



Stanislaus CONNECTIONS

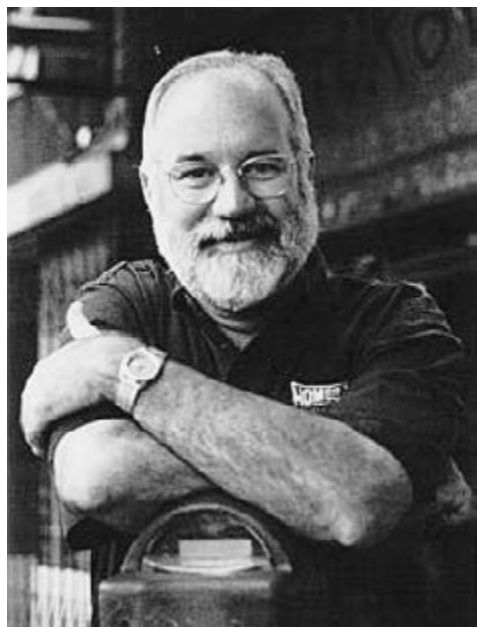
Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

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Father Gregory Boyle, aka "G Dog": Words to act upon

"The measure of our compassion lies not in our services to those on the margins, but in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship. We must rekindle the sense of kinship, the sense that we all belong to each other. Only when we recognize that we belong to each other can we offer boundless compassion and the buoyancy of hope."



By SUE SIEFKIN

Father Gregory Boyle, aka "G Dog", visited Modesto March 2-3 at the invitation of Stanislaus County's **Focus on Prevention Initiative**, a local effort to address the root causes of homelessness, truancy, delinquency, drug abuse and unemployment. During his visit he appeared at Juvenile Hall, spoke to a sold out crowd at a Ceres Community Center breakfast, and spoke again to a crowd at MJC in the evening, each time to standing ovations.

I first heard of Father Gregory Boyle, aka "G Dog," some years ago when I was first assigned as the new judge of the Juvenile Delinquency Court in Modesto. Knowing that I would be seeing lots of young gang members in my new role, my predecessor, Judge Linda McFadden, bequeathed me a few books she thought I would enjoy. One of them was titled, *"G Dog and the Homeboys: Father Boyle and the Gangs of East Los Angeles,"* by Celeste Fremon and Tom Brokaw.

When I finished reading Fremon and Brokaw's riveting account of young gang members and the transformational work of Homeboy Industries, I ordered Father Greg's own memoir, *"Tattoos on the Heart."* A lyrical

"I have never seen a hopeful person join a gang."

collection of anecdotes and short stories about Delores Mission, Homeboy and the population they serve, the book reads like a devotional, and I could not help but both laugh and weep in the reading. I recommend both books to *Connections* readers.

As a young Jesuit priest, Father Boyle was assigned in 1986 to a Los Angeles parish, Dolores Mission Church, in one of the most gang infested neighborhoods in the nation. Despairing of gang warfare and the

wrenching task of conducting serial funerals for children barely in their teens, Father Boyle decided to try to get aimless kids who had been expelled from public schools off the streets by starting an alternative middle school in the nearby former convent. With that first halting step Boyle signaled that the church had emerged from its traditional passive role and would not only reach out to the neighborhood, but welcome the neighborhood inside.

Father Greg, a fluent Spanish speaker now dubbed "G Dog" by the homeboys, learned the lingo of the street and became their friend

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Is Fascism Back? Label is tempting, but should be resisted

By ROBERT O. PAXTON

NEW YORK – In 2015, "fascism" once again became the highest-octane political epithet in general use. Of course, the temptation to apply the fascism label is almost overwhelming when we confront language and behavior that superficially resembles that of Hitler and Mussolini. At the moment, it is being widely applied to cases as disparate as Donald Trump, the Tea Party, the National Front in France, and radical Islamist assassins. But, though the temptation to call such actors "fascist" is understandable, it should be resisted.

At its creation in the 1920s (first in Italy and then in Germany), fascism was a violent reaction against a perceived excess of individualism. Italy was scorned and Germany was defeated in World War I, Mussolini and Hitler claimed, because democracy and

individualism had sapped them of national unity and will.

So the two leaders put their followers into uniforms and tried to regiment their thoughts and actions. Once in power, they tried to extend dictatorship to every corner of life. Even sports, under Mussolini, were to be organized and supervised by the state agency called *il Dopolavoro*.

The fascists set themselves up (and acquired elite support) as the only effective barrier to the other political movement that surged following World War I: Communism. To international socialism the fascists opposed a national socialism, and while they crushed socialist parties and abolished independent labor unions, they never for a moment questioned the state's obligation to maintain social welfare (except for internal enemies such as Jews, of course).

The movement that calls itself the Islamic State may seem to fit this template rather well. Its followers' wills and personal identities are subordinated to the movement, all the way to the ultimate self-abnegation: suicide. But there are fundamental differences as well.

The Islamic State is less a state than a would-be caliphate, devoted to the supremacy of a religion in a way that cuts across and even threatens existing nation-states. Central authority remains inconspicuous, and policy and operational initiative is dispersed to local cells, without the need for a geographic core.

The fascists were nationalists, rooted in nation-states and devoted to the strengthening and aggrandizement of those states. The fascist leaders and regimes did their best to subordinate religion to state purposes. At

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Register early for Peace Camp! Get a discount!

By **KEN SCHROEDER**

The Modesto Peace/Life Center's 34th annual Peace Camp in the Sierra will take place on June 24-25 at Camp Peaceful Pines on Clark Fork Rd. off Hwy 108. We'll enjoy a weekend of workshops, good food, hikes, campfires, singing, crafts, talent show, star walk, recreation, and stimulating people of all ages in a beautiful mountain setting. Families and individuals are welcome. Register early for a discount.

Lori Wong will lead us in our workshops, which will explore the following questions:

How do we live out our values for peace, nonviolence and compassion with each other? How do we develop self-awareness and communication skills in order to advocate for our peace values in the world? During our weekend together our focus will be to explore our intentions and to practice what it looks like to embody peace as we interact with each other. We can learn, practice and experience ways to respond to crisis in the world and to political intensity in a nonviolent and compassionate manner. The workshops may include writing, reflection, and experiential exercises to develop and build these skills. Lori Wong is a Stanford-certified Compassion Cultivation Training teacher and is also the founding teacher of Insight Meditation Central Valley.

Scott Gifford, former Fremont Open Plan teacher in Modesto, returns from the North Bay to lead us in music. Jamming with guitars, ukuleles and other instruments is welcome. Naturalist and teacher Tim Smart will share the beauty and stories of the night sky with us on a star walk.

Camp Peaceful Pines in the Stanislaus National Forest is the venue for Peace Camp. Camp Peaceful Pines features kitchen and bathroom facilities, rustic cabins and platform tents and a cabin for those with special needs. Depending on the number of campers, cabins may be shared. Campers share in meal preparation, cleanup, and other work.

The camp fee covers program, food and lodging for the weekend. Adults are \$75 before May 1, \$80 before June 6 and \$85 after June 6. Young people 18 and under are \$55 before May 1, \$60 before June 6 and \$65 after June 6. Ages 3 and under free. Minors under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult. Partial scholarships and day rates are also available. Donations for scholarships are appreciated. The camp opens with supper at 6:00pm on Friday and closes after the morning workshop on Sunday. Directions and other information will be provided to participants before camp. Registration forms are available online at stanislausconnections.org and peacelifecenter.org.

Information: Ken Schroeder, 209-480-4576, kschroeder70@yahoo.com

IN MEMORIAM

James Worthington

December 22, 1922 - March 18, 2016



34th Annual Peace Camp June 24, 25, and 26, 2016

Camp Peaceful Pines
near Pinecrest, California



Registration Form

Adults

\$75 before May 1; \$80 before June 6; \$85 after June 6

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Total \$ _____

Youth (ages 4 -18) \$55 before May 1; \$60 before June 6 \$65 after June 6

1. _____ Age _____ 2. _____ Age _____
3. _____ Age _____ 4. _____ Age _____

Total \$ _____

Child (ages 3 & under FREE)

1. _____ Age _____ 2. _____ Age _____

Voluntary Donation to provide a camper scholarship = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353-0134

There is an additional \$15 fee for each person coming to camp without a pre-registration.

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I need vegetarian meals. Other dietary needs: _____

I have a special need for a cabin assignment: _____

I can offer a ride Friday/Saturday. I need a ride Friday/Saturday

Parent authorization for minor children

I give permission for decisions to be made in my absence about the need for medical care. I give permission for my child to be treated by a physician or hospital in case of an emergency. I understand and agree that the Modesto Peace/Life Center is not responsible for my child/children. I will not hold the Modesto Peace/Life Center, its officers or leaders liable for medical aid rendered.

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (PRINT) _____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

I authorize the Modesto Peace/Life Center to photograph and/or videotape my child, and reproduce my child's photographs and videotapes for publicity and/or educational/promotional purposes related to Peace Camp.

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (PRINT) _____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Note: If adults bring children not their own, the parent/legal guardian of those children must complete and sign a separate parent authorization. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

For camp information and scholarship availability: Call Ken Schroeder, (209) 480-4576; kschroeder70@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE: Friends of the Modesto Library Used Book Sale

WHEN: Saturday, May 7, 2016. 8a-3p

WHERE: Modesto Stanislaus County Library East Portico, 1500 I St., Modesto

PRICES: \$1 hardbound, 50 cents paperback.

Donations accepted until mid-April.

CONTACT: Clare Noonan, 522-5054, or email clarenoo@gmail.com

Film Night at the Center *The Hunting Ground, 2015.*

Directed by Kirby Dick, Written by Kirby Dick.

6:30 PM, Modesto Peace/Life Center, Wednesday, April 20th, 2016.

Since April is Sexual Assault awareness month, we will be screening Kirby Dick's "The Hunting Ground," an investigative documentary about the prevalence of sexual assault in America's university system and its recurrent cover-up.

Kirby Dick has directed a similarly heart-wrenching film about sexual assault in the military, entitled "The Invisible War," which debuted in 2012.

Put us on your calendar, as you are sure to be in for an informative if painful look into the tragic and disturbing reality of safety in a place we all hope to be free of such concern."

Visit <http://www.thehuntinggroundfilm.com/>

A Tribute to Joe Dell

By DAN ONORATO

February 27, 2016

Last November at the Modesto Peace/Life Center's annual Harvest Gathering, I was looking forward to seeing Joe Dell. We were celebrating our 45th year by honoring our elders and Joe was among the honorees I felt so grateful to. We wanted to thank them for their helping to found the Peace/Life Center and/or for all they've done to make our peace community a vital presence in our area. Their commitment and example have been an inspiration to many. A number of you here today were among those we honored. Unfortunately Joe was unable to attend.



When I think about Joe, I recall other inspiring men important in the Peace/Life Center community, no longer alive, some, like Joe, conscientious objectors in WWII: Homer Harvey, Homer Messamer, Gordon Nutson, Rudy Potochnik, Howard TenBrink, Sam Tyson, Hurley Couchman, Willy Weaver, and others. How truly blessed we are to be a part of the widening circle of commitment, courage, and compassion they helped nurture through their example.

Joe didn't go in for fanfare. He never sought the spotlight. In his inimitably quiet way, he did what he thought made sense: doing good and doing it well. He wasn't out for himself; his dedication was to serving others, especially those often marginalized in our society. Joe was constant, dependable, unassuming, and generous. He lived his values. He rooted his global vision of peace and justice in the here and now, close to home. He cared for people.

When I moved to Modesto in 1969, I heard about Joe from a close friend of mine who had come to Modesto the previous year to work for Self-Help Enterprises. My friend, Joe Carota, had nothing but praise for his boss, Joe Dell. Self-Help Enterprises was the local predecessor to Habitat for Humanity. It organized low-income people to work together to build homes for themselves and others. But building homes wasn't the only goal. Instilling confidence, a sense of connectedness with others and a larger common good were at the heart of

Joe Dell's commitment. In early 1970 I met Joe personally when the Peace Center was formed. Joe volunteered to be our first treasurer, and served in that capacity for many years. Sometimes Joe attended meetings, and though he didn't speak up often, when he did he had a clarity of mind and purpose that made him worth listening to.

I have a picture in my mind of Joe in the Center's first home on 15th St, Modesto's version of the leaning Tower of Pisa. Joe has just filed some papers he'd been working on, and now he's leaving. Our eyes meet. He nods his head in a greeting, and he smiles. Not just a cursory passing smile. A welcoming smile that connects with my heart and says without words, I'm really happy to have seen and been with you.

I'm sure the participants at West Care felt that same warmth. West Care was the first adult day health care center in Modesto, which the Church of the Brethren started. The center provided people with physical and mental disabilities with health services and their care givers with a few hours of respite. Joe was often there working on the book keeping. My wife Alice was the nurse for the program. In sharing her thoughts with me about Joe, Alice commented how Joe was always kind and attentive to the participants. He always treated them with respect and dignity, and his smile always radiated in their smiles to him.

I'll remember Joe as a person of quiet grace. He was genuine, thoughtful, generous, and kind. His smile and his gentle manner and kind words live in my memory. In 2010 the Peace Center celebrated its 40th anniversary in a local neighborhood park. Joe's son Brad brought Joe, who was in a wheel chair at the time. Joe and I happily greeted each other and talked a while. As I was ready to leave, Joe looked at me and said quite simply but sincerely, "Thanks, Dan, to you and all the others for your good work."

Mother Teresa once said, "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." In Joe's words of thanks and the smile he spoke them with was a grace I will always cherish.

So I say to Joe, "Thank you, Joe, and all the others for your example and good work." The echoes of your kindness continue to enrich us all.

Brad and other members of Joe's family, on behalf of the Peace Center, please know that the gratitude we feel for Joe extends to you as well.

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



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Victory Over Violence Exhibit

This exhibit inspires people to put into action ways to win over violence by counteracting the root causes of violence internally, within their homes and, in their communities and promoting a culture of peace that inspires dialogue and upholding the dignity of human life. Visit www.vov.com

Date and Location: April 4th – April 16th, Merced Library, 2100 O St. Merced.

Gaining Ground in the War on Bugs

By JENIFER WEST

Painful admission: I planted the bare minimum in our garden last spring, and even that only because my husband insisted we plant *something*. This was a definite change: Before we even moved in several years ago, we built a number of raised beds, and proceeded to fill them up with things we enjoy. We were eating from our yard before the last bookshelf was moved in! I was totally jazzed about having a fairly good-sized area to plant in! With carefully crafted soil, our little garden produced plenty for us and to share for a year or two.

And then the honeymoon was over.

Every slug and snail in the county seemed to have found its way to our backyard. Even turning the chickens loose, which helped, didn't solve the problem. The few things that did survive (after second, and even third plantings!), grew into sickly plants that produced very little. So I kind of gave up, and haven't planted a winter garden at all for a couple of years. Which means the ground was allowed to go more or less fallow for a while.

While it was productive, we thought we were taking good care of our soil. We added compost, new soil, and whatever else we thought might be good for it. But both the quality and quantity of our garden yield was low and getting lower. Then last fall, 'The Gardener' (my incredibly smart husband) put all of the leaves he raked up into the garden. No winter garden meant they were left undisturbed for months, breaking down and enriching the soil. A recent patio addition has meant lots of extra dirt, which was piled into the beds, as well.

When I reluctantly prepared to put a few things into the ground this spring, lo and behold – beautiful, friable soil, with



tons of worms – our soil was surely recovering. Tomato plants went in first, and a squash. Alas – the squash was mowed down overnight, and even some of the tomato plants looked worse for wear. Then, unbeknownst to me, The Gardener brought something home, and spread it near our vulnerable seedlings. Don't know what it was, but though it was supposed to be safe for pets and humans, it was nuclear! After a few nights on 'snail patrol', it appears that our slug & snail problem is well under control – at least for the moment.

But something was still chowing down on our poor little seedlings (which, by now, consisted of lettuce, cabbage, onions, more squash plants and a few other assorted things). I discovered the culprit one night: Earwigs. The sight of those prehistoric-looking creatures chewing holes in our tomato seedlings sent me scurrying to the computer. Now, shallow jars filled with a mixture of sugar and water (the frugal

gardener's substitute for beer), with a dab of bacon grease in each, are scattered around the garden. (A drop of oil from a can of tuna will do, as well.) So far, so good. Our little seedlings, for the most part, seem to be holding their own. (Update: Three nights in, the traps have captured dozens of those nasty bugs!)

The next concern was water – how to provide enough moisture to our little food crop to keep it healthy, while adhering to a restricted watering schedule? Leaves or wood chips would have been an obvious choice. Searching for a cheap-to-free mulch alternative in the yard The Gardener keeps so tidy, I actually had to look around – and then had a face-palm moment. 'The girls', our resident egg layers, make a constant supply of mulch. We've used their droppings in our compost buckets, of course, but the dry pine shavings covering the floor of their coop would make perfect mulch. Turns out spent chicken bedding, so long as there isn't anything too fresh in it, is excellent for the garden. Holds moisture when spread on top of the soil, and eventually breaks down and improves the soil's quality and tilth. Wish we'd been doing this since we got the girls! There is a question about things like salmonella or e-coli, so anyone who keeps chickens and is considering using the spent bedding for mulch should educate him- or herself before proceeding. And if you treat your girls to 'scratch', you'll also have to watch for weeds that may sprout from any leftover seeds. If you don't happen to have chickens in your backyard, leaves, dry grass clippings and the like can serve the same purpose. To build up your soil, you can also buy pre-composted chicken manure. If you keep rabbits, you'll already know that they, too, produce an excellent soil amendment!

A garden is more important than ever, for so many reasons!! And with such natural, and effective, pest control and water-conserving methods available, it makes good sense for everyone to find a bit of ground and give it a go!

Afternoons at CBS 24th Season Finale

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Jaffa Road's musical mission – peace through an unparalleled musical experience that brings us together as one people.

Jaffa Road, 3 pm April 10 at Sunday Afternoons at CBS, 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto, is "a fearless band of creative souls with the personnel to do anything they can imagine."

The group is aptly named for one of the oldest streets in Jerusalem, which unites multiple cultures and nationalities as it winds its way towards the port of Jaffa. The group's mix of Arabic, Hebrew, Ladino, English and French lyrics blend with genres of Sephardic, Arabic and Indian music, intertwined with jazz, blues, electronica, dub and rock.

Errol Nazareth, music columnist for CBC Radio and the *Toronto Sun*, calls Toronto-based Jaffa Road "an ace band that churns out a highly textured cinematic fusion." The list of genres "might make your head spin," he adds, "but rest assured that Jaffa Road's thoughtful, beautifully crafted music will not."

"If Toronto had to pick one group to reflect the world music scene ... Jaffa Road would definitely be in the running as musical ambassadors," claims Garvia Bailey, CBC Radio2.

The two-time Juno nominated band was named WORLD MUSIC GROUP OF THE YEAR at the 2013 Canadian Folk Music Awards. Their music has won a Songs From the Heart Award from Folk Music Ontario, a John Lennon Songwriting Award, and a Best World Music Artist at the



Toronto Independent Music Awards.

The band's collaborative compositional process creates a road far more active than any typical 2-way street – it's multi-lane, allows for many detours along its length, and offers up cutting-edge music at the global crossroads. You'll be glad you came along for the ride.

Tickets: \$25/Adults; \$20/Seniors & Students; \$7 children. Call (209) 571-6060. Visit <http://sundaysatcbs.com/>

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Question: What Programming Would You Like To Hear On A Community-Based Radio Station?

Send your answer to jcostello@igc.org

The Federal Communications Commission has granted the Modesto Peace/Life Center a license for a full power FM radio station that will broadcast throughout Stanislaus County and beyond. We have two and a half years to get the station on air. It will cost at up to \$50,000 to start-up.

We want this to be a community-driven station. We need your help. We need:

- DONATIONS!
- the expertise of people with experience and skill in radio technology, broadcasting, marketing, and programing;
- people who can envision how we might best highlight the diverse issues that affect us in our area;
- people with a pulse on the local music and arts scenes;
- businesses willing to underwrite our programming;
- people with creative ideas and suggestions: and
- enthusiastic people throughout our community who will donate generously toward making this dream a reality.

To help, please contact James Costello, 209-402-9191, or jcostello@igc.org.

To donate, send your check to the Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353. Write "Radio Station" in the Memo. For Paypal online, go to <http://peacelifecenter.org/>. Click on Donate." The Center is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization; donations are tax-deductible.

FM 95.5 Mission Statement

On Community Radio, FM 95.5, The Modesto Peace/Life Center will promote peace, social justice, and a sustainable environment through nonviolent change. We'll focus on regional issues and local talent, with a lively blend of multicultural music and the arts. We invite broad participation from community groups and local citizens to help us inform, entertain, and stimulate interest and involvement in the betterment of our community.



Ben Bagdikian, Visionary

By Jeff Cohen

From Day One, no journalist more influenced FAIR's standard media critique than Ben Bagdikian. The first edition of his *Media Monopoly* was our bible. Ben joined our advisory board as soon as we assembled one in 1986; he wrote our first cover story in Extra! (6/87). He was a kind and supportive uncle to FAIR during those early years.

No group followed the Bagdikian Number (the ever-shrinking number of corporations that controlled a majority of media revenue) more avidly than FAIR. It was to FAIR what the "Doomsday Clock" was to the **Bulletin of Atomic Scientists**. With every new mega-merger, we would say, "Life imitates Ben."

Before almost anyone else, Ben warned about the impact of the modern wave of media mergers that accelerated during the Reagan years (and accelerated further during the Clinton administration). In the first years of FAIR, I heard from various sympathetic journalists in mainstream media who said they were thrilled that, finally, a pro-working journalist media watch group had formed . . . but that we were off-base to emphasize the impact of corporate owners—that the problem was in the newsroom far more than the boardroom. A few years and a few mergers later, these same journalists told us



Photo of Ben Bagdikian from the *Washington Post*, where he helped break the Pentagon Papers and Watergate stories.

that we'd been right, almost prophetic—that boardrooms were undermining journalism, often quite nakedly.

But we weren't the visionaries. It was Ben Bagdikian who was the seer.

Ben was a journalist's journalist—from his years as a local reporter to his years at the **Washington Post** (where he played a crucial role in publishing the Pentagon Papers and went undercover as an inmate in a maximum-security prison). He served the public, not the boardroom—and luckily for him, he got out of corporate media before the conglomerate era.

Every semester in my journalism class at Ithaca College, I screen the Oscar-nominated documentary, *Tell the Truth and Run: George Seldes and the American Press*. The star of that movie is Ben Bagdikian, holding forth on what real journalists do: How they buck trends. How they don't countenance demagogues like Sen. Joe McCarthy (or today, by implication, Donald Trump).

Ben's motto through all these decades could have been: "Tell the Truth and Stand Strong."

The *New York Times* obit for Ben (3/11/16) quotes his message to his journalism students at UC Berkeley:

Never forget that your obligation is to the people. It is not, at heart, to those who pay you, or to your editor, or to your sources, or to your friends, or to the advancement of your career. It is to the public.

Jeff Cohen is the founder of FAIR. He's now the founding director of the Park Center for Independent Media at Ithaca College.

From FAIR; <http://fair.org/home/ben-bagdikian-visionary/>

Is Fascism Back?

from page 1

most, we might identify in the Islamic State a sub-species of religious totalitarianism; but it is fundamentally distinct from classical fascism's centralized secular dictatorships and glamorized leaders.

The Tea Party is at the farthest remove from fascism's state-enhancing nature. With its opposition to all forms of public authority and its furious rejection of any obligation to others, it is better called right-wing anarchism. It is individualism run amok, a denial of any community obligations, the very opposite of a fascist appeal to the supremacy of communal obligations over individual autonomy.

The National Front, of course, had its roots in Vichy France, and its founder, Jean-Marie Le Pen, long expressed contempt for the French republican tradition. But its emerging success nowadays under Le Pen's daughter, Marine, is at least partly due to the party's effort to distance itself from its street-fighting, Holocaust-denying past.

Donald Trump is a special case altogether. Superficially, he seems to have borrowed a number of fascist themes for his presidential campaign: xenophobia, racial prejudice, fear of national weakness and decline, aggressiveness in foreign policy, a readiness to suspend the rule of law to deal with supposed emergencies. His hectoring tone, mastery of crowds, and the skill with which he uses the latest communications technologies also are reminiscent of Mussolini and Hitler.

And yet these qualities are at most derivative of fascist themes and styles; the underlying ideological substance is

very different, with the entitlements of wealth playing a greater role than fascist regimes generally tolerated. Trump's embrace of these themes and styles is most likely a matter of tactical expediency—a decision taken with little or no thought about their ugly history. Trump is evidently altogether insensitive to the echoes his words and oratorical style evoke, which should not be surprising, given his apparent insensitivity to the impact of every other insult that he hurls.

It is too bad that we have so far been unable to furnish another label with the toxic power of fascism for these abhorrent people and movements. We will have to make do with more ordinary words: religious fanaticism for the Islamic State, reactionary anarchism for the Tea Party, and self-indulgent demagoguery on behalf of oligarchy for Donald Trump. There are fringe movements today, such as Aryan Nations in the United States and Golden Dawn in Greece, that draw openly upon Nazi symbolism and employ physical violence. The term "fascist" is better left to them.

Robert O. Paxton, Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, is the author of *The Anatomy of Fascism*, *Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order, 1940-1944*, *Parades and Politics at Vichy*, and *Vichy France and the Jews*.

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/is-fascism-back-by-robert-o-paxton-2016-01>

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Dorothy Greatrex

First Place Winning Essay – Division II, Peace Essay Contest

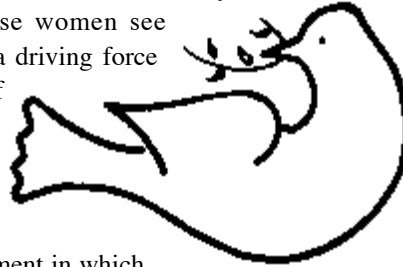
BY Abigail Sloan
Independent Home School

About six hours after crossing the Mexican border, you will find yourself jolting down a dirt road lined with cattle and makeshift huts in all but the middle of nowhere. This is where I first met Dorothy Greatrex - a middle-aged Canadian woman living on the outskirts of an impoverished farming community on the Baja California peninsula of Mexico - on a church mission trip in April 2015. While visiting there, I was introduced to the incredible ministry she had begun to aid women who have been caught in the vicious cycle of abuse, prostitution, and addiction. Dorothy's ministry helps these women escape and recover from their lives of violence, poverty, and distress by providing them with both immediate and long-term aid. When one of these women leaves behind her old way of life, a new world is opened up to her - a chance to lead a life of peace, dignity, and hope. Not only is peace brought to the life of each woman, but it spreads to families, to communities, and eventually across the globe. The life of Dorothy Greatrex is a true example of what it means to be a hero for peace.

Dorothy was serving in a rehabilitation center in Baja California in 2003 when she met Maria, an eleven-year-old girl whose family had sold her to a man who made her work as a prostitute. An abortion and an attempted suicide were just some of the traumatic experiences she had been through before she arrived. After rehab, Maria was ready to be released, but had no one to turn to who would take care of her. The man soon returned for her, and it was back to "business as usual" for the helpless girl. Dorothy never saw Maria again, but often wondered what had happened to her, and to the many other girls and women like her. What would become of them when they were older -- when they were no longer wanted and unable to work as they had before? Would their employers simply discard and replace them? What would they do to provide for themselves with no education or vocational skills? It was questions like these that haunted Dorothy and

led her to start New Beginnings Women's Association - the first ministry of its kind in that region - in 2011.

Women arrive at New Beginnings beaten and battered - emotionally as well as physically. They have come to believe the lie they have heard their entire lives: that they are worth nothing to the world. Dorothy's desire to help these women see their true value is a driving force behind the efforts of her ministry. One of Dorothy's goals for New Beginnings is to provide a safe and loving environment in which these women can empower and encourage each other to overcome their pasts. "The only way you will start recovering is if you reach out and do something for someone else," says Dorothy. "If you don't know how to do anything else then go brush her hair, massage her shoulders, massage her hands, wash her feet. And you will heal. It's a recipe that works every time."



From birthday celebrations to the cooking and eating of meals, New Beginnings operates very similarly to a large family. "... There's everything here," says Elvia, a resident of the ministry. "There's sorrows, there's tantrums, there's joys, there's crying." In addition to immediate necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, and medical attention, Dorothy's ministry provides women with personal hygiene and nutrition education, as well as basic life and homemaking skills. They are also able to send their children to school and receive on-the-job training because of the ministry's partnership with businesses in the community. New Beginnings helps women discover and develop their talents, realize their own value, and build their self-confidence. Through it all, Dorothy and her fellow workers desire to show these love-hungry women and children the true, restorative love of Jesus Christ.

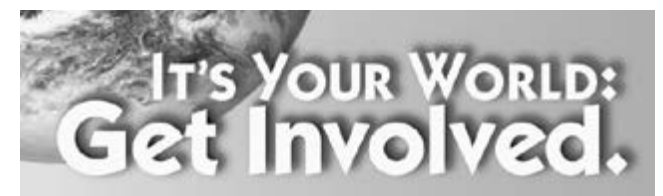
Dorothy and the staff at New Beginnings are faced with daily challenges, one of which is the lack of accommodations available to house so many people. On average, there are about ten women and twenty children living in the five-

bedroom, two-bathroom house. Recently, however, New Beginnings Women's Association purchased a new plot of land in hopes of building a larger facility. Donations of materials, time, and labor are helping to turn the unlevelled plot of land into a livable home. Another challenge she faces is helping the women who come to New Beginnings become good mothers to their children. "Sometimes when they come here they're very abusive to their children, because it's all they've ever known," Dorothy says. Motherly love does not always come naturally. By teaching women how to provide for their children and treat them with affection, Dorothy is helping them create the peaceful family structure that many of them have never had. Their children, also, are no longer destined to end up in similar harmful relationships, but will someday be able to raise up their own families in peace.

Dorothy's work has brought peace to the hearts and lives of many women in the Baja California region of Mexico. Seeing first-hand the effects of the transformation that has taken place in the lives of the residents of New Beginnings - the hopeful attitudes of women discovering their own self-worth, the loving smiles of children who had never known real love, has shown me how much one person can accomplish in helping to create a more peaceful world. By responding when she saw a need, Dorothy began a life-changing ministry that will likely affect generations. This has certainly shown me that although you may not be able to change the world, you may be able to change the world for one person - or more. This could not be truer of the commitment of Dorothy and her ministry. The outlooks of the women at New Beginnings, once colored with despair, are now filled with hope. Dorothy Greatrex is truly a peacemaking hero.

Sources

Greatrex, Dorothy. Personal Interview. April, 2015.
New Beginnings Women's Association. www.newbeginningsbaja.org 2014.



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Homeless: The Costly Logic of Busts and Sweeps

BY ERIC CAINE, *The Valley Citizen*

Whether by coincidence or design, homeless people in Modesto's parks have been subjected to heightened harassment and arrests ever since the new mayor and councilmembers took office. Despite the costs and lack of observable benefits, sweeps and busts are occurring more often than ever.

Years ago Modesto residents learned through bitter experience that the police department was too short-handed to respond to burglaries and other petty crimes, yet lately there seem to be more than enough officers to bust and harass homeless people on a routine basis.

Recently, four officers surrounded and arrested a homeless person involved in a ten dollar sale of methamphetamine. While there's no question we should try to reduce the harm from drug use, there's also no question such busts don't work.

Drug possession is now a misdemeanor in California, not a felony. Selling drugs rises to higher levels of punishment, but focusing on drug use among the homeless is like trying to control floods by damming mud puddles: Big-time dealers sell to customers with homes and money, not destitute homeless people.

Apologists for the arrests and sweeps of homeless people cite trash, needles, drug use, and human waste as justification for their actions, but even they will admit privately arrests and sweeps don't work. When city workers and police move people, tents, and trash out of a local park, they know the people, tents, and trash will be back within days.

Drug users who are arrested ricochet back into the homeless population within weeks or even days. Taxpayers foot the bill while petty "criminals" are incarcerated and fed, then brought to court and released, so that the cycle of sweep, bust, release, and repeat can begin all over again.

Nevertheless, any suggestion of establishing a tent city for homeless people is met with adamant resistance. Rather than concentrate problems, isolate the worst perpetrators, and



POSTER: Monika Schortner

identify the mentally and physically ill, our public officials prefer to move people with nowhere to go out into the streets.

Rousts don't eliminate trash, needles, drug use, and human waste. Instead, they disperse the problems over a wider area that includes private property.

While no one believes tent cities eliminate problems or offer permanent solutions to homelessness, advocates say they at least provide minimal shelter, offer a sense of community, and enable volunteers and officials to identify worst offenders and individuals who could

be helped by existing programs.

Modesto's new mayor has said he will do a line-by-line budget analysis to identify unnecessary expenditures. It would benefit everyone if he were to calculate the man hours wasted on busts and sweeps that are little more than costly exercises in futility.

People familiar with the many mentally ill homeless people soon realize rousts and arrests only exacerbate their illness. After a while, the sole end seems to be punishment itself.

If busts and rousts don't work and are expensive to boot, you've got to wonder why we keep using them, especially against our helpless homeless population. But maybe that's the point: Maybe we're busting them precisely because they're helpless.

About Eric Caine

Eric Caine teaches in the Humanities Department at Merced College. He was an original Community Columnist at The Modesto Bee, and wrote for The Bee for over twelve years.

Read The Valley Citizen at <http://thevalleycitizen.com/>. Reprinted with permission

Homeless cooking utensils: donate to the "Kitchen Korner"

By SANDY SAMPLE

The Peace/Life Center's Homeless Project is initiating an effort to provide basic kitchen supplies to homeless individuals or families who have been able to find housing. We're calling this project "Kitchen Korner" at this point, though we'll welcome suggestions for a less-cutesy name.



We'll be collecting and distributing basic kitchen supplies for preparing and serving meals (see list of needed items below). We will be receiving referrals from CIVC (Community Impact Central

Valley), an agency that helps homeless people find permanent housing.

We're now in the kitchen-item-collecting stage, and will be able to begin distributing supplies as soon as we have a variety of items. We've created storage space at the Peace/Life Center, but that space is limited.

On an ongoing basis, here is what we'll need: large and small plates, soup/cereal bowls, cups or mugs, drinking glasses, silverware, kitchen knives, serving bowls, baking containers (pie plates, cake pans, baking sheets, casserole dishes, etc.), measuring cups and spoons, kitchen utensils (paring knives, ladles, scoops, graters, sieves, scrapers, etc.), potholders, dishtowels. etc. We'll also need electric items like toasters, small toaster ovens, small microwaves, blenders, coffeemakers, hot pots, small mixers, etc.

If you want to help people who are experiencing homelessness, this maybe a way for you to contribute to a safer, more secure future for them and for our community.

If you have used or new items to donate, or want more information, leave a message at 209-222-8624, or call Sandy at 209-523-8445, Shelly at 209-521-6304, or Frank at 209-556-2376.

Thank you for your interest and willingness to become involved with this effort.

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Father of the Public Peace Process

By LIBBY & LEN TRAUBMAN, ltraubman@igc.org

“Governments cannot do the whole job themselves. Increasingly, change comes from the bottom up and not from the top down. Increasingly governments find themselves paralyzed to do what they ought to do.

And the Arab-Israeli peace process is a very good example of a conflict in which political authorities seem paralyzed and unable to do what they need to do. Small wonder then that groups (of citizens increasingly) gather. . .to attempt to change that relationship from the inside out.”

— Amb. Harold “Hal” Saunders (1930-2016)

Hal Saunders, beloved mentor and visionary, died peacefully at home from his unforgiving cancer early this morning. In the spirit of Dialogue and our equal humanity, he would not have wanted this to entitle him Ambassador or Dr. which he was.

In the U.S. Department of State, Hal facilitated five successful Arab-Israelis treaties.

After government service, he named and championed the “public peace process” and created the **Sustained Dialogue Institute** — <http://sustaineddialogue.org>

He especially treasured the youth of it’s **Sustained**

Dialogue Campus Network — <http://sustaineddialogue.org/our-work/campus/>

Hal defined these 2000s as **The Citizens’ Century**. His intellect, wisdom, and heart is understood by **his books:**

A PUBLIC PEACE PROCESS: Sustained Dialogue to Transform Racial and Ethnic Conflicts, (1999).

POLITICS IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP: A Worldview of The Citizens’ Century, (2005).

SUSTAINED DIALOGUE IN CONFLICTS: Transformation and Change, (2011).

Hal and his wife, Carol, have loved — given fully of themselves to awaken especially young adults to become innovators and exemplars of relationship building and communication excellence.

READ more about Hal in Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_H._Saunders

STUDY the 1991 signed document Framework for a Public Peace Process: <http://traubman.igc.org/ppp.pdf>

VIEW GRAPHICS illustrating Dialogue and the Public Peace Process of Change — <http://traubman.igc.org/changechartsall.pdf>

WATCH VIDEO: *The Public Peace Process: 1991 announcement by Ambassador Harold Saunders;* <https://vimeo.com/157965252>

Let us live this life.

It is about love, Hal said.

From <http://traubman.igc.org/messages/693.htm>

A MODESTO OPPORTUNITY? — 2016 3rd Annual Gathering of the Global Homeboy Network

Sunday, August 7th - Tuesday, August 9th

Location: The California Endowment, 1000 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Registration for 2016 is not open yet. Please email GlobalHomeboyNetwork@homeboyindustries.org with questions.

PAST WORKSHOP TOPICS HAVE INCLUDED:

Mental Health; Recovery & Resilience; Case Management; Peer Navigators & Mentorship; Educational Spaces; Fatherhood Support; Engaging Youth; Street Outreach Social Entrepreneurial Programs; Law Enforcement Programs; Partnerships; Fundraising; Marketing; Social Enterprise

Hotels near Homeboy Industries can be found at this link.

Tours of Homeboy Industries will be available upon request on Wednesday, August 10th. If interested, please contact Alegria at acastro@homeboyindustries.org

For sponsorship information, email Alexa at arouso@homeboyindustries.org

This gathering will bring together a variety of non-profit, institutional, and governmental agencies who have implemented, sought technical assistance, and/or expressed interest in learning more about the Homeboy comprehensive therapeutic approach to helping young men and women reclaim and reset their lives. We will share successes and lessons learned and spend quality/spiritual time with each other.

In the past 2 years, over 150 organizations from every



continent have attended! Nearly 200 attendees joined in sharing, learning, and experiencing new ideas, methods, and approaches.

This year we have expanded the 2016 Gathering to include two full days of longer,

multi-tiered, and more interactive learning presentations and discussions. We hope you will join us and contribute your organization’s voice, insights, and stories in order to strengthen and advance the work of the Global Homeboy Network.

Your commitment, passion, and relentless spirit will improve the way we care for and serve disenfranchised members of society who today live on the margins but who tomorrow will be constructively and positively contributing to the fabric of our communities. We hope to see you in Los Angeles in August.

ACTION: email: GlobalHomeboyNetwork@homeboyindustries.org

Volunteers needed for Earth Days

The Modesto Peace/Life Center needs volunteers for Earth Day to staff our booth. We will be greeting people selling buttons and stickers, distributing information and promoting our activities. We are looking at 2 hour shifts with 2 people at a time. The details are:

MJC Earth Day

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016.

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. plus time before to get materials and set up, and after to return materials to the Peace/Life Center.

Location: MJC West Campus, 2201 Blue Gum Ave, Modesto

Earth Day in the Park

Date: Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. plus setup and return.

Location: Graceada Park, Needham Ave., downtown Modesto

Please let Ken Schroeder know if you would like to volunteer; (209) 480-4576; kschroeder70@yahoo.com

The Daily Metta: Are we moving too fast?

“I wholeheartedly detest this mad desire to destroy distance and time.”

— Gandhi, *Mind of Mahatma Gandhi*, p. 233

In order to see life as it is, to see people as they are, not to mention ourselves, we have to slow down. Instead of long walks or journeys, we fly from one place to the other or drive as fast as we can. Instead of writing letters, we are texting or emailing at all moments of the day as though it were a compulsion. Where there was room for silence before, for waiting, for reflecting, now, thanks to our technologies, we are obligated to make split decisions from everything to how I feel about your opinions to how I feel about the latest statement from a political candidate. It’s hard to hear our hearts in the midst of this chaotic, incessant effort, as Gandhi said, “to destroy distance and time.” If Gandhi had patience with people who opposed him, could even love and admire them, that was partly due to his efforts at slowing down, at honoring distance and time, which ironically leads to prioritizing, not neglecting, our relationships with others and our planet.

Sign up for Daily Metta and receive inspirational emails for your nonviolence path. Daily Metta is brought to you by the **Metta Center for Nonviolence** and is devoted to topics such as wise action, heart unity, and human dignity. Visit <http://mettacenter.org>

Father Gregory Boyle

from page 1

and confidant. The women of the parish provided carne asadas, a weight room offered recreation, and gang members began to “kick it” inside the church. Recognizing the near hopeless prospects of gang members, drop outs and ex convicts finding jobs, Father Greg and his allies started **Jobs for a Future** and put them to work building a child care center, on maintenance and landscaping crews and doing graffiti removal.

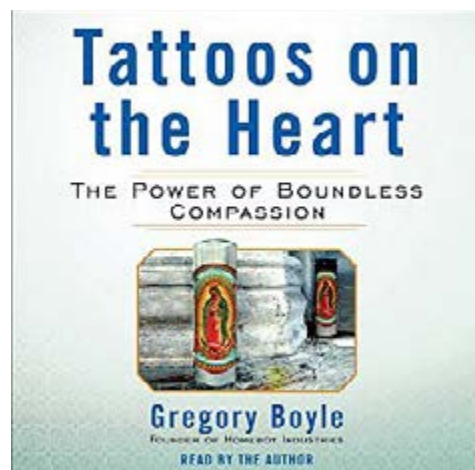
Gradually Father Greg’s efforts attracted the admiration and help of affluent Angelenos, and Homeboy Industries was born. The non-profit today provides hundreds of jobs in its bakery, screen printing shop, Homeboy Diner, Homegirl Cafe and elsewhere. Homeboy Industries, a \$10 million enterprise whose services are provided free of charge to those who ask for help in leaving the gang life, also offers tattoo removal, a medical clinic, mental health and drug counseling, job readiness, GED prep courses and housing location services. More than 10,000 enter the doors each year.

“It is easier to raise money for homeless puppies than for gang rehabilitation.”

The road was never easy. Church hierarchy was skeptical, if not downright oppositional. Police and probation workers were dismissive. Gang wars raged hotter and the funerals continued non-stop. The bakery burned down. Recessions forced layoffs and threatened to bankrupt the whole program. Father Greg was diagnosed with leukemia. Through it all Father Greg has focused on what he calls the healing power of boundless compassion.

“I have never seen a hopeful person join a gang,” he says. Why are they so hopeless? Father Greg says there are only three reasons: they have never seen a successful life, they have been so traumatized that drugs and gangs offer a convenient escape, or they suffer from mental illness. All may occur simultaneously and all must be addressed.

As for so-called ‘scared straight’ programs, Father Greg counsels that preaching to at-risk teens about the twin perils of death or imprisonment if they join gangs is pointless. They are not only aware of the



consequences, they have likely already experienced them in their own extended families. And they don’t care. They are planning their funerals, not their futures. Kids join gangs for only one reason: they have no hope. The lack of any conviction that tomorrow can be better than today is the hallmark of gang bangers.

Contributing to the cycle of hopelessness is the marginalization that society practices. “It is easier to raise money for homeless puppies than for gang rehabilitation,” says Father Greg. When those who provide services see these kids as the “other”, it is easy to pass judgment. We cannot “fix” these kids by imposing our own solutions. “I would rather stand in awe of the burdens these kids bear than stand in judgment of the way they bear them,” he relates. “There is no ‘us and them,’ only ‘us’.” The measure of our compassion lies not in our services to those on the margins, but in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship. We must rekindle the sense of kinship, the sense that we all belong to each other. Only when we recognize that we belong to each other can we offer boundless compassion and the buoyancy of hope.”



ACTION: Homeboy Industries declines offers to expand their operations beyond Los Angeles, but Father Greg and his crew, through Global Homeboy Network, will assist other communities to initiate their own programs on the Homeboy model. More information may be found at www.homeboyindustries.org



Truth

Some people think I’m not worth it,
I’m a no good junkie,
I’m dysfunctional, rude, harsh.
Some people think I’m a bitch.
But the truth is I put up a front,
I’m very straight up, I’ve been hurt,
I’m loving and caring.
The truth is everyone’s life is different
and I don’t take the negative.
Some people think I’ve got no potential,
that I’m a lost cause, stupid, bad,
that I’ll never change.
that I won’t make it anywhere.
But really I’m a leader,
I’m smart. I do care. No matter what.
Little by little my life will change.
People should know I have my own story.
I am strong, I am independent.
I want to be loved.
I have feelings just like anyone.
Some days I’m like a wild fire,
Like a crushing boulder, like a volcano.
Other days I am a spring-blooming flower,
A fire-shooting dragon, a carefree bird
flying in the wind. I’m a sweetheart.
Someday I will use my flaws as advantages,
I’ll be stronger, sober, have a job,
have a family, have a house near the beach.
And then the world will see that I am a leader
smart and strong, more than just my past actions.
The world will see it’ll be me who succeeds.
The world will see that I am somebody
And that I’m actually, truly, completely worth it all.

~ Girls of Unit 8, Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall, February 2016

Green Tips for a Green Planet: Listen to the birds

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

In recent years I noticed that birds I used to see – an evening grosbeak, a flycatcher, a barn swallow – were no longer around. With my busy life, I thought maybe I was just missing them. Then I discovered that this was not the case. Songbirds are disappearing, and their absence is a message to us all.

To understand why this is happening, and what can be done...over the course of a year, following the seasons and the birds, our team filmed on three different continents. We discovered that the causes are many, and the solutions are few. Yet around the world, we met people who are concerned and are working for change – as this is not just about the future of birds, it's about us too. Humans share an ageless bond with birds, their song, and their persistent presence in our lives. In ancient times, to predict the future, humans looked to the flights and songs of birds. Today once more, the birds have something to tell us. For me, the first step was to simply stop, listen and see for myself what was going on in the skies above. - Su Rynard, filmmaker/director of *The Messenger*.

After watching the film, *The Messenger*, I began to observe that the flocks of Cedar Wax Wings and countless Robins, Blue Jays and other birds who came to feast on the fruit high up in our prolific Fuyu Persimmon tree were a mere handful of birds this last Autumn. I also noticed when walking or hiking in natural habitats that birds and other animal sightings were sparse. It is as though the landscape has been "Rounded Up" and sterilized.

Yes, the rain has come and awakened the beauty of wild flowers and lush grasses, long dormant in the dust of a long California drought. Perhaps that dormancy and the ability of seeds to live encapsulated in harsh conditions made them able to burst into colors of spring. They were not dependent upon poisoned water, foul air, backyard cats, and the many other harmful effects of human disregard for climate change and our co-dependency with the global environment.

I invite all our readers to see *The Messenger*, then follow director Su Rynard's example and..."simply stop, listen, and see for [yourself] what is going on in the skies above."

Many suggestions for protecting our birds are available on the Audubon Society website, and we can start at home by creating a bird-friendly yard. Consider the following checklist taken from an Audubon article entitled "Protect Birds in Your Backyard":

The presence of birds helps preserve our environment, supports our economy and enriches our lives. Today, how-

ever, many bird species across our nation are in trouble and several populations are in decline. There are many causes for these declines, including loss of habitat, introduction of invasive plants and animals, toxic environmental contaminants, and a variety of human-made hazards. Reversing these declines will require improving habitat and reducing hazards throughout birds' migratory ranges. Urban natural areas, stream corridors, neighborhoods and backyards all have an important role in helping to protect and preserve these feathered friends.

Migrating birds' survival may very well depend on whether they can find a safe place to rest and feed in your neighborhood. With a little extra effort, you may even be able to create a place for birds to nest!

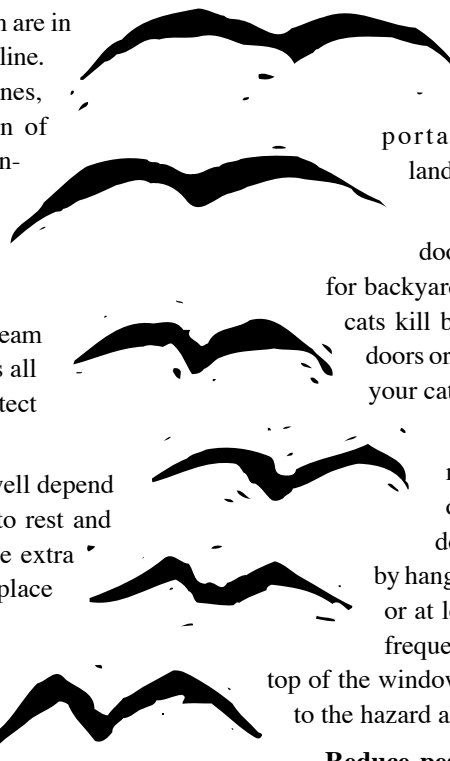
The following checklist will allow you to create a "bird friendly" backyard. It is important to consider each of the different elements together. Creating bird habitat but ignoring hazards such as cats and pesticides can create a situation that does more harm than good.

To create a bird-friendly yard:

Feed birds responsibly: Provide them with natural habitat and food sources. Bird feeders can add additional nutrition to their diets and provide better opportunities to view the birds in your yard. Always use natural, fresh seeds, feed small amounts daily and clean feeders once a week with a 10 percent bleach solution. If you see sick birds at feeders, stop feeding for at least three weeks and allow birds to disperse.

Provide a source of water: Providing a source of clean water for drinking and bathing is a surefire way to increase the number and diversity of birds in your yard. A flat-bottomed, shallow bowl with ½-1 inch of water in it will work best. Water should be changed every other day.

Naturescape your yard: Plant a combination of native plants and trees to provide birds with cover, food and nesting opportunities. Group several of the same species together with the largest species towards the edge of the yard to create a songbird border. Include evergreens for cover, thorny species to create nesting opportunities and berry-producing shrubs such as snowberry, salmonberry, red flowering currant and



huckleberry to provide food.

Install bird nest boxes: Nest boxes can provide birds with important nesting opportunities in an urban landscape.

Keep cats indoors: Free-roaming outdoor cats present one of the greatest hazards for backyard birds. Studies show that even well-fed cats kill birds. Wherever possible, house cats indoors or in secure outdoor enclosures. It will keep your cats safer too!

Reduce window strikes: Scientists estimate that window strikes may be second only to habitat loss in accounting for bird deaths each year. Reduce window strikes by hanging bird feeders within 3 feet of windows or at least 20 feet away. If window strikes are frequent try hanging mylar tape strips from the top of the window. The flashing tape will often alert birds to the hazard ahead.

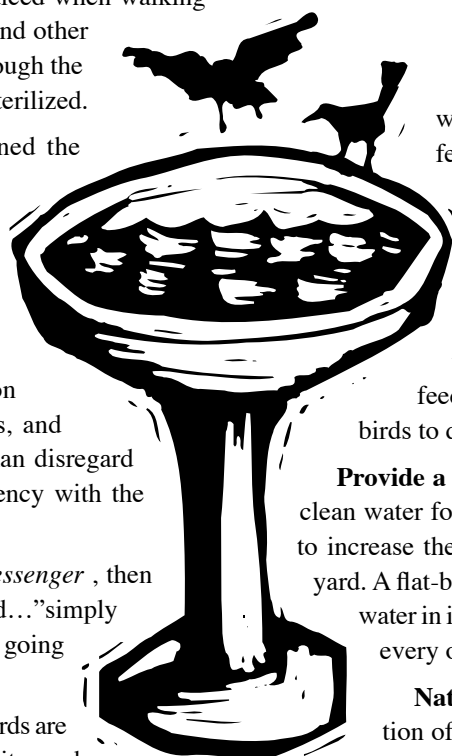
Reduce pesticides and fertilizers: Pesticides and fertilizers pollute our streams, poison our wildlife and destroy beneficial insects on which many birds depend for survival. Planting with native plants that thrive in our environment and reducing lawn area can help reduce weed problems.


Remove invasive, non-native plant species: Many invasive, non-native plant species destroy native habitat and with it, plants on which birds depend for survival.

Create a brush pile: Pile up downed tree limbs to create a brush pile, a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.

Help bird scientists by reporting the birds you see to eBird or Project Feeder Watch: eBird offers an opportunity to access a permanent record of the birds you have seen. Project Feeder Watch provides a starter kit to help identify your birds. Go to: www.ebird.org or www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/.

Enjoy the birds and spring color, as you help them along with a bird-friendly yard.





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Hispanics in Philanthropy Announces Next Generation Leadership Program

From Hispanics in Philanthropy

(OAKLAND, California) In an effort to expand the diversity of future leadership in the philanthropic sector, Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP), with support from the American Express Foundation, announces its Next Generation Latino Philanthropy Leadership Program.

A 32-year-old U.S.-based nonprofit, HIP's mission is to strengthen leadership, voice, and equity in the Latino community, with a focus on the formal philanthropic sector. A 2015 Foundation Center report revealed that, while Hispanics will make up approximately half of the US workforce by 2025, just 6-8% of trustees and only 2% of CEOs at grantmaking institutions today are Hispanic. In light of this, HIP decided action must be taken to help shift this lopsided representation. The Next Generation Latino Philanthropy Leadership Program, launched in October 2015, is the initiative that HIP created as a solution.

The goal of the Leadership Program is to support the leadership development training of emerging Latino philanthropic leaders with the long-term goal of increasing diversity in the philanthropic field. "We're pleased to support this cohort of amazing, dynamic, innovative Latino leaders as they work to improve the equity and voice of our communities throughout the United States," said HIP President Diana Campoamor.

Anne Hand, HIP Program Manager, states, "We received 99 applications for this exciting new program, and we believe if we had included a broader recruitment campaign, we would have received many more. We couldn't be happier about this high level of interest in fostering leadership by and for the Hispanic community."

"American Express has a proven commitment to training emerging leaders across the nonprofit and social purpose sectors," said Timothy J. McClimon, President of the American Express Foundation. "Our partnership with HIP is an exciting opportunity to encourage the growth of Latino leaders, ensuring diverse voices are heard and actively represented across the nonprofit space."

In December, HIP named the Leadership Program's first cohort of 45 Fellows: professional men and women from nineteen states and Washington, DC, working in the philanthropic, nonprofit, and governmental sectors. A full list of the 2016 cohort of HIP Next Generation Latino Leaders can be found here.

[Ed note: Turlock's Victor Mitre, Jr., Director of Development and Stewardship for the Diocese of Stockton, was recently accepted into this program. Reach him at VMitreJr@stocktondiocese.org]

The Next Generation Latino Philanthropy Leadership Program takes place via online webinars, telephone meetings, and through a virtual community. The goal of the program is to diversify the field of philanthropy by providing Latino leaders with trainings and mentoring opportunities aimed at building their leadership and networking skills.

For more information about HIP, visit <http://www.hiponline.org/events/2016-leadership-convening-and-gala>

ABOUT AMERICAN EXPRESS: DEVELOPING NEW LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

One of American Express' three philanthropic platforms is Developing New Leaders for Tomorrow. American Express makes grants focused on training high potential emerging leaders to tackle important issues in the 21st century. Nearly 16,000 emerging nonprofit and social sector leaders worldwide have benefited from American Express leadership programs.

Visit leaderstories.org to be inspired and connect with nonprofit leaders facing society's most complex issues.

CONTACT: Anne Hand, Program Manager, Health and Education Focused Initiatives

Anne.hand@hiponline.org; 415-837-0427 ext. 3300.

Modesto Garden Club Spring Tour on April 16

Iconic "House in the middle of the street" on tour, plus drought tolerant landscapes

Submitted by MAREE HAWKINS

The Modesto Garden Club's Spring Garden Tour, which takes place Saturday, April 16, from

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., includes an iconic house and garden in the middle of a city street and several water-wise gardens. All locations are within minutes of McHenry and Morris avenues in Modesto.

Tour chair Gerry Yockey says each location was selected for uniqueness, beauty and design. "Many of the homeowners admit they didn't have a well-thought-out plan," she says, "but simply began with an idea, such as low maintenance, water wise plants, an outdoor living space, or a few plants that they absolutely loved." Yockey adds, "The hope is that these gardens will inspire you, give you the courage to try something different in your own garden."

Tour proceeds fund six \$1500 county-wide scholarships each year and plants and maintenance of the club's civic beautification projects, including the downtown flower clock, 232 large pots downtown that are planted twice a year, the Virginia Corridor Memorial Rose Garden, the Senior citizen Center on Bodem Street and 13 large trees planted in the new 10th Street Project. The Modesto Garden was founded in 1924.

The most unique house on the tour is a 6000 square foot craftsman farm house built between 1907 and 1913 in an olive grove outside of the city. The olive grove was subdivided as

the town grew, sending city streets around the house. The current owners have lived in the home 40 years and have made substantial changes over the years. The landscaping has been designed to honor redwoods, pine, cedar and citrus trees, some of which are 100 years old. While the front yard is small, the back yard holds surprises for the visit with game and conversational areas.

The tour will also feature a bungalow kit home purchased in 1922 from Sears & Roebuck and company for \$1830. The model name "The Clyde" is on the brass plaque located on a brick pilaster in front of the home.

A number of the gardens showcase drought tolerant features. One includes over two hundred plants in the front yard that provide a variety of color, texture, height and form. The homeowner will also share his experience in converting the yard to its drought tolerant status. Another garden has been a work in progress since 2012. The homeowner spent hours planning, and then executing a plan guided by design principles, simplicity, and ease of maintenance. The latest addition is an underground water system.

At one location attendees will discover a landscape inspired by the forests in the eastern United States. There is also a pond on site. In another garden the homeowner had no plan other than plant tall things in the middle. Then she

started "planting and planting", resulting in a colorful garden of roses, daisies and hundreds of annuals plus a small vegetable garden.

Also on tour is the Modesto Garden Club office at 622 14th St. This remodeled bungalow is a downtown oasis, providing a number of demonstration gardens as well as a small meeting space.

INFORMATION:

What: The Modesto Garden Club's Spring Garden Tour

When: Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$20 general, \$10 children under 10 (no strollers allowed).

Tickets: Tour is self-guided. A map supplied with ticket purchase. Tickets available at local nurseries in Modesto, Riverbank, Escalon, Ripon, Turlock, and Newman and other locations in Modesto now and on the day of the event. Visit www.modestogardenclub.org for ticket locations or online purchases.

Good to know: Bathrooms are not available, wear comfortable shoes and no strollers.

Info: Dan Yockey, 209-661-6554



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

APRIL

ONGOING: Modesto Area Partners in Science, Fridays, 7:30 pm, Sierra Hall 132, MJC West Campus except where noted; <http://murov.info/MAPS-spring.pdf>. **April 15:** Everything You Wanted to Know about Climate Change But Were Afraid to Ask. Daniel Kammen (UCB) and Linda Rudolph (Public Health Institute), <http://murov.info/climate.pdf>. 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm, MJC West Campus, Mary Stuart Rogers Student Center.

MJC SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM, 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Science 115, West Campus, 2201 Blue Gum Ave. FREE. Campus parking: \$2.00. **April 6:** Jim Youngblom, Ph.D., CSU Stanislaus, "CRISPR: A Tool for Genome Editing." **Apr 13:** Guy Van Cleave, YCCD Biologist (Ret) "The Baja Experience: Just as Powerful As Ever!"

4-16 Victory Over Violence Exhibit inspires people to put into action ways to win over violence by counteracting the root causes of violence internally, within their homes and, in their communities. Merced Library, 2100 O St., Merced. Visit www.vov.com

4 MON: 23rd Annual Habitat for Humanity Dinner. Martin Peterson Event Center, 750 12th St., Modesto. 6 pm. Dinner, desert, \$35.00. Silent auction, music. Reservations by April 1. contact Jessica Narayan, 209-575-4585 ext. 115 or jnarayan@stanislaushabitat.org

6 WED: Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGIL on Homelessness. McHenry & J St., 4:30-5:30 pm. NEW TIME.

7 THURS: Film, The Hunting Ground, about rape on college campuses. Collaboration of the Stanislaus Family Justice Center, Haven Women's Center and the Community Services Agency during Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Awareness month. State Theatre, 1307 J. St., 7:00 pm. <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/682>

10 SUN: Sunday Afternoons at CBS presents *Jaffa Road*, "a fearless band of creative souls with the personnel to do anything they can imagine." 3 pm 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto. Tickets: \$25/Adults; \$20/Seniors & Students; \$7 children. Call (209) 571-6060. Visit <http://sundaysatcbs.com/>

13 WED: MJC Earth Day. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. MJC West Campus, 2201 Blue Gum Ave., Modesto. Visit our table. To help, contact Ken Schroeder, kschroeder70@yahoo.com

17 SUN: The Modesto Film Society presents *Harvey*. State Theatre, 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/518>

20 WED: Film Night at the Center: The Hunting Ground, 6:30 pm. at the Center, 720 13th St., Modesto. Discussion will follow. See article, p 3.

23 SAT: Earth Day in the Park. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Graceada Park, Needham Ave., Modesto. To help, contact Ken Schroeder, kschroeder70@yahoo.com

28 THURS: Epsilon Nu Chapter/DKG presents a classic film "Fun" **Raiser, Breakfast at Tiffany's**. State Theatre, 1307 J. St., Doors open, 5:30 pm, film, 7:00 pm. Wine, appetizers, raffle baskets. Benefits Education Foundation of Stanislaus County, SCOE, The State Theatre, scholarships, and our local library. <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/658>

LOOKING AHEAD

May 5 and 6: Fundraiser for the Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus County. *THE SIRENS* - a play by Darrah Cloud, 7:30 p.m. Gallo Arts Center Foster Family Theatre. Tickets start at \$10.00. Available at <http://tickets.galloarts.org>

May 7: Friends of the Modesto Library Used Book Sale. Modesto Library East Portico, 1500 I St. \$1 hardbound, 50 cents paperback. Donations accepted until mid-April. CONTACT: Clare Noonan, 522-5054, clarenoo@gmail.com

June 23-26: 34th annual Peace Camp in the Sierra. Registration form, p. 2.

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; 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, 9:00 am-10:30 am, 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/>

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

MONDAYS

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 (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.

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), 4:30-5:30 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.

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

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/>

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

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 Gallery 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>

A Buddhist Approach to Recovery from Addiction. 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 the Red Event Center, 921 8th St., Modesto. 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 first Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 937 Oxford Way, Modesto. Questions: Call Kathy, 523-5907.

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

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