



Stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO
PEACE/LIFE
CENTER
PUBLICATION

SEPTEMBER, 2013
VOLUME XXII, NO. 1

Report: Stronger border led to more immigrant deaths

By MICHAEL MELLO | Special to Equal Voice News

Tucson, Arizona - As immigration reform debates run hot on Capitol Hill, many members of Congress say a more secure border has to be part of any bill they approve. One of those is Arizona Sen. John McCain, one of the "Gang of Eight" of bipartisan lawmakers pushing reform.

But authors of a just-released report on deaths of undocumented migrants in south-central Arizona argue that increased border security may lead to more people perishing.

"A Continued Humanitarian Crisis at the Border," published by the University of Arizona's Binational Migration Institute and released on June 5, analyzes the trends and demographics of people who died in south-central Arizona from 1990 through 2012 after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border without authorization. See http://bmi.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/border_deaths_final_web.pdf

The Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner in Tucson – which investigates the highest number of migrant deaths in the country and handles more unidentified remains

per capita than any other medical examiner's office in the United States – provided the statistics on the deaths of undocumented border crossers for the area.

Although the U.S. Border Patrol reported steep drops in undocumented-migrant apprehensions during the past few years – a period of significant increases in immigration enforcement by U.S. authorities – the report points out that the number of deaths of undocumented migrants peaked in 2010. The numbers dropped only slightly in 2011 and 2012.

"We're missing the point. The answers don't lie in border security. The answers lie in understanding the economics [that drive migration]," said Daniel E. Martinez, an assistant professor of sociology at George Washington University and one of the report authors.

Martinez said those factors are usually a combination of poverty and political instability in other countries, along with demand for inexpensive labor in the United States. See

IMMIGRANT DEATHS cont. p 11

MAPS Presents: Fracking by Dr. Mark Nechodom

Will it be possible to balance the benefits of energy independence with environmental concerns of water pollution and climate change by taking advantage of the abundance of domestic fossil fuels available with the use of fracking?

Mark Nechodom is the Director of California's Department of Conservation (DOC) and the fracking regulator for the state of California. Mark has dedicated his professional life to integrating conservation, regulation and development right where it matters the most: on the land, on the farm, and in the forest. His mission has been to

inspire sustainable production and practices while maintaining a sensible balance between economic opportunities, environmental health and human well-being.

Prior to his service as DOC Director, Dr. Nechodom was a Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture at the US Department of Agriculture, and his doctorate in political science and environmental policy from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Location: Mary Stuart Rogers Student Center, Modesto Junior College West Campus, 2201 Blue Gum Ave., Friday, Sept. 27, 7:30 pm

Come to Bakersfield this Labor Day: Welcome the Immigrant Pilgrimage for a PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP.



Retracing Cesar Chavez's historic march, immigrants are walking 285 miles from Sacramento to Bakersfield, arriving on Sunday, September 1st. Join the pilgrimage walkers for the final miles.

On Monday, September 2nd, a major interfaith action organized by PICO California will be held at the Fox Theater in Bakersfield to bring our message to Rep. McCarthy. See <http://www.campaignforcitizenship.org/>

Why Bakersfield? Real immigration reform will require bi-partisan support. Representative Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, the GOP Whip, can provide critical leadership to advance immigration reform. What happens in Bakersfield will impact the nation. The Unitarian Universalists in the San Joaquin Valley want and need you to come!

Younger participants: Youth are welcome

to participate in the events with parents or designated chaperones responsible at all times for their care and supervision. Child care is also available for a fee at the UU Fellowship of Kern County for those who register by August 28th.

Logistics: The UU Fellowship of Kern County is offering rides from the Bakersfield Amtrak station and providing a list of hotels where you can stay. They are also opening the doors of the UU Fellowship of Kern County for those who want free accommodations (bring your own sleeping bag). A small number of home hospitality options will also be available. Please fill out a survey to help us know of your transportation, housing, food and childcare needs at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D782C9F>

Find a detailed schedule, transportation, housing logistics and registration at www.uulmca.org. The UU Fellowship of Kern County is located at 98 Sterling Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93307 - 661-363-5421.

TO REGISTER: Visit http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6754/p/salsa/event/common/public/index.sjs?event_KEY=68134#regForm

READERS! Sign-up for our e-edition!

Get the latest e-edition of Stanislaus Connections delivered right into your email box!

Graphics sparkle! Text razor sharp! Excellent color!

Can enlarge text to read more easily! Print out if desired!

To sign-up, send your email address to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org

If you do not have Adobe Reader, download it free from

<http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>

INSIDE CONNECTIONS

LOCAL	2	"THERE IT IS".	7
PEACE ESSAY CONTEST	3	DEPORTEE MONUMENT	8
PEACE ESSAY CONTEST	4	GATHERING OF VOICES	9
LIVING LIGHTLY	5	DIALOGUE	10
SURVIVOR'S GUILT.	6	LIFE AND WAR	11

Join us for the "Tear Down the Walls National Gathering" 2013

From the Alliance for Global Justice

Join together with a multitude of activists from around the country on Nov. 1-3 to Tear Down the Walls of oppression. We all have many walls we are working to tear down: Wall Street, the US border and Israeli apartheid walls, prison walls, the Pentagon militarism walls, the walls of oppression by race, gender, ethnicity, personal identity – the list goes on. Among them are the walls that weaken our efforts, the walls between our separate movements.

"Tear Down the Walls National Gathering" in Tucson, AZ, Nov. 1-3 will bring multiple movements to strategize and network together on how to build a more unified, powerful movement for transformational change in the US. This will be the largest gathering of those working for social and economic justice in the US in 2013. You will not want to miss being part of this conversation!

The National Gathering is in beautiful Tucson during the best time of the year! The Gathering will be capped by our participation in Tucson's famous All Souls Procession which regularly draws 20,000 participants and is a unique combo of solemn procession and Mardi Gras.

For more information, visit <http://afgj.org/participant-registration>

Holiday Gift Bags For Women's Prison

By DAVID HETLAND

For the 8th consecutive year, the Inmate Family Council at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla will be distributing gift bags to the more than 3500 inmates during the winter holiday season.

The current overcrowding at the prison (175% of design capacity) represents a huge challenge to the many caring persons and organizations throughout the local area who work to gather the needed items. You can help by collecting travel/sample sizes of the following: soap, shampoo, conditioner, skin/body lotion, toothpaste and tissue, as well as adult size toothbrushes (individually wrapped) and unused greeting cards with envelopes. Contributions of cash are also needed in order to purchase perishables, e.g., candy, cocoa, etc.

All donations may be brought to the Modesto Peace/Life Center office (call ahead to make sure the office is open). For more information, contact Shelly (521-6304) or Dave (388-1608).

Modesto Sound Fifth Annual Fundraiser Concert September 28th

Music has a powerful way of reaching people. Founder of Modesto Sound, Brenda Francis, realized and used her business skills and passion for music to open Modesto Sound studio to provide a safe and affordable place for teens to record music. As Modesto Sound grew, so did the programs and services provided. Interns and volunteers helped. Together they began to host shows, provide classes and camps for youth, youth radio and TV shows, peer-to-peer mentoring, and creating public service announcements. Since then, Modesto Sound has been an major resource for recording arts education and music production.

Modesto Sound invites you and your family and friends to attend its Fifth Annual Fundraiser event, the Tropical Garden Concert on Saturday, September 28th, 5:00pm to 8:30pm at 3440 Wycliffe Drive, Modesto, to support Modesto Sound's youth arts mission: to empower youth to create music and artistic media through access to internships, industry experts,

and professional equipment, and to become mentors to other youth. There will be a dinner and a silent auction.

Artists performing include Francesca Bavaro, Madie Boyd, Liisa Davila, and winner of the upcoming 2013 Valley's Got Talent! There is a \$5+ suggested donation at the door, which includes dinner. The low price is to encourage families and teens to attend.



The Mary Stuart Roger's foundation will again match all donations up to \$5,000. Modesto Sound's fundraising goal is \$10,000.

Modesto Sound is a non-profit organization which provides discounted music and arts programs to youth through donor support.

ACTION: Please RSVP online through Facebook, or by email brenda@modestosound.org, or by calling 209-573-0533. Info: www.modestosound.org

PFLAG Modesto's LGBT film festival MoFest!7 returns Sept. 20

PFLAG Modesto announces the return of MoFest!7, a film festival celebrating Stanislaus County's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The event will be held on Friday, Sept. 20, 2013 at the Gallo Center for the Arts at 7:30 p.m.

The MoFest!7 program includes nine short films with a total running time of just over two hours. The films tackle a variety of topics: unrequited love, gender identity, high school bullying and - in the age of legal-again same sex marriage - a married lesbian couple intent on divorce but discovering that love still remains.

The festival's centerpiece, "Love is All You Need," highlights a teen living in a world that is opposite to the one we live in now. In Ashley's world, the terms "gay" and "straight" and the conceptions and cultural stigmas attached to them are reversed: heterosexuality is considered abnormal, "gross," and is culturally unacceptable.

"MoFest! isn't just a PFLAG Modesto fundraiser - it's our way to uplift and affirm the LGBT community here in Modesto," said Bill Dotinga, the organization's president. "Every film we've selected offers a glimpse into what it's like to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, and it's important for people to see that underneath everything we're all human beings."

The non-profit PFLAG Modesto is celebrating 20 years of providing support, advocacy and love to LGBT people, as

well as their friends and families. Its mission: to help LGBT people cope with an adverse society, to enlighten an ill-informed public and end discrimination and secure civil rights.

For a complete list of films selected for MoFest!7, visit <http://www.pflagmodesto.org/mofest7.html>. Tickets at <http://tickets.galloarts.org/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=3807>

**SUPPORT.
ADVOCACY.
LOVE.**

For more information on
meetings, our programs, and
ways you can give back to the
LGBT community, visit
www.pflagmodesto.org

**Confidential Helpline
(209) 566-2468**



Modesto Chapter
Parents, Families, and
Friends of Lesbians
and Gays



**CASH-DUDLEY
SPEILLER & TORRES**
PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

E. F. CASH-DUDLEY
CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN FAMILY LAW
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

STACY P. SPEILLER
Attorney at Law

PATRICIA TORRES
Attorney at Law
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

518 THIRTEENTH STREET • MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354
TELEPHONE (209) 526-1533 • FACSIMILE: (209) 526-1711
WWW.CDSTLAW.COM

**IF NOT YOU
Then Who?**

Poetry magazine accepting poems for fall issue

By CLEO GRIFFITHS

Song of the San Joaquin is accepting poetry for the Fall Issue through September 15. Send 3 poems to cleor36@yahoo.com (preferred method) or PO Box 1161, Modesto, CA 95353-1161. For guidelines, addresses above or (209) 543-1776.

We love poems about human nature, character studies, poetry of more general and/or more universal subjects and those that resonate specifically with our local lifestyles. We would not want a poem about the pleasures of living on the banks of the Thames...unless it somehow was tied in with the banks of the Stanislaus...that kind of thing. A poem about the mysteries of our relationships, however, is the same no matter where you are in the world. And a poem about childhood, motherhood, fatherhood etc. is usually pretty universally understood.

Submissions are judged by a 6-person editorial board on a "blind" basis, that is, with no poet's name attached, and individually by each editor, then votes are tallied at a board meeting.

Visit <http://www.chaparralpoets.org/SSJ.html>

New Valley Action Network starting

By NANCY FORMELLA

Central Valley Action Network (CVAN) is a non partisan community advocacy organization. CVAN partners and collaborates with other organizations to advocate for improved legislative policies, for socio-economic, environmental, and educational conditions.



Central Valley Action Network (CVAN) meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Peace Life Center 720 13th St., Modesto, California 95354. If you would like to join and be a part of this organization or partner with your organization to support a cause, please contact us at (877) 410-1005.

ACTION: Like CVAN on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Valley-Action-Network/391406547649582>

School of America's Watch needs Field Organizer

Connections readers — help find a Field Organizer to join the fabulous SOA Watch staff in Washington, DC! If you, or someone you know, is full of energy and ready for a challenge, SOA Watch is accepting applications!

To read the job description visit:

<http://www.soaw.org/component/content/article/83/4076-soa-watch-hiring-a-new-field-organizer>

2014 Peace Essay Contest

"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

(Eleanor Roosevelt)
Broadcast. Voice of America
November 11, 1951

INTRODUCTION for Division I (grades 11-12) and Division II (grades 9-10):

History shows us that conflicts between people, families, groups, cultures and nations are inevitable. When disagreements arise, too often people respond with anger and violence. Alternative actions can be undertaken to avert violence and the destruction that accompanies it. All too often, when conflict is experienced, the use of force and violence is often promoted as the best means of solving conflict and settling disagreements. Taking the time to explore alternatives that encourage understanding and cooperation can lead to peaceful resolution of conflicts and prevent war. All of us should participate in promoting actions that lead to peace. Appreciating other perspectives, understanding cultures different than our own and learning to work cooperatively are good beginning steps. Implementing these ideas (and many others) can lessen tensions and prevent war, thus creating a more peaceful world.

DIVISION I (grades 11 & 12)

In your essay of 500-1000 words, begin by briefly describing a past or current international conflict that did or could escalate into war. Then describe the harmful consequences that did or could result from the conflict or war. Next propose a non-violent strategy that could be implemented that would reduce the tensions and contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Be specific about the steps you think would be necessary to make your idea work. Conclude by explaining how your proposal would lessen tensions and hostilities on all sides and create the possibility for lasting peace.

DIVISION II (grades 9 & 10)

In your 500-1000 word essay, begin by briefly describing a past or current specific situation somewhere in the United States that did or could escalate into violence. In the body of your essay, propose a non-violent strategy that could be implemented that would reduce the tensions and contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Be specific about the steps you think would be necessary to make your idea work. Conclude by clearly explaining how your proposal would lessen tensions and hostilities on all sides and create the possibility for lasting peace.

INTRODUCTION for Division III (grades 7-8) and Division IV (grades 5-6):

History shows us that conflicts between people, families, groups, cultures and nations are unavoidable. When disagreements arise, too often people respond with anger and violence. However, in any conflict there are non-violent alternatives that encourage understanding and cooperation that can lead to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Being committed to working at peaceful solutions helps each of us practice "keeping our cool" when we find ourselves in a conflict. A "cool head" then allows us to follow through with our commitment to finding a peaceful solution.

DIVISION III (grades 7 & 8)

Think of an example of a conflict you know about in your community or elsewhere in California. Begin your essay of 250-500 words by briefly describing the conflict. In the body of your essay, suggest a non-violent strategy that could be implemented that would reduce the tensions and contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Be specific about the steps you think would be necessary to make your idea work. In your conclusion, explain how peacefully resolving local and regional conflicts can contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

DIVISION IV (grades 5 & 6)

Think of an example of a conflict you know about in your school, neighborhood or community. Begin your essay of 250-500 words by briefly describing the conflict. In the body of your essay, suggest a non-violent plan that would reduce the tensions and make the situation better. Describe the steps you think would be necessary to make your idea work. In your conclusion, explain how resolving our local, everyday conflicts can contribute to bringing about a more just and peaceful world.

AWARDS

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mention
Division I	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division II	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division III	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25
Division IV	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25

Deadline for entries:
November 15, 2013

Notification of winners: Early February, 2014

- Download the flyers and entry form and "Like Us" at: www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest
- Email your questions to: peaceessay@juno.com
- View/print flyers at: www.stanislausconnections.org

See rules and submission information on page 4



Peace Essay Contest 2014

Rules & Submission Directions

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who are residents of Stanislaus County or attend any public, private, or home school in Stanislaus County.
2. Submit one copy of your essay. Essays in Division I & II must be typewritten, double spaced. Essays in Divisions III & IV must be either typewritten or written in dark ink, double spaced, using one side of **white** paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Number the pages consecutively. Your essay must be of a quality to photocopy legibly. **YOUR NAME OR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
3. Give your essay a title. Place it on the first page where you begin your essay. **DO NOT** use a separate title or cover page.
4. Print and complete the Entry Form (may be found at: www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest OR www.stanislausconnections.org OR request a copy via email at: peaceessay@juno.com)
5. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
6. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
7. The Modesto Peace/Life Center reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
8. Entries may be delivered to the Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., November 13-15, 2013. You may also mail all entries, postmarked no later than November 15, 2013 to:

2013 Peace Essay Contest
Modesto Peace/Life Center
P.O. Box 134
Modesto, CA 95353-0134

Judging

A distinguished group of local writers, educators, and peacemakers will judge the essays.

Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

- I. Content:
 - A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
 - B. How well-developed are the ideas?
 - C. Does it address the given topic?
- II. Style:
 - A. Is the essay original and interesting?
 - B. Is it written with conviction?
 - C. Does the personality of the writer come through?
- III. Clarity of expression:
 - A. Are the ideas clearly stated?
 - B. Is the essay well-organized?
 - C. Does it have an effective beginning and ending?
- IV. Mechanics:
 - A. Is grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
 - B. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
 - C. Does the essay stay within the word limit?

Prizes

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the four divisions which have at least 15 entries. In the event that fewer than 15 entries are entered in any one division, all prizes may or may not be awarded in that division at the discretion of the judging panel. Up to three Honorable Mentions may be awarded in each division. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome however a student may only enter one essay.

The writer of the best essay in a division from a school which has ten or more entries in that division will be honored as the school winner. All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Notification of Winners

In mid-February 2014, winners will be notified through the student's teacher. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in the spring. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

2014 Peace Essay Committee: Peggy Castaneda, Indira Clark, Pam Franklin, Elaine Gorman, Linda Lagace, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner and David Tucker

This 27th Annual Peace Essay Contest is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750 and is co-sponsored by: Department of Literature and Language Arts, Modesto Junior College

The world beat goes on at Sunday Afternoons at CBS

By **TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL**

Season 22 of Sunday Afternoons at CBS kicks off September 29 with the magical voice of Shawnette Sulker, who can take any music into the stratosphere from world beat to opera.

The 2013-14 season continues with the Murasaki Ensemble on October 20, where East Meets West in a sound weave of Far Eastern subtleties, Near Eastern and Latin American rhythms and improvisational jazz sounds unlike any other.

The 2013 half of the season includes Cafe Musique on November 17 with a rich mixture of gypsy, tango, classical, Balkan, Eastern European and klezmer styles.

Modesto's own Home Grown leads of the 2014 segment of the series on January 19 with band favorites and some extras fine tuned for Sunday Afternoons at CBS. Their performance will be followed by a jam session for concert attendees and some down home grub.

Grace Lieberman and Friends brings "Tradition, Tradition" to the Sunday Afternoons stage each year with her Musical Valentine to the community. This year the love songs, requited and "un," will delight audiences on February 9 in this always popular performance.

The March 9 season finale welcomes back Perla Batalla, formerly with Leonard Cohen, who will sing Cohen favorites and some of her Latin love songs. Perla's voice has enhanced many performances by world-class artists in world-class venues.



ACTION: All 6 performances begin at 3 p.m. and are held at 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto. Season subscriptions are \$60 for adults, \$50 for seniors and students, and \$5 per child with a season

subscription holder. Individual tickets and group rates are available. Learn more about the artists and the series at www.cbsmoesto.org/concerts.php or call the office between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. weekdays.

stanislaus
CONNECTIONS

is published monthly except in August
by the **Modesto Peace/Life Center**
720 13th St., Modesto, CA 95354.
Open by appointment.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 134,
Modesto, CA 95353
209-529-5750.

Local Public Radio
104.9
FM
www.ValleyMedia.Org
Local Bands, Real News



Anything you can do
Two Can Do
for you

Personal Services
Noel Russell
(209) 524-2314

Two Can Do Time Savers
errands run • bookkeeping done
home management services
information gathering • special occasions

Rewards in growing your own food

By JENIFER WEST

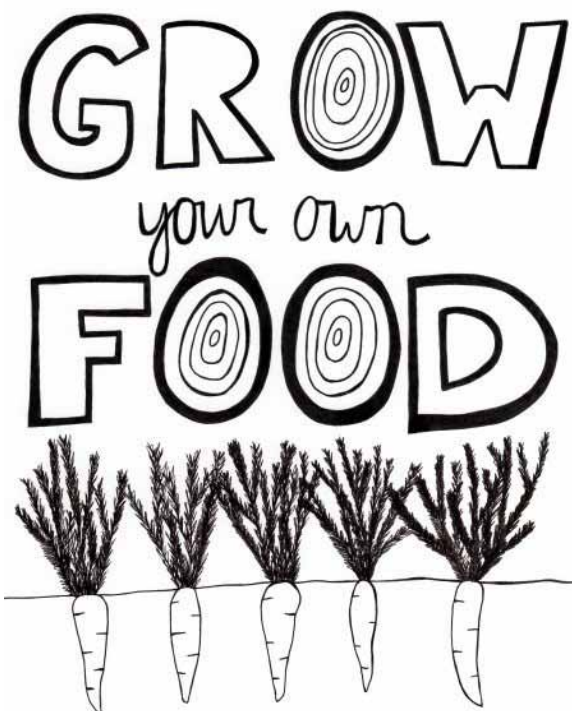
Last Christmas, my dear husband gifted us with t-shirts depicting a rural homestead scene and emblazoned "West Farm". Though tongue-in-cheek (we live in town, albeit on a large lot), it's surprisingly close to true, these days. We've lived here for a couple of years now, and are well on our way to achieving the degree of self sufficiency we've envisioned since we moved to this "rural burg". In fact, the minute this place was ours (and maybe even before), the aforementioned husband was out buying fruit trees.

After clearing the weedy patch in the back, he worked with a contractor friend to fence, and build raised beds for, a huge garden. A couple of years later, we're blessed with an abundance of fruits and veggies – enough for us, and, as we'd hoped, some left over to share. All the changes we've made were gradual, and each has built upon the ones before. Our original motivations were saving money on food, becoming less dependent on others for our sustenance, and eating as well as possible. We've begun to achieve those, along the way appreciating the freshness, flavor and quality of food grown in our own backyard.

One of the benefits of "growing your own" is that much, if not all, can be produced organically. Early on, we noticed that food from our backyard tasted better – but we didn't realize just how much better, until we tasted, for example, a store-bought orange. After weeks of eating navel oranges from our tree, one from the store was a big disappointment! It seemed, to me, as redolent of petro-chemicals as it did sunshine and clear water.

And don't get me started on fast food. The other day, one of my coworkers offered to bring back something from a local drive-through, and I foolishly placed an order. We've been eating organic meat and chicken as often as our budget will allow, and I was surprised when I bit into the "meat" – it most definitely did not taste like beef to me! Considering all the stuff about "meat products" in the news, I suppose this shouldn't be a surprise.

The plain truth is that we've all been unwitting participants in a massive, ongoing dietary experiment, the health effects of which are questionable at best. Case in point: Fats and oils. In the 1920's, heart disease was extremely rare, even though the diet included plenty of whole-milk dairy, and liberal servings of meat and eggs. A typical Sunday din-



One of the benefits of "growing your own" is that much, if not all, can be produced organically.

The dramatic increase of cancer is another unfortunate byproduct of the way we eat (and live) now. In the early 1900s, the incidence of cancer deaths was just a handful per 100,000 people. Starting in the 1970s, there was a huge increase. The dramatic increase in this illness, which coincides with the huge increase of toxic chemicals poured into the environment, as well as the large amounts of adulterated fats and other questionable substances added to the typical American diet for the better part of the last 60 years, is of concern. Unfortunately, this disease is also occurring at all ages. Therefore, we here at the West Farm choose to produce as much of our own food as possible, and purchase organically grown whenever possible.

While not everyone will be inclined or able to get so involved in "growing their own" that they end up with their own personal "farms," it's still a good idea to make small changes – even the smallest change can have a positive impact. Tomatoes in summer, or lettuce in winter, for example, can be grown in a pot even in the smallest of backyards, providing not only a source of healthy food, but a sense of pride in having produced it. And getting closer to our food supply is empowering, as well as health-building. Isn't there somewhere in your yard or on your patio that would be brightened up by a pot of red and green lettuce, and maybe another of carrots or beets? Who knows – you just might end up needing those t-shirts, after all!

ner, for example, might consist of six or seven items, most of which included either whole eggs, whole-milk dairy or both, in addition to some type of meat – cured (e.g., ham, bacon, etc) or otherwise – and, maybe, even a custard or pudding for dessert. There were no hydrogenated fats (now "trans fats"), and certainly no homogenized dairy products.

In fact, this writer can remember, at a very early age, her class at school rolling a jar of milk around the room to make butter, because from the next day on, milk would be homogenized – agitated until the fat globules are tiny enough to remain dispersed, rather than gathering to the top as cream. While making milk more "convenient" to drink, some people believe that homogenization may also have negative health effects, as well. With the advent of "industrialized" foods, heart disease has become a major health concern – and in increasingly younger members of the population.

"Anne of Green Gardens"

Anne Schellman, local horticulturist, hosts a fun and entertaining romp through the garden. For anyone who has ever had or wanted a green thumb this is the show to watch: **Anne of Green Gardens** - Saturdays at 9 am and again Mondays at noon on <http://www.cvmlltv.com>

Visit Anne's website at: <http://www.anneofgreengardens.com/>. Her Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Anne-of-Green-Gardens/173294856040550>

You can also find her YouTube videos at <http://www.youtube.com/user/AnneGrnGardens>

To receive Anne's monthly educational newsletter, email her at anneofgreengardens@yahoo.com



MICHAEL R. BAUDLER, CPA
DONNA E. FLANDERS, CPA

Office (209) 575-2653
Fax (209) 575-0629
e-mail b_f@modestocpas.com

1120 14th Street, Suite 2
Modesto, CA 95350

Refinance and Lower Monthly Payments!

- ▼ Low Credit Score - NO PROBLEM
- ▼ Convert adjustable rate to a low fixed interest rate
- ▼ Consolidate credit card debts
- ▼ Consolidate your 1st and 2nd mortgages

Purchase Loans

Down Payment As Low As
on Conventional Loans

3%

Call today for consultation

(510) 516-9773 DRE # 01181353 • NMLS # 671430
Carrie Ann Mahmood 1620 N. Carpenter Rd., Modesto



The Guilt of Survivors

By BRUCE JONES

"I shouldn't have come back."

"I let my buddies down. They died. I didn't"

These are thoughts, rarely put into words, of many men and women who still carry pride in their service even as they suffer silently in the civilian world.

I was surprised to find it also applied to my father, Edwin W. Jones, a career military officer. Only after his death did I get a glimpse into his military mind through an autobiographical paper I found as I cleaned out his den. It was an account of his military service after WWII when he had a safe, but important, tour in Hawaii, after his arrival there post-Pearl Harbor. His self-published memoir covered 1948-1950, before he went to Korea, when he was stationed at the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, a major center of logistical support for the Army. In the document I found his description of a stunning incident.

In that posting, when assigned occasionally as Officer-of-the-Day, one of his duties was night-time security inspections of the many warehouses. Unlocking one very gloomy cavern of a building, he found long aisles stacked with caskets, piled three high, each one stenciled with name, rank, serial, number, and town of final destination. Even as late as three to five years after the war's end, bodies were still being shipped back to the States from Europe and the Pacific as they were recovered and identified, to be escorted by a military team on a final journey to the family. My father wrote that he shined his flashlight on name after name:

...my flashlight was attracted mysteriously to one casket. ... My last name is very common, but there it was with my first name and middle initial.

That soldier, Edwin W. Jones, had been a U.S. Army Private First Class when he was killed. My father's record of the event went on to express wonder why he should be walking among all these caskets "when I should have been lying among them."

I have wondered if that experience was part of the driving force that made Lt. Colonel Jones so dedicated, so invested, in each of his duty assignments, especially his extraordinary time in Korea, where he almost died.

Many years later I found my own warehouse, this one located on the Worldwide Web. I was conducting a search for my name to see if some articles were still on line. Up came a



temporary duty as a member of an Army team in General Westmoreland's Saigon headquarters, targeting massive B-52 strikes around the Khe Sanh Marine Combat Base to protect its 6,000 Marines from surrounding enemy forces. I was a lieutenant running an Order of Battle (strength and disposition of enemy units) shop for the northern portion of the war zone and like so many other analysts, we processed huge amounts of intelligence that a nationwide offensive was coming in January 1968. For weeks we saw the growth of a huge North Vietnamese force around Khe Sanh that many believed was there to overrun the base in the war's most crucial offensive. The threat was real, but I came to discover that it was actually one of the most successful deceptions in the history of warfare. The ultimate mission of those forces was to make the Americans think Khe Sanh would be the deciding battle of the war (in the tradition of the battle for Dien Bien Phu, 1954, in the French Indochina War). However, a portion of that North Vietnamese force would participate in the overall Tet Offensive by shifting towards the Imperial City of Hue. The NVA continued the siege of Khe Sanh, but there would not be a frontal attack.

The Saigon headquarters assigned all our resources into defending Khe Sanh while Westmoreland ignored the pending nationwide attacks. And that night, January 30, 1968, the General lost all credibility and, thereby, the war.

The North Vietnamese attacked targets across the northern provinces (leaving the rest of the nation to the Viet Cong). At Khe Sanh, the deeply entrenched NVA forces survived even a massive bombardment by every B-52 in America's arsenal in the days before Tet as we conducted the biggest air bombardment mission in history (up to that date).

But every 500 pound bomb in our arsenal did not, could not, save the life of USMC Corporal Bruce Edwin Jones.

The original website was apparently first put up by Bruce's family, and later was integrated into The Virtual Wall, a site

available to family and friends of all the war's lost men and women. Corporal Jones' portion of the e-Wall contained the 1/26 Marines Command Chronology for that day in 1968:

At 9:15 AM, 25 Feb 3rd Plt, Bravo 1/26, a platoon minus security patrol, was taken under automatic weapons fire and was also receiving grenades from bunkers and trenches at XD849409. Artillery and mortar fire was called to assist in withdrawal. Support elements moved into position to provide cover by fire. The enemy force was estimated to be a Company of larger. Contact resulted in 24 friendly MIA, 17 friendly WIA, and six friendly KIA.

The patrol was about 1 kilometer south of the Khe Sanh Combat base when it came across an NVA observation post. The Marines opened fire on the NVA troops, who withdrew south. The Marines pursued the NVA and in so doing entered an ambush zone. The NVA allowed the Marines to approach within 15 feet before opening fire from concealed bunkers, spider holes and trenchlines. A reaction platoon was sent as reinforcements, but when it attempted to outflank the enemy position the platoon leader realized that his unit was being outflanked and sandwiched between the NVA position and additional enemy troops.

The best the platoon leader could do was to provide covering fire for the remnants of the patrol as they withdrew, bringing out their wounded and six of their dead - but 24 men, most of them known to be dead, could not be brought out. Three of the 24 were able to evade the NVA on their own and made their way back to friendly lines.

The report then listed all of the 27 Marines who died in that action on that day, including Cpl. Kenneth Claire whose name is listed next to Bruce's on the unit's tombstone. On the Virtual Wall, there is room for messages from those who remembered the deceased. One veteran spoke of his long friendship with Kenneth:

25 May 2001. Best Friend since grade school ... both of us left for in-country at the same time. Part of me is still there. Ken was the hero along with over 58,000 heroes. I still feel guilty that I came home.

Many years later I was writing my memoir of an intelligence officer who had been trapped by the politically-forced failure of military intelligence. War Without Windows reported how the big brass -- for career and political motives -- became devoted to proving there was a "light at the end of the tunnel." As a result, the intelligence system had been forced to misread the siege of Khe Sanh, where my namesake died and to ignore plentiful evidence of the coming Tet offensive by the Viet Cong as it attacked targets across the nation.

In the early- into mid-1980s, I spent several years totally dedicated to researching and recording in detail my tour in Vietnam as I relived a chronology of all events leading through the conspiracy when the intelligence process was corrupted into unwilling complicity. It was a story I would recount in the 1980s in a deposition for CBS attorneys as they resisted General William Westmoreland's libel lawsuit after he took umbrage with the network's criticisms in a totally accurate documentary entitled "The Uncounted Enemy."

During the trial and my research, I re-discovered, so pain-

Bruce E. Jones

Corporal

B CO, 1ST BN, 26TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV

United States Marine Corps

01 July 1947 - 25 February 1968

Rockland, Massachusetts

Recorded on The Wall (the Vietnam Memorial)

Panel 41E Line 022

memorial site for Bruce Edwin Jones — my full name. It was a tribute to a 23-year-old Marine stationed at the Khe Sanh Marine combat base, who died in February, 1968, near the deadly Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that divided North and South Vietnam.

His death came shortly after I had been assigned to

Guilt continued next page

John Lewis: the “Dream” is lifetime work

Congressman John Lewis spoke these words on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington on August 24, 2013.

When I look back on August 28, 1963, the day of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, I see it as one of this nation’s finest hours. The American people pushed and pulled, they struggled, suffered, and some even died, to demonstrate their desire to see a more fair, more just society.

Their effort and their commitment ushered in a spirit of bipartisanship, collaboration and meaningful change into the Congress, and that period became one of the finest hours of American democracy. As Members of Congress who represent all the people of this country, we owe it to ourselves to take a moment to contemplate the meaning of this 50th anniversary.

What it will take for us to come together and make that kind of progress for the American people once again?

In 1963 leading up to the March on Washington, there had been an unbelievable amount of action on the part of the Movement. People were sitting-in at lunch counters, standing-in at theaters. They were beaten, arrested and jailed by the hundreds and thousands by state and local government officials. Medgar Evers had been assassinated in June of 1963 by agents of hate allowed to run rampant in Mississippi.

Eugene “Bull” Connor, the Commissioner of Public Safety for the city of Birmingham, had used fire hoses and police dogs on women and children involved in peaceful, non-violent protest. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and other leaders had been arrested and jailed.

In 1963, millions of American citizens could not register to vote simply because of the color of their skin. Lawyers, doctors, college professors, high school principals, maids, butlers, sharecroppers and tenant farmers stood in unmovable lines all across the South just trying to register to vote. Intimidation and fear surrounded the democratic process.

People were afraid of losing their jobs, being run off their land, being beat or even killed for trying to register to vote. How did a society, committed to liberty and justice, allow the idea to take hold that the differences between us have some bearing on the value of human life?

Those of us in the movement made a decision that we had to do what we could, give our very lives if necessary, to demonstrate that those kinds of ideas are not true. The morning of the march we met with Democratic and Republican leaders right here on Capitol Hill on the House and Senate side.

If you come to my office, you will see a photo of the end of our meeting with Senator Everett Dirksen, a Republican who played a major role in helping to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And the only member still here who voted for that act is the dean of this Congress and my dear friend, Rep. John Dingell.

The plan was that we would leave the Senate, walk down Constitution Avenue and lead people to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. But when we stepped out into the streets, we saw hundreds and thousands of people pouring out of Union Station.

They were black and white, Latino, Asian and Native American. There were members of every faith, speakers of many different languages. American citizens, especially those living in Europe, came from abroad to participate. Celebrities were there, but mostly there were countless and nameless thousands of ordinary people with extraordinary vision who came.

They wanted to bear witness to the truth that we are one people, one family, the human family. We are one people, one house, the American house. We were supposed to be leading them, but they were already marching.

At that moment, the people were leading us and they literally pushed us down Constitution Avenue up to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Over the years I have come to understand that a melancholy, a sadness, dogs me every day. Emotions can come on unexpectedly, even in response to sad or somber events unrelated to war. But ... so much worse when true heroes and the flag are involved – *never, please, play taps within my hearing.*

And I recognized how the Vietnam experience, driven by the worst practices of a military bureaucracy, created my intolerance for the traditional old-school corporate establishment that runs America.

For so many other vets, the guilt and angst is even darker and more destructive. And always it lurks just below the surface, with triggers.

Before the war lords, neo-cons, and chicken hawks can again manipulate yet another foreign intervention, America must cope with its costs and consequences. When should a civilized nation send its children to distribute death and pain—and receive it? Can a humane nation justify “collateral damage” to civilians? Can we cope with the consuming damage to our mentally and physically wounded as they come home to face a bleak future...?

What will we do when they say to us ...

“Part of me is still there...”

“I shouldn’t have come back....”

About that time another colleague of ours, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, then a distinguished law student was probably already on the mall working as a volunteer for march organizer Bayard Rustin. Two months before the march, members of the so-called Big Six civil rights organizations met with President John F. Kennedy at the White House. Just days before, I had been elected chair of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and meeting with the President was my first official act. It was at that meeting that A. Philip Randolph, the founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the dean of our delegation, told President Kennedy that we were going to march on Washington.

The President was concerned. He started twisted and turning in his chair. He asked us whether we thought there would be violence. Mr. Randolph said in his baritone voice, “Mr. President this will be a peaceful, nonviolent protest.”

Public officials were not so sure. Six thousand police were deployed in Washington. 15 thousand troopers were surrounding the city. Liquor sales were banned, a major league baseball game was cancelled, and police even rigged our sound system so they could pull the plug if necessary.

But a spirit had engulfed the leadership of the Movement and the participants. People came to that march like they were on their way to a religious service, like they were going to a camp meeting. As Mahalia Jackson sang, “How We Got Over,” she drew thousands of us together, and in a strange sense it seemed like the whole place started rocking. Somehow and some way, the philosophy of peace, love, and non-violence had been instilled in the very being of all the participants.

We truly believed that in every human being—even those

THE “DREAM”continued page 8

Guilt

from page 6

fully, how I and my small Order of Battle shop had knowledge that could and should have changed the conduct or even the continuance of the war. Working alone as I wrote the book, submerged for months at a time in its dark history, I did not see that the weight of the war’s consequences was dominating my thinking, increasing my alcohol intake, and damaging my health. As a result my professional career also went MIA, and I struggled to live frugally.

Then came my first meeting with visiting leaders of the Vietnam Veterans of America, out of Washington, D.C., and I met VVA founder Bobby Muller, a Marine lieutenant who is spending the rest of his life in a wheel chair. In a bar over a flow of drinks, as I listened to them tell war stories, so many involving their injuries, I felt the need to add something, and said, “*You know, I was pretty much mind-fucked in Vietnam, but it was nothing compared ...*” and I never finished the sentence as I broke down in totally unexpected tears.

Bobby said only “*survivor’s guilt*” and asked a counselor to go with me into the men’s room for a talk. As I splashed water on my face, I remember saying that I didn’t know all that emotion was so close to the surface.

The VVA counselor explained ... it always is.

Working alone as I wrote the book, submerged for months at a time in its dark history, I did not see that the weight of the war’s consequences was dominating my thinking, increasing my alcohol intake, and damaging my health.

“I still feel guilty that I came home...”

“I should have been lying among them....”

“I let my buddies down. They died. I didn’t.”

As Vietnam vets sometimes say in the face of cold reality — **There it is.**

And for our U.S. Marine brothers and sisters — **Semper Fi.**

Bruce Jones is a local activist, author of War Without Windows and founder of The Make America Again Project.

"Deportees" monument to be erected on Labor Day

By JOHN MCCUTCHEON

I've written in previous newsletters about the discovery of the names of the victims of the plane crash at Los Gatos Canyon in 1948 memorialized in the Woody Guthrie song, *Deportees*. Carlos Rascon, the director of the Holy Cross Cemetery in Fresno, where the unnamed crash victims were buried, has lead efforts to raise money to erect a monument finally giving names to the ones buried there and peace to their families. I'm pleased to say that the money was raised thanks to the generosity of many of you. I'm particularly proud to say that my Union Local, AFM Local 1000 was the single largest contributor, donating over \$1300, all raised from individual member donations. There are many acts of kindness that have followed this story. Following the days of the crash the diocese of Fresno donated the cemetery space and local mortuaries donated the coffins. A local monument company supplied the marker above. These latest acts of generosity are part of completing the cycle.

We are dedicating the memorial on Labor Day, September 2nd at the cemetery. I will be there to sing, along with a local mariachi band, dancers, local supporters and artists, members of the victims' families, and a host of dignitaries. I will post pictures and stories both on Twitter (@mccutcheonfolk) and in this missive next month. In the meantime know that I will bear the prayers and good wishes of all those of you who

contributed to this long overdue and important event.

I have always been one who has challenged the bumper sticker slogan "Music Can Change the World." I simply don't believe that: people change the world. Music is one of many things that help change people. But if ever I needed proof that a song matters, this song, this memorial, is that.

Were it not for Woody Guthrie reading the account of the crash in the New York Times, being outraged at the reported anonymity of the agricultural workers who died, and penning the lyrics (put to music 10 years later by a teacher, Martin Hoffman), the story would have been one of countless others, lost forever in the 24-hour news cycle. But for this song, the people who died would be forever nameless. But 65 years later, people who were not even born when the song was written were curious enough to track down the names and now the most basic human dignity is restored to the dead.

That's all the proof I need.

From <http://e2.ma/message/25m1f/mht5>

[Ed. Note: According to the Diocese of Fresno, the diocese is planning a special Mass and dedication of an 8-foot by 4-foot memorial at 10 a.m., Sept. 2 at the cemetery. Read more here: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2013/06/03/3326195/roman-catholic-diocese-of-fresno.html>. Holy Cross Cemetery is located at 2105 W. Belmont Ave., Fresno.]

The "Dream"

from page 7

who were violent toward us—there was a spark of the divine, and no person had the right to scar or destroy that spark. We had a right to protest for what was right, Dr. King would say.

We had a right to demand that this nation respect the dignity and the worth of every human being. People were moved and inspired by that vision of justice and equality, and they were willing to put their very lives on the line for a cause greater than themselves.

Dr. King inspired all of us that day with words that embodied what we all believed. He was the last speaker, but I was number six. I was the young upstart who said, "We march today for jobs and freedom, but we have nothing to be proud of for hundreds and thousands of our brothers are not here for they are receiving starvation wages or no wages at all....

Near the end of my speech I said, "Where is our party? Where is the political party that will make it unnecessary to march on Washington?"

I said, "We must seek more than civil rights; we must work for the community of love, peace and true brotherhood. Our minds, souls and hearts cannot rest until freedom and justice exist for all people."

We have come a great distance since that day, but many of the issues that gave rise to that march are still pressing needs in our society—violence, poverty, hunger, long-term unemployment, homelessness, voting rights, and the need to protect human dignity.

We have come a great distance, but we are not finished yet. We still need to usher in a revolution of values, a revolution of ideas. We still need to find a way to humanize our political institutions, our businesses and our system of education.

50 years later, those of us who are committed to the cause of justice need to pace ourselves because our struggle does not last for one day, one week or one year, but it is the struggle of

a lifetime, and each generation must do its part. There will be progress, but there will also be setbacks. We must continue to have hope and be steeled in our faith that this nation will one day become a truly multiracial democracy.

But until that day we must continue to work. We must not give up or give in, but keep the faith. And when we see people hurting and suffering, we must be ready to take action. We must have a sense of urgency to use the power granted us to help end human suffering.

What the March on Washington is saying to us today is that we are at our best as a people and as a Congress when we understand that our differences do not divide us. We will be at our best when we finally accept that we are one people, one family, the American family. We all live in the same house, the American house, the world house.

It is saying that no one but no one is worthless and that everyone can make a contribution. The March on Washington is saying to us today that we, as a nation and as a people, can come together. We can unite for the common good. We can believe again in that divine spark within us all to use the authority granted us to accomplish great things for all Americans and not just for some.

After the march was over when the speeches were done, when the singing had finished, President Kennedy invited us all to the White House and he was standing in the door of the Oval Office beaming. He looked like a proud father. He shook each of our hands and said, "You did a good job....

"You did a good job. And to Martin Luther King Jr. he said, "And you had a dream." Let's continue the work that has already begun to build a Beloved Community, a nation and a world community at peace with itself that values the dignity and the worth of every citizen and every human being. Thank you.

Watertown, USA

The bullets were flyin' on Arsenal Street,
The cop killer type it seems.
The bad guys had NRA specials,
With 50 round magazines.

Innocent people were killed and maimed;
And hundreds of bullets were shot.
People's lives ruined and dreams destroyed.
And what was the lesson it taught?

So when children ask, "Just what did we learn?"
What are we gonna tell' em'?
"The solution is more guns, and much bigger clips",
Say the merchants of death who sell em'.

And the gun guys always blame the victim.
"They got in the way of a shell.
Bullets have constitutional rights;
Disagree, and we'll blow you to hell"

"So don't make buyers get background checks.
That's clearly a communist plot.
And we can't let some sobbing parents or friends,
Make this look like something its not".

"Guns have nothing to do with people shot dead.
That's simply left wing lies.
So Senator, here is your grade and your check.
Act sympathetic - but remember your ties".

So, who are our congressmen working for?
And how much do they make?
Are they simply puppets of the NRA?
Struck by fear, or just on the take?

So rest in god's peace, shooting victims.
Having lost your sacred right;
Of life, of liberty, and happiness,
To greed, and evil and might.

© Ron West 2013



Look for
CONNECTIONS
online at:
<http://stanislausconnections.org/>

Gillian V. Gray: Passionate poet, activist and student

Gillian Gray, an 18-year-old Turlock High School graduate from Hughson, will begin college this fall at Whitman College, a small liberal arts school in Walla Walla, Washington, as an English major to pursue her love of “all things well-written.”

At THS she maintained a 4.29 GPA, earned lifetime membership in the California Scholarship Federation, and participated all four years in Turlock High’s high-level wind ensemble and marching band. She also was a member of the THS Writers’ Guild and served as president of the school’s Philosophy and Poetry Clubs.

Gillian, an avid supporter of equal rights for all, participated yearly in protests to combat discrimination against LGBT students in schools, especially her gay and questioning friends. She also supports environment sustainability as a volunteer counselor at Foothill Horizons Outdoor School teaching younger students about conservation and preservation.



A love of helping others has drawn her to participate with her friend’s Relay For Life Team, “More Than Hope” year after year team, and she has helped feed the homeless in local churches and shelters.

Gillian began writing poetry in junior high as a way to express her emotions following the loss of her father. As she continued writing, she began to find inspiration in the world around her, particularly in the nuances of life: the interconnectedness between people; with people and nature; the subtle frustrations of everyday life and love as a teenager; and the small joys of exploration in the surrounding world. Her poetry also has been influenced by Edna St. Vincent Millay, ee cummings, and the Japanese artist, Motoi Yamamoto.

Still a budding poet, Gillian has received first (2010, 2011, 2013) and second places (2012), and is a two-time Commemorative Award winner (2011, 2013) in the Aileen Jaffa Young Poets Contest. She was published twice in the Modesto Poets’ Corner Contest, and was a featured reader at MoSt Poetry’s Second Tuesday Poetry Series as well as, at the Mistlin Gallery during the July 2013 Downtown Modesto Third Thursday Art Walk.

She is exploring a career as a writer or editor, and says her “wide array of passions, from baking to traveling to caring for animals, ensure that I have plenty of paths that I may one day follow.”

Disarray

The world is expanding, losing order every day
Its natural state is one of disarray
But the earth has never been so weak
It has no voice, and cannot speak
It has lived a thousand quiet lives
And though I’m young, I still can cry
Words of protest, just a sigh
That wind could turn the ocean’s tide
And since the sea covers the earth
The tide directs it where to turn
So if I speak, the world will spin
As long as it’s good-natured wind
But if I hold my breath and hide
Who will turn the ocean’s tide?
Perhaps the world would go still
And since lack of change is perfection’s will
There would be order, and no disarray
But the sun would no longer light up the day
So speak I will, and turn the tide
To keep this disorderly world alive

Daffodil

33.333
% of an infinity
of tiny twists inside of me

sunshine petals pushing out
await the end to fortune’s drought
2/3 man can’t beat them down

my skin is the soil, soul’s the bud
rivers run, veins of blood
flowers blooming from this mud

Silence

In her silence, the slight lingering after she spoke,
that’s where I heard it.
You’d never guess from her tone,
the tone that implied that those stories were
not of her, no!
The pain was another’s pain, the struggles
of an unknown.
Even I, with stories of my own,
would not have known, had it not been for her silence.
In that silence, I heard her sorrow,
I knew that pain was hers alone.
And although our stories have little in common,
our silences will always sound the same,
I know.

The Night Was Made For Us

It’s true the night was made for lovers
But look closer, I’m sure that you’ll find many others
The sulkers and the sleep-starved mothers
The night was made for us.
The wall-starers and the alley-walkers
The hot tea drinkers and the midnight talkers
The vandals of local high school lockers
The night was made for us.
The dreamers and The Late Show fans
The overtime workers with shaky hands
The drivers of cross country moving vans
The night was made for us.
The heartbroken and the heartbreakers
The lost at mind and the loveless love-makers
The addicts, the artists, the givers, the takers
The night was made for us.
It’s true the night was made for lovers
You may see them quiet, ahold of one another
But remember the night holds many others
The stars, they cross not just for lovers.

Return to the Sea

Water sidles up the shore
Barefoot walker, silent, mourns
Salty water soaks the sand
Knees bend to extend a hand
Lonely fingers, lonely skin
Beckon salt, please come in
Pumping life through tired veins
Salt comes to understand his pain
Leaves him through a salty tear
He captures it to keep her near
With it he makes mountains grow
Fallen leaves, powdered snow
Galaxies of his invention
Inspired by the recollection
Of her love, taken fast
He turns her into things that last
For though the salt that soaked his heart
May blow away from his works of art
It will always return back to the sea
And to find it, so can he.

Inspired by the saltworks of Motoi Yamamoto.





Join the Wolf-Pac to promote the 28th amendment

Many efforts are now on-going in the US whose main focus is to get money out of politics. These efforts are primarily in response to the Citizens United decision which briefly stated is: "The Citizens United ruling, released in January 2010, tossed out the corporate and union ban on making independent expenditures and financing electioneering communications. It gave corporations and unions the green light to spend unlimited sums on ads and other political tools, calling for the election or defeat of individual candidates. In a nutshell, the high court's 5-4 decision said that it is OK for corporations and labor unions to spend as much as they want to convince people to vote for or against a candidate."

The impact of this was seen in the 2012 elections where record amounts of money were spent. It was clear that politicians were being greatly influenced by huge campaign contributions from corporations as well as billionaires, e.g. Sheldon Adelson spending 93.3 million on 2012 campaign [source <http://www.publicintegrity.org>] with much of that on Presidential candidate Newt Gingrich.

The one organization which I highly recommend you get involved with is the Wolf-Pac created by Cenk Uygur of The Young Turks.

The best way to understand it is by reading their plan. Go to their website, <http://www.wolf-pac.com> to get more details which will hopefully get you to signup and make a 28th amendment a reality.

Frank Ploof

Modesto

Reader dislikes Taylor Mali poem

I was disappointed to see the posting re what Taylor Mali said about Robert Portman.

Mali is a monster for saying he, even for brief moment, wanted Portman to have daughters - one of whom would be beaten and the other raped and the and wish he had a grandchild at Sandy Hook who, from the tone of his note, he wished had been shot! I hardly think opposition to gay/lesbian/ etc. marriage or gays/lesbians/etc. in general hardly justify them!

I have always looked forward to reading each new issue even though I don't often agree with the articles or at least question their objectivity and truthfulness. At least the issues make me think and this is good.

To see his comments printed without any sort of disclaimer - I am VERY disappointed. it is comments like his (and I assume a number of your directors, editors and members agree with them) that make people turn away from your thoughts no matter how good they are and give people like Limbaugh ammunition.

Donald Schuster

Ed. Note: The following disclaimer appears in each issue of Connections: Opinions expressed DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the Center or Editorial Committee.

Disagrees with same-sex marriage

I was at my kid's karate class. By chance a July, 2013 copy of *Connections* happened to be sitting in the chair next to me. On page 3 there was an article by Bill Dotinga titled "The times, they are a-changin'."

.... yes, I'm sure you knew this late email was coming.

As part of the 42 percent who firmly disagree with same sex marriage - and since anything that affects me is my business - I feel the need to reinforce my contribution of percent.

David Enero

P.S. Please let us know if you happen to hear of two penises, or two vaginas, that end up making a baby.

Green Tips for a Green Planet: Summer transitions into Fall

By **TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL**

"Winter is an etching, Spring a watercolor, Summer an oil painting and Autumn is a mosaic of them all."

— Stanley Horowitz

"Autumn is a second Spring when every leaf is a flower."

— Albert Camus

"Believe in yourself, your neighbors, your work, your ultimate attainment of more complete happiness," says B.C. Forbes. *"It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seeds in the Spring who reaps a harvest in Autumn."*

September is the culmination of spring and summers toil, when the Autumn harvest is in full swing. Days are still bright and light into early evening and harvest bounty truly earns the full meaning of delightful.

It is a time to reap what we have sown, prepare for winter's quiet cover and sow the beds of future harvests.

September green activities include:

- Take long, contemplative walks in the cooler temperatures (or warmer days if we have an Indian Summer).
- Gather fallen leaves and spent summer flower and vegetable plants to add to the compost pile.
- Buy new bulbs and dig up and divide garlic, perennials, iris, daylilies, onions and other bulbs.
- Buy potted trees and shrubs and prepare holes for planting them in later Autumn, and mulch and feed those already established.
- Plant new strawberry beds and crops for late autumn harvest – cabbage, peas, fennel, cauliflower, lettuce, Swiss chard and other greens, onions, leeks, Chinese peas and endive.
- Enhance clay soils with manure. Continue to water, mulch and feed established trees and shrubs.

And remember to slow down and breathe in the color and deepness of these days of transition.

"Autumn is the springtime of the soul."

— Tina Arno pole Driskill



Image: NBC newsreel

Grayscale

At eight bits per pixel there are two hundred fifty-six shades of gray.

Wikipedia

If you stand on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial you see them, thirty-six fluted Doric columns formed from small blocks of Yule marble snubbed together, ninety-nine percent pure white calcite, few dark streaks. Light shifts and bends between these giants, shadows play among them creating varying intensities, a monochromatic continuum between black and white.

Behind these columns sits the statue of Abraham Lincoln, his stone face looks toward reflection pond on Capital Mall. Faced with the struggle between slavery or freedom for all, instead of black or white, Lincoln saw shades of grey, a color pallet of diverse people,

each with his own intensity, each with her own worth, a grayscale linked by common values: unity and social justice.

From here Marian Anderson's contralto voice penetrated a segregated society as she sang My Country 'Tis of Thee, Easter Sunday, 1939; On these steps, Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed his dream, equality for all, culminating in the civil rights March on Washington, 1963; Before these columns the pre-inaugural celebration for Barack Obama, another man from Illinois, began, January 2009.

If you stand on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial you see them, thirty-six fluted Doric columns, perfect backdrop for the grayscale of America.

Lynn M. Hansen

Modesto Branch, CA

From: <http://www.nlapw.org/category/nlapw-poem-of-the-week/>

Immigrant deaths

from page 1

<http://www.equalvoiceforfamilies.org/immigration-agriculture-workers-and-the-cost-of-eating/>

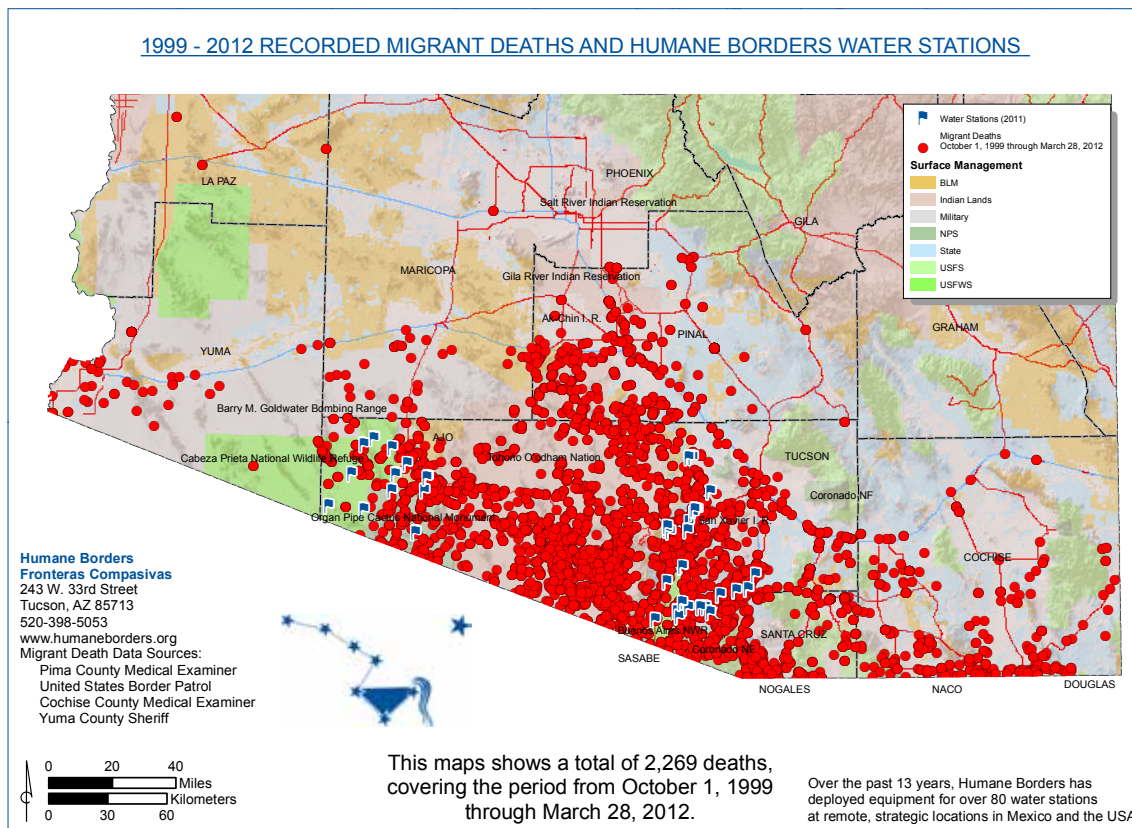
The locations of the 2,238 bodies discovered in south-central Arizona from 1990 through 2012 are mapped in the report: Red dots smother hundred-mile swaths, taking in not only uninhabited scrublands and wildlife refuges but areas near Phoenix and Tucson suburbs as well.

During the 22-year period, the lowest number of undocumented-migrant deaths recorded in the area was five during the federal fiscal year of 1992 (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30). The number of deaths reached a high of 225 in 2010.

The high numbers of deaths in the last few years coincide with massive enforcement pushes by federal authorities along the U.S.-Mexico border, which, they say, have reduced the number of undocumented people trying to enter the United States.

The report's authors argue that the federal government's moves – building formidable border fences and strengthening manpower along the border – directly contributed to the spike in deaths as undocumented migrants tried to find ways around stepped-up border security.

The report acknowledges that the high number of deaths could be due partly to the increase in the Border Patrol's "boots on the ground" approach, resulting in more remote areas being searched and more bodies found. Still, the fact that the number of deaths has remained high for more than a



The high numbers of deaths in the last few years coincide with massive enforcement pushes by federal authorities along the U.S.-Mexico border.

tant piece of immigration legislation in nearly three decades.”

One of those authors, Raquel Rubio-Goldsmith, doesn't seem hopeful. Rubio-Goldsmith is an adjunct professor of Mexican American studies at the University of Arizona.

“We don't call this a disaster in a legal sense,” she said of the deceased migrants. “But we are dealing with a disaster. ...It's something the politicians don't like to talk about. How many people in Washington are talking about deaths on the border? I

don't think that comes up a lot.”

Juanita Molina, executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Border Action Network, said the study shows the need for a change in government policy as well as border patrol tactics. Her organization supports these changes. In addition, the group has provided large water barrels in areas where high numbers of deaths have occurred. See <http://borderaction.org/web/>

Back when the federal government's enforcement crack-down started, “The Border Patrol ... imagined that the desert would be a natural barrier that people wouldn't cross,” Molina said. “They underestimated the level of desperation and need of the people crossing the desert.”

Michael Mello is a freelance writer based in Tucson, Ariz. He is a former staff reporter for the *Orange County Register*.

From Equal Voice: <http://www.equalvoiceforfamilies.org/report-stronger-border-led-to-more-migrant-deaths/>

Note: Dots may not appear as red in Connections

decade is a good indication that more undocumented migrants are dying since enforcement has increased.

“People are being pushed into ever more remote areas,” said Robin C. Reineke, an anthropology doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona. “They're taking long, dangerous treks through the desert, and they're dying in high numbers.”

From the deceased that the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office was able to identify – about one-third could not be identified – the average undocumented migrant was a 30-year-old man from Mexico.

Over the past few years, however, the number of Central Americans – mainly from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras – has steadily increased.

Most of the undocumented border crossers – 46 percent – died from exposure, mainly desert heat. The cause of death of 36 percent could not be determined.

The report ends with the authors' hope that Washington, D.C., “policymakers will consider the data presented in this report as they debate what is arguably the single most impor-

Stanislaus CONNECTIONS, published by the non-profit Modesto Peace/Life Center, has promoted non-violent social change since 1971. Opinions expressed DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the Center or Editorial Committee. We welcome pertinent, signed articles, 800-1000 words or less, and letters with address, phone number. DEADLINE: 10th of the Month PRECEDING the next issue. Send articles and ads to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org. Submit PHOTOS as high-resolution JPEGs; ADS as PDF files.

EDITOR: Jim Costello

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Jim Costello, Luella Cole, Tina Driskill, Myrtle Osner

LAYOUT EDITOR: Linda Knoll

ADVERTISING: (vacant)

ONLINE EDITION: George Osner

COLLATING & DISTRIBUTION: Shelly Scribner, many appreciated volunteers

ADS must be consistent with Peace/Life Center tenets. No ads for candidates for public office or for liquor. Advertisers do not necessarily support Peace/Life Center views nor does the Center endorse advertised products or services. To ADVERTISE, email Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org

Selective Consignments

EVERYTHING FROM A TO Z
LET US SELL IT FOR YOU !

1325 McHenry Ave
Modesto, 95350
M - F 10AM - 5PM

Darla Turner, Owner
209 / 572-3376
SAT 10AM - 4PM

LAW OFFICES OF

ROCKWELL, KELLY & DUARTE, LLP

1600 G Street
Suite 203

DAVID N. ROCKWELL
SHARON E. KELLY
JEFFREY DUARTE
MARKUS URSTOEGER
Attorneys/Abogados

P.O. Box 0142
Modesto, CA
95353-0142
(209) 521-2552
FAX (209) 526-7898



Help keep our readers informed.
We urge people participating in an
event to write about it and send their
story to *Connections*.

ACTIONS FOR PEACE Sonora - Stockton

SONORA: Contact Alice at lewisalice090@gmail.com

PEACE AND JUSTICE NETWORK OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY (<http://www.pjnsjc.org>). Info: James Walsh, jwprod1956@clearwire.net

SEPTEMBER

1-2 SAT – SUN: Path to Citizenship pilgrims arrive in Bakersfield. See article, this issue.

2 MON: Mass and Memorial for the Deportees. John McCutcheon, others, will sing. Bishop Armando X. Ochoa will officiate. See article, this issue page 8.

Ongoing: MJC Modesto Area Partners in Science 2013-2014: 9/27 Mark Nechodom, CA Dept. of Conservation, Fracking in California. 10/25: TBA. 11/22: Antony Westerling, UCM, Wildfires in the West. 12/06: TBA. 1/24/14: Mark Aldenderfer, UVM, Sky Caves of Nepal. 2/28: Kevin Mitchell, UCM, Chaos and Fractals. 3/28: Judy Van de Water, UCD, Autism and Immunology. 4/25 TBA. **Note:** Last year, MAPS co-sponsored, with the Gallo Center, an excellent play about Madame Curie by Susan Marie Frontczak. Susan will portray Eleanor Roosevelt at the Gallo Center on Oct. 10.

3 TUES: Modesto Film Society hosts *A Place in the Sun*. 7 pm, State Theatre. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/104>

15 SUN: Modesto Film Society hosts, *The Apartment*. 2 pm, State Theatre. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/91>

20 FRI: MoFest!7 at the Gallo Center. See article, this issue. Visit <http://tickets.galloarts.org/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=3807>

22 SUN: The State Theatre presents, *Going Attractions: The Definitive Story of the American Drive-in Movie*. Doors open at 1 pm.; presentation and film at 2 pm. Discussion with the filmmaker follows the film. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/159>

29 SUN: Sunday Afternoons at CBS: the magical voice of *Shawnette Sulker*. 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto, 3 pm. See article, this issue. Info: www.cbsmoesto.org/concerts.php

LOOKING AHEAD

Fantastic Peace/Life Center Rummage Sale! CANCELLED.

Saturday, Oct. 12: Great Valley Museum's Wild Planet Day, fee event fun for the entire family.

Friday, November 1: Peace/Life Center's Annual Harvest Gathering.

Friday, November 1: El Concilio 45th Gala Anniversary. The River Mill, 1672 W. Bowman Rd., French Camp, CA. 6:00 PM. Info: 644-2600, or visit <http://www.elconcilio.org> or email cvar@elconcilio.org

January 14, 2014: John McCutcheon in Concert for the Peace/Life Center.

January 19, 2014: The Motherlode Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee presents the 19th Annual MLK Birthday Celebration. Keynote speaker: Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farmworkers Union with Cesar Chavez. At Sonora High School Auditorium, Shaws Flat Rd. and Washington St., Sonora, 2:00 PM. FREE. Info: Pat Cervelli, 209-928-3494.

February 1, 2014: MLK Commemoration with Civil Rights pioneer Diane Nash.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

LifeRing Secular Recovery: Sun. 10:00 am, Kaiser CDRP, 1789 W Yosemite Ave, Manteca. Support group for people living free of alcohol and drugs. Each person creates an individualized recovery program. We avoid discussion of religious or political opinions so our meetings can focus on sobriety skills. 526-4854, <http://goldendrippings.com/lifering/>

Weekly mindfulness meditation and dharma talk, 11:30-1:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <http://insightmeditationmodesto.wordpress.com>

LifeRing Secular Recovery: Sunday 6:30 pm, Jana Lynn Room, 500 N 9th St, Modesto.

MONDAYS

LifeRing Secular Recovery Morning Mtg. Monday 7:00 am. Deva Cafe, 1202 J St, Modesto.

LifeRing Secular Recovery Women's Mtg. Monday 6:30 pm, private home, 1905 Kienitz Ave, Modesto. Bonnie, 324-7095.

TUESDAYS

Pagan Family Social, third Tuesdays, Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto, 6 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

LifeRing Secular Recovery. Tuesday 6:30 pm, Jana Lynn Room, 500 N 9th St, Modesto. 526-4854

Ukulele class/play-a-long led by Lorrie Freitas 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver, Modesto. Suggested monthly fee \$25. Info: 505-3216.

Weekly mindfulness meditation and dharma talk 6:30-8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori for more information at 209-343-2748 or see <http://insightmeditationmodesto.wordpress.com>

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

Modesto Peace Life Center VIGILS: held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), (NOTE TIME), 4:30-5:30 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

CENTER TV: News and interviews you won't find elsewhere on Comcast Public Access TV Ch 26, Wed. & Sat. 9:00 pm - 10 pm. Also: Listen to local Valley Community Radio KQRP 104.9 FM, <http://www.kqrp.com>

PEACE LIFE CENTER BOARD MEETING, FIRST Thursdays, 720 13th St., Modesto, 6:30 pm, 529-5750.

MEDIA COMMITTEE of Peace Life Center. Meetings TBA. Call John Lucas, 527-7634.

CONNECTIONS EDITORIAL MEETINGS: Meets twice a month. New workers welcome. Call to confirm time and place. 537-7818, jcostello@igc.org

PEACE LIFE CENTER MODESTO, 720 13th St. Call 529-5750. We'll get back to you with current info on activities.

PFLAG Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays support group. 7 pm, 566-2468. First and third Tuesdays. Emanuel Lutheran Church, 324 College Ave., Modesto, <http://www.pflagmodesto.org>

PFLAG Merced, Second Tuesday, Merced United Methodist Church, 899 Yosemite Park Way, Merced. 7 pm. Info: 341-2122, <http://s444531532.onlinehome.us>

PFLAG Sonora/Mother Lode, third Tuesdays of January, April, July, and October, 6:30 to 8 pm, Tuolumne County Library Community Room, 480 Greenley Rd., Sonora, Info: 533-1665. Info@pflagsonora.org www.pflagsonora.org

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS, Every Tuesday, 7 pm at 1320 L St., (Christ Unity Baptist Church). Info: Jeff, 527-2469.

WEDNESDAYS

LifeRing Secular Recovery. Wed 6:30 pm, Reynolds Room, 1700 McHenry Village Way, Modesto. Back of McHenry Village across from the Memorial Health and Education Center. Meeting offering support for people in relationships with people wrestling with addiction.

Modesto Folk Dancers All levels welcome. Raube Hall, Ceres (call for address), 578-5551.

GLBT Questioning Teen Support Group (14-19 years old). 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, College Ave. Congregational Church, 1341 College Ave., Modesto. 7-9 pm. Safe, friendly, confidential. This is a secular, non-religious group. Info: call 524-0983.

PFLAG Oakdale, third Wednesdays, Golden Oaks Conf. Room, Oak Valley Medical Bldg., 1425 West H St., Oakdale, 7 pm. Info: flagoakdale@dishmail.net

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP, 2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 to 9 pm. Info: (209) 338-0855. Email info@stanpride.org, or tgsupport@stanpride.org

MINDFUL MEDITATION: Modesto Almond Blossom Sangha, 7-9 pm. Info: Anne, 521-6977.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS GROUPS, 2nd Wed., 252 Magnolia, Manteca.

THURSDAYS

CVAN (Central Valley Action Network) 3rd Thursday, 7-8:15 pm, Peace/Life Center 720 13th St. Contact: Jocelyn at jocelyncoper@gmail.com or 510-467-2877 or 209-312-9413

The Book Group, First & third Thursdays. College Ave UCC Youth Bldg., Orangeburg & College Ave., 3:30 pm. Info: mzjurkovic@gmail.com

The Compassionate Friends, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter. 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact: Joanna Rose-Murray, 209-484-8276, jrmcompassionate@gmail.com, <http://www.tcfmodesto-riverbankarea.org>

NAACP. King-Kennedy Center, 601 S M.L. King Dr., Modesto, 7 pm, 3rd Thursdays. 549-1991.

ART GALLERY WALK, downtown Modesto, third Thurs., 5:00 to 8 pm. Info: <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

VALLEY HEARTLAND ZEN GROUP: every Thurs 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2310 Woodland Ave. Meditation. Newcomers welcome. Info: 535-6750 or <http://emptynestzendo.org>

Pagan Community Meeting, 1st Thursdays, Cafe Amore, 3025 McHenry Ave, Suite S., Modesto, 8 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

FRIDAYS

OCCUPY MODESTO: General Assembly meets each Friday, 5:00 - 6:30 pm at Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St. All interested members of the 99% are welcome. Time will change when it stays light later.

LifeRing Secular Recovery. Friday 6:30 pm. Jana Lynn Room, 500 N 9th St, Modesto. Every first Friday we alternate between a LifeRing & 12 Step speaker with a discussion following.

FUNSTRUMMER Ukulele Band every Friday, Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Begins 9:15 am. Suggested monthly membership fee \$25. Info: 505-3216.

Latino Emergency Council (LEC) 3rd Fridays, 8:15 am, El Concilio, 1314 H St. Modesto. Info: Dale Butler, 522-8537.

VILLAGE DANCERS: Dances from Balkans, Europe, USA and more. Fridays, Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock. 7-9:30 pm, \$5 (students free). Info: call Judy, 209-480-0387.

SIERRA CLUB: Yokuts group. Regular meetings, third Friday, College Ave. Congregational Church, 7 pm. Info: 549-9155. Visit <http://motherlode.sierra-club.org/yokuts> for info on hikes and events.

MUJERES LATINAS, last Friday, lunch meetings, Info: Cristina Villego, 549-1831.

HISPANIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, 1st & 3rd Fridays at 7:00 am, El Concilio, 1314 H St. Other meetings at Terrace Cafe, Double Tree Hotel. Info: Yamilet Valladolid, 523-2860.

SATURDAY

So Easy ~ So Good: Vegetarian/Vegan/Wannabee potluck/meeting every third Saturday of the month, 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM. Info: Kathy or Chris, 209-529-5360; email kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com

SERRV: Saturdays, 10 - Noon and after church Sundays or by appointment. Call Mary, 522-6497 or 523-5178. Gifts from developing countries. Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland, Rm. #4, Modesto.