

Homeless: Modesto Council Rejects Safe Ground

By **ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen**

At a special meeting of the Modesto City Council on Friday, October 20, Councilmembers rejected a motion to direct staff to study safe sleeping sites for managing homelessness. The vote was four to three.

Approximately 100 people turned out for the event, and public support for the proposal was overwhelming. As Councilmember Eric Alvarez noted, no member of the public spoke against the proposal.

Opponents of the proposal made questionable claims about safe sleeping and safe camping for homeless people. Mayor Sue Zwahlen said she had never seen a successful safe camping program for homeless people and that the campsites were not truly safe. Police Chief Brandon Gillespie said he had visited cities, including Chico, that had implemented safe ground and found it didn't work.

Both statements appeared erroneous

to people who routinely study homeless management tactics throughout the state. Just a few days ago, San Diego opened its [second safe sleeping site](#), featuring 400 two-person tents. San Diego's first safe sleeping site contains 122 tents and provides shelter for 148 people. It's highly unlikely San Diego would commit to 400 more two-person tents if the first site were unsuccessful, yet Modesto Mayor Zwahlen insists there are no successful examples of safe campsites.

In May of this year, the City of Chico celebrated the first anniversary of a homeless community whose residents live in pallet shelters. City officials agreed the pallet village has been a success.

"We can make a lot more improvements moving forward, but I do agree that we are in a much better place today than we were a year ago," said [City Councilmember Deepika Tandon](#). Butte County Supervisor Tod Kimmelshue said, "I believe that what we have done here today is an example for the rest of California as many communities work to find solutions to homelessness."

Nonetheless, and despite ample evidence to the contrary, some Modesto officials continue to insist safe ground for homeless people does not work.

The safe ground proposal offered by Councilmembers Eric Alvarez, Nick Bavaro and Chris Ricci asked the mayor and council to approve a staff study that would develop a plan for safe sleeping sites to be managed by an outside contractor. The staff study would have been developed within sixty days and then submitted to council members for approval.

In rejecting the plan, city officials made it clear they support the sweeps, rousts, and citations that make up the city's current management tactics for homelessness. They also made it clear they disagree with people on the ground who claim local shelters are often at full capacity and therefore can't accept referrals.

Councilmember Chris Ricci summed up the feelings and thoughts of the majority of public speakers in the room when he said:

The issue is that what we're doing isn't making a big enough impact on the problem right now. The city's official policy is we house 30 to 60% of the homeless in our parks, on our streets, in our neighborhoods, and at our businesses. ... I will continue to advocate for emergency shelter. It is something that Councilmember Bavaro describes as street to camp. Right now, I have three parks in my district that are homeless shelters — Enslen, Pike, and Sutter Parks — there are dozens of shelter options we can do, but we aren't doing it. I cannot accept the status quo. I can't accept cleaning up all the drugs at some of our parks, but then 2 months later we're back right where we started. ... We have a responsibility to take this problem head on and our residents don't need to tolerate it anymore.

Jeremiah Williams, after assuring people for months that he favors safe camping for homeless people, joined Mayor Zwahlen and Councilmembers David Wright and



Rosa Escutia-Braaton in voting against the proposal. Meanwhile, the city's parks, streets, and neighborhoods remain the default sleeping sites for people with nowhere to go.

Connections Ed. Note: Citizens, the mayor and city council members need to hear from you on the issue!

The Day "Bridge housing" Came to Modesto

By **DEREK CASTLE**

In March 2021 Mayor Sue, City Manager Joe, and the always camera-shy Vice Mayor Chris (hiding in the photo behind the City Manager, Joe Lopez) got to see a "pod" from one brand of Bridge housing: this one from the "Pallet shelter" company. At the time they were \$7000 each. They are now still a bargain at \$8,000.

Since this photo, thousands of these Pallet shelters have been installed by Cities all over the state (and the country). Chico, a city smaller than Modesto, has 177 of them.

For some reason, we are years behind other places, but I am glad it looks like there is some momentum to go in this direction to get folk off the streets.

The following quotation from a [Modesto Bee](#) article from March 2021 is about this "pallet shelter" type of **bridge housing**:

"The shelters are a bridge between living on the streets or a homeless shelter to permanent housing. A company representative said about



50 communities across the United States, including about a dozen in California, use these shelters to provide housing for homeless people.

"He said communities typically put together several dozen of the shelters in one site and combine them with on-site managers, case management and other services, including security. He said homeless people generally live in one of the shelters for about six months until making the move to permanent housing. Any shelter site also would need utilities and bathrooms."



The Modesto Peace/Life Center
invites you to

A Harvest Gathering Fundraiser for KCBP Community Radio

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

at the home of
John Frailing & Maria Arevalo
1125 Edgebrook Dr., Modesto
Enjoy:

Delicious Hors d'oeuvres, Good
Wines, Special Coffees and Teas
Suggested Donation:
\$20 per person
Casual attire

INSIDE CONNECTIONS

LOCAL	2	ENDING THE RECURRING TRAGEDY	7
IN MEMORIAM	3	SIMPLEMENTE MARIA	8
SERVING THE HOMELESS	4	GATHERING OF VOICES	9
HOLIDAY SONG FEST	5	KCBP RADIO	10
TERRORIST ATTACK - ISRAEL	6	TERRORISM BY ANY OTHER NAME	11

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. The upcoming 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 Sound Cloud, Spotify, etc.

To participate, call 209-573-0533, or visit www.modestosound.com

|||||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
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:



Housing Inequity Series Featuring Author Leah Rothstein of Just Action at Modesto Junior College

A series of free events open to the public, *Housing Inequity: Past, Present, and What You Can Do*, are being held at Modesto Junior College (MJC) now.

In November, community book discussions will be held at MJC and at local libraries. The series will culminate in a November 16th discussion with nationally noted author Leah Rothstein on her recent book *Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law*, which references Modesto's history of restrictive housing covenants.



About the Housing Inequity Series

The Fall 2023 *Housing Inequity* series is organized by MJC's *Civic Engagement Project*, the School of Behavioral and Social Science's *Democracy in the Public Space*, the Library & Learning Center, and the UMOJA Program. * Community partnerships include the Stanislaus County Library and NAACP Modesto/Stanslaus.

Housing Inequity Events at Modesto Junior College in November



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.

Fall 2023 Schedule

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

Friday, November 17: Elizabeth (Liz) McInnes. "Encountering Breast Cancer."

Friday, December 1: Ari Friedlaender, Ph.D., UC Santa Cruz Principal Investigator, Biotelemetry and Behavioral Ecology Laboratory. "Whales." <https://btbel.pbsci.ucsc.edu/people/principal-investigator/>

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..."

Saturday, November 8, and Wednesdays, November 4 & 15 - Just Action: Book Discussions

11/4 @ 11:00 a.m. | Salida Public Library | 4835 Sisk Rd., Salida

11/8 @ 6:00 p.m. | Turlock Public Library | 550 N. Minaret Ave., Turlock

11/15 @ Noon | Learning & Library Center | MJC East Campus

Thursday, November 16, 7 p.m., Sierra Hall 132, MJC West Campus - Just Action: *How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law* An Evening with Leah Rothstein

*UMOJA (A Kiswahili word meaning unity) is a community and critical resource dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of African Americans and other students.

Stanislaus County INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Celebrating Gratitude in our Community

Thursday, November 16th 2023
Car Show 5:30 PM & Presentations 7:00 PM
Congregation Beth Shalom
1705 Sherwood Ave, Modesto CA

Featuring

Mayor of Modesto Sue Zwahlen | Supervisor Mani Grewal
Pharaohs Car Club | Chef Tye Bauer | Niccol Bauer
Chef Terrance Braxton | Nathan Schar | Kate Trompeter
David Rogers | Kaila Kindly | Society for disABILITIES
Buddist Monks | Tony Serrano | Wendy Scott
Anna Ennis | Elizabeth Wight | And Many More

Please bring a donation of non perishable food for FGS. CASH donations can be made through the QR code below.

Don't miss out
Follow our Facebook page
[[@stanislausinterfaith](#)]
to catch the event live



MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER

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

Connections is published monthly except in August by the Modesto Peace/Life Center
829 13th St., Modesto, CA 95354
Open by appointment.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 134,
Modesto, CA 95353
209-529-5750
www.stanislausconnections.org

Paean to a (Gay) Brother

By Mark S. Haskett

I am hardly unique in having witnessed a loved one die before my eyes. Nor am I the only person who has experienced more than one of these humbling, even sacred, departures. Three decades ago, I joined two of my brothers at our father's bedside when his comatose body was removed from life support. We all watched the desperate heaving of his chest as his lungs instinctively reacted to the sudden shortage of oxygen, then, barely a minute later, yielded peacefully to the inevitable end of a long illness.

This past summer I looked on helplessly as one of those two brothers likewise yielded to the inevitable, less from a lengthy illness than a slow surrender to his lifelong battle with addiction: To alcohol and nicotine, the two most ubiquitous forms, but especially to gambling – all stemming not-so-coincidentally from a sexual orientation that, in his youth and even today, is condemned as abhorrent and sinful. In short, my brother's request to halt food and further medical treatment for his mounting health issues seemed to me a reflection of his subconscious conviction that he was no longer worthy of putting up a fight. He was done battling his demons. He'd had his fill of contending with a culture that played the leading role in implanting those demons in the first place.

Of course, there's an argument to be made that one's personal demons aren't so much "implanted" as having been invited in. Men and women who are physically attracted to members of the same sex – variously gauged by social scientists at between 3 and 10 percent of the worldwide population – are not thereby compelled to surrender to the addictions that ensnare so many of us, whether gay or straight. After all, we do have free will, right?

To a limited extent, yes. On the other hand, most of us would prefer to ignore any evidence suggesting that our daily lives run largely on "programs" we've developed without rational oversight. In other words, not by choice. Our personal experiences shape our attitudes and behavior in ways we don't fully control and often aren't even aware of, the most compulsory of which derive from infancy and early childhood. And when the society in which we grow up – in my brother's case, 1950s middle-class America – declares that feelings for others of the same gender are not just abnormal but downright evil, the door to our demons swings wide open.

I am not enough of a psychologist to explain why addictive behaviors so often result from the self-doubt and self-hatred that haunts children who are told their feelings aren't acceptable or "normal." Ironically, my brother could explain it. Earning a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the same southeastern university that would hire him, then fire him for the crime of being a homosexual, he was hauled into court and ordered by one of North Carolina's more progressive judges to simply return to his home state of California.

He soon found work in the state's correctional system, eventually becoming a mentor to literally thousands of youthful offenders who landed in prison. A shocking majority of these young men grew up with neither fathers nor a moral compass and were drawn into gangs whose male role models implanted their own personal demons. During his fifty-year career, my brother offered both an understanding of their inner torment based on his own experience, and a battle plan for exorcising those demons. In his yet-unpublished book, *The Wandering Zone*, he outlined a step-by-step method for recovery that he himself might have followed but didn't. Or couldn't.

In today's America, the condemnation of homosexuality and transgender lifestyles is as strident as ever, if not more so in view of all the anti-woke efforts to turn discrimination into law. But there are also influential voices who celebrate the reality of a sexual spectrum that includes a much wider diversity than was acknowledged during my brother's formative years.



Before scattering his brother's (left) ashes at a favorite spot in the Eastern Sierras, the author (right), along with wife Nancy, "accompanied him" on a tour of Southern California sites they frequented while growing up.



Thousands of lives have been saved as a result, both physically and spiritually, because fewer children are growing up today in an oppressive atmosphere of secrecy or condemnation, even in states where backward-facing laws fly in the face of science.

So, dearest brother, may you rest in peace. Your journey began as an innocent soul censured by a society still struggling to reflect the equality it espouses, your adult life besieged by addictions that thwarted the greater success you might have achieved. But now your ashes have been returned to the soil of a secret garden where all is forgiven.

Even if you were unable to forgive yourself.

Mark Haskett is the author of several non-fiction books and novels that invite readers to explore the nexus of religion, spirituality, and personal meaning.

In Memoriam: Vance Kennedy, Ph.D.

May 18, 1923 - August 17, 2023

With his love of education and science, Vance worked toward and received several college degrees, including a BS in Chemical Engineering, an MS in Geophysics and Geochemistry, and a PhD in Geology.

Vance worked as a research hydrologist, studying water for the US Geological Survey. Working around the country, but mainly in Denver, Colorado, and then in Menlo Park, CA, Vance was the leading expert for Acid Rain and isotope research. In 1994, Vance was awarded the US Department of the Interior's highest honor, the National



Distinguished Service Award for his contribution to science.

Throughout retirement, Vance involved himself in farmland preservation, water rights and availability, erosion prevention, and climate change. Vance passed away in his sleep on August 17, 2023, three months after his 100th birthday.

See <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/modestobee/name/vance-kennedy-obituary?id=53151093>

In Memoriam: Sandy Graham

Passed Away September 30, 2023



Left to Right: Leng Power, Jocelyn Cooper, James Costello, and Sandy Graham.

Sandy Graham was an outstanding Assistant Clients' Rights Advocate for the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy at Disability Rights California. But for the Modesto Peace/Life Center, she wore a different hat. Given her extensive experience and expertise in radio broadcasting, she became the first Chief Operating Officer for our fledgling full-power community radio station, KCBP 95.5 FM, "The Voice of the Valley."

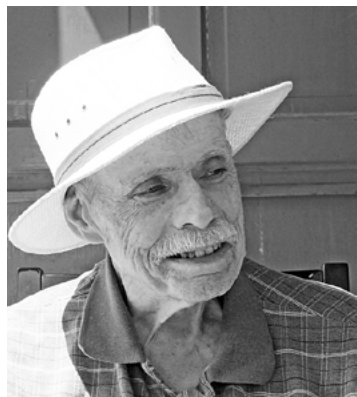
When Sandy heard about our radio project, she enthusiastically volunteered to help get it on the air. Continuing to work at her full-time job, she set up our broadcast software, our internet stream and developed our basic programming schedule, most of which is still operational today. She wrote volunteer and program training manuals and purchased equipment like microphones and headphones. She educated some of us in recording and editing and explained the stringent requirements of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). She shepherded us to our first over-the-air broadcast on August 17, 2017 (see photo).

Unfortunately, illness intervened, so she had to leave us. Nevertheless, she established a solid foundation upon which KCBP radio continues to grow. Rest in Peace, Sandy!

An Interview with Jim Stokes: Salvation Army's Social Justice Champion

By TOM PORTWOOD

The island nation of Madagascar lies in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of Africa, nearly 11,000 miles away from Modesto. But that's exactly where Jim



Stokes, who currently serves as the Director of the Salvation Army's Berberian Shelter and the Low-Barrier Shelter, dedicated a Peace Corps term to assisting the people of that island Republic – just one of many difficult missions he has undertaken while trying to make a difference in the world.

Prior to being hired by the Salvation Army in 2021, Mr. Stokes held various posts with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), first in Dallas, Texas, and then locally. Our community is highly fortunate to have him serving those among us who are most in need since he brings such a wealth of experience to all that he does.

Q: You are leading a life remarkable for its service to others. What influenced you to follow that path as you were growing up?

Jim Stokes: I had a strong social justice upbringing, so I've been involved with nonprofits for as long as I can remember – but certainly starting in high school and continuing into college. Then I went into the Peace Corps and I've never looked back. I've never been somebody who wants to make a huge salary or not affect change in people's lives. I've been exposed to a lot of marginalized groups across the board and *that* is my focus – *to serve those people*. I'll serve them in any way possible. This opportunity (with the Salvation Army) definitely looks different than having worked with refugees, but both populations are sorely in need of attention and services.

Q: Your mission with the Peace Corps sounds very interesting. Please take a minute to describe some of the things you did while volunteering in Madagascar.

Jim Stokes: Sure. I was an Agroforestry volunteer in the southwestern corner of Madagascar, one of the farthest places away from the capitol. I lived in a small fishing village, and worked on programs that addressed a lot of the local slash-and-burn practices, to generate pressure off the need to cut firewood and go out the next day and cut even more firewood. We also focused on alternative streams of income. I kept bees and I taught people how to make money from honey and beeswax products. I also taught people how to build stoves because often the villagers would cook by putting a pot on top of three rocks and lighting the fire underneath. We made the stoves from free local resources, like fresh cow

dung, termite mound, and hay, and that had people using significantly less fuel, which meant that they didn't have to spend as much time gathering firewood – which, in turn, cut down on deforestation.

Q. Then, after the Peace Corps?

Yes, after the Peace Corps, we came home – my wife and me. I had met my wife in the Peace Corps, where she, too, had been a volunteer. Back in the States, I worked for a program that took juvenile felons out into the woods for sixty days at a time to get them different training, different socialization opportunities, made them competent in skill sets that they had never had before like backcountry survival living. I also worked at a charter school in central New Mexico that had some university-bound kids but also Native American kids and kids from the town. I taught 4th grade, and there was probably a kindergarten to 8th grade span of ability among my students. I was exposed a lot to Apache and Navajo folks and heard about many of the difficulties they face in the 21st century.

Then, after getting my master's in international Peace & Conflict Resolution, I started my work with the IRC. During my tenure there I helped to significantly increase employment rates for refugees even during difficult economic times. I also helped bring the local Promature model to the IRC in Turlock for Afghan women.

Q. Briefly describe what you feel are some of the key issues our community must address when discussing local homelessness.

Jim Stokes: The really difficult bookends to our local homelessness problem are (1) the brutal systems that churn people through are only speeding up and not getting any better. Every year, people are surprised to learn that there are more homeless folks but how can you be surprised when nothing is changing, and things are only getting tougher?

And then the other bookend is there is limited permanent housing. How do you put folks who lack a house into housing if the supply isn't there and the current supply is cost-prohibitive for the majority of people? So that's really difficult, for sure.

Q. Please briefly describe the shelters – the guests who use them, the services that are available, etc.

Jim Stokes: At the moment, there are about 180 guests in the Berberian Shelter, with 182 in the Low-Barrier Shelter. The majority of the folks in our shelters are over 50 years old and have various disabilities. Ours are not shelters full of young guys with drug problems – that represents an insignificant demographic of the population that stays here. I think people are generally surprised to learn that there is such an older population making up most of the folks who use our shelters' services. Both shelters have access to 3 caseworkers, so each of them has a caseload of about 60 clients apiece. They work with their clients on all sorts of initiatives to move them



How do you put folks who lack a house into housing if the supply isn't there and the current supply is cost-prohibitive for the majority of people?

forward, including mental health assessments, substance-use referrals to treatment centers. They help with acquisition of ID's and birth certificates. They help people get employment and to go back to school. Our case managers are jacks of all trade. They help with whatever the individual needs, which also includes referrals to permanent housing.

Q. As Director, what are some of your other duties?

Jim Stokes: I oversee roughly 400 people in both shelters, including the maintenance team, and the entire facility. I'm also charged with building new programs such as Safe Parking and the Day Center. I am also working with Healthnet and The Health Plan of San Joaquin on developing a short-term hospitalization program for our clients through CalAIM. And I'm the face of the shelters at public meetings.

Q. I understand that the Day Center is tentatively scheduled to be open by early November. Please describe what clients can expect once it is operating.

Jim Stokes: The Day Center will be in the common cafeteria between the two shelters. There will be charging stations there, and space for community partners to come and meet with folks who are guests of the Day Center. This is largely going to focus on the unsheltered population in

continued page 5

Holiday Potluck Songfest Returns, Dec. 9

By DAN ONORATO

You've wondered, "Will it come back?" You've waited, oh so patiently, through the pandemic. And wished, "Oh, c'mon!" So, Alice and I will open our home to bring back a Peace/Life Center community holiday tradition of scrumptious potluck specials and a merry evening of spirited singing. Start now. Let flow the magic of your culinary creativity. In your morning or evening shower, picture yourself a superstar. Gargle before entry. Then pretend you're Kenny Rogers, Carole King, or one of the Mamas and the Papas, and belt out some of your much-loved oldies but goodies and holiday favorites.

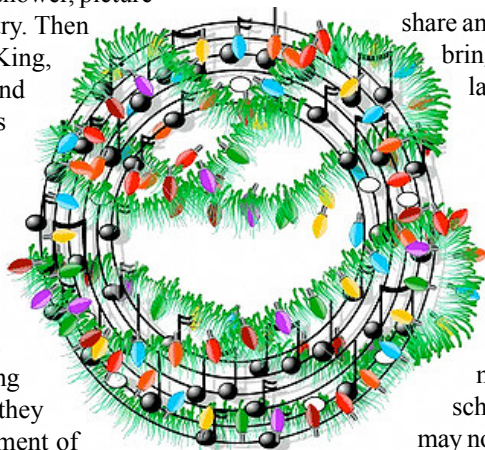
At the heart of our merriment will be the fun-loving folksinger-guitarist John Poat, whose enthusiasm and musical talent rouse even the most reserved person present to sing his or her heart out. And that's what this community songfest is all about—singing our hearts out and enjoying others as they too let go to the laughter and enchantment of being linked together in song. That linking is a form

of peace-making. In our world that seems to be unraveling, we need more such singing and sharing.

We'll start at 5:30 on Saturday evening, December 9, and we'll end around 9:00. We live at 1532 Vernon Avenue in Modesto. Bring a dish to

share and a beverage of your choice. If you bring food for vegetarians or vegans, please label it. Potluck around 6:00. Enjoy the tasty variety, enjoy the conversations with new and long-time friends, and sing heartily. We look forward to being together.

P.S. In keeping with this event's tradition, please consider bringing one or more new and unwrapped books for children grades one through middle school. We'll donate them to a school and teacher, many of whose pupils may not have books in their homes. Thank you. For more information, call 209-526-5436.



Celebrate World Music with the Domara Orchestra at the Gallo

The Domara Orchestra has reconvened to celebrate music from around the world at its Joyful World Journey concert at the Gallo Center for the Performing Arts on **Dec. 2, 2023**.

Producer and Director Pierre Noghli has once again brought together an ensemble of renowned musicians, both local and from around the world, to perform as the Domara Orchestra here in Modesto, California. Among the musicians taking the stage this year are Ardeshir Farah of Strunz & Farah; Artashes Kartalyan, the famous Armenian composer; and Keyavash Nourai, the renowned Persian violinist.

Together, thirteen musicians will perform pieces from 17 countries. The music will



range from the Eastern to Western world. Together the selections will be a joyful celebration of culture, music, and unity.

Last year, the Domara Orchestra's performance at the Gallo Arts was a sold-out affair, uplifting audiences with its unique selection of music, some audience favorites, some new and exciting.

The Domara Orchestra, established by Mr. Noghli in 2008, was originally founded to celebrate Assyrian music with unique productions and bold performances. Since that first performance in 2008 at the Gallo, this collective of creative and talented musicians has performed multiple times in Modesto. Among the notable musicians to have performed with the group are Ninos Dikho musical director, John Ady, Jamie Dubberly and Sargon Yonan.

For more information about the Domara Orchestra or the upcoming concert, please contact Pierre Noghli at [209-604-0226](tel:209-604-0226) or email the orchestra directly at domaraorchestra@gmail.com

We look forward to celebrating the world's music together with you.

An Interview with Jim Stokes

from page 4

Modesto. So, we'll be providing services to a new population at our facility, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week.

Our aim is to provide case management to them and access to a suite of services that will address their individual needs. We'll also potentially be teaching things like harm reduction and life skills in classroom settings. It just depends on what the guests who are coming to the Day Center require at any given time. We'll be surveying the guests regularly to make sure they are receiving the services and the programs that they need and want.

Q. Talk about how you interface with other community groups.

Jim Stokes: I don't think it's helpful to be siloed here with the Salvation Army when there's so much work going on in the community that also supports our homeless population. I appreciate being held accountable by the community because that ensures that we're moving forward and we're doing right by folks. Joining MoCag and the Stanislaus Homeless Alliance and other groups is just an extension of knowing a lot of people in the community and wanting to be in the same room to have these vital discussions. While the problem is very similar to humanitarian crises I have worked on in the past, there are really a lot of folks who are committed to working on all the different facets of homelessness and trying to plug in all the different solutions that work for the many faces of our homeless community.

Q. Having worked in both fields and assisting thousands of people over the years, do you see a connective tissue between being a refugee and being homeless?

Jim Stokes: Yes. There is a connection. We are talking about the world's most downtrodden people. There are two ways to look at them. One way is to look at them as a problem

All the unhoused people we talk about every day – they are your neighbors. Neighbors should be looked in the eye, shaken hands with, and asked what they need that day.

for society and a burden, and the other way is to look at them and say hey – we need to help these people because they are OUR community. There's definitely enough money to go around – we're the wealthiest country in the world. Let's fix these institutional issues and problems: I'm a proponent of *that* solution.

Q. If you could convey one message to everyone who reads this article, what would it be?

Jim Stokes: Ever since I came to the Salvation Army, I couldn't be more happy to be in the right place. I'm really happy I'm able to do this day after day. My message is simple. All the unhoused people we talk about every day – they are your neighbors. Neighbors should be looked in the eye, shaken hands with, and asked what they need that day. I'm just looking for people to treat our homeless population more equitably, because when I look someone in the eye and genuinely ask how their day is, what are they moving towards, it has a *massive* impact on that individual. So, the flip side is also true. When you ignore them, or if you're scared of them and cross the street to avoid eye contact, or if you look at them as THE problem *that also* is felt very strongly. If you had a choice between one over the other, why wouldn't you choose the first?

Be informed!

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

Speech delivered at Congregation Beth shalom: Center for Jewish Life, during Friday, October 13 service after the terrorist attack suffered in Israel

By **SEBASTIÁN SCLOFSKY, PH.D.**¹

On Saturday morning, October 7, I was woken up at 6 a.m. by a phone call from my sister in Uruguay. She was getting dozens of WhatsApp messages from her friends in Israel about a terrorist attack taking place across the border with Gaza. I rushed to my computer and began scrolling through Israeli news websites and social media.

I woke up my wife and told her to call the family in Israel. Communication was difficult as many of them keep Shabbat. When we finally were able to get in touch with them, the immediate sense of relief of knowing they were ok, gave place to a sense of concern, fear, and nervousness, as we began to realize we were facing an unprecedented situation. The family was holding up ok in the anti-missiles safety rooms, as the alarms kept going off and the barrage of rockets kept falling.

At that moment we entered into a well-known Israeli ritual, which we hadn't done during more than a decade living in the US. We connected the computer to the TV and sat in front of it watching Israeli news non-stop. As the information of the attack and massacre kept coming, the sense of shock, anger, and impotence crept through our body. The images and reports of the horrifying attack became stuck in our heads, and we just couldn't stop watching the news.

The name of the cities and kibbutzim under attack are well-known to us. My wife, Adi, and I lived at different moments of our life in Ibim, a student village less than 5km from Sderot. I worked in Sderot as director of a project for youth-in-distress living in the streets. I spent countless nights walking the streets of Sderot, running in less than ten 10 seconds to the reinforced cement structures in the streets in less than 10 seconds every single time the Code Red alarm went off and rockets fall on the city. The faces of the volunteers who worked with me, together with the faces of Sderot youth started to appear in my head. And then came the name of the kibbutzim that were under attack –Be'eri, Re'im, Nirim, Kfar Aza, Nahal Oz – many of them inhabited by many immigrants from Latin America, like me, many former students from my

time as a leader of a Zionist youth movement, or my time as a director at the leadership training program for Latin American youth in Jerusalem, or my time as an immigrant absorption worker in Ibim. People with whom I had lived and worked in the more than a decade that I lived in Israel.

People whom I hadn't seen and many whom I hadn't heard from since I came to the US. But their faces kept crawling into my mind.

And we heard about the Supernova Festival and the Nature Music Festival, and the numbers of those murdered kept going up, and you begin to realize the size of the tragedy, and you cannot keep watching, but at the same time you can't stop. How could this have happened? How is it possible? And you try to think, and you raise hypotheses and arguments, and you read, and talk to friends and family, and you are angry, and afraid, and concerned, and anxious, and suddenly, for the first time in the twelve years since I left Israel, I felt the need to be there. You feel a sense of impotence, loneliness, and desperation.

And my two boys start to ask what is going on. How to explain something like this? How to explain that it is not just more than 1,300 people murdered including Israeli

Arabs and Muslims, and more than a hundred kidnapped. It is one, plus one, plus one, and it goes on and on. As each number is a name, it's a daughter, a son, a parent, a grandparent, a sibling. More than 260 young people were murdered at the Supernova Festival. More than 10% of some of the kibbutzim populations were murdered. Mothers and children, babies and grandparents murdered and kidnapped.

As the images invaded my mind, and as the faces of the many people I know on that area kept coming to me, I began scrolling through social media just to get some information. Suddenly, a relative and his wife are among the murdered, and a former student is also among them. Then I learned about another one that no one knows what happened to her, and a third one that no one knows either, and it goes on and on. And another relative and his wife dead, and another student dead. And you see confirmation of another student kidnapped and a teacher, who spent his life training educational guides to work in Poland teaching about the Holocaust has also been kidnapped.

You feel the imperative need to connect, to talk, you need to hear some familiar voice, you need support, you expect

support from those close to you, and you feel responsible to somehow be in Israel with all those you love. So, I sent pictures of the boys to the family in Israel, and make a joke, and they respond, and you feel a bit better for a couple of seconds. And I tell my wife we should stop watching the news 24/7, but we can't stop. She tells me to stop scrolling through social media, but I can't, as it has become the main source of information to learn about the many acquaintances and relatives that you haven't been in touch for ages, except for the regular likes and "happy birthdays" on Instagram or Facebook.

This is not the moment to talk about politics or try to analyze the why and how. But allow me to briefly get into this as it becomes relevant to some of the things I want to share.

I depart from two basic premises: based on long historical facts, I strongly believe and support the legitimate right of the State of Israel to exist. And based on historical facts, I believe and support the right of the Palestinian people to have a Palestinian State. You may disagree with me, and it's fine, but those are my premises. I also come from a deep left-wing, Marxist tradition, and a deep left-wing Zionist tradition. Neither my beliefs and thoughts are always coherent nor my actions, but that's where I stand. As such, I believe we cannot be a free nation when we do not allow others to be free, and I have been and am very critical of the Israeli government.

All that being said, Hamas is not and never was a revolutionary, resistance, or liberatory organization. Hamas was and is a murderous organization and their actions last Saturday confirm this. No matter what political position you have, there is absolutely nothing that can justify or condone the carnage Hamas did. And yet, as I scrolled through social media to find news about my loved ones, and while I learned the terrible fate of some of them, and felt relieved to learn that others were safe, I faced a series of posts on social media justifying Hamas's actions. Including posts by many who praise themselves of being progressive and critical thinkers.

In the immediate aftermath of the carnage, with all the information in front of them, they felt the need to blame Israel for this and in that way justify Hamas's murderous actions. These individuals are not progressive, left-wing, or critical, they are just, and I want to be careful with my words, unworthy. And while I wasn't surprised or even disappointed, as I know that they do not really care about the Palestinians, and they weaponize identities and pseudo-critical discourses for their own benefit, it infuriated me. It frustrated me, it added to my anger, and to my impotence. And it increased my pessimism about this world and its future. And then I was surprised by simple messages from friends, colleagues, and acquaintances asking how we were doing, sending a word of comfort and friendship.

Yes, I am a left-wing, not in US terms, in world-terms. And I am also Uruguayan, and I am Israeli, and a father, and

continued page 7

¹ Dr. Sebastián Sclofsky is a political scientist and Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at California State University, Stanislaus.



Ending the recurring tragedy in Israel-Palestine

The practice of Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping provides a real alternative to the destructive dead-end of revenge and violence.

By **MICHAEL NAGLER**

The soul-destroying conflict in Gaza and southern Israel has made it clearer than ever that we, not just Israelis and Palestinians, but all of us, have to find an alternative to the age-old reliance on violence to protect and avenge. Martin Luther King Jr. said the same thing: “Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation.” He also pointed to the answer: “The foundation of such a method is love.” The edifice being slowly built on that foundation is nonviolence.

Nonviolence, for Gandhi, included not only a method for resolving conflict, as King references here, but a principle on which to erect a new world order, in which such bruising conflict would be much less likely to occur. Gandhi called this aspect of nonviolence Constructive Programme. As early as 1895 he realized that in the long run it was even more important than direct disobedience and resistance. It could, for example, [relieve the terrific damage being done to the environment](#) in this conflict; damage being done both directly and by distracting us from the urgent need to stop climate destruction. Now, however, what we are up against is not what could happen in the long run but how to interrupt a violent conflict before more blood and treasure is wasted.

Nonviolence has a way to do even that: [the practice of Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping, or UCP](#), has grown out of Gandhi’s experiments with a Shanti Sena, or “Peace Army,” of trained individuals who would intervene as neutral third parties even after armed conflict had broken out, even on a large scale. Unfortunately, Gandhi was assassinated before he could see his vision to reality, but the dream didn’t die with him. UCP is now being carried out by some 20 organizations around the world and has been discussed seriously at the UN. As well it might be: Versions of it have worked that would otherwise be seen as miracles in Haiti, [Mindanao](#), [South Sudan](#) and elsewhere. Three years ago, domestic teams used

it successfully in the U.S. [after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis](#).

Could they stop the carnage in Israel/Palestine? In theory, yes. But unfortunately, we were not ready. While the world has not altogether ignored Gandhi, he has not been taken seriously enough to build a robust system that could intervene safely and effectively in serious conflict. Those who believe in this application of nonviolence (myself among them) have not yet convinced enough people of its efficacy (not to mention its mere existence) to get us to the point where it could be used effectively at such an advanced stage and scale. Yet, it’s coming. Harvard scholar Erica Chenoweth and co-author Maria Stephan have shown that nonviolent insurrections are twice as effective as violent ones, in about one-third the time. They are also four times more likely to lead to a democratic regime once the conflict is over, a fact that’s extremely relevant for the Middle East. None of this information, by the way, was available as recently as 15 years ago.

Despite popular misconceptions, furthermore, the Middle East is not a complete stranger to nonviolence in either its constructive or obstructive forms. I have worked with both Israeli and Palestinian nonviolent activists for decades and seen interest from many parties, including Hamas! One of the first teaching and training centers for nonviolence was founded just north of Jerusalem by [Mubarak Awad](#), who was subsequently [deported by Israel](#) and went on to create a similar center, Nonviolence International, in Washington, D.C. An experimental school between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salaam (“Oasis of Peace” in Hebrew and Arabic) has been teaching Arabic and Jewish children together since the 1970s, and I have met with other people and organizations — Jewish, Arab and mixed — doing similar work at the grassroots.

None of this is as yet sufficiently developed (in this region or anywhere) to show the skeptical world that nonviolence can

work on an international scale; but there is no reason it could not do exactly that if enough people were given the needed training and support, organizational and, yes, governmental. The international community has not yet tackled this, but we need to do so now. That is perhaps the most important lesson of the present conflict. UCP would take a fraction of the monies spent on “force against force,” and save ourselves and the planet from much more destruction than that approach has ever done or ever could.

This story was produced by [Metta Center for Nonviolence](#).

*Michael Nagler is Professor emeritus of Classics and Comparative Literature at UC, Berkeley, where he co-founded the Peace and Conflict Studies Program. He is also the founder of the [Metta Center for Nonviolence](#) and author of the award-winning *Search for a Nonviolent Future*. His latest book is “[The Third Harmony: Nonviolence & the New Story of Human Nature](#).”*

READERS! Sign-up for our e-edition!

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

Can enlarge text to read more easily!

Print out if desired!

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

If you do not have Adobe Reader, download it free from <http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>

MRB MICHAEL R. BAUDLER

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

mb@modestocpas.com

Michael R. Baudler, CPA

TELEPHONE
(209) 575-2653 ext 303

FACSIMILE
(209) 575-0629

1120 14TH STREET, SUITE 2
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354

Speech delivered

from page 6

a husband, and Jewish, but above all I am human. And my humanity was challenged on Saturday October 7th, not for the first time, and probably not for the last. These days, weeks, and months ahead of us will be complex, difficult, and testing days. We will win, if and only if, we are able to maintain, celebrate, and cultivate our humanity. And we will win.

As an opinion piece in Haaretz said, the crime against everything human that Hamas committed is abominable, it is an atrocity impossible to grasp. We are hurt, we are angry, and we have the right to be so. Hamas and their supporters need to be eradicated, and they will be. But our true victory, as Jews or Gentiles, as left-wing or not, our victory as humans, will depend on our strength to maintain our humanity. To the

I depart from two basic premises: based on long historical facts, I strongly believe and support the legitimate right of the State of Israel to exist. And based on historical facts, I believe and support the right of the Palestinian people to have a Palestinian State.

famous philosophical question of how we can maintain our moral compass in this immoral world, we need to answer, yes, we can, and we will. That will be our victory.

Thank you very much.

KDUR LAW OFFICES OF KELLY, DUARTE, URSTOEGER & RUBLE, LLP

Sharon E. Kelly
Jeffrey R. Duarte
Markus R. Urstoege
Megan E. Ruble

1600 G St
Suite 203
P.O. Box 0142
Modesto, CA

Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability Attorneys

Know your rights
Call today (209) 521-2552

Simplemente Maria

By A. J.

Working in a new job, I was recently asked where I learned to speak Spanish, such as I do. I gave the same rather colorless answer I've always given. I am correcting that here. We learned Spanish from Maria Rodriguez, who was part of our family for some difficult years after my folks split up, and it's safe to say that the language skills she helped us develop played at least a small part in my being hired for this new position, and pretty much every other I've had, over a long career.

It's interesting how language changes with the times: my mother was careful never to say the word, "divorce," out loud, and country singer Tammy Wynette actually spelled it out in what became a hit song, back then. Our family had the painful distinction of being the first in our neighborhood to explode, but what happened to us became common, as society as a whole and unfortunate individual families navigated the tidal wave of changes leading from the carefree innocence of the 1950s into the turbulence of the 1960s and beyond.

I sensed that Mom, and probably many others like her, was so embarrassed by what she perceived as the failure of our family that she couldn't bring herself to say the word out loud. Eventually, a new phrase was created, to normalize households like ours had become: "single-parent family."

But so early on, we were the unfortunate children of a "broken home." Even at that young age, I recall the whispers, and the pitying looks from well-meaning adults, that sometimes followed in our wake.

With Mom gone, my dad suddenly found himself a bachelor, and a young single dad who worked all day, trying to manage an unimaginable, extremely difficult new life: raising a houseful of kids, from preschool age to early teen, on his own. Without Mom, he desperately needed help: someone had to be there while he was at work, both to take care of us and to handle the cooking and cleaning. And it had to be just the right person. (Fortunately, it was a lot safer to bring someone into the family home, in those days.)

After a false start or two, that person turned out to be Maria.

It was a really hard time for all of us – our world had just blown up – but looking back, we must have had angels watching out for us when Maria joined the family. Although we did not speak Spanish at all, and she spoke barely a word of English, with time and patience, we figured out how to communicate.

And despite all the differences, we gradually created a bond. Maria's kind heart responded to a family very recently torn apart, and still pretty raw. Although conversations were often challenging, she provided the stability we all so needed in those days. And in our home, she found an instant family.

She loved us, and we loved her.

I'll never forget the first time Maria woke us up for school ("Come on, boys!" – some of us were girls). Perhaps it was so memorable because she wasn't Mom. The utter differentness of it was a little jarring – especially at that hour, awaking to it from a sound sleep.

Maria got us up and ready for school, and she was still there after we got home, the house spotless and the laundry long

folded and put away. She made sure we got our homework done, one eye on us and the other on whatever delicious dinner she was cooking that day.

And Maria could cook! If the world had worked differently, she might have become famous for her delicious food. I recall my dad marveling to friends at how she could cook an absolutely terrific dinner, leaving the kitchen spotless before the food ever hit the table.

Maria had her own bedroom, and the luxury of her own TV. She always made sure dinner was done, and the dishes put away, in time for her novella: "*Simplemente Maria*." I can still hear the theme song in my mind: "Sim-ple-men-te—Ma-ri-i-i-a-a..." That was her escape: in her room, door closed, wrapped up in her novella; caught up for an hour in a story from the world she left behind and was cut off from, and which she must have missed terribly.

If nothing else it provided good cover for an occasional bout of tears, for which she unnecessarily apologized if we accidentally walked in on her.

I didn't understand it then, but she had to have been homesick and, living in a house full of strangers in a completely foreign place, lonely.

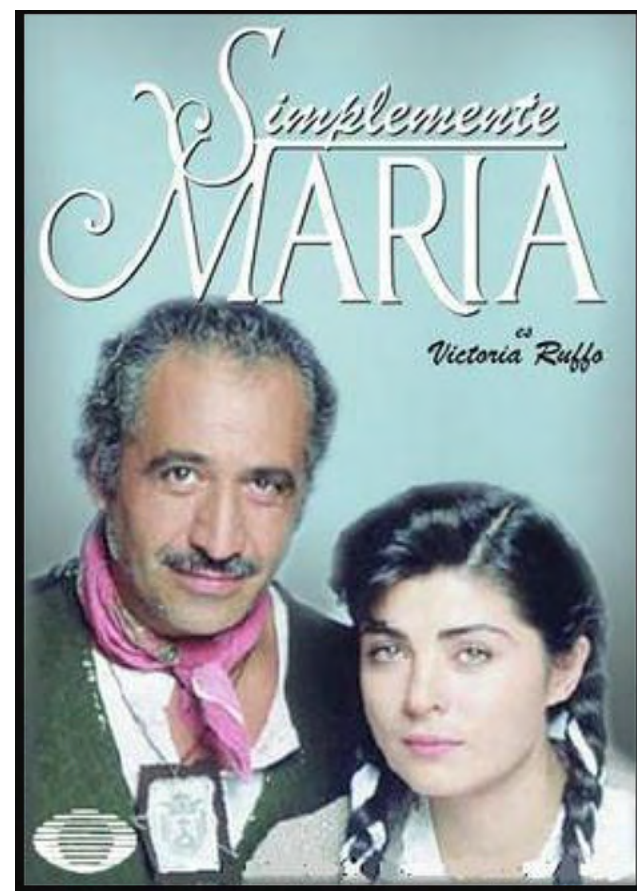
Although I didn't get to it myself until much later in life, Maria's novella made them ok for me. And I can say without hesitation that indulging in the slightly guilty pleasure of watching a favorite novella or two, on repeat, has greatly improved *mi Espanol*. I've long since stopped relying on subtitles, and know the storylines so well that I'm sometimes pleasantly surprised to catch bits of dialogue that I hadn't previously understood, as effortlessly as if it were spoken in English. Lately, I've turned on the subtitles in Spanish, for another layer of challenge – it takes a bit longer to get through an episode, but what a vocabulary builder!

For my money, the best of the novellas are filmed in Spain, and they aren't the stereotypical fare produced elsewhere, with the exaggerated acting, and hair and makeup to match. Some of them are extremely well done – more like really long movies, with enough depth to hold one's interest until the interwoven storylines have all played out. In my favorite, against the odds, the characters you can't help but root for get their happy endings.

As they are filmed in Spain, the dialogue is in Castilian Spanish. I sometimes use pronunciations I've picked up from them, which, unfortunately, makes me sound like I'm speaking with a lisp. (I once worked with someone who pretty much refused to speak Spanish on the job because he, a white guy, spoke "Castiliano." I'll trade the embarrassment of an occasional mispronunciation for the opportunity to communicate any day.)

Maria came into our lives during a crucial time for all of us, and we learned so much from her. Influenced by her faith, I once startled my dad by telling him I wanted to become Catholic (church wouldn't necessarily have been the first place to look for us, on a Sunday morning).

In her kindness, and in the interest of encouraging us, she met us more than halfway, taking the cultural differences in stride, and somehow making sense of our sometimes



grammatically curious utterings. This often led to confusion, especially at first. It was also the cause of occasional amusement, and working through it together it helped us gel into a new semblance of a family, in that painfully altered reality.

One night early on, Maria wanted to let us know that dinner was ready. As she searched for the word in English, my dad, beginning to grasp the language, and probably not the first to combine a noun with the active tense of a verb, accidentally invented a word, and it stuck: "*Comidamos!*" It marked an inflection point in our relationship: somehow, we communicated more easily after that.

Although none of us could have imagined then how far-reaching the impact of Maria's relatively brief presence in our lives would be, and we didn't really understand the depth of it at the time, we did know that we needed her.

We lost touch with Maria after she left us to get married, but wherever she is these days, I hope she is happy, and that things are going very well for her. And I hope that she remembers the family she had such an impact on, so many years ago.

Maria, si usted ve estas palabras, mucho amor a ti, y comidamos!





Carol Quinlan: A Fine Modesto Poet And Short Story Writer

Carol Quinlan grew up in Washington, D.C. and the Maryland suburbs. She earned a BA in English from the University of Maryland and an MA from CSU, Stanislaus in Marketing. She served as the Public Information Officer for Modesto City Schools for 20 years and, in retirement, enjoys the challenge of writing poetry and short stories. She is a member of MICL (Modesto Institute for Continued Learning) and the Poets of the San Joaquin. A Gathering of Voices is very pleased to share some of her work.

A POET'S METHOD

The famous poet says his poems are best when he has no idea what to write.

He sits at his kitchen table with coffee, pencil and paper. He gazes out the window into a cloudless sky.

Then, as easy as filling a bowl with plums or grapes, his amazing gifts reap another perfect harvest.

Oh, the talent, the glory, the applause!

Today, I tried his method. I wiped my mind clean of all pesky thoughts and distractions.

I sat and watched the wrens fussing and bobbing from bush to bush and the dog asleep at her bowl. Soon it was time for lunch.

I still wonder how he does it.

A SAN FRANCISCO MEMORY

April 27, 1970

See the girl with the blue suitcase?
That's me.

I'm boarding a bus that goes from the airport into the city.
There's no one I know in San Francisco.
I'm from the opposite coast.

See the handsome, young soldier?
He's offering to carry my bag!

He's going overseas to fight in an unpopular war.
We sit together on the bus; then walk up the hill into the city's heart.

People smile at us. We look like a TV ad for shampoo.

It's a wonderful gift to be young!

The soldier was drafted so he's far from his South Dakota home.
But only partway to war.

He stands beside me while I register at the YWCA. Now my name is on the roster of this old, stone building for women.

We hold hands and walk to Chinatown.
The air warms around us and the city lights make us feel as though no harm could come.

But the soldier has to return to where they are preparing for war.
I wonder if I will see him again. And, could I marry him?

I kiss his cheek and watch him enter the cab that waits at the curb.

Isn't it a gift to be young?

GIRL TALK

One evening we shared secrets about how we learned where babies come from.

We giggled and rolled on the lawn and stared up at the empty, evening sky—we were 7th graders.

Margie said her mother sat at the kitchen table and smoothed lotion over her freckled arms while she broke the news--

"The man gives the woman a seed. And

the woman takes the seed and, later on, the seed becomes a baby."

Margie wondered if the man also gave the woman some water to help her swallow the seed which must have been enormous.

We screamed with laughter. How ridiculous!

Carolyn's mother pleaded that she not ask so many questions. She just warned not let a boy touch her knees or under her skirt—advice that gave us the shivers.

When my mother told me the facts she seemed to be in such pain and confusion I got scared.

I told her I knew everything already and she didn't need to say another word. And she didn't.

Later, she gave me a paperback book on the facts of life and how to get a boyfriend. She said I might need it someday.

The book was called Popularity Plus. I don't know where it is now.

I know I never read it.

TEASED IN HIGH SCHOOL

He was in my summer school class—the boy who was teased unmercifully—by our football stars--big guys, tall and wide, loud and scary and deep-voiced at 15-16

He was teased at his locker, on the bus, in the cafeteria, the halls, the classrooms, the gym and near our teachers in their suits and ties, high-heels and skirts

One morning before class, I saw him make a friend of another boy—a small, thin kid who could have been a candidate for teasing himself

I watched the boy who was teased and his new pal chase each other around the classroom and zig-zag between the desks like happy third-graders. I hardly recognized the boy who was teased because he was so full of glee

The sight flooded me with joy. I hoped the boy would find more friends and meet only the kindest people

I know that might not happen for him. But maybe it would!

Maybe it would.

WEDDING, WINTER 1968

We came to your wedding
six pretty girls from work
ripe and luscious cupcakes
in spiked heels and
sleeveless pastels

Thrilled to witness your leap
into a world we also wanted
so we whispered and peeked
anxious for your entrance

Then, slowly you came
gowned and veiled
in satin and tulle
on your father's arm
his smile so happy
as though he had just heard a joke

But the tears!
Black rivulets rolling down
your pale cheeks
each step bringing fresh waves
We girls turned to gather
in a small, safe nest—
we were crying too—
but embarrassed to be caught
in the drama of your tears
Later, when the cake was cut,
the plastic couple slipped
from their sugary peak
into the hands of a boy
who stuffed them in his pocket
And you laughed,
relieved like a tightly
wound spring released

Do you remember how
you cried at your wedding
and how we cried too?

Those sweet, girlish tears—
our wishes and hopes
and dreams.



Great Programs on KCBP 95.5 FM, The Voice of the Valley

Streaming on www.kcbpradio.org

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

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-renown 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 Corey 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

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.

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) - Wednesdays 11:30 am, & Sundays 11:00 am & 5:30 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 – 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 Sunday.



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.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION: Donate here: <https://kcbpradio.org/donate/>

Please consider a recurring monthly donation.



Hamas and Israeli Government Are Both Terrorist Organizations

Apologists for Israel point out that Hamas targets civilians and Israel does not. But for Palestinians, that is a distinction without a difference.

By **NORMAN SOLOMON, The LA Progressive**

Labels are central to the politics of media. And no label has been more powerful than “terrorist.”

A single standard of language should accompany a consistent standard of human rights, which the world desperately needs. “If thought corrupts language,” George Orwell [wrote](#), “language can also corrupt thought. A bad usage can spread by tradition and imitation, even among people who should and do know better.”

No amount of rhetoric from its defenders and apologists can change the reality that Hamas engaged in mass murder. What Hamas horrifically did to more than 1,000 Israeli civilians of all ages two weeks ago meets the dictionary definition of terrorism.

And no amount of rhetoric can change the reality that the Israeli government has engaged in mass murder during the last two weeks. What Israel’s military is horrifically doing in Gaza, already killing several thousand Palestinian civilians of all ages, also meets the definition of terrorism.

But U.S. media outlets dodge being evenhanded with the “terrorist” label—applying it to organized Palestinian killers of Israelis and not to organized Israeli killers of Palestinians.

The [routine media bias](#) does not in any way mitigate the horrendous crimes committed by Hamas in Israel. And that media bias does not in any way mitigate the horrendous crimes that are being committed—on an even larger scale, increasing daily—by the Israeli government in Gaza.

By any consistent standard, if referring to Hamas as a terrorist organization, then the same description fits the Israeli government. But such balanced candor is absolutely intolerable in the mainstream media and politics of the United States. It would be too honest. Too real.

Terrorists and their defenders always have excuses when tactics include ruthlessly killing civilians. But we’re choking on a nonstop supply of smoke-blowing rhetoric—what Orwell [called](#) political language “designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable.”

Some have contended that the word “terrorist” should be excluded from news accounts because it can be subjective. Although ignored or derided soon after 9/11, Reuters news service explained its policy this way: “Throughout this difficult time we have strictly adhered to our 150-year-old tradition of factual, unbiased reporting and upheld our long-standing policy against the use of emotive terms, including the words ‘terrorist’ or ‘freedom fighter.’ We do not characterize the subjects of news stories but instead report their actions, identity or background.”

But that media stance is an outlier. We seem to be stuck with the “terrorist” word. Ending the routinely slanted, selective use of the “t” word would be a real improvement; more realistically, we should recognize and reject its flagrantly skewed usage. It functions in sync with an array of tilted reporting patterns.

Since the latest Israeli assault on Gaza began, U.S. news outlets have constantly used euphemistic words like “strike,” “hammer,” “pressure” and “retaliate” to blur the real meaning of what it has meant to human beings when a very densely populated area is attacked with thousands of large bombs. Vivid reporting has occurred at times, but the overwhelming bulk of coverage of the Israeli government’s wide-ranging terrorism has been abstracted in ways that coverage of the Hamas terrorism has not been.

One factor that makes the blurring easier: The Hamas atrocities were mostly up close, with the murderers and murdered often facing each other, whereas the Israeli atrocities have been committed from high in the air, as if above it all. While international media outlets like Al Jazeera English and the U.S.-based program Democracy Now! have consistently provided extraordinary, high-quality, heart-rending reportage about the carnage and terror in Gaza as well as in Israel, such humanely equitable reporting has been extremely rare in mainline U.S. media outlets.

Americans have been acculturated to assume, consciously or not, that killing people with high-tech weaponry from the air is a civilized way to go about the business of war, if the

U.S. or its allies are doing it, in sharp contrast to low-tech efforts of adversaries. This is an outlook from a privileged vantage point, far from those on the receiving end of “sophisticated” firepower coming from, or backed by the U.S. government.

Apologists for Israel point out that [Hamas targets civilians](#) and Israel does not. That is a distinction without a difference for the people killed, maimed and terrorized by the Israeli military—commanded by leaders who know damn well that Palestinian civilians will be massacred. The cover story of not “targeting” civilians is a comfortable rationalization for the slaughter of civilians while righteously denying the reality.

Overall—given the extreme pro-Israel, anti-Palestinian spin of U.S. mass media—evenhanded use of the “terrorist” label is highly unlikely. But we should strive to challenge the [biases](#) at work and the deadly consequences.

The opinions expressed here are solely the author’s and do not reflect the opinions or beliefs of the [LA Progressive](#).

Norman Solomon is the national director of RootsAction.org and executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy. His most recent book, *War Made Invisible: How America Hides the Human Toll of Its Military Machine*, was published in June 2023 by The New Press.

<https://www.laprogressive.com/the-middle-east/terrorist-organizations>

Creative Commons license: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/us/>

Tell Congress: Gun Violence Has No Place in Our Community

From the Center for American Progress

Every [11 minutes](#), someone’s life is lost to gun violence in the United States. In an average year, this public health crisis claims more than 40,000 lives and wounds twice as many. For the lives lost and the loved ones left behind, there is no way to capture the true cost of this epidemic, but every year, the United States chooses to spend [\\$557 billion](#) on the consequences of gun violence rather than stopping it before it happens.

Gun violence is not normal, and Americans do not need to accept it as such. We have the tools, strategies, and people to prevent these daily tragedies, but for too long, the federal government has dramatically underspent on proven community-based programs that address the root causes of gun violence, while allocating billions of dollars to reactive interventions that have historically failed to keep Americans safe. The status quo isn’t working. That’s why we need the Break the Cycle of Violence Act ([H.R. 5003/S. 2638](#)).

The Break the Cycle of Violence Act would provide \$5 billion in federal grants for community violence intervention programs and \$1.5 billion in workforce initiatives that are proven to reduce gun violence. These programs make communities safer by investing directly in the people and

communities most affected to stop gun violence before it happens.

Grants funded by the Break the Cycle of Violence Act will support local programs that use proven strategies to reduce community violence without contributing to mass incarceration. Communities that have invested in these interventions have seen reductions in gun homicides by as much as 60 percent, saving taxpayers [up to \\$41](#) in emergency services for each dollar spent. These much-needed resources will also expand economic opportunity to communities grappling with trauma, systemic neglect, divestment, and long-standing hardships.

Tell Congress to put a down payment on safety.

[TAKE ACTION](#)





MistlinGallery
Central California Art Association

The Gift of Art: Nov. 21 - Dec. 22

Art Walks Nov. 16 and Dec. 21

OPEN Tues - Fri 11:30-5, Sat. 12-4

stanislausarts.org

1015 J Street, Modesto • (209) 529-3369



calendar

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

november 2023

The **Kruse Lucas Art Gallery** welcomes plein air artist **Vince Walsh** for the months of September, October, and November. The 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. Spring Schedule TBA.)

MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science: Free MJC science programs. on Fridays in MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 pm. Presentations will be held LIVE in the MJC West Campus Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 p.m. **Friday, November 17: Elizabeth (Liz) McInnes.** “Encountering Breast Cancer.” **Friday, December 1: Ari Friedlaender,** Ph.D., UC Santa Cruz Principal Investigator, Biotelemetry and Behavioral Ecology Laboratory. “Whales.” <https://btbel.pbsci.ucsc.edu/people/principal-investigator/>

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

1 WED: 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

2 THURS: Peace/Life Center ZOOM Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Email jcostello@igc.org for login.

4 SAT: Valley Improvement Projects Open House, 1224 K. St., Modesto, 10 am to 3 pm.

10 FRI: Harvest Gathering. Fundraiser for KCBP Community Radio. See ad, front page.

16 THUR: Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law **An Evening with Leah Rothstein.** 7 pm, Sierra Hall 132, MJC West Campus. FREE. See article this issue.

19 SUN: The State Theatre and Modesto Film Society presents ***Detour***, 2 pm. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, and support Modesto’s historic non-profit theatre. Visit <https://thestate.org/films/detour-112023/>

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, January 9, 2024: Annual Modesto Peace/Life Center Benefit: John McCutcheon Concert, Modesto Church of the Brethren. More soon.

February: Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration. TBA.

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; 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. 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

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: tcfmodestoriverbank@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.

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 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, 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.naacpmolestostanislaus.org/> email: 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.

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

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

PEACE/LIFE CENTER MODESTO, 829 13th St. Call 529-5750. We’ll get back to you with current info on activities. NOTE THE CENTER’S NEW ADDRESS.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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 – 1744 G St. Suite H, Merced, CA. 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, or tgsupport@stanpride.org

The **Almond Blossom Sangha** meets on Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., on zoom and sometimes hybrid, for meditation and Dharma discussions. Call Anne at 209-404-4835 for more information.

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

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

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

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.

Friday 7:30-9:30 pm (Sept thru May) **International Folk Dancing with Village Dancers,** 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. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mej3gD0ZD40&list=LLB8Y19zZg660qHCXGoC6ojQ&index=1>

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

Sierra Club: Yokuts group. Regular meetings, third Friday, College Ave. Congregational Church, 7 pm. Info: 300-4253. Visit <http://www.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. <https://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

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

Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org
Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.