

connections

PRICELESS

Volume XXVII, Number 8

Published by the Peace & Justice Network since 1986

Oct/Nov 2009

SAVE THE DATES

WEDNESDAYS

STARTING SEPT 30

FREE PEACE FILMS ... 15

OCT 1

MIRACLE MILE

OKTOBERFEST 14

OCT 10

RED SHOES & SALSA 14

OCT 16

YOUTH SUMMIT..... 16

OCT 22

ANN FAGAN GINGER ON
HUMAN RIGHTS..... 161

IN THIS ISSUE

NOMINATE

PEACEBUILDERS..... 3

REAL DEATH PANELS.... 4

WAR SOLUTION: BUY

OPIUM..... 7

YOUTH CENTER FOCUS...

..... 8

PERIPHERAL CANAL

INEVITABLE? 11

TRANSGENDER

ORGANIZING..... 12

Health Care Reform

What's in it for kids and families?

*Jan Richter, Clare Krusing,
and the CFK Team*

As Congress and the Obama administration work to reform our nation's health care system, here are resources to understand what's happening, what's in it for kids and young people, and what you can do to help.

The basics:

* About 45.7 million people in America are without insurance (Census data, 2008)

* One in every 10 children in the United States had no health insurance in 2007, and the cost of insurance to families and employers is rising, according to 2009 information cited in a Population Reference Bureau brief.

The context—what do we get for our money?

As a nation we pay more for health care but have worse outcomes than any other industrialized country, according to 2009 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) health data.

* Our infant mortality rate was 6.9 per 1,000 live births in 2008, compared to a 5.2 average among OECD countries (OECD brief).

* U.S. health care spending is

4.3 times the amount spent on national defense (National Health Care Coalition factsheet)

* When people postpone or forego early care, costs rise for them and for the rest of us. According to Families USA, the average family with health insurance paid a "hidden health tax" of \$1,017 to cover health costs of the uninsured. Health insurers absorbed \$42.7 billion in care for uninsured individuals in 2008.

* Poor health care and poor health burden working families, limiting productivity and impairing families' ability to care for themselves and their kids (Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured).

* Parents struggling with undiagnosed and/or untreated illnesses or medical conditions cannot work as hard, earn as much, or care for their kids as well as when they are healthy (National Center for Children in Poverty).

Why do we need a public option in health care reform?

* Because public options, like Medicaid and Medicare, have worked well for their target populations. Medicaid beneficiaries access health care at levels comparable to the privately insured (Urban Institute).

THIS OCTOBER 24TH, JOIN THOUSANDS AROUND THE WORLD TO CALL FOR STRONG

CLIMATE ACTION

WE WILL HIKE, CLIMB, MARCH, DIVE UNDERWATER, KAYAK, DANCE OR STAND WITH BANNERS STATING OUR COMMON CALL TO ACTION:

350!

350: It signifies the safe upper limit of CO₂ in our atmosphere.

An International Day of Climate Action

oct. 24 2009

Join the movement!

TAKE A STAND FOR A FAIR COPENHAGEN CLIMATE TREATY THAT MEETS THE SCIENCE.

FIND OR START AN ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY AT: 350.org

* Because a public option would allow for a different incentive system to reward good outcomes and control costs through more effective care.

* Because we need a quality safety net for workers who do not get health care through their jobs, those who can never afford private insurance rates, for workers out of a job, and for the chronically ill who cannot work full-time.

* Because we need a public option to set the standard for policies and procedures that put the patient first, not profits. (According

to CHN's July 1 Human Needs Report, a bill in the House of Representatives would "do away with exclusions of pre-existing conditions and would limit the ability of insurance companies to charge higher rates due to health status, gender, or other factors.")

What does the public think of health care reform?

* The public wants to see some kind of health care reform happen this year, but doesn't want to lose control over their choice

(continued page 3)

Peace & Justice Network
of San Joaquin County
P.O. Box 4123
Stockton, CA 95204
209/467-4455

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

Is our message heard?

Bruce Giudici

The same media that brought you the Iraq war, WMD and "enhanced interrogations" is now pumping up the volume on health care. Squeezed by Wall Street expectations of profits, mainstream media finds itself entertaining more and fact-checking less. And, of course, "balance" means that reports of the sky being either blue or green be given equal coverage. Consequently, we have death panels, insurance for "aliens" and taunts of "you lie" in place of the information a citizenry needs to make important health care choices.

It's no wonder that single-payer appears dead for now and the public option is dying, to the huge profit of insurers and providers. Regrettably, many have become accustomed to important issues simplified to a sixth grader's understanding; they can only hope that things

will work themselves out in the end. With declining educational investments by both the supplier and consumer, this dumbing-down becomes a downward spiral like economic recession and global warming in the Arctic: we demand less-challenging material that the market is only too happy to supply. Which means that the rest of us need to keep informed, accessing the broader scope of news sources available on the internet.

For starters, I suggest free subscriptions to the progressive *Truthout* and *AlterNet* and to the mainstream *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. You can also check out our alternative media column in this paper. With computer in hand, none of us need be held hostage to what is fed us—good information is a few clicks away. Which brings us to a local topic—this paper.

The Peace and Justice Network

has been publishing *Connections* since 1986; I have been editor since 1996. As time passes, the need for an alternative news source becomes more and more critical. And yet *Connections* only publishes 20 pages, 10 times a year. For every article we publish, at least 10 are left out, all of which would be useful to an informed readership. Bottom line, we are concerned that *Connections* (in its current form and entering 2010) isn't necessarily an appropriate vehicle to deliver the message of effective progressive information to you, our valued readership. This isn't a matter of cost—it's a matter of more effectively educating and conveying information.

So, going into this fall and winter, we will ask you for feedback. You will get a survey in our fall funding letter and we sincerely hope that, regardless of whether you donate or not, you let us know

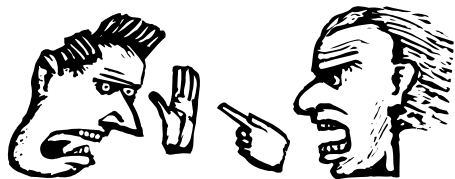
Bruce Giudici, editor



what you expect and need from a progressive news source. We are asking for new ideas and the chance to pass the torch to a new generation of activists that needs to convey information to a larger audience. I personally welcome all suggestions in creating a more effective educational vehicle. Our voice is so important; in this effort, we will be asking you to help us strengthen it. Thank you in advance.

Somewhat unrelated, we will publish only once more this year: the December/January issue—deadline November 7. After that, we hope to boldly move forward in directions effective and sustainable in a changing world. Happy Halloween.

Feedback



Sitting in a Corner

Editor,

We've all seen it before; the screaming, beet red faced kid in the toy store, the department store, the grocery store, stomping his or her feet, walking stiff-legged, bawling and screaming in an effort to punish anyone within distance because some demand was not being met. This, my friends, is the modern face of the Republican party; rude, regressive and ranting. They're joined at the hip by a disgruntled coalition of Blue Dog, wart hog, lost in a fog Democrats and a smattering of insipid, insolent, ill-mannered Independents, all fuming since the election of Barack Obama.

Call it the "Pout after the Rout," an adult version of everything you hate about someone else's kid. And the parents of this soiled, spoiled, well-oiled, naughty brood? They're the politicians like Sens. John McCain or Chuck Grassley or the Neanderthals yelling "fire" in a crowded theater, like Glenn Beck or Rush Limbaugh, who sit

back and try to make political hay or money or both at our country's peril. This has nothing—I repeat, nothing—to do with health care reform and everything to do with the fact that a Black man, acceptable in the role of "taking orders" should not be "giving orders."

Whether it's the balmy, bizarre "Birthers;" Defense (now they're "Obama's wars"); Education (evidently it's wrong to ask a kid what he or she can do for their country); Energy (we don't care if we're painting ourselves into a corner and bankrolling petro-dictators who are training terrorists, my 400 horsepower Hemi spells FREEDOM); or Health Care Reform (I like paying 10 bucks for an aspirin, the insurance industry will suffer if it has competition and keep your damn government hands off my Medicare)—this infantile display of covertly racist attitudes, a longing for a blessed reunion with Jim Crow, is further proof that for some, the definition of the word shame is woefully lacking

from their bigoted vocabularies. So pout, little ones, in your self-deluded, sacrosanct, antebellum haze. But remember, it's not height or weight that makes a person small but the size and scope of their ideas.

Dave Waldon

Action to protect Obama needed

Dear Stockton friends,

Back in the 1980s I edited *Connections* for a while. These days I'm a lawyer in Los Angeles, and I've been circulating an email petition asking the FBI and Secret Service to provide Obama with more protection. He is receiving thirty death threats a day, and protection has actually been cut back. A correspondent asked me, "Exactly WHO do you think killed JFK and Robt K and MLK and Malcolm X? The people you are petitioning. Get real."

Here's how I answered him: Assuming for the sake of argument that the murders of the four named leaders were committed by the

Secret Service and the FBI as you say, how does it hurt to petition for them to protect Obama? It doesn't. How does it help? The petition focuses scrutiny on those agencies before an assassination takes place, making it more difficult for a hole in security to be rationalized if one occurs.

The underlying assumption in your response is that we live in a totalitarian society over which we have no control. The question implied by that assumption is whether any efforts at social change can be meaningful short of revolution. Assuming for the sake of argument that the answer is in the negative, what is to be done? Specifically? Now?

I do not take issue with your anger but small, even ineffectual, actions taken by those of us, including you, who want a better world help us to remain alert instead of slipping into the depressed stupor that grows from cynical inactivity.

Hasta la victoria siempre,

Aron Laub

Connections

Editor: Bruce Giudici, 786-3109;

bgiudici@caltel.com

Layout: Laurie Litman

Proofreader: Debbie Cousyn

Ad Rep: Karen DeGroot, 943-0840

Distribution Coordinator: John Morearty

Distribution Site: Lela Nelson Realty

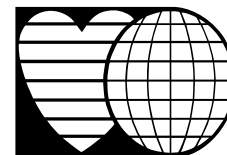
Distributors: Suzy Arnett, Rosemary Atkinson, Antoinette Celle, Mel and Doris DeSoto, Clarence Edwards, Daniel Fong, Doris Haskell, John Morearty, Diane Park, Art Raab, Stanley Thomas, Julie Vaughn, Jim Walsh.

Community Calendar: vacant

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

Circulation: 8,000

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



Peace & Justice Network Board of Directors

Co-Chairs: Christie Kelley
Vice-Chairperson: Mel De Soto and Elena J. Kelly

Treasurer: Bruce Giudici
Secretary: Jeryl Navone and Abbi Novotny

Volunteer Coordinator: Vacant
Members-at-large: Beth Luna, John Morearty, Jim Walsh

Organizational members: Health Care for All, Hispanics for Political Action, Sonora-Sierra Heritage Foundation, United Nations Association, Youth Matters

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

Afghanistan: more troops?



"What to do in Afghanistan," Senate staff are telling FCNL lobbyists, will be the foreign policy question preoccupying the Senate this fall. While few senators have publically aired any doubts, we see signs that members are becoming increasingly concerned that the Obama administration's course in Afghanistan is unsustainable. As expected, the Afghanistan assessment presented to the administration this week by the commander of U.S. and NATO forces, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, did not include a request for additional troops. It signaled that a request for more troops might

come soon, however, stating that the present strategy is not working and the situation is deteriorating.

Preparing public opinion for more troops

It seems clear that the administration is preparing U.S. public opinion for a request for more troops. Two weeks ago, analysts close to the Pentagon said 45,000 more troops were needed in Afghanistan. This week, press reports quoted unnamed European diplomats predicting that McChrystal will soon ask for 20,000 additional troops. Another report suggested a possible slight-of-hand trick to keep "troop

levels" the same by swapping out 14,000 support troops for combat troops and replacing the support troops with contractors, i.e. mercenaries. Many in the Senate expect an administration request for more troops and are pondering their response, so far very quietly.

Withdrawal timetable

One exception is Sen. Russ Feingold of Wisconsin. In an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, Feingold calls for a "flexible timetable" for U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. He says that the United States should continue "targeted strikes" on Taliban

and al Qaeda leaders and should increase long-term civilian efforts to deal with corruption in the Afghan government. "But we must recognize," he says, "that our troop presence contributes to resentment in some quarters and hinders our ability to achieve our broader national security goals."

Support for withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan came from a surprising quarter last week when Washington Post columnist George Will wrote that it is "Time to Get Out of Afghanistan." Will argues that "counterinsurgency theory concerning the time and the ratio of forces required to protect the population indicates

that, nationwide, Afghanistan would need hundreds of thousands of coalition troops, perhaps for a decade or more. That is inconceivable."

Doubts about the U.S. course in Afghanistan exist on both sides of the aisle in the Senate. Changing those doubts into support for a policy of de-escalation and withdrawal will be an FCNL priority for the fall.

ACTION: Call your representative.

Source: FCNL action alert 9/4/09, FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 <http://fcnl.org>

Health Care Reform

(continued from page 1)

of insurance or of their doctor. They need to hear that health care reform will not take away their plan or their doctor, if they like what they have. Health care reform will bring peace of mind to those who worry they cannot find affordable care when they need it.

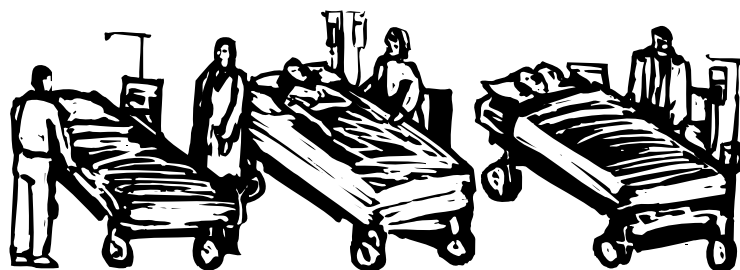
* In 2009 poll for The Economist 68 percent of Americans "rate the care they receive as 'excellent' or 'good,' but 52 percent are dissatisfied with the quality in the country as a whole."

* The results of the 2009 Health Care for America Survey — sponsored by the AFL-CIO and Working America — show that more than half of the 23,460 people who took the survey cannot get the health care they need at a price they can afford and one-third say they forgo basic medical care because of its high price. In a nearly unanimous response, survey takers say health care reform is urgent.

* A solid majority of the public believes health care reform is more important than ever because of current economic problems (Kaiser Health Tracking Poll).

How do kids figure in health care reform?

* There are nearly 9 million uninsured children in America (that's one in 10 U.S. children).



* Kids need healthy parents. Parents without health insurance tend to delay care for themselves, and sometimes for their kids, even when their kids are covered (National Center for Children in Poverty).

* Parents struggling with undiagnosed and/or untreated illnesses or medical conditions cannot work as hard, earn as much, or care for their kids as well as when they are healthy. (report from Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured)

* A Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (April 2009) finds that six in ten Americans continue to say that they or a member of their household have delayed or skipped health care in the past year.

Why families can't wait health care reform

* When it comes to reforming the health insurance system, there are costs to going too slowly. Families USA reports that over the past 10 years working families in many states have seen their health care costs go up significantly faster than their earnings, burdening family incomes and pricing more families out of the health care market.

* Without health reform, average family premiums will grow to more than \$22,000 by 2019, up from \$13,000 today according to Health Care Premiums Run Amok: The Cost of Doing Nothing about the Health Care Crisis

What are child advocates and researchers saying?

* Speak Now for Kids <<http://speaknowforkids.org/factsheet.php>>

* Families USA <<http://familiesusa.org/>>

* Children's Defense Fund <<http://www.childrensdefense.org/>>

* Coalition on Human Needs <<http://www.chn.org/issues/health/>>

* Children's Health Fund <<http://www.childrenshealthfund.org/>>

* Voices for America's Children <http://www.voices.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=23054>

* Georgetown University Center for Children and Families <<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=43288>>

*TAKE ACTION

* STAND UP <<http://www.standupforhealthcare.org>>

Source: Connect for Kids 9/09, <http://www.connectforkids.org>

Truth about Single Payer (HR676)

- 1) Health care is a human right
- 2) We are not starting from scratch
- 3) Medicare is a Single Payer Program for those 65 and older
- 4) HR 676 is just expanding Medicare to cover all
- 5) 5% overhead instead of 30%
- 6) It will cost less
- 7) Everyone is covered- no denials, no pre-existing conditions
- 8) It is not free
- 9) Employees and employers pay into the system
- 10) Employers will be paying 4.75% payroll rather than 16%
- 11) Rich benefit package available to all including mental health
- 12) All will have long term care, dental, vision covered
- 13) No more bankruptcies due to health bills
- 14) It is not socialized medicine
- 15) Health care delivery remains private
- 16) Total choice of health care provider
- 17) More money will go to health care
- 18) No more middle man between doctor and patient
- 19) Doctors will regain control of health care
- 20) No more deaths due to uninsurance or denial of care
- 21) No more obscene salaries for insurance CEO's
- 22) No more inhumane waits in ER's for primary care
- 23) We will join all the other industrialized nations in covering everyone

Go to: <http://www.healthcare-now.org> for info about HR676

ACTION:

- 1) Call your Congressman to vote yes on:
 - A) Anthony Weiner's amendment to HR 3200 about Single Payer when it comes up for a vote on the House floor in Sept. and
 - B) Dennis Kucinich's amendment which waives ERISA requirements so that states can pursue Single Payer legislationCall 202-224-3121 — Ask for your member's office.
- 2) Call Senators to demand a public option in their bill:
Senator Barbara Boxer 202-224-3553/415-403-0100
Senator Dianne Feinstein 202-224-3841/415-393-0707

Peace and Justice Network



of San Joaquin County

CHAKRAS PHOTOS ♦ AURA Pictures

new consciousness gallery & learning exchange

“Something else in
Crystals * ΣΤΟΥΕΟ * Wiccan * Nature's Art * Mind”

1604 E. Harding Way ♦ Stockton, CA

Various Workshops offered to enlighten and enrich your life check our website for details: www.somethingelseinmind.com

SPiritual Crafts ♦ EVEnts

TAI CHI ♦ REIKI CLASSES ♦ Kung Fu

MEDITATION

“The rising of the women means the rising of the race.”

—from “Bread and Roses,” sung by the women of Lawrence Mass. in the textile mill strike of 1912

John Morearty's memoir *Walking to Omega: Tales of a Peacemaker Carpenter* is available in the Stockton Public Library, online at www.johnmorearty.com, or from the author at 464-3326, john@morearty.com

Lawn signs, mugs, T-shirts

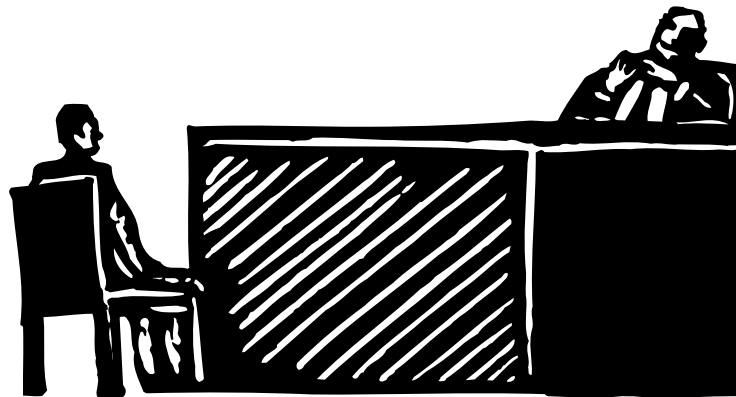
“War is NOT the answer” lawn signs come from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We are requesting a \$5 donation to cover costs (sorry, we can't ship lawn signs). We also have elegant pins made of pewter in the shape of the peace symbol for \$10. Also, handsome PJN T-shirts in many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



The real death panels: insurers deny 21% of claims

More than one of every five requests for medical claims for insured patients, even when recommended by a patient's physician, are rejected by California's largest private insurers, amounting to very real death panels in practice daily in the nation's biggest state, according to data released today by the California Nurses Association/ National Nurses Organizing Committee. CNA/NNOC researchers analyzed data reported by the insurers to the California Department of Managed Care. From 2002 through June 30, 2009, the six largest insurers operating in California rejected 31.2 million claims for care—21 percent of all claims. “With all the dishonest claims made by some politicians about alleged 'death panels' in proposed national legislation, the reality for patients today is a daily, cold-hearted rejection of desperately needed medical care by the nation's biggest and wealthiest insurance companies simply because they don't want to pay for it,” said Deborah Burger, RN, CNA/NNOC co-president.

For the first half of 2009, as the national debate over healthcare reform was escalating, the rejection rates are even more striking. PacifiCare denied 40 percent of all California claims in the first six months of 2009. Cigna, which gained notoriety two years ago for denying a liver transplant to 17-year-old Nataline Sarkisyan of Northridge, Calif. and then reversing itself, tragically too late to save her life, was still rejecting one-third of all claims for the first half of 2009. “Every claim that is denied represents a real patient enduring pain and suffering. Every denial has real, sometimes fatal consequences,” said Burger. PacifiCare, for example, denied a special procedure for treatment of bone cancer for Nick Colombo, a 17-year-old teen from Placentia, Calif. Again, after protests organized by Nick's family and friends, CNA/NNOC, and netroots activists, PacifiCare reversed its decision. But like Nataline Sarkisyan, the delay resulted in critical time lost, and Nick ultimately died. “This was his



last effort and the procedure had worked before with people in Nick's situation,” said his older brother Ricky.

California Blues rejected 28 percent of claims in the first half of 2009. In 2008, six days before RN Kim Kutcher of Dana Point, Calif., was scheduled to have special back surgery, Blue Cross denied authorization for the procedure as “investigational” even though the lumbar artificial disc she was to receive had FDA approval. At the time of denial, which she calls “insurance hell,” Kutcher notes she had “already gone through pre-op testing, donated a unit of blood, had appointments with four physicians.” Kutcher paid \$60,000 out of pocket for the operation and is still fighting Blue Cross.

Kaiser Permanente, which denied 28 percent of all claims in the first half of 2009, was one of two systems to reject options for radiation and chemotherapy for 57-year-old Bob Scott of Sacramento after his diagnosis of a brain tumor in 2005. The reason cited was his age, says wife Cheryl Scott, RN. “He had been in perfect health all of his life. This was his first problem other than a sprained ankle. He died six months later.”

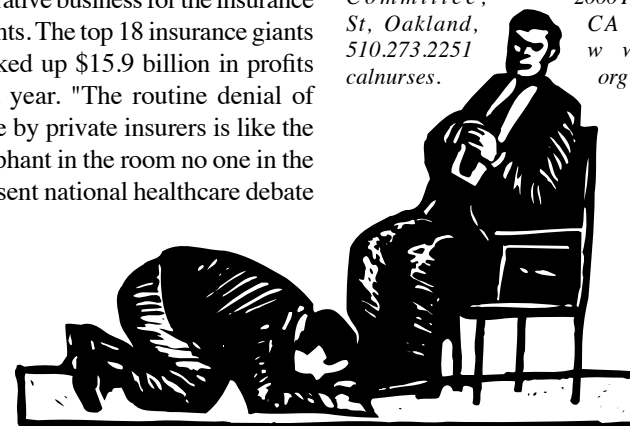
Rejection of care is a very lucrative business for the insurance giants. The top 18 insurance giants racked up \$15.9 billion in profits last year. “The routine denial of care by private insurers is like the elephant in the room no one in the present national healthcare debate

seems to want to talk about,” Burger said. “Nothing in any of the major bills advancing in the Senate or House or proposed by the administration would challenge this practice.”

“The United States remains the only country in the industrialized world where human lives are sacrificed for private profit, a national disgrace that seems on the verge of perpetuation,” she said. CNA/NNOC supports an alternative approach, expanding Medicare to cover all Americans, which would give the U.S. a national system similar to what exists in other nations. Data released in late August by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which tracks developed nations, found that among 30 industrial nations, the U.S. ranks last in life expectancy at birth for men, and 24th for women.

CNA/NNOC represents 86,000 registered nurses in all 50 states, and is working toward unification with the Massachusetts Nurses Association and United American Nurses to build a new 150,000 member national nurses organization.

Source: CNA release 9/2/09 CA Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, 2000 Franklin St., Oakland, CA 94612 510.273.2251 www.cannurses.org



Tell President Obama: I want a strong public option

The August recess was a very difficult time for President Obama and supporters of health care reform because opponents spent millions to raise a ruckus. We heard cries of socialism! Government take-over! There were dozens of raucous town hall meetings, organized by opponents of reform and generously funded by insurance companies. Multi-million dollar ad and mass mailing campaigns were launched, with outrageous lies about a health care plan with "death panels to kill off granny" and that "more women will die from breast cancer because care will be rationed."

Clearly, we've lost ground. Opposition by conservatives to any reform of our dysfunctional health care system has placed reform efforts in jeopardy. Chief among the fallout is single-payer health care—the most efficient and affordable universal approach, which NOW supports. There is a chance that the House will pass a provision to allow individual states to decide whether to adopt a single-payer system. But our biggest concern right now is that the president and leading Democrats may be backing away from the second best alternative: a strong public plan. In order to make sure that everyone in this country has access to health insurance coverage and that out-of-control costs can be reduced, we need a strong public health insurance plan.

Universal, affordable, continuous coverage, no denials

A strong public health insurance plan would be government-administered, available to all—allowing people to choose their own health care provider, have monthly premiums that are affordable, to always have insurance coverage whether they are employed or unemployed and to have all medically-necessary services paid for with no denials and no exclusions for so-called pre-existing health conditions. Doctors, clinics and hospitals would still be privately-owned. Doctors and patients would decide



what kind of medical care would be delivered—not the government. Health care providers would be reimbursed for services; no private insurance companies would be telling doctors which services they would or would not cover. Employers would find premiums more affordable, and small businesses would find that they can help provide health insurance without going broke. Nearly all industrialized nations have similar plans; no one is denied care and no one goes bankrupt because of medical expenses—why shouldn't the U.S. have such a plan? Opinions polls have repeatedly shown that a majority wants the choice of a public plan.

Women would benefit

Women would benefit from a public plan because their lives are complicated, working part-time or intermittently because of caregiving needs. Because women are often dependent upon a partner's insurance, they may lose coverage when they divorce or become widowed. Additionally, many women work in the service sector where it is becoming increasingly rare that health insurance is offered. In the individual insurance market, there is considerable gender discrimination where women are charged more than men—even for less coverage. Pregnancy is often excluded. A public plan would be more affordable, provide continuous coverage and pay for all medically-necessary services. No denials for "pre-existing conditions" would be allowed.

No public plan = more will be sick, die and go into debt

A public plan is the only way that spiraling costs for drugs and medical services can be brought under control. Without a public plan, private health insurance companies will continue to

increase costs, find loopholes to exclude people when they get sick and deny payment for expensive procedures. Our current system will continue to ration health care so that 20,000 people die annually because they can't afford insurance or medical care, and more than a million will declare personal bankruptcy because of medical debt—as has been case for many years.

ACTIONS:

1) We need a Public Health Insurance Plan and are depending upon President Obama to stay strong in supporting one. Please make your call or send an email message to the White House now.

* Dial 202-456-1111
* Tell the operator that you have a comment about health care reform, and you will be transferred to a White House staff member.

* Give your name, and tell the staff member that you want President Obama to stand firm on the need for a public health insurance plan. Be clear and concise.

* Say that you believe this is the only way affordable health insurance can be offered to anyone who needs it.

* Add that women, in particular, would benefit from a public health insurance plan because they are not always employed full time, they sometimes lose coverage when they are divorced, and many cannot afford to purchase health insurance in the private market.

* Thank the staff member for taking your comment and passing along the message.

* If you are emailing, you can also enter comments about your own health care experience.

2) Call Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Representatives Cardoza and McNerney. All are wavering; all must take a stand.

Source: NOW National Action Center release 9/8/09 www.now.org



Joanie McCulloch M.T. Massage Therapy

Myofascial Release • Chronic Pain Relief •
Fibromyalgia Pain Relief • Swedish Massage •
Deep Tissue Massage • Acupressure • Reflexology
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

1955 Lucile Ave, Suite B
Stockton CA 95209

298-0393

1st time only:
\$70 for 2 hours
(1st hour devoted to
myofascial release)

Operating a Successful Business in a Down Economy!

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

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



LAW OFFICES OF ANN M. CERNEY SHELLIE LOTT LANGLEY KREUZ

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

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

Se Habla Espanol • Thai • Vietnamese



Roger K. Lang, D.D.S., Inc.

3031 W. March Lane, Suite 318E
(Go north on I-5, exit March Lane, go west to
"The Fountain" and turn right)

(209) 956-0601

Fax: (209) 952-8845

Email: info@drlangdds.com

Web: www.drlangdds.com

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

Publications

Technical Writing & Editing / Graphic Design / Web Sites

InfoWright

PO Box 162644
Sacramento 95816
916.444-5118
llitman@pacbell.net



So little time: looking at Congress's fall agenda

On Tuesday, September 8, members of Congress return from the summer recess with a big agenda for legislative action and not much time to act. With breaks for religious holidays and a normal Tuesday to Thursday workweek, members of Congress have fewer than 15 legislative days for votes before their next big deadline: the beginning of the federal government's new fiscal year on October 1. The House does expect to be in session at least until October 30, so action on many non-budget issues may be pushed back into October.

More troops for the war in Afghanistan

Following the elections in Afghanistan, the president's military advisors are reportedly preparing a request to send additional U.S. military troops to Afghanistan. We at FCNL will be

working to persuade Congress to oppose any expansion of the war in Afghanistan and to urge the president to develop a strategy for withdrawing troops from that country. We will be asking Congress to pass legislation sponsored by Rep. Jim McGovern (MA) that calls on the president to articulate an exit strategy from Afghanistan. Calming U.S. relations with Iran would contribute to a positive solution in Afghanistan as well.

Health care tops the congressional agenda

The media is full of reports that opposition to health care reform is growing, but polls show continuing public support for fixing our broken national health care system. Members of Congress from both chambers broadly agree on many of the major issues: regulating private insurance companies so they cannot exclude people who

need health insurance, making health care affordable for low- and moderate-income people, and establishing standards to ensure the quality of basic health insurance.

The debates—about a public plan, how to fund the programs, and whether to include non-citizens—pale in comparison to the strength of the broad agreements. The House leadership is now putting the final touches on legislation they hope to pass in the next month, but action in the Senate could be delayed since a final bill has not been agreed on by all of the different committees.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

The House passed weak legislation in June that would not do enough to address global climate change. Senate Majority leader Harry Reid (NV) has said publicly that he hopes to have a

final draft of legislation to address global climate change ready before the end of September. FCNL will be working with other groups to strengthen the climate change bill in the Senate and to make sure the legislation starts reducing harmful emissions now.

Passing legislation to fund the federal government

The House has passed all 13 of the appropriations bills that providing funding for the federal government for the fiscal year that extends from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010. The Senate has only passed five of these bills, however, and none have been sent to the president for his signature. In theory, Congress attempts to pass all of these funding bills by September 30, but our lobbyists

expect that several of the bills will not be finished until October at the earliest. The funding bills, particularly for foreign aid, international cooperation, diplomacy, and military issues, provide FCNL with opportunities to influence federal government priorities and policy directions.

The fall will be packed with attention to many of the major issues that have been the focus of the FCNL network's lobbying efforts. We hope everyone will follow up on their July and August actions and keep in close touch with their representative and senators. It's an important time, and much is possible.

Source: FCNL Action Alert 9/3/09, Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 <http://www.fcnl.org>

Become a PEACE PAL!

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

Monthly Giving Enrollment Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Here is my monthly pledge contribution of:

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

I prefer to donate by one of the following methods:

U.S. mail; please send me envelopes

Online donation through PJN website: www.pjnsrc.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.

Project Censored

2009: Top 25 censored

1. Over One Million Iraqi Deaths Caused by US Occupation
2. Security and Prosperity Partnership: Militarized NAFTA
3. InfraGard: The FBI Deputizes Business
4. ILEA: Is the US Restarting Dirty Wars in Latin America?
5. Seizing War Protesters' Assets
6. The Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act
7. Guest Workers Inc.: Fraud and Human Trafficking
8. Executive Orders Can Be Changed Secretly
9. Iraq and Afghanistan Vets Testify
10. APA Complicit in CIA Torture
11. El Salvador's Water Privatization and the Global War on Terror
12. Bush Profiteers Collect Billions From No Child Left Behind
13. Tracking Billions of Dollars Lost in Iraq
14. Mainstreaming Nuclear Waste
15. Worldwide Slavery
16. Annual Survey on Trade Union Rights
17. UN's Empty Declaration of Indigenous Rights
18. Cruelty and Death in Juvenile Detention Centers
19. Indigenous Herders and Small Farmers Fight Livestock Extinction
20. Marijuana Arrests Set New Record
21. NATO Considers "First Strike" Nuclear Option
22. CARE Rejects US Food Aid
23. FDA Complicit in Pushing Pharmaceutical Drugs
24. Japan Questions 9/11 and the Global War on Terror
25. Bush's Real Problem with Eliot Spitzer

For details, visit <http://www.projectcensored.org>

Source: Project Censored 9/10/09, Project Censored—Media Freedom Foundation, P.O. Box 571, Cotati, CA 94931 • 707-874-2695 <http://www.projectcensored.org>

Men with guns in Kabul and Washington

Norman Solomon

For those who believe in making war, Kabul is a notable work product. After 30 years, the results are in: a devastated city. A stale witticism calls Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai "the mayor of Kabul." Now, not even. On block after block in the Afghan capital, AK-47s are conspicuous in the hands of men on guard against a near future. Widely seen as corrupt, inept and—with massive election fraud—now illegitimate, Karzai's government is losing its grip along with its credibility.

Meanwhile, a war-stoking mindset is replicating itself at the highest reaches of official Washington—even while polls tell us that the pro-war spin has been losing ground. For the US public, dwindling support for the war in Afghanistan has reached a tipping point. But, as you've probably heard, the war must go on.

Kabul's streets are blowing with harsh dust, a brutal harvest of chronic war that has destroyed trees and irrigation on mountains around the city.

Visiting Kabul in late August, I met a lot of wonderful people, doing their best in the midst of grim and lethal realities. The city seemed thick with pessimism.

In comparison, the mainline political discourse about Afghanistan in the United States is blithe. A familiar duet has the news media and the White House asking the perennial question: "Can the war be won?" The administration insists that the answer is yes. The press is mixed. But they're both asking the wrong question.

More relevant, by far, would be to ask: Should the US government keep destroying Afghanistan in order to "save" it?

All over Kabul, men are tensely holding AK-47s; some are pointing machine guns from flatbed

trucks. But the really big guns, of course, are being wielded from Washington, where administrative war-making thrives on abstraction. Day to day, it can be easy to order the destruction of what and who remain unseen.

Truly, the worst enemy in Afghanistan is poverty. But the US government keeps waving a white flag. Does anyone in the upper reaches of the Obama administration actually grasp what it means that Afghanistan's poverty is very close to the worst in the world?

The current version of the best and the brightest should ponder the kind of data that can be found in the CIA World Factbook, such as Afghanistan's infant mortality rate—defined as "the number of deaths of infants under one year old in a given year per 1,000 live births in the same year." The current number is 154.

Last year, while the US government was spending nearly \$100 million a day on military efforts in Afghanistan, an Oxfam report put the total amount of humanitarian aid to the country from all sources at just \$7 million per day. Not much has changed since then. The supplemental funding measure that the White House pushed through Congress a few months ago devotes 90 percent of the US spending in Afghanistan to military expenditures.

Dimes to nurture life. Dollars to destroy it.

I hate to think of the kind of future that the US war escalation foreshadows for the very thin children I saw in Kabul, flying ragged little kites or playing with toys like an empty plastic soda bottle with a rope tied around its neck.

Echoing now is a speech from Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1967. If we replace the word "Vietnam" with "Afghanistan," the



gist of his message is with us in the autumn of 2009:

"Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Afghanistan. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home, and death and corruption in Afghanistan. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as one who loves America, to the leaders of our own nation: The great initiative in this war is ours; the initiative to stop it must be ours."

Norman Solomon is the author of many books, including "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death," which has been adapted into a documentary film. For more information, go to: www.normansolomon.com <<http://www.normansolomon.com>>

Source: truthout.com | Perspective 9/8/09

Afghan solution: buy the opium

Market value of Afghanistan's opium & heroin exports: \$4 billion (2006) 2007 Afghan Opium Survey. UN Office on Drugs and Crime

Afghan drug value: \$5,200/hectare—wheat \$526/hectare

US military estimate of 2008 Afghanistan war cost: \$68 billion

US Afghanistan war cost since 2001: \$223 billion

Proposal: US government purchase entire Afghan drug crop and take off the market...

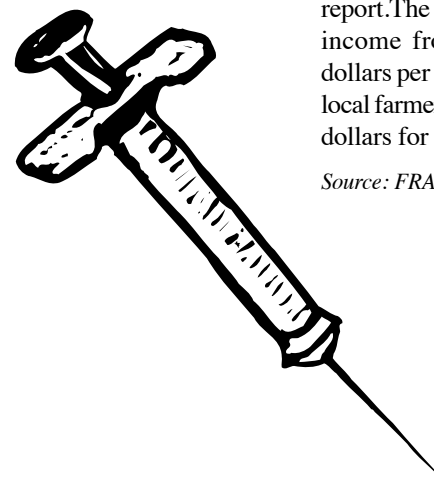
Benefits: Supports Afghan family farmers; decreases reliance on military solutions in Afghanistan; decreases income to Taliban and al Qaeda; decreases drug supply available to illegal US market; cheaper alternative to "War on Drugs" and "War on Terror"

Costs: Jobs in military and police service...

Opium production 'on a deadly scale'

The value of Afghanistan's smuggled opium exports is equivalent to more than half of its gross domestic product, reports the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Aside from 19th-century China, "no other country in the world has ever produced narcotics on such a deadly scale," the Vienna-based organisation said in a statement upon publication of its 2007 Afghan Opium Survey. UNODC chief Antonio Maria Costa said it was in the interest of Western forces battling the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan to intervene to smash the illicit trade.



"Opium is now equivalent to more than half (53%) of the country's licit GDP," the UNODC said in its report. The total value of opium and heroin exports to neighbouring countries was four billion dollars (2.74 billion euros) in 2007, up 29 percent from the previous year, while GDP for 2007 was 7.5 billion dollars, according to the Afghan government, it said. In 2006, opiate exports from the country were worth 3.1 billion dollars, or 45 percent of GDP, the report added. It noted that about one billion dollars went to the farmers, while the rest went to district officials, insurgents and warlords who "control the business of producing and distributing the drugs" and drug traffickers.

The amount of land used for opium poppy cultivation increased by 17 percent in 2007, while production went up 34 percent, the UNODC report also said, It noted however that while opium cultivation was on the rise in the southwest of the country, a growing number of provinces in northern Afghanistan were becoming opium-free. "The Afghan opium situation looks grim, but it is not yet hopeless," Costa said in the report. The UNODC calculated that Afghan traffickers made 1.7 billion dollars by exporting opium, up 1.2 billion in 2006, and 2.3 billion by exporting its derivatives heroin and morphine. The value of the drugs increases "with every border crossing" and so "the potential windfall for criminals, insurgents and terrorists is staggering and runs into the hundreds of millions of dollars," Costa said upon publication of the report. The report noted that gross income from opium was 5,200 dollars per hectare (2.47 acres) for local farmers, compared to just 546 dollars for wheat.

Source: FRANCE 24, 8/12/09

The great initiative in this war is ours; the initiative to stop it must be ours."

Youth center to focus on violence & racism

Sal, Litha, Nathan, Adam, Benny, Ebonee, Damon and Fredo

We are Youth Advocates with Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ). FFSJ addresses the varying needs of men, fathers, their families and communities by providing socially relevant and culturally sensitive services, developing local leadership, unifying the efforts of existing groups and addressing critical problems affecting the community.

We've been trained this summer at Stockton's Youth Empowerment Center (YEC), co-authored an article ("Youth Training Q & A") in the August/September issue of Connections and are delighted to do a regular page here. We want to tell people who are interested in joining our program.

We have chosen four topics over the coming months:

- * Voiceless teens
- * Youth in gangs
- * The Community speak.
- * The YEC Experience.

We have been working with Fathers and Families for a while, and we help out youth our age who have problems that we had in the past. We know how to deal with those problems. We get to work with our peers, and it's fun because we know what's really going on in the world and in the streets.

The YEC is led and run by youth, and we will support all communities that want to lead to an educated successful youth..

Our Center:

- * Offers only FREE services
- * Serves youth, ages 12-25
- * Utilizes youth to influence each other to achieve academic goals for advancement in society
- * Is centrally located and easily accessible
- * Is free from the constraints and fear of 'colors'
- * Is a program that prevents gangs and racism
- * Supports self-improvement and high self-esteem and
- * Inspires and offer avenues for success

We plan to expand to a system of sites, and to add these programs:

* Sporting activities such as basketball, football, baseball, handball

* Computer classes, the basic computer skills

* Tutoring for middle school and high school

* Parenting classes-knowing how a father has to be responsible and that having a child is not good if you're too young; not having sex when you're young (you may get a disease or a virus and die); how to raise happy healthy boys and girls, physically, emotionally, intellectually.

* Cultural & art designs/ spray painting, making shirts, making our own stencils

* Social entrepreneurships / screen printing business making shirts and other material things

* Life skills workshops /learning about racism and civic engagement-politics, learning about what's going in this community. Already in our training program, we visited the Stockton City Council, the county board of supervisors, and legislators' offices.

* Workforce-green jobs/ workshops on how to prepare ourselves sustaining our natural resources

Big Fredo & Nathan

Me and my partner Nathan are working on a project right now called Youth Empowerment Summit: Changing the Odds, No Child Left Behind.

The Summit will happen on Friday October 16th, from 8 am to 4 pm at Delta College in Stockton. Speakers will tell what's going on in the world and how to be safe. I'm going to be one of the speakers and I'm going to tell you what's up and what's going down in Stockton. I'm also going to talk about gangs. We're going to have workshops on education, drugs and gangs. I'm hoping you will come, represent our youth and show our elders what we're made of.

Sal's experience

In this summer training program, I have been learning how to communicate with other youth advocates and people. We talked

about their life and how it has changed; some were the same as mine. I learned about cultural art. I learned how to stay out of gangs and to talk to other youths about it, and racism. Just knowing other youth are going through the same problems as me, I learned how to present to an audience of people and not be nervous. I am trained as a leader striving for a goal of bettering our communities and ourselves.

Litha's experience

The most definite experience I have had here at the Youth Empowerment Center is that we all have a voice in this community. Even if certain people don't listen, you can still reach out and help, actually make a difference..

Big Fredo's experience

I've learned how to do presentations, how to stand up in front of a group of people, or speak to a crowd of people. I learned computer skills and writing skills. I've learned history about the world and about our programs and how we got started. I've learned how to talk to people and how to meet new friends. I have learned how to help in my community and how to achieve for academic goals for advancement in my society.

Ebonee's experience

My experience with the youth empowerment center has been great. I've only been here for a little bit, but I have learned a lot. I have learned I can make a difference in society.

Growing up, there were different problems of racism and violence. I've seen one of my cousins get beat by the police, when he got into a fight after school.

Another time the police came and raided my house. They said somebody called and said there was gun in the house. So they came with their guns drawn and beat my uncle. He was hurt pretty badly and the police were happy. They also didn't come with a warrant. My grandma had to get on the floor and she's old, and my five year old cousin was there. My mother came and asked for the warrant and one

of them said it wasn't necessary.

This program has taught me to overcome those issues and help other youth with the same issues. I have also learned some communication skills as well as computer. In the beginning I was kind of not interested, but when I actually got the information I was all ears. I want to help inform other people about it. The other good thing is working with youth my age. I mean there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed, so the youth advocates are here to change. This gives me more confidence because it's like talking to me. I know that we understand each other. I am able to achieve the goal of helping the community with the skills I have now.

Damon's experience

My experience with youth empowerment is great. I have been here for a few weeks, but I like it very much. I can see myself doing this in the future because this is

great for the kids; they will learn as much as I did. I'm glad I got hired here because I know more about other people's backgrounds and how they grew. I learned about the violence that is in our communities. I just wish I knew how to stop it and show the youth the bright side.

Brittney's experience

Working here at the youth empowerment center is helping me to open up with other people. Being here with people my age and discussing our lives and the community really caught my interest and that's why I decided to stay. I look forward to learning so much more and helping out in the community.

The Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) is at 2895 Teepee Drive, Stockton 95205, just off Cherokee Road in East Stockton. We're at (209)235-2070 or (209)235-2073, our email is youthmatter@ffsj.org

Alternatives to punishment

Sasha Abramsky

In August, a panel of federal judges ruled that California must reduce its prisoner population by about 40,000 inmates over the next two years...Many people will read the judges' ruling and immediately fear the wholesale release of dangerous inmates and a stark decline in public safety. Done badly a prison population-reduction program could indeed have these consequences. Done well, however, it presents more of an opportunity than a threat.

Prisoner populations can be reduced in many ways other than simply opening cell doors behind which reside random inmates, in ways that have tangible crime reduction and addition reduction benefits rather than costs. They can be reduced by releasing certain categories of inmates—non-violent inmates and low-level drug offenders being the obvious ones—a few months early and placing those

individuals into structured, perhaps residential, community program for the first months of their freedom.

They can be reduced by diverting these categories of inmates at the front end, placing them in treatment programs, community service work, even vocational training programs, rather than sending them to prison. They can be reduced by limiting the catch-all nature of California's parole system—a system that places almost all released prisoners onto three years of parole and then returns huge numbers to prison not for the committing of new crimes but for "technical violations" of the terms of their parole.

*Sasha Abramsky is the author of *Conned: How Millions Went to Prison, Lost the Vote, and Helped Send George W. Bush to the White House* (The New Press, 2006).*

Source: Comment Is Free 8/8/09

A call to fathers

Andrea M. Gutierrez

Stokely Carmichael once asked this question, "Why are we sent? To defend our motherland but not defend our mothers?" I remember the day I found out I was pregnant. I was 20 years old.

Wait, let me back up and properly introduce myself. First, my name is Andrea Gutierrez and I am a 28-year-old single mother of two sons ages 7 and 3-years old. Not so recently, I graduated from the University of the Pacific and received my degree in visual arts which may or may not be a mistake; I have yet to find out. I was born into a single parent home: my mother—being that single parent—was a strong black woman here in Stockton. She raised my siblings and me on her own. This may sound cliché but my father was not around, as are many of the young fathers here in Stockton and he was what my brother and I liked to call a "rolling stone." He died in 1996 and left me, my sister and my brother alone. The pain I once felt as a little girl somehow faded away with time, a good mother, a great sense of humor and courage. I can laugh again.

At this point you may be asking yourself, "If your momma was such a good parent, why did you even care about your father?" Well, here is my answer. My mother was not perfect but she stayed, loved, and cared for us the best way she knew how. There were clothes on our backs, food in our bellies, and a roof over our heads. Because I never knew my father (besides the stories my mother would tell us ever so often), the curiosity was there. My mother never forced the idea of our father on us and when I became old enough, I decided to ask questions. Those questions later led me to search for him, yearning to establish a relationship. At the time, I was twelve years old. I barely remember being twelve but I am told that, that is a very tender age for a young girl and I wanted the kind of relationship with my father that every little girl desired. I wanted him to guide me, protect me, and tell me how beautiful I was. I wanted him to give me some sort of idea of what I was worth in this world. Yet, the

reality was that, after I found him, I soon became disappointed to conclude, especially at the time of his passing, that he was in pieces as a man and as a human being. He was once a young, scared, and misguided youth who grew up to become an older, scared, and misunderstood adult.

I remember as time passed between my father's short visits, it only made me grow bitter, even angry with him. I did not understand him. We shared the same DNA, yet we had nothing in common. For example, my father told me he loved chocolate cake. He said that it reminded him of my mother when they were younger; dark, sweet, and tempting. I, on the other hand, hate chocolate cake and it reminds me of a painful toothache I once had. Once, when I was thirteen, I decided to bake my father a chocolate cake for his birthday with my mother's permission of course. She even helped me mix the chocolate Jell-O pudding into the cake batter. My mother said, that it would make the cake moist and rich, just the way my father liked it. If you ask me, and my mother will never admit to this, she kept a soft spot for my dad as most women do for the fathers of their children. The cake was a surprise to my father. He hugged me, said thank you, and praised how good the cake was. Little did I know that, that would be the first and the last time I ever saw my father alive and happy. That evening after eating his cake, he stared at me: there was an awkward silence between he and I that was like no other and in that moment, we understood each other. He knew my act of kindness was my way of saying "I want to give you a chance," and his stare meant that he wanted to understand me.

My grandma used to say that the sins of the parents become the sins of the children. There might be some sort of truth in that old saying. Yet, with that being said, I'm calling out to all you fathers here in Stockton; young and old. This is your chance for understanding and your moment of courage. This is your opportunity to make things right in the lives of your children and not just to

smooth things over. Our women and children need you, black man. Our sons and daughters need you, brown man. They need your guidance and your love. They need you to listen to the drum, as it is calling to gather you all. Forget for a moment what folk theology and pop theology have taught you. Forget for a moment how hyphy you can get or how much she can blame it on the a-a-a-a-alcohol. Now please understand that I am not blaming you young men for your absence in the home. To the contrary—because I understand that a good majority of you did not have your fathers around to teach you what you are worth as well. However, this is no excuse. I once learned a poem while striving to become a member of a very well known sorority.

Repeat this after me:

Excuses are tools of the incompetent

Upon which monuments of nothingness are built

And those who specialize in using them

Seldom amount to anything at all
And (your name goes here) is better than that.

You are better than your excuses; you are worth so much more. It is time to make a stand my brothers, and yes, my sisters too. Stand up and know that discipline does not mean conformity. Stand up and know that your opportunities do not mean freedom. Stand up and use those beautiful minds because they are a terrible thing to waste. Stand up and realize, future leaders, that this is much bigger than you or your ego. Sorry Kanye but we need to look further than the root and examine the seed and the soil. The farmer would dare not plant his seed and leave it unattended. He wouldn't dare expect to come back and have a crop that is fruitful waiting on him. So why do you plant the seed and then abandon it? Doesn't the seed need good soil to grow? Sunshine, water and the love of the farmer who wants to protect it from the dangers in the field? So why must we wait? Patiently we wait.

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

Henry Paine Camera Repair

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

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

Efficient and reliable repair of your camera.

FREE ESTIMATES



Spiritual Counseling
Past-Life Regression • Tarot Card
Reading • Energy Consultation
• 30 Years Experience

*Call Joyce McCallister for an appointment:
926-4074*



PACIFIC COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE CENTER

serving Stockton since 1984

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

Teresa M. Chen, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator

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

The Best of Eastern and Western Medicine for Health and Healing

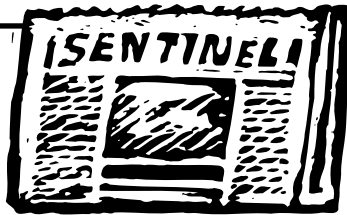
- Internal Medicine • Acupuncture & Moxibustion •
East & West Herbs •
Chinese Health Exercises (Tai Chi & Qi Gong)

Shop at the Herb Store

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

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

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



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.

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

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

Firedoglake <http://firedoglake.com>

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

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

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

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

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

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/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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>

Solar film goes anywhere

Scott Thill

Going solar used to mean spending a fortune to purchase massive, unwieldy panels that came with high production and labor costs, as well as low efficiency performance. But that era of renewable energy is coming to a close and being replaced by a lighter, cheaper, more flexible model, thanks to thin-film PV cells.

Solar companies now employ a roll-to-roll manufacturing process that uses non-silicon alternatives such as copper, indium, gallium and selenium to print up cells the way the Federal Reserve Bank prints money. An apt comparison, given that the thin-film niche is expected to corral around 20 percent (and growing) of the overall solar market, which itself is expected to swell to more than \$50 billion by 2015.

What's the payoff? A revolutionized energy market, where thin-film solar cells can be placed on everything from your house and car to your person to literally empower your life. "Thin-film technology has played a significant role in driving down the cost of solar across the industry," American Solar Energy Society Director of Communications Neal Lurie explained to AlterNet. "A couple of years ago, when much of the industry was facing shortages of polysilicon commonly used to produce photovoltaic solar panels, First Solar leapfrogged the industry by producing thin-film solar with a completely different technology, using cadmium telluride.

"While this thin-film approach was less efficient than the more traditional crystalline silicon, it could be produced at much lower costs, more than making up for the lower efficiency. This put downward price pressures across the entire industry, forcing manufacturers to develop efficiencies throughout the entire supply chain. The end result? Lower solar costs for consumers across the globe."

The globe responded in kind. In mid-August, the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of the Treasury kicked off a \$2.3 billion campaign to give away tax credits to clean-energy equipment manufacturers. That alone could

create more than 100,000 jobs in America, which has more or less outsourced the majority of its conventional manufacturing base to China and other cheap-labor titans.

A few days later, Arizona-based solar powerhouse FirstSolar announced a deal with Southern California Edison to build two thin-film solar photovoltaic (PV) plants in sunny San Bernardino and Riverside counties on federally owned land. Meanwhile, half a world away, Switzerland's Oerlikon Solar announced that Nano Solar Technology Ltd., a joint venture of the Russian conglomerate Renova Group and Russian Corporation of Nanotechnologies, ordered a production line of 1 million thin-film solar modules annually, the largest order this year in the thin-film silicon PV market.

These recent developments are building upon a solid foundation laid down last year. In 2008, the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) reached a record 19.9 percent efficiency rate using a copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS) thin-film solar cell. And even Time magazine tabbed thin-film solar panels as one of the best inventions of the year.

All of which begs the obvious question: When can we put them on our dashboards, windows and laptops? Or our bodies?

"Solar power of any type, thin-film or conventional, that will actually power your entire car is a long way off," said Treehugger's professional buzz-killer Matthew McDermott. "But it certainly could be implemented today to power parts of the electrical system, like air conditioning, radio and controls. "In terms of thin-film solar power for your home, there's good evidence that, in certain hazy and overcast conditions, thin-film solar panels can produce more power and cost less than crystalline solar panels. The downside is that it requires more area to get that output." Sure, that's not the type of sparkling good news that sci-fi nuts and green activists are feverishly looking for to drown out what is shaping up to be a seriously destabilizing fossil-fuel apocalypse. But the good news on solar energy is only going to grow as the months pass.

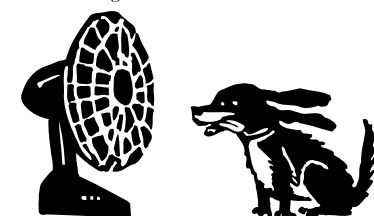
"Today, solar is branching out beyond traditional rooftop systems," Lurie added. "The Toyota Prius is incorporating solar power into its cooling systems. Backpack and bag manufacturers are starting to incorporate solar technology to recharge laptops. Cell phone manufacturers and GPS producers are looking at how to incorporate solar charging into their technology. It's an exciting time."

Now that we've reached the point where even the International Energy Agency is shamelessly talking about peak oil production, investors and nations alike are looking to move beyond petroleum as soon as possible. "With very few exceptions, governments around the world are stepping in attempting to help move their nations away from fossil fuels to some degree," McDermott said. "Even in the oil-producing states in the Middle East, there's an acknowledgment that something comes after fossil fuels."

The bigger issue is whether nations are moving quickly enough to reduce emissions the 25-40 percent by 2020 that scientists say is required to prevent catastrophic climate change. And to do so quickly enough to bring enough renewable energy online to offset the declines in oil and other fossil fuels, which even the International Energy Agency now admits are just over the horizon."

These are major questions, so there's simply no great reason to pop the cork on the champagne and celebrate humanity's dodged bullet. We're still directly in the crosshairs of a disastrous climate change that's already been priced into the market, so to speak. But the faster we move on innovations like thin-film solar, the better off our lives will be in the long run. There's just no time to waste. Good thing we're already swimming in hope and change. "The solar boom is here," Lurie concluded. "And it's only going to accelerate."

Source: AlterNet 9/2/09 <http://www.alternet.org>



Peripheral canal: is the die cast

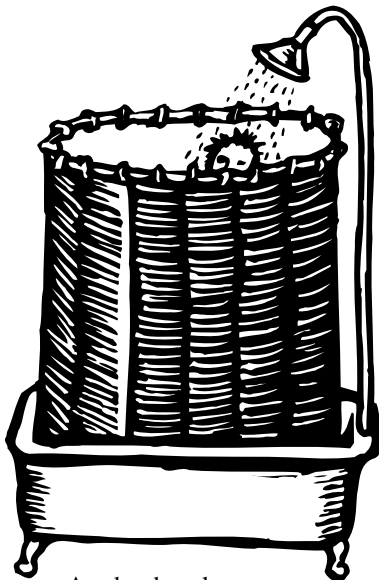
Dave Schurr

As lawmakers wrestle for control of California's water supply, this state's heritage and history are being lost. California's premiere fishery is vanishing for the benefit of mega farms in the Central Valley: the Governor and his hand picked team of water advisors convince us that we are in drought while more and more water gets pumped south to benefit agribusiness.

And now that the Environmental Protection Agency has stepped in on behalf of the states' fisheries, our state senators are planning to run roughshod over them too. In April, Senator Jim Costa R-Fresno introduced a bill aimed right at The Endangered Species Act, citing that 40,000 farm workers will lose their jobs this year in order to protect the Delta Smelt (a bellwether species of the overall health of the Delta ecosystem) "radical environmentalists and their Democratic patrons." Part of Costa's plan is to insist that that the Feds fund the "Two Gates Project," a \$26 million fish screen to minimize the species loss and lift the current export restrictions.

The state and its people are losing their fishery. In 2007, Glen Martin exposed the top Fish and Game policy maker Ryan Broderick for failing to protect our states fisheries, citing the massive pumps at Tracy's Harvey Banks pumping plant as being directly responsible for the collapse of the Delta Ecosystem. In three short years, the Department of Water Resources had increased exports by more than 30% causing a disruption in the food chain, resulting in the eventual ecosystem collapse and the listing of six California fish species as either threatened or endangered by the Environmental Protection Agency. In an August 2007 draft ruling, Judge Wanger of the Federal District Court Fresno ordered the pumps to be shut down in order to help the Delta Smelt recover.

Now the state is struggling with the problem of cutbacks in water deliveries, naming the problems as "shortages" and blaming drought. Citizens and cities are being asked to conserve. However the cutbacks in water deliveries today are the same as they were a decade ago.



And, back in 2001, the overall health of the Delta was good. A balance between water exports and environmental needs had been reached. Conditions were sustainable. In fact, fish populations including salmon were reaching record numbers. Today fish populations are nearing extinction and marine mammals are next. All this happened during the Schwarzenegger administration.

Now the Governor cries drought. The Department of Water Resources even backs him up. So, let's look at this so-called "drought." Since the turn of the century, annual rainfall totals were in the 70-80% of average range with the exception of 2001 (56% of average) and 2005 (over 130% of average) (Dept. of Water Resources). Keep in mind averages are made up of highs and lows and no record extremes were reported during this time frame.

Our water problems are being blamed on drought, with many State agencies claiming that our reservoirs are extremely low. Water agencies use the example of San Luis Reservoir in Los Banos, which is at 49% of capacity. San Luis gets its water from the pumps at Tracy where water exports have been cut drastically this year. Lake Oroville and Shasta are less than half full: again, it's a smoke-screen. Oroville and Shasta fill from Sierra snow pack, which is at or above average.

These are not drought-related examples; they are symptoms of water management mistakes. The Bureau of Reclamation controls lake levels and huge releases were made in the last three years. Still, they cry drought. What's going on


here? Agribusiness is the number one taxpayer in this state and they want more water. All that water is going south not to grow food but crops like cotton, which are subsidized and exported to Europe and Asia. Corporations profit. Again agribusiness is very powerful. They want more water—and will probably get it.

Plans like "The Water Conveyance System" are already in process. "The Schwarzenegger administration is on a fast track to build this canal around the Delta, benefiting farmers in the desert! Valid or not, supporters and critics alike agree this plan is likely to fast track its way into court." The Department of Water Resources says they already have the authority to build the canal and water contractors in the south are more than willing to buy the bonds necessary for pay for it. This project will imperil the Delta and destroy or change the entire ecosystem forever. The habitat losses will be devastating and we will most likely lose the fishery entirely.

Those of us aware of the numerous examples of political manipulation of science to serve agriculture, have become wary of political science masquerading as natural science. In the Governor's new book written by Cal-Fed entitled "State of the Bay-Delta Science 2008," they summarize how new data gleaned from eight years of research would use a peripheral canal and more dams to solve the problem of collapsing fisheries. According to the Delta Blue Ribbon Task Force, the solution is a water conveyance system. This is brought to you by the same people that caused the ecosystem collapse in the first place.

So no one cried "Drought in 2001 or 2003—but now try to convince us that we are in a drought. The people of California who only use 17% of the state's water are ordered to conserve. Valley farmers will not get their water this year but argue that pumping did not contribute significantly to the loss of fish and pollution is to blame. Now the governor wants to build a new water project that will save us all.

Just some thoughts from an average Californian.



Emulating Jesus Christ's
Radical Acceptance of All People

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

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

Decisions, Decisions...



Is your home ready for *your* retirement?

- * Organizing & Clutter Control
- * Homekeeping
- * Care for the Pack Rat

MaryAnne & Jeanne (209) 948-5365
Simplify@HowToClean.com
MA Sibert & Co., est. 1973



TORI L. DAVIS, L.C.S.W.
Licensed Clinical Social Worker, License #18235

Psychotherapy/Consultation/Trainings

7510 Shoreline Drive, Suite A7
Stockton, CA 95219
(209) 477-8482



LELA NELSON REALTY
2222 Pacific Avenue • Stockton, CA 95204

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

E. Lela Nelson
BROKER





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

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

209-329-1137



By Appointment Only

Stebbins of Stockton
Your Neighborhood Services Dealer

Mark Stebbins
General Bldg and Electrical Contractor
U-Haul Rentals and Real Estate

209 467-4070
stebbinsmark007
@comcast.net

1311 South Center Street
Stockton, CA 95206
#773245






Balance Physical Therapy & Pilates

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

2540 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, California 95204

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






Kent L. Wilson
Attorney at Law
General Practice

242 N. Sutter St. #207, Stockton, CA 95202

Flat Fees
No Hourly Charges

Stockton (209) 941-8511
Calaveras County (209) 754-4570

The Holisticzone

Rev. Gay Lynn Saunders, D.C.

by appointment only (209) 607-2669

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

The T is Not Silent

Murder of the transgenders

Elena Kelly

I am honored to serve as the first Director of the Stockton Transgender Alliance (STA). The organization has a two-fold purpose: to provide support and access to services for transgender individuals, and to educate the general public in Stockton and the Central Valley about issues that concern the transgender population and to advocate for improved quality of life.

The STA is having our first event on Sunday, November 22 beginning at 6:00 pm at Central United Methodist Church in Stockton. The event is called the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). It is one day each year that transgender people and their families, friends, and allies stop to consider just how many of us are killed just because we want to live the truth of who we are.

This event does not have anything to do with what you may or may not think of transgender people. It is about our common humanity and our rights as American citizens to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Some churches welcome us as members

and clergy; some do not. But on this day, we all come together in our grief for the murders that have taken our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters, our mothers and our fathers.

The TDOR has been observed all around the world for years, but this year will be the first time ever in Stockton, and the STA is committed to making it an annual event. This year we especially honor our sister Alfred "Ariana" Dibble. Ariana was beaten and thrown in the bushes near the intersection of Miner and Sierra Nevada in Stockton on May 20, 2006. She was found hours later, taken to St. Joseph's Hospital where she died three days later without ever regaining consciousness. We come together on TDOR to raise our voices in unison to denounce the evil that would perpetrate such a crime on our sister.

A transgender person has a 1 in 20 chance of being murdered, whereas the average American has a 1 in 18,000 chance of being murdered. Transgender people are twice as likely to be living below the poverty level despite the fact that they are twice as

likely as the average Californian to have a bachelor's degree or higher. These are just a few of the findings of a poll released this year by the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco. Murders, discrimination, unemployment, and harassment are common occurrences for the transgender community. Statistics and new stories on transgender violence are becoming more and more commonplace.

The keynote speaker for our TDOR this year is Alexis Rivera, the Community Outreach Director for the Transgender Law Center. Be sure to come join us for the service, a silent candlelight march, and a celebration for those individuals and organizations that are working to stop the violence. We cannot survive without your support. I sincerely hope to see you there. You could say it is a matter of life and death.

Elena Kelly is a co-chapter leader of Marriage Equality San Joaquin, Vice Chair of the Peace and Justice Network, and Director of the Stockton Transgender Alliance. She can be reached at elena.kelly@comcast.net.

Tomatoes thrive on urine diet

Surendra Pradhan, an environmental biology researcher at the University of Kuopio, Finland, and colleagues gave potted tomato plants one of three treatments: mineral fertilizer, urine and wood ash, urine only, and no fertilizer. Urine is rich in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Yields for plants fertilized with urine quadrupled and matched those of mineral-fertilized plants. The urine-fertilized tomatoes also contained more protein and were safe for human consumption. "This is a very simple technology. Urine can be collected in a urine-diverting toilet or it can be collected in a separate jerry can [from] an ordinary, pre-existing toilet. If wood ash is available, this can be use as a supplement of phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients," Pradhan told SciDev. Net. He says that the method is

a free alternative to expensive mineral fertilizer, which is also not easily available in remote or hilly areas. Pradhan also believes that the idea could improve sanitation by incentivising toilet-building. A pilot program based on the research will be launched in Nepal in November, says Pradhan.

But Håkan Jönsson, eco-agriculture and sanitation system technology expert at the Stockholm Environment Institute in Sweden, told SciDev.Net: "The amount [of urine] that can be collected from a person or a family is fairly small (equivalent to about two bags of fertilizer per year for a west African family). [The technique] is of great value to a subsistence farmer but does not suffice for even a medium-scale cash-crop farm." He adds that to fertilize larger areas, many urine-diverting toilets would have to be linked up

to a good transportation system.

There are also cultural issues. In most cultures, Jönsson says, feces are considered impure and urine is viewed in a similar way, even though the hygiene risk associated with it is minimal. Pradhan says that studies will be done to assess how acceptable the idea is in different cultures. His team will also investigate ways of decontaminating any fecal matter in urine collected from a toilet using a jerry can. He adds: "For large-scale implementation of this idea, we are trying to find different methods to reduce the volume of the urine in economic way, without losing the nutrients".

Source: Environmental News Network release 9/10/09 <http://www.enn.com> This article was reproduced with the kind permission of Science and Development Network: <http://www.scidev.net>

Afghan memories

John Morearty

Growing up in Milwaukee, "afghan" meant the cozy blankets Grandma made, sitting in her big mahogany rocker. They were brilliant, gorgeous, soft and warm. Ma learned the skill: I still have two of hers—one fluffy squares, knitted from leftover yarn in flagrant colors, the other tightly crocheted, soft tan with bright red roses and green vines twining.

Babur the Great missed the roses of Afghanistan and its mountain air. His armies swept down through the Khyber Pass in 1526 to found the tolerant and cultivated Mughal Empire in Delhi. But he detested the climate; "Bury me in Kabul," he said, "the loveliest valley on earth." His tomb was rebuilt there after the Taliban were driven out in 2001, and families picnic in the garden. The Persian inscription reads, "If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this!"

Back in the 1800s British and Russian empires competed for Afghanistan. The Russians wanted warm water ports, the Brits denied them and wanted opium for their lucrative monopoly in China. Mystical imperialism lured both empires as well; "If only we can conquer those high mountains with our swords and cannon, world peace and the harmony of all religions will descend—under our imperial auspices, of course, as God wills it." Read Kipling's story, "The Man Who Would be King." But Afghans with hand-made rifles drove the Brits out.

Triumphal religious fantasy still tempts American Christians. George W. Bush believed he was Jesus's instrument, and U.S. Lieutenant General William Boykin boasted against the Muslims, "My God is bigger than their God." Gun on hip, American soldiers distributed Bibles in Afghanistan—"Jesus is coming, we are his messengers, rejoice and be glad."

For a hundred years Afghans have struggled to become a modern, tolerant, educated society. About 1920, south of Afghanistan, in "British" India, the Muslim Pashtun leader Abdul Ghaffar Khan led a totally nonviolent movement for a secular India independent from the British.

He was a close ally of Gandhi; his 100,000 "Red Shirts" called themselves Servants of God. In 1919 the new king of Afghanistan, Amanullah, reformed the army, introduced the solar calendar and required western dress in parts of the country. He discouraged the veil and the oppression of women, abolished slavery and forced labor, and introduced secular education as well as education for girls and nomads. In 1923, just three years after the U.S., he gave women the right to vote. He guaranteed civil rights to all minorities, established a legislative assembly, courts, and penal, civil and commercial codes, as well as prohibiting revenge killings, and abolishing subsidies for tribal chieftains and the royal family. Amanullah was warmly received in Europe, and given financial and technical assistance by the Soviet Union, Turkey, Italy, Germany and France (the U.S. ignored him). But in 1929, conservative mullahs who hated the liberation of women, and landlords opposed to land reform, brought him down. British officers also feared he was setting a bad example for their Indian colony, by showing the kind of modern society Asians can create. And so it went.

In 1979 the Soviets invaded. President Jimmy Carter's national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski smiled, "We didn't push the Soviets to intervene, but we knowingly increased the probability that they would." He told Carter, "Now we can give the USSR its Vietnam War."

The CIA ran its largest covert operation ever. We funded and armed Afghan opium warlords, and trained Islamist fanatics like Osama bin Laden, who would eventually become al Qaeda and the Taliban. Thirty years later, President Obama orders war-gamers in Colorado caves to bomb Afghan villages with drones. And he sends brave young American soldiers into the Afghan mountains, Bearing Democracy. "If we don't fight them here, they'll be at the gates of Brookside...."

Three recent books illuminate Afghanistan for me.

Invisible History: Afghanistan's Untold Story by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould was published in 2009; back in 1981 the authors

produced a PBS documentary on Afghanistan, and they've been studying it ever since. Noam Chomsky calls their book "critically important"; it is my source for most of the recent history in this article.

What to do now in Afghanistan? Ryan Croken in Truthout www.truthout.org/053109Y summarizes their proposals:

1. Stop bombing innocent civilians. It makes terrorists out of the people whose support we need.

2. Bring fresh voices to the table. The very same people who led the crusade to arm terrorists and destabilize Afghanistan 30 years ago should not be in charge of disarming terrorists and stabilizing Afghanistan today.

3. Help Afghans in a way they can understand, see and appreciate. More money for schools and streets, less for weapons. Fire corrupt inept private contractors.

4. Declare the global "war on terror" to be over.

5. Promote a regional dialogue.

6. End the war on drugs, and let Afghan villagers produce morphine for global medicinal use.

7. Give up the U.S. fantasy of global hegemony. Realize that we live an interconnected world, where nation affects nation, and where past affects present and future.

My wife and I could not stop reading Afghan Khaled Hosseini's two best-sellers. Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns plunge us into the colors and fragrance of Kabul, and into the hearts of Afghan people. The first tells mostly the struggle of boys and men, and immigrants to California; the second of girls and women in Afghanistan, from 1960 till now. Don't read them alone, or late at night. But the beauty and humanity are deep and rich. Watch for flamingos.

We learned that in 2000, when the crazed Taliban banned all movies, "Titanic" was an underground hit in Kabul—literally underground. Late at night people would dig up their buried TV-VCRs, pull down the shades and huddle around the gorgeous, disastrous, triumphant love story of Jack and Rose. Apparently it's their story.

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

Make checks payable to ... National Audubon Society.

Send to: Audubon

PO Box 7755, Stockton, CA 95207

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

Join our
LOCAL Audubon



Contact Your Reps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2841

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

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

October events on the Mile

October 1: Oktoberfest 2009, 6–9 pm, Pacific Avenue from Cleveland to Castle

A fun and festive family celebration German style. Enjoy carnival fun, games, ride, eat German sausages with sauerkraut, enjoy a variety of beers in the Mile beer garden, and listen to traditional German-style polkas and beer festival sing-along songs. Come meet Mile merchants, see the newest Mercedes Benz in the car display, and meet Pacific's Power Cat and Dancers, the Ports' Splash and the Thunder's Thor.

It's a great time out so come on out and stroll the Mile.

Sponsored by UOP, United Way, Berberian European Motors, City of Stockton and the University Neighborhood Renaissance Program, Mina-Tree Signs, Mudville Rags.

October 9: Stagg High School Homecoming Parade, 2:15–4 pm, Pacific Avenue between Walnut and Adams

October 31: Halloween Parade, 3–6 pm

November 13: Wine Stroll & Russian Jazz Group from Brubeck Institute at the Empire Theatre, 6–10 pm

December 5: Holiday Stroll, 5–7 pm, Tuxedo and Pacific

For more information, contact Emily Ballus, Executive Director Miracle Mile Improvement District, 231 Bedford Road, Stockton, CA 95204 (209) 948-MILE (6453)emily@stocktonmiraclemile.com. For Miracle Mile updates, check out our website at www.stocktonmiraclemile.com

Oct 24

Join Poker Run for SJ Aids Foundation

The San Joaquin AIDS Foundation & AIDSWalk of San Joaquin are hosting the First "San Joaquin AIDS Poker Run 2009" on Saturday, October 24, starting at the Alano Club of Stockton, 1812 Monte Diablo, Stockton, CA. The ride ends at The Leatherworks, 188 Frank West Circle (off French Camp Road). Breakfast will be served from 8–10 am at only \$5 a person. The ride begins at 9:00 a.m. Registration is \$25 person/\$40 per couple. This includes poker hand buy-in, bbq lunch, t-shirt, lapel pin and one raffle ticket. There will be other raffle prizes and for high hand/low hand.

If you would like additional information or to volunteer for this event, please contact AIDSWalk at (209) 608-9255 or register online at San Joaquin AIDS Foundation at (209) 476-8533.

Oct 31 deadline

Nominate Stockton PeaceBuilders

Nextspring, a major photo exhibit of world-class PeaceBuilders will be displayed in Stockton high schools, photographed by portrait photographer Michael Collopy, who spent 15 years with Mother Teresa. The Stockton PeaceBuilders project is sponsored by the nonprofit Architects of Peace Foundation and coordinated by a local committee. From January to April, 100 large photographs of people like Cesar Chavez, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela will be rotated among the high schools. But notice:

Among them will be the photos of 25 top Stockton PeaceBuilders, nominated city-wide, reflecting and celebrating Stockton's diversity.

Who is a PeaceBuilder? It might be a grandmother or grandfather, a youth worker, a teacher, counselor, cop, pastor, community leader,

or just someone down the street. Someone with a track record of dedication, someone who works for peace in the neighborhood, the community or the world, someone who stands up for justice without violence, who heals wounds and conflicts between people, who teaches by word and example how to live peaceably and kindly.

So—nominate your favorite Stockton PeaceBuilder! Write a few lines or a paragraph, 250 words maximum, describing him or her, telling why they are a PeaceBuilder. Be specific, tell what they do and have done. Why do they deserve to be recognized as PeaceBuilders, architects of peace?

By October 31, send your nomination to PeaceBuilders, 119 E. Weber St, Stockton CA 95202. The local committee will

choose 25 Stockton PeaceBuilders. Michael will photograph each, and their pictures will become part of the high school exhibits (there is no cost to you, or the person you nominate). All the names of those nominated will be published, including honorable mentions.

Teachers in the schools will receive educational tools relating to Architects of Peace, and students at each school will be encouraged to decide on particular peacemaking tasks. In April all the photographs will be gathered at Delta College, for a celebration of the achievements of the year.

For info, contact: 209 939-9025 ask for Madiam; fax: 209-939-9029; msprofessionaloffices@gmail.com Put in Subject Line: Architects of Peace

For more info about Architects of Peace globally, go to www.scu.edu/ethics/architects-of-peace/

Red Shoes and Salsa!
Hot Latin Rhythms by **Grupo Carrillo**
and DJ **Connie Gonzales**
Great Mexican Buffet
Special Performances by
Ballroom Bootcamp
& Salsa Caliente
Dance Contest
Zumba Lesson
Raffle and MORE!!!
a Benefit Gala for
New Dance Company
and Valley Dance 2010

Saturday
October 10
Ambler's Club
2000 N Amblers Ln
Stockton

Tickets \$30
Bar opens 6:00
Buffet starts 7:00
Dance 'til Midnite!!

tickets at www.newdancecompany.com

Applicants sought for Cultural Heritage Board

The City of Stockton Cultural Heritage Board, an advisory board to the Planning Commission, is seeking volunteer members to fill three four-year term vacancies. The board, formed to preserve and promote the city's historical, cultural and architectural resources, advises city officials on those resources. The application deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 21. More information at www.stocktongov.com/commissions/vacancies.cfm or contact Carrie VanGorkum of the Community Development Department at (209) 937-8153.

Talking It Through

Talking It Through is now two half-hour shows.

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

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

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

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

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

Connections may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in our efforts to advance understanding of environmental, political, human rights, economic, democracy, scientific, and social justice issues, etc. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material in this paper is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes.

Oct/Nov 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.

Oct 6 - 30

History of Stockton photos from Bank of Stockton collection, M-F 10-5, Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. Reception Aug 14, 5-8 pm. 463-4033

Thu - Sun, Sept 3 - 27

The Producers, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton \$15 - \$25. 473-2424.

Sat, Sept 19

2009 Family Day at the Park, 9:30 am - 4 pm. Music, booths, and more. University Park, Magnolia & California St, Stockton. Free. 957-7277.

Sun, Sept 20

Community Forum: Truth About Health Care Reform. 2:30 - 4 pm, downtown Stockton, DeCarli Plaza. Free. 951-0499.

Thu, Sept 24

Stockton Symphony presents Bon Voyage, works by Ibert, Beethoven, Ravel and Gershwin with pianist Alon Goldstein. 8 pm. SJ Delta College Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$20 - \$55. 954-5110.

Rumba Flamenco, featuring guitarist Jesse Christian Hendricks. 7:30 pm. Tidewater Art Gallery, 223 E Weber Ave, Stockton. \$10. 463-4033.

Sat, Sept 26

Stockton Symphony (see Sept 24). 6 pm.

Mon, Sept 28

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, Oct 1

Oktoberfest on the Mile. Cleveland to Castle on Pacific Ave. Free. 948-6453.

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

Sat, Oct 3

Valentino: the last emperor, a film of fashion., Q&A with filmmaker Matt Tyrnauer. 2 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$5 - \$12. 954-5151.

Mon, Oct 5

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

Tues, Oct 6

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

Sat, Oct 10

Start! San Joaquin Heart Walk, non-competitive 3.5 mile walk run with food, entertainment, and health fair. 8 am. Banner Island Ballpark, 404 W Fremont St, Stockton. 477-2683.

Cuentos: Tales from the Barrio, reading by author Richard Rios. 2 pm. Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. Free. 937-8221.

Red Shoes & Salsa Latin music and dance fundraiser for New Dance Company, 6 pm - midnight. Amblers Club off I-5 at Country Club Blvd. \$30/person, Info: mlisarie@aol.com.

Stocktoberfest 2009. Waterfront Warehouse, 445 W Weber Ave, Stockton. \$25. 464-5246.

Thu - Sun, Oct 15 - 18

A Midsummer Night's Dream presented by St. Mary's High School. Thu 7 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sat-Sun 2 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton. \$15/\$10. 957-3340 x250.

Thu, Oct 15

Stockton Symphony #2 Timeless Treasures featuring Grieg, Barber and Beethoven. 8 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5110.

Fri-Sun, Oct 16-25

SJDC Drama presents: A Piece of My Heart. 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Studio Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 - \$12. 954-5110.

Fri, Oct 16

SJDC Youth Empowerment Summit, 7:30 am - 3 pm. Tillie Lewis Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5110.

Sat, Oct 17

Stockton Symphony (see Oct 15) 6 pm

Fri - Sun, Oct 16 - 24

Romeo & Juliet presented by UOP Drama. 8 pm except Sundays at 2 pm. Long Theatre at UOP, Stockton. \$12/\$10/\$8 seniors. 946-2867.

Sat - Sun, Oct 17-18

Lodi Open Studio Tour, 10 am - 5 pm. Lodi Community Art Center, 1375 Lakewood Mall, Lodi. \$10 for two. 333-3855.

Wed, Oct 21

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

SJDC Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 pm. Tillie Lewis Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$5 - \$8. 954-5110.

Sat, Oct 24

San Joaquin AIDS Poker Run 2009 fundraiser. 8 am. Alano Club of Stockton, 1812 Monte Diablo Ave, Stockton. \$25/\$40. 476-8533.

Mon, Oct 26

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

Mon, Nov 2

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

Thu, Nov 5

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

First Mondays

Marriage Equality USA San Joaquin Chapter Meeting, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Peace Center, 231 Bedford Road, Stockton (209) 609-9102

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

Fourth Mondays

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

Tuesdays

Armchair traveler - 12 trips including Laos, Panama, China, Canada and more. Sept 15 - Dec 1. First show free, \$12 for the rest. Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 957-5427.

Second Tuesdays

Single Payer San Joaquin meeting, 6:30 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. cjbhcfasj@hotmail.com

Slam-Or-Stage Open Mic poetry, music, acting. 6:30 pm. Espresso Coffeehouse, 1825 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free admission.

Thursdays

Peace demonstration, 5-6:60 pm, at the edge of Delta campus along Pacific Avenue just north of bus stop/light at Yokuts. Free parking at Sherwood Mall. Signs provided, or bring your own! 464-3326

Third Thursdays

Victory Park clean up. 6 pm. victoryparkwatch@gmail.com

Fridays

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

Second Fridays

Downtown Stockton Art Walk, 5 - 8 pm. From Leigh Plaza to the Fox. Stockton. Free. 464-5246.

Saturdays

Crosstown Freeway Farmers Market, under the freeway between El Dorado & San Joaquin. 7 - 11 am. 943-1830

Wed night Fall 09 video series

Power, Peace & Music

Location: Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd., Stockton
Time: 7pm

Cost: FREE...donations gladly accepted.

Info: Jim Walsh, 981-0544 or John Morearty, 464-3326 www.pjnsjc.org

Sept. 30: The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990, Cuba's economy went into a tailspin. With imports of oil cut by more than half, and food by 80%, people were desperate. This inspiring film tells of the hardships and struggles as well as the community and creativity of the Cuban people during this difficult time; how they transitioned from a highly mechanized, industrial agricultural system to one using organic methods of farming and local, urban gardens.

October 7: Pete Seeger, the Power of Song

Full length recent documentary, the exhilarating life of The People's Songleader. From the Woody Guthrie thirties through struggles for unions and peace, 16 years of blacklisting, the glories of the civil rights movement, the sloop Clearwater cleaning up the Hudson River, Iraq and Afghanistan.

October 14: Gandhi

Richard Attenborough's 1982 masterpiece with Ben Kingsley, Martin Sheen, Candace Bergen, John Gielgud. The courage, wisdom and humor of the example Gandhi set for Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, and the nonviolent movements of our times. In 1948 Einstein said, "Future generations will scarcely believe that such a man ever walked the earth."

October 21: The Power of Forgiveness

True stories of the Pennsylvania Amish caring for the family of the man who murdered their schoolchildren; Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa; and two men in Los Angeles, the son of one of whom murdered the grandson of the other. The two became close friends, and work together with young people On the Edge.

October 28: Crips and Bloods: Made in America

Contemporary and former gang members offer street-level testimony: the turf wars and territorialism, the inter-gang hierarchy and family structure, the rules of behavior, the culture of guns, death and dishonor. But more than that, the film traces the history of L.A. gangs to the FBI/CIA/Cointelpro destruction of the Black Power movement in the 60s and 70s.

November 4: Pray the Devil Back to Hell

For 15 years Liberia was gripped by civil war between the corrupt and ruthless Charles Taylor, and warlords. 200,000 people killed, one out of three homeless, twelve-year olds killing each other. Leymah Gbowee and her countrywomen determined to stop to the fighting. Armed with only a simple white t-shirt, they became "the market women," cajoling the fighting men and saying: No peace, no sex.

November 11, Veterans' Day: Sir! No Sir!

The true story of how American soldiers refused to fight and ended the Vietnam War. A startling documentary.

November 18: Grand finale double feature:

Guns and Greed

The ongoing nonviolent campaign to shut down the infamous "School of Assassins," the U.S. Army's School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia. The school has trained thousands of Latin American soldiers in techniques of torture and murder; hundreds of graduates have put their lessons into practice. The week this film is shown, about 20,000 protesters will gather at the gates of Fort Benning.

Playing for Change

Musicians from around the world combine their passion and talents to form one global chorus for peace. Through the magic of multiple video recordings, street musicians from New Orleans blues to Kathmandu, Red Square to Tel Aviv to the townships of South Africa sing together.

ESPINO presents

2009 Youth Empowerment Summit "Changing the Odds"

SJ Delta College, Oct 16, 7:30 am- 4 pm

On October 16th, 2009, young people and youth organizers from throughout California will be convening at the 2009 Youth Empowerment Summit at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton. We hope you can attend.

The Central Valley is ripe for youth organizing. There is great potential here to build and mobilize on behalf of youth for social justice. The purpose of the summit is to help facilitate the building of a stronger multicultural youth movement in the Central Valley, and collaborate with youth from Southern California, San Diego, and the Bay Area to create change that benefits youth in California by focusing on the following goals:

- * Discover the power that young people have when working together
- * Create a space for youth to strategize
- * Explore new ways of looking at issues involving youth justice and education
- * Teach & reflect on the skills

& theories of organizing, use of action research, how to use media, artistic expression & popular education as tools for organizing

* Present tools and resources to help build networks and identify current ongoing efforts

* Link grass-roots struggle to changing current systems and policies

Our goal is to bring youth advocates, youth organizers, educators and other experts to provide timely and innovative youth organizing tools and strategies around social justice issues, trends and best practices that will move youth forward. The summit will provide hands-on and interactive workshops on the following categories: Educational Equity, Juvenile Justice and Youth Organizing. Workshop sessions offer a chance to share the tools and strategies to encourage youth to change the odds.

The Plenary sessions will offer opportunities for experts to dialogue with participants. Workshops include but are not limited to:

- * I'd Rather Be Learning (Education Reform)
- * Culturally Rooted Violence Prevention
- * Flipping The Script/Spoken Word
- * Hip Hop as a Tool for Social Change
- * Art As A Tool For Social Justice
- * Community Radio
- * Economic Slavery
- * Multicultural Organizing
- * Money, Power n Respect
- * Youth And Laws (Know your Rights)
- * Impact of Incarceration on Families and communities

Join educators, youth, activists, and community members to network, share and learn about organizing around issues important to youth in California. Any questions about the summit, please contact: Chanda Chhin at (209) 351-2645, chanda.chhin@gmail.com, or Motecuzoma Sanchez at (209) 518-8120, moteczomatzin@yahoo.com .

About ESPINO

History: Escuelas Si! Pintas No! Youth Organizing for Equal Justice and Education (ESPINO) is a Central Valley-wide coalition. ESPINO addresses the schools to jails pipeline that many under-represented youth face in the Central Valley and promotes access to education as well as alternatives to incarceration.

Vision: ESPINO's vision is to create progressive and positive systemic change in an effort to create equal justice and education in the Central Valley.

Mission: ESPINO's mission is to enhance and support a Central Valley-wide Youth Organizing Movement, which promotes community health, while strengthening and mobilizing the human and collective potential of under-represented communities of the Central Valley.

Delta College, October 22, 7 pm

Ann Fagan Ginger: human rights are legal rights

Lifelong legal scholar and activist Ann Fagan Ginger, of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute in Berkeley, will bring her trumpet call for human rights to spacious Atherton Auditorium at Delta College on Thursday October 22 (7 pm, doors open at 6 pm).

Sponsored by local groups, Ginger's theme is the subject of her latest book: *Human Rights are Legal Rights—right here in the United States*.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, written in 1948 by an international committee led by President Roosevelt's widow Eleanor, was adopted that year by the United Nations. Ever since, it has inspired activists and constitution writers around the world; the Guinness Book of Records calls it the world's most translated document.

Ann Fagan Ginger's argument is that the Declaration has been part of treaties signed by the president and ratified by the U.S. Senate, and is therefore part of the law of our land. Thus, Americans are guaranteed the following rights, among many others:

"Equal pay for equal work... form and join trade unions... periodic holidays with pay... no slavery or torture...innocent until proved guilty in a public trial....asylum from persecution... freedom of peaceable assembly... social security...food, housing, clothing and medical care... education that promotes understanding , tolerance and friendship among all nations...."

Organizer Mario D'Angeli says, "This is a profoundly important subject, and we here in Stockton have the opportunity to spark a

nationwide movement. Human beings are crying out for our basic rights, and so many of us are taking action. And these rights are the law. Atherton Auditorium holds 1700 people; let's fill Atherton, start a major dialogue, and go on to stir the country."

Fagan Ginger's talk will be followed by questions and discussion, and a free reception. For more information, to cosponsor her talk, or to help with arrangements, please call Dr. Mario D'Angeli, 477-4015, or co-chair Dr. John Morearty, 464-3326. On the Delta campus contact Dr. Jeanne-Marie Velickovic, political science faculty, or volunteer Katie Isbell at 271-1996 or at kilybell@comcast.net.

Let the national debate begin

Free, in Atherton Auditorium at Delta College on Thursday evening Oct. 22, 7 pm legal scholar Ann Fagan Ginger, Director of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute in Berkeley will present the thesis of her most recent book, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the Law" A constitutional attorney who has won a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Fagan Ginger's presentation is free to the public and is co-sponsored by:

The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County, local chapter of MoveOn.org, Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton, California School Employees Association (CSEA), Central Labor Council of San Joaquin/Calaveras Counties, Puentes community garden project, ACLU of San Joaquin County.

connections

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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