

## Dolores Huerta to celebrate mural in Modesto on January 11

By **KEN SCHROEDER**

Dolores Huerta, legendary activist and co-founder of the United Farm Workers' movement, will speak at the celebration of a new mural featuring her image, as well as Cesar Chavez and a farm worker. Artist Joel Aguilar created the mural for the Modesto

Peace/Life Center at 829 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The mural embodies the spirit of activism for justice and honors workers. The celebration will be at 12:00 noon on Thursday, January 11, at the Teamsters Local 948 Union Hall, 1222 I Street, Modesto.



Dolores, founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, was inducted into the California Hall of Fame in March of 2013. She has received numerous awards: among them The Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 1998, *Ms. Magazine's* One of the Three Most Important Women of 1997, *Ladies Home Journal's* 100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century, and nine Honorary Doctorates from universities throughout the United States.

In 2012, President Obama bestowed upon Dolores her most prestigious award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian award.

Masks are encouraged for your health and the safety of others. Red and black, the colors of the farm workers' movement, is optional. Light refreshments will be available. See the mural on the eastern side of the Teamsters building before the event. The celebration is upstairs.



## Let's Celebrate with John McCutcheon on January 9!

By **KEN SCHROEDER**

Six-time Grammy-nominated folk musician John McCutcheon performs in his 21st Benefit Concert for the Modesto Peace/Life Center. Johnny Cash called him "the most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard." John is a master of the guitar, banjo, hammer dulcimer, piano, autoharp, and fiddle. His socially and politically conscious songs inspire us, his songs about family and everyday life move us, and his wicked sense of humor entertains us. John's latest and 43rd album is *Together*, which was written and performed together with another folk legend, Tom Paxton.

John writes, "I've been doing the Left Coast Tour now for nearly forty years, and it's a combination concert/family reunion/gathering of the tribe/big ol' singalong.

"As we come to the end of this year, we are surrounded by gatherings of gratitude, light, and generosity. As the nights grow long and there seems to be darkness at every curve, it seems an appropriate response, don't you think? I am grateful for and humbled by the generosity I've been afforded. I am surrounded by friends and mentors who have enriched both my life and this world. In these tumultuous times, may those continual small acts of kindness we experience and exhibit provide the kind of foundational change necessary for us all... us all!.. to come into the light."

**Online tickets** are available at <https://mccutcheonmodesto2024.eventbrite.com>

**In-person tickets** available at Intrinsic Elements (1214 J St., Modesto 209-409-8510) by cash or check for \$25, or at the

door for \$28. The new price for 30 years and younger is \$10.



**Please consider becoming a sponsor.**

You will receive tickets to the concert, your name in the program, and reserved seating. Five levels of sponsorship are available:

Autoharp \$50 One ticket,  
Guitar \$100 Two tickets,  
Banjo \$175 Four tickets,  
Piano \$300 Eight tickets,  
Hammer Dulcimer \$500 Sixteen tickets.

You may send your sponsorship donation check to the Modesto Peace/Life Center, PO Box 134, Modesto CA 95353. Please write "concert sponsor" in the note on the check.

You may also buy your sponsorship at the Eventbrite site. For more info, contact Ken Schroeder at [kschroeder70@yahoo.com](mailto:kschroeder70@yahoo.com) or 209-480-4576. Let Ken know if you would like a dedication to appear in the program (such as "In Honor of" or "In Memory of").

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





## Building Bridges, Not Barriers: Forging a Future of Linguistic Unity and Cultural Celebration

What's good, Community?

Coming at you with some real talk from the vibrant streets of Stanislaus County. I'm Karlha, your local advocate with a heart that beats to the rhythm of our barrio. As a daughter of the soil, raised by parents who turned the fields under the Cali sun into a life for my family, I have a story to tell. It's about living in a place where your language can feel like a wall, not a bridge. My folks, like many of yours, faced this world with Spanish on their lips, and too often, they weren't heard.

Our hood's rich in languages, but check this: nearly half our fam speaks something other than English when we're kicking it at home. And a hefty slice of that is en Español. But it's deeper than numbers – we're talking about lives, dreams, and hustles getting lost in translation. Our struggle? It's bigger than just a call for language access; it's a push to make sure our people feel seen, respected, and part of the county convo. We're fighting to stitch a community quilt that's as colorful and diverse as we are.

So how we gonna break down these walls and throw a block party that everyone's invited to?

1. Hit the Pavement Together: We gotta link up and push for change that gets everyone speaking the same language of access and opportunity in our services. Unity is our strength.

2. Get the Word Out: Share the stories, light up the 'gram, talk it up in the streets. Every chat we spark, every experience we drop – it's all about building that momentum.

3. Dive into the Mix: Roll up to the town halls, be the energy in the initiatives, and rock the movements that champion our languages and cultures.

Reflecting on the grind and the hustle of my own roots, I see us building something big here – a future in Stanislaus where no language is a barrier and every culture gets its shine.

Slide into this movement and let's get active. For more info and to vibe with us on this wave, hit me up on the 'gram @konkorazon.

One love and solidarity,

Karlha Dannyce Arias, Community Hustler with Heart

## 2024 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar Showcase!

Celebrate the artistic achievements of 14 talented student artists from across the San Joaquin Valley whose work is proudly featured in the newly released 2024 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar.

The District's annual calendar is a bilingual, full-color wall calendar featuring clean-air messages and drawings designed to educate and inspire the public to live a Healthy Air Life and reduce air pollution in the Valley. The District is proud to celebrate the following talented kids featured in the calendar:

- **Israel Ruiz Medina**, 6th grade, Hanford – Cover artist “Plug in for Clean Air.”
- **Miguel Zapata**, 6th grade, Bakersfield – “Start the Revolution Against Air Pollution.”
- **Isabel Fuentes**, 8th grade, Turlock – “Clean Air = Clean Lungs.”
- **Calla Martinez**, 4th grade, Fresno – “Healthy Air Living, Download the Valley Air App!”
- **Delmira Rubio**, 11th grade, Stockton – “There's No Place Like Earth: Let's Clean Our Air!”
- **Marli Roman**, 10th grade, Stockton – “Keep It Green to Keep the Air Clean.”
- **Bryten Lane**, 7th grade, Clovis – “Paws” Pollution, Go Electric.”
- **Mia**, 3rd grade, Madera – “Switch Your Car to An Electric One. Yes to Battery, No to Gas.”
- **Evelyn**, 7th grade, Bakersfield – “Stop Idling. The Smart Solution to Air Pollution.”
- **Hector Gomez** – “Healthy Air Living.”
- **Christina Rodriguez**, 11th grade, Kerman – “Carpooling is Fun! And Helps Keep Our Air Clean!”
- **Alexander Piña Nuñez**, 4th grade, Tipton – “Always Recycle and Don't Burn Trash Because It Hurts Us and the Air.”
- **Santiago Medina**, 4th grade, Hanford – “Keep Charging. Keep Cleaning Our Air.”
- **Reagan**, Madera – “We Can All Be Healthy Air Heroes.”

The calendars are free and distributed to schools, community groups, healthcare facilities, churches, civic organizations, non-profits, and individuals upon request while supplies last.

To request calendars, email [public.education@valleyair.org](mailto:public.education@valleyair.org) or call (559) 230-6000. Calendars can also be picked up at the District office in Fresno (1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.), Modesto (4800 Enterprise Way), and Bakersfield (34936 Flyover Court).



**San Joaquin Valley**  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

## California Audio Roots Project

**AN OPPORTUNITY:** The California Audio Roots Project (CARP) is designed to involve community members in recording stories, poems, and songs about their lives and living in California. This season is focused on social justice and community engagement. Modesto Sound is looking for people to interview and will pay interviewees \$150. The interviews are playing on KCBP 95.5 FM and are archived on SoundCloud, Spotify, etc.

To participate, call 209-573-0533, or visit [www.modestosound.com](http://www.modestosound.com)

## MAPS spring schedule

The Modesto Area Partners in Science (MAPS) lecture series fosters science education in our community for youths through adults. Once a month during the academic year, MAPS offers stimulating free science programming, bringing educators and local citizens into contact with scientists and mind-expanding ideas.

Presentations will be held LIVE in the MJC West Campus Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise.\*

**Friday, Jan. 19:** MJC \*East Campus Auditorium. Dr. Arthur Benjamin, Professor of Math at Harvey Mudd College. **Mathemagics.** <https://www.arthurbenjamin.info/>, *A Family Science Presentation for All Ages.* Using daring displays of algorithmic trickery and a lightning calculator,



number wizard Arthur Benjamin mesmerizes audiences with mathematical mystery and beauty.

MAPS receives funding and support from Modesto Junior College, MJC Foundation, Stanislaus County Office of Education, Modesto Teachers Association, Great Valley Museum. To make a fully tax-deductible donation in support of MAPS, please click [here](#) and select Modesto Area Partners in Science (MAPS) under “My donation is for...”



**MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER**

Working for **peace, justice**  
and a **sustainable future**

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## The Modesto Peace/Life Center Statement on Gaza

The Modesto Peace/Life Center unequivocally condemns the horrifying, brutal attack on the people of Israel by Hamas. The suffering of the victims is indescribable. The suffering of the Palestinian men, women, and children of Gaza inflicted upon them by Israel's government and its army is also indescribable, indefensible, and inhumane.

We join with millions around the world in calling for an immediate ceasefire, the protection of civilians, the release of hostages and prisoners, and the allowance of all necessary medical and humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza.

We also call upon our own government to stop funding and selling the armaments Israel is using to injure and kill the Palestinian people. We further call upon our government to advocate for a just peace that provides security and self-determination for all.

*The Board of the Modesto Peace/Life Center*

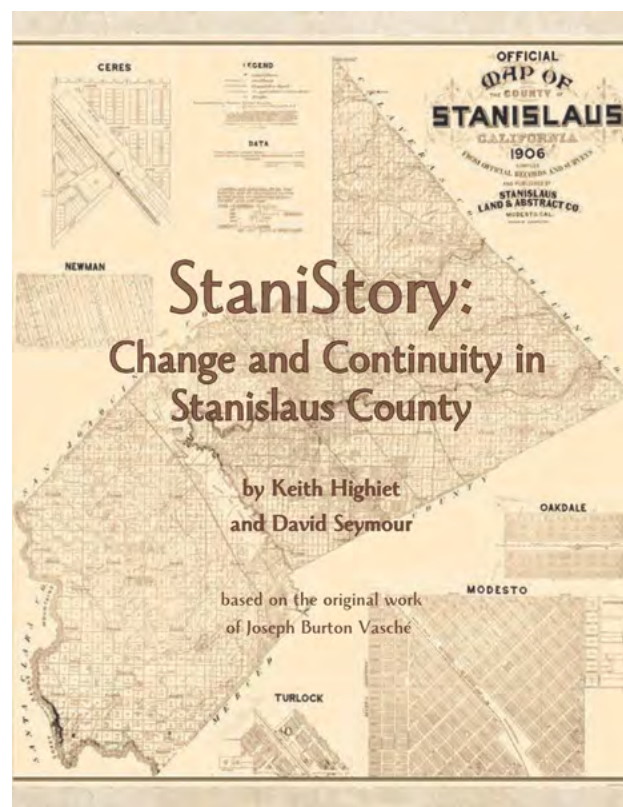
## StaniStory: Change and Continuity in Stanislaus

By KEITH HIGHLET & DAVID SEYMOUR

*StaniStory: Change and Continuity in Stanislaus County* is a survey history of the county. Authored by Keith Highlet and David Seymour in 2023, it is based on the original 1941 landmark work by Joseph Burton Vasché and is the first update in more than forty years to a local county-wide history curriculum.

Created for third-grade teachers to guide their students through Stanislaus County's fascinating history, the book is also appropriate for use by older learners including adults! The book includes photographs, maps, post-reading assessments, and activities.

Download the pdf [here](https://www.mchenrymuseum.org/stanistory). Or go to <https://www.mchenrymuseum.org/stanistory>



## Mourning the Dead, Calling for Ceasefire and an End to the Cycle of Violence

*Israelis gather in Jerusalem to mourn those killed in Gaza and to call for a ceasefire and an end to the cycle of violence.*

**From Gush Shalom**

**Jerusalem:** Around 100 Israelis gathered outside of the US Embassy in Jerusalem to mourn those killed in Gaza and to call for an immediate ceasefire. The vigil included a recorded message from a Palestinian who fled Gaza, written memorials about those who have been killed, poetry, music by a Gazan who was killed, and more.

"The death toll will only continue to rise if no action is taken. From our devastation for those already killed, we demand that this war end." Maya Rosen, a participant in the vigil.

The vigil comes at a time when Israel is severely repressing and punishing any recognition of the suffering in Gaza or of the Palestinians who have been killed since October 7th. This most directly impacts Palestinians who have sought to mourn their family or friends, or who generally dared to speak out about the atrocities committed in Gaza. Many Palestinians across Israel have been arrested, threatened, and forced out of work for social media posts or statements. Israeli Jews have also faced repression in this crackdown.

"In the current environment, there is no space to speak to the suffering, loss, and deprivation experienced in Gaza since October 7th, and the nearly 20,000 people, the majority of whom are women and children, who have lost their lives," said Itamar Israeli, another participant in the vigil.

Those gathered came to express their pain about all victims who have perished in this war -- Palestinians and Israelis -- and to demand an immediate ceasefire, at the doorstep of the US Embassy and down the street from Benjamin Netanyahu's residence.

In coordination with the vigil in Jerusalem, some 25 parallel vigils are planned across the world this weekend, including in New York, Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh, Toronto, London, and Zurich.

### Statements from attendees:

**Erez Bleicher**, from the vigil's opening statement: "We are here to publicly grieve the 20,000 Palestinians lost in the Gaza Strip, to personally mourn our friends killed in the airstrikes, to bring their living memories and the fact of their death to the doors of those responsible, and demand a permanent ceasefire now. Joe Biden and Benjamin Netanyahu, we are standing in direct sight of the US embassy in Jerusalem and meters from the Prime Ministers' house because we hold you and your governments directly responsible for the 20,000 Palestinians killed and the ongoing mass expulsion of Gazan. We are here determined to publicly honor their memory and in the hope that this memorial can be even a fragile shelter for the many thousands of Gazans who have been lost. We demand the right to publicly mourn them as we simultaneously grieve

Israeli members of our communities killed on October 7th. We will not allow our profound grief for the 1200 Israelis who have been killed to justify more death. We know that the only way to end this collective anguish is to build a future of mutual prosperity beyond occupation, closure, airstrikes, ground invasions, and massacre."

**Abigail Szor:** "There are no winners in war. I am here today because there are names, faces, and stories to those killed in Gaza. I have friends there who have lost many relatives in this horrible and painful war. My good friend lost her mother, and I am speaking here, because she cannot speak, because her words would endanger her life. The

idea and the policy according to which it's possible

to determine the fate of an entire people, to seek

revenge, to kill and be killed and through this

bring victory is flawed and mistaken. The

choice stands before us whether to continue to

sacrifice many lives and to bring more death

and loss or to agree to a political solution

which is the only way we can ensure true and

stable justice, security, and calm. Beyond political

faith, what guides me, perhaps more than ever, is

my friendship with my friend from Gaza. This alone is sufficient to unequivocally make clear to me that this reality need not be our destiny. This war is terrible and will not bring about a solution or victory for anyone. My only hope is that it ends immediately. We have to imagine and create a better reality in the memory of those who are no longer with us and for those who are still alive."

**Yossef Mekyton:** "Khalil Abu Yahia, my dear friend, a determined optimist and one of the most decent people I have ever known, was murdered, along with his entire family, in southern Gaza by an Israeli bomb. But right now the political repression is so extreme that even a simple expression of grief over a Palestinian friend who suffered so much and was murdered is cause to be fired, interrogated, judicially attacked, arrested, and fined. A society which doesn't have room for grief and sorrow over the loss of life – even if it's the life of someone who is not 'your own' – is rotten to its core. I will cry over Khalil for many years to come. Today I am taking my stand to do so also publicly, and politically."

**Oneg Ben Dror:** "With every day that the massacre in Gaza continues, a part of our humanity dies, too. Palestinians are being slaughtered, imprisoned, severely tortured, and hunted down simply for speaking out, expressing grief, or attempting to maintain their livelihood. It is our collective responsibility to do everything within our power to stop the genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced displacement of the Palestinian people. Do not acquiesce to the horrific dehumanisation of Palestinian lives. We all must act now."

We've got a folder set up for all the global actions if it's helpful to move things there, or make a shortcut link to this. Right now just New York is in there but the other cities will be added in as their actions happen.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1btm517cWMBKQxSqABDzqoW6dqTX8qUDK>





# Sunny Sunol Sunday

By ELAINE GORMAN

Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve is an annual destination. Part of the vast East Bay Regional Park District, this park offers almost 7,000 acres of oak woodlands, grasslands, streams, and an abundance of hiking opportunities. The trailheads that are accessed from Welch Creek Road are favorites, as the limited parking means few hikers.

Paul, Russ, Monica, and I first headed to the park kiosk to pick up a parking pass (\$5), but was told that due to lack of power, no pass was needed that day. Minor score! We then backtracked a couple of miles to Welch Creek Road and located the Welch-Flag Hill trailhead in the northwest corner of the park. We picked out an 8-mile route with approximately 2000 feet of elevation gain.

Late October is “sticker” season, and the plants are brown and dry. Star Thistle, in particular, likes to latch on to socks and pant legs. There is a bit of Poison Oak right at the trailhead, so beware! The hike begins with a steady climb, and the trail markers point the way.

After about a mile, we reached the first junction and took the Loop trail up to Flag Hill. A bench at the summit allowed us to catch our breath and take in the views. Mission Peak

(another fun hike accessible from Sunol) is to the west. The park’s main parking lot is in the valley to the south, with Calaveras Reservoir in the distance.



Grazing cows are scattered about, adding pies to the biomass of the park.

After our brief rest, we continued on Flag Hill Road and headed toward High Valley Camp. We passed oak trees, their leaves still green and glossy. California Buckeye leaves dropped months ago, and their large seeds dangle like Christmas ornaments. Bay trees added their spicy fragrance. As we dropped down toward the barn at High Valley Camp, we heard coyote howls. The gullies and thick vegetation provide lots of habitat for these critters. One of the several old-style rock and wood board signs pointed the way to the picnic area.

The barn is part of the JB Ranch, established in 1939 by Willis Brinker. The ranching legacy lives on here, and it isn’t hard to imagine a busy cattle operation with cowboys on horses managing the ranging bovines. Nowadays, there are picnic tables, trash cans, and outhouses. The drinking fountains do not have water, so hikers must bring all necessary liquids.

After lunch, we backtracked a bit to Cave Rocks Road and had a muscle-stretching climb for about a mile. We passed a small pond on our left. We turned left at Eagle View Road, which soon turned from a gravel road into a narrow trail. The vegetation becomes more lush as we enter



a narrow canyon with a dry stream. A short segment of stairs takes us up to the ridge. The trail is narrow here, so hiking poles will come in handy.

At Vista Grande Road, we turned left to complete the loop back toward High Valley. We began our descent, and I was happy to have my hiking poles on the gravel slip-and-slide road. Maguire Peaks, with their angling sedimentary layers, come into view on our right. A cluster of pumpkin-colored oak galls catch my attention and reminds me of mini jack o’lanterns. As we approached High Valley, we saw a group of Black Walnut trees. I wondered if they were planted for their nutritious nuts or if they are part of the native flora.

After about a mile, we turned right at High Valley Road. In half a mile, we are on Welch Creek Road. We walked under the oak and cottonwood canopy watching out for vehicles on this narrow, winding, one-lane road. After one mile, we came to our vehicle, shook off the stickers, and headed for home.

**Getting there** — About 70 miles, 1 hr. 20 min. drive time. From Modesto, go north on Highway 99, then head west on 120/205/580. Near Dublin, go south on Highway 680. Take the Highway 84 West/Calaveras Road exit. (Note: there was a lot of construction on the highways when we were there in October 2023. Watch out for confusing road signs!) Turn left at the exit, then right on Calaveras Road. After a few miles, turn left at Geary Road. Soon, you will see the park kiosk. Pay \$5 parking fee, then turn around and head back to Welch Creek Road.

<https://www.ebparks.org/parks/sunol>

## Civil Rights Attorney Maya Wiley to speak at 30th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration

By JAMES COSTELLO,  
The MLK Commemoration Committee

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Committee again invites you to our 30th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Civil Rights attorney Maya Wiley will speak at Modesto Junior College’s Performing Arts & Media Center, 435 College Ave., Modesto at 7:00 p.m.

There will be inspirational music, spoken word, and the awarding of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award to retired Modesto High School teacher and founder of the annual Day of Respect, Sharon Froba.

Our keynote speaker, Maya Wiley, is the president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund. A nationally respected civil rights attorney, Wiley has been a litigator at the ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and



the US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. She has created programs in philanthropy, non-profits, government, and higher education. She helped create a criminal justice program for a major foundation in South Africa.

Wiley became the first Black woman to be Counsel to a New York City Mayor, Bill de Blasio, where she worked to protect and expand civil rights, Minority and Women-Owned Business contracts, and broadband access.

Maya Wiley has received numerous awards and has been a public voice for rights, justice, and democracy through written opinion editorials and as a former legal analyst for NBC News and MSNBC.

continued next page



## Maya Wiley to speak continued

Although Martin Luther King, Jr. died 56 years ago, his vision still uplifts and transforms countless people throughout the world. To keep that vision fresh and provocative locally, for the last twenty-nine years, a committee of community groups—the Modesto Peace/Life Center, the City of Modesto, Modesto Junior College, and California State University, Stanislaus have offered our community an inspiring Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration.

Over the years, we have brought a stimulating array of powerful speakers to our community including actors Greg Alan Williams, Edward James Olmos, Danny Glover, and Mike Farrell; Dr. King's daughter, the late Yolanda King; astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison; philosopher Cornel West; Indigenous activist Russell Means; Congressman John Lewis; civil rights pioneers, Diane Nash, and Julian Bond; historian Taylor Branch; UN Ambassador and civil right activist Andrew Young; farm workers' champion, Dolores Huerta; and sociologist, Dr. Harry Edwards to name a few.

Our speakers bring Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolence into our contemporary reality by reflecting on their experiences and social commitments. They connect the past with the present to inspire action for a more just and peaceful future.

Our event is free. However, we depend solely on monetary donations or services from our co-sponsors, individuals, caring groups, and businesses. Would you help us this year? Co-sponsors are highlighted in our printed program and in the PowerPoint presentation on Dr. King that is shown for an hour preceding the program amid the sounds of civil rights music.

To contribute, make your tax-deductible check payable to "Modesto Peace/Life Center-MLK" and send it to Jim Costello, 1849 Richard Way, Ceres, CA 95307-4504. The Peace/Life Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, tax EIN #94-2800825.

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# Meet the Companies Profiting From Israel's War on Gaza

*"As global resistance to war and apartheid grows, it is important that the public know exactly who is making this violence possible."*

By JESSICA CORBETT, Common Dreams, 12/20/23

As of Wednesday, a U.S.-based Quaker group's online database listed over two dozen companies profiting from the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip, where Israeli forces have spent the last 10 weeks waging what experts call a "genocidal" war that sent defense stocks soaring.

Backed by \$3.8 billion in annual military aid from the United States, Israel declared war on October 7 in retaliation for a Hamas-led attack that killed over 1,100 people. Since then, Israeli forces have killed over 20,000 Palestinians in Gaza—sparking massive protests demanding a cease-fire around the world, including many led by Jewish people.

The growing death toll, displacement, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and difficulties in delivering humanitarian aid to the besieged enclave have also increased scrutiny of a \$14.3 billion package for the war that the Biden administration requested from Congress as well as criticism of the U.S. weapon-makers and billionaire donors who are arming and enabling the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

"The scale of destruction and war crimes in Gaza would not be possible without massive weapon transfers from the U.S.," said Noam Perry of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the group behind the tool, in a statement Wednesday. "As global resistance to war and apartheid grows, it is important that the public know exactly who is making this violence possible."

As the AFSC webpage details:

Shortly after October 7, the U.S. government started transferring to Israel massive amounts of weapons. Among these weapons, Israel received more than 15,000 bombs and 50,000 artillery shells within just the first month-and-a-half. These transfers have been deliberately shrouded in secrecy to avoid public scrutiny and prevent Congress from exercising any meaningful oversight.

Some of these weapons were purchased using U.S. taxpayers' money through the Foreign Military Sales program; some were direct commercial sales purchased through Israel's own budget; and some were replenished U.S. military stockpiles in Israel, which the Israeli military may also use. A list of known U.S. arms transfers is maintained by the Forum on the Arms Trade.

The webpage notes that the list is based on reporting, social media, and other open sources, and "focuses on weapons used by Israel because all Palestinian militant groups are already sanctioned and receive no support from Western governments or corporations."

For example, Boeing, the world's fifth-largest weapon

manufacturer, makes F-15 fighter jets and Apache AH-64 attack helicopters used by the Israeli forces, as well as "multiple types of unguided small diameter bombs (SDBs) and Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits" that have been used "extensively" during the war, including in a bombing of Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp.

After decades of Israeli occupation forces using Caterpillar's armored D9 bulldozers to "demolish Palestinian homes and civilian infrastructure in the occupied West Bank and to enforce the blockade of the Gaza Strip," the machines "have been crucial in the Israeli military's ground invasion" of the enclave, according to AFSC.

While both of those war profiteers are based in the United States, the list isn't limited to U.S. firms, also calling out the world's seventh-largest weapon manufacturer, the U.K.'s BAE Systems, and Israel's largest weapon manufacturer, Elbit Systems, "one of the primary suppliers of weapons and surveillance systems to the Israeli military."

Other companies on the list include weapons giants such as General Dynamics, General Electric, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and RTX—formerly Raytheon—as well as vehicle companies AM

General, Ford, Oshkosh, Toyota, and drone manufacturers AeroVironment, Skydio, and XTEND.

The list also targets U.S.-based Colt's Manufacturing Company, which makes firearms including the M16, and Emtan Karmiel, an Israeli firm that "delivered some 12,000 rifles" to the country's forces within a week of October 7. It also includes Israel Aerospace Industries, a state-owned manufacturer that "makes multiple weapons systems specifically for the Israeli military."

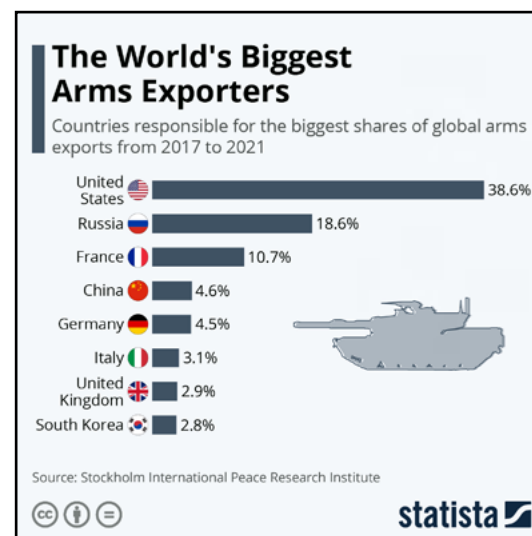
Other Israeli firms listed include Plasan, which makes the SandCat light armored vehicle, and MDT Armor, which is owned by the Israeli company Shladot and makes the David Urban Light Armored Vehicle used by the military for patrols and reconnaissance.

The other foreign firms on the list are ThyssenKrupp, the German company that built four warships for Israel, and Nordic Ammunition Company, which makes the M141 Bunker Defeat Munition, a shoulder-fired "bunker-buster" rocket.

"As a Quaker organization with a long history of work in Palestine and Israel, including in Gaza, we support a full arms embargo to both Israeli and Palestinian militant groups," Perry stressed Wednesday. "War and attacks on civilians will never bring safety or peace to Israelis or Palestinians. We need a permanent cease-fire and to work toward a just and lasting peace in the region."

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JESSICA CORBETT is a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams.





# Ukraine's Children of War

By **SERHIY SAMBORSKYI, PH.D.**

Dear Modestans, residents of Stanislaus County, and fellow Americans, please allow me to express my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude on behalf of all Ukrainians and in particular the people from our Sister City of Khmelnytskyi. The Sister City Agreement of Cooperation and Friendship was signed in 1987, four years before Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union. All my relatives, friends, former colleagues, and numerous acquaintances thank you for your unwavering support since the Russian full-scale aggressive invasion on February 24, 2022.

After almost two full years of this devastating war, Ukrainian children have been hit especially hard. According to Ukraine's human rights ombudsman, Dmytro Lubinets, close to 70% of them were forced to leave their homes and relocate within the country or abroad. This war separated children and their parents who either went to defend Ukraine or could not seek shelter abroad together with them.

Those inside the country are in constant danger due to massive Russian attacks which damaged energy systems, ruined water supplies, created loss of heating, destroyed schools, hospitals, and left explosive devices.



As reported by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), about 5 million Ukrainian children were dislocated from their homes, of whom almost 2.5 million had to seek safety in foreign countries. At the beginning of this year, the Prosecutor General's Office reported more than 3000 educational institutions have been damaged, with 400 totally destroyed. Tragically, this statistic has dramatically grown



since that report, especially in the north, east, and south of Ukraine. It is exactly where bloodthirsty Russia is bordering with Ukraine. According to the official information of the same agency, 510 children have died, and at least 1148 were wounded because of Russian artillery or air attacks.

On the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine, thousands and thousands of Ukrainian children were forcefully stolen and carried off to all parts of Russia. Several hundreds of children just went "missing." Nobody knows what has happened to many of them. Last March, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin (nicknamed PutLER in Ukraine) because of child kidnapping...could this be the reason Putin has limited his rare visits abroad to other dictatorships and undemocratic countries...fear of arrest? The fiendish purpose of abducting children is to brainwash (often cruelly) them - to turn them against Ukraine, to lose their identity, their culture, and ultimately, lose their parents.

## Courageous Children of Ukraine

Meanwhile, in Western Ukraine, my cousin Oksana's first-grade class was meeting in the basement of the school which had been turned into a bomb shelter. It was bitterly cold in the bomb shelter not to mention very dark and dreary. A local priest saw photos of the young children studying in heavy coats & mittens. He volunteered his church's 19th-century seminary which has walls that are 5 feet thick. So, the class was moved from the dark and freezing bomb shelter and was allowed to meet above ground.

This last December 6, the children got a visit from St. Nickolas. In this photo, the class is showing off the little reindeer pillows they made for the soldiers at the front. However, in a diabolical move, the Russians sent drones and missiles to disrupt their joyful celebration with St. Nickolas. The children had to don their coats and go back down into the bomb shelters with St. Nickolas. Of course, it was not by accident that the celebration was disrupted.

The Russians have a plan to not only disrupt St Nickolas celebrations but to prevent all education from happening in Ukraine. Why else would they have destroyed so many schools? By the way, one of Russia's most popular times to sadistically send drones is during the day when the children are having their nap/rest time. While lying on their rugs, small children must listen to bombs exploding all around them. But as you can see education has not stopped no matter how much Ukraine is bombed.

I learned from my cousin that one of her six-year-olds has a father missing in action. He was wounded, but they couldn't find his body anywhere. The boy, Ostap, and his 4-year-old sister live with only their mother as their sole caretaker. I wanted to send money to ease things a little for them. So, I wired money to my cousin. She gave him the money telling him they could use it anyway they wanted to...2 days later my cousin called to tell me what the boy had decided. He had the teacher take him to the local military post—where he distributed the money to the soldiers for food & supplies. My cousin was surprised. She thought he would get something for a six-year-old, but the boy told her that the soldiers needed it to find his father and defend his country. What a lesson for us all in patriotic civility. This is a photo of Ostap — he's the boy in the middle while the class is hiding in the basement bomb shelter during an air raid.



St. Nicolas Day started with a brief respite from air raids, and the kids enjoyed the classroom located in the 19th-century seminary building with 5-foot-thick walls.

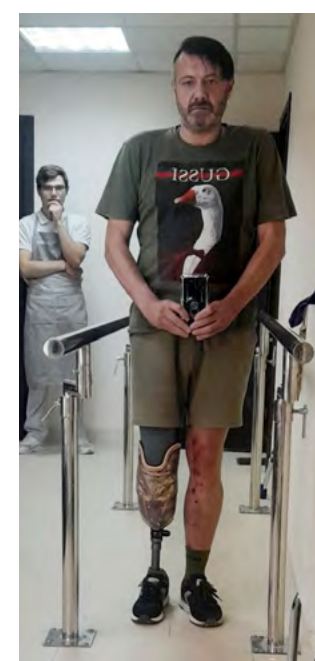
The basement is very cold, but the tea is as hot as their will to be FREE!

Russia continues to saturate the skies with deadly drones and long-range missiles. To be safer, the class goes back to the bomb shelter. These terrorists want no child to rest without hearing the air raid sirens or explosions even during the day. Cold bomb shelters and basements are very familiar to children all over Ukraine.

Plus, Putler cannot stop the learning process, even in the bomb shelter.

I am sure the next Sikorski is growing somewhere among





from the shattered glass. The other day, I asked 8-year-old Artem what he did last night, December 13, when the Ruscists attacked Kyiv with 10 Shahed Drones and 10 ballistic missiles. His answer was, "I finished reading the book in the bathroom, I had three hours." The boy started stuttering 15 months ago and is undergoing psychological treatment.

An example of a bathroom shelter in Khmelnytskyi where St. Nicolas had to leave his presents.



them. This teacher, Oksana, huddles her first graders to keep them warm and calm.

People of Khmelnytskyi are grateful to Modesto Sister Cities International for the huge fundraiser of \$70,000 last year. Among other needs, the money went to purchase generators for the Children's Hospital. This money allowed them to keep the hospital running and the little patients warm when the Russian genocidal forces attacked and destroyed 50% of Ukraine's power grid. Thank you, Modestans!

Special thanks go to the individual regular donors since the beginning of this 22-month Russian onslaught! Richard Anderson, Randy Barnum, and Tom Miller have been tirelessly spearheading this so much-needed help by

donating thousands of dollars. Their generous contributions were spent on some very specific needs directed by my long-term and extremely reliable contacts in Khmelnytskyi. Here are just a few examples:

Ruslan is walking now.

Skylights to protect the city from Russian drone attacks at night.

Food purchases prepared by local volunteers, and their deliveries to the front. Tourniquets and other life-saving necessities.

Thank you, fellow Americans, for doing your best to save the next generation of free people!

The schools that do not have equipped bomb shelters or basements work online. The rest of the kids eagerly attend in-person learning but often must quickly evacuate to a "safe" place, as you have seen above and can see here.

Ukraine's children of war are maturing very fast. Even the small ones understand and follow the rule of two walls. My grand nephews and nieces spend many hours in many nights and days in the bathroom without windows to avoid injuries

Happy Holidays with peace and good life to all!

The author was born, raised, and educated in Khmelnytskyi and Kyiv.

If you would like to join our team of donors, please email him at [serhiys@me.com](mailto:serhiys@me.com).





## MoSt Poetry Festival “Writing the Way Through Wild Spaces”

The MoSt Poetry Festival, “Writing the Way Through Wild Spaces,” will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at the Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. — continental breakfast included.

The workshop leader will be Maya Khosla, Wildlife Biologist, Poet, and Filmmaker.

**Tickets:** \$40 RSVP at <https://poetryfestival12.eventbrite.com>

Maya Khosla is a biologist and writer. As Sonoma County Poet Laureate (2018-2020), she brought Sonoma’s communities together to heal through gatherings, field walks and shared writing after the recent wildfires. Her books include “All the Fires of Wind and Light” (Sixteen Rivers Press; 2020 PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Literary Award), “Keel Bone” (Bear Star Press; Dorothy Brunzman Poetry Prize). She is the winner of the 2023 Fund for Wild Nature Grassroots Activist Award and co-winner of the Environmentalist of the Year Award from the 2020 Sonoma County Conservation Council (SCCC).

Her work has been featured in For the Wild. Her writing was part of award-winning documentary films including “Village of Dust, City of Water,” about the water crises in rural India.

Scan to purchase your ticket

. This event is supported in part by Poets & Writers.

Poets & Writers



## Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center Announces Applications Open for 2024-2025 Youth Poet Laureate Position

The Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt Poetry), in partnership with the Stanislaus County Library, Stanislaus County Office of Education, and MJC’s School of Language Arts and Education, is happy to announce the contest is open for 2024 Stanislaus County Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) program. Applications for the program, which brings Stanislaus County youth the opportunity to create positive change in their communities through activism and art, opened October 27, 2023, to students ages 15 to 19 who reside or attend schools in Stanislaus County.

The application period for the inaugural Stanislaus County YPL program closes on January 27, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. Youth interested in applying should submit a YPL Application. Included in that application is a request for a summary of civic and social engagement experience and a portfolio of three to five poems. Submission guidelines and an application are available on the YPL webpage (<https://www.mostpoetry.org/contests/ypl>). Applicants with questions may email Stella Beratis at [ypl@mostpoetry.org](mailto:ypl@mostpoetry.org).

Submissions will be judged by a panel of local working poets and other selectors connected with our partner organizations. The selected Poet Laureate will receive a \$500 scholarship. Altogether, the YPL program will engage Stanislaus County youth in literary arts programming for one year, beginning June 2024 and ending in May 2025.

In addition to the scholarship, the YPL will be provided with the mentorship and resources needed to bring their community projects and vision of Stanislaus County’s future to life. These resources will include access to MoSt Poetry’s

organizational infrastructure and board members as well as support from partnering community organizations and the local literary arts community. By the end of the program year in May 2025, the YPL will have made personal connections with organizations and individual partners throughout the region and will have had the opportunity to create a countywide literary initiative serving youth.

For more information, visit <https://www.mostpoetry.org>.

For more information about MoSt Poetry, visit <https://www.mostpoetry.org/>. Follow us on social media to keep up with the latest news: Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MoStPoetry>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/TheMoStPoetry>), and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/mostpoetry>).



### 2024 Stanislaus County Youth Poet Laureate

This program celebrates youth voices that are committed to artistic excellence, civic engagement, and social impact.

The poet chosen to represent the voice of Stanislaus County youth will receive a \$500 honorarium and be asked to collaborate on workshops, initiatives, and similar programming to help promote the art of poetry (both written and performance) in Stanislaus County.



Applicants for the Youth Poet Laureate program submit an application and an artistic statement & biography

indicating civic engagement and leadership background along with original poems. A panel of judges critique this work on content, voice, and craft.

Leadership and performance are also considered in determining the young person who will represent our communities as Youth Poet Laureate.

## SPEAK UP

WITH THE

### California Audio Roots Project

California Audio Roots Project (CARP) invites the **95354** area to share your poetry, stories & music about our community and social justice!



Sign up & find out more by calling (209)573-0533 or visit [ModestoSound.org](http://ModestoSound.org)  
Project Director: Janet Seay  
Producer: Lucky Lew

**PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PAID FOR THEIR TIME**  
Flexible scheduling - can accommodate any schedule  
Physically accessible to all

CARP's sponsors & partners include:





## Joe Nolan: Retired Attorney, Prolific Valley Poet

Joe Nolan is a retired attorney. He began publishing his work in the Fall of 2017. He has three self-published books of poems, *Human Grace*, 2d Edition, *Cats Can't Use Straws* and *Sky Gardens*, which are available on Amazon. His fourth book, *Water Dreams*, was published in 2021 by Cold River Press.

Joe has published over 1300 poems since 2017, mostly in local



journals, such as *Sacramento Voices Poetry Anthology*, (now-entitled, *VOICES*), *Better Than Starbucks*, *Poetry Now*, *Collisions 5* in Modesto, *Medusa's Kitchen*, *Song of the San Joaquin* and *Brevities Mini-Mag of Minimalist Poetry*.

*A Gathering of Voices* is very pleased that he is sharing several of his fine poems in this issue.

## Sisyphus

I insist! he says, I insist!  
Each day, up this hill,  
This rock, I will!  
Each day, the rock  
Does resist,  
Equally and stubbornly  
Against my effort  
And finds a way each day  
To roll away!

Each day,  
This, my play,  
This, my torture!  
Alone against this rock  
I work my will.  
Each day, the rock  
Wreaks vengeance on my pride  
When losing balance  
I must stand aside.

## Fly-fishing

We fancy ourselves  
Able to fish and fly  
At the same time—  
Fly-fishing, they call it,  
Where we stand in waders  
Up to our waist  
Amid the flowing current,  
Whipping cloud-lines  
Over water,  
Conjuring fish to rise.

## Human Beings

Human beings  
Are made of dreams,  
Of whispers,  
Fears and fire,  
Forged from warm desire,  
Into dancing clay,  
Set upon  
The Earth to play,  
For just a moment's breath,  
Taken, then  
By death.

## Colored in Vermilion

No Buddhist  
Can make the universe  
Disappear.

They can only say  
The void is here and there and  
Everywhere

Or pull out the  
Common thread  
That binds  
All things together  
In your head

And let the trillion,  
Trillion, separate  
Things in black and white  
Show themselves  
All colored in vermilion.



## Water Dreams

Does water have sweet dreams  
Of running down tall mountains  
In small streams?

In rushing brooks,  
Gurgling and babbling  
Around trout-fishers' hooks,  
Noodling and swishing  
Over rocks,  
Sweeping past smooth boulders  
All washed clean  
By years of cresting waters  
Summer rains  
And storms of Fall?

Does water dream in white?  
Frozen things, like snow  
And sleet and ice?  
Frozen twice,  
Once in sky  
Again on land,  
Waiting  
For warm Spring  
To lay its hand  
On icy back  
And send it  
Running swiftly to the sea.

## Comfort Lost, Relearned

Touch the hidden  
Part of your heart  
That cannot be concealed  
From love,  
That asks,  
“How do you feel?”  
Then nudges every inch, asking,  
“Here? and here  
And here and here?  
Is every thing O.K.?”

Stroke the inner  
Part of your heart  
That feels like  
Silk or velvet  
When it's been revealed  
By kind and gentle touch.

Rest in the sun  
And warm its skin  
Now that its dear comfort  
Has returned--  
Comfort lost, relearned.

## Summer Night in the Outback

I listened to another  
Softly sleeping,  
Curtains rustling,  
In the warm-night's  
Summer breeze,

All windows open,  
Protected from the world, outside,  
Only by the thinnest screens  
And I sat listening,  
As the soft sounds of quiet breathing  
Turned to snores.

Surely, then, she was resting,  
Deeply resting,  
And I grew bored,

And dropped down in my chair  
As we both let the summer air  
Blow from screen to screen.

## Indian Summer

Your place  
Looked lovely  
In the summer,

When the rain  
Washed down  
The tree leaves,  
Near,

When the heat  
Was just  
Insane,

And no-one  
Ever wandered  
Down the street  
In pouring rain,

But I loved  
Sweet September--  
Indian Summer,  
Warm and plain,

When it seldom,  
If ever,  
Rained,

And grass  
Went brown  
From the  
Farmers' fields,  
All the way  
Into town.



## In That Long Ago Long Ago

*I read an earlier version of this poem at the Barkin' Dog in Modesto in December 2011. Dedicated to the friends and colleagues who lost their lives to HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and 1990s while fighting for services in Houston, Texas.*

I think of them on slate-grey November days  
When the ginkgoes are turning yellow  
and rain comes back to the Valley

I am reminded of them when I hear Fauci pummeled in  
the news  
or of the million and more taken by this latest pandemic  
I think of them on this day  
always on this day  
the first of December  
Mateen and Tom, Mo and Holly  
— just to name four we lost -  
Warriors all in that long ago long ago  
now their names mean nothing  
to all but a few of us  
voices stilled for thirty, thirty-five years



## Reader Criticizes Connections on Gaza and West Bank Coverage

I am writing to express my sincere disappointment with the Peace/ Life Center's Connections monthly paper. The Connection's articles on the conflict in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are grossly insufficient. Neither the November nor December issues have adequately addressed the overwhelming number of Palestinian children who are injured, starving, dehydrated, or dead due to Israel's relentless bombardment of the Palestinian people.

If the Peace/Life Center is looking for thoughtful and researched articles about the current conflict in Palestine, I suggest reaching out to Code Pink and Jewish Voices for Peace. Both organizations have Jewish leaders who advocate for the immediate cease fire of all parties in the conflict zone. The peace groups want to see an end to the military funding of Israel with U.S. dollars and U.S.-made weapons. Code Pink and Jewish Voices for Peace stress peaceful protests and actions to stop the U.S.-supported conflict. These ideals of peace and an end to militarism are in line with the Modesto Peace/ Life Center philosophy.

Joe Tornberg

voices  
that never wavered till  
they turned to skeletons  
before our eyes  
hollow-eyed, emaciated  
as death-camp inmates  
bodies disintegrating  
skin splotched purple  
voices barely audible  
even with microphones  
pressed to their desiccated lips  
even then, with days or hours left to their lives  
their passion spilled out  
cried out  
to shake a frivolous world from its sleep

voices that fought for, roared for  
mothers and their newborns  
for young men and women barely in their twenties  
for middle aged men shunned by their families  
at first diagnosis -  
always for the unheard among us  
what they said stung to the bone  
even obtuse politicians wept at their words  
Some died so fast  
like spring flies, three weeks  
and they were gone  
Hydra-headed the infections came swarming  
Opportunistic, lethal  
*Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia*  
*Mucocutaneous candidiasis*  
*Histoplasma capsulatum*  
Latin syllables  
hissing like snakes in a sand pit  
*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*  
*Cryptococcus neoformans*  
*Cytomegalovirus*  
*Toxoplasma gondii encephalitis*

A bunch died alone in their beds  
at least one collapsed in the middle of West Huisache  
spent his last breath listening to the honking of car horns  
his sunken face spun against hot asphalt

Some hung on for months, years  
ravaged by slippery slope T-cell counts  
immune systems gone haywire  
muscles shriveling away to nothing  
but still they fought on  
spat right in the eye of the virus  
even as it devoured them

lined up at Stone Soup food pantry  
when the money ran out  
clutching eighteen dollars' worth of food stamps  
sun shining hot on bald heads

fragile as birds' eggs  
Exotic animal parasites  
set up shop in their brains  
still, they spoke out  
pleaded, cajoled  
railed against  
ignorance, indifference, intolerance  
even from hospital beds  
at Thomas Street Clinic they  
bartered, begged, threatened  
wept  
until there were no more words  
no more tears  
only silence  
only silence

Sometimes the papers  
covered their deaths  
called them AIDS agitators  
as if that summed them their lives  
as if their dying was the only thing that mattered  
hundreds would stream  
into St Anne's Church on Westheimer  
or mourn quietly among friends  
at Rohko Chapel  
embrace each other, go home  
then they quickly became only numbers  
piling up like fallen soldiers  
in weekly Morbidity/Mortality Reports  
spit out by CDC

Rob and Bruce and Luis and Wayne and Bill –  
to name a few more

I remember you  
I wrote down your names  
as you died -  
eight or ten every year  
sometimes two or three a month -  
so I wouldn't forget  
but now  
I can't remember your faces or your  
voices  
or your words  
I only remember that you were the brave ones  
you were the soothsayers, the truth tellers  
the fighters going forth without bayonets  
to rattle the world  
to worry the world  
to make the world understand

Warriors all  
in that long ago long ago

— Tom Portwood





# Great Programs on KCBP 95.5 fm, The Voice of the Valley

Streaming on [www.kcbpradio.org](http://www.kcbpradio.org)

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

**Confetti Park** - Music, stories New Orleans style, Saturdays at 8:00 am; & Sunday's 12:30 pm.

**The Children's Hour** - Sundays 3:00 pm.

### SCIENCE

**Radio Ecoshock** - the latest scientific information on Climate Change - Saturdays, 9:00 am.

**Explorations** - Science explained with Dr. Michio Kaku - 9:00 am Sundays.

**Big Picture Science** - 1:00 pm Sundays.

**Planetary Radio** - 2:30 pm Sundays.

**Got Science** - 4:00 pm Sundays

## PROGRAMS

**Ukraine 2.4.2** - a collaboration between Anne Levine, WOMR, the Pacifica Network, and Kraina FM, a 26-city radio network in Ukraine that arranges weekly cutting-edge and exclusive interviews with key people in Ukraine - Thursdays, 10:00 am.

**Beethoven to Bernstein** - Classical music ranging from Beethoven to Bernstein. Big hits from well-known composers - Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Ravel, Copland - and many more, mostly in the form of orchestral, chamber, and piano music - Saturdays, 10:00 pm.

**The Not Old - Better Show** - fascinating, high-energy program of big-name guests, inspiring role models, interesting topics, with entertaining host and former Modestan, Paul Vogelzang - Fridays, 2:00 pm, Saturdays, 12:30 pm.

**Down on the Farm** - topics important for our San Joaquin agriculture with Madera organic farmer Tom Willey - Saturdays, 6 am

**Sounds Irish** Music from County Wicklow - Saturdays, 7:00 pm.

**Various musical programs during the noon hour:** Oldies, Old Piano, and International.

**Dead Air** - Hear the Grateful Dead with Cory Daniels. Fridays, 6 pm; Saturdays, 3 pm.

**Attitude with Arne Arnesen** - 3:00 pm. Political and social issues.

**Sojourner Truth** - 4:00 pm - Tuesdays. Interviews and panels focus on issues that affect people of color.

**Democracy Now!** - 7:00 am, Monday thru Friday. Reporting by veteran journalists Amy Goodman & Juan Gonzalez.

**Flashpoint Magazine** - 10:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. Politics, social issues, from KQED's Dennis Bernstein.

**Alternative Radio** - 4:00 pm, Mondays. Interviews with prominent political and social people.

**Julian Taylor's Jukebox** - 4:00 pm, Thursdays and Fridays. Eclectic, contemporary music.

**Nuestra Música** - 4:00 pm, Tuesdays. Eclectic, Latin-flavored music with a beat!

## LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

**Triumphant Tuesdays** - Noon, Tuesdays. Inspirational thoughts & music with Catrice.

**Sports Talk Modesto** - Join Jay Freeda and Jimmie Menezes. Snappy banter to catch up on everything happening in the sports world. - Thursdays, 5 pm.

**Vib'n with the West Modesto Collaborative**

- Jasmine Corena and Likhi Rivas. Engage, Educate, and Advocate on behalf of the West Modesto Community. Showcases Voices of the West Modesto Community - Wednesdays, 7 pm.

**AREA 5150 UFO RADIO** - Spooky music & sounds out of this world, Friday night, 11:00 pm.

**Cyber Stallion: Bucks Stallion's Radio**

**Transmission Emporium** - Cyber Acoustic Music - Saturdays, 12:00 am, Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

**I-On-Modesto** - John Griffin interviews local people who reveal their inspiring stories. Mondays & Fridays, 10 am and Wednesdays at 9 pm.

**Arts of the San Joaquin Valley** with Linda Scheller and Laura Stokes - Mondays, 8:00 pm; Tuesdays, 9:00 am & Wednesdays, 8:00 pm. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp> and on Spotify

**Women of the Valley** with Linda Scheller and Laura Stokes - 8:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays & Wednesdays, 9:00 am. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbpwotv> and on Spotify.

**Modesto Sound** - California Audio Roots Project (CARP) - Tuesdays 5:30 pm, Wednesdays 11:30 am, & Sundays 11:00 am & 4:30 pm.

**Sunday Cruisin'** with your host, DeeJay Rig!

Oldies hits from 1959 to 1999

- Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

**Faithful Fridays** - inspirational music and thoughts with Catrice - Fridays, 7:00 p.m.

**Why Not Nice?** - Showcases unique music from unique cultures and thinkers worldwide, focusing on world/academic/jazz and roots music - Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

**Mars Radio - Hip-Hop Show** - Music, interviews from local & regional artists - Fridays, 8:00 pm. A new, second show plays on Saturday nights at 8:00 pm, with a third at 8:00 pm Sundays.

**Modesto Area Music Awards (MAMA)** with Middagh Goodwin - Mondays 5:00 pm; Fridays 9:00 pm & Saturdays 6:00 pm.

**Freak Radio** with Christian E. Boyett, 6 pm Thursdays. Replays Saturdays, 9 pm & Tuesdays 11 pm.

**This is SKA** with Middagh Goodwin - Tuesdays, 9 pm; Fridays, 11 pm; Sundays, 5 am to 7 am.

**I'll Take You There** - A musical journey with Modesto's El Comandante - Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sundays, 9:00 pm.

**Penny Bloods** - Fun, Victorian melodrama radio plays, often performed by local actors, written by Arnold Anthony Schmidt, CSU, Stanislaus. As scheduled.

PSAs in English and Spanish produced by the West Modesto Community Collaborative.

**LISTEN TO OUR MUSIC PLAYLISTS AT SPINITRON** <https://spinitron.com/KCBP/calendar>

**Find a complete programming schedule on our website,** [www.kcbpradio.org](http://www.kcbpradio.org)

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION: Donate** here: <https://kcbpradio.org/donate/> Please consider a recurring monthly donation.



## Be informed!

Read the Valley Citizen at  
<http://thevalleycitizen.com>



### IN MEMORIAM

Julius Clement Manrique, Ed.D.  
April 8, 1932 - December 10, 2023



# calendar

Help keep our readers informed. We urge people participating in an event to write about it and send their story to [Connections](mailto:Connections@modestoartwalk.com).

## January 2024

The **Kruse Lucas Art Gallery** is located at 525 Tully Rd., Modesto and is open Monday-Friday, 9 am -5 pm, except holidays. 209-529-9111.

**MJC Science Colloquium.** Wednesdays 3:15-4:15 pm, Science Community Center, Room 115, Modesto Junior College West Campus, Parking Free. (Recorded for later viewing on Science Colloquium YouTube.

**MAPS** (Modesto Area Partners in Science: Free MJC science programs. on Fridays in MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 pm. unless noted otherwise.\* **SPRING 2024. Friday, Jan. 19:** MJC \*East Campus Auditorium. Dr. Arthur Benjamin, Professor of Math at Harvey Mudd College. *Mathemagics*. <https://www.arthurbenjamin.info/>, A Family Science Presentation for All Ages. Using daring displays of algorithmic trickery and a lightning calculator, number wizard Arthur Benjamin mesmerizes audiences with mathematical mystery and beauty.

**The Prospect Theatre:** 23/24 season has continuing offerings: Visit <https://prospecttheaterproject.org/2022-2023-season/>

**2 TUES: VIGIL: PEACE-ISRAEL-GAZA** at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five Points), 4:00-5:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 209-529-5750 or email [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) NOTE DAY CHANGE.

**4 THURS: Peace/Life Center ZOOM** Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Email [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) for login.

**9 TUES: Annual Modesto Peace/Life Center Benefit: John McCutcheon** Concert, Modesto Church of the Brethren. Tickets: see p.1.

**21 SUN:** The State Theatre and Modesto Film Society presents *TITANIC*, 2 pm. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, and support Modesto's historic non-profit theatre. Visit <https://thestate.org/films/titanic-012024/>

### LOOKING AHEAD

**February 3: The MoSt Poetry Festival**, "Writing the Way Through Wild Spaces," at the Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock, 10 am to 2 pm. See article in this issue for registration.

**February 10: 30th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration** with Maya Wiley, 7 pm, MJC Auditorium. See article this issue.

**March 23: Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team**, National Champions. Benefit for KCBP 95.5 FM Community Radio, 1 pm, Modesto Junior College Gym.

### REGULAR MEETINGS

#### SUNDAYS

**D&D Champions Group**, Noon. Central California LGBTQ+ Rainbow Resource Center, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto.

**Modesto Vineyard Christian Fellowship**, 10:00 am at the MODSPOT, 1220 J St. Call or text 209-232-1932, email [modestovineyard@gmail.com](mailto:modestovineyard@gmail.com); All Welcome.

**IMCV Weekly Insight Meditation** and dharma talk, 8:45 am - 10:15 am, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely; donations welcome. All are welcome. For more information, please email [charlie@imcv.org](mailto:charlie@imcv.org). Our mailing address is IMCV, P.O. Box 579564, Modesto, CA 95357.

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** of Stanislaus County meets in person and on Zoom every Sunday at 10:30 am at 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto. Info: 209-788-3720; [www.stanuu.org](http://www.stanuu.org)

**Food Addicts Anonymous** in Recovery. Sundays 6:30 pm, 2467 Veneman Ave. Modesto. Info: Emily M., 209 480-8247.

**Unity of Modesto** meets in person every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at 2467 Veneman, Modesto. Information: 209-578-5433

#### MONDAYS

**Queer Cuts**, last Monday of the month, 10 a.m., Central California LGBTQ+ Rainbow Resource Center, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto, 209-408-8848.

**The Compassionate Friends**, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter meets on the second Mondays at 7:00 pm at 2201 Morill Rd., Riverbank. Bereaved parents, grandparents, and adult siblings are invited to participate in this support group for families whose children have died at any age, from any cause. Call 209-622-6786 or email for details: [tcfmmodestoriverbank@gmail.com](mailto:tcfmmodestoriverbank@gmail.com); <https://www.modestoriverbanktcf.org/>

**Suicide Loss Support Group:** Friends for Survival meets every third Monday at 7 pm. Details: Norm Andrews 209-345-0601, [nandrews6863@charter.net](mailto:nandrews6863@charter.net).

**Walk with Me**, a women's primary infertility support group and Bible study. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm the first and third Mondays of each month. Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email [WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com](mailto:WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com) or call 209.577.1604.

#### TUESDAYS

**Women's Support Group for Women** in all stages of life. Join us in a safe and judgment-free environment where you can give and receive support for the many issues that we struggle with as Womxn. Every Tuesday from 1 pm-2 pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Rainbow Resource Center, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto (Ages +18). Contact Sandra Vidor-209.652.3961 or Kellie Johnson 209.918.0271.

**Climate Action Justice Network-Stanislaus** meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Link- <https://tinyurl.com/CJAN-FirstTuesday>

**Teen Tuesdays** every week from June-August, 2-5 pm., Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St. Peer Support, Games & movies. Safe space for teens to socialize, work together on projects, and learn about LGBTQ history. Each week will be a little different as we want YOU (youths) to guide the direction this group will go!" Info: Maggie Strong, Political Activist Director/ GSA Liaison, [mstrong@mopride.org](mailto:mstrong@mopride.org), 209-284-0999.

**Attention Veterans: Join us for Free Coffee & Donuts** Meet & Greet at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am – 11 am

**NAACP Meeting.** King-Kennedy Center, 601 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto, 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm. 209-645-1909; For ZOOM link, visit <https://www.naacpmodestostanislaus.org/> email: [naacp.branch1048@gmail.com](mailto:naacp.branch1048@gmail.com)

**Exploring Whiteness & Showing Up for Racial Justice** Meetings, Fourth Tuesday, monthly 7:00 p.m., Central Grace Hmong Alliance Church, 918 Sierra Dr., Modesto. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/247655549018387/>

**Pagan Family Social**, third Tuesdays, Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto, 6:00 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

**Tuesday Evening Funstrummers** Ukulele Jam. Songbooks provided. 6pm to 8pm, 1600 Carver Rd., Donation. 209-505-3216, [www.funstrummers.com](http://www.funstrummers.com).

**IMCV weekly Insight Meditation** and dharma talk, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: [info@imcv.org](mailto:info@imcv.org)

**Adult Children Of Alcoholics**, Every Tuesday, 7 pm at 1320 L St., (Christ Unity Baptist Church). Info: Jeff, 527-2469.

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

**MEDIA:** Listen to **KCBP 95.5 FM** Community Radio, the "Voice of the Valley" also streaming at <http://www.KCBPradio.org>

**PEACE LIFE CENTER BOARD MEETING**, FIRST Thursdays, 829 13th St., Modesto, 6:30 pm, 529-5750. Meetings on Zoom. Email Jim Costello for login information, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

**PEACE/LIFE CENTER MODESTO**, 829 13th St. Call 529-5750. We'll get back to you with current info on activities.

#### WEDNESDAYS

**Retired Public Employees Association.** All seniors welcome! Meetings every third Wednesday. Denny's Restaurant, 1525 McHenry Ave. 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Call (209) 324-2060. Pay \$8.00 and order from the menu.

**The Almond Blossom Sangha.** Wednesdays, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Zoom, and sometimes hybrid, for meditation and Dharma discussions. Call Anne at 209-404-4835 for more information.

**The GAP.** A place of support for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ or questioning kids every Wednesday 6:30pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1528 Oakdale Rd. Instagram: [thegapmodesto](https://www.instagram.com/thegapmodesto)

**Ongoing meditation class** based on Qi Gong Principals. Practice a 3 Step Guided Meditation Process I have been doing for over a decade. Fun and Easy. JOIN ME! Donations accepted but optional. Call 209.495.6608 or email Orlando Arreygue, CMT RYT, [orlando@arreygue.com](mailto:orlando@arreygue.com)

**Merced LGBT Community Center** offers a variety of monthly meetings and written materials. Volunteers, on-site Wed-Fri, offer support. Ph: 209-626-5551. Email: [mercedboard@gaycentralvalley.org](mailto:mercedboard@gaycentralvalley.org) – 1744 G St. Suite H, Merced, CA. [www.mercedlgbtcenter.org](http://www.mercedlgbtcenter.org)

**Merced Full Spectrum** meets the second Wednesday of every month, 6 p.m. 1744 G St., Suite H, Merced <http://www.lgbtmerced.org/> Merced Full Spectrum is a division of Gay Central Valley, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. <http://www.gaycentralvalley.org/>

**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.

**Transgender Support Group**, 2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 to 9 pm. Info: (209) 338-0855. Email [info@stanpride.org](mailto:info@stanpride.org). org, or [tgsupport@stanpride.org](mailto:tgsupport@stanpride.org)

#### THURSDAYS

**LGBTQ+ Senior** (age +55) Coffee Club Every Thursday @ 1 pm. Weekly social group to provide connectedness and community inclusion for LGBTQ+ Senior Citizens. Refreshments, snacks provided. Central California LGBTQ+ Rainbow Resource Center, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto. Call 209-408-8848.

**Laughter Yoga**, Every other Thursday at The Bird's Nest, 422 15th St., Modesto. The dates are February & March 7th & 21st, April 4th & 18th, May 2nd & 16th. 5:30pm-6:30pm. \$15.00 per class. To register, call or text Nicole, 209-765-8006 or visit [www.nicoleottman.com](http://www.nicoleottman.com)

**Attention Veterans: Join us for Free Coffee & Donuts** Meet & Greet at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am – 11 am

**IMCV Grupo de Meditación** en Español, cada semana 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (edificio trasero al final del estacionamiento este de UUFSC). Ofrecido libremente, las donaciones son bienvenidas. Info: Contacto Vanessa, 209-408-6172.

**Green Team** educational meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10 to 11 am, Kirk Lindsey Center, 1020 10th St. Plaza, Suite 102, Modesto. [www.StanislausGreenTeam.com](http://www.StanislausGreenTeam.com)

**3rd Thursday Art Walk**, Downtown Modesto, art galleries open – take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-8 pm every third Thursday of the month. Info: 529-3369, [www.modestoartwalk.com](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 Thursday, Cafe Amore, 3025 McHenry Ave, Suite S., Modesto, 8 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

#### FRIDAYS

**Trans Support Group**, 1 pm, Central California LGBTQ+ Rainbow Resource Center, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto. Call 209-408-8848.

**International Folk Dancing with Village Dancers**, Friday 7:30-9:30 pm (Sept thru May) Carnegie Art Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock \$7. No experience or partner needed. 209-480-0387 for info.

**Overcoming Depression:** small group for men & women. Every Friday, 7:15 pm. Cornerstone Community Church, 17900 Comconex Rd, Manteca, CA 95366, (209) 825-1220.

**Funstrummers:** A Fun-loving Ukulele group gets together live to practice and play. Play along with us or work up to playing out in gigs. Friday mornings, 10am to Noon at the Telle Classrooms, Trinity Presbyterian, 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto.

**Latino Emergency Council (LEC)** 3rd Fridays, 8:15 am, El Concilio, 1314 H St. Modesto. Info: Lynnette Lucaccini, (209) 338-5700. [lluc@elconcilio.org](mailto:lluc@elconcilio.org)

**Sierra Club:** Yokuts group. Regular meetings, third Friday, College Ave. Congregational Church, 7 pm. Info: 300-4253. Visit [sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts](http://sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts) for info on hikes and events.

#### SATURDAY

First and Third Saturdays - **Gay Men's Group**, 1 pm. Positive Support Group for folks living with HIV, 12 pm. All at Central California LGBTQ+ Rainbow Resource Center, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto. Call 209-408-8848.

**12-Step/Buddhist Meeting** starts with a 30-minute meditation and then open discussion. Held monthly every second Saturday, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto at the UUFSC in Sarana (small building, rear of the east parking lot). Freely-offered donations welcome. Information: 209 606 7214.

**Free Community Drum Circle** every third Saturday, 11 am to 12:00 pm, Gallo Center for the Arts, 10th & I St., Modesto. No experience or drums necessary to participate. All levels welcome. [drum-love.com](http://drum-love.com)

**Refuge Recovery:** A Buddhist Approach to Recovery from Addiction. @Friends Coming of Age., 1203 Tully Rd., Ste. B., Modesto. Saturdays 8-9 am. FREE (donations accepted). Info: [RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com](mailto:RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com)

#### DEADLINE to submit articles to CONNECTIONS: Tenth of each month.

Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to [Jim.Costello@igc.org](mailto:Jim.Costello@igc.org) Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.





PROCEEDS BENEFIT

WEST MODESTO COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE &  
THE VETERANS FOUNDATION OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

# 5TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 2024  
Veterans Foundation Event Hall  
3500 Coffee Rd, Suite 15, Modesto, CA

DOORS OPEN: 5:30 PM  
DINNER: 6:30 PM

\$85 PER TICKET

All You Can Eat Crab, No Host bar, Music,  
Silent Auction, and Raffle

**Federal Tax ID: 31-1751288**



TICKETS:

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/stanislaus-multi-cultural-health-coalition-west-modesto-king/uniting-communities-for-lasting-change/west-modesto-community-collaborative-5th-annual-crab-feed>