

# connections

PRICELESS

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## SAVE THE DATES

**OCTOBER 5**  
**89.5 RADIO MEET**  
**PJN CENTER, 7 PM (P. 16)**

**OCTOBER 9**  
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**CLARION INN, 1 PM (P. 20)**

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**COMMUNITY MOBILIZING CONFERENCE**  
**10 AM, UOP (P. 20)**

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## Election Nov. 2

# Sara Cazares, Candidate for School Board

*Interview by John Morearty*

**JM: Sara Cazares, why are you running for school board?**

SC: I'm not a political animal, I would never have been interested in seeking any political office, and I certainly have no aspirations for anything else. My only reason for doing this is frankly because I felt that there had to be a positive change, to create a productive dialogue. Being a school board member is a sacred trust. No one else would run, so I stepped up.

My dad was a cannery worker, a Teamster, and I was born and raised in Stockton, Franklin class of '82, along with future prosecutors, teachers, nurses, veterans, small business people and an astronaut. I went to Harvard University, where I was active in social justice causes and earned my Bachelor of Arts. My parents taught me this is the American dream: you go to school to live a better life, and you take responsibility in your community. I married a bilingual 3rd grade teacher in East LA., Larry Hernandez, and in 1996 we came back here to raise our children. Larry is now a Numeracy Coordinator, coaching teachers on implementing grade level math programs at Fillmore K-8. Our older son graduated from Cesar Chavez High School, which has an excellent program; our younger is a senior in the excellent I.B. program at Franklin.

In 2008, my husband and I volunteered to coordinate voter registration for the local Obama campaign, and I personally registered over eight hundred voters. After the election I saw the fiscal crisis hitting the schools, and I started to sense a growing frustration both by teachers and parents, that students and programs were suffering.

Even the successful ones, like Rio Calaveras or Chavez, are under tremendous stress right now. We're getting rid of everything

that works because we can't finance it—the class size reductions, transportation to magnet schools, counseling positions, librarians—the things that can help schools be successful.

And then we've got over 40 K-8s that are designated "Low Performance." We've entered the crisis realm.

So for the last two years, I've been attending SUSD board meetings. I see principals and teachers come up there—highly dedicated people—and they're being asked to do all this heavy lifting with sharply reduced resources—but on the board I see insanity, almost! Infighting and bickering, avoiding responsibility for decisions they've made. I see them imposing top-down, one-size-fits-all solutions, like the famous Success For All (SFA) program, which was finally cancelled by the state.

SFA does actually work for English learners, those needing extra support in reading. My husband is an educator at Fillmore—they had been using it with success. But you can't say it applies to every single K-8—and that's the sort of top-down that was attempted.

**JM: If not top-down, then what?**

SC: The only successful school reform that's been proven in public schools to actually turn low-performing schools around is this: it has to be done from the ground up, with the stakeholders at the school site. You have to have buy-in from them; you have to talk to them. You have to respect the fact that the educators are there in the classroom, and they know their kids. You have to respect that the site administration knows their community. And you've got to be able to get them to come together and create a culture of success, and buy in to that and develop it. It has to be from the ground up.

I was invited to go to a gathering at Taylor School, where they had parents, district staff, campus teachers, everyone came together. We were put into smaller groups, and we talked about what's missing for this community and what do we need to do. You should have seen the energy!

That's why when you see a community school, a K-8 that's actually providing services to whatever their surrounding community needs, they're always proven to be more successful.

**JM: So, how do you as a board member cultivate cooperation in the board?**

SC: You do need to be very professional with one another. Even when you have political disagreements, you have to know how to talk to one another to build unity. You start by talking to each other about: why are you here on the board and what's your vision? And what can we do to move forward towards our vision, meeting the needs of our diverse students.

Currently we have a lot of answering to do for that. There's been incompetence at the top at times: take for example, grant funding that they've lost, like the Small Learning-Community Grant. The federal government told the district, "We've been giving you this money because you'll fight for it, because to make progress at the secondary level you need Small Learning Communities, and you as a district signed up to do that—but the reality is, you only had the



Sara Cazares

one school, Chavez High School, that was actually set up and running that way! You've made almost no progress with Small Learning Communities at your other high schools, when that was the purpose of the grant."

To me, that was unfathomable. We have to be accountable to doing what's right for the kids.

**JM: Who is endorsing your candidacy?**

SC: Congressman Jerry McNerney, Supervisor Carlos Villapudua, City Councilwoman Susan Eggman. The chair of the Delta Community College Board of Trustees, Teresa Brown. Also Van Ha To-Cowell, a Lincoln Unified Board member, a wonderful educator who works for Lodi Unified; she has been encouraging me for a while, as have all the others, that we need some good people to step up. Jose Morales on the SUSD board, Gracie Madrid who is retired from SUSD, Michael Villanueva the president of Hispanics for Political Action, Angel Picon who is a well-known labor activist in our area. Colleen Boardman, vice-president of SUSD board, has endorsed me, also Walter Gouveia, vice-president of the

(continued page 7)

# Time to vote—again

Bruce Giudici

It's election season and progressives are mad. Liberals who expected more from Obama and the Democrats are projected to stay at home, to not organize the vote and to concede the election to the radical right. If this prediction holds, progressives will have given their chance for a majority over to an increasingly intolerant party determined to enrich the wealthy, enlarge the military, imprison more, educate less and disempower the majority in favor of big money. It's been only two years and progressives want it all...now.

Well, that is annoying. Because of this impatience, the never-ending struggle between the haves and have-nots may be moving back toward the haves, in the midst of the most unequal income distribution this country has seen since the 1920's. Just as in 1994 (when Clinton lost Congress and moved ever-rightward—abandoning progressive programs in favor of passing welfare "reform" and a racist drug law), the tide will

further recede. A progressive majority will become more elusive, as campaign funding and media control silence our voices, burying our issues. Progress won't get any easier. Irritated as we are, any push leftward involves educating those who don't usually pay attention—one voter at a time—and voting whenever we can.

So, this election season—we cannot give in to the constant negative drumbeat of media expectations and the color of money. The struggle continues; the road is long. We have to educate ourselves and our neighbors using tools like Connections, alternative media (page 12), educated friends and colleagues. We have no time to waste: moving backward on the climate, education, and the military is not an option.

## and economically speaking...

When in a recession, government must spend to make up for the lack of private demand—basic Econ 101. Since tax receipts

fall (and unemployment payments rise) in a recession, deficits result—the deeper the recession, the higher the deficit. During recessions, government spending is crucial, providing demand when private spending is absent. Cutting government spending during a recession, then, will cause the recession to deepen and unemployment to increase. Of course, changing the composition of the deficit spending can be made more stimulative and productive—fewer bombs and soldiers, more schools and teachers. But there can be no argument of the need for deficit spending in today's economy. Don't be fooled by repeated economic lies counselling otherwise.

After the November elections, however, Obama's deficit committee will recommend various ways to balance our accounts, and, given the committee's makeup, social security (the only solvent program now on the government books) will be hit for cuts, increased retirement ages

Bruce Giudici, editor



and the like. This variation on the Bush privatization theme must be strongly resisted (see page 6-7). Social security is not the reason we're broke; we're broke due to comprehensive military costs (past (pensions), present (wars) and future (veterans)) combined with a refusal to raise taxes to pay for them, along with the deepest recession since the 1930's. Still, social security will be attacked—and we should be ready.

Should the "conservatives" gain power in the coming election, we will need to focus on facts, avoiding the distractions designed to keep us from asking the big questions, such as: who benefits and who pays? Without a focus on the long-term problem, we will be divided by short-term issues. Work hard in these critical times—elections are around the corner.

## Distributors Wanted

Connections readers,

We are looking for more distributors to help deliver the Connections newspaper once a month to an established route, taking about 2 hours total. Currently, we need a distributor for one route in Stockton. Additionally, we'd like to have at least one or two people for "back-ups" if one of our distributors is ill or on vacation.

Also, please keep your eyes open in your neighborhood or workplace where you think copies of Connections would fit nicely, such as donut/coffee shops, cafes, delis, medical offices or any place where you see newspapers and other reading materials. Send your suggestions and/or questions to: [savage1599@gmail.com](mailto:savage1599@gmail.com) or phone: 209-339-1599 (Lodi). Thank you very much.

Marcia and Deane Savage  
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## Grey Panthers on the propositions

**YES on Proposition 19:** Marijuana. Allow people age 21 or older to grow or have small quantities of marijuana for personal use.

**UNDECIDED on Proposition 20:** Congressional Redistricting by Commission (move the job of drawing congressional district maps every 10 years from the Legislature to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.)

**YES on Proposition 21:** Vehicle License Fee Surcharge for State Parks. California has lost billions of dollars from the reduction of annual VLF imposed by Governor Schwarzenegger. This small surcharge will bring over \$500 million annually to the state to make sure our parks stay open and are safe for the public to visit.

**UNDECIDED on Proposition 22:** Funds for Transportation and Local Government

**NO on Proposition 23:** Suspends Air Pollution Control Laws (AB 32). We strongly supported AB 32, The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and join many others to OPPOSE Proposition 23 which would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the State unemployment rate is 5.5% or lower for 4 consecutive years.

**YES on Proposition 24:** Repeal Corporate Tax Loopholes. Proposition 24 would roll back corporate tax cuts that were passed in idark of the night tax deals in 2008-09, costing the state over \$1.7 billion per year in revenues. Our current budget crisis cannot be solved with these types of corporate tax breaks.

**YES on Proposition 25:** Majority Vote Budget. We believe that the 2/3 vote necessary for passing a budget is the root of much of our budget problems and that all budget and revenue decisions

should be made by a simple majority vote.

**NO on Proposition 26:** Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Fees. This measure would redefine taxes, and therefore require a 2/3 vote on many more government revenue decisions, including what are currently environmental regulatory fees. We believe all decisions about revenue measures should be made with simple majority votes.

**NO on Proposition 27:** Eliminate Commission on Redistricting.



## Connections

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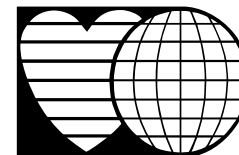
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future generations."

## *Three steps to establish a politics of global warming*

# We're hot as hell and we're not going to take it any more

By Bil McKibben

### Try to fit these facts together:

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the planet has just come through the warmest decade, the warmest 12 months, the warmest six months, and the warmest April, May, and June on record.

A "staggering" new study from Canadian researchers has shown that warmer seawater has reduced phytoplankton, the base of the marine food chain, by 40% since 1950.

Nine nations have so far set their all-time temperature records in 2010, including Russia (111°), Niger (118°), Sudan (121°), Saudi Arabia and Iraq (126° apiece), and Pakistan, which also set the new all-time Asia record in May: a hair under 130 degrees. I can turn my oven to 130 degrees.

And then, in late July, the U.S. Senate decided to do exactly nothing about climate change. They didn't do less than they could have—they did nothing, preserving a perfect two-decade bipartisan record of no action. Senate majority leader Harry Reid decided not even to schedule a vote on legislation that would have capped carbon emissions.

I wrote the first book for a general audience on global warming back in 1989, and I've spent the subsequent 21 years working on the issue. I'm a mild-mannered guy, a Methodist Sunday School teacher. Not quick to anger. So what I want to say is: this is fu\*\*ed up. The time has come to get mad, and then to get busy.

For many years, the lobbying fight for climate legislation on Capitol Hill has been led by a collection of the most corporate and moderate environmental groups, outfits like the Environmental Defense Fund. We owe them a great debt, and not just for their hard work. We owe them a debt because they did everything the way you're supposed to: they wore

nice clothes, lobbied tirelessly, and compromised at every turn.

By the time they were done, they had a bill that only capped carbon emissions from electric utilities (not factories or cars) and was so laden with gifts for industry that if you listened closely you could actually hear the oinking. They bent over backwards like Soviet gymnasts. Senator John Kerry, the legislator they worked most closely with, issued this rallying cry as the final negotiations began: "We believe we have compromised significantly, and we're prepared to compromise further."

And even that was not enough. They were left out to dry by everyone—not just Reid, not just the Republicans. Even President Obama wouldn't lend a hand, investing not a penny of his political capital in the fight.

The result: total defeat, no moral victories.

### Now What?

So now we know what we didn't before: making nice doesn't work. It was worth a try, and I'm completely serious when I say I'm grateful they made the effort, but it didn't even come close to working. So we better try something else.

Step one involves actually talking about global warming. For years now, the accepted wisdom in the best green circles was: talk about anything else—energy independence, oil security, beating the Chinese to renewable technology. I was at a session convened by the White House early in the Obama administration where some polling guru solemnly explained that "green jobs" polled better than "cutting carbon."

No, really? In the end, though, all these focus-group favorites are secondary. The task at hand is keeping the planet from melting. We need everyone—beginning with the president—to start explaining that basic fact at every turn.

It is the heat, and also the humidity. Since warm air holds more water than cold, the

atmosphere is about 5% moister than it was 40 years ago, which explains the freak downpours that seem to happen someplace on this continent every few days.

It is the carbon—that's why the seas are turning acid, a point Obama could have made with ease while standing on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. "It's bad that it's black out there," he might have said, "but even if that oil had made it safely ashore and been burned in our cars, it would still be wrecking the oceans." Energy independence is nice, but you need a planet to be energy independent on.

Mysteriously enough, this seems to be a particularly hard point for smart people to grasp. Even in the wake of the disastrous Senate non-vote, the Nature Conservancy's climate expert told New York Times columnist Tom Friedman, "We have to take climate change out of the atmosphere, bring it down to earth, and show how it matters in people's everyday lives." Translation: ordinary average people can't possibly recognize the real stakes here, so let's put it in language they can understand, which is about their most immediate interests. It's both untrue, as I'll show below, and incredibly patronizing. It is, however, exactly what we've been doing for a decade and clearly, It Does Not Work.

Step two, we have to ask for what we actually need, not what we calculate we might possibly be able to get. If we're going to slow global warming in the very short time available to us, then we don't actually need an incredibly complicated legislative scheme that gives door prizes to every interested industry and turns the whole operation over to Goldman Sachs to run. We need a stiff price on carbon, set by the scientific understanding that we can't still be burning black rocks a couple of decades hence. That undoubtedly means upending the future business plans of Exxon and BP, Peabody Coal and Duke Energy, not to speak of everyone

(continued next page)

## 10:10 Diary for August/September



*Lest we forget what is at stake with climate change: their future.*

## Organizing & Windows

Laurie Litman

It's been busy around here as we prepare for the big day: 10-10-10 (October 10, 2010). If you still haven't heard about this worldwide event, go to <http://www.350.org>. You'll find Global Work Parties everywhere.

In Stockton there is "UOP's Local & Global Impact," where the UOP Student Sustainability Coalition will table outside the University Center during lunch. In addition, they are selling recycled bracelets to raise funds for two nonprofits: UNICEF's flood relief for the children of Pakistan and the Center for Land-Based Learning. A group from the Pacific community will work on a restoration project at a local certified sustainable winery. They will plant valley oak trees and natives plants, put in irrigation, and learn about the winery. Contact Fiona Kelly ([www.350.org](http://www.350.org)).

The purpose of 10-10-10 is to stop waiting for our leaders to do something and start working to counter climate change ourselves. The range of projects posted at 350.org is exciting. In Sacramento alone we have a restoration project on the river (to make the river ecosystem more resilient to stress such as climate change), a 100-mile potluck (all food to come from within 100 miles, rather than the 1500 miles an average item travels to the supermarket), bicycle valet service at the Crocker Museum Opening, leafleting against Prop 23 (which would suspend California's superior climate change law), a seed swap, a school garden work party, and McGeorge School of Law is doing a "Don't Turn the Key" event to encourage people to avoid using their cars.

It's not too late to plan your own event with friends or an organization, or do your own personal activity (fix up your bike for local errands, change light bulbs in your home to fluorescent, put up a clothes line to reduce dryer use, plant a garden, etc.).

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Here at my home, the effort to cut 10% of our carbon output continued this month as we finally got our windows retrofitted with double panes. The company switched out the single for double panes while preserving the original wood part. Less waste, better insulation, no vinyl. A great environmental solution for a greening project we've been meaning to do for years.



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## Hot as hell (continued from previous page)

else who's made a fortune by treating the atmosphere as an open sewer for the byproducts of their main business.

Instead they should pay through the nose for that sewer, and here's the crucial thing: most of the money raised in the process should be returned directly to American pockets. The monthly check sent to Americans would help fortify us against the rise in energy costs, and we'd still be getting the price signal at the pump to stop driving that SUV and start insulating the house. We also need to make real federal investments in energy research and development, to help drive down the price of alternatives. The Breakthrough Institute points out, quite rightly, that we're crazy to spend more of our tax dollars on research into new drone aircraft and Mars orbiters than we do on photovoltaics.

Yes, these things are politically hard, but they're not impossible. A politician who really cared could certainly use, say, the platform offered by the White House to sell a plan that taxed BP and actually gave the money to ordinary Americans. (So far they haven't even used the platform offered by the White House to reinstall the rooftop solar panels that Jimmy Carter put there in the 1970s and Ronald Reagan took down in his term.)

Asking for what you need doesn't mean you'll get all of it. Compromise still happens. But as David Brower, the greatest environmentalist of the late twentieth century, explained amid the fight to save the Grand Canyon: "We are to hold fast to what we believe is right, fight for it, and find allies and adduce all possible arguments for our cause. If we cannot find enough vigor in us or them to win, then let someone else propose the compromise. We thereupon work hard to coax it our way. We become a nucleus around which the strongest force can build and function."

Which leads to the third step in this process. If we're going to get any of this done, we're going to need a movement, the one thing we haven't had. For 20 years environmentalists have operated on the notion that we'd get action if we simply had scientists explain to politicians and CEOs that our

current ways were ending the Holocene, the current geological epoch. That turns out, quite conclusively, not to work. We need to be able to explain that their current ways will end something they actually care about, i.e. their careers. And since we'll never have the cash to compete with Exxon, we better work in the currencies we can muster: bodies, spirit, passion.

### Movement Time

As Tom Friedman put it in a strong column the day after the Senate punt, the problem was that the public "never got mobilized." Is it possible to get people out in the streets demanding action about climate change? Last year, with almost no money, our scruffy little outfit, 350.org, managed to organize what Foreign Policy called the "largest ever coordinated global rally of any kind" on any issue—5,200 demonstrations in 181 countries, 2,000 of them in the U.S.A.

People were rallying not just about climate change, but around a remarkably wonky scientific data point, 350 parts per million carbon dioxide, which NASA's James Hansen and his colleagues have demonstrated is the most we can have in the atmosphere if we want a planet "similar to the one on which civilization developed and to which life on earth is adapted." Which, come to think of it, we do. And the "we," in this case, was not rich white folks. If you look at the 25,000 pictures in our Flickr account, you'll see that most of them were poor, black, brown, Asian, and young—because that's what most of the world is. No need for vice-presidents of big conservation groups to patronize them: shrimpers in Louisiana and women in burqas and priests in Orthodox churches and slumdweller in Mombasa turned out to be completely capable of understanding the threat to the future.

Those demonstrations were just a start (one we should have made long ago). We're following up in October—on 10-10-10—with a Global Work Party. All around the country and the world people will be putting up solar panels and digging community gardens and laying out bike paths. Not because

we can stop climate change one bike path at a time, but because we need to make a sharp political point to our leaders: we're getting to work, what about you?

We need to shame them, starting now. And we need everyone working together. This movement is starting to emerge on many fronts. In September, for instance, opponents of mountaintop removal are converging on DC to demand an end to the coal trade. That same month, Tim DeChristopher goes on trial in Salt Lake City for monkey-wrenching oil and gas auctions by submitting phony bids. (Naomi Klein and Terry Tempest Williams have called for folks to gather at the courthouse.)

The big environmental groups are starting to wake up, too. The Sierra Club has a dynamic new leader, Mike Brune, who's working hard with stalwarts like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. (Note to enviro groups: working together is fun and useful). Churches are getting involved, as well as mosques and synagogues. Kids are leading the fight, all over the world—they have to live on this planet for another 70 years or so, and they have every right to be pissed off.

But no one will come out to fight for watered down and weak legislation. That's not how it works. You don't get a movement unless you take the other two steps I've described.

And in any event it won't work overnight. We're not going to get the Senate to act next week, or maybe even next year. It took a decade after the Montgomery bus boycott to get the Voting Rights Act. But if there hadn't been a movement, then the Voting Rights Act would have passed in... never. We may need to get arrested. We definitely need art, and music, and disciplined, nonviolent, but very real anger.

Mostly, we need to tell the truth, resolutely and constantly. Fossil fuel is wrecking the one earth we've got. It's not going to go away because we ask politely. If we want a world that works, we're going to have to raise our voices.

*Bill McKibben is founder of 350.org and the author of Eearth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet. <http://www.350.org>*

# Statewide ballot measures

## Editor's recommendations:

*Prop 19: yes, cost savings*

*Prop 20: no, gives conservatives disproportionate voice*

*Prop 21: yes, an eco-good*

*Prop 22: no, emergency State funding helps low-income*

*Prop 23: no, an eco-bad*

*Prop 24: yes, tax \$ needed*

*Props 25-26: no, more difficult to raise taxes*

*Prop 27: no, give new law a chance*

## Proposition 19

Changes California law to legalize marijuana and allow it to be regulated and taxed.

- Allows people 21 years old or older to possess, cultivate, or transport marijuana for personal use.
- Permits local governments to regulate and tax commercial production and sale of marijuana to people 21 years old or older.
- Prohibits people from possessing marijuana on school grounds, using it in public, smoking it while minors are present, or providing it to anyone under 21 years old.
- Maintains current prohibitions against driving while impaired.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Savings of up to several tens of millions of dollars annually to state and local governments on the costs of incarcerating and supervising certain marijuana offenders. Unknown but potentially major tax, fee, and benefit assessment revenues to state and local government related to the production and sale of marijuana products.

## Proposition 20

Redistricting of Congressional districts.

- Removes elected representatives from the process of establishing congressional districts and transfers that authority to the recently-authorized 14-member redistricting commission.
- Redistricting commission is comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four voters registered with neither party.
- Requires that any newly-proposed district lines be approved by nine commissioners including three

Democrats, three Republicans, and three from neither party.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Probably no significant change in state redistricting costs.

## Proposition 21

Establishes \$18 annual vehicle license surcharge to help fund State Parks and wildlife programs and grants free admission to all State Parks to surcharged vehicles.

- Establishes an \$18 annual state vehicle license surcharge and grants free admission to all state parks to surcharged vehicles.
- Requires deposit of surcharge revenue in a new trust fund.
- Requires that trust funds be used solely to operate, maintain and repair the state park system, and to protect wildlife and natural resources.
- Exempts commercial vehicles, trailers and trailer coaches from the surcharge.
- Requires annual independent audit and review by citizen's oversight committee.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Increased state revenues of about \$500 million annually from the imposition of a surcharge on the VLF to be used mainly to fund state parks and wildlife conservation programs. Potential state savings of up to approximately \$200 million annually to the extent that the VLF surcharge revenues were used to reduce support from the General Fund and other special funds for parks and wildlife conservation programs. Reduction of about \$50 million annually in state and local revenues from state park day-use fees. These revenue losses could potentially be offset by increases in other types of state park user fees and revenues.

## Proposition 22

Constitutional Amendment. Prohibits the State from taking funds used for transportation or local government projects and services.

- Prohibits the State from shifting, taking, borrowing, or restricting the use of tax revenues dedicated by law to fund local government services, community redevelopment projects, or

transportation projects and services.

- Prohibits the State from delaying the distribution of tax revenues for these purposes even when the Governor deems it necessary due to a severe state fiscal hardship.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Significant constraints on state authority over city, county, special district, and redevelopment agency funds. As a result, higher and more stable local resources, potentially affecting billions of dollars in some years. Commensurate reductions in state resources, resulting in major decreases in state spending and/or increases in state revenues.

## Proposition 23

Suspends air pollution control laws requiring major polluters to report and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming until unemployment drops below specified level for full year.

- Suspends State laws requiring reduced greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming, until California's unemployment rate drops to 5.5 percent or less for four consecutive quarters.
- Requires State to abandon implementation of comprehensive greenhouse-gas-reduction program that includes increased renewable energy and cleaner fuel requirements, and mandatory emission reporting and fee requirements for major polluters such as power plants and oil refineries, until suspension is lifted.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Potential positive, short-term impacts on state and local government revenues from the suspension of regulatory activity, with uncertain longer-run impacts. Potential foregone state revenues from the auctioning of emission allowances by state government, by suspending the future implementation of cap-and-trade regulations.

## Proposition 24

Repeals recent legislation that would allow businesses to carry back losses, share tax credits, and use a sales-based income calculation to lower taxable income.

- Repeals recent legislation that would allow businesses to shift operating losses to prior tax years and that would extend the period permitted to shift operating losses to future tax years.
- Repeals recent legislation that would allow corporations to share tax credits with affiliated corporations.
- Repeals recent legislation that would allow multistate businesses to use a sales-based income calculation, rather than a combination property-, payroll- and sales-based income calculation.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Annual state revenue increase from business taxes of about \$1.7 billion when fully phased in, beginning in 2011-12.

## Proposition 25

Constitutional Amendment. Changes Legislative vote requirement to pass a budget from two-thirds to a simple majority. Retains two-thirds vote requirement for taxes.

- Changes the legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the state budget from two-thirds to a simple majority.
- Provides that if the Legislature fails to pass a budget bill by June 15, all members of the Legislature will permanently forfeit any reimbursement for salary and expenses for every day until the day the Legislature passes a budget bill.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Unknown changes in the content of the state budget from lowering the legislative vote requirement for passage. Fiscal impact would depend on the composition and actions of future Legislatures. Minor reduction in state costs related to compensation of legislators in years when the budget bill is passed after June 15.

## Proposition 26

Constitutional Amendment. Increases Legislative vote requirement to two-thirds for State levies and charges. Imposes additional requirement for voters to approve local levies and charges with limited exceptions.

- Increases legislative vote requirement to two-thirds for state levies and charges, with limited exceptions, and for certain taxes currently subject to majority vote.
- Changes Constitution to require voters to approve, either by two-thirds or majority, local levies and charges with limited exceptions.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Potentially major decrease in state and local revenues and spending, depending upon future actions of the Legislature, local governing bodies, and local voters.

## Proposition 27

Constitutional Amendment. Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting. Consolidates authority for redistricting with elected representatives.

- Eliminates 14-member redistricting commission selected from applicant pool picked by government auditors.
- Consolidates authority for establishing state Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization district boundaries with elected state representatives responsible for drawing congressional districts.
- Reduces budget, and imposes limit on amount Legislature may spend, for redistricting.
- Provides that voters will have the authority to reject district boundary maps approved by the Legislature.
- Requires populations of all districts for the same office to be exactly the same.

**Legislative Analyst/Director of Finance summary:** Likely decrease in state redistricting costs totaling several million dollars every ten years.

*For information on the campaign committees that have organized to support or oppose propositions and ballot measures on the statewide ballot, see the Propositions and Ballot Measures Campaign Finance Activity <<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures/>> page.*

*Source: California Voter Foundation, <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm>*

# Don't raise the retirement age

Ross Eisenbrey

**1** Raising the retirement age is a benefit cut, and benefits are already too low. The average retiree receives less than \$14,000 a year from Social Security, which is less than the minimum wage.

**2** It cuts benefits for all retirees, whether they retire at age 62, age 70, or any other age—and it is a cut for retired workers' spouses, widows, and dependents, as well. When the retirement age was raised from 65 to 67, it cut benefits for the average worker who retires at 65 by 13%, meaning they lose, on average, \$28,154 over the course of their expected retirement. Raising the retirement age further, to 70, would cut benefits another 19%, costing the average worker another \$35,419, for a total loss of \$63,573.

**3** The retirement age is still rising from the last round of changes. It has already increased from 65 to 66 and will continue to rise to 67 for people born in 1960 or later.

**4** Social Security's problem is not that people are living longer. The ratio of working years to retirement years will be no higher in 2022 than it was in 1983, when Congress last raised the retirement age. People work roughly two years for every year of retirement, and while people at age 65 are living three years longer than they did 27 years ago, the 1983 law requires them to work two years more, maintaining the same basic ratio of work years to retirement years. In other words, the share of time spent in the labor force compared to retirement will be the same in 2022.

**5** The biggest financial problem facing Social Security is rising income inequality, which cannot be addressed by raising the retirement age. In 1983, 10% of all earnings were above the taxable earnings cap, compared to 16% today, which leaves high earners with a

windfall and Social Security with a shortfall. If those earnings were brought back under the cap and taxed, about 40% of the Social Security funding shortfall would disappear.

**6** Raising the retirement age affects all workers, even those who have seen little or no increase in life expectancy. Men in the top half of the earnings distribution have increased their life expectancy at age 65 by five years since 1982. Lower-income men have seen a gain of only 1.1 years, and lower income women have seen life expectancy decline.

**7** Working longer is not a choice for millions of Americans, many of whom hold physically demanding jobs. People in physically demanding jobs tend to have more physical ailments and also tend to be poorer than average. Sixty-one percent of physically demanding jobs are held by workers in the bottom 40% of the wage scale.

**8** Older Americans are already working longer than they did even 40 years ago. The labor force participation rate of people 65 and older has been climbing for two decades.

**9** The shortfall can be reduced without cutting benefits. Taxes should be raised on the highest earners, who pay a much lower share of their income in Social Security taxes. Closing loopholes and raising the taxable earnings cap so it covers the same share of national income as in 1983 would eliminate more than half the Social Security budget shortfall. Removing the cap on the employer's taxes would all but eliminate the rest of the shortfall.

**10** About 70% of the American people oppose raising the retirement age. Over 60% favor lifting the payroll tax cap for incomes over the current threshold.

Source: Economic Policy Institute, 1333 H St., NW, Ste 300, East Tower, Washington, DC 20005 [www.epi.org](http://www.epi.org)

# The Social Security con job

Joshua Holland

Allow me to take a moment to fix that whole "Social Security crisis" that has everyone in Washington gnashing their teeth. When you see how easily it's done, you may begin to realize that whenever our elites start chattering about "tax-gaps," they're almost certainly trying to rip you off—making a slick grab for something to which you are, ultimately, "entitled."

But why stop there? Why play defense? After we fix the program, why don't we increase Social Security benefits? Why not lower the age of retirement? With unemployment hovering around 10 percent, and some economists, like James Galbraith, arguing that at least some of those lost jobs are never to return, why not open up some jobs for the young-uns and put a dent in the number of Americans who are out of work? Maybe with more demand for workers, employers would see their way to raising wages a bit, bucking the long-term trend of stagnation that the majority of Americans have endured over the past 30 years. Think about it: if you enter the labor market at age 20, isn't busting your butt for four decades long enough to merit a dignified retirement? We are a wealthy country—we can afford it.

According to Bruce Bartlett, in an incredibly typical scare-piece in billionaire granny-basher Pete Peterson's *Fiscal Times*, that's not true. Social Security's problems are immense. "The 2009 report of Social Security's trustees," Bartlett writes, "showed a long-term actuarial deficit in that program of \$15 trillion." That is an almost unimaginably large number, given that the entire annual output of the United States was only \$14 trillion last year.

But what does it really mean? Well, it turns out that Bartlett's not even referring to the dubious 75-year projection of the Social Security "gap." His terrifyingly big figure actually represents the program's "shortfall" stretching out to infinity. That's right—it's the program's "unfunded liability" if everything remains as projected forever, and assuming the earth isn't destroyed by a moon-sized meteor at some point before

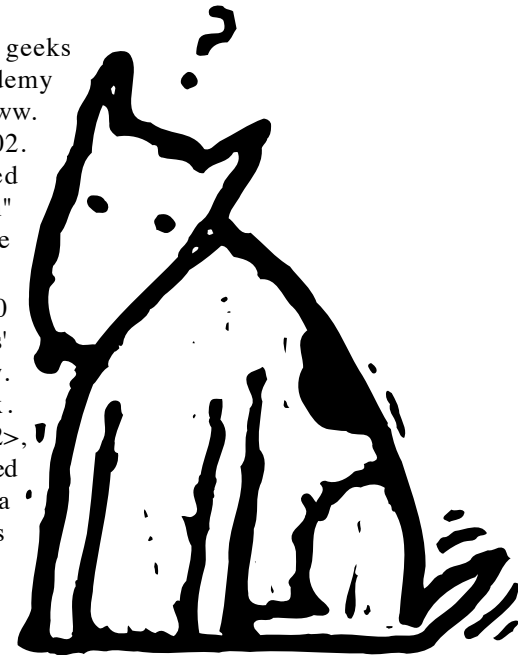
forever arrives. (The geeks at the American Academy of Actuaries <http://www.factcheck.org/article302.html> have suggested that the "infinite horizon" measure is complete nonsense.)

According to the 2010 Social Security Trustees' report <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3262>, the 75-year gap is estimated to be \$5.4 trillion—still a big number. But there's another way to express it: it equals just 0.7 percent of our projected economic output over that same period. That's less than one penny on the dollar.

So if we, as members of a nominal democracy, want to live in a society where older people aren't mired in poverty—it's estimated that four in 10 would be without Social Security benefits—then all we have to do to close the gap is increase overall taxes by less than a single percentage point. Problem solved! And we didn't even require an august commission.

But, we are told, that's not the case. Fixing it isn't that simple—and increasing benefits or dropping the age of eligibility are just crazy ideas—because we can't afford any of it. Raising taxes, no matter how modestly, supposedly kills jobs and destroys economies. But ask yourself: where would those jobs go? To Somalia or Papua New Guinea? Our firms compete with companies from other advanced economies, and the United States has one of the lowest tax burdens in the developed world. In 2007, our overall tax burden ranked 26th out of the 30 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, dubbed the "rich countries club."

As I write in my forthcoming

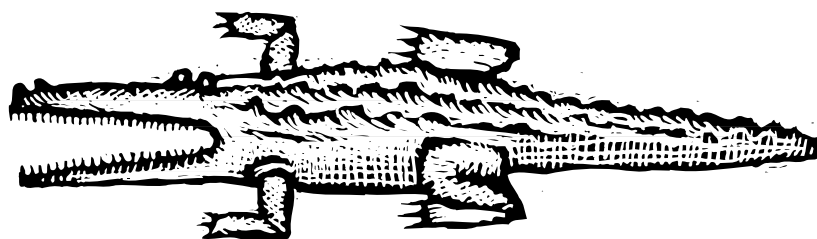


book, *The 15 Biggest Lies About the Economy*, budgeting comes down to a simple question of priorities. Do we want to live in an America where the elderly are forced to eat cat food? If not, we can pay a bit more in taxes, or bring defense spending in line with other advanced countries or eliminate the cap on payroll taxes so higher earners kick in the same share of their paychecks as everyone else.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3262>, the 75-year "Social Security gap" represents the same dollar figure as those Bush tax cuts that were targeted at the top 2 percent of American earners projected over the same period of time. For much of Washington's cognoscenti, one is an imminent crisis, and the other is something we simply must keep in place in order to retain our economic edge. That should tell you all you need to know about the nature of our Social Security "crisis."

Joshua Holland is an editor and senior writer at *AlterNet*.

Source: <http://www.alternet.org/economy/9/3/10>



# Don't cut Social Security, double it

Steven Hill

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, a debate over Social Security is heating up. This debate raises fundamental questions about the kind of society in which Americans wish to live. So far, the debate has been between deficit-busters who say Social Security must be trimmed back to reduce government indebtedness and others who want to maintain it as is.

But the New America Foundation just released a study <[http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/secure\\_retirement\\_for\\_all\\_americans](http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/secure_retirement_for_all_americans)> that proposes a different approach: doubling the current Social Security payout, and making it a true national retirement system. Creating a more robust system of "Social Security Plus" not only would be good for American retirees, but also would be good for the greater macro economy.

## Sara Cazares (continued from page 1)

Tracy School Board.

**JM: Do you have any African-American endorsements?**

SC: Doctor Ola Murchison has endorsed me, as has Charlene Leathers-Siblis, and Ellen Powell, the African-American field office person for Congressman Dennis Cardoza. When she heard I was running, she ran over and gave me a big bear hug and said, "Bless you!"

Like I said, it's about all our kids, and turning all of Stockton around. It is not a black, white, brown, red issue. It is not a blue or a red issue. This is the issue of our humanity, the future of all of us that are part of Stockton. And I think we can build bridges of unity on that.

**JM: In Ripon School District a few years ago, all administrators were required to teach one class a week. As a board member, would you consider being present in classrooms from time to time? As a teacher, teacher's aide...**

SC: Yeah, I'd only be there as, "I'm here to serve." Whatever you need. If you want me to be just like a fly on the wall and observe,

Creating a more robust system of "Social Security Plus" not only would be good for American retirees, but also would be good for the greater macro economy.

Here's the dilemma that the U.S. faces. Since WWII, retirement has been conceived as a "three-legged stool," with the three legs being Social Security, pensions, and personal savings centered around home ownership. But today, most private sector employers have quit providing pensions, and state and local governments' public pensions are drastically underfunded.

then that's fine. I taught third grade for a few years, so if there's something else I can do....

I consider that a fundamental part of just getting your bearings for your schools. To me, that's what a credible board member would do. Board members must know their area schools and hear their community concerns. Being informed about our area schools helps us govern as a team. It is not our role to manage the district but to lead with vision and governance that is accountable to that vision.

I would love to have the privilege to serve the Stockton kids and community. If we do it together, we can turn SUSD around, for our kids, for our future. It's gonna be roll up your sleeves. I'll give whatever time it takes.

[Sara Cazares can be reached at 209-598-6623; e-mail [tonantzin1212@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tonantzin1212@sbcglobal.net). Full disclosure: this writer has endorsed Sara Cazares' campaign for SUSD board, as has his spouse, Ria deGroot.]

In addition, a collapsed housing and stock market, combined with increased inequality even before the Great Recession, have drastically reduced Americans' personal savings. In short, the "retirement stool" no longer is stable and secure, and suddenly Social Security, which always has been viewed as a supplement to private savings, is the only leg left for hundreds of millions of Americans.

Studies show that people in the bottom two income quartiles depend on Social Security for 84 percent of their retirement income, and even the second richest quartile depends on Social Security for 55 percent of its retirement income. Only the richest 25 percent of Americans don't rely heavily on Social Security.

But the real problem with Social Security is not, as its critics say, that it is underfunded. Contrary to gloomy predictions, the program is on solid financial footing, with the Congressional Budget Office projecting that Social Security can pay all scheduled benefits out of its own tax revenue stream through at least 2037.

The bigger problem is that Social Security's payout is so meager. This is problematic since Social Security has been thrust into its new role as a de facto national retirement plan. Currently, it replaces only about 33 to 40 percent of a worker's average wage from the year prior to retirement (compared to Germany where it replaces 70 percent). That is simply not enough money to live on when it is your primary—perhaps your only—source of retirement income.

Doubling Social Security's

individual payout would cost about \$650 billion annually for the 51 million Americans who receive benefits. Here are some ways to pay for it.

First, lift Social Security's payroll cap that favors the wealthy. Currently, Social Security only taxes wages up to \$106,800 a year, and any income earned above that is not taxed. The net result is that poor, middle class, and even moderately upper middle class Americans are taxed 12.4 percent (split between employee and employer) on 100 percent of their income, but the wealthy pay a much lower percentage. Millionaire bankers effectively pay a paltry 1.2 percent. Making all income levels pay the same percentage—that's how Medicare works—is popular with Americans and would raise about \$377 billion.

Second, with all Americans receiving Social Security Plus, employer-based pensions would be redundant, so businesses no longer would need to receive the substantial federal deductions they currently accrue for providing employees' retirement plans. These deductions total a whopping \$126 billion annually.

Those two provisions alone would provide three-fourths of the revenue needed to double Social Security's payout. Other possible revenue streams exist, such as reducing or eliminating other unfair deductions in the tax code which currently allow the top 20 percent of income earners to reap generous deductions that most low and moderate income Americans cannot enjoy. These include deductions for private retirement savings, home ownership, health care and education. For example, individuals who have enough income to divert for savings or investment are allowed considerable tax deductions for their 401(k)s, IRAs and pensions. Similarly the home ownership deduction for mortgage interest only benefits people with sufficient income to buy a home. But the poor and working class rarely can take advantage of these since they don't make enough to itemize deductions.

These personal deductions were enacted by Congress in part as a means to incentivize savings.

While a certain number of moderate income Americans benefit from these, if we enacted Social Security Plus they would no longer need to rely on these deductions as vehicles for retirement savings. Instead of buying a home as part of their retirement plan—which as we have seen is a risky investment—they could put their money into Social Security Plus.

We also could implement this in stages, targeting first those who are most in need. We also could allow active seniors who have not yet reached full retirement age to take a half-pension and work half-time without losing their right to a full pension upon their retirement.

An expansion of Social Security—one of the most successful and popular social programs in American history, currently celebrating its 75th year—would be good for the macro-economy as well because it would act as an "automatic stabilizer" during economic downturns, keeping money in retirees' pockets and stimulating consumer demand. Benefits would be portable when changing from one job to another.

It also would help American businesses trying to compete with foreign companies that don't provide pensions to their employees, since those countries already have generous national retirement plans. And it would be broadly fair, since even those higher income Americans who are losing their tax deductions would see part of it returned to them in the form of a greater Social Security payout.

In short, Social Security Plus would provide a stable, secure retirement for every American and contribute greatly toward a solid foundation from which to build a strong and vibrant 21st century U.S. economy.

Steven Hill is the author of the New America Foundation's report "Secure Retirement for All Americans" and also author of "Europe's Promise: Why the European Way is the Best Hope in an Insecure Age" ([www.EuropesPromise.org](http://www.EuropesPromise.org)) published recently by University of California Press.

Source: <http://firedoglake.com> 9/2/10



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# Take back our tax dollars—now

By Ellen Augustine, M.A.

The unemployment rate is again rising, and spending for green jobs, education, health care, affordable housing, and the environment is being cut to the bone. Where, in the richest country in the world, could money be found to take care of our citizens? Look no further than the Pentagon budget.

Most *Connections* readers are probably aware that almost 60% of the discretionary budget goes to the military. This, however, is definitely not well known in the general public. To that end, a simple but powerful campaign has been designed: NotMyPriorities.Org. The campaign centers around postcards which show the budget pie chart on one side, and have 3 spaces on the back for you to write your alternative priorities. They are pre-addressed to Representatives, Senators, and the President. Though we are all so busy, it takes just a minute to write your choices for your tax dollars. Over 90,000 postcards are already in circulation. When millions of these get to Congress and the White House, the will of the people will not be able to be ignored.

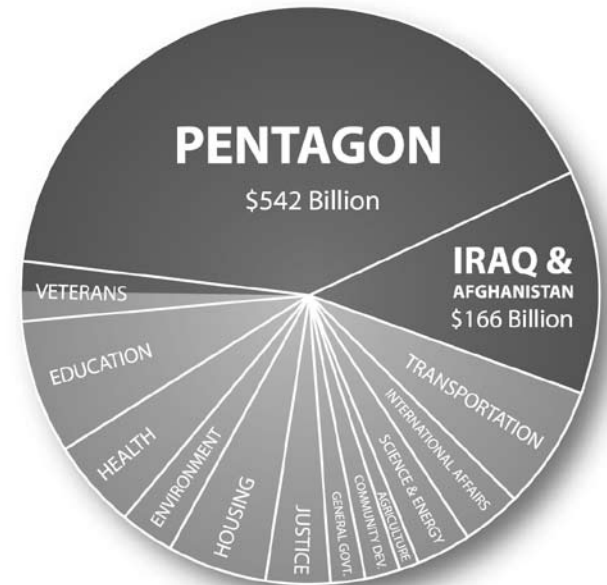
What exactly is the discretionary budget? This is the money Congress is free to allocate. It does not include interest on the national debt, Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid. This year the Pentagon is getting \$708 billion. This equals the amount the rest of the world combined (friend and foe) spends on the military. By contrast, education gets \$64 billion, the Department of Health and Human Services gets \$76 billion, and Transportation gets \$77 billion. The purpose of this campaign is to create a debate in the public and in Congress about how much we really need to "defend" ourselves.

Where can we start to make significant cuts in the behemoth? Three areas stand out:

[1] We have 700 to 1,000 military bases in more than 100 countries around the world, many of whom no longer want our presence. The problem with these "fixed" bases is that soldiers and equipment are generally not where we are fighting the wars.

[2] Nuclear weapons consume more than 10% of the Pentagon

## U.S. Budget Priorities



2009 U.S. Discretionary Budget. Does not include funds for the bailout or the economic stimulus package. [www.NotMyPriorities.org](http://www.NotMyPriorities.org) for source data)

budget. President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize for his vision of a nuclear-free world. Cold war warriors Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, William Perry, and Sam Nunn are speaking nationwide about how we would be better off without nuclear weapons. We could consolidate our nine nuclear complexes down to three, and decrease our 9,500 nuclear warheads to 300. This would still be enough to kill everyone on the planet many times over.

[3] There are numerous multi-million dollar weapons systems which would be great if we were fighting WWII again (with large land masses and definable enemies) but are not appropriate for the urban and mountain wars we now fight. In the design stage, military contractors deliberately spread production and assembly throughout most Congressional districts so that Congress members "can't vote against jobs in their district." The companies also dole out large campaign contributions. Two examples of ineffective systems are the F35 Joint Strike Fighter plane and DDG Destroyer Ship.

The current election is about jobs. A recent study by Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst found that spending the same billion dollars on education, health care, energy retrofits, or mass transit creates 30-100% more jobs than the military (most of which are living wage).

Of course, the bottom line to this conversation is "What creates security?" If we took even 5% of our military budget and spent it in Third World countries prone to terrorism—assisting them with clean water systems, basic farming implements, schools, medical clinics, and solar ovens—they would consider us their best friends. Terrorists would find no recruits against the United States. Looking out to the world and seeing fewer "enemies," we could further decrease our Pentagon budget.

You are the essential element in this shift. Order postcards for yourself, your family, and friends, both here and in other states. If you find this campaign compelling, consider becoming a Congressional District Coordinator, networking with other groups to get 2,000 cards to your Representative. This will let them know constituents are unhappy with their Pentagon vote, and will give them clear directives for alternative spending.

**ACTION:** Send us an email or give a call and we'll send you one free packet of four postcards (one to President Obama, one to your Representative, and two for your Senators). Go to [www.NotMyPriorities.org](http://www.NotMyPriorities.org), or contact the Co-Directors: Barry Hermanson, [Barry@NotMyPriorities.org](mailto:Barry@NotMyPriorities.org), 415-664-7754 (PST); Ellen Augustine, [Ellen@NotMyPriorities.org](mailto:Ellen@NotMyPriorities.org), 510-428-1832 (PST). Additional postcards are five cents each, plus postage.

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# A speech for endless war

Norman Solomon

On the last night of August, the president used an Oval Office speech to boost a policy of perpetual war.

Hours later, the New York Times front page offered a credulous gloss for the end of "the seven-year American combat mission in Iraq." The first sentence of the coverage described the speech as saying "that it is now time to turn to pressing problems at home." The story went on to assert that Obama "used the moment to emphasize that he sees his primary job as addressing the weak economy and other domestic issues—and to make clear that he intends to begin disengaging from the war in Afghanistan next summer."

But the speech gave no real indication of a shift in priorities from making war to creating jobs. And the oratory "made clear" only the repetition of vague vows to "begin" disengaging from the Afghanistan war next summer. In fact, top administration officials have been signaling that only token military withdrawals are apt to occur in mid-2011, and Obama said nothing to the contrary.

While now trumpeting the nobility of an Iraq war effort that he'd initially disparaged as "dumb," Barack Obama is polishing a halo over the Afghanistan war, which he touts as very smart. In the process, the Oval Office speech declared that every U.S. war—no matter how mendacious or horrific—is worthy of veneration.

Obama closed the speech with a tribute to "an unbroken line of heroes" stretching "from Khe Sanh to Kandahar—Americans who have fought to see that the lives of our children are better than our own." His reference to the famous U.S. military outpost in South Vietnam was a chilling expression of affinity for another march of folly.

With his commitment to war in Afghanistan, President Obama is not only on the wrong side of history. He is also now propagating an exculpatory view of any and all U.S. war efforts—as if the immoral can become the magnificent by virtue of patriotic alchemy.

A century ago, William Dean Howells wrote: "What a thing it is

to have a country that can't be wrong, but if it is, is right, anyway!"

During the presidency of George W. Bush, "the war on terror" served as a rationale for establishing warfare as a perennial necessity. The Obama administration may have shelved the phrase, but the basic underlying rationales are firmly in place. With American troop levels in Afghanistan near 100,000, top U.S. officials are ramping up rhetoric about "taking the fight to" the evildoers.

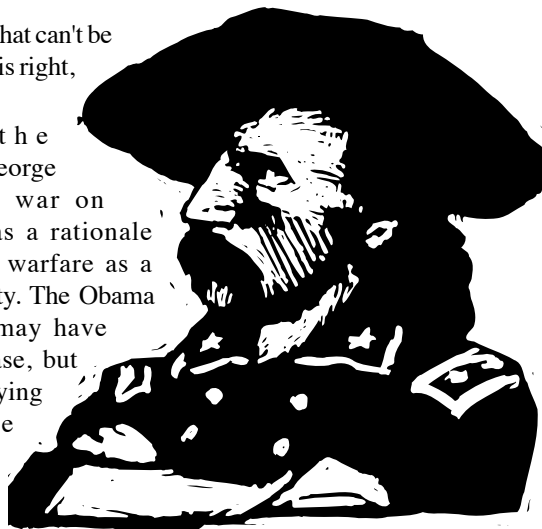
The day before the Oval Office speech, presidential spokesman Robert Gibbs talked to reporters about "what this drawdown means to our national security efforts in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia and around the world as we take the fight to Al Qaeda."

The next morning, Obama declared at Fort Bliss: "A lot of families are now being touched in Afghanistan. We've seen casualties go up because we're taking the fight to Al Qaeda and the Taliban and their allies." And, for good measure, Obama added that "now, under the command of General Petraeus, we have the troops who are there in a position to start taking the fight to the terrorists."

If, nine years after 9/11, we are supposed to believe that U.S. forces can now "start" taking the fight to "the terrorists," this is truly war without end. And that's the idea.

Nearly eight years ago, in November 2002, retired U.S. Army Gen. William Odom appeared on C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" program and told viewers: "Terrorism is not an enemy. It cannot be defeated. It's a tactic. It's about as sensible to say we declare war on night attacks and expect we're going to win that war. We're not going to win the war on terrorism."

With his Aug. 31 speech, Obama became explicit about the relationship between reduced troop levels in Iraq and escalation in Afghanistan. "We will disrupt, dismantle, and defeat Al Qaeda, while preventing Afghanistan



from again serving as a base for terrorists," he said. "And because of our drawdown in Iraq, we are now able to apply the resources necessary to go on offense." This is the approach of endless war.

While Obama was declaring that "our most urgent task is to restore our economy and put the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs back to work," I went to a National Priorities Project webpage and looked at cost-of-war counters <<http://www.costofwar.com/>> spinning like odometers in manic overdrive. The figures for the "Cost of War in Afghanistan"—already above \$329 billion—are now spinning much faster than the ones for war in Iraq.

One day in March 1969, a Nobel Prize-winning biologist spoke at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Our government has become preoccupied with death," George Wald said, "with the business of killing and being killed." More than four decades later, how much has really changed?

*Norman Solomon is a journalist, historian, and progressive activist. His book "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death has been adapted into a documentary film of the same name. His most recent book is "Made Love, Got War." He is a national co-chair of the Healthcare NOT Warfare campaign. In California, he is co-chair of the Commission on a Green New Deal for the North Bay; [www.GreenNewDeal.info](http://www.GreenNewDeal.info)*

Source: [www.CommonDreams.org](http://www.CommonDreams.org) 9/11/2010

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# How the right still frames Iraq

Robert Parry

President Barack Obama's instruction to 'turn the page' on the Iraq War has set off a new wave of frustration on the American Left, which believes that the architects of this war of aggression should face some accountability for the death and destruction.

But Obama's non-partisan olive branch—hailing all sides as 'patriots' and praising the troops for carrying out a difficult assignment—may reflect his realistic assessment that the balance of national political/media power still tilts sharply to the neocon and right-wing side.

Indeed, the biggest controversy around Obama's speech Tuesday night was not whether the United States should acknowledge war crimes in Iraq but whether Obama should praise former President George W. Bush for supposedly salvaging the war effort by ordering a 'surge' of 30,000 more troops in 2007.

In coverage of the speech, every major U.S. news outlet repeated the now-enshrined conventional wisdom that the 'surge' turned the tide of the war. For instance, the Washington Post noted that Obama had called Bush before the speech but added that Obama's aides wouldn't comment on whether 'Obama gave Bush credit for his decision' to order the 2007 troop surge that led to a reduction in violence.

Though the U.S. press did carry some critical commentary about the overall consequences of the Iraq invasion, particularly its death toll and trillion-dollar price tag, there were no suggestions in the mainstream media that Bush and his neocon aides deserved a long visit with the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

In practical terms, the conventional wisdom on the 'successful surge' has meant that there will be no meaningful accountability of any sort against the neocons who used 'stove-piped intelligence' on WMD to create a false *casus belli*, the Bush administration officials who carried out the unprovoked invasion, or the mainstream U.S. journalists who played along with the deceptions to protect their careers.

Rather than any accountability, the neocons and other hawks have

retained positions of influence in Washington. Their jobs at prominent think tanks and their access to influential op-ed pages also ensured that when the level of violence began declining in late 2007 and early 2008—from catastrophic to simply horrific—they could quickly give credit to the 'surge.'

Although other military factors were of equal or greater importance in this decline, anyone who pointed out the more complex reality was shouted down and made to admit that Bush's supporters had been 'right' about the 'surge.'

During Campaign 2008, Democratic presidential nominee Obama was one of the few politicians who tried to make the more nuanced case, placing the 'surge' among a number of developments, including some key ones—like the Sunni Awakening—that pre-dated or were unrelated to the 'surge.'

However, Obama was browbeaten by mainstream 'journalists.' In separate interviews, CBS anchor Katie Couric and ABC's George Stephanopoulos demanded to know why Obama wouldn't just admit that his rival, Sen. John McCain, had been 'right' about the 'surge.'

Finally, Obama chose to surrender to this conventional wisdom, however misguided. He confessed to Fox News' Bill O'Reilly that the surge "succeeded beyond our wildest dreams."

Obama's cave-in allowed the neocons and their sympathizers to further ridicule anyone who wouldn't go along. But it also demonstrated the real power of the media machine that the Right and the neocons have built over the past several decades.

### **A deformed conventional wisdom**

To fit with the prevailing conventional wisdom, even the New York Times altered the chronology of events to give the 'surge' primacy as the key factor in the declining violence. Although the Sunni Awakening, in which Sunnis turned against al-Qaeda and received U.S. payments, took root in 2006, the Times routinely began to cite the 'surge' of 2007 first and the Sunni shift second,

as if that were the real order of events.

Still, some military analysts continued to insist that Bush's 'surge' was at best a minor factor in improving Iraq's security climate. For his book, *The War Within*, the Washington Post's Bob Woodward interviewed a number of military officials and concluded:

'In Washington, conventional wisdom translated these events into a simple view: The surge had worked. But the full story was more complicated. At least three other factors were as important as, or even more important than, the surge.'

Woodward reported that the Sunni rejection of al-Qaeda extremists in Anbar province (which preceded the surge) and the surprise decision of radical Shiite leader Moqtada al-Sadr to order a unilateral cease-fire by his militia were two important factors. A third factor, which Woodward argued may have been the most significant, was the use of new highly classified U.S. intelligence tactics that allowed for rapid targeting and killing of insurgent leaders. Woodward agreed to withhold details of these secret techniques from his book so as not to undercut their continued success.

Other brutal factors further explained the decline in violence:

- Vicious ethnic cleansing had succeeded in separating Sunnis and Shiites to such a degree that there were fewer targets to kill. Several million Iraqis were estimated to be refugees either in neighboring countries or within their own.
- Concrete walls built between Sunni and Shiite areas made 'death-squad' raids more difficult but also 'cantonized' much of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, making everyday life for Iraqis even more exhausting as they sought food or traveled to work.
- During the 'surge,' U.S. forces expanded the round-up of so-called 'military age males' and locked tens of thousands in prison. Loose rules of engagement also permitted the killing of 'MAMS' if they simply looked suspicious, as a

*(continued next page)*

(continued from previous page)

video distributed by WikiLeaks revealed.

- Awesome U.S. firepower, concentrated on Iraqi insurgents and civilian bystanders for more than five years, had slaughtered countless thousands of Iraqis and had intimidated many others to look simply to their own survival.
- The biggest decline in violence came after it was made clear in 2008 that the Iraqi government was serious about setting a timetable for a U.S. military pullout. As US troops withdrew from the cities and then started heading for the exits, the number of attacks on Americans dropped to near zero.

In other words, the scaling back (and the promised end) of the U.S. occupation may have been the most significant factor in stanching the bloodshed, although the level of Iraqi political violence remains horrible to this day.

### Controlling the debate

Still, by controlling the 'surge' debate, the neocons rehabilitated themselves in the eyes of Official Washington and essentially guaranteed that they would face no accountability, either before some international war crimes tribunal or in their career prospects. They then used their strong position in policy circles to push Obama into another 'surge'—for Afghanistan.

Washington's deformed reality also shaped the debate prior to Obama's speech announcing the end of American combat operations. The only media question that seemed to get any traction was whether Obama should thank Bush for all he did for Iraq and particularly for the 'surge.'

In the end, Obama didn't go that far, but the American Left should take note that its media weakness—in the face of the neocon/right-wing media powerhouses—is a clear and present danger to American democracy and the security of the world.

Despite the Iraq War's many disasters, the complicit (or subservient) U.S. news media has continued to let the neocon/Right frame the national debate, and the American Left invests almost no money in trying to restore some balance.

Considering how dependent modern politics is on media—to get out a message or to present a coherent narrative that lets voters put issues into a meaningful context—it remains remarkable how low a priority progressives make building a media infrastructure.

In many ways, this imbalance of media power continues to slip further in the direction of the neocons and the right-wing, as they use their dominance of talk radio and cable news to reach into the homes of working-class people, appealing especially to white men.

And the situation could get worse. Earlier this year, after wealthy progressives pulled the plug on the Air America radio network, the Left's primary media outlet became MSNBC's evening line-up of liberal hosts—Ed Schultz, Keith Olbermann and Rachel Maddow.

In other words, the Left is now heavily dependent on General Electric, a charter member of the military-industrial complex, for reaching the American public. And GE only allowed this experimental line-up on MSNBC after trying almost everything else, including an attempt to out-fox Fox News by pandering to the Right.

It's also not clear what might happen to this fragile oasis of liberal opinion if the Republicans reclaim the Congress next year and thus hold the purse strings to GE's lucrative military contracts. Or what might change if the deal goes through to sell a majority interest in NBC Universal to Comcast.

To put it mildly, neither GE nor Comcast's corporate leadership has the kind of ideological commitment to MSNBC's liberal evening programming that, say, News Corp.'s Chairman and CEO Rupert Murdoch has toward Fox News' right-wing content.

Indeed, the 'free-market' orientation of CNBC and the more conservative bent of MSNBC's daytime shows, like 'Morning Joe' with former Republican Congressman Joe Scarborough, are more in line with GE's corporate interests.

The Right and the neocons also continue to invest heavily in building up their presence on the Internet, as many worthy independent and progressive Web

sites struggle for survival or go under.

So, the Left shouldn't be surprised when the frame of the national debate is constructed by neocon, center-right and far-right elements—or when President Obama ducks a fight over the accountability that Bush and the neocons should face for a cruel and unnecessary war.

*Robert Parry broke many of the Iran-Contra stories in the 1980s for the Associated Press and Newsweek. His latest book, Neck Deep: The Disastrous Presidency of George W. Bush, was written with two of his sons, Sam and Nat, and can be ordered at <http://www.neckdeepbook.com/>. His two previous books, Secrecy & Privilege: The Rise of the Bush Dynasty from Watergate to Iraq and Lost History: Contras, Cocaine, the Press & Project Truth are also available there.*

Source: <http://www.consortiumnews.com/> 9/1/10

## Peace scorecard for our Congressional reps

John Morearty

PeaceActionWest in Oakland keeps track of how Congress votes on war and peace issues, and publishes an up to date list on their website, <http://www.peaceactionwest.org/>. To get your representatives' records, enter your zipcode. For McNerney and Cardoza, because zipcodes are split, you can also enter their office addresses, which are in the blue pages at the front of the phone book under Federal Government/Congress.

Here are recent highlights (lowlights?) of McNerney and Cardoza, Feinstein and Boxer. More details on each measure are available on the website.

*McGovern-Obey amendment to set an end date for the war in*

*Afghanistan:*

McNerney and Feinstein for war, Boxer and Cardoza for peace

*Final vote on funding escalation in Afghanistan:*

All four for war

*Funding for military withdrawal from Afghanistan:*

All four for war

*Final version of counterproductive Iran sanctions:*

All four for sanctions

Note that McNerney's record is worse than Cardoza's.

**ACTION:** Visit, picket, call or email your people in Congress. See the phone book blue pages, or "Contact Your Reps" in this newspaper.

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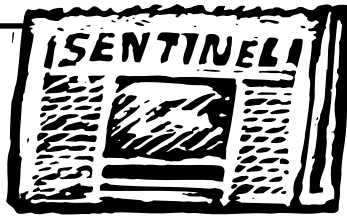
Online donation through PJN website: [www.pjnsjc.org](http://www.pjnsjc.org) (click on donation button)

Automatic Bank Transfer

I've enclosed a check for my first contribution. Arrangements will be made by me with my bank for future pledges.

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

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



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

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

Firedoglake <http://firedoglake.com>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## We're on the web too!

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

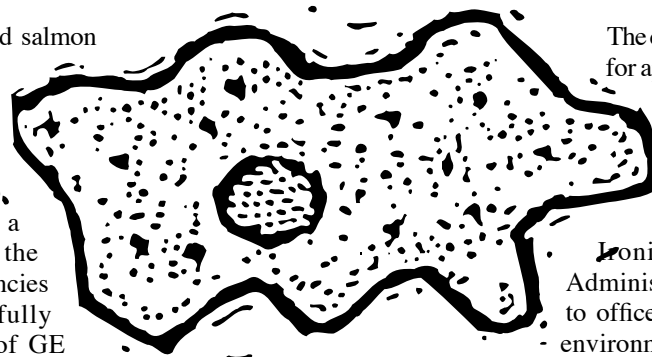
<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

# No Frankenfish—no GE salmon

Genetically engineered salmon are on a fast track to being the first GE Animal approved for human consumption. The FDA is trying to approve GE salmon as a new animal drug, but the truth is U.S. Food agencies don't have a way to fully evaluate the impacts of GE salmon on human health or the environment. Worst of all, if these GE salmon are introduced into our food system, they won't be labeled, so consumers won't know what they're buying.

Each year millions of farmed salmon escape from open-water net pens, outcompeting wild populations for resources and straining ecosystems. Any approval of GE salmon would represent another serious threat to the survival of native salmon populations, many of which have already suffered severe declines related to salmon farms and other man-made impacts. Research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences notes that a release of just 60 GE salmon into a wild population of 60,000 could lead to the extinction of the wild population in less than 40 fish generations. Wild Atlantic salmon are already on the Endangered Species List in the U.S.; approving these GE Atlantic salmon will be the final blow to these wild stocks.

The human health impacts of eating GE fish are entirely



unknown, but some scientific research raises cause for alarm: for example, some scientists have asserted that foreign growth hormones in transgenic fish may increase production of other compounds such as insulin in the fish. Additionally, FDA has recognized that a transgene cannot be "turned off" once it is inserted in the organism, and will therefore have effects that are uncontrollable.

These GE farmed salmon will also carry with them all of the health hazards of other farmed salmon, but transgenic fish may be more susceptible to disease than fish currently grown in aquaculture facilities because transgenic fish are identified as "macro-mutants" with a reduced ability to survive. Consequently, the amount of antibiotics given to transgenic fish may be higher than the amount currently given to farmed fish; already farmed salmon are given more antibiotics than any other livestock by weight, threatening the health of those who eat them and the continued efficacy of these antibiotics to treat human disease.

The company first applied for approval of the fish in 2001, but the Bush Administration delayed its approval until it was out of office.

Ironically, the Obama Administration, who came to office promising a more environmentally sound and

transparent process, is using the Bush Administration-developed framework for the approval of genetically engineered animals. This process uses the fiction that the genetically engineered salmon is, in effect, an animal "drug." The failure of the FDA to develop a transparent process for the approval of GE animals and instead use the secretive process of the New Animal Drug regulations means that consumers will be deprived of basic information as to the safety of these animals.

**ACTION:** Tell the Food and Drug Administration not to approve GE salmon AND, if the Obama Administration insists on approving these genetically engineered fish, it should require the fish to be labeled when marketed to fish farmers, fish retailers and food companies, restaurants, and when marketed to consumers.

And contact your representatives.

Source: National Organic Coalition action alert, 9/8/10. National Organic Coalition, 3540 Route 52, Pine Bush, NY 12566 845-744-2304 [www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org](http://www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org)

## BP blackmails the Feds

Kate Sheppard

...the deal between the federal government and BP to set up a \$20 billion fund to compensate spill victims...was designed in such a way that it basically hinges on keeping BP's Gulf-drilling subsidiary in production and turning a profit.

In an interview with *New York Times* published early September, BP executives confirmed as much—if the government cracks down on the company by cutting it off from obtaining new leases or permits, the fund could go belly-up. The *Times* story continued: But as state and federal officials, individuals and businesses continue to seek additional funds beyond the

minimum fines and compensation that BP must pay under the law, the company has signaled its reluctance to cooperate unless it can continue to operate in the Gulf of Mexico. The gulf accounts for 11 percent of its global production. "If we are unable to keep those fields going, that is going to have a substantial impact on our cash flow," said David Nagle, BP's executive vice president for BP America, in an interview. That, he added, "makes it harder for us to fund things, fund these programs."

This, of course, is the problem with making the fund contingent upon keeping BP Exploration & Production Inc., a subsidiary of BP America Production that

deals primarily with Gulf of Mexico production, profitable...I can imagine the threats will only get worse when (or perhaps, if) the federal government starts announcing the fines for legal violations and costs for damage to natural resources that BP will be expected to pay. The company could owe up to \$17.6 billion for Clean Water Act violations alone. But if the price of making sure BP pays up is keeping the company drilling in the Gulf, the government has certainly cut a bad deal here.

Kate Sheppard covers energy and environmental politics in *Mother Jones'* Washington bureau.

Source: [www.MotherJones.com](http://www.MotherJones.com) 9/3/10

# Prop 23: big oil tries to kill climate law

Sat, Sept 25

## Join the Mokelumne River cleanup

Andrew Leonard

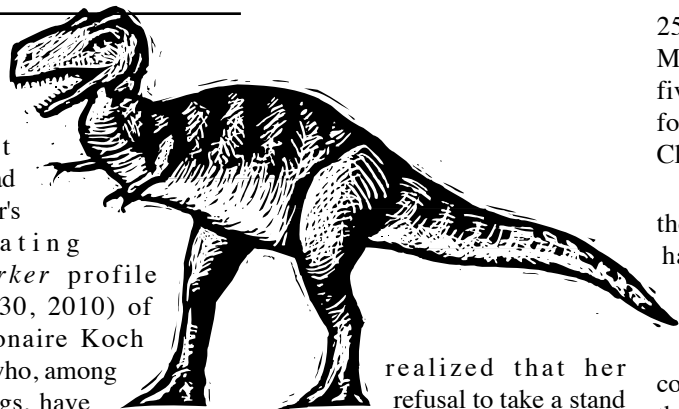
If you haven't already read JaneMayer's devastating *New Yorker* profile (August 30, 2010) of the billionaire Koch brothers who, among other things, have been bankrolling the Tea Party and funding climate change skepticism on a massive scale, well, what are you waiting for? I can't think of a better way to ruin an evening.

But if you have read the piece, and might somehow still be wondering whether these guys are as bad as they sound, here's another data point, fresh from the keyboard of Todd Woody, in *Grist* <<http://www.grist.org/article/koch-brothers-jump-into-prop-23-fight/>>. Through one of their many subsidiaries, Flint Hills Resources, a Kansas petrochemical company, the Kochs just donated \$1 million to Proposition 23, the California ballot initiative designed to sabotage the state's global warming law, AB 32.

The Koch donation came a day after Tesoro, a Texas oil company that has been bankrolling the pro-Prop 23 campaign, put \$1 million into the campaign coffers. According to the [No on 23] campaign, 97 percent of the \$8.2 million raised by the Yes forces has been given by oil-related interests and 89 percent of that money has come from out of state. Three companies, Koch Industries, Tesoro, and Valero—another Texas-based oil company—have provided 80 percent of those funds.

It's hard to be any clearer than those numbers suggest. If you think out-of-state oil companies have California's best interests at heart, go ahead, vote for Proposition 23. Because it is their baby, all the way.

Meanwhile, California Republican senatorial candidate Carly Fiorina has apparently



realized that her refusal to take a stand on Proposition 23 during Wednesday's debate with Sen. Barbara Boxer managed to achieve the double whammy of infuriating her own supporters while simultaneously providing her opponents with a handy opening for attack. Boxer's best line in the debate was "If you can't take a stand on Prop. 23, I don't know what you will take a stand on." On Friday afternoon, perhaps hoping no one would notice before the long weekend, Fiorina tried to clear up the confusion with a marvelous example of political weaseling.

From the L.A. Times: "Proposition 23 is a band-aid fix and an imperfect solution to addressing our nation's climate and energy challenges. The real solution to these challenges lies not with a single state taking action on its own, but rather with global action," Fiorina said in her statement. "That's why we need a comprehensive, national energy solution that funds energy R&D and takes advantage of every source of domestic energy we have—including nuclear, wind and solar—in an environmentally responsible way. That said, AB 32 is undoubtedly a job killer, and it should be suspended."

Just one problem, there. Global action is stillborn and Republican intransigence has killed even the mildest energy bill on a national level. But California, all by itself, is one of the world's biggest economies. If California takes action, it can make a difference. By kicking the can up to the federal or global level, Fiorina is effectively saying that we should do nothing at all.

Source: <http://www.salon.com/9/3/10>

On Saturday, September 25, people who care about the Mokelumne River will gather at five sites from Pioneer to Lodi for the 2010 Mokelumne River Cleanup.

"People who participate in the Mokelumne River Cleanup have a great time while they do something good for our local river," said Randy Berg, Foothill Conservancy coordinator for the Cleanup. "For the second year in a row, we'll be joining volunteers across the Sierra as part of the Great Sierra River Cleanup and people all over the state taking part in the California Coastal Cleanup."

Mokelumne participants will work along the river's banks, in the river, and on Camanche Reservoir, removing trash accumulated through the summer months.

The cleanup benefits wildlife and water quality while keeping the river a beautiful place to visit.

Participants must register in advance. The event will be held at five locations: the Highway 26 North Fork Mokelumne crossing, Electra Road, the Middle Bar area, the lower Mokelumne from the Mokelumne Day Use area downstream to Lodi, and Camanche Reservoir.

Volunteers should register as follows:

- Electra and Highway 26 sites, sign up online at [www.foothillconservancy.org](http://www.foothillconservancy.org) <<http://www.foothillconservancy.org>> or call Randy Berg at 209-295-4900. These sites will offer a special prize for the weirdest trash find and the chance to win cool prizes.
- Middle Bar site, contact EBMUD's Steve Diers: [sdiers@ebmud.com](mailto:sdiers@ebmud.com) or 209-772-8260.
- Mokelumne Day Use Area below Camanche downstream to Lodi, contact EBMUD's James Jones at [jjones@ebmud.com](mailto:jjones@ebmud.com) or 209-365-1097.
- Camanche Reservoir site, contact Camanche Recreation Company at 866-763-5121.

This year's sponsors are the Foothill Conservancy, East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Mokelumne River Outfitters, and Camanche Recreation Company.

Business sponsors include ACES Waste Services, California Waste Recovery Systems, New York Fitness, Martell Safeway, and Munnerlyn's Ice Creamery. The Great Sierra River Cleanup is sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Volunteers should wear long pants and sturdy boots and bring along work gloves, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, a water bottle and a bag lunch unless they plan to participate in a post-cleanup barbecue for volunteers at Camanche South Shore. Water and snacks will be provided. Flotation devices are recommended for those working close to the river's edge. Properly equipped paddlers are welcome to help from the river at

Electra, Middle Bar and Highway 26, and possibly other sites (ask when you register). No pets or alcoholic beverages, please.

River cleaners under 18 are welcome if accompanied by responsible adults. Minors must have their liability releases signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Foothill Conservancy also urges everyone to sign on to support National Wild and Scenic River designation for the Mokelumne—the only way to ensure we have a river in our future.

For more information, contact Randy Berg at 209-295-4900, e-mail [randy@foothillconservancy.org](mailto:randy@foothillconservancy.org) or visit [www.foothillconservancy.org](http://www.foothillconservancy.org).



## Contact Your Reps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gov. 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

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# US chamber of commerce— consistently wrong

Robert L. Borosage

The Chamber of Commerce is rolling out its "jobs and economy" political initiative today, September 9. As Politico reports, the blitz is "designed to drive voters toward '5 Questions to Ask Your Candidates', to be distributed by mail and online to millions of voters."

Here are the five, accompanied by five alternatives tied to reality rather than the Chamber's ideological phantasmagoria:

1. Do you believe that our free enterprise system is currently threatened?

or—Do you believe that entrenched corporate interests are blocking reforms vital to our country's future?

2. Do you believe that tax increases hurt job creation?

or—Do you believe that tax cuts to businesses already awash in cash and excess capacity will create jobs or waste money?

3. Do you think that the growth of government at all levels and the deficits that follow negatively impact job creation?

or—Do you think that deregulation of corporations and banks and the financial high that followed, crashing the economy, and doubling the national debt negatively impacted job creation?

4. Would you deal with the debt and deficit issues through increasing government revenue or decreasing government spending?

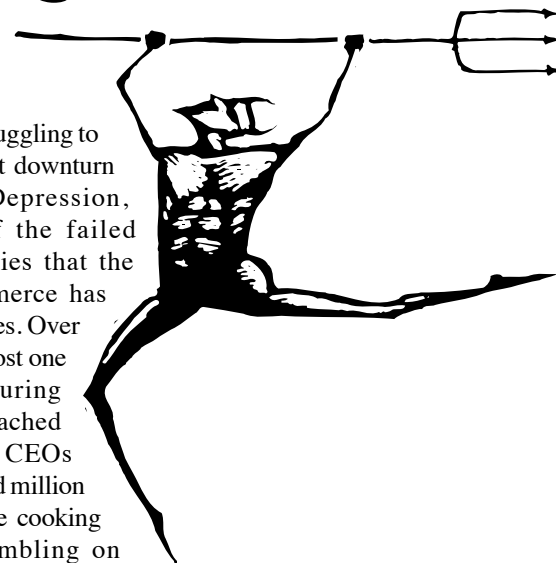
or—Would you deal with debt and deficit issues by building a new foundation for the economy so we can grow our way out of the hole we are in, or with austerity, cutting spending on education, energy, infrastructure, Medicare and Social Security to balance our budget?

5. Do you believe that the uncertainty resulting from pending tax increases, higher government deficits, and more government regulations will hurt the economy?

or—Do you believe businesses aren't hiring because they don't have customers, or that they are foregoing profitable expansion, fretting about deficits, and possible

increases in taxes  
and regulations?

This country is struggling to respond to the worst downturn since the Great Depression, a direct result of the failed conservative policies that the Chamber of Commerce has advocated for decades. Over the last decade, we lost one in three manufacturing jobs. Inequality reached gilded age levels. CEOs and bankers pocketed million dollar bonuses while cooking the books and gambling on exotic securities, inflating the housing bubble until it burst. Health insurance companies kept a strangle hold on a health care system that costs twice as much as those in other industrial countries, leaves millions uninsured and provides worse health care. Catastrophic climate change went unaddressed. Big Oil and big coal insured that the US would forfeit the lead in the new green industrial revolution that is sweeping the world. Conservatives removed the cop on the corporate beat leading directly to the financial wilding and collapse, the horrors of Massey in West Virginia and BP in the Gulf, the risks of poisoned toys and infected eggs.



One would think that in the ruins, the Chamber of Commerce would have the common decency to reconsider its ideological positions. After all, they have not only been ruinous to workers and the country, they led directly to the economic free fall that devastated businesses. But no. Not one comma has been changed. Not a line changed in the stump speech. Mindless, without shame or sense, blind to the world around it, the Chamber gathers new millions from companies and peddles its poisonous nostrums.

Robert L. Borosage is President of the Institute for America's Future.

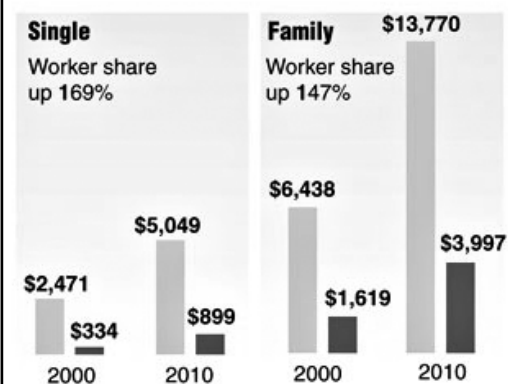
## Worker health insurance

The average annual premium workers pay for employer-provided health insurance rose by 15 percent for singles, 14 percent for families in 2010.

### Premium costs compared

2010 vs. 10 years ago for all plan types

■ Total cost (what employer and worker pay)  
■ What worker pays



69% of employers offer health insurance

30% of firms reduced the scope of benefits or increased cost sharing

23% of firms increased worker's share of the premium

159% Increase in worker contribution since 1999, but worker earnings up 42%

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, Health Research and Education Trust  
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2010 MCT

# Franklin High School and the YMCA—one kid at a time

Christie Kelley

SUSD has 42 K-3 After School Programs and four High School After School programs. Students have a safe, educational and fun place to be after school until 6 p.m. every day school is in session. The following comments came from the Franklin High School program that is run by the YMCA. We asked a few students, “How has the after school program impacted you?”

Darren S. (sophomore): “Keeps me out of trouble and makes me a better role model. Shows me I need to spread love.”

Tevin S. (sophomore): “It’s fun to come in here and see the fun staff. They’re so nice and funny. I like group sessions because we get a chance to share our views on certain subjects.”

Joe L. (sophomore): “YMCA

has impacted me a lot. It’s a place where I know I can be safe and many other things. Example, the staff here is probably the best staff for a job like this. I know I have an area where I can do my dancing and just come to hang out. Also, YMCA opens doors for me and keeps me out of trouble. It motivates me to do good and stay positive to things in life. If YMCA didn’t have an impact on me, I’d probably be in the wrong direction. So, I thank YMCA program and staff for all the work and effort. And if there was a reward or an Emmy for best staff, it would be them.”

Malkiel M. (sophomore): “It has a lot of impact on me. It made me actually look forward to something at school. It made me more outgoing and I met wonderful people. The staff cares about the people and I like them a

lot. The afterschool Program also gives me opportunities. It gives me strength and shows me to care about people and myself.”

Essence J. (7th Grade): “The YMCA After School Program has had a big impact on me. Being in this program allowed me to experience new experiences. This program allowed me to actually finish my homework at school.”

Jacob L. (sophomore): “The Y impacts me because I have a place to stay after school. It provides us a spot to break dance. The Y is respectful to me and never puts me down.”

Jacob C. (sophomore): “It gets me to be able to do activities with kids other than staying home bored doing nothing. Lets me keep the four values in mind (honesty, caring, respect, responsibility).”

Manuel G. (Senior): “I have improved greatly in many different ways. My grades went up from Ds and Cs. The YMCA is the place where I stay after school to finish my homework. I finally had the opportunity to give back to my community, which I always wanted to do so. Liza has really helped me achieve this. I got the support and motivation I needed. I will always be thankful for this great experience.”

David G. (Recreation Coordinator): The girls’ soccer team was not doing well at first. The girls took ownership and made fliers to post around the school. The next day 14 more girls showed up. Also, at first I was skeptical and had no knowledge of photography. Then Silvia Y. persisted and posted fliers to promote the club. Now there is an actually photography club who is in the process of working on great projects.

Liza S. (Program Coordinator): Many people seem to underestimate the abilities of today’s youth. I’m glad that I have the opportunity to work with and provide moral support to such remarkable teens after school hours. They are all incredibly talented in their own unique way and are great examples of strong young leaders.

# Help enforce Title IX in our high schools

Class bells are ringing again in high schools across America. Yet, the more things stay the same, the more they need to change. Title IX, the federal legislation that prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities, has provided girls with many more opportunities than they once had, but improved accountability will energize many more. For the young women in your life, join AAUW in urging your member of Congress to enforce Title IX in our high schools and strengthen its protections.

Two bills, the High School Athletics Accountability Act (H.R. 2882) and the High School Sports Information Collection Act (S. 471), would do just that. These bills would make participation rates and expenditures for high school athletes available to the public, helping communities better enforce Title IX.

Title IX is one of the country’s greatest success stories. Since 1972, Title IX’s work has led to a 400 percent increase in the rate of female participation in college sports and a more than 800 percent increase in participation at the high school level. Female athletes are more likely to develop positive school and lifestyle habits. High school girls who participate in sports are less likely to experience an unintended pregnancy or to smoke or use illicit drugs, while they are more likely to have a positive body image than girls who don’t play sports. Increasing children’s

physical activity can also help combat childhood obesity, which is at an all-time high, and can have lasting effects on obesity risks into adulthood.

Despite the significant gains girls and women have made since the enactment of Title IX, a significant drawback to the law’s enforcement at the high school level involves the lack of data reporting. While it is estimated that female students receive 1.3 million fewer opportunities to play high school sports than do male students, the U.S. Department of Education does not require high schools to make athletic opportunity, participation, and funding statistics publicly available, even though the schools already collect this information. Colleges are required to report this data; it’s time our high schools are, too.

**ACTION:** It’s time we know the status of Title IX in America’s high schools. Urge your representative to cosponsor the High School Athletics Accountability Act. And find out if the high schools in your area are in compliance with Title IX. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund’s Program in a Box, Title IX Compliance: Know the Score, provides AAUW members with the tools you need to find out if your local high schools are Title IX compliant—and what you can do if they are not. See all the tools available on AAUW’s Know the Score web page.

Source: AAUW Action Network [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), 9/9/10



## Anti-racism film series

### Sat, Oct 2—Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible

A must-see documentary for anyone interested in justice, spiritual growth and community making. It includes interviews with white women and men who have worked to challenge notions of racism and white supremacy in the United States.

### Mon, Oct 18—Race: The Power of an Illusion #1

What is this thing called “race?” The question is so basic it’s rarely raised. The film reveals that most of our common assumptions about race—for instance, that the world’s people can be divided biologically along racial lines—are wrong, yet the consequences of racism are very real.


### Sat, Nov 6—Wilderness Journey: The Struggle for Black Empowerment and Racial Justice within the Unitarian Universalist Association, 1967-1970.

This film includes interviews with many Unitarian Universalist leaders who lived through complex and difficult times for the UUA.

### Mon, Nov 29—Building the Beloved Community

Based on a 2009 conference on Beloved Community in Denver. The film features Unitarian Universalist voices plus speakers from Class Action, a national non-profit organization that inspires action to end classism; and Dr. Vincent Harding, scholar-activist and founder of the Veterans of Hope Project at Iliff School of Theology.

For more information, contact The Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton (Sat-Wed): 209-466-7743



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## The T is Not Silent

# Hiding

Elena J. Kelly

Hide and Seek was a favorite of mine. I was much taller than the other kids, so I couldn't hide well, but I could run like the wind and beat them all to the base before the Seeker shouted, "All ye, all ye outs in free!" I loved to hide and I loved to run.

There came a time when I despised having to hide, and I hated having to run from foul-mouthed jerks who took great pleasure in giving the cry-baby something to cry about. Even with all that provocation I could never bring myself to hit another person, even to defend myself.

My mother liked to tell people that I was a sensitive child. That was the grown-ups' way of saying I was a sissy. Truth be told, I was very emotional. I was a girl, not a boy, but I was never allowed to even breathe those words. So the adults had to make up words and sayings to help them feel better about my tendency to cry easily. They said things like "He's a special kid," and "I wonder what his natural parents were like to turn out a child like that!" They did their best to verbally beat the girl, and so much more, out of me.

St. John (Lennon) once wrote, "Everybody's got something to hide except for me and my monkey." Most think the words "me and my monkey" refer to

his well known battle with heroin addiction. As a very public figure, he was little able to hide anything. Why do we hide things about ourselves? Why do we live much of our lives in the closet, hiding our true selves from the world? It's fear. F.E.A.R. False Evidence Appearing Real.

Transgender folk are some of the best at hiding of all people on the planet. The typical lifecycle of a transsexual woman is to live in the closet for one to five decades or more, come out, go through all the steps of transition as quickly as WPATH will allow, and quickly go back into hiding in another closet called "stealth." Stealth is when a transgender person lives full-time as a member of his/her target gender without ever disclosing the details of their past to anyone.

For almost fifty years I hid in a closet of masculinity. I know quite a bit about hiding. We play all kinds of emotional games to hide the truth about ourselves from others. There have been a thousand times since I began my transition at age 52 that I was tempted to go stealth. But I can't do that. Stealth looks like just another closet to me.

St. John wrote another lyric that really speaks to me. It goes, "You can go to church and sing a hymn, You can judge me by the color of my skin, You can live a lie until you die, One thing you can't hide,

Is when you're crippled inside." It is indeed possible to live a lie until you die. I almost did, and many multitudes of transgender people do it every year. No one ever knew because they went to their graves with their secret. Some never had the joy of experiencing life as a whole person. Some did and retreated back into hiding, afraid of what would happen if the wrong person found out. Hiding cripples us inside.

Hiding, like the childhood game, should be done for fun, not as a way to escape the truth of who we are. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual folk have been coming out in droves for years now. Is it any wonder they have become very well accepted in a society that once was permeated with gay bashings? I know that violence is still far too common in the LGBT community, but there is strength in numbers, and those who are in closets are not adding strength to those who are out. Transgender people need to come out, and come out in droves. Come out in numbers too big to ignore (thank you Helen Reddy!). Come out and be loud and proud. Come out of stealth and share our stories. Our time has come. All ye! All ye out in free!

*Elena Kelly is an activist minister for the Central Valley LGBT community. She can be reached at elena.kelly@comcast.net.*

## Community based radio station 89.5 FM KYNJ

So you want to be on the radio? We are in the planning stages, but we need your VOICE.

Stockton is an incredible, culturally rich and diverse community. We need a committee that represents all of these diverse interests/perspectives from the North, South, East and West.

Join us in setting policies and guidelines for this exciting new station, 89.5 FM! By participating now you can be sure that this station represents you and your community.

All we ask is that you or your organization is comfortable with 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. We look forward to providing a format of programming which will include material produced locally with an emphasis on music, issues and voices left out of the mainstream media.

### Upcoming 89.5 KYNJ radio committee meetings:

- Planning Meeting—Tuesday October 5th 7:00 p.m. at the PJN Center
- Networking: Saturday, October 23 (Saturday), 9:00 a.m. at Noah's Bagels, Lincoln Center North,
- Planning meeting Tuesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m. at the PJN Center
- Networking: Saturday, November 20, 9:00 a.m. TBA



# Sawznhammers

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

## Book Reviews: Bushes, Nader, Kucinich

John Morearty

### The Bushes—a hidden history

Grandfather Prescott Bush was a banker for the Nazis, before he was a U.S. Senator. So argues Russ Baker in his new "Family of Secrets: The Bush Dynasty, America's Invisible Government, and the Hidden History of the Last Fifty Years." It's a mind-blowing 579 pages. Baker is an investigative journalist who's written for the New Yorker, NY Times, LA Times, Washington Post, Columbia Journalism Review, and is the founder of whowhatwhy.com. Here are more Bush "secrets," backed up with sixty pages of footnotes including much previously unpublished material:

Father George Bush's links to the CIA go back to his Navy World War Two days. He had deep ties to Texas oilmen and to George de Mohrenschildt (Lee Harvey Oswald's "mentor"). He was in Dallas the day before John Kennedy was assassinated (maybe the very morning as well), flew out in a private plane and then came back to Dallas that evening.

Bush senior and his oily CIA clique supported Richard Nixon for president, but when Nixon turned on him (Bush wanted to be vice-president) he helped frame Nixon for Watergate.

Son George W dodged the Vietnam War draft by joining the Texas Air National Guard; a dedicated playboy but a dismal pilot, W skipped out on his National Guard commitments.

There's lots more, an intricately woven story. Baker passes lightly over 9/11, but there's plenty on that; start with David Ray Griffin's The New Pearl Harbor.

### A Nader novel

*Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us!* (with !) is Ralph Nader's new novel—a "practical utopia," he calls it, full of Nader's usual

meticulous detail and passion for justice. A band of million- and billion-aires (Warren Buffet, George Soros, Ted Turner, Bill Cosby, Phil Donahue, Bill Gates Sr., Yoko Ono, Sol Price, the (late, alas) Paul Newman and others) decide that corporate capitalism is ruining America and devouring American working people. So they join together to pay the bills for a populist uprising. Yay!

The "Meliorists" are full of good ideas:

- Boycott selected WalMarts, with coop community discount shopping centers set up nearby
- Citizens' Watch on Congress, with "who voted for what" immediately accessible on line
- Changes in election rules to make third parties easy, and full public financing of candidates who accept only donations under \$100
- As a condition of their use of the public airwaves, all TV and radio stations are required to provide free air time to candidates
- "Corporations are people too" campaign, with populist corporations running for state governor
- "People are corporations too," with individuals incorporating themselves cheaply in Delaware or Nevada
- "America the Beautiful" for national anthem
- Change the pledge of allegiance to reflect reality: "with liberty and justice for some"
- Officers of all publicly chartered corporations must publish online exactly how much money they make
- A half percent tax on short-term Wall Street and money-market speculation, to be reinvested in American infrastructure
- "The Daily Bugle"—one-sheet tabloid newspapers covering local and national scandals and good news, given free to kids who sell them for ten cents a copy, "Read all about it!"
- After-school Egalitarian Clubs

• TV ads with a parrot, Patriotic Polly

With financing help from the Meliorists, people rise up by the millions. Is the rest history?

*Only the Super-Rich* is a great reference book, a treasure trove of democratic populist schemes. It stays away from challenges to defense spending, and offers no changes that would cost the federal government one dime. All that could come later, with a new Congress and an awakened, organized populace.

So do we the people have the gumption to wake up and organize without billions from the SuperRich?

### Kucinich memoir—growing up fast

In 2007, running for president a second time, progressive Ohio Democratic Congressman Dennis Kucinich published *The Courage to Survive*, a memoir of his first 21 years—the skinny runt eldest of seven in an ex-Marine Croatian Catholic truckdriver's family, in the industrial slums of Cleveland. It's a harrowing, astonishing, funny and inspiring tale. I lent it to a friend, a Chinese-American immigrant who grew up hardscrabble and went on to become a prosperous liberal Republican. He told me,

"I never voted for Kucinich. But now I would!"

The cover photo shows two little guys in striped jerseys, holding hands. That's Dennis and his four-year-old buddy Dwight Holt. Dennis asked his mom, "Kids called Dwight a N\*\*\*\*\*. What's that?"

"Dennis, that is a word ignorant people use to refer to people with dark skin. I don't ever want to hear you use it again!"

When the Kucinich family moved suddenly (evicted 21 times in 17 years because they had too many kids, or couldn't pay the rent) Dennis didn't have time to say goodbye to Dwight. "The last I saw him he was alone, playing

in the dirt, probably waiting for me to join him."

An avalanche of working class troubles befell. Dennis's puppy got run over; his "exotic dancer" aunt died from a defective gas stove; uncles went to prison for theft; the family lived in an old car for weeks; his mother suffered a breakdown from too many kids and not enough money; Dennis and two sibs lived in an orphanage (well-treated by the sisters) all one fall; Dennis came down with severe bronchial asthma and gruesome intestinal pains.

Through it all, he worked to help support the family. He shined shoes in a bar on Christmas eve to buy a tree; he learned magic and charged two pennies a show; he scrubbed floors at the Catholic school to pay book bills for him and his sibs; he loved the nuns who encouraged him. He caddied eighteen holes-at four foot nine, eighty-nine pounds. He played third string varsity quarterback, till he got a concussion; the coach

loved his guts, and made him team statistician. He won a statewide sports writing award.

When he graduated from high school (a tale in itself) he worked two jobs—hospital operating room technician, and nights as copy boy at the Cleveland Plain Dealer. At one AM, the phone would ring with citizen woes: Dennis would listen...or a caller threatened to kill himself, and he went out to talk the man through.

Not quite 21, he ran for Cleveland City Council, knocked on doors, and came to appreciate the struggles of working people; he lost, but scared the pants off the incumbent. Then he fell deathly ill....

The book ends there, before he ran a second time and was elected at age 23 (and mayor at 29). It's a marvelous, humbling, hilarious saga. If this feisty little twerp could do what he has done, what can we do?

## 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.



October 17

## Celtic Golden Bough comes to Stockton



Golden Bough will continue their their 30th Anniversary celebration with a concert at Cenral United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue in Stockton on Sunday, October 17 at 2:00 pm. This family-friendly concert is an opportunity for fans to bid farewell to Golden Bough as they head off for a 4 week tour of Europe.

Founded in 1980, this trio of modern-day minstrels has delighted audiences worldwide with their unique renditions of the Celtic music of Ireland and Scotland, as well as the lesser known Celtic lands of Wales, Cornwall, The Isle of Man, French Brittany and Spanish Galicia. Last year they added two CDs to their

collection of nearly 30 recordings. Their latest CDs, released in 2009, are Celtic Love Songs and When Winter Comes.

For further information, call (209) 466-5046. For more information on Golden Bough, their recordings, concert schedule and history go to their website at [www.goldenboughmusic.com](http://www.goldenboughmusic.com).

## Oktoberfest on the Mile

Thursday, September 30; 6:00 pm–9:00 pm; Cleveland to Castle Streets

Celebrating Stockton's 160th Anniversary with traditional Oktoberfest fare of accordion and polka music, rides, carnival games, beer garden, dancers, food and more! We'll see you at the celebrations!

For more info, contact Emily Ballus, 209.948.MILE (6453), [emily@stocktonmiraclemile.com](mailto:emily@stocktonmiraclemile.com) or visit [stocktonmiraclemile.com](http://stocktonmiraclemile.com).

## Israeli-born cellist featured at Stockton Symphony's "Eternal Quest" Classics concert

Acclaimed as one of the most exciting instrumentalists on the concert stage today, cellist Amit Peled joins the Stockton Symphony for the second Classics concert of the 2010–2011 season on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 8 PM and Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 6 PM. Entitled "Eternal Quest," the concerts, conducted by Music Director Peter Jaffe, will include music by Wagner, Bloch, Ives, and Elgar. The performances will take place at Atherton Auditorium on the campus of San Joaquin Delta College. Audience members can enjoy a free preconcert talk by the Maestro beginning 45 minutes before each performance begins. Tickets range from \$22 to \$55 and can be purchased by calling the Stockton Symphony's office at (209) 951-0196 or by visiting us online at [www.stocktonsymphony.org](http://www.stocktonsymphony.org). Students may purchase tickets for as little as \$10 with a student ID. For further information about the Stockton Symphony, including future performances, guest artists, or how to volunteer, please visit [www.stocktonsymphony.org](http://www.stocktonsymphony.org). To purchase tickets on performance Saturdays, please call or visit the Atherton Auditorium box office at (209) 954-5110.



Cellist Amit Peled

Additional note: Mr. Peled will teach a master class as part of the Master Class Series presented jointly by the Stockton Symphony and the University of the Pacific. The class will begin at 5 PM on Friday, October 15, 2010 in the Recital Hall at Pacific. Young cellists are encouraged to apply by calling the Symphony office at (209) 951-0196. The public is invited to attend the master class at no charge.

## 10/10/10 Peace Rally

The public is invited to 10/10/10, A Day of Peace, Because We Care, a peace rally sponsored by I AM PEACE, Inc., and Pacers for Peace Leo Club. The rally will take place on Oct. 10, 2010 on the west steps of the State Capitol, located on 10th Street between L and N in downtown Sacramento.

"This invitation is extended to those who want to make a declaration and commitment to world peace, diversity and unity," said Michael Schley, director of I AM PEACE. "It is a pro-peace day, not an anti-anything day. All pro-peace and green organizations are encouraged to attend." The rally, featuring speakers, entertainment, and organizational booths, will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until dusk. Sponsors plan to announce details about a kick-off fundraiser for the first phase of the recently approved International Peace Park at the Grant High School, Twin Rivers Unified School District, Pacers for Peace park installation. They believe this is the first international peace park in the world to be conceived of by students and approval has been granted to install the first phase. For further details, contact Michael Schley at [michaelschley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michaelschley@sbcglobal.net).



**Friends Outside**  
presents:  
*The Circle of Our Caring*

Join us for a conversation with  
**Father Greg Boyle, SJ**  
*Founder of Homeboy Industries*  
*Author: Tattoos on the Heart*

Introduction by **Senator Carol Liu**, California State Legislature  
Invocation by **Bishop Steven E. Blaire**, Catholic Diocese of Stockton

*If you want to make a difference in the lives of at risk kids and young adults...  
if you believe in the power of compassion and hope...  
if you want to know how you can help...  
come and be inspired.*

### Save the Date

**October 22, 2010**

**Who should attend...**

- People who work with at risk families, youth and people in the juvenile and criminal justice system
- People of all faiths who want to make a difference
- Policymakers
- Volunteers

**Luncheon \$25.00/person**  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Hilton Hotel, Stockton, CA

**Reception and Book Signing**  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Friends Outside

**Friends and Families Center**  
620 North Aurora Street, Stockton

**For information about early reservations and sponsorship:**  
**209-955-0701**

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# October Calendar

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

## Sept 2—Oct 31

Stockton Art League's 56th Juried Exhibition at the Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. Wed-Sun 1:30—5 pm. 1st and 3rd Thurs 1:30—9 pm. \$5 adult 18 & older, student/senior/youth age 10-17 \$2.50. Under 10/first Saturday free. 940-6316 info@hagginmuseum.org

## Sept 23 & Sept 25

Stockton Symphony Classics I: Heroism with Heart concert with Elena Urioste violin. 954-5110.

## Sat, Sept 25

2010 Mokelumne River Cleanup, 295-4900. (see page 13)

## Mon, Sept 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.

## Thu, Sept 30

Oktoberfest on the Mile, 6-9 pm. Pacific Ave, Stockton. 978-MILE

## Sun, Oct 3

Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, Renaissance, Baroque, Spanish, contemporary and more. 2:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP, Stockton. 946-2770. General \$25, UOP faculty & staff \$10, students free with ID.

## Mon, Oct 4

Campaign for Common Ground meeting, 7 pm, Towers Building, 509 W Weber Ave, Stockton. ccgmemb@gmail.com

## Tue, Oct 5

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

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

## Oct 5—29

Karen Olsen presents lush hand-colored photos Reception Oct 8, 5-8 pm. M-F 10-5. Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

## Thu, Oct 7

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

## Oct 7—Nov 4

2D-3D Color & Design Exhibition, 36 artists display painting, sculpture, beadwork, ceramics, fiber arts and collage. Tu 11am—4pm, W-Th 11am-6:30pm, F 11am—1pm. Reception: 10/7, 5-7 pm. SJ Delta College, LH Horton Jr Gallery, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. 954-5507.

## Fri, Oct 8

Mad as Hell Doctors Town Hall, presentation 1 pm, dinner 5 pm (\$15). 639-4191 (see page 20).

## Oct 8—Oct 17

St. Mary's Theatre presents Fawlty Towers, a British comedy. Stockton Civic Theater, 2312 RoseMarie Lane, Stockton. Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. \$15 adult, \$10 student/children/senior. 957-3340 x250.

## Sat, Oct 9

Stocktoberfest, beer, food, competitions, music. 4—11 pm.

Downtown Marina, Stockton. Prices TBA. 464-5246.

Community Mobilizing Conference, 10 am. Raymond Great Hall, UOP. 941-0701.

Greater Lodi Area Democrats sponsoring LUSDBoardCandidates' Forum, Lodi Library, 201 W. Locust St., Lodi, 2:00-4:00 pm 209-712-8866

## Sun, Oct 10

10-10-10 Global Work Party to do something about climate change. Join a work party or do something yourself (see page 3). Go to www.350.org.

## Thu, Oct 14

Single Payer San Joaquin meeting, 6:30 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. bailey\_hcasj@sbcglobal.net

Stockton Symphony Classics Concert: Eternal Quest with Amit Peled, cello. Wagner, Bloch, Ives, Elgar 8 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$22-\$55. 951-0196.

## Oct 15—16, 21-24

SJ Delta College presents "Macbeth" Thu-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Studio Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Adult \$12, student/senior \$10. 954-5110.

## Sat, Oct 16

Stockton Symphony Classics Concert: Eternal Quest 6 pm. (see Oct 14)

## Sun, Oct 17

Golden Bough in concert, 2 pm. Celtic music (see p 18). 2 pm. Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15 adult, \$10 over 65. Under 18 free. 466-5046.

## Mon, Oct 18

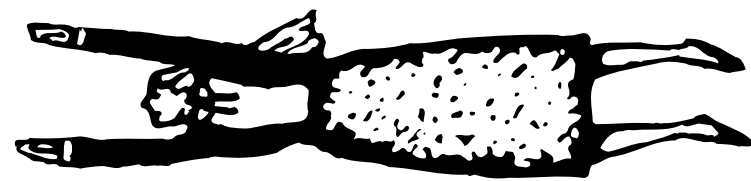
SJ Delta College Jazz Band concert, 7:30 pm. Tillie Lewis Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. General \$8, student/senior \$5. 954-5110.

## Tue, Oct 20

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

## Thu, Oct 21

Peacemaker of the Year Award—International Conflict Resolution Day, presented by the Mediation Center and the UOP School of International Studies. Recipients: Dr. Joseph Serra and Dr. David Love. 6 pm. University Center Ballroom, UOP. Entertainment and dinner. \$45. 474-8794.



## Fri, Oct 22

The Circle of Our Caring and Father Greg Boyle, 11:30 am—1:30 pm luncheon \$25; reception 4-6 pm. Friends Outside 955-0701 (page 18).

## Sat, Oct 23

89.5 Valley Community Radio networking meeting, 9—11 am, Noah's Bagels, Lincoln Center North, Pacific Ave, Stockton. 467-4455.

## Tue, Nov 2

Election Day

## First Mondays

Campaign for Common Ground meeting, 7 pm, Towers Building, 509 W Weber Ave, Stockton. ccgmemb@gmail.com

## Fourth Mondays

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

## Second Thursdays

Single Payer San Joaquin meeting, 6:30 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. bailey\_hcasj@sbcglobal.net

## Fourth Saturdays

Greater Lodi Area Democrats (GLAD) breakfast meeting, 8:30

am, Dee Dee's Family Dining, 1170 S. Cherokee Ln, Lodi. (No meetings in Nov. and Dec.) 368-6493 or 712-8866.

## Mondays

Jazz night at the Blackwater, 912 N Yosemite St, Stockton.

## Thursdays

Stand up and speak out! Demonstrate for peace. Plenty of happy honks! Pacific Avenue north of Delta stoplight, every Thursday 5-6 PM. Signs provided, or bring your own. Free parking at Sherwood Mall. Info John 464-3326 or Ria 462-3340.

## Fridays

Downtown Stockton Certified Farmers' Market, DeCarli Square, Stockton. 11 am—3 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

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

## Talking It Through

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

Peace & Justice Network sponsors two half-hour shows:

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

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

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

For up to the minute listings of current shows, see our website: www.pjnsj.org, click on Talking It Through.

## connections

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

October 9


## Mad as Hell Doctors: single payer, Medicare for All

This fall the Mad as Hell Doctors (MAHD) will follow up on their landmark 2009 National Tour across the U.S. with a similar tour through California. MAHD is a group of physicians and nurses, patient advocates, and other health care providers who are fighting for a Single Payer National Health Insurance Program for all Americans.

MAHD will meet with local health care professionals at San Joaquin County Hospital from 9-11 am on Saturday, October 9. They will then travel to the Clarion Inn & Suites (formerly Stockton Inn) for a free 1-3 pm event and then a 5-8 pm event with a buffet dinner for \$15 (a \$30 value underwritten by Single Payer San Joaquin), where they hope to meet and greet local activists, doctors, nurses, and all interested in learning about excellent and efficient health care for all. The events are co-sponsored by Single Payer San Joaquin and California Physicians for a National Health Program and are open to the public.

MAHD advocates for a national Single Payer, Improved Medicare for all health care system, where everyone is covered, co-pays and deductibles eliminated, and health care decisions are left to patients and their doctors, not Wall Street profiteers. The recently passed Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act does little to provide these elements and instead entrenches the current medical-industrial complex, which is the cause of our health care system's chaos and unsustainable cost spiral.

"Many people say this legislation was a step in the right direction," says Dr. Paul Hochfeld, Mad as Hell Doctor and producer/director of *Health, Money, and Fear*. "It is more like we have started looking in the right direction with better community health funding and preventative care, but we are unable to take a substantial step in that direction because we are tethered and distracted by profit motives and fragmentation."



**MAD AS HELL DOCTORS.COM**

Where the rubber gloves meet the road

### Town Hall on Health Care

Our mission is to promote single-payer health insurance as a fiscally conservative, affordable way to provide universal health care to all Californians who are currently uninsured; to improve coverage for those who currently have catastrophic insurance at best; and to help every insured Californian cope with declining benefits accompanied by increasingly high premiums, deductibles and co-pays.


**WHERE: Clarion Inn & Suites (Formerly Stockton Inn)**  
4219 Waterloo Rd. & Hwy 99

**WHEN: October 9, 2010**

FREE Presentation Only @ 1 pm  
Or  
Presentation with 3 Entree Buffet @ 5pm - \$15


Tickets on sale at:  
Bill's Music Sales, Harding Way or Pacific Ave  
Music Box 4653 Pacific Ave., Stockton  
Green's Nutrition 1906 Pacific Ave., Stockton  
Main Street Music 53 W. Tenth<sup>th</sup> St., Tracy  
Antique Avenue 915 Yosemite Ave., Manteca

Or  
**CONTACT: Suzy (209) 639-4191 or Max (209) 467-0522**

Or  
Pay with  : [www.singlepayersanjoaquin.bbnow.org](http://www.singlepayersanjoaquin.bbnow.org)

*We believe establishing a single payer system in California will provide a foundation for such programs throughout the United States. We believe a single payer system - built on a single risk pool with "everybody in nobody out" - is the only means to lasting, substantive health care reform for our nation.*

**Get Mad. Stay Mad. Make History**  
Presented & Funded by Single Payer San Joaquin  
Find us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/MadDrs](http://www.facebook.com/MadDrs)



With the recent failure of the state assembly to bring SB 810, California's Universal Healthcare Act to a vote, Mad As Hell Doctors and local organizers are shifting their focus to building a grassroots movement and turning heads along the way.

Mad As Hell Doctors provide a fun and engaging, educating experience through their events. With a social network on Facebook of over 11,000 ([www.facebook.com/MadDrs](http://www.facebook.com/MadDrs)) and a dynamic web at [www.madashelldoctors.com](http://www.madashelldoctors.com), the group plans to once again document their journey with daily blogs updates, videos, photos, and media from the road.

In the fall of 2009 the Mad As Hell Doctors traveled 6,000 road miles through America's heartlands

from Portland, OR to Washington, DC in three weeks, Stopping at over 40 venues in 22 states during the trip. After appearances on Ed Schultz (MSNBC), Keith Olberman (MSNBC), Democracy Now, and interviews on dozens of other major media outlets, the group now continues to use their unique approach and activist flair to advocate for Single Payer, Improved Medicare-for-All.

For tickets to the dinner: Bill's Music Sales, Harding Way or Pacific; Music Box 4653 Pacific Ave. Stockton; Green's Nutrition 1906 Pacific Ave. Stockton; Antique Avenue 915 Yosemite Ave. Manteca; Main Street Music 53 Tenth St, Tracy. or contact Suzy (209) 478-4191 or Max (209) 467-0522

The SUSD Community Partnership Advisory Committee Invite you to the FREE:



### Community Mobilizing Conference

### Get Involved...

**Date: Saturday 10/9/10**

**Time:**  
9:30 am Registration  
10:00 am Conference Starts

**Location:**  
University of the Pacific

**YES! I'm interested!**

For details Call  
(209) 941-0701

Fax Forms  
(209) 954-3769

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Dr. Vajra Watson**, Director of Research & Policy for Equity at UC Davis School of Education  
Dr. Watson has worked for two decades to improve education through holistic reform focusing on reaching troubled teens.

**Focus:**

1. Civic Engagement
2. School Engagement
3. Strengthen citywide Parent Network

**Join us in creating an action plan to improve our school district. Positive changes can only be accomplished in our schools with YOUR participation!**

**The Mission of the Community Partnership Advisory is to develop safe and healthy communities that lead to educated and successful youth.**

## Mobilizing the community for our kids

### Community Mobilization Conference

Saturday October 9, 9:30 -2:30  
UOP, Raymond Great Hall  
Pre-registration (209) 941-0701

Stockton Unified School District is collaborating with the community to improve our support for SUSD students. It is clear that our youth are not achieving to their abilities, staying in school, or continuing on to higher education at great enough rates. This can not be ignored.

On October 9th parents, high school students and community members are invited to a Community Mobilizing Conference. The goal is to work together to develop safe and healthy communities that lead to educated and successful youth.

The Community Mobilizing Conference will be held at UOP, in Raymond Great Hall, beginning at 9:30 a.m. for registration and a keynote speaker at 10:00. Dr. Vajra Watson, Director of Research & Policy for Equity, U.C. Davis, School of Education will set the tone and raise the question that is

on everyone's minds: what can we do to better support our youth?

A panel discussion will follow including a parent, student, educator and community members who have experience in working with youth. California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) and American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will add expertise on the legal rights and responsibilities of parents and the school district. A free lunch will be served as participants ask questions of the panel. Following lunch, small breakout groups will continue to discuss the issues and develop plans for future activities that focus on civic engagement, school engagement and strengthening citywide parent networks.

All are encouraged to come to this free event: parents with questions, community members who care about our young, civic leaders, students who would like their voice to be heard. Registration is limited and you are encouraged to pre-register. For forms and information, call 209- 941-0701.