



Stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO
PEACE/LIFE
CENTER
PUBLICATION

NOVEMBER, 2015
VOLUME XXIV, NO. 3

Across The Chasm: One Man's Perspective of Being Homeless

On One Side:

They wear thousand dollar suits and dresses and live in million dollar homes
Most drive cars that cost tens of thousands of dollars
Some don't even drive, but are driven by someone else
Very few, if any, have ever been "THERE"
And even fewer have any idea or concept of "THERE",
or even what "THERE" could possibly be like
Their interests lie only in keeping their ivory towers green,
even though they engage in endless rhetoric in
their efforts to convey an understanding
of those who are "THERE"
Or those who soon may be



Oh But For The Grace of GOD.....

On The Other Side;

They wear what they were wearing or what they could carry with them
at the time they ended up "THERE"
Most, more often than not, wear what they can beg, borrow or steal
Sadly
They live along the river or under some dark, dank overpass
And they only sleep in a bed in a house when their dreams of what once was
interrupts their nightmares of what now is
Those that aren't lucky enough to have a bicycle, walk behind a shopping cart
that was borrowed long ago with the promise to return it

They know first hand what it is like to be "THERE"
They live "THERE", They sleep "THERE", They eat "THERE",
Some even Die "THERE"
Their only fault?
Believing in the ivory tower rhetoric in a blind effort to not end up "THERE"

— Ralph Carpenter

The Modesto Peace/Life Center Invites You To A Harvest Gathering

Friday, November 6, 2015
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Hosted by
John Frailing & Maria Arévalo
1125 Edgebrook Dr., Modesto

A Benefit for the Peace Essay Contest

A Celebration of 45 Years of Peacemaking
1970 --2015

Honoring our Elders Program
6:15 PM

Enjoy:
The Festivities and Good People,
Delicious Hors D'oeuvres, Tasty Wines,
Select Coffees and Teas

Suggested Donation: \$20 per Person
Casual Attire

Help us Continue our Outreach to our Community's Youth
By Supporting the Peace Essay Contest

Join us in Celebrating 45 Years
Working for Peace, Justice, & a Sustainable Environment

INSIDE CONNECTIONS

LOCAL	2	AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION	6
PEACE ESSAY CONTEST	3-4	DRONE KILLINGS	7
LIVING LIGHTLY	4	A GATHERING OF VOICES.	8-9
ECO ACTIVIST NOVEL	5	GLOBAL INEQUALITY	10
		HUMAN CONTACT	11

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/>

Shop for a cause at The Alternative Christmas Faire

By KEN SCHROEDER

Pick up a great fair trade international gift and support non-profit groups by doing your holiday shopping at the Alternative Christmas Faire on Sunday, November 29 at 11:15 a.m. in the College Avenue United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, College and Orangeburg, Modesto.

Invited groups include the Modesto Peace/Life Center, SERRV International Gifts, the Sierra Club, Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry and others.

Come and invite a friend to come and share the joy of giving meaningful gifts!

**FUNSTRUMMERS
UKULELE
BAND**

Presents:
Music of America

ROCK AND ROLL BLUES BROADWAY
RHYTHM & BLUES BLUEGRASS
COUNTRY & WESTERN JAZZ
HAWAIIAN

5th Anniversary Concert

November 13, 2015
Church of the Brethern
2301 Woodland Ave.
Modesto, CA
7:00pm

www.funstrummers.com 209-505-3216

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

Office (209) 575-2653
Fax (209) 575-0629

e-mail b_f@modestocpas.com
1120 14th Street, Suite 2
Modesto, CA 95350

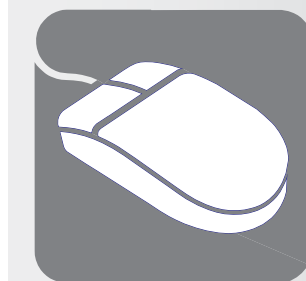
Native-American land threatened by foreign copper mine company

Submitted by Shelly Scribner

Oak Flat is in Apache sacred site in the Tonto National Forest in Arizona that is threatened by a proposed copper mine. The site was protected by President Eisenhower in 1955 until late 2014 when Senator John McCain traded away the sacred land to a foreign mining company.

In June 2015 Congressman Raul Grijalva (AZ) introduced the Save Oak Flat Act (H.R. 2811) which would repeal the land exchange and return the land to public ownership.

ACTION: Contact your Senators or Representatives in Congress and ask them to co-sponsor the Save Oak Flat Act (H.R. 2811). Visit <http://www.apache-stronghold.com/you-can-help-take-action.html>



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

Peace Life/Center ID Project

Free/Low-cost ID and/or Birth Certificate Application Assistance

Volunteers ready to assist!

Call 209-222-8624 to set an appointment!

Modesto Peace/Life Center
720 13th, Modesto, CA 95354

Peace on Your Plate Fest for Thanksgiving Time

By KATHY HAYNES

An Invitation to *Stanislaus Connection* readers: Come join compassionate, like-minded people for a vegan Thanksgiving themed potluck and a family-friendly, animated movie. Good for your belly and good for your spirit. AND IT IS FREE!

Ask yourself: Are your ethics and actions aligned? Find out at the **PEACE ON YOUR PLATE FEST**. You will find that by "going vegan" you do not have to give up delicious food or feel guilty about what you are putting in your mouth. You give up nothing but you GAIN good health at the same time you help the environment thrive and show compassion to our fellow earthlings.

Date: November 21, Saturday

Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Place: PRAP Art Gallery, 1222 J Street, Modesto

What: Peace on Your Plate Potluck & Movie: *Chicken Run**

Bring: A vegan Thanksgiving dish and/or beverage and/or dessert and/or appetizer to share. This is not mandatory but would be appreciated.

* See a Movie for the Whole Family: *Chicken Run* - An animated movie from the creators of Wallace & Gromit, featuring all-star voice talent, unforgettable characters and incredible animation. It is 1 1/2 hours - not too long and not too short. In a nutshell - chickens take on an incredible adventure to escape Mrs. Tweedy's farm for a better life. Features Ginger and Rocky as fine feathered friends making a break to fly the coop.

"Unlike anything ever seen on the big screen, *Chicken Run* is the year's most original comedy hailed by critics and audiences alike as magical entertainment for all ages!"

— Roger Ebert

Socialization: For those of you who just want to eat and talk and eat again, there is plenty of room at PRAP Art Gallery for that, too.

For more information call Kathy, (209) 250-9961 or email: kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com

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

Film Night: How to Communicate about Climate Change with Biblical Literalists

By **RICHARD ANDERSON, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, Modesto Junior College**

Would you like to watch a video by Ken Ham, "Global Warming, A Scientific and Biblical Exposé of Climate Change" to help figure out how to communicate climate science to biblical literalists? Let's gather at the Modesto Peace/Life Center at 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 18** and see how we can establish this communication. Thousands of Stanislaus County residents flock to Ham's campaigns when he has visited the Calvary Chapel on American Ave.

Fortunately, there is currently a nascent convergence of science and religion on global climate change if one looks in the right places. This is nicely presented in a 3 minute video made by Religions for Peace, at <https://vimeo.com/134303024>. But more powerfully, an evangelical Protestant and the Catholic Pope Francis are singing the same song urging us to deal with climate change.

Also, geophysicist and Texas Tech associate professor Katharine Hayhoe's 2009 book, *A Climate for Change*, is a remarkably scientific appeal for Bible-believing evangelicals to listen to the scientists. Her May 5, 2015 TEDx talk at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtrYNGs9oRM> has been viewed nearly 17,000 times.

Pope Francis' call to respond to global climate change, in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, is from an even more remarkable source, with the potential to affect a billion believers.

But in other places one finds rebuke of climate science for political, economic and even religious reasons.

Kenneth Ham is a prime example of a person who discards whole fields of science because they may put to lie some of his literalistic Bible interpretations. His "Answers in Genesis" (<https://answersingenesis.org/>) has long been a force claiming that life does not evolve. Now, his anti-science has been expanded to include denying climate science.

After viewing this 48 minute video, let's have a discussion to see if this video gives us insight into how we can counter Ham's claims, and communicate with literalistic and evangelical Christians about climate change.

ACTION: The film will be shown at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 18 at the Center, 720 13th St., Modesto. All welcome.

December's Film: Academy Award winning documentary CITIZENFOUR

By **DAN ONORATO**

2014's Academy Award winning documentary CITIZENFOUR is a real life international thriller that unfolds by the minute. The documentary not only shows the dangers of governmental surveillance, but makes audiences feel them.

The film will be shown at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 16 at the Center, 720 13th St., Modesto. Discussion will follow. More in the December *Connections*.

2016 Peace Essay Contest

We do not have to become heroes overnight.
Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up...
discovering we have the strength to stare it down.

Eleanor Roosevelt



Our world is filled with many kinds of peaceful heroes. Some are well-known men and women while others quietly work behind the scenes. Some deal with international situations while others work in their own communities. Acts of courage, special skills or talents, visionary thinking, and self-sacrifice are qualities these people possess, rather than the extraordinary powers of super heroes that are glorified in the media. The experiences of these peacemaking heroes are sometimes told in songs and stories, but only a few make the history books or headlines. The focus of each person's work may be different, but they all share a commitment to use nonviolent principles and actions to encourage and care for a more peaceful world.

The 2016 Peace Essay Contest challenges you to find and describe one of these peacemaking heroes who is living today and whose work has made the world a better place. You may find them in your family or neighborhood, in your community or nation, or in places all over the globe. Working for peace may be their chosen life's passion, or perhaps your hero simply saw a need to respond creatively to a crisis. In their work for peace, some of the things they may have used include words, music, science, determination, diplomacy, hope or heart.

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

By talking with others and researching, choose a living peaceful hero who has helped to make our world a more fair and peaceful place. In an informative essay of 500-1000 words, do the following:

- Introduce this peacemaking hero. Describe who this person is and how they have worked for peace and justice. Share the specific nonviolent, non-military actions that are part of this person's peacemaking heroism. Explain what motivated or inspired this person to become involved in their work.
- Develop the description of your hero in more detail. Identify and discuss the principles or values that have guided this person's efforts. Develop your description thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant events as well as the challenges they faced in their peacemaking work. Be sure to include specific examples of their acts of courage, including citations to literature and/or insightful quotations when appropriate.
- In your conclusion explain why you think the work of this living peacemaker is significant for our world today, and how the work of your hero might influence your future life or inspire you to act for peace.

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

By talking with others and researching, choose a living peaceful hero who has helped to make our world a more fair and peaceful place. In an informative essay of 250-500 words, do the following:

- Introduce this person and explain what they have done as a peaceful hero. Be sure to include facts and examples, specific details, and any quotations that would help the reader get a complete picture of this person's actions.
- Explain the situation or personal experience that inspired this person to take action. Then, focus on one or two challenges they faced and explain how they dealt with these issues.
- In your conclusion, explain why you think the work of this peacemaking hero is important. Tell how their example might influence your future life or inspire you to act for peace.

To qualify for an award, your essay must answer each part of the prompt. Each essay will be judged on the quality of the writing, the strength of the case you make in support of the peacemaking hero or heroine, and the personal connection you make between the work of this person and your own life. At the end of your essay, please provide a list of sources you used in your research; do not include graphics (e.g. charts, tables).

Deadline for Entries: November 20, 2015

Notification of Winners: Late February, 2016

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



View, download/print the flyers and entry form at www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest or www.stanislausconnections.org Email your questions to: peaceessay@juno.com

Peace Essay Contest 2016 Rules & Submission Directions

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who are residents of Stanislaus County or attend any public, private, or home school in Stanislaus County.
2. Submit one copy of your essay. Essays in Division I & II must be typewritten, double spaced. Essays in Divisions III & IV must be either typewritten or written in dark ink, double spaced, using one side of white paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Number the pages consecutively. Your essay must be of a quality to photocopy legibly. **YOUR NAME OR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
3. Give your essay a title. Place it on the first page where you begin your essay. **DO NOT** use a separate title or cover page.
4. Print & complete the Entry Form and attach to the front of your essay (may be found at: www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest OR www.stanislausconnections.org OR request a copy via email at: peaceessay@juno.com).
5. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
6. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism..
7. The Modesto Peace/Life Center reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
8. Entries may be delivered to the **Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto, from 2pm-5pm**
9. **November 18 - 19 - 20, 2015.** You may also mail all entries, postmarked no later than **November 20, 2015** to:

2016 Peace Essay Contest
Modesto Peace/Life Center
P.O. Box 134
Modesto, CA 95353-0134

Judging

A distinguished group of local writers, educators, and peacemakers will judge the essays. Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

1. Content

- A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
- B. Has the writer used relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples to fully develop their ideas?
- C. Does the essay address the given topic?

2. Style

- A. Is the essay original and interesting?
- B. Did the student establish and maintain a formal writing style?
- C. Does the voice of the writer come through?

3. Clarity of Expression

- A. Is the topic introduced clearly?
- B. Is the essay well organized with a clear introduction and conclusion? Is the essay well organized with clear transitions from one idea to the next?
- C. Are the ideas clearly stated with factual support?

4. Mechanics

- A. Has the writer attempted to use appropriate transitions, precise language, and a formal style?
- B. Are grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
- C. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
- D. Does the essay stay within the word limit?

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the four divisions which have at least 15 entries. In the event that fewer than 15 entries are entered in any one division, all prizes may or may not be awarded in that division at the discretion of the judging panel. Up to 3 Honorable Mentions may be awarded in each division. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome; however, a student may only enter one essay.

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

Notification of Winners

In late February, 2016, winners will be notified through the student's teacher. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in the spring. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

2016 Peace Essay Committee: Indira Clark, Elaine Gorman, Nancy Haskett, Peggy Hoover, Linda Lagace, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner and David Tucker This 29th Annual Peace Essay Contest is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750 and is co-sponsored by: Department of Literature and Language Arts, Modesto Junior College

Upcycling

By JENIFER WEST

Recycling can take many forms, and as long as we're finding another use for something that already exists, it 'counts.' One out-of-the-way category of recyclables is textiles – the process of updating, say, an out-of-style dress or jacket into something more modern is known these days as 'upcycling' (just feels good, doesn't it?!). And it's become quite popular. (The textile industry has a surprisingly negative impact on the environment.)

Recycling clothing and other fabric goods offers an excellent creative outlet, as well as stretching one's budget. And, thanks to both the amazing sewing machines on the market and the wealth of information available online these days, this creative endeavor is no longer out of reach even to those of us with minimal or very rusty skills.

I was fortunate enough to be born into a family of excellent seamstresses (in these days of political correctness, both the awkward 'sewer', and even more distasteful 'sewist' are used. I will unapologetically continue to use the proper, if no longer



politically correct, term). My mother and grandmother both sewed, and between the two of them, they made sure my sister & I learned the basics. Like many moms of her generation, our mom made most of our clothes. Countless times I sat at the pattern book table with her, completely confident that she could make anything in any of them, blindfolded, with one arm tied behind her back. I still have her old machine – a turquoise blue, two-ton workhorse straight out of the 1950's. As basic as they come; so simple to operate even I could do it. Don't know why this is, but it has a particular scent when it's running, and the smell and sound of it have always taken me right back home. Even without it, though, I can almost feel her sitting beside me, patiently watching me struggle my way through a seam.

I've said for years, only half-jokingly, that I can solder, but I can't sew. Or at least I couldn't terribly well, until I discovered the new generation of machines. With the incredible choice of stitches available, as well as the multiple presser feet on the market, even someone who's inexperienced, or has been out of the game for quite a while, can achieve surprisingly good results. Things that my mother, and her mother, worked for years to gain the skills to achieve, and then worked painstakingly to accomplish, can now be done in minutes, and almost effortlessly. At first, I thought women

Green Tips

Consequence: A new and exciting eco-activist novel

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Peace seekers are now realizing the main battle field is on the environmental front. The first step to eco-activism is awareness. What better way to open the door or renew your commitment to eco activism than through the pages of this exciting new novel by Steve Masover, long time Berkeley eco-activist. (Hear Steve and other activist writers at the 2nd Annual Howard Zinn Book Fair – see action below).

About Consequence

San Francisco activist Christopher Kalman has little to show for years spent organizing non-violent marches, speak-outs, blockades, and shutdowns for social and environmental justice. When a shadowy eco-saboteur proposes an attack on genetically engineered agriculture, Christopher is ripe to be drawn into a more dangerous game. His certainty that humankind stands on the brink of ecological ruin drives Christopher to reckless acts and rash alliances, pitting grave personal risk against conscientious passion.

Early Readers respond to Consequence

“I couldn’t put *Consequence* down! Masover vividly evokes San Francisco’s radical sub-culture in this tautly authentic and finely-crafted novel. *Consequence* asks thorny, essential questions about personal responsibility and the role of violence in movements for social change..”

– Sam Green, Academy Award-nominated director of *The Weather Underground*

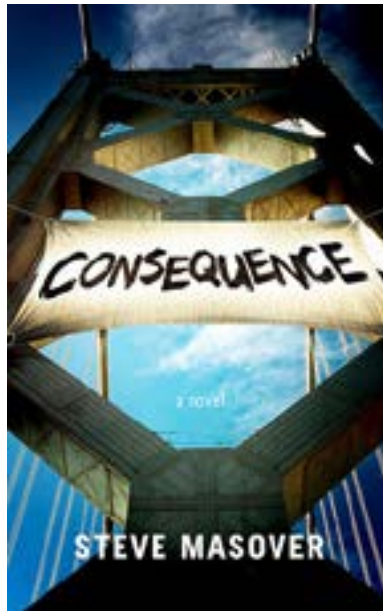
“*Consequence* is a great read, full of building tension and excitement, written by someone who really knows the activist scene, with its moral dilemmas and its ideals. But this isn’t just a book about activists—Masover writes about conflicts central to the human situation”

– Starhawk, author of *The Spiral Dance* and *The Fifth Sacred Thing*

Quotes from Consequence (the message)

• San Francisco activist (Christopher) on why activist commitment is necessary:

“Every day we fail to resist—every day we go along because it doesn’t hurt us personally, not too much, not yet—every day we let ourselves be dazzled by cheap distractions and enthralled by manufactured cravings—every such day that passes we fall deeper into debt. Every such day we creep closer to the hour when it will be too late to turn back and mend what our own apathy and sloth have broken.”



“It’s a pitched battle, and we’re all losing. Even those who profit from genetic engineering are going down to crushing defeat.

Perhaps that doesn’t matter in the grandest of schemes. Relative to the age and vastness of the universe, perhaps poisoning our own little planet doesn’t count for much. But morally, if we allow life on Earth to be destroyed by human negligence?

Morally the human race will have failed.”

• *On links between Iraq War atrocities and GMOs (the novel is set in 2004):*

We can only assume that Abu Ghraib happened when rank-and-file soldiers were thrown into chaotic situations, then ordered by ideologues to betray their

own humanity. When we find genetically modified corn used illegally to make tortilla chips and soft drinks, that’s the result of workers in our food industries being manipulated by agribusiness giants who aren’t accountable to anyone. These issues share symptoms of an antidemocratic influence in our government. Profit and expedience have replaced morality and stewardship as a basis for deciding policy.

ACTION: Radical Storytelling: Writing Activism into Fiction



A panel discussion and reading, **Radical Storytelling: Writing Activism into Fiction**, will feature debut novelists Steve Masover (*Consequence*), Diana Block (*Clandestine Occupations: An Imaginary History*), and Kate Raphael (*Murder Under The Bridge*) at the **2nd Annual Howard Zinn Book Fair** on Nov. 15 at 11 a.m. at San Francisco’s City College Mission Campus, 1125 Valencia at 22nd.

How do we move beyond the sound bytes and rhetoric that sometimes limit activism to portray characters and situations that have psychological and political depth, and tell radical stories that are compelling to a broad variety of readers? Behind the marathon meetings, the hours of diligent preparation, and the methodical work involved in making social change, heartbreaking, hair raising, life affirming stories lie hidden. Too often these stories remain invisible or are co-opted by the corporate media in sensationalistic ways to serve the status quo. How do we, as activists, transform our lived experiences into page-turning, imaginative fiction that can move both activist readers and people who have never participated in a social movement?

Make time to come to the Howard Zinn Book Fair and learn more.

Upcycling

from page 4

The truly handmade garment, with its crisply pressed seams and hand-sewn hems, has always been something precious, and even more so in these days

of previous generations might look down upon this as ‘cheating’, but these new capabilities are actually reviving this art.

She never said it, but to my mother, clothing bought off the rack was inferior, and given the skill she had, and the care she put into creating the things she made, I can’t help but agree. The truly handmade garment, with its crisply pressed seams and hand-sewn hems, has always been something precious, and even more so in these days when virtually everything from the food we eat to the shoes we wear is made in a faraway factory by some faceless worker we’ll never meet.

While the advances in sewing machine technology have automated many formerly tedious tasks, they have also opened up new outlets for their owners’ creativity. This includes things like decorative stitching, sewing with ribbon or cording; and creating special effects like pin tucks. The machines also allow a wide variety of fabric types to be handled with ease, once the fabric artist (aha – there’s a better term) has become familiar with his or her machine. Seems that’s where the skill comes in these days – learning to use the modern machines to their best advantage.

But we were talking about upcycling. I’ve optimistically pulled from my own closet a number of things that I love, but are either hopelessly out of style or a size I’ll never see again, intending to give them the treatment. There are also a few thrift store finds, freshly laundered and waiting to be revamped into something cool. Foolhardily unafraid to plunge back in, I started with a tutorial for cutting down an over-large shirt (whatever did we do before YouTube?!) – which meant resetting sleeves. For those unfamiliar with the art, that happens to be one of the most challenging things in the sewing world – and something I’d never even attempted in the old days. But the nice lady in the video made it look so easy...

Four t-shirts and several funny fold thingies later, I realized it might be a good idea to brush up on the basics before I go after that gorgeous, several-sizes-too-big, thrift store jacket. So I’m now the (somewhat) proud owner of two homemade skirts, and am about to cut out the fabric for a third.

Upcycling may not be for everyone, but for those interested in doing their part for the environment while creating practical works of art, it can offer a great mix of challenge and reward!



Leader without Glory

By URI AVNERY

I FIRST met Mahmoud Abbas in Tunis at the beginning of 1983.

I knew that he was responsible for the Israel desk in the PLO leadership. Said Hamami and Issam Sartawi, the PLO delegates with whom I had been in permanent contact since 1974, told me that he was in charge. But he was not present at my first meeting with Yasser Arafat in Beirut during the siege.

I came to Tunis with General Matti Peled and Yaakov Arnon, in an official delegation of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, which we had founded in 1975. Before meeting with Arafat himself, we were asked to meet with Abu Mazen (as Abbas is called) and discuss our ideas, so as to present the leader with an agreed, detailed proposal. That was also the procedure in all the many meetings that followed.

Abu Mazen was very different from Arafat. Arafat was flamboyant, spontaneous, extrovert. Abu Mazen is rather withdrawn, introverted, cautious, meticulous. My first impression was that of a schoolmaster.

When Arafat was murdered (as I believe), there were two obvious candidates to succeed him: Mahmoud Abbas and Farouk Kaddoumi, both members of the PLO founding generation. Kaddoumi was far more extreme, he did not believe that Israel would ever make peace and admired the Syrian regime of Hafez al-Assad. The PLO leadership chose Abbas.

WHEN ABBAS assumed “power” (in quotation marks) – he found himself in an almost impossible situation.

Arafat had accepted the status of the Palestinian Authority under Israeli occupation as a calculated risk.

First of all, he believed Yitzhak Rabin, as we all did (and as I advised him to). We all believed that Rabin was well on the way to accepting a Palestinian state next to Israel. Within five years, the State of Palestine would become a fact. No one could have foreseen the murder of Rabin, the cowardice of Shimon Peres and the ascent of Binyamin Netanyahu.

Even before that, Rabin had bowed to the pressure of his “security chiefs” and reneged on crucial parts of the Oslo agreement, such as the free passages between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Abu Mazen entered into this situation – Rabin was dead, the Oslo agreement only a shadow of its former self, the occupation and the settlement enterprise in full swing.

It was an almost hopeless task from the start: a dubious autonomy under occupation. According to the Oslo deal, which was meant to last for five years at most, the greater part of the West Bank (“area C”) was under direct and full Israeli control, and the Israeli army was free to operate in the two other areas (“A” and “B”), too. An additional Israeli withdrawal, provided for in Oslo, never materialized.

Palestinian elections held in these circumstances led to a Hamas victory, helped along by the competition among the Fatah candidates. When Israel and the US prevented Hamas from assuming power, Hamas took the Gaza strip over by force. The Israeli leadership was full of glee: the old Roman maxim Divide et Impera served its purposes well.

Since then, all Israeli governments have done everything in their power to keep Abbas in “power” while reducing him

to a mere underling. The Palestinian Authority, conceived in the beginning as the embryo of the Palestinian state, was shorn of any real authority. Ariel Sharon used to refer to Abu Mazen as a “plucked chicken”.

TO REALIZE the extreme danger of Abu Mazen’s situation one has only to remember the most recent historical precedent of “autonomy” under occupation: Vichy.

In the summer of 1940, when the Germans overran Northern France and occupied Paris, the French surrendered. France was divided into two parts: the North, with Paris, remained under direct German occupation, the South was granted autonomy. A venerable marshal, Henri Petain, a hero of World War I, was appointed leader of the non-occupied zone, the capital of which was set up in the provincial town of Vichy.

A lone French general resisted the surrender. Charles de Gaulle, with a small band of adherents, fled to London, where he tried by radio to arouse the French people to resist. The effect was negligible.

Against expectations, the British continued the war (“Alright then, alone!”) and the German regime in France became inevitably harsher and harsher. Hostages were executed, Jews deported, Vichy became more and more a byword for collaboration with the enemy. Slowly the “resistance” gained ground. In the end, the Allies invaded France, the Germans occupied the Vichy territory and were vanquished, de Gaulle returned as a victor. Petain was sentenced to death but not executed.

Opinions about Petain were divided, and still are. On the one hand, he saved Paris from destruction and saved the French people from many of the cruelties of the Nazis. After the war, France recovered quickly, while other countries were in ruins.

On the other hand, Petain is regarded by many as a traitor, a former hero who collaborated with the enemy in wartime and turned resistance fighters and Jews over to the Nazis.

OF COURSE, different historical situations cannot be equated. Israelis are harsh occupiers, but they are no Nazis. Abu Mazen certainly is no second Petain. But some comparisons may be in order.

One way to judge a policy is to ask: what are the alternatives?

It is no exaggeration to say that all forms of Palestinian resistance have been tried and found wanting.

In the beginning, some Palestinians dreamt of Indian-style civil disobedience. It failed completely. Palestinians are no Indians, and the occupation army, which has no real antidote to civil disobedience, simply started to shoot, compelling the



WHEN ABBAS assumed “power” – he found himself in an almost impossible situation.

Palestinians to turn to violence.

Violence failed. The Israeli side enjoys infinite military superiority. With the help of informers and torture, Palestinian underground cells are regularly uncovered, including the last one this week.

Many Palestinians hope for international intervention. This has been prevented by successive US administrations, all of which served the occupation on request of the US Jewish establishment. Sympathizers of the Palestinian cause, such as the international boycott movement (BDS) are far too weak to make much of a difference.

The Arab countries are good at making declarations and proposing plans, but largely unwilling to help the Palestinians in any real way.

What remains? Precious little.

ABU MAZEN believes – or pretends to believe – in “international pressure”. Many Israeli peace activists, despairing of their own people, have reached the same conclusion.

With a lot of patience, Abbas is slowly gathering points at the UN. This week, the Palestinian flag was raised at the UN headquarters among the flags of member nations. This has raised national pride (I remember a similar event in our own past), but does not really change anything.

Abbas may also hope that the growing personal antagonism between President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu will induce the Americans to withhold their veto in the Security Council the next time a resolution against the occupation comes up. I doubt it. But if so – the Israeli government will just ignore it. The same will happen if Abbas succeeds in getting some Israeli officers indicted for war crimes at the International Criminal Court. Israelis believe only in “Facts on the Ground”.

I assume that Abu Mazen knows all this. He is playing for time. He is trying to prevent a violent uprising, which he believes will only benefit the occupation, deploying his American-trained “security forces” in cooperation with the occupation army. This is close to the abyss.

He has one consolation: the Hamas authority in the Gaza Strip has obviously come to the same conclusion and is now keeping a kind of armistice (“hudna”) with Israel.

ONE OF the main differences between Jewish Israelis and Arabs is their attitude towards time. Israelis are by nature impatient, Arabs are patient to a fault. Arabs admire the camel, an animal of infinite patience. The Arabs have a very long history, while the Israelis have almost none.

I assume that Abu Mazen believes that at this point in time there is very little Palestinians can do. So he is leading

continued next page

Drone Papers: Leaked Military Documents Expose U.S. 'Assassination Complex'

Based on cache of secret slides leaked by national security whistleblower, stunning expose by The Intercept reveals inner workings—and failures—of the U.S. military's clandestine efforts in Afghanistan, Yemen, and Somalia

By **NADIA PRUPIS**, Common Dreams staff writer

A stunning new expose by *The Intercept*, which includes the publication of classified documents leaked by an intelligence source, provides an unprecedented look at the U.S. military's secretive global assassination program.

The series of articles, titled "The Drone Papers," follows months of investigation and uses rare primary source documents and slides to reveal to the public, for the first time, the flaws and consequences of the U.S. military's 14-year aerial campaign being conducted in Yemen, Somalia, and Afghanistan—one that has consistently used faulty information, killed an untold number of civilians, and stymied intelligence-gathering through its "kill/capture" program that too often relies on killing rather than capturing. <https://theintercept.com/drone-papers/the-assassination-complex/>

"The series is intended to serve as a long-overdue public examination of the methods and outcomes of America's assassination program," writes the investigation's lead reporter, Jeremy Scahill. "This campaign, carried out by two presidents through four presidential terms, has been shrouded in excessive secrecy. The public has a right to see these documents not only to engage in an informed debate about the future of U.S. wars, both overt and covert, but also to understand the circumstances under which the U.S. government arrogates to itself the right to sentence individuals to death without the established checks and balances of arrest, trial, and appeal."

The source of the documents, who asked to remain anonymous due to the U.S. government's aggressive prosecution of whistleblowers, said the public has a right to know about a program that is so "fundamentally" and "morally" flawed.

"It's stunning the number of instances when I've come across intelligence that was faulty, when sources of information used to finish targets were misattributed to people," he told *The Intercept*. "And it isn't until several months or years later that you realize that the entire time you thought

you were going after this target, it was his mother's phone the whole time. Anyone caught in the vicinity is guilty by association – it's a phenomenal gamble."

As outlined by *The Intercept*, the key revelations of the reporting are:

- Assassinations have depended on unreliable intelligence. More than half the intelligence used to track potential kills in Yemen and Somalia was based on electronic communications data from phones, computers, and targeted intercepts (known as signals intelligence) which, the government admits, it has



"poor" and "limited" capability to collect. By the military's own admission, it was lacking in reliable information from human sources.

- The documents contradict Administration claims that its operations against high-value terrorists are limited and precise. Contrary to claims that these campaigns narrowly target specific individuals, the documents show that air strikes under the Obama administration have killed significant numbers of unnamed bystanders. Documents detailing a 14-month kill/capture campaign in Afghanistan, for example, show that while the U.S. military killed 35 of its direct targets with air strikes, 219 other individuals also died in the attacks.

- In Afghanistan, the military has designated unknown

men it kills as "Enemies Killed in Action." According to *The Intercept's* source, the military has a practice of labeling individuals killed in air strikes this way unless evidence emerges to prove otherwise.

- Assassinations hurt intelligence gathering. The Pentagon study finds that killing suspected terrorists, even if they are legitimate targets, "significantly reduce[s]" the information available and further hampers intelligence gathering.

- New details about the 'kill chain' reveal a bureaucratic structure headed by President Obama, by which U.S. government officials select and authorize targets for assassination outside traditional legal and justice systems, and with little transparency. The system included creating a portrait of a potential target in a condensed format known as a 'Baseball Card,' which was passed to the White House for approval, while individual drone strikes were often authorized by other officials.

- Inconsistencies with publicly available White House statements about targeted killings. Administration policy standards issued in 2013 state that lethal force will be launched only against targets that pose a "continuing, imminent threat to U.S. persons," however documents from the same time reveal much more vague criteria, including that a person only need present "a threat to U.S. interest or personnel."

- New details of high-profile drone kills, including the 2012 killing in Somalia of Bilal al-Berjawi, which raise questions about whether the British government revoked his citizenship to facilitate the strike.

- Information about a largely covert effort to extend the U.S. military's footprint across the African continent, including through a network of mostly small and low-profile airfields in Djibouti and other African countries.

The investigation comes as the Obama administration announced plans on Thursday to delay withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Administration officials told CNN that troops may conduct "counterterrorism operations" against Islamic State (ISIS) militants there.

But as the documents reveal, assurances from the Obama administration that drone strikes are precise and used only in cases of "imminent" threats are themselves based on intentionally vague definitions of "imminence."

"Privately, the architects of the U.S. drone program have acknowledged its shortcomings," said Betsy Reed, editor-in-chief of *The Intercept*. "But they have made sure that this campaign, launched by Bush and vastly expanded under Obama, has been shrouded in secrecy. The public has a right to know how the US government has decided who to kill."

As the source himself said, "We're allowing this to happen. And by 'we,' I mean every American citizen who has access to this information now, but continues to do nothing about it."

[Visit Common Dreams for the complete web links found in this article.]

www.commondreams.org/news/2015/10/15/drone-papers-leaked-military-documents-expose-us-assassination-complex

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License

Leader without glory

a holding operation: endure the occupation, prevent violent confrontations the Palestinians are bound to lose, wait for the situation to change. Arabs are good at this kind of strategy, called *sumud*.

However, the occupation is not just staying around. It is active, taking away Arab land, relentlessly building and enlarging Israeli settlements.

In the long run, this is a battle of wills and endurance. As has been said, a battle between an unstoppable force and an unyielding mass.

HOW WILL Abbas be judged by history?

It is much too early to say.

I believe that he is a true patriot, no less than Arafat. But

from page 6

he is in danger of sliding, against his will, into a Petain-like situation.

I definitely do not believe that he is corrupt, or that he represents a small class of "fat cats" who are getting rich under and from the occupation.

History has placed him in a situation that is well-nigh impossible. He is showing great courage in trying to lead his people in these circumstances.

It is not a glorious role. This is not a time for glory.

History may remember him as a man who did his best in disastrous circumstances.

I, for one, wish him well.

Kathleen Ennis: Multi-Inspirational Teacher/Mentor, Thespian, Poet

I am a Modesto native who started writing poetry in 2009 for The 30 Day Poetry Challenge. I participate in the challenge every year, and once or twice I have actually managed to finish thirty complete poems. I recently participated in the latest Collision project, an exhibit in which local photographers and poets partner to create collaborative works. All of the works published here come from my involvement with these two projects.

I have been on the faculty of Modesto Junior College since 1999 and am passionate about my work in the MJC Library. As the MJC coordinator of library instruction, I provide my students opportunities to acquire and practice information literacy skills. I also teach a course and lead a series of workshops each semester addressing information competencies, visit scores of classrooms to teach students across disciplines how to conduct research, and spend time on the research help desk providing individual instruction to students.



Although helping students successfully complete research projects is a vital part of my job, it's helping students acquire "real life" skills that concerns me the most. The amount of information – including gross misinformation – that people come into contact with on any given day is phenomenal. People use this information to make huge, meaningful decisions in their lives. I feel knowing how to sift through this vast quantity of information, how to evaluate it, and how to use it to make strong, healthy choices about one's life are the most important skills a person can possess in the 21st century. I would add to that list the responsible dissemination of information, another crucial skill that isn't represented on any graduation pattern, but absolutely should be.

I am a founding member of Modesto's Prospect Theater Project, which has presented meaningful socially and politically character-driven and classical plays, sponsored musical and poetry-related events, and given local visual artists a place to show their work since October 2000. PTP continues to meet its mission of encouraging innovative alternatives to the community's traditional performing arts repertory of dance, opera, and musical theater. I have served as PTP's Managing Director for the past 10 years, and have performed in more than 15 plays for the company, most recently in the 2015 production of Brian Friel's *Faith Healer*.

Photos: Jeremy Center



Working Artist

Laminous with mud and sweat and linseed oil,
these worn leather boots root man to earth
as he swings axes and sledgehammers,
wrestles majestic mulberry branches to the ground
with snarling chainsaws.
Steel toes force rototillers through parched landscapes,
muscle industrial machines across warped floors,
and carry abandoned artifacts from foreclosed houses
with cracked swimming pools.
Thick neoprene soles press shovels into the ground,
slicing through infinitesimal shards
of granite, quartz and porphyry
to the rich red clay of the San Joaquin,
so the man can plant into the earth
fence posts, galvanized pipe, sycamore trees,
and, once,
a cherished cat
he called Honey.

"Standiford School, 1978"

Nothing to see here.
Just a boy on the blacktop,
translucent skin,
lying blue lipped and still.

Nothing to see here.
Only a desperate man
in a mustard-colored suit
kneeling, compressing, ventilating.

Nothing to see here.
Simply a sea of motionless children
with perfectly formed hearts
holding limp jump ropes and red rubber balls

Nothing to see here.
A young mother at home
setting down her cigarette
to answer a ringing telephone.

Rainstorming

My two striped cats
stare out the window
at the falling rain

They perch on the couch
one on either side
like silver sphinxes

Solemn, unblinking
they watch the raindrops
dance upon the trees

then stream off branches
onto a carpet
of slick tawny leaves

When the wind gusts up
rattling the glass
and lashing the trees,

They stand and stretch
-- mirror images --
then settle back down

Composed, unified
Cats understand how
to wait out a storm

Modesto Quatrain

"Fall"
Sidewalks carpeted with lush golden leaves,
Hoses wound up, the hammock stored away
and those beautiful, sad autumn roses
that forever remind me of Chekhov.

"Winter"
In winter, vast blankets of tule fog
cover the stark riparian landscape.
Driving west out highway 132,
you get the sense some landscapes never change.

"Spring"
My Narcissus unfurls out of the earth,
the hopseed's scarlet leaves fade back to green.
and the old striped cat comes out of hiding.
The familiar signs that spring is here.

"Summer"
Summertime at Sweet Virginia at last.
There's a pile of shoes outside my back door,
Morning glories overwhelm the garage
and I cannot get my fingernails clean.



Life Expectancy

First: the capture.
Artist as documentarian.
Candid, slice-of-life,
the visual chronicling of artifacts
pure and precise:
a moment in history,
a towering sequoia,
an early morning market.

Next: the creation.
Artist as source.
Manipulating elements,
constructing fresh forms from the ordinary,
descriptive and expressive:
a nuptial portrait,
lemons in a porcelain bowl,
narratives voiced with light and shadow.

Finally: the conveyance.
Artist as visionary.
Iconic symbols, indigenous cyphers,
a convergence of forms and ideas,
subjective intent:
a winged man at sunset,
a drop of blood on barbed wire,
this skeleton clutching his camera.



Winter Solstice Haiku

The world's longest night;
perfect opportunity
for your cruel silence.

“Cradle of Civilization (Athens, 1994)”

The hot night air is heavy and stagnant;
saturated with noxious black exhaust,
staccato car horns, and alien shouts
from the streets of the Monastiraki.
Shadows and cockroaches crawl across walls
tinted by centuries of nicotine.
Minutes measured by drops of brown water
falling into a cracked porcelain sink.
Some cradles aren't for sleeping.

“Belly”

You crept into my life so insidiously,
like a stealthy old cat sneaking up on a bird.
I tried to studiously ignore your presence,
swaddling you in layers of silk and jersey
and a vigorous penchant for empire waistlines.
But when my lover kneaded you gently and whispered,
“This right here is my new favorite part of you.”
I decided maybe, just maybe, you could stay.

“War Stories”

Dad was a Navy chief in '45.
Deployed to the bottomless Philippine Sea
to rid Manila of the Japanese.
His wartime tales of life in Manila
read like R-rated Bob Hope road show:
Drunken sailor shenanigans,
tattoo parlors, and prostitutes.
A cast of Filipino characters
that he would bring to life decades later
to amuse his mesmerized customers.
The historical records, however,
make it clear: By the Spring of 45,
the “liberated” city of Manila
was a mass of smoking ruins and corpses.
Strange, to me, that he never mentioned that.



Stanislaus Audubon Society sponsors award-winning bird film at the State Theatre

The State Theatre in Modesto and the Stanislaus Audubon Society will show *The Messenger* on Saturday, November 21. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., film starts at 5:00 p.m.

This award-winning documentary film is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of imperiled songbirds, and what it will mean to all of us on a human and global level if they are lost. The film focuses both on the peril to birds as well as solutions. It does so with breathtakingly beautiful photography, mostly of birds in flight.

on Saturday, November 21 will be a fundraiser for Stanislaus Audubon Society.

On the opening day of the film, the Stanislaus Audubon Society will offer a presentation combining information about local bird populations, perils faced, conservation efforts, and explore ways to get involved in helping to save bird populations from further devastation.

One dollar from the purchase of every admission to this film will go directly to the Stanislaus Audubon Society. Admission is \$10.

The Messenger is riveting, emotionally engaging, and visually extravagant from the first frame to the last. Up-to-the-minute facts on how birds communicate about environmental change are interwoven with gripping stories about the perils faced every year by these amazing world travelers. This is a must-see movie for anybody who values the natural world or wonders about its relationship to humans.”

— John Fitzpatrick, Executive Director,
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The film, but not the presentation, will also be shown November 22 through 25. More information at <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/613#>



‘Out of Control’ Inequality: Global One Percent Owns Half of World’s Wealth

The Credit Suisse report shows worldwide inequality growing even faster than experts had predicted

By DEIRDRE FULTON, Common Dreams staff writer

The top one percent of households “account for half of all assets in the world,” according to a new report from a leading multinational bank.

The 2015 *Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report* puts worldwide wealth inequality at a level “possibly not seen for almost a century,” the researchers write. The data also reveals a declining middle class and that the poorest half of the world’s population owns just one percent of its assets. Meanwhile, the number of “ultra-wealthy” people continues to climb.

“The ‘trickle up’ economic model is working its magic for the super rich at the expense of the rest.”

— Claire Godfrey, Oxfam

You are invited to the 19th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Join Stanislaus County’s diverse faith community in giving thanks for our many blessings... through song, sacred readings and other expressions of gratitude offered by representatives of the BUDDHIST, CHRISTIAN, HUMANIST, JEWISH, MUSLIM, SIKH and Other Faith Traditions. Monday, November 23, 7:00 PM at the Modesto Centre Plaza. Hosted by the Islamic Center of Modesto.



Free admission, free parking in the large lot at the corner of 11th & L Streets!

Your free-will donations of canned tuna, chilli, beans, peanut butter, and other sources of low-sodium, low-fat, non-perishable protein, along with your financial gifts, will be collected for the benefit of INTER-FAITH MINISTRIES’ Emergency Food Pantry and Clothes Closet.

Sponsored by the Stanislaus County INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Credit Suisse’s analysis is in line with a warning from the international humanitarian group Oxfam, issued earlier this year, that the richest one percent of people on the planet would own at least half of the world’s wealth by 2016. <https://publications.credit-suisse.com/tasks/render/file/?fileID=F2425415-DCA7-80B8-EAD989AF9341D47E>

“The Credit Suisse report shows that inequality is growing faster than we had thought,” said Claire Godfrey, global inequality policy lead for Oxfam. “The fact that it has happened this year underlines the urgency of the problem.”

Furthermore, Godfrey said, the report illustrates how “the ‘trickle up’ economic model is working its magic for the super rich at the expense of the rest. This is bad news for global economic growth and bad news for democracy. Our political leaders must take action now to raise the incomes of the poor and maintain the incomes of the middle class.”

The annual report also shows that more global wealth is coming from investments—which the majority of people do not have. “Which leads to an inescapable conclusion,” NPR’s Nancy Marshall-Genzer explained. “If the richest people in the world get more of their wealth from financial assets like stocks and bonds, the wealth gap gets even wider.”

Of course, economists have been warning of these consequences for years. As Mark Goldring, Oxfam Great Britain’s chief executive, told the *Guardian*: “This is the latest evidence that extreme inequality is out of control. Are we really happy to live in a world where the top 1 percent own half the wealth and the poorest half own just 1 percent?”

www.commondreams.org/news/2015/10/14/out-control-inequality-global-one-percent-owns-half-worlds-wealth

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License

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

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

STACY P. SPEILLER Attorney at Law
PATRICIA TORRES Attorney at Law
1618 B.A. ESPAÑOL

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

Anything you can do
Two Can Do
for you

Personal Services
Noel Russell
(209) 524-2314

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

LAW OFFICES OF
ROCKWELL, KELLY & DUARTE, LLP

1600 G Street
Suite 203
P.O. Box 0142
Modesto, CA
95353-0142

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

(209) 521-2552
FAX (209) 526-7898

**ART CLASSES
FOR ADULTS
AND KIDS**

Mistlin Gallery
Central California
Art Association

ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE AT
WWW.MISTLINGALLERY.EVENTBRITE.COM

1015 J Street, Modesto • (209) 529-3369
Tues. - Fri. 11:30 - 5:00, Saturday 12-4
Email: class.ccaa@gmail.com

Genuine human contact “where the ruined house once stood”

From Libby & Len Traubman, ltraubman@igc.org

“From the place where we are right
Flowers will never grow
In the spring.

The place where we are right
Is hard and trampled
Like a yard.

But doubts and loves
Dig up the world
Like a mole, a plow.

And a whisper will be heard in the place
Where the ruined house once stood.”

~ Yehuda Amichai (1924-2000)

“Out beyond ideas of rightdoing and wrongdoing, there
is a field.

I’ll meet you there.”

~ Jelaluddin Rumi (1207-1273)

In fields and rooms around Earth are increasing examples of citizen-driven civil engagement to include, dignify, humanize, and heal one another.

Create genuine contact and community.

“Where the ruined house once stood.”

In Asia: In Myanmar, Hla Myo Naing — <https://www.facebook.com/hlamyo.naing.5> — from the Kadu Ka Nan tribe has come a courageous, creative teacher (edu-learner) who helps diverse youth and others become closer by learning English while sharing their personal stories. Naing realizes that “an enemy is one whose story we have not heard.”

He has studied global resources and created a course of study, **P.E.A.C.E: Practising English And Civil Engagement** — <https://www.facebook.com/groups/489032864451932/>

SEE MORE about his 2010 beginnings: Dialogue arrives in Mandalay, Myanmar (Burma): Using Instructional DVDs from **Jewish-Palestinian Living Room**

<http://traubman.igc.org/myanmardialogue.pdf>

In Jerusalem: Kids4Peace Jerusalem — <http://www.k4pjerusalem.org>

SAVE THE DATE: John McCutcheon returns to Modesto In January

By KEN SCHROEDER

Six-time Grammy nominated folk musician John McCutcheon brings his annual Left Coast tour to town for the 15th time on Tuesday, January 12 at 7pm at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave. Tickets will be on sale later this year online and at the church and at Beads of Contentment, 1028 J St., Modesto.

John sends his regards: “May your lives eclipse your dreams, may your cellars be full, your sweaters moth-free, your woodpiles high and dry, and may you get out to hear some live music in your hometown. Always sounds sweeter there. See you soon!”

“Could we not allow ourselves the opportunity here and now to be together, to think together, in a way that goes beyond the pain and fog that we traditionally carry around leading people past that natural defenses into genuine contact with one another?”

~ William Isaacs in **Dialogue: The Art of Thinking Together (2008)**

k4pjerusalem.org — is a community of youth and their families who gather year-long with joy, power, and commitment. The Muslims, Christians, and Jews are growing from strength to strength, envisioning a movement of thousands, walking a different path while communicating in Twitter at #togetherpeaceispossible

A young camper reflected: “When I first joined Kids4Peace, I made a lot of friends, tried some new things, and had a ton of fun. I learned a lot about my own religion and also about others. But the more we are together, the more serious our work becomes. Now I’m starting to see the bigger picture, that together we stand for something big.”

Kids4Peace community circles are facilitated by volunteers from sister relationship-building communities like:

1. The Jerusalem Youth Chorus — <http://jerusalem-youthchorus.org> AND <https://www.facebook.com/jerusalem-youthchorus>

2. Tiyul Rihla Trip — <http://www.tiyul-rihla.org> AND <https://www.facebook.com/Tiyul.Rihla>

3. Building Bridges — <http://www.buildingbridgeshift.org> AND <https://www.facebook.com/BuildingBridgesShift>

4. HEARTBEAT: Amplifying Youth Voices — <http://heartbeat.fm> AND <https://www.facebook.com/heartbeatjerusalem>

Kids4Peace Jerusalem Photos

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.717638331675565.1073741850.450620298377371&type=3>

Kids4Peace Jerusalem — The Bigger Picture, 3-min video, <https://vimeo.com/140222017>

In Rwanda: September 21, 2015, was the International Peace Day to empower a new generation of peacebuilders.

The Peace One Day Youth Celebration — <http://www.peaceday.org/2015-celebration> — in Kigali, Rwanda, gathered **thousands of young people from the Great Lakes region of Africa** alongside others in Rwandan civil society and government. This celebration informed young people from Rwanda, greater Africa, and beyond **to become the citizen-driven force behind the vision of a united and sustainable world**, using Peace Day as a catalyst for individual and collective action.

SEE and HEAR the inspiring Peace Day Anthem, “One” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_-LM44HgSo

In North America: Dedicated university students from China and North America gathered at Bryn Athyn College during August 2015 intending to help end extreme global hunger and poverty by 2030. They often gathered in

Learning Circles to help acknowledge and dignify the diverse participants, while gathering their collective life experiences, intelligence and wisdom for building an enlivened community and succeeding together. **LEARN MORE** about these dedicated students, alumni, and supporters of **FeelGood** — https://www.facebook.com/feelgoodworld_and <http://www.feelgood.org/>. Their **dialogue skill workshop** is illustrated at: <http://traubman.igc.org/feelgood2015.pdf>

Hundreds of other success stories are preserved at <http://traubman.igc.org/messages.htm>

Three-Fifty

Technicolor lights metallic noise split my neurons
Naked rocks in place of people’s lush green lawns.
Last glacier crumbles under polar bear’s weight.
Carbon emission’s below 350* our world can’t wait.

Asked any human, Does he really care?
Cold chain saw has no emotions,
Trees keep falling through the air!

Slaughterhouse thinks farm animals are amino acids
Energy waste never calculated in all its facets.
Let me tell you, this message is very urgent.
Toxic water run off filled with laundry detergent

Party all night watching my favorite football team

Ignore the Co2 destroying our children’s dreams.
Don’t worry about clouds that tint our sky
As long as you can turn on your wifi.

Hey Guys, wake up, our planet is at stake!
It’s a huge casualty of our worst mistake!

Remember 350* most important number in the world.
Though Martian life is in the planning,
Still earth is where we dwell.

Oil and fossil fuels, two monsters still on the loose,
Solar, wind, geothermal, the future is ours to choose!

Lin Guo

** The upper safety limit for atmospheric CO2 is 350 parts per million (ppm). So, remember # 350! (Currently, it is slightly below 400 worldwide and is still going up) choose!

Support universities who divest from oil and other fossil fuel companies. Please support California water conservation.

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



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

ACTIONS FOR PEACE Sonora - Stockton

SONORA: Contact Alice at lewisalice090@gmail.com

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

NOVEMBER

2016 Peace Essay Contest applications available at <http://stanislausconnections.org>.
Entry deadline: November 20, 2015!

ONGOING: Modesto Area Partners in Science, Fridays, 7:30 pm, Sierra Hall 132, MJC West Campus; <http://maps.events.mjc.edu/>. November 20: "Grapes in our Lives." Dr. Peter Cousins, E & J Gallo Winery with a scientific analysis of the cultural connections between grapes and people. December 4: "Making Fuels from Sunlight, Water and Air." Dr. Frances Houle, Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis discusses how artificial photosynthesis can produce new fuels.

MJC SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM, 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Science 115, West Campus, 2201 Blue Gum Ave. FREE. Campus parking: \$2.00. Nov. 4: MJC computer scientist Dale Phillips, "How Does a Computer Work Its Magic?" Nov. 18: MJC student Jody Strait, "Conservatives and Fighting Global Warming: An Either/Or?" Dec. 2: Engineer Des Orsinelli, "A Light Look at Reversing a Warming Planet." Read more here: <http://www.modbee.com/news/local/education/article38787063.html>

To January 10, 2016: Alphonse Mucha: The Golden Age of Art Nouveau. 70 + original works by the creator of the Art Nouveau style. Carnegie Arts Center: 250 N. Broadway, Turlock. (209)-632-5761. Open: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. <http://www.carnegieartsturlock.org/#!muchac/f6v>

6 FRI: Annual Harvest Gathering & 45 year Celebration for the Modesto Peace/Life Center. Benefit for the Peace Essay Contest. 1125 Edgebrook Dr., Modesto. See flyer, front page.

13 FRI: Funstrummers – Music of America: 8th Anniversary Concert. Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland, Modesto. 7:00 pm. www.funstrummers.com

15 SUN: The Modesto Film Society presents *Tootsie*. State Theatre, 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/513>

18 WED: Film Night at the Center presents "Global Warming, A Scientific and Biblical Exposé of Climate Change." Discussion after led by Richard Anderson. 6:30 pm, Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto. See article, this issue.

21 SAT: Peace on Your Plate Fest. Vegan

Thanksgiving themed potluck and a family-friendly, animated movie, *Chicken Run*. FREE! PRAP Art Gallery, 1222 J St., Modesto. Bring a vegan Thanksgiving dish and/or beverage and/or dessert or appetizer to share. Not mandatory but appreciated. 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Info: Kathy, (209) 250-9961 or email: kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com

21 SAT: Stanislaus Audubon Society presents *The Messenger*. State Theatre. Visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird. Special presentation by the Society. 5:00 pm. See article, this issue. <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/613>

23 MON: 19th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration. Expressions of gratitude offered by BUDDHIST, CHRISTIAN, HUMANIST, JEWISH, MUSLIM, SIKH and Other Faith Tradition representatives. FREE. Bring donations of canned goods for Interfaith Ministries' Food Bank. Modesto Centre Plaza. 7:00 pm.

LOOKING AHEAD

December 5, 2015: Annual Holiday Potluck Song Fest. A celebration of our Peace community at the Onorato's, 1532 Vernon Ave., Modesto. Bring your favorite dish and beverage to share, your merry Holiday spirit, and your eagerness to sing. 6 to 9 pm.

December 16, 2015: Film Night at the Center presents *Citizenfour*. Discussion after. 6:30 pm, Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto. See article, this issue.

January 12, 2016: Annual John McCutcheon Concert.

January 23, 2016: 22nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration. Speaker: historian Taylor Branch.

SUN: Sunday Afternoons at CBS, 3 pm 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto. Tickets: \$25/Adults; \$20/Seniors & Students; \$7 children. Call (209) 571-6060. Visit <http://sundaysatcbs.com/> for information on concerts starting in January.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

Modesto Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 10:00 am at the MODSPOT, 1222 J St. Call or text 209-232-1932, email modestovineyard@gmail.com; All Welcome.

LifeRing Secular Recovery: Sunday 10:00 am, Kaiser CDRP, 1789 W Yosemite Ave, Manteca. LifeRing Secular Recovery: Support group for people who choose to live free of alcohol and other addictive substances. We avoid discussion of politics and religion in our meetings so each person can focus on building their personal sobriety recovery plan. (209) 591-8741, www.liferingmodesto.org

Weekly mindfulness meditation and dharma talk, 12:30-2:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <http://imcv.org/>

MONDAYS

Walk With Me, a women's primary infertility support

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS: held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), (NOTE TIME), 4:00-5:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

MEDIA: Listen to local Valley Community Radio KQRP 104.9 FM, <http://www.kqrp.com>

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

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

CONNECTIONS EDITORIAL MEETINGS: Info: 537-7818, jcostello@igc.org

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

group and Bible study. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm the first and third Mondays of each month (September only meeting 9/15/14 due to Labor Day). Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com or call 209.577.1604.

TUESDAYS

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.

LifeRing Secular Recovery. Tuesday 6:30 pm, Jana Lynn Room, 500 N 9th St, Modesto. 591-8741.

Ukulele class/play-a-long led by Lorrie Freitas 5 p.m. Beginners Lessons 6 p.m. Play Along in songbooks provided. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver, Modesto. Donation accepted. Info: 505-3216. www.funstrummers.com

Weekly mindfulness meditation and dharma talk, 6:30-8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori for more information at 209-343-2748 or see <http://imcv.org/>
Adult Children Of Alcoholics, Every Tuesday, 7 pm at 1320 L St., (Christ Unity Baptist Church). Info: Jeff, 527-2469.

WEDNESDAYS

Unity Tai Ji Qi Gong (A Journey Within) - First United Methodist Church Multipurpose Rm - 6 pm - Wednesdays - freewill offering. Michele, 209 602-3162.

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/>

LifeRing Secular Recovery. Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. , Center for Human Services Building, 1700 McHenry Way, Room 12 Modesto.

Modesto Folk Dancers: All levels welcome. Raube Hall, Ceres (call for address), 480-0387.

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

Mindful Meditation: Modesto Almond Blossom Sangha, 7 - 9 pm. Info: Stan, 549-7770, stanhopecunningham@yahoo.com, or Anne, 521-6977.

Compassionate Friends Groups, 2nd Wed., 252 Magnolia, Manteca.

THURSDAYS

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

Third Thursday Art Walk, Downtown Modesto, downtown art galleries open - take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-9 pm every third Thursday of the month. Info: 579-9913, <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

Refuge Recovery: A Buddhist Approach to Recovery from Addiction Insight Meditation Central Valley.

Jana Lynn Community Rm., 500 N. 9th St., Modesto. Thursdays 6:30-8 pm. FREE (donations accepted). Info: email RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com

Latino Community Roundtable (LCR) meets on the second Thursday of each month at Noon at Bel Piatto Italian Cucina, 1000 Kansas Ave., Modesto, CA. Info: call Maggie Mejia, (209) 303-2664, <http://lcrstan.org>

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAYS

Funstrummer Ukulele Band every Friday, from 9:15 am until noon, Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Info: 505-3216; www.funstrummers.com

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

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

Sierra Club: Yokuts group. Regular meetings, third Friday, College Ave. Congregational Church, 7 pm. Info: 549-9155. Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts> for info on hikes and events.

Mujeres Latinas: last Friday, lunch meetings, Info: Cristina Villego, 549-1831.

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

SATURDAY

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Modesto Chapter, meets every second Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 937 Oxford Way, Modesto. Questions: Call Kathy, 523-5907.

So Easy ~ So Good: Vegetarian/Vegan/Wannabee Group. Potlucks, guest speakers, field trips, activist activities, movie nights, etc. Third Saturday of the month, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Info: Kathy Haynes, 209-250-9961; email kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com

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

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. For up to date information, visit www.stanislausconnections.org/calendar.htm