of grain to farmed animals. As Princeton bioethicist Peter Singer notes in his new book, if we fed that grain to the 1.4 billion people who are living in abject poverty, each

of them would be provided more than half a ton of grain, or about 3 pounds of grain/day—that's twice the grain they would need to survive. And that doesn't even include the 225 million tons of soy that are produced every year,

almost all of which is fed to farmed animals. He writes, "The world is not running out of food. The problem is that we—the relatively affluent—have found a way to consume four or five times as much food as would be possible, if we were to eat the crops we grow directly."

A recent United Nations report titled *Livestock's Long Shadow* concluded that the meat industry causes almost 40% more greenhouse gas emissions than all the world's transportation systems—that's all the cars, trucks, SUVs, planes and ships in the world combined. The report also concluded that factory farming is one of the biggest contributors to the most serious environmental problems at every level—local and global. Researchers at the University of Chicago concluded that switching from standard American diet to a vegan diet is more effective in the fight against global warming than switching from a standard American car to a hybrid. In its report, the U.N. found that the meat industry causes local and global environmental problems even beyond global warming. It said that the meat industry should be a main focus in every discussion of land degradation, climate change and air pollution, water shortages and pollution, and loss of biodiversity.

Unattributed statistics were calculated from scientific reports by Noam Mohr, a physicist with the New York University Polytechnic Institute.

Source: *Huffington Post*, 4/2/09 <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>



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

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

KPFA (94.1 FM) provides 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>

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

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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>

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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>

Obama garden missing something

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) represents chemical companies that produce pesticides, and they are angry that Michelle Obama isn't using chemicals in her organic garden at the White House. In an email they forwarded to their supporters, a MACA spokesman wrote, "While a garden is a great idea, the thought of it being organic made [us] shudder." MACA went on to publish a letter it had sent to the First Lady asking her to consider using chemicals or what they call "crop protection products" in her garden.

Source: *Credo Action alert 4/11/09, www.credoaction.com*

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>



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Coup lite

**Bush military undermines
Obama withdrawal pledge**

Gareth Porter

Despite President Barack Obama's statement at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina Feb. 27 that he had "chosen a timeline that will remove our combat brigades over the next 18 months," a number of Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), which have been the basic U.S. Army combat unit in Iraq for six years, will remain in Iraq after that date under a new non-combat label. A spokesman for Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Lt. Col. Patrick S. Ryder, told IPS Tuesday that "several advisory and assistance brigades" would be part of a U.S. command in Iraq that will be "re-designated" as a "transition force headquarters" after August 2010.

But the "advisory and assistance brigades" to remain in Iraq after that date will in fact be the same as BCTs, except for the addition of a few dozen officers who would carry out the advice and assistance missions, according to military officials involved in the planning process. Gates has hinted that the withdrawal of combat brigades will be accomplished through an administrative sleight of hand rather than by actually withdrawing all the combat brigade teams. Appearing on Meet the Press Mar. 1, Gates said the "transition force" would have "a very different kind of mission", and that the units remaining in Iraq "will be characterised differently."

"They will be called advisory and assistance brigades," said Gates. "They won't be called combat brigades." Obama's decision to go along with the military proposal for a "transition force" of 35,000 to 50,000 troops thus represents a complete abandonment of his own original policy of combat troop withdrawal and an acceptance of what the military wanted all along—the continued presence of several combat brigades in Iraq well beyond mid-2010. National Security Council officials declined to comment on the question of whether combat brigades were

actually going to be left in Iraq beyond August 2010 under the policy announced by Obama Feb. 27.

The term that has been used internally within the Army to designate the units that will form a large part of the "transition force" is not "Advisory and Assistance Brigades" but "Brigades Enhanced for Stability Operations" (BESO). Lt. Col. Gary Tallman, a spokesman for the Joint Staff, confirmed Monday that BESO will be the Army unit deployed to Iraq for the purpose of the transition force. Tallman said the decision-making process now underway involving CENTCOM and the Army is to determine "the exact composition of the BESO."

But the U.S. Army has already been developing the outlines of the BESO for the past few months. The only change to the existing BCT structure that is being planned is the addition of advisory and assistance skills rather than any reduction in its combat power. ...

The plan to deploy several augmented BCTs represents the culmination of the strategy of "relabeling" or "remissioning" of BCTs in Iraq that was developed by U.S. military leaders in the wake of the surge of candidate Barack Obama to near-certain victory in the presidential election last year. Late last year, Gen. David Petraeus, the CENTCOM chief, and Gen. Ray Odierno, the top commander in Iraq, were unhappy with Obama's pledge to withdraw all U.S. combat brigades within 16 months. But military planners quickly hit on the relabeling scheme as a way of avoiding the complete withdrawal of BCTs in an Obama administration.

The New York Times revealed Dec. 4 that Pentagon planners were talking about "relabeling" of U.S. combat units as "training and support" units in a Dec. 4 story, but provided no details. Pentagon planners were projecting that

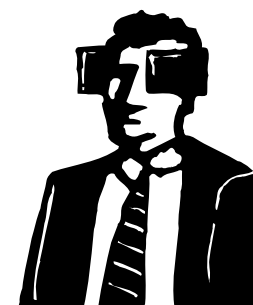
as many as 70,000 U.S. troops would be maintained in Iraq "for a substantial time even beyond 2011." That report suggested that the strategy envisioned keeping the bulk of the existing BCTs in Iraq as under a new label indicating an advisory and support mission.

Secretary Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen discussed a plan to re-designate U.S. combat troops as support troops at a meeting with Obama in Chicago on Dec. 15, according a report in the Times three days later. Gates and Mullen reportedly speculated at the meeting on whether Iraqis would permit such "re-labeled" combat forces to remain in Iraqi cities and towns after next June, despite the fact that the U.S.-Iraq withdrawal agreement signed in November 2008 called for all U.S. combat forces to be withdrawn from populated areas by the end of June 2010.

That report suggests that Obama was well aware that giving the Petraeus and Odierno a free hand to determine the composition of a "transition force" of 35,000 to 50,000 troops meant that most combat brigades would remain in Iraq rather than being withdrawn, as he ostensibly promised the U.S. public on Feb. 27.

Gareth Porter is an investigative historian and journalist specializing in US national security policy. The paperback edition of his latest book, "Perils of Dominance: Imbalance of Power and the Road to War in Vietnam," was published in 2006.

Source: Inter Press Service story 3/25/09, <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46264>



Drought talk part of canal campaign

Dan Bacher

Lester Snow, director of the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), tried to "snow" the public by making false claims of a "drought" scenario in California in an announcement on April 2. DWR announced that its fourth survey of the winter season indicates snowpack water content statewide is 81 percent of normal for the date. True to form, Snow cynically used the announcement to whip up fears about a "drought" in order to boost Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's campaign to build a peripheral canal and more dams.

"A below-average snowpack at this time of year, especially following two consecutive dry years, is a cause for concern," said Snow in a news release. "Our most critical storage reservoirs remain low, and we face severe water supply problems in many parts of our state. Californians must continue to save water at home and in their businesses."

On February 27, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a "drought state of emergency," directing DWR and other state agencies to provide assistance to people and communities impacted by the "drought." On March 30, DWR provided the governor an update on "drought" conditions and recommended strategies. Snow touted Schwarzenegger's plan to build a peripheral canal ("improved conveyance") and Temperance Flat and Sites Reservoirs as the "solution" to California's water problems.

"Governor Schwarzenegger has outlined steps to safeguard the state's water supply through a comprehensive plan that includes water conservation, more surface and groundwater storage, new investments in the state's aging water infrastructure, and improved water conveyance to protect the environment and provide a reliable water supply," the release stated. "Today's drought and regulatory restrictions underscore the need to take action to safeguard tomorrow's water supply."

However, a careful review of DWR data reveals that he is not telling the entire truth about California's water "crisis," but

is carefully selecting the data to cultivate unfounded fears of a "drought" and to promote Schwarzenegger's peripheral canal and dams proposal.

Manual survey results taken on April 2 at four locations near Lake Tahoe, combined with electronic readings, documented statewide snowpack water content of 81 percent. The water content is 87 percent in the Northern Sierra, 80 percent in the Central Sierra, and 77 percent in the Southern Sierra. "Last year at this time, snowpack was 95 percent of normal, reflecting a drop of over 20 percent from March 2008 caused by the driest spring on record," according to DWR.

DWR blamed court-ordered restrictions on Delta water exports, needed to protect delta smelt and Sacramento River chinook salmon, for depriving farmers and urban residents of their water. "Continuing dry conditions and regulatory agency restrictions on Delta water exports are limiting water deliveries to farms and urban areas," DWR claimed. "A forthcoming Biological Opinion from the National Marine Fisheries Service to protect salmon and steelhead may further reduce pumping capability. DWR expects it will only be able to deliver 20 percent of requested State Water Project water this year to the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast and Southern California."

What Snow failed to mention was the reason why many reservoirs were at record low levels until the February rains. It was because DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation nearly drained Shasta, Folsom and Oroville reservoirs in 2007 and 2008 to supply Westlands Water District, the Kern County Water Bank and Southern California, including Diamond Valley

Reservoir, with northern California water. Fortunately, the February and March rain and snow runoff raised reservoir levels to much higher levels than they were at the beginning of 2009.

The DWR release also stated, "Storage in California's major reservoirs is low. Lake Oroville, the principal storage reservoir for the State Water Project (SWP), is only at 56 percent of capacity." However, Bill Jennings, executive director of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), noted that Lake Oroville is actually 75 percent of the 15-year average, by no means a catastrophic level for this time of year.

DWR also failed to mention the other reservoirs that supply water for the state and federal water projects. Central Valley Project reservoirs are in relatively good shape, with Shasta at 77 percent of the 15-year average, Folsom at 117 percent of the 15-year average, New Melones at 74 percent of the 15-year average and Millerton at 95 percent of the 15-year average.

The actual precipitation in state and federal project watersheds also tells a different tale than the one Snow is spinning. Precipitation on the Sacramento River at Shasta Dam is 77 percent of average; the American River watershed at Blue Canyon is 93 percent, the Stanislaus River at New Melones is 88 percent, and the San Joaquin River at Huntington Lake is 83 percent. "This is a slightly below average water year, but it is not a dry year and not a critically dry year," said Jennings. The doomsday scenario that DWR has conjured up is completely inaccurate, since most Central Valley contractors will receive 100 percent of their water.

Only Westlands short water

"The Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors north of the Delta and Friant Unit contractors in the San Joaquin Valley are receiving 100 percent of their water," emphasized Jennings. "The only people not receiving their full water allocations are Westlands and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). And MWD is receiving a reduced amount of water because they gave up the urban preference in the Monterey Agreement."

The corporate agribusiness operations that are being hurt the most are the most junior water rights holders in Westlands, who chose to convert from annual row crops to permanent crops. "If there is an economic impact to Westlands, it's from farmers changing from planting the row crops of the past to planting permanent crops like fruit and nut trees - crops that can't handle drought years and require constant water to keep them alive," said Jennings. "Westlands Water District deliberately planted crops that would suffer the most in dry years in an effort to have their junior water rights trump the senior water rights holders and public trust resources of rivers, streams and estuaries."

Thus, the claims of a "drought" by Lester Snow and the governor are false and are being used to bolster Schwarzenegger's claims that a peripheral canal and dams are needed to create a "win-win" scenario of "ecosystem restoration" and "solving" water supply needs at the same time.

Snow's announcement takes place as California fisheries are in their greatest crisis ever. Salmon fishing in ocean waters off California and Oregon will close again this year, with only the possibility of a token recreational 10-day season off Eureka and Crescent City, due to the collapse

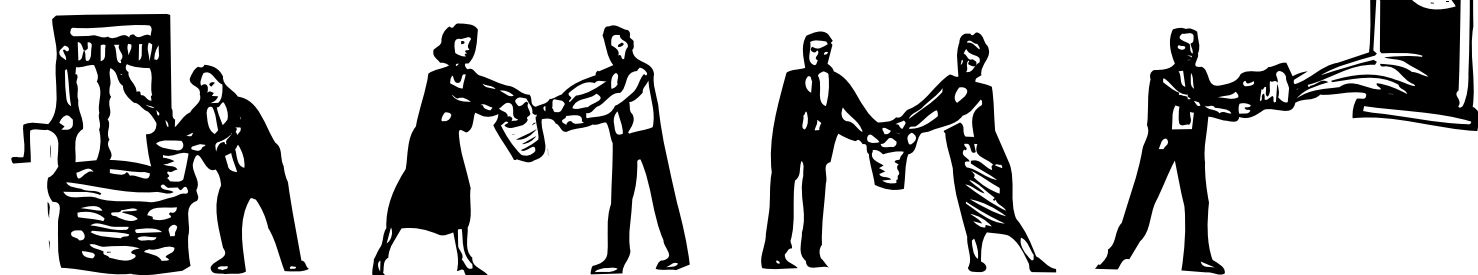
of Central Valley Chinook salmon populations. Coho salmon populations in coastal streams have reached record lows because years of clear-cutting and other habitat destruction, combined with poor ocean conditions.

Delta smelt, longfin smelt, juvenile striped bass, threadfin shad and other California Delta fish have also reached record low population levels, due to massive increases in water exports, increasing levels of toxic chemicals in Central Valley rivers, and invasive species.

"There is no win, win solution," Jennings said after receiving the "Delta Advocate" award at the Restore the Delta Symposium in Lodi on February 28. "We live in a water-limited state where there is only an average of 29 million acre-feet of runoff in the Central Valley, while the State Water Resources Control Board has allocated 245 million acre-feet of water rights."

Jennings condemned the campaign by the governor, DWR and Sen. Dianne Feinstein to build a peripheral canal - and said that we need to compel our regulatory agencies to enforce the water code and Clean Water Act. "The canal would transfer pumping impacts to the last viable salmonid river in the Valley (the Sacramento), eliminate critical habitat and send numerous species into oblivion, and increase the concentration and bioaccumulation of pollutants," he said. "It would increase salinity, severely reducing yields of hundreds of thousands of [acres of] productive farmland, and eliminate tens of thousands of fishing, recreational and agricultural jobs."

Source: truthout1.com/Perspective4/7/09
www.truthout.org



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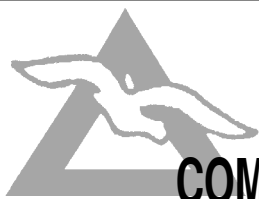
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How to fight global warming

The biggest cause of global warming is the carbon dioxide released when fossil fuels like oil and coal are burned for energy. So when you save energy, you fight global warming (and save money, of course). Here are some easy steps you can take:

* **Raise your voice.** We need new laws that will steer our nation toward the most important solutions to global warming—cleaner cars and cleaner power plants. Send a message to your elected officials, letting them know that you will hold them accountable for what they do—or fail to do—about global warming.

* **Choose an efficient vehicle:** A car that gets 20 miles per gallon will emit about 50 tons of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. A car getting 40 mpg will emit half that much. When buying your next car, pick the least-polluting, most efficient vehicle that meets your needs. Maybe it's an innovative hybrid that combines a gasoline engine with electric motors (and never needs to be plugged in). Or maybe it's a wagon instead of an SUV. And over the average lifetime of an American car, a 40-mpg car will save roughly \$3,000 in fuel costs compared with a 20-mpg car, so compare fuel economy performance before you buy. (See www.fueleconomy.gov's <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/choosing.shtml> Find and Compare Cars feature.)

* **Drive smart.** Get your engine tuned up and keep your tires inflated—both help fuel efficiency. If all Americans kept their tires properly inflated (and a government study shows that many don't), gasoline use nationwide would come down 2 percent. A tune-up could boost your miles per gallon anywhere from 4 to 40 percent; a new air filter could get you 10 percent more miles per gallon.

* **Drive less.** When possible, choose alternatives to driving (public transit, biking, walking, carpooling), and bundle your errands together so you'll make fewer trips.

* **Buy energy-efficient appliances.** Use your consumer power when buying appliances by shopping for energy-efficient models. You may spend a little more up front, but you'll save a lot on electricity, and you'll reduce pollution produced by power plants. Look for the Energy Star

<http://www.energystar.gov/> label, which identifies the most efficient appliances. You can also use the Energy Guide labels to compare the efficiency of specific models. Remember that refrigerators consume the most electricity in the home. Today's refrigerators consume less than one-fourth the energy of models built 30 years ago, so an upgrade could mean huge energy savings for your household.

* **Replace your light bulbs** with compact fluorescent bulbs. While compact fluorescents are initially more expensive than the incandescent bulbs most people use, they last 10 times as long. What's more, a compact fluorescent will lower your energy bills by about \$15 a year, and by more than \$60 during its life. It will also keep half a ton of carbon dioxide out of the air.

* **Weatherize your home or apartment.** For a very small investment, you can cut your heating and cooling expenses and reduce the burning of fossil fuels. Use weatherstripping to

seal drafts around windows and doors. If a draft comes through electrical outlets or switches on outside walls, install foam draft blockers behind the cover plates. Use covers (inside or outside) on air conditioners during cold months. And make sure your home has adequate insulation. Many older homes don't have enough, especially in the attic. You can check the insulation yourself or have it done as part of an energy audit, provided by many utility companies. Call your company to see if it offers this service.

* **Offset your carbon footprint.** After trying all of the above suggestions, you can make up for your remaining carbon output through purchasing carbon offsets. Offsets represent clean power you can add to the nation's energy grid in place of power from fossil fuels. Not all offset companies are alike; see the NRDC guide to carbon offsets for tips on how to choose an offset supplier.

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council, <http://www.nrdc.org>

Slow Food for a better future

The Slow Food international movement officially began when delegates from 15 countries endorsed this manifesto on November 9, 1989. Our century, which began and has developed under the insignia of industrial civilization, first invented the machine and then took it as its life model.

We are enslaved by speed and have all succumbed to the same insidious virus: Fast Life, which disrupts our habits, pervades the privacy of our homes and forces us to eat Fast Foods.

To be worthy of the name, *Homo sapiens* should rid himself of speed before it reduces him to a species in danger of extinction.

A firm defense of quiet material pleasure is the only way to oppose the universal folly of Fast Life.

May suitable doses of guaranteed sensual pleasure and slow, long-lasting enjoyment preserve us from the contagion of the multitude who mistake frenzy for efficiency.

Our defense should begin at the table with Slow Food. Let us rediscover the flavors and savors of regional cooking and banish the degrading effects of Fast Food.

In the name of productivity, Fast Life has changed our way of being and threatens our environment and our landscapes. So Slow Food is now the only truly progressive answer.

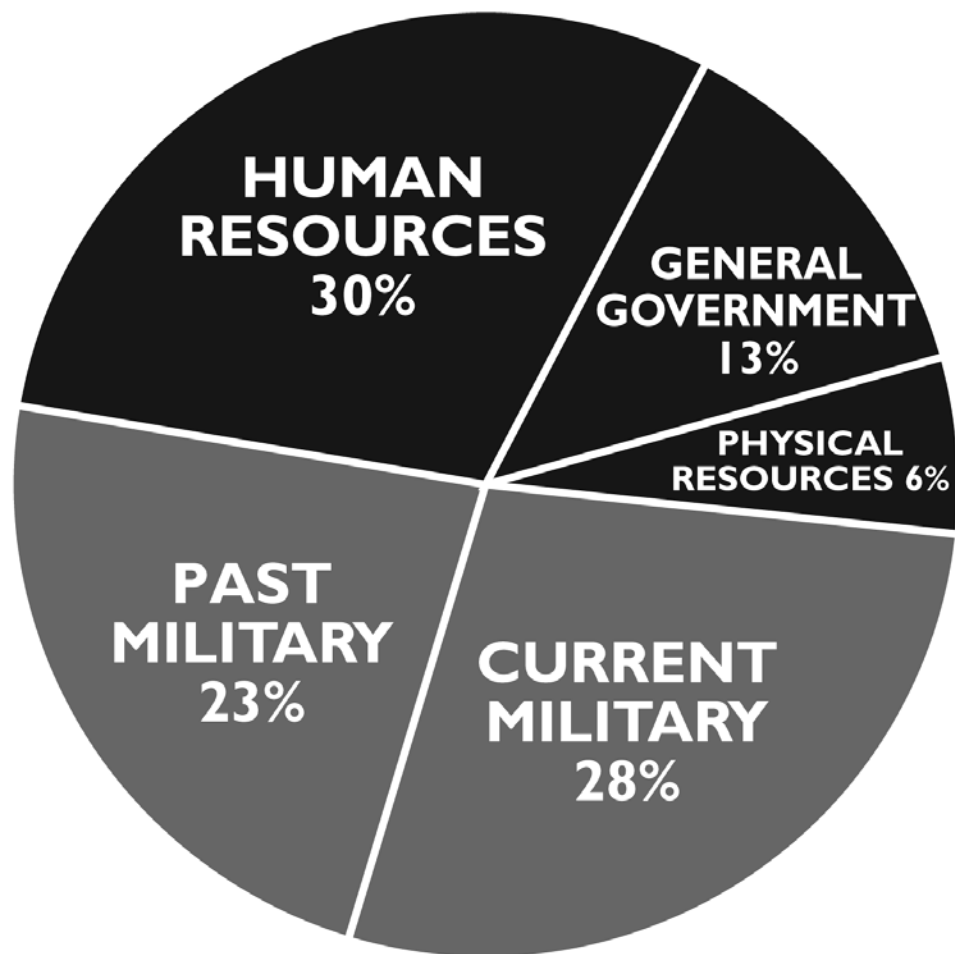
That is what real culture is all about: developing taste rather than demeaning it. And what better way to set about this than an international exchange of experiences, knowledge, projects?

Slow Food guarantees a better future.

Slow Food is an idea that needs plenty of qualified supporters who can help turn this (slow) motion into an international movement, with the little snail as its symbol.

Source: *Slow Food home* <http://www.slowfood.com>

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51% TO WAR

Each year War Resisters League analyzes **federal funds outlays** as presented in detailed tables in "Analytical Perspectives" of the *Budget of the United States Government*. Our analysis is based on federal funds, which do not include trust funds — such as Social Security — that are raised separately from income taxes for specific purposes. What you pay (or don't pay) by April 15, 2009, goes to the federal funds portion of the budget.

The pie chart here highlights **51% average annual military spending** based on our research over 20 years. The Obama administration is releasing the 2010 budget in late March and the new analysis will be posted on our website in April 2009. Over the summer Congress will debate the budget details and is mandated to pass a final budget by October 1, 2009.

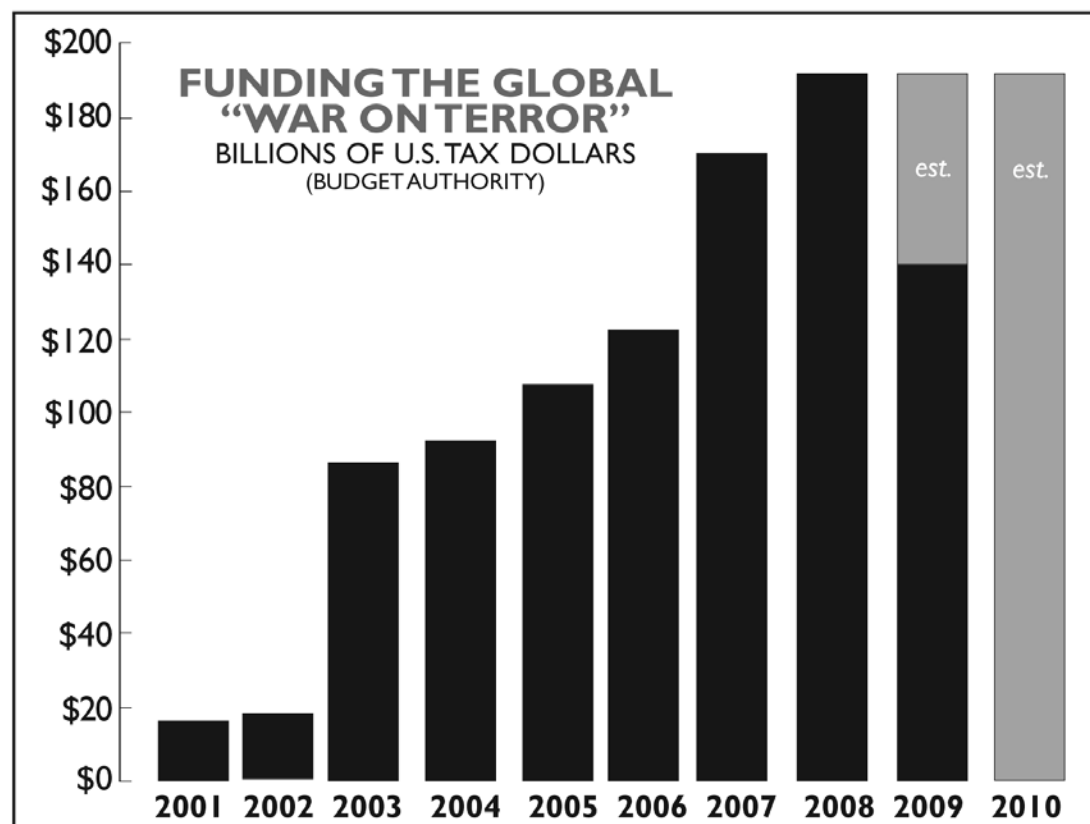
While we do not expect the military percentage to change much, Obama's 2010 budget presentation should include funding for the bank bailout, takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and the stimulus package. The Bush administration (with little Congressional opposition) refused to budget for the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the wider war on terror, intentionally hiding the full monetary costs of their criminal activities. We must demand that all future administration present a more complete and honest budget than we have seen in recent years.

See www.warresisters.org/piechart.htm for an analysis of the 2010 budget after it is released in March. There are also more details on our methodology and the assumptions behind it.

“The largest spending bill in history is going to turn out to be the war in Iraq. . . . I don't understand why . . . building a road, building a school, helping somebody get health care, that's wasteful spending, but that war in Iraq . . . is going to cost us over \$1 trillion before we're through. . . .”

Congressman Barney Frank

"This Week with George Stephanopoulos," ABC, 2/1/09



2001 to 2008: Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, armscontrolcenter.org. 2009: \$69B was approved in June 2008; \$70B is expected to be requested and approved early in 2009. WRL has chosen to hold the funding at 2008 levels for 2009-10 because there is no clarity on troops withdrawals from Iraq, the build-up in Afghanistan, or the ability to make solid estimates from incomplete DoD figures. A key source is the Congressional Research Service report to Congress, "The Cost of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Global War on Terror Operations Since 9/11," updated October 15, 2008, by Amy Belasco.

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Time to vote on CA budget

In February 2009—after months of much-publicized discord—California's lawmakers agreed on a state budget for the 17 months through June 2010. Their plans, however, hinge on voter approval of several measures that would alter the state constitution. Concerned citizens have a very short amount of time to become informed about this set of complex fiscal policy proposals. But voting—and voting wisely—is crucial to the financial future of the state and its public schools.

May 19 election is crucial to California's future

On May 19, five propositions on a statewide ballot propose changes to how California spends some of the revenues it collects. If voters approve propositions 1A through 1E, they will in effect be ratifying the February budget agreement made by the state's Legislature and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. If they vote against any of those measures, they will effectively unravel that agreement. The state's lawmakers will have to go back to the budgetary drawing board.

The measures on the May 19 ballot include:

- Proposition 1A: Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Fund
- Proposition 1B: Education Funding
- Proposition 1C: Lottery Modernization Act
- Proposition 1D: California Children and Families Act
- Proposition 1E: Temporary Reallocation of Mental Health Funding
- Proposition 1F: Restricts Elected Officials' Salaries

The process for setting up this special election is occurring particularly quickly. As a result, analyses of the measures are still being developed and legal challenges are occurring as well. At this point, even the official titles of the measures may change. Reactions from various organizations and potential campaigns for or against them are also still taking shape. California's schools and community colleges

have a clear stake in the outcome. Given that the state is the largest source of funding for K–12 schools and community colleges—and that K–14 education represents about 40% of the state's annual budget—this election will affect education funding both in the immediate future and over time.

Get informed and vote

If you are not registered to vote, you must do so by May 4 to participate in the May 19 election. The following websites provide more information on the ballot initiatives:

- Legislative Analyst's Office <http://lao.ca.gov/laoapp/ballot_source/propositions.aspx>—provides an independent review of the initiatives, including financial impacts.
- Secretary of State <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm#2009statewidespecial>—provides a preview of the ballot initiatives.
- Smart Voter <<http://www.smartvoter.org/index.html>>—by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund <<http://ca.lwv.org/>>, Smart Voter presents nonpartisan information about the initiatives.
- CA School Boards Association <<http://www.csba.org>>—offers an overview of the initiatives.
- CA Budget Project <<http://www.cbp.org>>—has done an analysis of 1A/1B and 1E.

Proponents

Proponents for the propositions have a website called California Budget Reform Now <<http://www.cabudgetreformnow.com>>.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is promoting the propositions on his website: www.joinarnold.com <<http://www.joinarnold.com>>

Other groups that support the initiatives and offer information on their websites include:

- CA Teachers Association <<http://www.cta.org/>>
- CA Chamber of Commerce <<http://www.calchamber.com/>>
- Association of CA School Administrators <<http://www.acsa.org/>>

org/>

- CA Retired Teachers Association <http://www.calrta.org/NewsEvents.php?cat_id=6>—supports 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1F, and takes no position on 1D and 1E.

Opponents

Opponents do not necessarily oppose all of the propositions. For example, no one offered an argument against Proposition 1B (Education Funding) for the printed ballot. However, a number of groups oppose

Proposition 1A (Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Fund), and 1B will not be implemented unless 1A passes.

Groups that oppose one or more of the initiatives and offer information on their websites include:

- League of Women Voters <<http://ca.lwv.org/>>—opposes 1A, 1C, 1D, and 1E; is neutral on 1B; and takes no position on 1F.
- CA Federation of Teachers <<http://www.cft.org>>—opposes
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association <<http://www.hjta.org/>>—opposes 1A.
- Health Access California <<http://www.health-access.org/>>—opposes 1A.
- Protect Children and Families <<http://www.noonproposition1d.org/>>—opposes 1D.
- CA Council of Community Mental Health Agencies and others <<http://www.noprop1e.com/>>—opposes 1E.

EdSource® is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in California in 1977. Independent and impartial, EdSource strives to advance the common good by developing and widely distributing trustworthy, useful information that clarifies complex K–12 education issues and promotes thoughtful decisions about California's public school system. Reprints permitted with credit to EdSource.

Source: <http://www.cabudgetreformnow.com/> 1A—Rainy Day Fund

Proposition details

1A—Rainy Day Fund

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A yes vote means the state Constitution and state law will be amended to set limits on spending and increase funding of "rainy day" funds; and, in addition, extend the term of certain tax increases, resulting in about \$16 billion in additional tax revenues over the next several years.

A no vote means that the state Constitution and state law regarding the budget process will not be changed and the term of certain tax increases will not be extended.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- By limiting spending and increasing the rainy day fund, Proposition 1A stabilizes the budget process, thus preventing the wild peaks and valleys that cause budget dysfunction.
- Proposition 1A enhances the rainy day fund so more money will be available when the economy falters, reducing the need for tax increases and cuts in services.
- This measure stops out-of-control spending by restricting the amount the state can spend each year while protecting funding for schools, public safety and other vital services.

OPPONENTS SAY

- Proposition 1A removes the flexibility essential to dealing with the state's fiscal needs by dictating how half of the money in the Budget Stabilization Fund must be used, limiting the Governor's ability to suspend transfers to the BSF in difficult years, imposing new formulas for calculating "unanticipated revenues," and specifying how this money can be used.
- This measure will freeze state spending at a level which is already too low to guarantee adequate public services, ignores factors such as rising health care costs, and will Prohibit the state from using increased revenue when the economy recovers.
- Proposition 1A undermines the system of checks and balances by allowing the Governor to unilaterally make mid-year cuts without Consulting the Legislature.

PRO

- Budget Reform now
- CA Chamber of Commerce
- CA Teachers Association
- CA Taxpayers Association
- National Tax Limitation Committee

CON

- Vote no on 1A
- CA Federation of Teachers
- CA Nurses Association
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

Proposition 1B—Protect Education Funding

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A yes vote means that the state Constitution would be amended to set aside \$9.3 billion in Supplemental Education Funds to replace the Proposition 98 maintenance funding requirements for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

A no vote means that the Legislature would continue to apply current law to Proposition 98 funding for K-14 education.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- Proposition 1B starts the process of paying back some of the severe cuts to education resulting from the current budget crisis.
- Proposition 1B is part of a package of reforms that will provide short-term solutions to get us through these difficult economic times and long-term solutions to ensure that we never again face the type of deficits we faced this year.
- Proposition 1B ensures that education funds will be paid back as economic conditions improve, thus preventing the permanent loss of education funds.

OPPONENTS SAY

- Proposition 1B depends on passage of Proposition 1A, a complex, hastily-drafted measure which will freeze state spending at a level that is already too low to guarantee adequate service and prohibit the state from using increased revenue when the economy recovers.
- Proposition 1B was designed and put on the ballot to prevent

teachers' unions from opposing Proposition 1A.

- This measure is unnecessary—the Legislature has the power to restore state funding of education without Proposition 1B.

PRO

- Budget Reform now
- Andrea Landis, Kaufman Campaign Consultants: 916-443-7817
- CA Teachers Association
- CA Federation of Teachers

CON

- CA Nurses Association
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

About Prop 1C—Lottery Modernization

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A yes vote means that California could borrow against future lottery profits, enhance the flexibility of the lottery to increase its profitability, and replace lottery payments to education with increased education funding from the General Fund.

A no vote means the lottery would operate as it does today with profits dedicated to education, and the state would not be able to borrow from lottery profits to help balance the budget.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- Proposition 1C will allow California to increase lottery revenues without raising taxes.
- If California cannot borrow against future lottery profits, the state will be forced to cut another \$5 billion from its budget or to increase taxes by that amount.
- Schools will not lose funding—Proposition 1C guarantees that schools will get at least as much funding as they receive from the lottery today.

OPPONENTS SAY

- The lottery should be left as it was originally designed 25 years ago—there is no need to change it. We cannot and should not rely on increased gambling to balance the budget.
- Proposition 1C may actually reduce funding for education, since in the long term lottery profits will not be sufficient to cover the higher payments to education that the measure requires.

- California's credit rating is so poor that it is unlikely to be able to borrow against the lottery, except on terms very unfavorable to the state.

PRO

- Budget Reform Now
- CA Chamber of Commerce
- CA Teachers Association

CON

- State Senator Bob Huff
- CA Federation of Teachers
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

Proposition 1D—Children's Services Funding

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A yes vote means a portion of funds previously approved by the voters to support early childhood development programs will be redirected temporarily to pay General Fund costs for existing programs for children up to age five and to help balance the budget.

A no vote means the Children and Families Trust Fund will continue to receive funding dedicated to early childhood development programs as approved by the voters and other budget reductions or revenue increases will help balance the budget.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- Proposition 1D will not permanently shift First 5 funds from their original purpose, but merely redirects those funds on a temporary basis to help solve California's current budget crisis and prevent further cuts in services to children.
- By temporarily redirecting a portion of First 5 funds to health and social service programs for children now paid for by the state's General Fund, Proposition 1D is consistent with Proposition 10's original intent of helping children under age 5.
- State and local First 5 commissions are sitting on almost \$2.5 billion in unspent funds that can be used to offset the deep cuts to health and social service programs that were made to close California's budget gap.

OPPONENTS SAY

- Proposition 1D is a stopgap measure that does nothing to

address the state's fiscal crisis—and by taking funding from existing First 5 programs, it will result in other costs to the state as well as to local agencies.

- This measure violates the will of the voters by cutting programs specifically approved by the voters in Proposition 10.

- Proposition 1D will cut funds for community-based programs for children and families in every county in California, and agencies now receiving First 5 funds will have to reduce their programs and services for children.

PRO

- Budget Reform Now
- CA Teachers Association
- CA Taxpayers Association

CON

- No on 1D
- CA Federation of Teachers
- CA Family Resource Association

Proposition 1E—Mental Health Funding

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A yes vote means that some of the funding provided by Proposition 63 to support the expansion of community mental health programs would be redirected for two years to the state General Fund.

A no vote means that all Proposition 63 funds would continue to be used to support the expansion of community mental health programs, and will not be redirected into the state General Fund.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- Delays in getting new programs started have resulted in \$2.5 billion in unspent tax funds. Proposition 1E puts these unspent funds to use by redirecting them to help balance the state budget.
- Partial, temporary cuts to Proposition 63 programs now will help the state to avoid more severe budget problems that could require even deeper cuts in programs later.
- Proposition 1E ensures that the state will provide required funds for the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program, a use consistent with the approach of Proposition 63.

OPPONENTS SAY

- This is a stopgap measure that

does nothing to address the state's fundamental fiscal crisis. The amount of money this proposition would transfer to the General Fund is a small fraction of the state budget, but in many cases it provides the only meaningful source of help for our most vulnerable citizens.

- Proposition 1E seriously cuts mental health programs mandated by the voters that are helping many people living with mental illness in our communities.

- It is shortsighted to cut Proposition 63 programs—their early intervention features prevent more serious mental illness later and they save the state money by reducing homelessness, hospitalization and school failures.

PRO

- Budget Reform now
- CA Teachers Association
- CA Taxpayers Association
- CA Chamber of Commerce

CON

- No on Prop 1E
- National Association for the Mentally Ill, California
- California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies
- National Association of Social Workers, California

Proposition 1F—Legislator Pay Raises

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A yes vote means that the state Constitution will prohibit the governor, members of the Legislature, and other elected officials from receiving pay raises when the state is running a deficit.

A no vote means that the state Constitution will not require prohibiting pay increases when the state is running a deficit.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- State officials should not have their salaries increased while services are being cut to save money.
- This change would save money and improve California's control over its finances.
- It would bring accountability to the Legislature and motivate elected officials to serve the public more responsibly.

OPPONENTS SAY

- This Proposal would be ineffective and would only give the illusion of change. nothing in it would change the ideologies of the officials who decide on the budget.
- Proposition 1F could at most save only a minor amount of money.
- The state budgeting process has structural problems that can only be solved by structural reform.

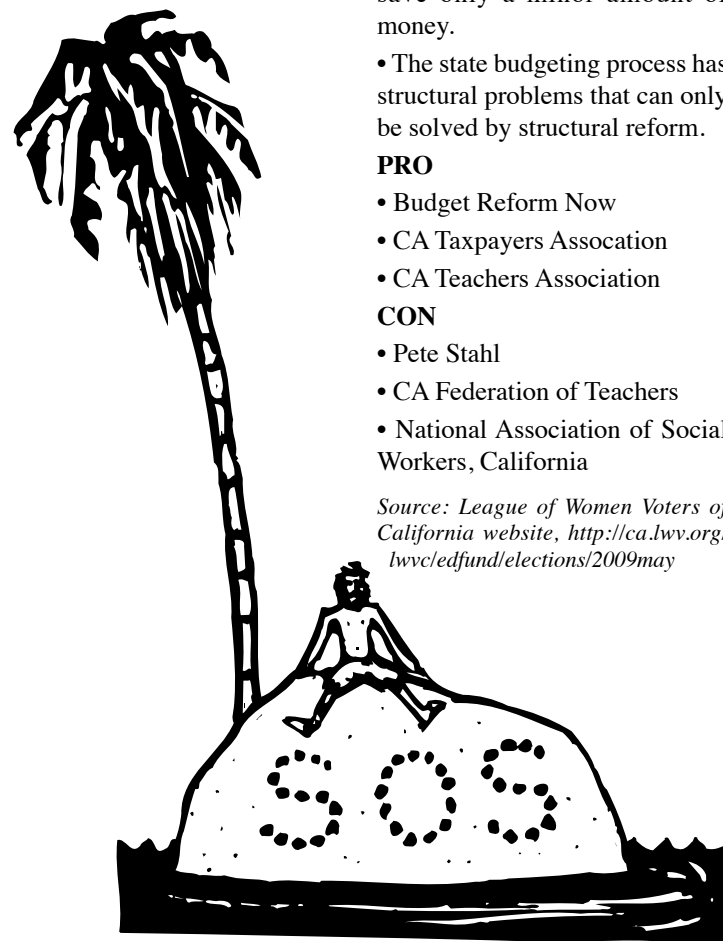
PRO

- Budget Reform Now
- CA Taxpayers Association
- CA Teachers Association

CON

- Pete Stahl
- CA Federation of Teachers
- National Association of Social Workers, California

Source: League of Women Voters of California website, <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/edfund/elections/2009may>



Debt, deficits, and deception

Bernie Horn

Here it comes—an avalanche of misleading and mistaken "facts" about President Obama's budget. Last week, the House and Senate Budget Committees approved versions of the fiscal 2010 budget resolution, working from an extraordinary proposal by Barack Obama. The House version is fairly close to what the President proposed, while the Senate bill is a bit different—but still 98 percent of what the President requested. This week, the budget will come to the floor of the House and Senate, including votes on a series of amendments to slash or weaken progressive programs.

Senator Judd Gregg laid out the conservative talking points against the Obama budget during the Republicans' Saturday radio address:

What concerns many of us are [Obama's] proposals in the budget he recently sent to the Congress that dramatically grow the size and cost of government, and move it to the left. It is our opinion that this plan spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much.... In the next five years, President Obama's budget will double the national debt; in the next ten years it will triple the national debt....

His budget assumes the deficit will average \$1 trillion dollars every year for the next 10 years and will add well over \$9 trillion dollars in new debts to our children's backs. He is proposing the largest tax increase in history, much of it aimed at taxing small business people ... and a massive new national sales tax on your electric bill ...

The mud of fabrication and misinformation is so deep, we'll have to peel it off in layers.

Huge hypocrisy

First and foremost, conservatives are being supremely hypocritical about deficits and debt because their deficits caused the current national debt. Ronald Reagan's tax cuts for the rich and profligate military spending tripled the national debt. George W. Bush's tax cuts for the rich and war spending doubled the national debt. In fact, nearly 80 percent of the current debt—about which conservatives now bitterly complain—was caused by the three most recent conservative presidents: Reagan, Bush Senior, and Bush Junior. Adding insult to injury, Republican budgets have been notorious for containing gimmicks designed to hide the full extent of their irresponsibility—the most egregious was funding the

Iraq war with special appropriations outside of the budget.

This year, President Obama changed all that. His budget described a comprehensive plan covering 10 years. It included contingency funds that may or may not have to be spent. It was, quite simply, the most honest budget ever proposed. So if you hear someone attack the Obama budget because of the deficits it honestly lays out, first say, "Where were you and your deficit-hawk arguments when George W. Bush turned Bill Clinton's \$200 billion budget surplus into a \$1 trillion budget deficit?"

Revenue ruse

Now come the three big lies about revenues. Obama is not "proposing the largest tax increase in history." He is proposing to restore a measure of tax fairness by letting George W. Bush's tax cuts for the rich expire next year. He is proposing to return to the tax policies that were in place during America's great economic expansion of the late 1990s. Under the Obama program, only the rich will see their taxes increase—those with incomes over \$250,000 per year. For all the rest of us, our tax rates will decline. In fact, Obama's plan will deliver the largest middle-class tax cut in history.

Similarly, Obama's plan is not "aimed at taxing small-business people." This talking point is based on a fictional definition of a small businessperson invented by the Bush Administration. Even using that definition, less than 9 percent of Americans with small-business income make more than \$250,000 a year. Only 2 percent are in the top two tax brackets. So at least 91 percent, and more likely 98 percent, of them will see no tax increase at all.

And I'll bet you're wondering, what is this "massive new national sales tax on your electric bill"? There is none. This is right-wing framing for the "cap-and-trade" system that experts insist is the only practical way to get a handle on global warming. This system forces companies to pay for their pollution, thereby encouraging clean, green technologies.

So to review the conservative tax

Conservatives caused this mess and now are running away from any responsibility for cleaning it up.

trickery, the truth is that Obama's budget delivers a substantial tax cut to 95 percent of Americans. The only ones who will see their taxes increase are the wealthy—and the corporate polluters!

Debt double-talk

We are currently in the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Basic macroeconomics tells us that the time to cut deficits is during an economic boom. During a recession, the deficit must increase in order to save jobs and halt the downward slide. Dean Baker explains:

In this context we are supposed to be up in arms over the deficit projections for 2013 or 2019? This is a bit like someone complaining about the lawn not being mowed at a time when the house is on fire, it's just not the first priority. And the media all seem to go along with the charade ... The moral to this story is that the economy must take priority, not only because the state of the economy is what most directly determines people's well-being, but also because the state of the economy will be the most important determinant of the deficit. The experience of the 1990s provides an example of exactly this sort of story. In January of 1994 the Congressional Budget Office projected that the deficit in 1999 would be \$204 billion or 2.4 percent of GDP. This projection incorporated the impact of President Clinton's tax increase and spending cuts. It turned out that there was a surplus of \$125 billion in 1999, or 1.4 percent of GDP. This shift from deficit to surplus of 3.8 percentage points of GDP (equivalent to \$540 billion in 2009) was not caused by further spending cuts or tax increases; it was caused by the strong economic growth of the period. If we spend to build the American economy, long-term deficits will go down. If we don't spend, the recession will

linger and deficits will skyrocket. It's as simple as that.

And that brings us to the false argument that cutting the current budget is good for "our children." If we don't invest in our nation's infrastructure, if we don't restructure the pathetic economy handed down to us by George W. Bush and his conservative allies, if we don't create a sustainable health care system, if we don't take necessary steps to achieve energy independence and fight global warming—then we will be placing a terrible burden on our children. For them, and for us, we've got to change course, now.

Absurd alternative

President Obama challenged his conservative opponents to put up their own budget proposal—or shut up. After a great deal of hoopla, House Republicans called a press conference last Thursday to issue a 19-page document that they called an alternative budget. But the document contained no spending amounts or deficit projections. None. It's a phony budget. No doubt the GOP will offer one or more alternative budgets on the House and Senate floors later this week. No doubt they will be just like the alternative Republican stimulus packages in February—full of tax cuts for the rich and spending cuts for the rest of us. The bottom line is: Conservatives caused this mess and now are running away from any responsibility for cleaning it up.

The writer is a Senior Fellow at Campaign for America's Future and author of the recent book, "Framing the Future: How Progressive Values Can Win Elections and Influence People" <<http://www.framingthefuture.org>>.

Source: The Campaign For America's Future entry 3/30/09 <http://www.ourfuture.org/blog-entry/2009031329/debt-deficits-and-deception>



A trillion dollars for the banks: how about a second opinion?

Dean Baker

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner wants to have the government lend up to a trillion dollars to hedge funds, private equity, funds and the banks themselves to clear their books of toxic assets. The plan implies a substantial subsidy to the banks. It is likely to result in the disposal of these assets at far above market value, with the government picking up the losses.

As much as we all want to help out the Wall Street bankers in their hour of need, taxpayers may reasonably ask whether this is the best use of our money. After all, the \$1 trillion that is being set aside for this latest TARP variation is equal to 300 million SCHIP kid years. Congress has had heated debates over sums that were a small fraction of this size. To give another useful measuring stick, the Geithner plan could fund 1 million of the Woodstock museums that were the main prop of Senator McCain's presidential campaign.

The core problem is that many of our big banks are bankrupt. If they had to acknowledge the losses that they have incurred on their housing related loans (and increasing their loans in commercial real estate) Citigroup, Bank of America, and many other large banks would be insolvent. Thus far, they have avoided reality by keeping these loans on their books at inflated prices.

The Geithner plan is an effort to rescue the banks by using government funding to prop up the price of these bad loans to levels that will allow the banks to stay solvent. It is not clear that the plan is big enough to accomplish this goal, but that is the basic intention. If it doesn't work, then presumably Geithner will come out with another TARP permutation that involves giving the banks even more money.

There is an alternative. Rather than using government money to keep them alive, we could force the banks to go through a type of managed bankruptcy process like the one that is currently being proposed for General Motors and Chrysler. Geithner has supposedly ruled out the bankruptcy option because when he, along with Henry Paulson and Ben Bernanke, tried letting Lehman Brothers go under last fall, it didn't turn out very well. Of course, it is not necessary to go the route of an uncontrolled bankruptcy that Geithner and Co. pursued with Lehman.

The government could set up an arranged bankruptcy under which creditors have accepted conditions in advance. While this may not be easy to negotiate, the government does have enormous bargaining power in pursuing such a deal. The creditors (other than insured deposits, which will be paid in full) of these banks may end up with nothing if the government just lets the banks sink.

The prospect of even an arranged bankruptcy of a major bank will undoubtedly shake up markets, but many safeguards have been put in place since the Lehman collapse. If the stock market goes down for a few weeks or months, who cares? Running the economy to serve the stock market is a sure recipe for disaster; if President Obama fixes the economy, the stock market will do just fine in the long run.

Anyhow, the Geithner crew insists that there are no alternatives to his plan; we have to just keep giving hundreds of billions of dollars to the banks. Perhaps Geithner is right. But before we throw such huge sums away, further enriching the bankers who wrecked the economy, maybe we should get a second opinion.

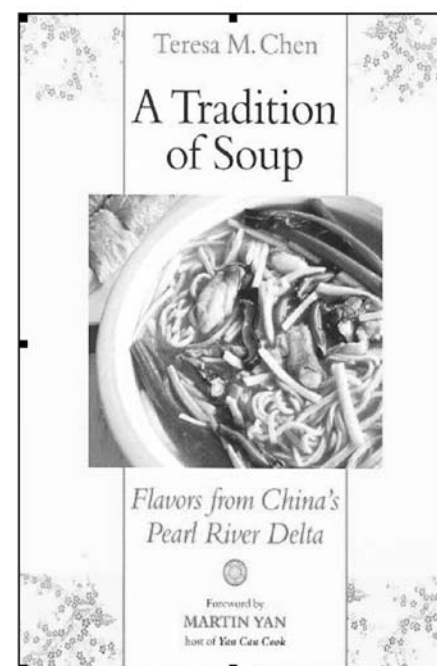
Suppose that Congress appropriated a modest chunk of money to have independent economists put together teams to construct alternative plans. Why not give M.I.T. professor Simon Johnson, a former chief economist of the IMF, \$5 million to hire a crew to outline his preferred path? Congress could give Joe Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize winner and one-time chief economist to President Clinton, who is also a harsh critic of the Geithner plan, a similar sum to put together his own team.

These economists could develop their best plans and put them out for public consumption. Geithner's crew can then tell us why their plans are unworkable and we must instead hand over the money to banks.

Given how much money Geithner wants to spend—putting it in the hands of the folks that brought on this economic crisis—it would seem appropriate to first examine all the alternatives. After all, we could find out what our options are in this case for the price of just a few A.I.G. executive bonuses. That has to be a good deal in anyone's book.

Dean Baker is the Co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research <http://www.cepr.net/>.

Source: *truthout* Perspective 4/6/09 <http://www.truthout.org/>



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Memory loss in the media

Norman Solomon

A headline in The New York Times announced a few days ago: "Brain Researchers Open Door to Editing Memory." This news ran above the fold on the front page. "Suppose scientists could erase certain memories by tinkering with a single substance in the brain," the article began. Readers quickly learned that it's starting to happen: "Researchers in Brooklyn have recently accomplished comparable feats, with a single dose of an experimental drug delivered to areas of the brain critical for holding specific types of memory ..."

Big deal.

American media outlets have been pulling off such feats for a long time. The scientists trying to learn how to wipe out "specific types of memory" are lagging way behind.

Don't need to remember the vast quantities of napalm, Agent Orange and cluster bombs that the US military dropped on Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the 1960s and 1970s? Or the continuing realities of burn victims, dioxin poisoning and unexploded warheads? Don't want to consider the many thousands of civilians killed by Salvadoran death squads, Guatemalan troops and Nicaraguan contra guerillas during the 1980s, courtesy of US taxpayers? Don't care to recall the

Pentagon's estimate that the Gulf War in early 1991 killed 100,000 Iraqi people during a six-week period? Forget about it! That's what selective memory is for.

Prefer not to recollect how the US government trained and armed President Reagan's beloved "freedom fighters" in Afghanistan—including the likes of Osama bin Laden and other fundamentalist mujahedeen—for their insurgency against the Soviet occupiers in the 1980's? Rather not remember how those "freedom fighters" became "terrorists"? Hate that particular gray? Then wash it away! Enough bleach in the spin cycles will do the trick. There's more than one way to be "editing memory."

"So far, the research has been done only on animals," the Times reported in its April 6 story. "But scientists say this memory system is likely to work almost identically in people." The Times account managed to balance enthusiasm for the advances of scientific research with some potential downsides: "Millions of people might be tempted to erase a severely painful memory, for instance—but what if, in the process, they lost other, personally important memories that were somehow related?"

Dominant media have blotted out countless painful memories—national or personal—if only by treating them as irrelevant or

incidental to news and concerns that really count. All in a day's work: part of the mix of organized forgetting.

"The greatest triumphs of propaganda have been accomplished, not by doing something, but by refraining from doing," Aldous Huxley observed. "Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth." And, of equal relevance to the brave new world of US mass media in 2009: "The propagandist's purpose is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human."

With constant media prompts, the widely replicated screens end up screening us, from ourselves and from each other. Now we know the names of the Pentagon's drones—Predators and Reapers—but not the names of the people they're killing. Easy enough to approve of bombing people when they've been rendered unreal. Forgetting becomes a simple matter. Is some memory not worth remembering? Of course, we could always let the market decide.

Norman Solomon's books include "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death." www.normansolomon.com.

Source: [truthout/Perspective 4/10/09](http://www.truthout.org/040909R)

US: stop arms to Israel

With fragile ceasefires now in place in Gaza and southern Israel, the full extent of the devastation caused in recent weeks is becoming increasingly clear. Amnesty International researchers visiting Gaza and southern Israel during and after the fighting found evidence of war crimes and other serious violations of international law by all parties to the conflict, including with many U.S. weapons.

According to Article 16 of the International Law Commission's Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, "A State which aids or assists another State in the commission

of an internationally wrongful act by the latter is internationally responsible for doing so if: (a) that State does so with knowledge of the circumstances of the internationally wrongful act; and (b) the act would be internationally wrongful if committed by that State."

Following the start of the Israeli military offensive on December 27, Israeli forces killed more than 1,300 Palestinians in Gaza, including more than 300 children and many other civilians, and injured over 5,000 other Palestinians, again including many civilians. Israeli forces also destroyed thousands of homes and other property and

caused significant damage to the infrastructure of Gaza, causing a worsening of the humanitarian crisis arising from the 18-month blockade maintained by Israel.

Some of the Israeli bombardments and other attacks were directed at civilians or civilian buildings in the Gaza Strip; others were disproportionate or indiscriminate. During the same period, Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups continued to fire indiscriminate rockets into residential areas of southern Israel, killing three civilians.

Source: Amnesty International USA release 4/1/09, AI, 5 Penn Plaza, NY, NY 10001 <http://www.amnestyusa.org>

Don't fix Wall Street, replace it

David Korten

Why not an economy of real wealth?

The current economic debate centers on how best to revive our existing economic system through some combination of a Wall Street bailout and a job-creating economic stimulus package. That amounts to trying to revive an economic system that has failed in every dimension: financial, social, and environmental. Rather than prop up a failed system, we should use the current financial crisis as the opportunity to create a system that works. Trying to solve the crisis with the same tools that caused it is the definition of insanity.

As individuals, we humans appear to be an intelligent species. Collectively, however, our behavior ranges from supremely wise to suicidal. Our current collective economic insanity is the product of an illusion—a belief, cultivated by the prevailing economic orthodoxy, that money is wealth and that making money is the equivalent of creating wealth.

Money is merely an accounting chit with no intrinsic value—it is useless until we exchange it for something of real value. Wall Street's specialty is creating money for rich people without the exertion of producing anything of corresponding real value. They increase their claims against real wealth without increasing the supply of goods, making it harder for the rest of us to meet our needs.

Real wealth is, first of all, the tangible things that support life—food, shelter, clothing. Of course, the most valuable forms of real wealth are those that are beyond price: love; a healthy, happy child; a job that provides a sense of self-worth and contribution; membership in a strong, caring community; a healthy vibrant natural environment; peace. Our Wall-Street-driven economic system makes fantastic amounts of money and actively destroys all these many forms of real wealth.

We have been in thrall to a pervasive cultural story, continuously reinforced by

academics, government officials, and corporate media, which led us to believe our economy was functioning splendidly even when it was quite literally killing us. You have heard this story many times:

"Economic growth, as measured by Gross Domestic Product, creates the wealth needed to provide material abundance for all, increase human happiness, end poverty, and heal the environment. The faster we consume, the faster the economy grows and the wealthier we become as the rising tide lifts all boats."

The logical conclusion from this story is that the faster we convert useful resources to toxic garbage, the richer we are. The only true beneficiaries of this obviously stupid idea are a few very rich people who reap financial gains from every economic transaction—whether the transaction cures a disease or clear-cuts a rainforest. It is a system that defies money and dilutes wealth.

In contrast, the Main Street economy is comprised of local businesses and working people who produce real goods and services to meet the real wealth needs of their communities. It has been battered and tattered by the predatory intrusions of Wall Street corporations, but it is the logical foundation on which to build a new, real wealth economy of green jobs and green manufacturing, responsible community-oriented businesses, and sound environmental practices.

Let Wall Street corporations and their phantom wealth machine slip into the abyss of their own making. Devote our public resources to building and strengthening Main Street businesses and financial institutions devoted to creating real wealth in service to their local communities.

*David Korten is also the author of the international bestseller *When Corporations Rule the World* and *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*. He is co-founder and board chair of *YES! Magazine*, and a board member of the *Business Alliance for Local Living Economies*.*

Towards a new economy

John Cavanagh

The free market guru Milton Friedman understood what so many progressives do not: that crises create opportunities for radical change. Yet neither Obama nor most progressives are seizing the moment with bold proposals to meet the growing anger across America. A notable exception is David Korten's book *Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth*, building on a series of articles in *YES!* magazine.

Korten is nothing if not bold. His answer to the financial crisis: close down the Wall Street casino. Replace it with a revitalized Main Street by resetting economic priorities to support local economies and dignified work that best serve us all. Instead of "phantom wealth" that doesn't create anything of value, let's

prioritize the real economy.

Korten also understands that we must use the economic meltdown to solve the other giant global crisis: climate chaos. His transformative agenda of vibrant local economies can deliver us a carbon-free economy within a few decades.

How do we do it? According to Korten, we have to redefine how success is measured. He has sharp ideas on how to get the market price of goods to reflect their full costs of production, including their adverse impact on workers, the environment, and communities.

In his real-wealth economy, government and citizen groups work to reallocate resources from the military to health care, from cars to public transportation, from mining to recycling, and from suburban sprawl to compact communities.

We close down the Wall Street casino through smart regulation, a transactions tax on the purchase and sale of financial instruments, and a fair tax system. We create a set of rules and incentives that favor human-scale businesses owned by local stakeholders. Korten is full of ideas on democratizing ownership and reclaiming corporate charters from footloose global firms. And, he is smart enough to know that these solutions work best if they are coordinated across countries.

From low-wage workers, to local entrepreneurs, from independent thinking elected officials to the global networks that brought you the Battle in Seattle a decade ago, there's a new questioning of the Wall Street-based economy. All who are ready for a new approach would do well to spend a few hours with David Korten's big ideas as they link their work with one another.

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Obama: find Bush emails



Common Cause on Tuesday criticized the US Department of Justice for its efforts to dismiss a lawsuit seeking to recover potentially millions of missing emails from the Bush White House sent during critical times for that Administration. "It is surprising that the Justice Department, under a President who ran on the issues of change and transparency, would stand in the way of efforts to recover email that could provide a clearer picture about what was going on inside the White House during some critical moments for that Administration," said Common Cause President Bob Edgar.

The missing emails are reportedly from time periods which include the start of the

Iraq War, the Valerie Plame leak investigation and the government's response to Hurricane Katrina. "The American people are still living with the consequences of these events, and it's important to have this record," Edgar said. Two advocacy groups, Citizens for the Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) and George Washington University's National Security Archive, sued the government to recover email missing from at least some of 473 days of Bush's eight-year presidency. The groups said the Bush Administration violated the Federal Records Act by not recovering, restoring and preserving the email and failed to establish an electronic records management system in compliance with the law. On

President Obama's first full day in office, the Justice Department filed a motion to dismiss the case, arguing that Bush's e-mail restore recovery efforts were sufficient.

ACTION: Contact the President.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization founded in 1970 by John Gardner as a vehicle for citizens to make their voices heard in the political process and to hold their elected leaders accountable to the public interest.

Source: Common Cause release 2/24/09 (202)736-5770 <http://www.commoncause.org>

US condemns transgender bias

Elena Kelly

On March 18, this press release came from the office of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton: "The United States supports the UN Statement on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity, and is pleased to join the other 66 UN member states who have declared their support of this Statement that condemns human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity wherever they occur."

With these words, the United States went on record as condemning violence and discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. This reversed the position of the Bush administration. He refused to condemn violence and discrimination against LGBT people. He didn't believe that we should have equal rights under the law.

Everyone now knows what "sexual orientation" is. It refers to whether you are attracted to members of the same sex or members of the opposite sex. The LGBT community has done a wonderful job of educating the public on that. But can you give a concise definition of "gender identity?"

Gender identity is a person's internal sense of identification as male or female, masculine or feminine or something in-between. Ninety-nine and a half percent of the human race are cisgender (pronounced "sis-gender"), meaning "having a gender identity that matches their biological sex." Cisgender people with male genitalia identify as men. If they have female genitalia, they identify as women. Transgender people make up the other one-half of one percent of the population and have a biological sex that does not match their gender identity. They may have a male body, but they do not identify as a man. Likewise they may have a female body but do not identify as a woman.

To say someone is transgender is like saying they are from America. It doesn't really tell you a lot, because "transgender" is a very broad classification. I am a transsexual woman. That is like saying I live on the Miracle Mile in Stockton, California. It communicates very specific information. It tells you that I am a woman with a male body, and that I am taking medical steps to make my body (which is male) more like my gender identity (which is

female). Most transgender people are not transexual, just like most Americans do not live on the Miracle Mile in Stockton. This proclamation by the Secretary of State of the United States of America applies to every person regardless of sexual orientation (straight or gay) and every gender identity (cisgender or transgender).

March 31 is the annual International Transgender Day of Visibility. The purpose is for transgender people to tell at least three friends or family members who do not already know, that they are transgender, and explain what that means. It is our day to be out to people we were never out to before. This year, every transgender person in America received a wonderful gift from our government. This year our country proclaimed to the world its support for our health, welfare, and safety. Isn't that what America is all about? At least it is for this president.

Elena Kelly is a transgender activist living in Stockton. She can be reached at elena.kelly@comcast.net.

Stop corporate corruption

Fund clean elections now

Recent revelations that AIG gave hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to the same politicians who crafted and approved the company's \$170 billion federal bailout is one of the strongest arguments for Congress to pass a set of sweeping fundraising reforms that will be introduced this week, a coalition of good government groups said today. A set of bipartisan bills called the Fair Elections Now Act would provide qualified congressional candidates a public grant, or "Fair Elections" funding to run a viable campaign in exchange for agreeing to take no contribution larger than \$100.

While recent public outrage has been focused on AIG, many people believe that such a system for elections would help stem the influence of such corporate lobbyists. A recent poll by Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group found that 67 percent of those surveyed support providing qualified candidates a limited amount of public funding if they agree to take no large contributions, 81 percent believe that the way elections are financed should be changed, and 79 percent see large campaign contributions as a roadblock to solving America's economic, health, and energy problems.

State success with similar laws has also demonstrated that a more diverse pool of candidates can run under a system like Fair Elections, turning elections into a contest of ideas, rather than a competition to see who can raise the most money from corporate donors, said members of The Fair Elections Now Coalition, which includes the Brennan Center for Justice, Change Congress, Common Cause, Democracy Matters, Public Campaign, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG.

"This legislation will ensure that members of Congress spend more time solving the nation's problems, not chasing after campaign contributions from lobbyists and corporate special interests," said David Arkush, director of Public Citizen's Congress Watch division. "It will make a landmark shift in the way business is done

in Washington—and that could hardly come at a more critical time."

"Americans are tired of their elected representatives being indebted to the wealthy donors and special interests who paid for their campaigns," said Bob Edgar, president and CEO of Common Cause. "This bill would go a long ways toward dramatically changing that system and put the public's interest first."

During the 2008 election cycle, AIG made more than \$644,000 in contributions to congressional and presidential candidates, political action committees and the Democratic and Republican parties. The company is hardly alone in spending large sums to curry favor in Congress—the financial services industry contributed \$460 million to congressional and presidential candidates in 2008. Other sectors, such as the oil, health care and auto industries, also have spent millions to influence policy and legislation.

"U.S. citizens are now keenly aware of the corrupting influence of money, and that the name of the game in politics today is 'pay-to-play,'" said Lisa Gilbert, U.S. PIRG's Democracy Advocate. "It's time for a system that elevates the voices of ordinary constituents over the AIGs of the world, and makes sure that politicians listen."

Under the proposal, congressional candidates could qualify for public money from a Fair Elections fund for their primary and general elections by raising a large number of small contributions from their home states. They then could raise contributions of up to \$100, which would be matched on a four-to-one basis up to a certain point. Before receiving Fair Elections funds, candidates would agree not to accept large contributions of more than \$100.

"Already, the Change Congress donor strike has withheld over \$1.1 million from members of Congress who aren't yet supporters of this key reform proposal," said Lawrence Lessig, co-founder of Change Congress and a law

professor at Stanford University. "We'll continue to put pressure on Congress until they replace our current system of special-interest-funded elections with a new system of citizen-funded elections." The Fair Elections Now Act is modeled after elements of successful state programs in Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, North Carolina and elsewhere.

"Clean Elections have been very successful in the over 12 years they have been working in states. Candidates love the system because they can spend time talking with their constituents instead of attending big lobbyist fundraisers," said Joan Mandle, executive director of Democracy Matters. "And they can be responsive to the needs of the people they represent once they are elected, instead of having to 'pay to play' by voting for tax breaks and other advantages for big corporations."

Added Nick Nyhart, president and CEO of Public Campaign, "The Fair Elections Now model systems in the states have allowed new people with fresh ideas an opportunity to win office. No longer do lawmakers in these states have to choose between the people who give them campaign money and the voters they were elected to serve. This proven model offers an alternative to kind of pay-to-play politics we can't afford as Congress deals with the economic crisis and other pressing problems."

Additional information will be available at <http://www.fairelectionsnow.org>, including polling information, a bill summary, and facts and figures about money in recent elections. You can find out more about the groups in the Fair Elections Now coalition by visiting each group's website.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization founded in 1970 by John Gardner as a vehicle for citizens to make their voices heard in the political process and to hold their elected leaders accountable to the public interest.

Source: Common Cause release 3/31/09, www.commoncause.org (202)736-5770

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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

Come to Peace Camp 2009

Ken Schroeder

This summer marks the 27th year that peace-minded folks have gathered in the Sierras for Peace Camp. Come and join us on June 26-28 at Camp Peaceful Pines for good discussion, stimulating community and fun for all ages. The weekend will offer workshops, hiking, campfire, singing, a talent show, children's activities and

delicious, healthy meals.

This year's camp will feature community organizer Homero Mejia leading a session on "Organizing to Win Health Care for All." Homero has worked with the Stanislaus and the San Joaquin County affiliates of PICO (People Improving Communities Together). Born in Michoacan, Mexico, he is a graduate of CSU,

Stanislaus. His long-time passion for social justice has been expressed through his involvement in theater and with MEChA, PUENTE and Red Nations. He will lead us in understanding the issues behind the campaign to achieve health care for all.

Also, students from Modesto High School will discuss local student activism.

About Camp Peaceful Pines

Camp Peaceful Pines is located about 25 miles above Pinecrest off Hwy 108 at about 6,200-foot elevation. Surrounded by tall peaks, the camp has a creek running through it. The Clark Fork and Sunrise Rock are short walks from camp.

The camp features kitchen and bathroom facilities, rustic cabins and platform tents (unheated), and a cabin for those with special needs. Campers share in meal preparation, cleanup, and other work. Families and individuals are welcome.

The \$70 fee covers program, food and lodging for the weekend; young people are \$50. Early registration before June 1st is a \$10.00 per person discount. Registration before May 15 will get you a cool peace bumpersticker. Partial financial aid and day-rates are available. Registration forms at www.stanislausconnections.org.

The camp opens with supper on Friday and closes at noon on Sunday. Directions and other info will be mailed to participants. Information: Ken Schroeder in Modesto, 209-526-2303.

Peace Camp is organized by the Modesto Peace/Life Center.

For those 50 and older: Wolf Creek Lodge

A new cohousing community for active adults
in Grass Valley, California



Take charge of your future.

Wolf Creek Lodge will offer a socially and environmentally smart choice for adults who value living in community.

- 3-story lodge in wooded setting
- Privately owned dwellings
- Large Common House for gatherings, meals, & activities
- Guest rooms
- Easy walk to stores & shops
- Energy efficient, green built
- Community governance
- Designated open space
- Along beautiful Wolf Creek

Join us for an informational meeting
every third Saturday of the month, 4:30 to 5:45.

Be our guest at an informal dinner after the Introduction.

www.wolfcreeklodge.org

For more information, call Barbara and Kirk (530) 274-1448
or CoHousing Partners (530) 478-1970
info@cohousingpartners.com

Toadstool Theatre presents

Last Days of the Flying Machine

On Saturday, May 2 at 8:30 pm, Stockton's Toadstool Theatre will present a one-time performance of their album *The Last Days of the Flying Machine* at Kudos Childrens Theatre in Stockton.

This will be a multi-media presentation with film and slide accompaniment, live dancers and a full band with rock and chamber musicians. The only scheduled performance in this incarnation, this piece employs the very best of Stockton's musicians and dancers.

Toadstool Theatre is proud to learn they are following a tradition in Stockton that they were previously unaware of. In the late 60s Stockton-based band "Family Tree" released a psych-concept album called *Miss Butters*. Toadstool Theatre are now big fans of this work and are relieved to not be alone in presenting this form of concept from Stockton. For info, contact Kelly Foley at kfoley801@gmail.com.

Keep the arts alive

Making A Place For The Arts Conference

Friday, May 8, 2009

9 am-5 pm

Location (tentative): Long Theater at UOP, Stockton

\$25 / lunch provided

The Making A Place For The Arts Conference showcases arts opportunities in Stockton and introduces participants to ways to enhance the arts. Participants will learn how cities are improved by the arts. Topics include: reusing historic structures for arts programming (e.g. art centers, galleries, art lofts), creating public spaces and installing public art features, generating enthusiasm with historic interpretations and the importance of public participation in the improvement process. Conference includes tours of Delta College and UOP art facilities, The Art Korner, The Mexican Heritage Center, Pier 159, and the African American Arts and Culture Community Center. For conference updates, please visit www.makingaplaceforthearts.org/.

To register, contact Joy Neas at dibsonart@yahoo.com

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May 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.

Apr 7–May 29

Father and Son Show at the Tidewater Gallery featuring photographer Arturo Vera and his son Julian. M-F 10-5, Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave., Stockton. Reception Apr 10, 5-8 pm. 463-4033

Fri, Apr 17

Nature nights at Oak Grove Nature Center, featuring Barbara Barragan-Parrilla from Restore the Delta discussing the plight of the Delta and what can be done to help save it. 7 pm. \$3 parking fee. 953-8814.

Sat, Apr 18

Wine Tasting Fundraiser to benefit Marriage Equality USA, San Joaquin. Enjoy great wines, delicious foods, and a silent auction while supporting equality! Gnekow Family Winery in Oakdale. 2:00 pm–5:00 pm. Tickets at www.MarriageEquality.org or by calling (209) 329-0946.

Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher performs from his 2008 CD "Music of the Baroque" at the Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. 2 pm. Free admission. 937-8221.

Stockton Spring Pub CRAWL, downtown and Miracle Mile, Stockton. \$30 cost includes trolley transport, cover to 10 bars, drinks, ballgame tickets, and more. 464-5246.

Sun, Apr 19

Stockton's 21st annual Earth Day Festival, Victory Park, Stockton. 11 am–5 pm. Music, food, info booths, and more. Free admission. 471-0831.

Sat, Apr 25

Bugfest with bug displays from UC Davis and the Great Valley Serpentarium, games, crafts, races and

more. 10 am–4 pm. Free with \$5 parking. 953-8814.

Sat/Sun, Apr 25-26

Lincoln Center Arts Festival, including street painting, live music, outdoor activities. Lincoln Center, Pacific Ave and Ben Holt. 10 am–5 pm. 477-4868.

Mon, Apr 27

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

Tue, Apr 28

Candlelight vigil for peace, 7 PM sharp, Annunciation Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose in Stockton. All are welcome, "church-folk" or not. Candles provided. "We pray to become people of peace, so wars will end." Ria deGroot, 462-3340.

Wed–Sun

Apr 29–May 24

The Children's Hour, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton \$12–\$23. 473-2424.

Fri, May 1

Downtown Stockton Certified Farmers' Market, Main Street in front of the Fox Theatre, Stockton. 9 am–2 pm. Free. 464-5246.

Stockton Symphony Pops & Picnic "Encanto Latino" featuring Juanita Ulloa, Mariachi Cali and Mariachi Chavez. 8 pm, Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium. 5:45 opening for music, food, wine, auction and raffle. Tickets start at \$20. For info or to pre-order food by Apr 24, call 951-0196.

May 1–10

SJ Delta College presents Reefer Madness, 8 pm, Sun 2 pm, Tillie Lewis

Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15 adult, \$13 student. 954-5110.

Sat, May 2

Toadstool Theatre presents The Last Days of the Flying Machine, 8:30 pm. Kudos Childrens Theatre, corner of Thornton and Lucile, Stockton.

Tue, May 5

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

Wed, May 6

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

Thu, May 7

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

Fri, May 8

Making A Place for the Arts Conference, 9 am–5 pm. Long Theatre, UOP, Stockton (tentative). Register with Joy at dibsonart@yahoo.com. (page 18).

Sat, May 9

17th annual Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive benefits the Stockton Emergency Food Bank. Place your food donation (canned fruits, veggies, meats, fish and more) at your mailbox before your letter carrier arrives. 25,000 lbs were collected last year. 464-7369.

Stockton Arts and Multicultural Festival, Weber Point Event Center, 221 N Center, Stockton. 10 am–5 pm. Combining music, dance, theatre and art from the diverse ethnic communities of Stockton. Free. 209-430-5117

Wed, May 13

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

Wed, May 14

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

Sat, May 16

Children and Youth Day, Pixie Woods at Louis Park, Stockton. 10 am–3:30 pm. Live entertainment, hands-on activities, and more. Free admission. 209-461-2915

Second Wednesdays

Marriage Equality USA San Joaquin Chapter Meeting, 6:30 pm–7:30 pm. Peace Center, 231 Bedford Road, Stockton (209)518-9102

Second Fridays

Poetry as a Life open mic and workshop. 3:30–5:30 pm. Admin conference room, Chavez Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. 209-405-4041.

Downtown Stockton Art Walk, Culinary Arts & Harvest Festival theme. 5–8 pm. 464-5246.

Thursdays

Peace demonstrations continue, 5-6:30 PM, note daylight saving time! Edge of Delta College campus along

Pacific Avenue. Signs provided, or bring your own. Free parking in Sherwood Mall lot. Info John 464-3326.

Fridays

Downtown Stockton Certified Farmers' Market, Main Street in front of the Fox Theatre, Stockton. 9 am–2 pm. Free. 464-5246.

Saturdays

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

Ancient texts, modern melodies

Join the Stockton Chorale in their last performance of the 2008-09 season on Friday, May 15th, 7:30 pm at the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton and Sunday, May 17th, 3:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1055 S. Lower Sacramento Rd, Lodi.

The Chorale will be performing *Misa Criolla* by Ariel Ramirez. Written in 1963, the piece is based on South American folk music, specifically the sounds of Argentina. *Misa Criolla* has won the unprecedented admiration. The Chorale will also perform two of John Rutter's compositions: *A Gaelic Blessing* and *Requiem*. Joining the Stockton Chorale will be the Pacific Arts Woodwind Quintet and the Stockton Youth Chorale.

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

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.

Free! **STOCKTON** Fun!

ARTS & MULTICULTURAL

Celebration!

Sat. May 9, 2009

Weber Point

Enjoy a free community event that features the artistic, cultural and ethnic traditions of our community in music, dance, theatre and visual arts.

- FAMILY FUN & EDUCATION
- ART & DRAMA
- FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOR ALL
- DANCE & MUSIC
- FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE

Bring the entire family for the whole day!

Gates open from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact us to find out how you can help.
Mr. Dean Gorb, SJUSD Administrator for Visual and Performing Arts (209) 933-7030 EXT 2304
 Robert Rojas, Coordinator for PLAY Multicultural Arts Network (209) 430-5117
www.playmulticultural.com

Earth Day Festival 2009 Welcomes You!!

Earth Day Festival '09 Entertainment Schedule

ACTS—PERFORMANCES

- 11:05 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Taiko Drums—Opening Ceremony (2nd Stage)
 11:35 a.m.—12:20 p.m. Mom's Chili Boys (Main Stage)
 12:25 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Na Hoku Mai Kanoelani (2nd Stage)
 1:45 p.m.—2:30 p.m. The Bad Goods (Main Stage)
 2:35 p.m.—3:10 p.m. Los Danzantes del Puerto (2nd Stage)
 3:15 p.m.—3:40 p.m. Whole Lotta Fun (2nd Stage)
 3:55 p.m.—4:55 p.m. Face Cards (Main Stage)

ANNOUNCEMENTS—PARTICIPATION

- 11 a.m.—11:05 a.m. Welcome
 1:00 p.m.—1:25 p.m. Family Fun Bide Parade Winners
 1:25 p.m.—1:45 p.m. Endangered Species Mask Parade
 3:40 p.m.—3:55 p.m. Teacher Grant Awards Winners
 4:55 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Recognitions
 5:00 p.m. Drum Circle



GROUP A

- 3 Information Booth
- 4 Volunteer Booth
- 5 SJ Co Office of Ed/Passport Earth
- 6 CA Geography Alliance

GROUP B—Endangered Species

- 7 Audubon Society of SJCo
- 8 Spay/Neuter Clinic
- 9 Delta Sierra Group, Sierra Club
- 10 John Muir School
- 11 Micke Grove Zoo
- 12 REI
- 13 Insects—Nana Corfield
- 14 Endangered Species Masks
- 15 Oak Grove Nature Center
- 16 1st Unitarian Universalist Church

GROUP C—Recycling/Waste Reduction

- 17 A+ Materials Recycling
- 18 Allied Waste Services
- 19 City of Stockton Recycling
- 20 Onsite Electronics Recycling
- 21 SJCo Solid Waste
- 22 Waste Management, Inc.
- 23 Melaleuca
- 24 PEOPLE—Peacefully Engaging Other to Provide Lifelong Enlightenment 25
- Revisions Home Improvements
- 26 Stitch n' Bitch
- 27 Office Liquidators

GROUP D—Water

- 28 City of Stockton Stormwater
- 29 Delta Flyfishers
- 30 Foothill Conservancy
- 31 SJ Co Stormwater Mgmt.
- 32 Stockton East Water District
- 33 Friends of the Lower Calaveras
- 34 WSI International

GROUP E—Air Pollution Prevention

- 35 SJCo RTD (parked on Argonne)
- 36 Valley CAN
- 37 League of Women Voters, SJ Co
- 38 Neptune Society
- 39 Valley Air Pollution Control

GROUP F

- 40 Democratic Central Comm, SJCo
- 41 DRAIL—Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living
- 42 United Cerebral Palsy
- 43 Peace & Justice Network
- 44 Marriage Equality
- 45 Stonewall

GROUP G—Alternative Fuels

- 46 Big Valley Ford
- 47 JM Equipment
- 48 Go Green San Joaquin
- 49 ATT

GROUP H—Farming

- 50 Kellogg Garden Products
- 51 UC Master Gardeners
- 52 SJCo Farm Bureau
- 53 Buena Vista Butterflies
- 54 Community Gardens
- 55 Community Supported Agriculture—Silveira Farms

GROUP I—Food

- 56 La Mexicana Super
- 57 Starbuck's
- 58 Delroy's
- 59 DeParsia
- 60 Sweet Delights
- 61 Snax Shack
- 62 Scoop
- 63 JJ's Italian Ice

GROUP J—Solar

- 64 Solar Cookers World Network
- 65 JM Equipment Co.
- 66 Big Valley Ford
- 67 Making It Solar
- 68 Rudolph Electric

GROUP K

- 69 City of Stockton—Fire Dept./First Aid
- 70 City of Stockton—Police Dept./Lost & Found

GROUP L

- 71 Academic Gardens
- 72 Bear Creek HS
- 73 Van Buren Reading Club
- 74 City of Stockton / SJ Co Library
- 75 Kohl Open School
- 76 Enviro—Board Game
- 77 ONE Achievement
- 78 PLAY—Multicultural Arts Network
- 79 Kaicie Messer—Science Fair
- 80 Stockton Rainbow Assembly #9

GROUP M

- 81 Body Bliss Holistic Wellness Center
- 82 Something Else in Mind
- 83 Whispered Prayers
- 84 Family Resource and Referral Services
- 85 Kin No Yam Wadaiko
- 86 New School Aikido
- 87 Port City Roller Girls

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