

## John McCutcheon Live in Concert: Get Your Tickets!

Six-time Grammy-nominated folk musician John McCutcheon performs in his 19th benefit for the Modesto Peace/Life Center on Tuesday, June 7 at 7pm at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave. John is a master of the guitar, banjo, hammer dulcimer, piano, autoharp and fiddle. John's latest albums, *Bucket List* and *Cabin Fever* will be available at the concert.



COVID precautions will include masks indoors at all times. Precautions may change based on conditions at the time.

Online tickets sales are at [mccutcheon-modesto2022.brownpapertickets.com/](https://mccutcheon-modesto2022.brownpapertickets.com/)

Tickets can be purchased in person by check or cash at Intrinsic Elements, 1214 J St.,

209-409-8510 and at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., 209-523-1438. Information: contact Ken Schroeder 209-4 8 0-4576s, Visit John's website at <http://www.folkmusic.com>

### Please consider becoming a sponsor of the concert.

You will receive tickets to the concert, your name in the program, and reserved seating. Five levels of sponsorship are available: **Autoharp** — \$40 One ticket, **Guitar** — \$75 Two tickets, **Banjo** — \$150 Four tickets, **Piano** — \$300 Eight tickets, **Hammer Dulcimer** — \$500 Sixteen tickets.

You may send your sponsorship donation check to the Modesto Peace/Life Center, PO Box 134, Modesto CA 95354. You may also go to the Brown Paper Ticket site or contact Ken Schroeder. Please let us know the level of sponsorship and whether you have a dedication. Write "sponsor" in the memo on your check. Specify how you would like the dedication to appear in the program (such as "In Honor of" or "To the Memory of ...") The Modesto Peace/Life Center is a tax-exempt organization under the IRS code section 501(c)(3).

*"He has an uncanny ability to breathe new life into the familiar. His storytelling has the richness of fine literature."*

— *Washington Post*

## Police Oversight: Forward Together report needs your input now!

By JAMES COSTELLO

After a year's detailed work, the City of Modesto's Forward Together Work Group has made recommendations for police oversight in coordination with the community in a new draft report. Based upon further input from members of the community (you), the Work Group will offer its final recommendations to Modesto's City Council in mid-June.

You can find the draft report, extensive resources, supporting documents, and videos of all meeting at <https://www.modestogov.com/2732/Provide-Feedback>

[com/2733/Documents-Presentations](https://www.modestogov.com/2733/Documents-Presentations).

The Group recommends a combined model consisting of an Independent Auditor and citizens oversight committee based upon the successful model of the City of Anaheim.

Now is the time for citizens to review the report's details and let the Working Group know how you feel about their findings. They really want and need your thoughts and suggestions. You can access multiple ways to report your opinion at <https://www.modestogov.com/2732/Provide-Feedback>

## How You Can Help Uvalde Families

From the Stanislaus Community Foundation

Dear Stanislaus friends,

Our hearts are heavy with grief at the tragic loss of 19 schoolchildren and 2 teachers in Uvalde, Texas. As a team of mothers with mostly school-age children, we have struggled mightily to make sense of this heinous act of violence against the most innocent among us: our children. And because we believe there is no such thing as 'other people's children' we share the heartbreak of the loving parents who lost their children this week. As always, Stanislaus Community Foundation believes that there's something we can do, even across the miles, to honor these young lives and support the families left in the aftermath of this horrific violence.

Our colleagues at the San Antonio Area Foundation have set up two funds, one to provide direct financial assistance to the families who lost their children and to those at the school directly affected by this tragedy.

A second fund has been created to provide emergency relief to local nonprofits in the Uvalde/San Antonio area who will provide long-term assistance, including mental health services, in the Uvalde community.

All donations are tax-deductible. Please consider making a gift to either or both funds.

We invite you to the Modesto Peace/Life Center's

## Open House

Facing the  
Future for  
Justice and  
Peace



MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER

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

Sat. June 18, 10:30am - 1:30pm  
829 13th St, Modesto

- Join Us! Let's put our values into action.
- Celebrate our past activism and future commitments.
- Meet & greet activists from other organizations.
- Enjoy music, art, refreshments, & friends.



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## The Youth Navigation Center of Stanislaus County is OPEN!

The YNC will provide shelter, housing and comprehensive drop-in services to any youth or young adults in Stanislaus County between the ages of 13-25, experiencing crisis, housing instability and/or homelessness.

### Programs and Services

**Hutton House:** Emergency shelter and drop-in center for teens 13-17. Services include: overnight stay, showers, meals, laundry, resources, referrals, and individual or family meetings.

**Pathways:** Transitional living program for young adults 18-24. Residents live in a dorm-like setting while working on financial, job, and life skills with the goal of permanent housing.

**Low Barrier Emergency Shelter:** First of its kind, youth-centered shelter in Stanislaus County for young adults 18-24. The shelter has 24 beds that individuals can reserve for up to 90 days at a time.

**Telecare Drop-In Center:** Drop-in center for young adults 18-25. Includes access to facilitated support groups, one-on-one emotional support, referrals and resources, computers, and recreational activities.

**Outreach and Navigation:** Services for youth and young adults 13-25. Includes referral linkage, helping youth obtain vital documents, support in meeting immediate needs, and entry into the Coordinated Entry System.

**Housing Services:** Services include landlord engagement, housing location, and case management services to keep youth housed.

**Telecare Behavioral Health:** Provides mental health services to youth ages 18-25. Members will be provided mental health services, case management, medication support and crisis intervention.

**Need help?** Call 209-527-1441, 24/7 Helpline. <https://www.yncstanislaus.org/>



### KCBP Community Radio Seeks Volunteers

The Modesto Peace/Life Center's Community Radio Station the "Voice of the Valley" KCBP 95.5 FM needs volunteers to help develop the following programs:

Children • Art • Poetry • News/Journalism  
• Education • Health • Science • Social Justice • Multicultural • Music/All Genres

Other Opportunities: Underwriting  
• Fundraising/Event Committee • Community Outreach

Contact Jocelyn Cooper,  
KCBP Development  
Director, (209) 422-0119  
[kcbpvolapp@gmail.com](mailto:kcbpvolapp@gmail.com)



a bilingual Arts Magazine for Kids and Families  
Subscribe at [lindaknollart.com/start-magazine](http://lindaknollart.com/start-magazine)

Visit us at the Modesto Farmer's  
Market on Thursdays in June for fun,  
hands on art activities!

**KCBP 95.5 FM**  
A Project of Modesto Peace Life Center

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Letters From an American: May 24, 2022

Today, a gunman murdered at least 19 children and 2 adults at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

By HEATHER COX RICHARDSON

For years now, after one massacre or another, I have written some version of the same article, explaining that the nation’s current gun free-for-all is not traditional but, rather, is a symptom of the takeover of our nation by a radical extremist minority. The idea that massacres are “the price of freedom,” as right-wing personality Bill O’Reilly said in 2017 after the Mandalay Bay massacre in Las Vegas, in which a gunman killed 60 people and wounded 411 others, is new, and it is about politics, not our history.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution, on which modern-day arguments for widespread gun ownership rest, is one simple sentence: “A well regulated militia, being necessary for the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” There’s not a lot to go on about what the Framers meant, although in their day, to “bear arms” meant to be part of an organized militia.

As the Tennessee Supreme Court wrote in 1840, “A man in the pursuit of deer, elk, and buffaloes might carry his rifle every day for forty years, and yet it would never be said of him that he had borne arms; much less could it be said that a private citizen bears arms because he has a dirk or pistol concealed under his clothes, or a spear in a cane.”

Today’s insistence that the Second Amendment gives individuals a broad right to own guns comes from two places.

One is the establishment of the National Rifle Association in New York in 1871, in part to improve the marksmanship skills of American citizens who might be called on to fight in another war, and in part to promote in America the British sport of elite shooting, complete with hefty cash prizes in newly organized tournaments. Just a decade after the Civil War, veterans jumped at the chance to hone their former skills. Rifle clubs sprang up across the nation.

By the 1920s, rifle shooting was a popular American sport. “Riflemen” competed in the Olympics, in colleges, and in local, state, and national tournaments organized by the NRA. Being a good marksman was a source of pride, mentioned in public biographies, like being a good golfer. In 1925, when the secretary of the NRA apparently took money from ammunition and arms manufacturers, the organization tossed him out and sued him.

NRA officers insisted on the right of citizens to own rifles

and handguns but worked hard to distinguish between law-abiding citizens who should have access to guns for hunting and target shooting and protection, and criminals and mentally ill people, who should not. In 1931, amid fears of bootlegger gangs, the NRA backed federal legislation to limit concealed weapons; prevent possession by criminals, the mentally ill and children; to require all dealers to be licensed; and to require background checks before delivery. It backed the 1934 National Firearms Act, and parts of the 1968 Gun Control Act, designed to stop what seemed to be America’s hurtle toward violence in that turbulent decade.

But in the mid-1970s, a faction in the NRA forced the organization away from sports and toward opposing “gun control.” It formed a political action committee (PAC) in 1975, and two years later it elected an organization president who abandoned sporting culture and focused instead on “gun rights.”

IN MEMORIAM

May 24, 2022

19 children and 2 adults were murdered at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

Alexandria Aniyah Rubio, 10	Alithia Ramirez, 10
Amerie Jo Garza, 10	Xavier Lopez, 10
Eliahana Cruz Torres, 10	Eliana “Ellie” Garcia, 9
Eva Mireles, 44, Teacher	Irma Garcia, 46 Teacher
Jackie Cazares, 10	Jailah Nicole Silguero, 10
Jayce Luevanos, 10	Jose Flores, 10
Layla Salazar, 10	Makenna Lee Elrod, 10
Maite Rodriguez, 10	Miranda Mathis, 11
Nevaeh Bravo, 10	Rojelio Torres, 10
Tess Marie Mata, 10	Uziyah Garcia, 8
Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez, 10	

“I’ve had enough.”

Steve Kerr, Golden State Warriors basketball team coach.

This was the second thing that led us to where we are today: leaders of the NRA embraced the politics of Movement Conservatism, the political movement that rose to combat the business regulations and social welfare programs that both Democrats and Republicans embraced after World War II. Movement Conservatives embraced the myth of the American cowboy as a white man standing against the “socialism” of the federal government as it sought to level the economic playing field between Black Americans and their white neighbors. Leaders like Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater personified the American cowboy, with his cowboy hat and opposition to government regulation, while television Westerns showed

good guys putting down bad guys without the interference of the government.

In 1972, the Republican platform had called for gun control to restrict the sale of “cheap handguns,” but in 1975, as he geared up to challenge President Gerald R. Ford for the 1976 presidential nomination, Movement Conservative hero Ronald Reagan took a stand against gun control. In 1980, the Republican platform opposed the federal registration of firearms, and the NRA endorsed a presidential candidate—Reagan—for the first time.

When President Reagan took office, a new American era, dominated by Movement Conservatives, began. And the power of the NRA over American politics grew.

In 1981 a gunman trying to kill Reagan shot and paralyzed his press secretary, James Brady, and wounded Secret Service agent Tim McCarthy and police officer Thomas Delahanty. After the shooting, then-representative Charles Schumer (D-NY) introduced legislation that became known as the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, or the Brady Bill, to require background checks before gun purchases. Reagan, who was a member of the NRA, endorsed the bill, but the NRA spent millions of dollars to defeat it.

After the Brady Bill passed in 1993, the NRA paid for lawsuits in nine states to strike it down. Until 1959, every single legal article on the Second Amendment concluded that it was not intended to guarantee individuals the right to own a gun. But in the 1970s, legal scholars funded by the NRA had begun to argue that the Second Amendment did exactly that.

In 1997, when the Brady Bill cases came before the Supreme Court as *Printz v. United States*, the Supreme Court declared parts of the measure unconstitutional.

Now a player in national politics, the NRA was awash in money from gun and ammunition manufacturers. By 2000 it was one of the three most powerful lobbies in Washington. It spent more than \$40 million on the 2008 election. In that year, the landmark Supreme Court decision of *District of Columbia v. Heller* struck down gun regulations and declared that the Second Amendment protects an individual’s right to keep and bear arms.

Increasingly, NRA money-backed Republican candidates. In 2012 the NRA spent \$9 million in the presidential election, and in 2014 it spent \$13 million. Then, in 2016, it spent over \$50 million on Republican candidates, including more than \$30 million on Trump’s effort to win the White House. This money was vital to Trump, since many other Republican super PACs refused to back him. The NRA spent more money on Trump than any other outside group, including the leading Trump super PAC, which spent \$20.3 million.

The unfettered right to own and carry weapons has come to symbolize the Republican Party’s ideology of individual liberty. Lawmakers and activists have not been able to over-

# Protecting our Coral and Preserving our Peace

First Place, Division III  
2022 Peace Essay Contest

By Rachel Warter

Prescott Junior High School

Teacher: Jennifer Gorton

Climate change is damaging our planet and its inhabitants. Climate change is the process of the Earth steadily growing warmer due to gases that humans release into the atmosphere. One negative impact of climate change is coral bleaching. This occurs when the ocean water temperature is too warm for the algae that coral needs to survive. The coral expels the algae if the algae has not died already, turning the coral white (NOAA, 2019). Coral bleaching negatively impacts marine life, the food chain, and the health of the planet, but with the collaboration of scientists and citizens, we can reverse it.

Coral bleaching affects the entire food chain. Coral is a keystone ocean species (Scientific American). When coral dies, other marine species lose their source of food and shelter. This causes them to be easily hunted by their predators, eliminating even more species. This eventually leads to humans losing their food supply, and the ocean becoming a wasteland. Coral reefs also protect coasts from hurricanes and other natural disasters (NOAA, 2019). They serve as a natural breakwater by reducing waves' energy. Without coral reefs, coasts and the people living on them would be in severe danger. Finally, coral reefs are tourist attractions (NOAA, 2019). Their beautiful colors influence many coasts' economies. Without these reefs, the economies of these places will suffer.



Scientists have been working to find ways to stop coral bleaching. One method is to bring coral to the brink of death, but no further. Then it is allowed to fully recover, making it stronger and more likely to survive in warmer waters (Miami Herald, 2016). Scientists are also working on developing a thin film made of calcium carbonate that blocks some of the sunlight from reaching coral, causing the water to be cooler, and the coral less likely to expel its algae (Agence France-Presse, 2018). Both of these methods give coral a chance to survive in warmer waters, but they are still at risk due to the increased climate temperature. However, we can change this by working together. First, we need to decrease our carbon footprint, which comes from harmful

gases released by humans. Some ways to help are carpooling with others and turning unnecessary lights off (NOAA, 2015). Another thing we can do is spread the word. Communicating the threat of coral bleaching and climate change is a crucial step toward protecting our world.

Coral bleaching, a process caused by climate change, affects the entire food chain, exacerbates natural disasters, and affects the economy of coastal regions. However, if scientists and citizens work together to create ways to strengthen coral and reduce our carbon footprint, we could save coral reefs. It is important to preserve our world for the well-being of all of its creatures, including future generations. Our children deserve to inherit a beautiful and peaceful world that they can enjoy, not one where they need to repair our damage. We need to care for our world so that we can live safe and sustainable lives that promote peace around the globe.

Ed. Note: Works cited are available upon request.

## Gunman murdered at least 19 children and 2 adults

come Republican insistence on gun rights despite the mass shootings that have risen since their new emphasis on guns. Even though 90% of Americans—including nearly 74% of NRA members—support background checks, Republicans have killed such legislation by filibustering it.

The NRA will hold its 2022 annual meeting this Friday in Houston. Former president Trump will speak, along with Texas governor Greg Abbott, senator Ted Cruz, and representative Dan Crenshaw; North Carolina lieutenant governor Mark Robinson; and South Dakota governor Kristi Noem—all Republicans. NRA executive vice president and chief executive officer Wayne LaPierre expressed his enthusiasm for the lineup by saying: “President Trump delivered on his promises by appointing judges who respect and value the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and in doing so helped ensure the freedom of generations of Americans.”

Tonight, President Joe Biden spoke to the nation: “Why are we willing to live with this carnage? Why do we keep letting this happen?... It’s time to turn this pain into action.

For every parent, for every citizen in this country, we have to make it clear to every elected official in this country, it’s time to act.” In the Senate, Chris Murphy (D-CT) said, “I am here on this floor, to beg, to literally get down on my hands and knees and beg my colleagues....find a way to pass laws that make this less likely.”

But it was Steve Kerr, the coach of the Golden State Warriors basketball team, whose father was murdered by gunmen in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1984, who best expressed the outrage of the nation. At a press conference tonight, shaking, he said, “I’m not going to talk about basketball.... Any basketball questions don’t matter.... Fourteen children were killed 400 miles from here, and a teacher, and in the last ten days we’ve had elderly Black people killed in a supermarket in Buffalo, we’ve had Asian churchgoers killed in Southern California, and now we have children murdered at school. WHEN ARE WE GONNA DO SOMETHING? I’m tired, I’m so tired of getting up here and offering condolences to the devastated families.... I’m tired of the moments of

## A Letter from Our Neighbors to the North

The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County is in the process of coming out of a two-year hibernation due to the coronavirus. This pandemic has shown us at the Peace and Justice Network how important true and accurate communication is to all the citizens of our planet. It has also shown us that there are many in our society who find no harm in giving false and misleading information that has led to the death of 2,207 individuals here in San Joaquin County and 6,166,510 individuals on planet Earth. Like you, we have lost family and friends due to this deadly virus.

With that in mind, we at the Peace and Justice Network have spent our time in hibernation working to establish a new community radio station, KVSJ-FM at 89.5 on your FM radio dial. We have become more energized to continue on with Earth Day on April 24, 2022, and the Peaceful Fair on December 2-3, 2022.

The Board of Directors of the Peace and Justice Network are in discussions to create new and exciting activities that will be shared with our community very soon. If you would like for us to share with you our present and future activities just let us know by sending an email to richardblackston@yahoo.com. We will add you to a new listserve operated by the Peace and Justice Network. We will not sell or share your email or personal information with any individual(s) or organization(s) but rather keep you informed as to the important facts of the day concerning social justice, the environmental situation of our planet, and how we can work together to make this a better planet for our children, grandchildren and all the generations that will follow after us.

We look forward to hearing from you and keeping you well informed of the issues of importance.

Richard Blackston, Chair of the Board of Directors  
The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County  
Clay Leander, Interim Executive Director  
The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County  
[Ed. Note: slightly edited.]

from page 3

silence. Enough. There’s 50 senators...who refuse to vote on HR 8, which is a background check rule that the House passed a couple years ago.... [N]inety percent of Americans, regardless of political party, want...universal background checks.... We are being held hostage by 50 senators in Washington who refuse to even put it to a vote despite what we the American people want...because they want to hold onto their own power. It’s pathetic,” he said, walking out of the press conference.

“I’ve had enough.”

Complete references can be found [HERE](#).

Heather Cox Richardson is a Professor of History at Boston College, an expert in nineteenth-century America, specializing in politics and economics, and a political historian who uses facts and history to put the news in context.

To subscribe to Heather Cox Richardson’s Letters, visit <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/>



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

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

PSAs in English and Spanish broadcast multiple times a day about Covid-19 vaccination, produced by the West Modesto Community Collaborative.

## PROGRAMS:

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, 10:00pm.

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

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

Bucks Stallion's Radio Transmission Emporium - Cyber Music - Sundays, 1:00 am

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

Down on the Farm - topics important for our San Joaquin agriculture with Madera organic farmer, Tom Willey - Saturdays, 6am & 8pm.

AREA 5150 UFO RADIO – Saturday night at Midnight.

## LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

KeeHive - LaKiesha McDonald talks with men and women who have overcome great odds. Mondays & Wednesdays, 7:00am



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, 8:00pm; 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 Leah Hassett - 8:00pm Tuesdays & Thursdays & Wednesdays, 9:00am. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbpwotv> and on Spotify.

The Peril and the Promise with Pegasus - Wednesdays, 9:30 pm; Saturdays, 2:30 pm; Listen here also: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp-peril>. Recent show focuses on Project Censored.

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

Where We Were - Fascinating local history with Felton Daniels. Monday & Thursdays 9am. Friday 8:30pm; Sunday at 11:00am & 4:30 pm.

## Local Music Programs

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

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

This is SKA with Middagh Goodwin - Tuesdays, 9 pm; Fridays, 11pm; Sundays, 6 am.

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

## Weekdays (Monday - Friday)

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

Sounds Irish Music from County Wicklow - Saturdays, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Sojourner Truth - 4:00pm. Interviews, panels focusing on issues that affect people of color.

Democracy Now! - 7:00pm. Reporting by veteran journalist Amy Goodman.

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

## Children's Programming

Confetti Park - Saturdays 8:00am; & Sunday's 12:30pm.

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

### Science

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

Big Picture Science - 1:00pm Sundays

Planetary Radio – 2:30pm Sundays

Got Science – 4:00 pm Sundays

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

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION: Donate your old car, boat, or other vehicle** to help KCBP Radio. More information is here: <http://kcbpradio.org/car-donation.html>. You can also SUPPORT US through the Network for Good at <https://kcbpradio.networkforgood.com/> Please consider a recurring monthly donation.



# Valley Farmers: Tiptoeing Past a Graveyard of Trees?

By **ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen**

Bringing to mind ageless adages about “putting all your eggs into one basket” and “everything that goes up must come down,” the current almond crisis for Valley agriculture has yet to penetrate the consciousness of most local residents, in part, because of the major distraction of war in the Ukraine.

Discussion about bulging warehouses and falling prices has mostly been whispered. It's difficult to talk while holding one's breath. But more and more Valley farmers are finding themselves with their backs to the wall as a broken supply chain keeps last year's almond crop marooned in warehouses while this year's coming harvest has fewer and fewer places to go.

To get an idea of how much is at stake, consider that, “more than 1.1 billion pounds of almonds from last year's harvest are sitting in warehouses.” almost all of them in the San Joaquin Valley. Theoretically, these almonds are sold, but the inability to deliver them has caused a crisis of plummeting prices and reduced demand for this year's rapidly approaching harvest.

Already battered by a drought that increasingly appears

to represent a new norm, Valley farmers now face the prospect of huge losses on their next crop. Though there will be a tendency to blame politics, the real culprit is a complex global web of competing markets that is easily broken by disruptions ranging from war to rising demand for consumer goods from China.

While free-market fundamentalists tout the virtues of deceptively simple formulas about supply and demand, the power of the almighty dollar dictates that there's now more money in shipping empty containers directly back to China than in filling them with precious Valley almonds. Not surprisingly, those with the most to lose are mounting increasingly desperate appeals for government help. There's nothing like the looming prospect of bankruptcy to bring about a seismic change in a person's economic religion.

In a perfect storm of monetary woes, Valley farmers are also looking at escalating costs of everything from fuel to fertilizer. No one needs a degree in economics to realize that when the costs of production are rising while the prices of your commodities are dropping, the likelihood of looking

at the consequences from belly up becomes more and more certain.

If there's a lesson here, it may be in a paraphrase of John Donne's famous line that “No man is an island, entire unto itself.” The same can be said of an economy; we now live in a world of increasing economic interdependence. Economic islands are a thing of the past.

Valley farmers are the best in the world at what they do, but that world has become increasingly dependent on fair business practices, international law, and peace among nations. A single evildoer like Vladimir Putin can bring economic peril to the entire globe. Simple changes in the logistics of delivery can bring down an entire local economy.

Faced with the prospect of a graveyard of trees, Valley farmers are looking for help wherever they can. That help will arrive sooner when we realize we're all in this together, dependent on shared values about truth, trust and justice. Communities, whether regional or global, have better chances for survival than warring tribes.



# In Celebration of Lynn Hansen and Her Passion for Nature

By TOM PORTWOOD

On the bright, sunny morning of April 30<sup>th</sup>, about two dozen local poets and many other friends and colleagues of retired MJC Biology Professor Lynn Hansen gathered at the Great Valley Museum to celebrate the unveiling of a beautiful bronze plaque bearing Ms. Hansen's fine poem, *Lasthenia californica*.

Each poet brought a nature poem to read for the occasion, and Ms. Hansen read *Lasthenia californica*, in addition to a poem dedicated to her good friend Margaret Flesher. It was Margaret who first introduced her to one of the Central Valley's more intriguing ecosystems – vernal pools. As she read her poems, Ms. Hansen's much-admired devotion to nature and friendship were clearly evident.

It was a day to salute not only Ms. Hansen's long and distinguished career as a biologist and educator but also to sing the praises of nature in all its abundance and beauty. Lynn Hansen has been studying our area's vernal pools for five decades (regularly taking students to study them on field trips prior to retirement in 2001, writing a field trip curriculum for elementary schools once she had retired) and has been involved with the Great Valley Museum since its inception. In an excerpt from a recent essay she wrote, Ms. Hansen gives us a vivid description of vernal pools:

*"So, what are vernal pools? There are three main kinds of vernal pools located near where I live. There are the valley pools, the foothill pools, and the volcanic table mountain pools. Vernal pools are temporary, filled by rainwater and their bottoms do not allow water to percolate downward. Instead, the water evaporates slowly leaving behind a sequence of blooming floral displays in rings of color. In addition, there are invertebrates like fairy shrimp, tadpole shrimp, clam shrimp, Daphnia, small snails, various worms, and vertebrates like tiger salamanders and spadefoot toads whose life cycle depend on the waxing and waning of the water."*

The valley pools have clay bottoms and because clay is such a fine particle, it forms a bottom that is impervious to water. The foothill pools often have the same bottom, and the volcanic table mountain pools have basalt as the bottom of the pool. Vernal pools are like a Galapagos Island group, a microcosm of evolution. The life cycles happen fast since water appears here in November, if we have a wet year, and is gone from pools by April or May, sometime sooner if we have a drought and early warm weather."

To find out more about our area's rich natural history, we encourage everyone to visit the Great Valley Museum, located on the West Campus of Modesto Junior College. <https://www.mjc.edu/instruction/sme/gvm/exhibits.php>. To view a video of the celebration and poetry reading, please visit <https://youtu.be/raACYF1fxTs>

Read Lynn Hansen's poetry on p. 9.







*Lasthenia californica*

Raindrops vibrate  
dry claypan soil,  
collect into vernal pools  
scattered over Central Valley floor  
like small liquid mirrors.  
In these cauldrons of rebirth  
spadefoot toads stir  
from moist mud,  
translucent cysts free  
fairy shrimp larvae,  
tiger salamander nuptials  
begin after long nocturnal trek  
and summer seeds of goldfields,  
*Lasthenia californica*,  
awaken.

Oh, *Lasthenia* of Mantinea,  
female disciple of Plato,  
your golden namesake  
encircles vernal pools  
like floral leis cast at random  
onto a sea of green  
rippling in soft breezes.  
Like you, these flowers live  
at the edge of their community.  
Without protection  
they cluster in disguise not as men  
but as brilliant rings of vernal fire.  
Buzzing among them, a choir of native bees  
gathers glassy buckets of pollen  
for larvae nestled  
in earthen chambers,  
gifts from each tiny flower head  
before they scatter seed,  
lose everything.

Lynn M. Hansen



Be informed!

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



# Poet, Radio Host, Linda Scheller, has written a New Poetry Book

Linda Scheller's new poetry book, *Wind & Children*, has gone to press. The book will launch at the Mistlin Gallery during the **Third Thursday Art Walk from 5-8 p.m. on July 21**. There will be a poetry reading as well as copies of the book available for purchase and author inscription.

The book's cover art is by Henrietta Sparkman, and the author's photo is by David Schroeder. The publisher is Main Street Rag. The book is available from the publisher: [Wind & Children / Linda Scheller | Main Street Rag](#).



Linda Scheller is the author of the poetry collection *Fierce Light* (FutureCycle Press) and a chapbook, *Halcyon*. A widely published poet, playwright, and book reviewer, she is a founding board member of the Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center and a member of the National League of American Pen Women. Honors include the Catherine Cushman Leach Poetry Award, first place prizes in the California Federation of Chaparral Poets Contest, finalist for the Washington Prize and Quercus Review Book Prize, and a Best of the Net nomination. She also hosts the radio shows, *Women of the Valley* and *Arts of the San Joaquin*, on KCBP 95.5 FM.

## KCBP RADIO-95.5 FM - THE VOICE OF THE VALLEY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH UNDERWRITING

The right person(s) should be personable, have good communication skills, have experience with selling, be passionate for promoting community radio.

**Businesses:** Support a program and have your services mentioned on the air.

Contact KCBP Development Director, Jocelyn Cooper, [jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com)

Other volunteers needed!



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

## THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

The man on the radio said  
in this an election year,  
that he sincerely believes in a lot of good things  
and one of them is  
(last on the list for dramatic effect,  
spoken in a melodious trustworthy voice)  
the Sanctity of Life.

Oh good, I thought.  
Then that means he's for gun control!  
He's heard of the forty thousand last year alone,  
killed in this country by the gunfire of strangers  
and of well-meaning family  
and hot-tempered friends.

And he must be against the death penalty too.  
He knows that murderers don't stop  
to consider the consequences or  
a death of their own in the fog of the future  
when they're deep in their rage or  
their very own brand of insanity.  
They think, when they do think,  
that they'll never be caught,  
that somehow they are justified.

The man on the radio knows there are always  
innocents executed  
who can never come back, not even  
when the guilty too late will confess.

He wants safer cars, lower speeds,  
fewer drunks on the road.  
He thinks sadly of families who mourn  
the sudden loss of loved ones  
in the crush of metal,  
jagged pieces of glass and  
the wail of harsh sirens.

He's probably heard of the hundreds  
of thousands of mothers who die every year  
just because they gave birth or  
because they were pregnant  
or for no other reason than  
they were born to be women.

His heart goes out to all of the children  
who are injured or killed every day  
in a furious impulse

or by heartbreaking torture  
by the very same people  
entrusted to love and protect them.

Surely this man would do all he can  
to feed the homeless and hungry  
who would otherwise die  
in the wake of world famine,  
who die of starvation  
after long bouts of suffering,  
even here in America  
Land of Plenty.

This is a man who would block bullets for strangers,  
bring food to the hungry,  
teach parents to cherish their children,  
not to kill or abuse them.  
He would set an example for others,  
because, as he tells us,  
he believes most sincerely in  
the Sanctity of Life.

I'd like to believe him,  
but that's not what he meant—

His list of priorities for sanctification  
puts the unbreathing unborn at the top  
above all these other forms of humanity  
he never mentioned at all.

I can presume as well as he can,  
to speak for the unspeaking unborn.  
I can hear them quite clearly say to that man:  
"Listen to our mothers. They know what's best.  
Sometimes we're better off not joining  
the world as it is now. Please fix it!  
Make it a place where we're dearly wanted,  
where we can live safely and grow."

But that's not what the man on the radio hears.  
He says what he says,  
but he does something else  
and thinks that he knows best  
how to sanctify life.

Sheila D. Landre  
August 18, 1996

*Modesto Poet Sheila Landre wrote this poem more than a quarter of a century ago. She continues to be a voice for positive change for our community. — Tom Portwood*

KD

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## Sea of Grass, Remembering Margaret

It was you who introduced me  
to the magic of Central Valley grasslands –  
cool morning breezes rippling  
waves of grasses that swirl  
in a sea of solitude and roll  
up mima mound beaches  
of San Luis Island.

It was you that piqued my interest  
in the large stands of native alkali sacaton  
and purple needle grass, the ones you detailed  
with pen and ink, capturing wonder  
into notebooks. And it was you who showed  
me the sand paths of voles hidden  
beneath the petticoats of last year's bunch grass  
and the harrier gliding above  
knowing that when its wings fold  
the raptor would knife air,  
razor talons grasp furry morsel,  
full of wriggle,  
then limp.

It was you who taught me to lie still  
in floral pools, blue with Downingia, listening  
to a choir of native bees buzzing their music  
until the sun sputtered goodbye on the horizon  
and the tawny coyote began to bark and yip.

Then like a tule boat of Native people, you drifted  
away from the shoreline of your memory  
into the deep channel of silence  
where in this stillness the grasses  
continue to whisper your name.

– Lynn M. Hansen



## Lasthenia californica

Raindrops vibrate  
dry claypan soil,  
collect into vernal pools  
scattered over Central Valley floor  
like small liquid mirrors.  
In these cauldrons of rebirth  
spadefoot toads stir  
from moist mud,  
translucent cysts free  
fairy shrimp larvae,  
tiger salamander nuptials  
begin after long nocturnal trek  
and summer seeds of goldfields,  
Lasthenia californica,  
awaken.

Oh, Lasthenia of Mantinea,  
female disciple of Plato,

your golden namesake  
encircles vernal pools  
like floral leis cast at random  
onto a sea of green  
rippling in soft breezes.  
Like you, these flowers live  
at the edge of their community.  
Without protection  
they cluster in disguise not as men  
but as brilliant rings of vernal fire.  
Buzzing among them, a choir of native bees  
gathers glassy buckets of pollen  
for larvae nestled  
in earthen chambers,  
gifts from each tiny flower head  
before they scatter seed,  
lose everything.

–Lynn M. Hansen

## Aileen Jaffa Youth Poetry Contest Winners Announced

BY LYNN M. HANSEN, Contest Chair

The 2022 Aileen Jaffa Memorial Youth Poetry Contest Winners were announced at the Carnegie Center for the Arts in Turlock, California on May 7. It was a lovely day listening to the young poets read their work and celebrate with friends and family.

The contest was co-sponsored by the Modesto/ Stanislaus Poetry Center and the National League of American Pen Women, Modesto Branch. There were 93 entries in the contest this year from seven schools in Stanislaus County.

In addition to their award, each student received a celebration booklet featuring the winning poems at the reading.

The list of winners for Grades K-3 included the following:

1st Place: "Camping" by Morgan Jones, Grade 3, Hart-Ransom Charter School; 2nd Place: "Outdoors" by Edyn Yashino, Grade 3, Hughson Elementary School; 3rd Place: "Down the Hill" by Isaac Doub, Grade 3, Hart-Ransom Charter School. Lucas Dever, Isaac Doub, Rylee Larson, Emma Riggs and Edyn Yashino were awarded Honorable Mention Certificates.

The list of winners for Grades 4-6 Included the following:

1st Place: "Goody Goody Little Glop" by Farrah Borba, Grade 5, Hart-Ransom Charter School; 2nd Place: "The Piano" by Jakin Chen, Grade 6, Hart-Ransom Charter School; 3rd Place: "Moon" by Josiah Leon, Grade 4, Hart-Ransom Charter School. Lili Hendon, Hafsa Modan, Advin Li were awarded Honorable Mention Certificates.

The List of winners for Grades 7-9 Included the following:

1st Place: "The Strength of a Home" by Amelia Duarte, Grade 7, Hart-Ransom Charter School; 2nd Place: "Morning Forest" by Joseph Hajjar, Grade 8, Hart-Ransom Charter School; 3rd Place: "My Emotions" by Jedidiah Chen, Grade 7, Hart-Ransom Charter School. Amelia Duarte, Elazar Bengochea and Noah Doub were awarded Honorable Mentions.



The List of winners for Grades 10-12 included the following:

1st Place: "Grief" by David Hendon, Grade 12, Hart-Ransom Charter School; 2nd Place: "Someday" by Hannah Skonovd, Grade 10, Turlock High School. No 3rd place or Honorable Mention awards in this category.

The Grand Prize for K-6 was **Farrah Borba** for her poem "Goody Goody Little Glop" and the Grand Prize for Grades 7-12 was **David Hendon** for his poem "Grief". Each Grand Prize Winner received a \$60 prize awarded by the National League of American Pen Women, Modesto Branch. The Modesto Stanislaus Poetry Center awarded 1st Prize of \$25, 2nd Prize of \$15 and 3rd Prize of \$10 for each grade category.



# Lessons for nonviolent activism in an era of digital authoritarianism

As autocrats become savvier in using technology to repress dissent, activists are striving to preserve the benefits of digital activism and mitigate the risks.

By **MATTHEW CEBUL** May 17, 2022

In Hong Kong, the 2020 National Security Law and a wave of arrests for “subversive” speech has stifled a once vibrant democracy movement. In Russia, Vladimir Putin has criminalized criticism of the “special military operation” in Ukraine, blocked social media while flooding the Russian internet with disinformation and arrested thousands of antiwar protesters. Meanwhile, in Myanmar, the military has used Western-made surveillance technology to suppress resistance to its 2021 coup.

These episodes represent a broader and concerning trend. Repressive governments across the globe are embracing new technological tools of censorship, surveillance and propaganda to tighten their grip on power, marking a new era of digital authoritarianism.

In light of these developments, the Nonviolent Action Program at the U.S. Institute of Peace, where I work, recently published two reports on digital authoritarianism and how activists are adapting to these circumstances. We then convened a roundtable with leading scholars, activists and policy practitioners to discuss ongoing challenges for nonviolent activism in the digital era. Three broad lessons emerged from these efforts.

## Measured expectations

The first lesson is that we need to recalibrate our expectations for how emerging digital technology can both help and harm nonviolent activism.

On the one hand, our research reveals that early euphoria over “liberation technology” is firmly in the past. Although the world’s dictatorships were slow to appreciate the internet’s transformative potential, they are making up for lost time, and online space is far more constrained now than it was even five years ago.

Specifically, autocrats are learning to take advantage of the increasing “legibility” of modern civil society. As we live more and more of our lives online, data that was previously obscure is now intelligible to the state, faithfully recorded in chat histories, location data, photos and friends lists. Algorithmic content monitoring, AI-enhanced facial recognition, spyware and invasive anti-privacy laws all enable repressive regimes to exploit this data to identify and punish dissidents. Activists increasingly fear speaking freely online, and digital authoritarians can preemptively repress dissent before it mobilizes. In turn, better preemptive repression also lessens the risk of military defections (often critical for movement success) by distanc-

ing activists from the security apparatus that represses them and decreasing the need for barbarous crackdowns, which risk mutiny among soldiers tasked with violent repression.

On the other hand, nihilistic techno-pessimism is also unwarranted. Activists are adopting effective security measures (VPNs, end-to-end encryption, vanishing messages, etc.) that substantially decrease the risk of digital surveillance. Many have found creative ways to contest authoritarian propaganda and censorship, such as Alexey Navalny tweeting from behind bars while Russian activists use lottery numbers to generate uncensored links to opposition websites, or Chinese netizens developing an ever-changing opposition lexicon to evade automated censorship.

Thus, we should keep the perils of digital authoritarianism in perspective. Segregated and heavily censored national internet ecosystems in countries like China and Iran are a serious problem. Yet most autocracies are nowhere near this tech-savvy, and online organizing is still a major boon for civil societies that were otherwise suffocated — in a counterfactual world absent the digital revolution, dictatorships would be as much, if not more repressive. Digital technologies are cause for neither premature triumphalism nor despair, but rather for careful consideration, as activists strive to preserve the benefits of digital activism while mitigating the risks.

## ‘Online is the new offline’

The second lesson has to do with the multifaceted relationship between “virtual” and “real-world” activism and its implications for contemporary social movements.

While leaderless movements may bring down dictators, they can also struggle to subsequently lock in successful democratic transitions.

**Although the world’s dictatorships were slow to appreciate the internet’s transformative potential, they are making up for lost time, and online space is far more constrained now than it was even five years ago.**

Some have expressed concern that online mobilization is ephemeral, and that “slacktivism” fails to cultivate the real-world strong ties that anchor successful campaigns. Our panelists, however, stressed that online vs. offline activism is a false dichotomy, as the two are wholly and indelibly intertwined. Digital activism is not some pale shadow of civil society development. Rather, virtual space is a vibrant ecosystem in which digitally native generations create culture, forge shared grievances and aspirations, and engage with the world. Practically all contemporary social movements have established online footprints, if only because social media is far too crucial a battlefield to cede in the struggle against anti-democratic disinformation.

That said, the digital age is clearly changing the nature

of social movements, and in ways that are not always positive. Consider social media. By dramatically reducing coordination costs, social media facilitates decentralized and leaderless protests that are quick to mobilize and difficult to repress. While these leaderless movements may bring down dictators, they can also struggle to subsequently lock in successful democratic transitions. The absence of leadership complicates efforts to negotiate with regime remnants and commit both sides to durable political reforms.

Additionally, although reactive outrage is easy to generate online, today’s trending topic is tomorrow’s old news, making it difficult for activists to preserve long-term momentum. And while online mobilization can engage previously marginalized populations, this may include anti-democratic far-right extremists who exploit social media to recruit new members.

These dynamics are unfolding in real time, and much remains uncertain. Yet digital activism is clearly here to stay. Understanding how activists can most effectively couple online and offline mobilization will therefore be an important topic of study in the years ahead.

## The digital balance of power


The final lesson concerns the digital “balance of power” and the ways in which activists and their supporters can tip the scales to favor pro-democracy forces.

Digital authoritarianism is an evolving interaction between autocrats and the societies they repress. A decade ago, activists held the advantage, a fact emphatically punctuated by the Arab Spring. Autocrats have since developed countermeasures and now appear ascendant. Yet this state of affairs is hardly immutable, as rapid technological development means that the digital balance of power is constantly shifting.

The world’s dictatorships are exporting repressive technologies and collaborating as they adapt to the digital era — activists should do the same.

A key implication is that we should focus less on specific

continued next page



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# Death Among the Homeless

By CHRISTI ZENT, The Valley Citizen

When death takes a homeless person, there are cold facts. If they die walking home from a store alone, the coroner will eventually pick them up and take the remains to the morgue.

The deceased may have friends, but they often do not have any next of kin to claim them. They usually have a tent and possessions somewhere, even friends, or a spouse. No one in an official capacity will know about these things. No one will be going to their address to tell their loved ones the tragic news.

Oftentimes, because homeless people rarely have credentials like driver's licenses, there will be no identification unless they are well known to police. It could be an exceptionally long time before a positive identification will give them a name.

When death comes to a homeless camp, someone must locate a phone and make a call to have the authorities visit the encampment, often hidden and illegal. In order to allow medics in the area, the authorities have to take measures for their safety. The police must navigate the camp for safety risks and identify the people who are there. They must figure out the layout, avoid all the dangerous items, and the unsanitary nature of the camp for their own safety. This causes delay and often hysteria on the part of those hoping that the person with fast attention will recover.

Once the EMTs and paramedics can access and begin CPR, precious time has expired. Everyone is aware of that. No one is comfortable at this point. Everyone is facing the awful truth that this place is where so many things are potential killers,



yet everyone is wanting this to be that one time when the patient recovers.

When Edward "Popeye" Peacock died on November 7 at a location near a freeway bridge between Modesto and Ceres, he was a well-known vagrant, character, and friend to many, but not all. He had leadership ability amongst those who occupy the illegal encampments. He watched over those who were defenseless.

During the time he became more ill and unable to care for himself, his partner Lacey was sent to jail. Christina then became his helper. She had him sleeping nearby while she watched for signs signaling it was time to call an ambulance. She had a cell phone with minutes. When Popeye began to cough and fail, she made that call and waited the extra time

it takes to get the authorities into the camp.

She saw the awful things that occur when the body is rejecting life. She tried her best to do CPR or something to save his life. The next part, when the medics do what they do and then drive off, is harsh. They have the body of a man these people know intimately well, some for more than 20 years.

No one will pick up his body from the morgue. No one will come and collect his valuables. Christina will now look after [Little Sherry](#), a developmentally disabled woman Popeye watched out for. There will be no funeral. Christina will also have to break the news to others who were absent while this happened.

This is death in a homeless camp. A friend and I visited to honor this death. We know that everyone must grieve and share memories, to honor and remember him. They need to speculate, articulate and ask questions. They need to describe the scene and how it was for them. Sometimes there is that one person who suspects foul play. Fortunate people with homes can sit on comfortable chairs in warm homes and share their grief with visitors who stop to pay respects. Not so among the homeless.

In Popeye's case, his disoriented friends are unsure of how to tell his incarcerated female partner. Those who did not see him die or even know he was sick could be thinking he will recover in the hospital. Others are thinking their turn is next, but for sure no one has a comfortable chair and a box of Kleenex, and no one is visiting to pay respects.

## Lessons for nonviolent activism in an era of digital authoritarianism

from previous page

technological innovations, which may become obsolete overnight, and more on cultivating practices and institutions that prepare activists for whatever tomorrow brings. Those efforts should progress along two fronts: enhancing activists' ability to adapt to repressive technologies and stifling innovation among digital authoritarians.

On the former, our research highlights several practical steps that activists can take. Perhaps the most important is to invest in [transnational activist](#) linkages. The world's dictatorships are [exporting repressive technologies](#) and collaborating as they adapt to the digital era — activists should do the same, so that they might learn from common experiences and quickly share innovations across borders. Kindred reformers are activists' single greatest resource, and facilitating transnational networks is one of the most [effective forms](#) of external support. For instance, the Latin American Regional Institute for the Study and Practice of Strategic Nonviolent Action is cultivating regional activist networks by

bringing activists together in [transnational trainings](#), and my own center at the U.S. Institute of Peace is pursuing similar endeavors in both in-person and online forums.

At a more basic level, international organizations should also increase the availability of digital security trainings. While [many excellent resources](#) exist, trainings are not equally distributed — high priority countries are saturated

while peripheral states are neglected — and in some countries public knowledge of basic digital hygiene remains poor. Almost all resources are in English, and there are few comprehensive attempts to localize general principles. For instance, it is good practice to use two-factor authentication, but Apple [does not support](#) two-factor authentication in Iran, so Iranian iPhone users must instead rely on other security measures. Similarly, access to VPNs varies greatly depending on state laws, and their

importance depends on varying state online surveillance capacity. External supporters should both expand and enhance training programs, and at a minimum should translate online guides into a more diverse set of languages.

**A key implication is that we should focus less on specific technological innovations, which may become obsolete overnight, and more on cultivating practices and institutions that prepare activists for whatever tomorrow brings.**

On the latter, international actors should work to impede digital authoritarianism, or at least stop willfully enabling it. The [Pegasus spyware](#) scandal, which revealed that various governments had used the Israeli company NSO Group's flagship "counterterrorism" spyware to surveil journalists, activists and politicians across the globe, are the predictable consequence of lax controls on the sale of dual-use filtering and surveillance technology to repressive autocracies. Western democracies are beginning to take data privacy more seriously, but the road ahead is long, particularly surrounding stalled efforts to establish collective norms of online freedom (perhaps among a unified league of [techno-democracies](#)).

The struggle between digital activists and autocrats is a defining aspect of 21st-century politics. In recent years, autocrats have made significant headway. But if Western democracies commit to bolstering activists' strategic capacity while frustrating autocratic innovation, digital technologies may yet live up to their promise as instruments of mass liberation.

[Matthew Cebul](#) is a research officer for the Program on Nonviolent Action at the United States Institute of Peace, where he conducts multi-method research on nonviolent action and its implications for democratization, democratic backsliding and U.S. foreign policy.

From Waging Nonviolence.



# calendar



## june 2022

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

CHECK WITH MEETING HOSTS. ONLINE MEETINGS MAY BE PLANNED.

**Science Colloquium, Wednesdays**, 3:15-4:15 p.m., MJC via Zoom. To access the program, click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmaymqgHqzxsAa0RJmYwVg/>.

**MAPS** (Modesto Area Partners in Science: free MJC science programs. Fall schedule pending. Watch past presentations at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2pMYnCos9wOxwd\\_5Icw3Pg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2pMYnCos9wOxwd_5Icw3Pg).

**The Prospect Theatre** has continuing offerings: Visit <https://prospecttheaterproject.org/2021-2022-season/>

**1 WED: VIGIL: HONOR THE DEAD OF UVALDE.** 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, McHenry & J. St.

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

**4 SAT: The State Theatre** presents the classic *American Graffiti*. 1:00 pm. Tickets: <https://thestate.org/films/american-graffiti-062022/>

**4 SAT: Borscht-Ukrainian Foods Dinner.** Modesto Centre Plaza. Humanitarian support for Ukraine. Tickets: SOLD OUT BUT call Modesto Sister Cities International (209) 577-8758 or email [modesto.msoci@gmail.com](mailto:modesto.msoci@gmail.com).

**7 TUES: John McCutcheon Concert** in person. Benefit for the Modesto Peace/Life Center. 7 pm, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Tickets: <https://mccutcheonmodesto2022.brownpapertickets.com/> and at other places. See article p. 1.

**18 SAT: MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER OPEN HOUSE**, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Come and see what we are all about. Details, p.1.

## regular meetings

### SUNDAYS

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

**IMCV weekly Insight Meditation** and dharma talk, 8:45 am - 10:15 am, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: [info@imcv.org](mailto:info@imcv.org) Food Addicts Anonymous in Recovery. Sundays 6:30 pm, 2467 Veneman Ave. Modesto. Info: Emily M., 209 480-8247.

**Village Dancers** are not dancing in person but have a Zoom class, every Sunday 3:00-5:00 PM (PST). Lessons and reviews every week are given in international folk dances and are led by different teachers from around the Valley. People from England to Taiwan, New Hampshire to Oregon, Arizona to Denair join us each week to exercise in their own homes to interesting music. Email Judy at [JudyKropp40@gmail.com](mailto:JudyKropp40@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom number and password.

### MONDAYS

**The Compassionate Friends**, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter is meeting by Zoom on the second Mondays at 7:00 pm. 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: [tcfnmodestoriverbank@gmail.com](mailto:tcfnmodestoriverbank@gmail.com); <https://www.modestoriverbanktcf.org/>

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

**Monday Morning Funstrummers** Beginner Ukulele Lessons. Modesto Senior Center. 10:45am to Noon. Free Scenic and Bodem.

**Walk with Me**, a women's primary infertility support group

and Bible study. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm the first and third Mondays of each month. Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email [WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com](mailto:WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com) or call 209.577.1604.

**Silver & Gold Support Group** for mental health and wellness. Catering to the needs of the LGBTQ+ Community. (Age +55). Every Monday 1pm-3pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D Modesto. Contact Kellie Johnson, 209.918.0271 or Sandra Vidor, 209.859.4299.

### TUESDAYS

**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>

**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; email: [naacp.branch1048@gmail.com](mailto:naacp.branch1048@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**Womxn's Support Group** for Womxn 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 1pm-2pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto CA (Ages +18). Contact Sandra Vidor-209.652.3961 or Kellie Johnson 209.918.0271

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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), 5:00-6:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

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

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

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

**Mindful Meditation:** Modesto Almond Blossom Sangha, 7 - 9 pm. Info: Anne, 521-6977.

### THURSDAYS

**Can We Talk... LGBTQ+ Senior** (age +55) Coffee Meet up! Every Thursday @ 1pm at Queen Bean, 1126 14th St., Modesto. Weekly social group to provide connectedness and community inclusion for LGBTQ+ Senior Citizens. Refreshments, snacks provided. Contact Steven Cullen, 559.799.0464.

**CA10 Progressive Coalition** Monthly Meeting, third Thursdays. Inclusive group of progressive activists to share resources, ideas, and information in order to support all the great organizing work happening in the Valley! Feel free to invite trusted allies. Meet-up and social hour: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. Meeting: 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Follow group on Facebook. Info: Tim Robertson, [tim@nvlf.org](mailto:tim@nvlf.org)

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

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

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

**LGBTQ+ Collaborative Meetings** are on the 2nd Thursday of the month, unless noted. Evening meeting, 1pm to 2 pm, Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St., Suite 2, Modesto, CA. Information: John Aguirre at cell/text - (559) 280-3864/ e-mail: [jpamodesto@gmail.com](mailto:jpamodesto@gmail.com)

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

**Third Thursday Art Walk**, Downtown Modesto, downtown art galleries open – take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-8 pm every third Thursday of the month. Info: 209-529-3369, <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

**The Book Group**, First & third Thursdays. College Ave UCC Youth Bldg., Orangeburg & College Ave., 3:30 – 5:00 pm. Info: [mzjurkovic@gmail.com](mailto:mzjurkovic@gmail.com)

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

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

### FRIDAYS

**INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING**-Friday nights - 7:30-9:30 PM March 11 through June 24, 2022. Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock, CA. Beginning dancers welcome. No partner needed. Learn dances from around the world. Exercise to interesting music. \$7.00 per night. Contact info: Judy (209) 480-0387.

**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>

**OUT on a Friday Night**, a social and discussion group designed for individuals who identify as transgender, Non-Binary, or any identity on the transgender spectrum. Every Friday at 6:00pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto CA. (Ages +18). Contact Katalina Zambrano: 209-412-5436.

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

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

**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.

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

**Hispanic Leadership Council**, 3rd Fridays at noon, 1314 H St., Modesto 95354. Questions? Yamilet Valladolid, [yamiletv@hotmail.com](mailto:yamiletv@hotmail.com)

### SATURDAY

**New HIV support group:** +NET Peer Support Group meets at the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Center, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 12-1pm. Focuses on supporting individuals with their struggles regarding HIV and AIDS. Providing information about community resources, promoting wellness with an emphasis on LIVING! Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto. Contact Vincent, 209.505.2863.

**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 UUFC 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, 3 pm, Deva Café, 1202 J. 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](mailto:RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com)

**Divine Feminine Gathering.** Join us for a time of ritual, song and conversation as women come together to celebrate one another and the Divine among us and within us. 3rd Saturday of the month, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Stockton, CA. Contact Rev. Erin King, 209-815-0763, [orkingenne@gmail.com](mailto:orkingenne@gmail.com)

**So Easy ~ So Good:** Vegetarian/Vegan/Wannabe Group. Potlucks, guest speakers, field trips, activist activities, movie nights, etc. Third Saturday of every month. Info: Kathy Haynes (209) 250-9961 or email [kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com)

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

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