



# Stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER PUBLICATION

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## Tri-Valley CAREs & NRDC Ask Energy Secretary to Halt Plutonium Shots in NIF Scheduled to Begin Thursday at Livermore Lab

### Groups' Attorneys Cite Unaddressed Plutonium Exposure Risks and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Concerns

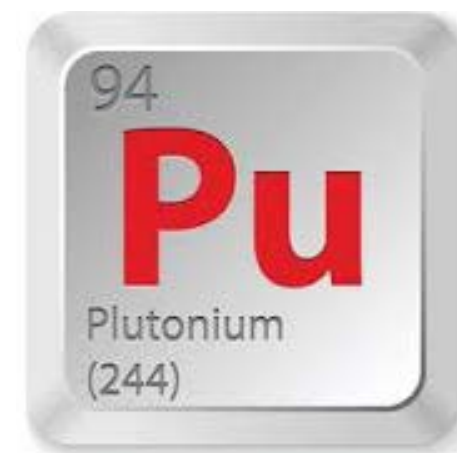
By MARYLIA KELLEY

LIVERMORE, CA AND WASHINGTON, DC. Citing potential risks to public health, the Livermore-based Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) are calling on the U.S. Secretary of Energy to immediately cancel highly secretive experiments involving plutonium at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's National Ignition Facility (NIF) mega-laser. Government documents released to Tri-Valley CAREs under the

Freedom of Information Act reveal that the experiments will be conducted without an inner containment vessel in the target chamber to capture the plutonium debris.

The urgent request was made in a 10-page letter yesterday to the Department of Energy (DOE) by the Washington, DC law firm of Meyer, Glitzenstein and Crystal, acting as counsel for the environmental groups.

"Livermore Lab plans to zap plutonium with lasers in NIF with the clear risk of contaminating the laser optics and target chamber, and potentially exposing workers and the public to plutonium," charged Marylia Kelley, Tri-Valley CAREs executive director and a long-time Livermore resident. "Before these controversial experiments begin, at a minimum, we believe the government must undertake a stringent environmental review and solicit public comment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act."



Dr. Matthew McKinzie, a physicist and the director of NRDC's nuclear program, noted, "The planned use of plutonium in NIF raises serious non-proliferation concerns. Indeed, NIF construction and operation was predicated on agency assurances that plutonium would not be used in experiments, as evidenced in NIF's 1995 Nonproliferation Report."

Plutonium is a highly toxic radioactive metal that in some forms can be used to create atomic weapons. The government said it may conduct up to 120 plutonium experiments, also called shots, at the NIF facility.

The letter urgently requests that before any plutonium experiments begin, the agency:

- (1) Clearly delineate its plan, timeline, and potential isotopic mixes for plutonium in NIF;
- (2) Publicly describe steps the agency will take to insure the experiments are consistent with non-proliferation objectives; and
- (3) Publicly commit to delaying initiation of the experiments which may be scheduled to begin as soon as January 29, 2015 until

adequate environmental review is completed.

The groups' letter poses key questions about potential exposure scenarios, and seeks to halt the plan until they are answered. Those impacts include possible airborne contamination; off-site exposure in the event of an accident, earthquake or other natural disaster; the scope of worker exposures due to the inevitable contamination of the NIF target chamber; and, the impact on future civilian science uses of NIF, given contamination resulting from the lack of inner containment for plutonium shots.

We are hopeful that the Secretary of Energy responds in good faith to our request today, and that he suspends the initiation of plutonium experiments in NIF until the necessary reviews are completed, Kelley concluded.

A copy of the groups 10-page letter is available on the web at:

[www.trivalleycares.org/new/1-27-2015\\_Letter\\_Re\\_Pu\\_at\\_NIF.pdf](http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/1-27-2015_Letter_Re_Pu_at_NIF.pdf)

Or via email from: [marylia@trivalleycares.org](mailto:marylia@trivalleycares.org) or [mmcKinzie@nrdc.org](mailto:mmcKinzie@nrdc.org)

### Modesto Peace/Life Center Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015  
PEACE/LIFE CENTER • 720 13<sup>th</sup> ST., MODESTO

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 8:30 AM  | — Coffee and Conversation  |
| 9:00 AM  | — Business Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Report</li> <li>• Committee Reports</li> <li>• Nomination of Board Members</li> </ul> |
|          | — Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action plans, ideas and strategies</li> </ul>   |
| 12:00 PM | — Adjournment  |

For 44 years the Modesto Peace/Life Center has been a meeting place for people concerned about peace, justice, equality, a sustainable environment, education and working for a more peaceful community and world. Please join us!

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*The 21st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration*  
**Speaker: Civil Rights Leader Julian Bond**



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015**

***Public Reception for Julian Bond***

King-Kennedy Center, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

601 S. Martin Luther King, Dr., Modesto

***Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration***

Modesto Junior College-East Campus

Performing Arts & Media Center

7:00 p.m. - FREE program

**SPONSORS:** City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Dept.; Modesto Junior College; Associated Students of Modesto Junior College (ASMJC); Modesto Peace/Life Center; CSU, Stanislaus; Rockwell, Kelly, & Duarte, LLP; College Ave. Congregational Church; Ed Fitzpatrick, Valley Lexus; Modesto Irrigation District; Central Valley Democratic Club; Mocse Credit Union; DoubleTree-Hilton Modesto; Democratic Women's Club of Stanislaus County; King-Kennedy Center; West Modesto King-Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative; Kaiser Permanente Medical Group; Project Uplift. *Information: (209) 526-5436.*

**Advertising support provided by *The Modesto Bee***

## Film Night at the Center on Wednesday, February 18

With economic inequality getting worse each year, the need to understand how the global economy works is vitally necessary. This month's documentary, *Four Horsemen* features 23 international economists and thinkers, including Noam Chomsky, who focus on this issue and discuss their vision for change.

Marcus Brown of the New Scientist comments: "*Four Horsemen* is an important film because it presents a sober picture of what is wrong in a non-hysterical way and will ignite a debate about what can be done to create a fairer, less dysfunctional world."

The free film will start at 6:30 p.m. A discussion will follow. All are welcome. The Peace/Life Center is located at 720 13<sup>th</sup> St., Modesto.

## High School students needed for summer exchanges with Japan and France

By JULIA BOLTON MENSINGER

Modesto Sister Cities International (MSCI) invites all interested students to apply for 2015 summer exchanges to Kurume, Japan (10 places) & Laval, France, (4 places). *Priority will be given to students who apply before April 1st.*

We are looking for applicants (sophomores, juniors & seniors (who will graduate in 2016)) to be considered for:

**A ten day exchange to Kurume,** (South Island), from late July through to early August. The Kurume students will then arrive in Modesto in mid August for ten days. Modesto students, who are accepted on the exchange, are expected to host a Kurume student, for a reciprocal exchange experience.

**A two week exchange to Laval, France,** (also open to college students) the end of June to the beginning of July, with the French students here the second week in July through to the first week of August. Modesto students, who are accepted on the exchange, are expected to host a Laval student, for a reciprocal exchange experience.

Cost of the program includes air travel expense (\$1400 estimate) and pocket money. For more information and application forms please visit: [www.modestosistercities.com](http://www.modestosistercities.com). For enquiries regarding the Kurume exchange, contact Nancy Holmes, (Kurume committee VP) 765-9290. For questions about Laval, contact John Mensinger, (Laval committee VP) 602-4515. Email MSCI at [modesto.MSCI@gmail.com](mailto:modesto.MSCI@gmail.com)

## Thanks to all for making the John McCutcheon our January high point!

By KEN SCHROEDER

The 2015 John McCutcheon concert was once again a high point in our January. We scrambled to set up more chairs to accommodate the full house. We gathered in community in the understanding that we are not alone. The evening was filled with memorable moments. Marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., John's story about watching the 1963 civil rights March on Washington seated with his mother in front of the TV led into the song he wrote for her, *One in a Million*.

John remembered, "The moment was magic with dreams in the air My Mom watched in wonder And said, 'I wish I was there... She was one in a million Who did her small part And she carried that banner Held high in her heart.'"

David West delivered the handmade cigar box mandolin he created for John. We recognized the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WWI Christmas Truce with *Christmas in the Trenches*.

In yet another centenary, it is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the union anthem *Solidarity Forever*. Closing out the concert, John sang the verses. "In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold, Greater than the might of armies, magnified a thousand-fold. We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old, For the union makes us strong." Our voices filled the hall with the chorus. "Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever, For the union makes us strong."

John often says he does the easy part of the event and acknowledges the people behind the scenes. We express our appreciation to those who attended, sang a little louder than they thought they should, laughed, got teary-eyed, worked on the planning, made copies, prepared the mailer, hosted meetings, coordinated sponsorships, became sponsors, sold tickets, made announcements, designed the poster, put up posters, coordinated the tech work, set up the sound, moved the chairs and piano, strummed ukuleles, brought food, staffed the intermission refreshments, handed out programs and collected tickets, sold CD's and books, staffed the Peace/Life table, emceed, coordinated volunteers, made donations, wrote press releases and articles, set up hospitality, provided transportation, promoted the concert by email and social media, drove long distances to attend, showed people where to park, handled finances, and stayed late cleaning after the concert. Special thanks to the Church of the Brethren for hosting for 14 years and selling tickets, to Beads of Contentment for being a ticket venue, to Marian Martino and to the Funstrummers.

John returns to Modesto on June 11 to perform the one-man play, "Joe Hill's Last Will" in a benefit for the Peace/Life Center at the Prospect Theater Project. More information will be forthcoming in *Stanislaus Connections*.

## Panel to Discuss "Ending the Culture of Violence on School and College Campuses"

Is there a "Culture of Violence" on school and college campuses? If so, is it possible to end this violence? Local affiliates of *American Association of University Women*, *Delta Kappa Gamma*, *League of Women Voters* and the *Stanislaus County Office of Education* think so! To this end they are initiating a community conversation **Thursday, March 19, 2015** from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Martin G. Petersen Education Center, 720 12<sup>th</sup> St., Modesto. This free event envisions raising public awareness and involving individuals and groups to curtail the riptide of violence in our schools.

"We can't afford another catastrophic event to arouse the short-lived anger we see each time students on our campuses are assaulted," asserts Arlene Jones, coordinator of the event. "We are all affected as societal illnesses invade what should be a safe haven... our schools. Be a part of this community outcry for change. Hear these panelists discuss their day-to-day involvement. Participate by asking questions. Leave with information from assisting agencies. Carry this outcry for change home. Keep the discussion for solutions alive! We can't afford to be surprised to think this couldn't happen in our community. Join us in making a difference."

Panel members include: Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson, Stanislaus County Office of Education

Superintendent Tom Changnon, University of the Pacific Vice-President for



Student Life Patrick Day, Oakdale Police Chief Lester Jenkins, Family Justice Center Executive Director Tom Ciccarella and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Dr. Madelyn Schlaepfer will address key issues. The discussion topics will address crime, high school dropouts, sexual assault, substance abuse, breakdown of the family unit and mental health; all issues of today's assault on the safety and wellbeing of students, teachers and school staff.

**Information:** Contact: Sharon Arpoika, (209) 847-2048, [endcultureofviolence@gmail.com](mailto:endcultureofviolence@gmail.com)

*The Stanislaus County Office of Education*; <http://www.stancoe.org>.

*The American Association of University Women (AAUW)*: <http://www.aauw.org>

*The League of Women Voters (LWW)*: <http://modesto.ca.lwvnet.org>.

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG)*: <http://www.dkg.org>.

## MJC Civic Engagement Spring 2015 Series

The Film and Lecture Series provides students and members of the community topics of social interest through the screening of thoughtful movies and by presenting knowledgeable speakers who have demonstrated knowledge on topics deemed to be of social significance. Discussion follows each film or speaker.

**February 19 - Dark Girls** examines the prejudice women with darker shades of skin color face around the world, and the film argues that forces such as history, the media and the cosmetic industry have contributed to the self-esteem issues and the internalized racism that accompany the phenomenon of "colorism."

**March 5 - The Human Face of Big Data** looks at the pros and cons of using digital technology to gather and analyze vast amounts of data in real time. The ability to harness so much information, the film suggests, may lead to remarkable innovation and efficiency in business, government, healthcare, and virtually every aspect of life, but it could also threaten privacy and lead to some unwelcome changes as Big Data informs more of the decisions that are made.

**March 19 - Chris Brenner**, a professor of Community and Regional Development at UC Davis, will present an eye-opening lecture on economic inequality in the Central Valley, with special attention to the importance of educational attainment and to the solutions proven effective in promoting

economic improvement in other parts of the country.

**April 2 - Fed Up** investigates the causes of obesity in the United States and argues that our attention should be focused primarily on sugar in processed foods, despite efforts of the sugar industry to direct our attention in other directions.

**April 16 - DamNation.** The makers of the film present themselves as part of a growing movement that challenges the value of specific dams in the United States, especially in light of the dams' impact on fish populations and the environment we share.

**WHERE: Forum Building Room 110**

(on MJC's East Campus)

**WHEN: THURSDAY EVENINGS**

**7 PM to 9 PM**

**COST: FREE** and open to the public.

**Questions?** Contact Jason Wohlstadter, English Professor, at 209.575.6180. [wohlstadterj@mjc.edu](mailto:wohlstadterj@mjc.edu) or Elizabeth McInnes, Biology, 209.575.6299; [mcinnese@mjc.edu](mailto:mcinnese@mjc.edu)

**Film and Lecture Committee:** Jason Wohlstadter (coordinator); Bill Anelli, Judy Cain, Joan Ferrell, Debbie Gilbert, Brian Greene, Ruth Luman, Liz McInnes, Dan Onorato, Mary Swier, Lillian Vallee, Theron Westrope.

<http://www.mjc.edu/president/cep/filmandlecture.php>

# Changing the World, One Fridge at a Time

By JENIFER WEST

Just for the record, I don't make New Year's resolutions. Not that I haven't – which is why I don't, these days. And let me emphasize before I even start that I am not a 'neat freak'. In fact, my style of housekeeping could probably more accurately be described as a bit 'relaxed' (sorry, Mom!).

But I did tackle something – the fridge. We try to avoid wasting food, but it was often all too easy for the occasional container of soup, leftover pasta, or whatever, to be overlooked until it started to sprout hair. Which was not only wasteful, it was doubly expensive: That container of leftover dinner would have been happily devoured by the four ladies who live in our backyard and provide us with fresh eggs each day. Or our canine friends. So not only did we not eat it, throwing it away meant buying more to feed ourselves and our animals.

We've been using baskets to corral the contents of our freezer, which has definitely reduced the amount of food buried and forgotten. And we've gradually invested in pull-out shelves for most of the cabinets in our kitchen – love how easy it is now to access things! So I decided to try this approach in the fridge. I wasn't sure how well it would work, nor how the other members of the household would react to it. But I figured it was definitely worth a try.

Part of what actually spurred this project was a determination to reduce the number of plastic containers we use for water, milk, or whatever. Last summer, after a very hot walk with our dogs, I picked up the bottled water in my husband's truck and took a swig. And just about gagged. I'm not really sure how to describe the water in that flimsy plastic bottle, but

it wouldn't be 'sparkling', 'spring', or 'pure'. And we'd been using some oversized plastic cups with lids and straws for smoothies for a while. But one day after taking a drink of water that had been sitting out in one of them, I realized the plastic was leaching nastiness into whatever was put into it. And don't even get me started about the plastic jugs milk comes in these days!

So we invested in some glass pitchers with sealed lids, for milk (Bormioli Rocco, from Amazon).

They keep out the flavor of fish, chopped onions or whatever else is hanging around in the fridge, with the added bonus of fitting into the refrigerator door. Which, in turn, freed up a surprising amount of real estate on the top shelf! (We also invested in some glass bottles for water, and keep several in the fridge. Great for company!)

But storing pitchers of milk in the refrigerator door meant clearing out and organizing bottles of various condiments, some of which probably dated back to the Clinton administration – the first one. So out came the baskets, and, after some arranging and rearranging, into the fridge they went, organized by contents:

One for olives, pickles, fermented beans, etc., another for things like Worcestershire sauce, toasted almond oil, chili sauce. Other baskets hold leftovers. That almost seemed like overkill – until we realized how much easier it is to keep track of them! The basket on the top shelf holds



salad dressing, mayo, ketchup, mustard, jam – things that are used frequently. And without those nasty plastic milk jugs, there's plenty of room for whatever else we want to keep handy.

Once a basket is pulled partway out of the fridge, it's so much more efficient to find whatever is needed, compared to the old peer-over-and-under, move-things-out-of-the-way-and/or-put-them-on-the-floor approach.

I'm pleased with the results of this project, which have included

not only improved efficiency, but the satisfaction, and peace of mind, that accompany bringing order to something seemingly unmanageable. Others' immediate reaction to this new system was positive, probably politely so, but positive nonetheless. But several weeks on, the baskets are still in place. There has been an occasional moment of searching for an item, before the seeker remembers what basket it's in, but so far, things seem to be staying in their assigned places. Probably not surprisingly, the success of that project has inspired me to take on others. And my dear husband has recently begun to tackle a daunting project we'd been putting off: The shed.

This may not count as a New Year's resolution, but it is very nice to start the year with a small change which makes one more part of life easier. And if these ideas inspire even one person to put in the time and effort to make some aspect of his or her life work better, maybe, just maybe, the world might become a better place. Or at least a more efficient one.



## Spread the word throughout the Immigrant Community

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced executive actions to solve some of the problems in our immigration system including an extension of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the creation of the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program.

Several local organizations that serve immigrant populations have formed a coalition with the aim of educating our community about these new programs. The hope is to inform people about these programs: what the programs do and what they do not do; the programs' eligibility requirements; the actions that potential applicants should take now to prepare for applying when the programs are actually implemented, and the actions that should be avoided to prevent fraud and scams.

**English:** <http://immigrationcoalitionstanislaus.weebly.com/>

**Spanish:** <http://coalicionimmigracionstanislaus.weebly.com/>



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209-529-5750.

# An Open Letter to World Leaders, Cc: Everyone Else

By MALALA YOUSAFZAI and FRIENDS,  
Reader Supported News

There are moments in history that become turning points. In our view, 2015 will be such a moment. It is the most important year for global decision-making since the start of the new millennium.

We believe it's just possible that we could end 2015 with a new global compact — an agreed pathway to a better, safer future for people and planet that will inspire all the citizens of the world. We can choose the path of sustainable development. Or we might not — and regret it for generations to come. Which side of history will you be on?

There are millions of voices you can't afford to ignore — the voices of the people you represent. They are voices of all ages from every corner of the planet - the voice of a young girl currently deprived an education... of a pregnant mother deprived healthcare... of young people deprived decent work... of a family from a minority group fearful of discrimination from corrupt officials... of farmers forced to migrate to cities as climate refugees... and of billions of other people. Their voices will roar ever louder against the inequality and injustice that keep people poor. They — and

all who stand with them — are calling on you to come up with a grand new global contract for our one human family — and then deliver on it together. The great news is that in 2015 you have a historic chance to do just that.

Two critical United Nations summits will take place this year. The first in September, where the world must agree new goals to eradicate extreme poverty, tackle inequality and ensure a more sustainable planet. The second is the climate summit in December where we must ensure the wellbeing of people today doesn't come at the expense of our children's futures.

Together with critical discussions on financing, these opportunities are the biggest of our lifetime. We know from past efforts against AIDS, malaria, preventable diseases and saving the ozone layer that when we come together, so much can be achieved. Yet, with just months to go before these summits, few leaders are playing the leadership roles we need. We see climate progress but not yet of the scale that is needed, and a set of goals that are hugely ambitious but will be meaningless without brave financing and implementation agreements led from the very top.

If this does not change, we fear you and your fellow leaders

could be sleep-walking the world towards one of the greatest failures of recent history. It's not too late to rise to the occasion. We're asking you to help lead that change.

Let's be clear: the actions we take in 2015 will decide which way the world turns for decades to come. Please take the right path.

Yours,

Malala Yousafzai, Co-Founder of the Malala Fund & 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate

Ben Affleck, Actor, Filmmaker & Founder of Eastern Congo Initiative

Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Bono, Lead singer of U2 & cofounder of ONE and (RED)  
Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Gro Harlem Brundtland, Former Prime Minister, Norway  
Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Dir., Earth Institute & author of The Age of Sustainable Development

Many other signers at:

<http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/28129-an-open-letter-to-world-leaders-cc-everyone-else?tmpl=component&print=1&layout=default&page=>

## Pull Yourself Up by Your Bread Bags: Rules stacked against most

By MARJORIE ELIZABETH WOOD

In his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama presented a bold economic vision for America. Do we want a country where only “a few of us do spectacularly well,” he asked, or where everyone has a chance to succeed?

Obama conveyed this vision by telling the story of Rebekah and Ben Erler, a couple from Minneapolis who struggled through the recession by taking odd jobs and investing in their education. <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/01/21/erler-sotu>

Just like millions of Americans who have sacrificed and worked hard since the crisis of 2008, Rebekah and Ben have emerged stronger. But they “still need our help,” Obama said.

America has taken bold steps during earlier tough times to make sure the link between working hard and getting ahead stays strong.

As Obama put it, “We set up worker protections, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid to protect ourselves from the harshest adversity. We gave our citizens schools and col-

leges, infrastructure, and the Internet — tools they needed to go as far as their effort will take them.”

In his speech, Obama proposed to reinforce those investments by increasing access to child care, maternity leave, sick leave, community college, and new infrastructure.

It was a powerful vision worthy of FDR and — despite drawbacks such as his continued support for corporate-backed “free-trade” agreements — one of Obama's best speeches to date on the economy.

Then came Senator Joni Ernst's Republican response. <http://www.npr.org/2015/01/20/378680893/transcript-gop-response-to-state-of-the-union-address>

Ernst rose to prominence last year during her Iowa Senate campaign. In case you missed it, she promised to make Washington's “big spenders” squeal like the hogs she castrated while growing up on her family farm.

She didn't go there this time. Instead, Ernst turned to personal memories of hard work and sacrifice. They ranged from plowing her family's farm to working the morning biscuit line at Hardees so she could save for college.

Biscuit jokes soon spread across social media platforms. But it was her “bread bag” story that went viral.

Because Ernst had only one pair of good shoes, she said, her mother would “slip plastic bread bags over them to keep them dry” whenever it rained. The same was true of other kids, too. They all protected their shoes with bread bags.

Like Obama, Ernst acknowledged that families today are “working harder and harder, with less and less to show for it.” But for Ernst, government meddling is the culprit — things like the Affordable Care Act, worker protections, taxes on wealth, and federal spending (except the biggest spender of all, the Pentagon, which she praises).

Ernst's bread bags stand for personal resourcefulness. That's her answer for America in tough times. Instead of our government serving the public good, she says, we should get government out of the way.

That way, we can pull ourselves up by our own bread bags, as Ernst might put it.

There's no doubt that hard work and resourcefulness can get you very far. Both Obama and Ernst rightfully praise effort and sacrifice as pillars of America's past successes.

But what Ernst doesn't get is that the reason millions of Americans are struggling these days isn't because they aren't resourceful. It's because the rules are stacked against them.

Child care costs more than an average mortgage. College is saddling students and parents with unprecedented debt. Tax policy favors large corporations and the rich. Jobs are increasingly part-time or temporary. And the current minimum wage is not a living wage anywhere in the country.

When it rains or snows, wrapping bread bags around your shoes is better than nothing. But everyone weathers a storm better if they earn a decent living. That way, they'll be able to afford a good pair of boots.

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# Let Justice Roll Down

By MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

*From 1961 to 1966, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. wrote an annual essay for The Nation on the state of civil rights and race relations in America. In 1965, he wrote about the power of demonstrations and "legislation written in the streets."*

This article appeared in the March 15, 1965 edition of *The Nation*.

When 1963 came to a close, more than a few skeptical voices asked what substantial progress had been achieved through the demonstrations that had drawn more than a million Negroes into the streets. By the close of 1964, the pessimistic clamor was stilled by the music of major victories. Taken together, the two years marked a historic turning point for the civil rights movement; in the previous century no comparable change for the Negro had occurred. Now, even the most cynical acknowledged that at Birmingham, as at Concord, a shot had been fired that was heard around the world.

Before examining 1964 in greater depth, some comment is necessary on the events currently unfolding in Alabama. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act and with the defeat of Barry Goldwater, there was widespread expectation that barriers would disintegrate with swift inevitability. This easy optimism could not survive the first test. In the hard-core states of the South, while some few were disposed to accommodate, the walls remained erect and reinforced. That was to be expected, for the basic institutions of government, commerce, industry and social patterns in the South all rest upon the embedded institution of segregation. Change is not accomplished by peeling off superficial layers when the causes are rooted deeply in the heart of the organism.

Those who expected a cheap victory in a climate of complacency were shocked into reality by Selma and Marion, Ala. In Selma, the position was implacable resistance. At one point, ten times as many Negroes were in jail as were on the registration rolls. Out of 15,000 eligible to vote, less than 350 were registered.

Selma involves more than disenfranchisement. Its inner texture reveals overt and covert forms of terror and intimidat-

tion—that uniquely Southern form of existence for Negroes in which life is a constant state of acute defensiveness and deprivation. Yet if Selma outrages democratic sensibilities, neighboring Wilcox County offers something infinitely worse. Sheriff P.C. Jenkins has held office in Wilcox for twenty-six years. He is a local legend because when he wants a Negro for a crime, he merely sends out word and the Negro comes in to be arrested. This is intimidation and degradation reminiscent only of chattel slavery. This is white supremacist arrogance and Negro servility possible only in an atmosphere where the Negro feels himself so isolated, so hopeless, that he is stripped of all dignity. And, as if they were in competition to obliterate the United States Constitution within Alabama's borders, state troopers only a few miles away clubbed and shot Negro demonstrators in Marion.

Are demonstrations of any use, some ask, when resistance is so unyielding? Would the slower processes of legislation and law enforcement ultimately accomplish greater results more painlessly? Demonstrations, experience has shown, are part of the process of stimulating legislation and law enforcement. The federal government reacts to events more quickly when a situation of conflict cries out for its intervention. Beyond this, demonstrations have a creative effect on the social and psychological climate that is not matched by the legislative process. Those who have lived under the corrosive humiliation of daily intimidation are imbued by demonstrations with a sense of courage and dignity that strengthens their personalities. Through demonstrations, Negroes learn that unity and militance have more

force than bullets. They find that the bruises of clubs, electric cattle prods and fists hurt less than the scars of submission. And segregationists learn from demonstrations that Negroes who have been taught to fear can also be taught to be fearless. Finally, the millions of Americans on the sidelines learn that inhumanity wears an official badge and wields the power of law in large areas of the democratic nation of their pride.

In addition to these ethical and psychological considerations, our work in the black-belt counties of Alabama has enabled us to develop further a tactical pattern whose roots



extend back to Birmingham and Montgomery. Our movement has from the earliest days of SCLC adhered to a method which uses nonviolence in a special fashion. We have consistently operated on the basis of total community involvement. It is manifestly easier to initiate actions with a handful of dedicated supporters, but we have sought to make activists of all our people, rather than draw some activists from the mass.

Our militant elements were used, not as small striking detachments, but to organize. Through them, and by patient effort, we have attempted to involve Negroes from industry, the land, the home, the professions; Negroes of advanced age, middle age, youth and the very young. In Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, St. Augustine and elsewhere, when we marched it was as a community, not as a small and unimpressive, if symbolic, assemblage. The charge that we were outside agitators, devoid of support from contented local Negroes, could not be convincing when the procession of familiar local faces could be seen block after block in solid array.

The second element in our tactics after Montgomery was to formulate demands that covered varied aspects of Negro life. If voting campaigns or lunch-counter sit-ins appeared central in press reports, they were but a part of our broader aims. In Birmingham, employment opportunity was a demand pressed as forcefully as desegregation of public facilities. In Selma, our four points encompass voting rights, employment opportunities, improved interracial communication and paved streets in the Negro neighborhoods. The last demand may appear to Northerners to lack some of the historic importance of voting rights. To the Southern Negro the fact that anyone can identify where the ghetto begins by noting where the pavement ends is one of the many offensive experiences in his life. The neighborhood is degraded to degrade the person in it.

The Mississippi Summer Project of the combined civil rights organizations was accorded the traditional Mississippi welcome of murder, arson and terror, and persisted under fire until even the Klan recognized that its sanctuary had been overrun. The isolated Negroes of that state were drawn into the vibrant national struggle. To mark their new status they formed a political party whose voice was heard loudly and clearly at the Democratic National convention and in the Congress.

Change is not accomplished by peeling off superficial layers when the causes are rooted deeply in the heart of the organism.

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## from previous page

But perhaps the most significant development of 1963 and 1964 was the emergence of a disciplined, perceptive Negro electorate, almost 100 per cent larger than that of the 1960 Presidential election. Mississippi, the Civil Rights Act, and the new massive Negro vote each represents a particular form of struggle; nevertheless, they are interrelated. Together, they signify the new ability of the movement to function simultaneously in varied arenas, and with varied methods.

Each accomplishment was the culmination of long years of ache and agony. The new Negro vote best illustrates this point. Quietly, without the blare of trumpets, without marching legions to excite the spirit, thousands of patient, persistent Negroes worked day in and day out, laboriously adding one name to another in the registration books. Finally on November 7, in an electoral confrontation vitally important to their existence, they displayed the power which had long been accumulating. On the following day every political expert knew that a mature and permanent Negro electorate had emerged. A powerful, unified political force had come into being.

While elsewhere electioneering was being conducted systematically, another detachment was assaulting the fortress walls of Mississippi, long immune to the discipline of justice. As the confrontation boiled and seethed even in remote rural counties, the revulsion of decent Americans mounted. The wanton burning of churches, the inexpressibly cruel murder of young civil rights workers, not only failed to paralyze the movement; they became a grisly and eloquent demonstration to the whole nation of the moral degeneracy upon which segregation rests.

The Civil Rights Act was expected by many to suffer the fate of the Supreme Court decisions on school desegregation. In particular, it was thought that the issue of public accommodations would encounter massive defiance. But this pessimism overlooked a factor of supreme importance. The legislation was not a product of charity of white America for a supine black America, nor was it the result of enlightened leadership by the judiciary. This legislation was first written in the streets. The epic thrust of the millions of Negroes who demonstrated in 1963 in hundreds of cities won strong white allies to the cause. Together, they created a "coalition of conscience" which awoke a hitherto somnolent Congress. The legislation was polished and refined in the marble halls

of Congress, but the vivid marks of its origins in the turmoil of mass meetings and marches were on it, and the vigor and momentum of its turbulent birth carried past the voting and insured substantial compliance.

Apart from its own provisions, the new law stimulated and focused attention on economic needs. An assault on poverty was planned in 1964 and given preliminary and experimental shape.

The fusing of economic measures with civil rights needs; the boldness to penetrate every region of the Old South; the undergirding of the whole by the massive Negro vote, both North and South, all place the freedom struggle on a new elevated level.

The old tasks of awakening the Negro to motion while educating America to the miseries of Negro poverty and humiliation in their manifold forms have substantially been accomplished. Demonstrations may be limited in the future, but contrary to some belief, they will not be abandoned. Demonstrations educate the onlooker as well as the participant, and education requires repetition. That is

**The election of President Johnson, whatever else it might have been, was also an alliance of Negro and white for common interests.**

one reason why they have not outlived their usefulness. Furthermore, it would be false optimism to expect ready compliance to the new law everywhere. The

Negro's weapon of non-violent direct action is his only serviceable tool against injustice. He may be willing to sheath that sword but he has learned the wisdom of keeping it sharp.

Yet new times call for new policies. Negro leadership, long attuned to agitation, must now perfect the art of organization. The movement needs stable and responsible institutions in the communities to utilize the new strength of Negroes in altering social customs. In their furious combat to level walls of segregation and discrimination, Negroes gave primary emphasis to their deprivation of dignity and personality. Having gained a measure of success they are now revealed to be clothed, by comparison with other Americans, in rags. They are housed in decaying ghettos and provided with a ghetto education to eke out a ghetto life. Thus, they are automatically enlisted in the war on poverty as the most eligible combatants. Only when they are in full possession of their civil rights everywhere, and afforded equal economic opportunity, will the haunting race question finally be laid to rest.

What are the key guides to the future? It would not be over-optimistic to eliminate one of the vain hopes of the segregationists—the white back lash. It had a certain reality in 1964, but far less than the segregationists needed. For the most part it was powered by petulance rather than principle.

Therefore, when the American people saw before them a clear choice between a future of progress with racial justice or stagnation with ancient privilege, they voted in landslide proportions for justice. President Johnson made a creative contribution by declining to mute this issue in the campaign.

The election of President Johnson, whatever else it might have been, was also an alliance of Negro and white for common interests. Perceptive Negro leadership understands that each of the major accomplishments in 1964 was the product of Negro militancy *on a level that could mobilize and maintain white support*. Negroes acting alone and in a hostile posture toward all whites will do nothing more than demonstrate that their conditions of life are unendurable, and that they are unbearably angry. But this has already been widely dramatized. On the other hand, whites who insist upon exclusively determining the time schedule of change will also



fail, however wise and generous they feel themselves to be. A genuine Negro-white unity is the tactical foundation upon which past and future progress depends.

The rapid acceleration of change in race relations in the nation is occurring within the larger transformation of our political and economic structure. The South is already a split region, fissured politically and economically as cleanly as the Mississippi River divides its banks. Negroes by themselves did not fragment the South; they facilitated a process that the changing economy of the nation began. The old rural South, essentially poor and retarded, had to industrialize as agricultural regions contracted under the impact of heightened soil productivity. The exodus from Southern farms coincided with the influx of industry seeking the natural resources and cheaper labor market of the area.

Negroes were drawn off the farms into urban service and into limited, semi-skilled occupations. Though many migrated North, most remained in the South. Just as they had not been content to erode with the old plantations, they were not disposed to take a permanent place as industrial untouchables. The ferment of revolutionary change by the



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## 12 Trees to be planted in Modesto city park to celebrate the Jewish New Year for the Trees

Submitted by TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Modesto, CA – Congregation Beth Shalom, The Center for Jewish Life in Modesto, will celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the ancient Hebrew New Year of the Trees, by planting 12 trees in Cesar Chavez Park and holding a Tu B'Shevat Seder (ritual meal) at the congregation. The public is invited to join for both events.

The congregation will host a Tu B'Shvat Seder meal with fruits, nuts, juices, and wine on Saturday afternoon, February 7th at 12:30 p.m. at 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto. The event is open to everyone; a \$10 donation is requested for non-members.

On Sunday, February 8th, the congregation will donate and plant 12 trees. The planting will begin at 11:00 a.m. at Cesar Chavez Park (previously known as West Side Park) located on Sierra Dr. between 3rd and 4th Sts. in Modesto adjacent to the Maddux Youth Center. This event is open to the community and is being planned with the City of Modesto Forest Preservation Department.

The planting will be followed by Tu B'Shvat refreshments. As Rabbi Shalom Bochner, the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom said, "Tu B'Shvat is a minor holiday and incredible opportunity to appreciate the many blessing of the natural world. Trees provide us with so much: from shade, to food and buildings, paper, pencils, fuel and, of course, fresh air. This holiday is our chance to give back to the world and make sure that we are leaving it in better condition than we found it."



## Lara Gularte: A California Native Daughter and poetic voice of the Portuguese and Lusophone diaspora

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Lara Gularte was born and raised in San Jose, California and comes from an immigrant family from the Azore Islands who came to California to "strike it rich" during the Gold Rush. Unable to reach that goal, the family turned to ranching. Her grandmother, Maria Cabral-Neves, came to Fort Jones, CA. as a mail-order-bride, and her homestead remains a local landmark.

Lara was inspired to use poetry to tell stories of her family's rich heritage starting in the "old country." She also was influenced by a childhood during which isolation from others her age fostered her active imagination and a heightened awareness of the natural world.

When her family moved from their ranch to one of San Jose's first tract home developments, the neighborhood "school and county library fostered [her] sense of escape into other worlds that always seemed to beckon [her]." Her love of books evolved into a penchant for storytelling.

"A retired Superior Court Investigator, she wrote reports to the judge by day and poetry by night. As a former board member for Poetry Center San Jose, she created and hosted a monthly writing group for the mentally ill."

She earned an MFA degree from San Jose State University where she was a poetry editor for *Reed Magazine*, received the Anne Lillis Award for Creative Writing, and several Phelan Awards. She was an *Empirical Magazine* 2nd prize poetry contest winner, and was nominated by Bitter Oleander Press to Best New Poets 2010. Her work has appeared in *The Bitter Oleander*, *California Quarterly*, *The Clackamas Review*, *Evansville Review*, *Permafrost*, *The Water-Stone Review*, *The Fourth River*, *The Santa Clara Review*, and in many national and regional anthologies.

She is an assistant editor for *Narrative Magazine*, the former editor of *Convergence-journal.com* and an alumnus of the Community of Writers, Squaw Valley, CA. She lives in the Sierra foothills, seven miles from where gold was discovered, in a geo-dome with her long-time partner, Brian, two cats, and a dog, and is currently a member of The Red Fox Underground, a Sierra foothills poetry collective.




Lara's ties to her Portuguese ancestry led her to become a member of *Presence/Presença*, a Facebook discussion group named by Frank X. Gaspar, which formed in June 2011 at the DISQUIET International Literary Program in Lisbon, Portugal in response to the relative absence of Luso-American voices in contemporary letters. *Presence/Presença* provides a community for North American writers of the Portuguese and Lusophone diaspora for those with roots in Lusophone countries, such as Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, the Chinese Special Administrative Region of Macau, and Galicia, and other regions where Portuguese have migrated.

Lara's poetic work depicting her Azorean heritage is included in a book of essays called *Imaginarios Luso-Americanos e Acorianos* by Vamberto Freitas, and can be found in *The Gavea-Brown Book of Portuguese-American Poetry*.

"Those who have lived under the corrosive humiliation of daily intimidation are imbued by demonstrations with a sense of courage and dignity that strengthens their personalities."

Martin Luther King, Jr. 1965

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## COELACANTH

The Paleozoic ocean returns,  
and water sparks leap into air.  
Hypnotized by glistening surf,  
she kicks off her sandals,  
lunges into a mysterious ebb.

Cold currents move in her.  
She crawls up sandy shallows  
into the mercy of sunlight,  
a creature evolving.

The earth too bright, too dry,  
shore covered with skeletal crabs,  
the grief of toxic turtle eggs.

Gasping, she discovers not what she is,  
but what she has never been.

Out of breath,  
gills and fins develop.  
Her bubble eyes glow, blinded  
by the sun's dazzle.

Caught in a rip current,  
carried away into a dark abyss,  
the deepest part of her  
extinct, but alive.

“Coelacanth” was first published in *The Bitter Oleander*

## A RIVER STORY

My young years,  
long days to catch minnows.  
Baptisms of dunk-my-head-under  
for as long as I could,  
then breathe out bubbles.  
A walk under cottonwoods  
along moist banks  
to hunt treasures--  
oak galls,  
the lizard's tail.  
I threw a penny into bright waters,  
made a wish.  
Copper shone back at me.

Forty years gone,  
my days shorter.  
The river dark and cold,  
filled with mud and stink,  
dead crayfish.  
The spongy bank  
does not spring back.  
I trip over a buzzard's bones,  
stare into the third eye  
of a mutant frog.  
In my mouth the taste of metal.  
If you lick my heart  
it will poison you.

“A River Story” was first published in *poetrynow*

## REDEVELOPMENT

The old graveyard torn down.  
Here and there  
stones  
like prehistoric ruins.

Bones uplifted,  
untangled from sod.  
Decay flutters  
from holy ground  
on black wings.

Bones wrenched from the land,  
from their depths.  
We stumble over our own roots.

Remains labeled,  
stacked,  
shipped away.  
Bulldozers move in,  
condos under construction.

Marble, granite  
saved  
for countertops.  
Stone lions,  
cherubs  
guard the gated community.

Relentless street lamps  
light the way.  
Our eyes close  
to the presence of absence,  
of scattered bones.

“Redevelopment” was first published in *Watershed*

## MOVING DAYS

Old houses lean together,  
tremble as cold dew crawls  
down the panes of windows.  
The shingles soften under long stains of moss.  
Pickets and primroses,  
hollyhocks that spine up behind the fence.  
The houses stand in the way of double lanes.

The Arts-and-Crafts bungalow is vacant.  
No face shows behind  
weathered doors and windows,  
but the roses are tended.

When the Italianate on the corner collapses,  
windowsills lean out,  
walls tumble like headstones.  
The dead rush in to look for their relics,  
memorize the landfill,  
before the chain store arrives.

A white clapboard frame  
stands without walls or windows . . .

years ago a spinet piano played  
and geraniums wrapped the yard purple.  
The front door wide open,  
waits for a man to come home,  
step into his wife's arms.

Owners of the old Victorian,  
are not ready for the day of moving.  
All who lived and died here  
teeter on the railings,  
sit on the sagging front porch in chairs  
to face the bulldozers.  
Workers in deep gloves will raze the building,  
drive over lost things.

“Moving Days” was first published in *The Preservation Action Council of San Jose's newsletter*.

## Della

A long sprawl on the sidewalk  
she licks lamp posts,  
rubs against the leg of a traffic light.  
Her arms are street signs;  
they bend in the wind.  
She becomes a flurry of gestures and grimaces  
at cars going by on St. John Street  
then throws her head back laughing.  
She hugs a bag of cigarette butts  
like a rag doll.  
Her stare will close you down,  
her left eye brown and dangerous,  
the hard slot of her mouth.

She lives in St. James Park  
where statues look down on her  
for laughing and talking to the sky.  
Under humming power lines  
she sleeps in sour clothes, buried in blankets  
her body wrapped around a gnarled tree.  
On a chain around her neck  
an amulet of Mary to ward off evil.  
She lives in two worlds,  
the lost one, and where she lives now.  
She dreams in double time,  
wakes to the full day's glare,  
walks the streets calling out names  
she hasn't heard in years.

“Della” was first published in *ART/LIFE magazine*



# February is about Love...Love your Mother Earth by choosing a theme for National Green Week 2015



## GREEN WEEK 2015 KICKS OFF FEBRUARY 2 – JOIN TODAY!

National Green Week is an annual event that empowers schools to engage in sustainability focused lessons, projects or activities

between the first full week in February and the end of Earth Month (April). Participating districts, schools, classrooms or youth groups can choose any week between February 2 and May 2, 2015 to focus on a theme from the Green Education Foundation (GEF) sustainability focused programs.

Over 10,000 schools and 5 million students have participated in what GEF says is “the largest sustainability education program running!” The program is free and designed to make it easy to incorporate sustainability education into the classroom by providing 5-day standards-based lesson sets, activities, recommended reading, sustainability tips, contests, and more!

Green week provides an opportunity to spend time with

students discussing sustainability topics and exploring ways they can make a difference. Classes are invited to choose any week during the listed dates as their Green Week, and can participate for the whole week, a day, or just one lesson, reading or activity.

### Getting started:

1. Become a GEF member ([www.greeneducationfoundation.org](http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org))
2. Pick any week between Feb 2 and May 2, 2015 to be your Green Week
3. Select a sustainability themed program (see below and on the site) and integrate grade specific lessons, activities and readings (located on the left menu of each theme) into your class during your chosen Green Week
4. Complete this survey at the end of your Green Week (and be entered to win a \$100 Amex gift card)
5. Submit your program or project for a Green in Action Award (optional) prizes include \$250 for your class or school

## Join the Movement, Make a Difference

### Green Energy Challenge

The Green Energy Challenge calls on schools across the nation to improve their energy efficiency through simple changes of behavior. This K-12 sustainability education program empowers children to take small steps that can have a big collective impact on our environment, our economy, and our societies.

**Make Energy Your Theme!**

### Green Thumb Challenge

The Green Thumb Challenge enlists schools and youth groups to get kids gardening! GEF provides gardening tools and resources, as well as standards-based curriculum and activities to connect the garden with the classroom.



**Make Gardening Your Theme!**

### Green Building Program

The Green Building Program encourages participants to learn about green building strategies through standards-based curriculum, case studies, and other GEF resources. Students and teachers learn how buildings impact the environment and how changes in the construction and use can help conserve natural resources.

**Make Green Building Your Theme!**

### Waste Reduction Challenge

Join the waste reduction challenge to learn how your trash impacts our planet. Plus, find out how you can make a dif-

ference by reducing the waste you create everyday and how you can start recycling!

**Make Waste Reduction your Theme!**

### I Ride Green



I Ride Green invites participants to start easy-to-adopt green habits that can lead to lifelong healthy behaviors. Participants are encouraged to share success stories and strategies, set up carpooling schedules, and more!

**Make Sustainable Transportation your Theme!**

### The Sustainable Water Challenge

The Sustainable Water Challenge invites students to learn about the importance of water, our planet’s most valuable resource, and learn how to conserve water in their homes and schools.



**Make Water your Theme!**

**ACTION!** Utilize all or some of the GEF sustainability programs any time or schedule your sustainability initiatives around National Green Week. Click to learn more about National Green Week



## Ninth Annual UC Merced Human Rights Watch Film Festival

**What:** Human Rights Watch Film Festival

**When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Friday in February (February 6, 13, 20 & 27)

**Where:** Classroom Office Building (COB) 120, University of California, Merced.

**Why:** to bring home the discussion about human rights, view film as an art form that can impact social justice, and serve as witnesses and actors in the global and local effort to end violence and inequality.

2/6: *Private Violence*, domestic violence against women in the United States (2013, 81 minutes, Filmmaker: Cynthia Hill). Trailer: <http://ff.hrw.org/film/private-violence>

2/13: *Return to Homs*, portrait of a group of young revolutionaries in the city of Homs in western Syria ((2013, Syria/Germany, 87 minutes, Filmmaker: Talal Derki). *World Cinema Grand Jury Prize Documentary, Sundance Film Festival 2014. Courtesy of Proaction Film.* Trailer: <http://ff.hrw.org/film/return-homs>

2/20: *The Homestretch*, homeless teens battling the odds in Chicago (2014, United States, 89 minutes, Filmmakers: Anne de Mare and Kirsten Kelly). Trailer: <http://ff.hrw.org/film/homestretch>

2/27: *Purgatorio*, A provocative meditation that captures the brutal beauty of the U.S./Mexico Border (2013, United States, 80 minutes, Filmmaker: Rodrigo Reyes will attend the showing). Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/73270818>

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## Let Justice Roll Down

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backward and dispossessed peoples of the whole world inspired them to struggle. In some areas, economic and social change enabled them to advance against an opposition that was still formidable but of a different quality than that of the past. The new South, with its local needs and with an eye to its national image, could not adhere to the brutal, terroristic overseer psychology of bygone days. For these reasons Atlanta, Savannah and some cities of Florida are markedly different from the underdeveloped belts of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.

In the next period, Negroes are likely to find new white Southern allies of even greater importance among the rural and urban poor. It is an irony of American history that Negroes have been oppressed and subjected to discrimination by many whose economic circumstances were scarcely better than their own. The social advantages which softened the economic disabilities of Southern poor whites are now beginning to lose some of their attractions as these whites realize what material benefits are escaping them. The section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which withholds federal aid when it is used discriminatorily in federally assisted programs has revolutionary implications. It ties the interests of whites who desperately need relief from their impoverishment to the Negro who has the same needs. The barriers of segregation are splintering under the strain of economic deprivation which cuts across caste lines. To climb the economic ladder, Negro and white will have to steady it together, or both will fall.

This is already occurring among many who have run for office in different areas of the South. The faces were the same as of old, but looking closely, one could see that some of the features had changed. Especially, the language had changed: "Negro," not "darky"; "the law of the land," not "States' rights"; the "new prosperity and affluence," not the

"old Southern traditions." These new phrases may be uttered with many private agonies, but their commitments are public.

Space does not permit a sufficient discussion of the President's program, nor is it yet adequately elaborated. But without wishing to diminish the high respect which the President earned from the civil rights movement one aspect of his program should be studied, if only because of the emphasis he has given it. The President's concept of consensus must be subject to thoughtful and critical examination. *The New York Times* in a perceptive editorial on December 20 asked if Mr. Johnson really means to be a "consensus President."

It pointed out that such were Coolidge and Eisenhower, who "served the needs of the day but not of decades to come. They preside over periods of rest and consolidation. They lead no probes into the future and break no fresh ground." *The Times* then added, "A President who wants to get things done has to be a fighter, has to spend the valuable coin of his own popularity, has to jar the existing consensus....No major program gets going unless someone is willing to wage an active and often fierce struggle in its behalf."

The *Times* is undeniably correct. The fluidity and instability of American public opinion on questions of social change is very marked. There would have been no civil rights progress, nor a nuclear test-ban treaty, without resolute Presidential leadership. The issues which must be decided are momentous. The contest is not tranquil and relaxed. The search for a consensus will tend to become a quest for the least common denominator of change. In an atmosphere devoid of urgency the American people can easily be stupefied into accepting slow reform, which in practice would be inadequate reform. "Let Justice roll down like waters in a mighty stream," said the Prophet Amos. He was seeking not consensus but the cleansing action of revolutionary change. America has made progress toward freedom, but measured against the goal the road ahead is still long and hard. This could be the worst possible moment for slowing down.

A consensus orientation is understandably attractive to a political leader. His task is measurably easier if he is merely to give shape to widely accepted programs. He becomes a technician rather than an innovator. Past Presidents have often sought such a function. President Kennedy promised in his campaign an executive order banning discrimination in housing. This substantial progressive step, he declared, required only "a stroke of the pen." Nevertheless, he delayed execution of the order long after his election on the ground that he awaited a "national consensus." President Roosevelt, facing the holocaust of an economic crisis in the early thirties, attempted to base himself on a consensus with the N.R.A.; and generations earlier, Abraham Lincoln temporized and hesitated through years of civil war, seeking a consensus before issuing the Emancipation Proclamation.

In the end, however, none of these Presidents fashioned the program which was to mark him as historically great by patiently awaiting a consensus. Instead, each was propelled into action by a mass movement which did not necessarily reflect an overwhelming majority. What the movement lacked

in support was less significant than the fact that it had championed the key issue of the hour. President Kennedy was forced by Birmingham and the tumultuous actions it stimulated to offer to Congress the Civil Rights Bill. Roosevelt was impelled by labor, farmers and small-businessmen to commit the government in revolutionary depth to social welfare as a constituent stimulus to the economy. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation under the pressure of war needs. *The overwhelming national consensus followed their acts; it did not precede them.*

The contemporary civil rights movement must serve

### The fluidity and instability of American public opinion on questions of social change is very marked.

President Johnson in the same fashion. It must select from the multitude of issues those principal creative reforms which will have broad transforming power to affect the whole movement of

society. Behind these goals it must then tirelessly organize widespread struggle. The specific selection of the correct and appropriate programs requires considerable discussion and is beyond the purview of this study. A few guidelines are, however, immediately evident.

One point of central importance for this period is that the distribution of Negroes geographically makes a single national tactical program impractical. During the Civil War, Frederick Douglass perceived the difference in problems of Negroes in the North and in the South. He championed emancipation, aside from its moral imperatives, because its impact would transform the South. For the North, his principal demand was integration of Negroes into the Union Army.

Similarly today, the Negro of the South requires in the first place the opportunity to exercise elementary rights and to be shielded from terror and oppression by reliable, alert government protection. He should not have to stake his life, his home or his security merely to enjoy the right to vote. On the other hand, in the North, he already has many basic rights and a fair measure of state protection. There, his quest is toward a more significant participation in government, and the restructuring of his economic life to end ghetto existence.

Very different tactics will be required to achieve these disparate goals. Many of the mistakes made by Northern movements may be traced to the application of tactics that work in Birmingham but produce no results in Northern ghettos. Demonstrations in the streets of the South reveal the cruel fascism underlacing the social order there. No such result attends a similar effort in the North. However, rent strikes, school boycotts, electoral alliances summon substantial support from Negroes, and dramatize the specific grievances peculiar to those communities.

With the maturation of the civil rights movement, growing out of the struggles of 1963 and 1964, new tactical devices will emerge. The most important single imperative is that we continue moving forward with the indomitable spirit of those two turbulent years. It is worth recalling the admonition of Napoleon (he was thinking of conquest, but what he said was true also of constructive movements): "In order to have good soldiers, a nation must always be at war."

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meetings, our programs, and  
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Modesto Chapter  
Parents, Families, and  
Friends of Lesbians  
and Gays



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](mailto:jwprod1956@clearwire.net)

## FEBRUARY

**MJC Science Colloquium.** Free and open to the public, Wednesdays 3 to 4 p.m., Rm. 15, Science Community Center MJC West Campus, 2201 Blue Gum Ave. Info: Richard Anderson, (209) 529-5182, email [andersonr@mjc.edu](mailto:andersonr@mjc.edu), [www.mjc.edu/instruction/sme/colloquium.php](http://www.mjc.edu/instruction/sme/colloquium.php).

4 **WED:** Ruben Willmarth, engineer, *"Heat Pumps: How they Work and Why They Rock!"* Feb. 11: Darwin Day Talk, Debi Bolter, Ph.D., MJC, *"My Anthropology Researches in South Africa."* Feb. 18: Teri Curtis' zoology students: *"Tigers, Lions and Bears-Oh My! The Effects of Global Change on Various Animal Species."* Feb. 25: Mark McCaffrey, National Center for Science Education, *"Climate Smart and Energy Wise: Climate and Energy Education Challenges of the 21st Century."*

7 **SAT:** MoSt's Third Annual Poetry Festival. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1528 Oakdale Rd., 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Workshops, book tables. Emcee Gillian Wegener; Special Guest Poet, Indigo Moor.

7 **SAT:** Annual MLK Commemoration; Keynote speaker: Julian Bond (see ad, pg. 2).

8 **SUN:** Grace Lieberman And Friends Valentine Concert. 3 pm 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto. Tickets: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 571-6060. Individual tickets \$15; seniors and students \$20; adults, \$7; children; \$12 groups of 15 or with prior arrangement. Individual tickets at the door.

14 **SAT:** Citizens' Climate Lobby, local chapter meets at 9:40 a.m. Meeting in-

cludes a one-hour national conference call, followed by a short business meeting. 937 Oxford Way, Modesto. Info: call Kathy, 380-8063; [kobrien99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kobrien99@sbcglobal.net)

15 **SUN:** The Modesto Film Society presents *In the Heat of the Night*. State Theatre, 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/333>

18 **WED:** Film Night at the Center presents *Four Horsemen*. 23 international economists and thinkers focus on economic inequality and discuss their vision for change. Discussion after. 6:30 pm, Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto. 6:30 pm.

22 **SUN:** Documentary, *Look Up*. Introductory movie on Geoengineering or Climate Modification. 3 p.m., Woodward Park Library, Fresno. Q&A with lead researcher from [www.geoengineering-watch.org](http://www.geoengineering-watch.org). Dane Wigington via Skype. Learn about the true nature behind the drought conditions and crop losses in California as well as the contributing factor to the massive tree die off happening across the country.

22 **SUN:** The Modesto Film Society presents *Groundhog Day*. State Theatre, 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/334>

22 **SUN:** The State Theatre's Annual Red Carpet Party & Dinner. Free but dinner buffet is \$20. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/438>

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Saturday March 7: Modesto Peace/Life Center Annual Mtg.** 8:30 am - Noon.

**March 8: Jessica Leash, Cantorial Soloist/Artist/Scholar In Residence.** 2015 Sunday Afternoons at CBS: All concerts start at 3 pm at 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto. Tickets, 571-6060 or at CBS. More info at [www.cbsmodesto.org/concerts.php](http://www.cbsmodesto.org/concerts.php)

**March 19: Panel "Ending the Culture of Violence on School and College Campuses."** Free event envisions rais-

## 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), 4:00-5:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

**MEDIA:** 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:** Info: 537-7818, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

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

ing public awareness and involving individuals and groups to curtail the riptide of violence in our schools. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Martin G. Petersen Education Center, 720 12th St., Modesto Email [endcultureofviolence@gmail.com](mailto:endcultureofviolence@gmail.com)

**March 20: Peace Essay Contest Awards.** Time & place TBA.

**June 7 : Annual PLC Pancake Breakfast.**

**June 11: John McCutcheon performs his one-man play, "Joe Hill's Last Will."** Benefit for the Peace/Life Center at the Prospect Theater Project. More info. TBA.

## ONGOING

**CALCULATORS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT:** valuable website which contains car payment and car use calculators and links to many calculators to help people reduce their energy footprints. <http://www.carpaymentcalculator.net/calcs/environmental.php>

**VALLEY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT'S** mission is to improve the quality of life of under-represented and marginalized residents of California's Central Valley. For ongoing events visit V.I.P. at <http://valleyimprovementprojects.org/about>. Email: [valleyimprovementprojects@gmail.com](mailto:valleyimprovementprojects@gmail.com) Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/ValleyImprovementProjects?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyImprovementProjects?ref=br_tf)

**GREAT VALLEY MUSEUM of Natural History:** Classes for children. Museum exhibits and store open Tues. to Fri., 9 am to 4:30 pm. Info: 575-6196. Call for info about classes.

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ART ASSOCIATION AND MISTLIN GALLERY.** Exhibits by regional artists; classes for children and adults. 1015 J St., in Tenth St. Place. Open 10 to 5, Mon. through Sat. 529-3369.

**A.R.T.S. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER:** All things recycled free arts materials for teachers, scout leaders, childcare, artists for their projects. Open M - F 8 to 4:30, 917 Oakdale Rd. Modesto, Media Center behind Ross Store. Volunteers needed. Info: 567-4516.

**CENTRAL VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB.** Monthly meetings: Modesto, Patterson, and Oakdale. For more information, call Neil Hudson at 847-0540.

**CHILDRENS STORY HOURS:** Stanislaus County Library: Modesto, WiggleWorms! Program for children age 2 and younger and their caregivers; combines age appropriate stories and movement activities that promote essential pre-reading skills. Mondays: 10:15 am & 11:15 am, Tuesdays, 11:15 am. Preschool StoryTime (children ages 3 - 6 years) Tuesdays: 6:15 pm; Wednesdays: 10:15 am. Cuentos en español-jueves, 6:15. Bilingual StoryTime/ Cuentos bilingües - Saturdays 10:15 am. All Library branches have story hours. All branches closed Fridays. Info: [http://www.stanislauslibrary.org/tk\\_kids\\_story-time.shtml#mod](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org/tk_kids_story-time.shtml#mod)

**Habitat for Humanity's RE-STORE:** used and new quality materials, 630 Kearney Ave (across from Post Office), and at 3124 McHenry Ave., Modesto. Funds benefit homes built by Habitat in Stanislaus County. Visit <http://www.stanislaushabitat.org/home/restore>

**OCCUPY MODESTO:** Action Info: Nancy, 545-1375.

## REGULAR MEETINGS

For complete calendar information and regularly scheduled activities, visit <http://www.stanislausconnections.org/calendar.htm>

**DEADLINE to submit articles to CONNECTIONS:** Tenth of each month. Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing. For up to date information, visit [www.stanislausconnections.org/calendar.htm](http://www.stanislausconnections.org/calendar.htm)