



Stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO
PEACE/LIFE
CENTER
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VOLUME XXVII, NO. 4

Building Your Community Radio Station Update!

By **JAMES COSTELLO**
KCBP 95.5 FM General Manager

Construction on our permanent radio tower west of Patterson is moving along! Trenches have been dug, and cement is being poured. Our tower (pole) is ready to be delivered as is the shed to house the transmitter. Once finished, we will broadcast at 6kw from 810 feet all over the valley.

KCBP 95.5 FM, continues to broadcast at low-power from 2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and web streams at www.kcbpradio.org 24 hours a day. Take and listen and let us know what you think!

To truly serve the community, we need volunteers with and without radio experience to help program local shows, music, poetry,

plays and discuss current issues and events. We also need donors and businesses to underwrite our programs.

ACTION: to volunteer, contact outreach coordinator Jocelyn Cooper at the Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750, or email jocelyn-cooper2012@gmail.com. To donate, send your check to Dave Tucker, memo: "Radio KCBP" at Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353. Or go the KCBP Radio website at <http://kcbpradio.org/> and click on the Donate button.



YOU CAN HELP: Organizations accepting donations for Camp Fire relief

Submitted by **LUELLA COLE**

From Capital Public Radio sources

The Chico-based nonprofit North Valley Community Foundation is accepting online donations to an Evacuation Relief Fund that will support organizations that are sheltering Camp Fire evacuees.

The Butte County Office of Education has set up a Schools Relief Fund, administered online by the North Valley Community Foundation, to directly benefit Butte County schools. Donors can either specify a district or use for their money (such as textbooks or clothes) or make an open donation.

The United Way of Northern California has established a NorCal Fire Relief Fund to benefit Camp Fire relief efforts, including

"direct cash assistance for survivors, assistance to partner agencies in their provision of direct services to survivors, and United Way operations that directly assist survivors." Donate online or by texting BUTTEFIRE to 91999. Businesses and organizations interested in contributing to the fund can call Jacob Peterson at 530-241-7521 or 916-218-5424. You can also email him at jpeterston@norcalunitedway.org

The Salvation Army is accepting monetary donations to support their immediate response efforts. You can give online or by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-725-2769). Donations by mail may be designated "Camp

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Annual Modesto Peace/Life Center Holiday Party Potluck & Song Fest

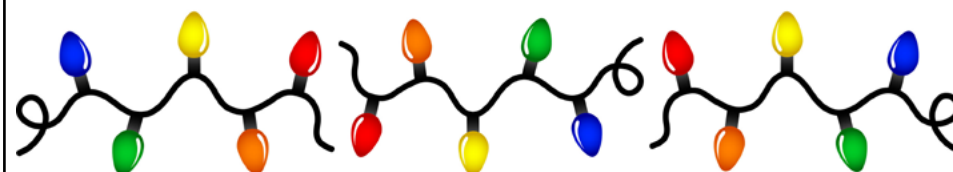
Friday December 7, 2018

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

At the home of Dan & Alice Onorato

1532 Vernon Ave., Modesto

Bring your festive spirit and food to share!
Bring a new, unwrapped Children's book (K-1 to K-6)
Information: 526-5436



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

Feast, sing, and bring a book, Friday, December 7

By DAN ONORATO

Despite the bombs, racism, and fear that seem to engulf our world, we refuse to lose heart. In the face of hatred and bigotry, we hold a light to the darkness, and we'll keep on building community and caring, as we'll do at the Peace/Life Center's Annual Holiday Potluck Songfest on Friday, December 7, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at Alice and Dan Onorato's home at 1532 Vernon Avenue in Modesto.

It's a potluck so bring your favorite dish and a beverage to share. After a hearty feast we'll sing with gusto—not just holiday songs but folk and pop favorites, with maestro John Poat, lead singer of the local band Wooden Nickle, coaxing our voices and spirits to soar with gleeful abandon.

And don't forget to bring a new book or two for a K-6th grade child at Wilson Elementary School. Many of the families and households of students there are low-income and don't have many books. So, each year at this event, we try to gather as many new books as gifts. Don't wrap the book(s) you bring. That way the teachers can give the right reading level to each student.



Peace/Life Center looking for volunteers

The Modesto Peace/Life Center needs volunteers to assist with projects, events, our radio project (radio knowledge, skills needed), fundraising, and administrative activities. No experience necessary. Experience in social media, Word, Excel, or other special skills are desired for some volunteer positions. We need volunteers for a few hours per week, or an ongoing commitment.

For more information, contact our volunteer/outreach coordinators: Susan Bower or Jocelyn Cooper at the Peace Life Center (209) 529-5750.

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Open by appointment.

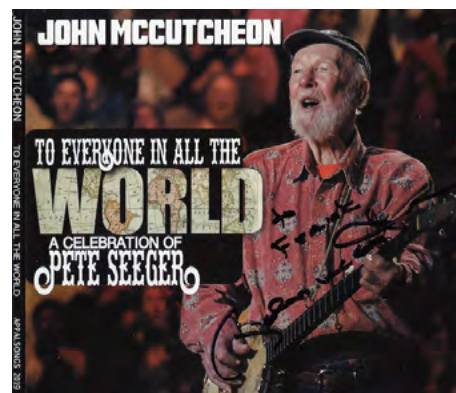
Mailing address: P.O. Box 134,
Modesto, CA 95353
209-529-5750

A note from John McCutcheon

My long labor of love, **To Everyone in All the World: A Celebration of Pete Seeger**, is finally done and is slated for a January release.

This album was, without question, the most complicated recording project I've ever mounted. With contributions coming in from a wide variety of musicians in numerous countries, inevitable slip-ups, and lots of balls in the air to juggle, it was with both satisfaction of a sense of melancholy that we completed this, our fortieth recording. Pete has been such a constant presence in my life and world it's taken a lot of adjustment to think of him in the past tense. And so many of the songs have been a soundtrack to so many lives, it was with no small amount of trepidation that I reworked and reimagined the pieces. My old pals Beausoleil, Katia Cardenal, Hot Rize, Tim O'Brien, Corey Harris, Finest Kind, and Stuart Duncan were all game to try something new...and honor Pete's music and legacy. New friends like Suzy Bogguss and The Steel Wheels chimed in with stunning performances. It was an honor to make the music.

As we listened to the final mixes, my long-time co-producer and engineer, Bob Dawson, wondered "if we'd ever do another one of these." He didn't mean an album quite like this. He meant: an album. In these days of near-negligible CD sales, slumping downloads, and the ascendance of digital



streaming as the dominant delivery system for recorded music, it makes almost no financial sense to release a CD. Why not simply record individual tracks and release them as digital-only songs?

One reason is that I'm old-fashion enough to believe in the album format, that ability of a collection of songs to tell a story that is greater than the sum of its individual parts. Sequencing matters. Those little gems hiding somewhere in an album that

give context and meaning beyond their own stories...those are discoveries everyone has had. And it goes without saying that the compressed sound of an mp3 is so far below that standard that we work so hard to achieve, I cannot imagine not having the option of hearing true high-fidelity sound via a CD or, even better, an LP.

So, yeah, we'll continue to do these commercially-questionable things. It's what we do. But we really count on you all to keep convincing us that it's worth doing by buying one every so often. Thanks for that.

"To Everyone in All the World: A Celebration of Pete Seeger" will be available at John's Jan. 15 Modesto concert.

Visit John's website at <https://www.folkmusic.com>

Do you value outcomes that include a sense of belonging, a feeling of security, increased self-esteem and confidence, and enthusiasm towards life?

Want to empower at-risk youth to become successful members of society through positive interactions with role models and peers while developing useful job skills?

Consider visiting Modesto Sound's free open-to-the-public monthly board meetings where decisions are made on things such as the best way to involve the community with grants received from the National Endowment of the Arts and the California Arts Council. Since 2005 Modesto Sound has provided audio recordings to 685 artists, trained over 248 youth on audio and job skills, held hundreds of concerts, recorded 165 radio shows, and recorded thousands of public service announcements.

Details for the monthly meeting:

Where: Media Building on the corner of Santa Barbara and Yosemite Boulevard (110 Santa Barbara Avenue, Modesto)

When: The second Tuesday of every month 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Get a warm welcome from Janet Seay, Executive Director of Modesto Sound, who welcomes your ideas!

Why: It's fun to get out and meet new people while helping others! Why sit on the sidelines when you could get involved and see what resources are available now to help young people in our area gain useful job skills: such as teamwork, verbal & written communication, and leadership, all while creating music and artistic media.

More Info: 209-573-0533 modestosound.org



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MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER

John McCutcheon returns in concert to Modesto January 15

By KEN SCHROEDER

Six-time Grammy nominated folk musician John McCutcheon performs in his 17th benefit concert for the Modesto Peace/Life Center on Tuesday, Jan. 15 (Martin Luther King's birthday!) at 7pm at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Johnny Cash called him "the most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard." John is a master of the guitar, banjo, hammer dulcimer, piano, autoharp and fiddle. His socially and politically conscious songs inspire us, his songs about family and every-day life move us and his wicked sense of humor entertains us. Beyond entertainment, his concerts bring us together in a sense of community and shared values.

John's latest (and 40th!), newly-released album, **To Everyone in All the World: a Celebration of Pete Seeger**, will be available at the concert. Pete said of John, "John McCutcheon is not only one of the best musicians in the USA, but also a great singer, songwriter, and song leader. And not just incidentally, he is committed to helping hard-working people everywhere to organize and push this world in a better direction."

Mark and Cindy Lemaire will open the concert. Mark is known for his unique guitar style, with a delicate touch that goes straight to your heart. While his solo guitar pieces stand



as complete statements, Mark's harmonies with Cindy are so perfectly matched that they seem like two people with one voice, creating something both authentic and unique. They tour the world, performing in 2018 from New Zealand to Scotland to Canada, as well as here in the states.

Tickets are \$23 in advance, \$26 at the door and youth 24 and under are \$10. Online tickets sales are at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3911106>.

[brownpapertickets.com/event/3911106](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3911106). Tickets can be purchased in person by check or cash at the Brethren Church, 2301 Woodland Ave., 523-1438, and at Intrinsic Elements, 1214 J St., 409-8510. Both ticket venues are closed Dec. 26-Jan. 1.

For information, contact Ken Schroeder, 209-480-4576. Visit John's website is www.folkmusic.com/

You can sponsor the John McCutcheon concert

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,

For information on sponsorships contact Joseph Homer, 209/681-3596 or Jhomer42@gmail.com

You can dedicate your sponsorship to another. 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 501(c)(3) organization.

Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada

Commission Urges Culture Change to Stop Catastrophic Fires and Tree Deaths

[Ed. Note: this important report, written before the Camp Fire which destroyed the town of Paradise, California, presents detailed plans for forest management to reduce the risk of massive fires.]

The Little Hoover Commission released a new report Monday [February 5, 2018], calling for a dramatic culture change in the way forests are managed to curb a disastrous cycle of wildfire and tree deaths.

Instead of focusing almost solely on fire suppression, the state must institute wide-scale controlled burns and other strategic measures as a tool to reinvigorate forests, inhibit firestorms and help protect air and water quality, according to the Commission's report, *Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada*.

Immediate action is crucial, according to Pedro Nava, chair of the Little Hoover Commission. "Dead trees due to drought and a century of forest mismanagement have dev-

astated scenic landscapes throughout the Sierra range," said Chair Nava. "Rural counties and homeowners alike are staggering under the financial impacts of removing them. We have catastrophe-scale fire danger throughout our unhealthy forests and a growing financial burden for all taxpayers and government like California has never seen."

Over the course of the Commission's year-long study, the number of dead trees in the Sierra rose from 102 million to 129 million. The Commission found that the deadly bark beetle invasion, responsible for the tree kill, signaled a larger problem of mismanaged forests and climate change.

The report, sent to Governor Brown and the Legislature, makes nine recommendations to restore forests back to their historic fire regime. The Commission urges expanded funding for state prescribed fire crews and forest administrators to oversee a transformation to more proactive forest management. Resilient forests improve safety and make economic



sense. The costs of mismanaged forests – for every level of government and many California homeowners in and around the Sierra Nevada – have become an unsustainable burden in California. Firefighting costs in the first half of this fiscal year alone have already topped \$700 million.

In addition, the Commission found that forest treatments should be accelerated and expanded throughout the Sierra Nevada and that there must be greater teamwork between state and federal forestry agencies to plan and implement the work. And, the state must create a long-term bioenergy plan to address the disposal of millions of dead trees as well as fund and develop a public education campaign about the importance of healthy forests in the Sierra Nevada.

The Little Hoover Commission is a bipartisan and independent state agency charged with recommending ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state programs. The Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Governor and the Legislature for their consideration and action.



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Bring your Pest Problems to the UC Master Gardeners!

By ANNE SCHELLMAN, UC Master Gardener Coordinator, Stanislaus County

University of California Cooperative Extension in Stanislaus County is excited to introduce the UC Master Gardener program. Volunteers from the community are trained on home gardening, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices.

If you have a pest or gardening question you need answered, call 209-525-6800 or bring in a sample to the Stanislaus County Building at the Ag Center, located at 3800 Cornucopia Way, Ste A in Modesto. The office is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Interested in becoming a UC Master Gardener? Visit

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/stancountymg/> to read about the program in detail. Click on the big yellow button and fill out a survey to be contacted with information about when the next class starts.

Since 1981, the University of California Master Gardener Program has extended UC research-based information about home horticulture and pest management to the public. The UC Master Gardener Program is a public service and outreach program under the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, administered locally by participating UC Cooperative Extension county offices.

The UC Master Gardener Program is an example of an effective partnership between the University of California

and passionate volunteers. In exchange for training from the University, UC Master Gardeners offer volunteer services and outreach to the general public in more than 50 California counties. Last year 6,116 active UC Master Gardener volunteers donated 398,265 hours, and 5.4+ million hours have been donated since the program's inception.



YOU CAN HELP

from page 1

Fire" and sent to: The Salvation Army, PO Box 348000, Sacramento, CA 95834.

The Chico-based Enloe Medical Center Foundation has set up a relief fund to help patients, families and caregivers who have lost their homes or been displaced due to the fire. You can donate online or text "CampFireRelief" to 91999.

Tri Counties Bank has set up a fund to help the victims of the Camp Fire. The bank made an initial deposit of \$25,000 in the account, and the bank's GoFundMe page for the fire fund has raised more than \$86,000 since it opened on Nov. 9. You can donate to the fund on GoFundMe, or at any Tri Counties Bank location.

GoFundMe created a page with verified campaigns raising money for victims of the Camp Fire and the Woolsey and Hill fires in Southern California. The page includes large campaigns like the Tri Counties Bank campaign, as well as campaigns for individual families who have lost their homes.

The American Red Cross is accepting online donations to help people affected by the California wildfires (select the appropriate option from the dropdown menu). You can also donate by calling 1-800-733-2767 or texting "CAWILDFIRES" to 90999.

The Veterans Resource Center is accepting monetary donations online (designate "Camp Fire" in the comments field) and items that can be dropped off at the center in Chico (10 Amber Grove Drive, Ste 114, Chico). On Monday, they published a list of needed items — see it here.

The California Community Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund supports intermediate and long-term recovery efforts for major California wildfires, as well as preparedness efforts. You can donate online or mail checks (noting "Wildfire Relief Fund") to: California Community Foundation, 221 S. Figueroa St., Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The Yuba/Sutter Habitat for Humanity is accepting monetary donations (in person or online), gift cards, and donations of unused clothing, blankets, hygiene products, or non-perishable food items. Donations can be dropped off at their ReStore (202 D Street, Marysville, CA 95901) during business hours. More information can be found here.

The New Earth Market in Yuba City has also been collecting gift cards to distribute to evacuees. Information on their efforts can be found on the market's Facebook page.

The Presbytery of Sacramento has established a Camp Fire

Relief Fund to assist the Chico-based Bidwell Presbyterian Church in responding to families affected by the Camp Fire. Individuals and churches interested in donating can send checks to: Presbytery of Sacramento, CAMP FIRE RELIEF FUND, 9983 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95827.

Bidwell Presbyterian is also collaborating with the Salvation Army to distribute donated items and holding "pop-up shops" for evacuees. More information on their efforts can be found on their website and Facebook page.

CAIR-SV has joined with Islamic Centers and mosques to raise money for cash cards for victims, to be distributed by the Islamic Center of Chico. You can donate online to their LaunchGood fundraiser, which has raised more than \$20,000 so far.

The Colusa County Farm Bureau has begun a children's book drive to benefit elementary schools and families in the Paradise area. For information on how to donate new or gently used children's books, contact the Colusa County Farm Bureau at 530-458-5130 or the Butte County Farm Bureau at 530-533-1473.

How to help animals:

Sacramento-based nonprofit RedRover has a list of resources for helping animals affected by the California wildfires here.

The Butte Humane Society has opened a pet food and supply pantry at 2580 Fair Street in Chico. Open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can donate and find more information on their Facebook page. Questions can be directed to Katrina at katrinawoodcox@buttehumane.org

The Butte County Farm Bureau and Butte Ag Foundation have created a Camp Fire Animal Agriculture Assistance Fund. The fund will accept monetary donations dedicated to feeding, housing and maintaining livestock displaced by the fire that are being cared for at the Butte County Fairgrounds. For more information, see www.butteagfoundation.org.

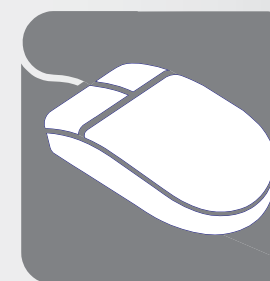
UC Davis vets are helping rescue animals, treating them for burns and connecting them with their owners. People can make donations to the Veterinary Catastrophic Need Fund to help treat the animals or make a gift to the Veterinary Emergency Response Team to help their vets in the field. To see unclaimed pets being treated by UC Davis, visit their Facebook photo album.

More information at [Capital Public Radio](http://CapitalPublicRadio)

The Court speaks

**"Whatever the scope of the president's authority, he may not rewrite the immigration laws to impose a condition that Congress has expressly forbidden."
"... the Court GRANTS the Immigration Organizations' motion for a temporary restraining order. The Court hereby ENJOINS Defendants and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and any other person or entity subject to their control or acting directly or indirectly in concert or participation with Defendants from taking any action continuing to implement the Rule and ORDERS Defendants to return to the pre-Rule practices for processing asylum applications. This Temporary Restraining Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until December 19, 2018 or further order of this court."**

**Jon S. Tigar, Judge, United States District Court,
Northern District of California,
San Francisco, November 19, 2018.**



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Kansas City Area Friends: Come to 'nukes on trial' Dec. 7 and Celebration of Hope Dec. 6

By JANE STOEVER

Five protesters who crossed the property line May 28 in Kansas City, Mo., at the *new* nuclear weapons parts plant come to trial Friday, Dec. 7. The five were arrested and soon released on Memorial Day, during PeaceWorks' annual remembrance of the more than 150 deaths from contaminants from the *old* plant for making parts for nuclear weapons.

On Dec. 6, the night before the trial, PeaceWorks will hold a **Celebration of Hope from 7:30 to 9 pm at St. Mark's Hope and Peace Lutheran Church, 3800 Troost St.** And on the trial day, **Dec. 7, at 12:30 pm, the line-crossers and supporters will gather in the courthouse foyer for reflections before the trial, which begins at 1:30 pm in Court C of Municipal Court, Locust and 11th St.**

Both the Celebration of Hope and the trial may note the high cost of nuclear weapons, with the Department of Energy requesting a budget of \$804 million for the KC operations for fiscal year 2019. DOE's overall budget request for FY 2019 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, which operates the KC plant and other nuclear-weapon-related sites, is \$32 billion.

Line-crosser Henry Stoever, the board chair for PeaceWorks, reflected recently on renewed calls from President Donald Trump for a build-up of nuclear weapons. "We are all more impoverished because of the arms race," said Stoever. "What



we need is a race of love, a race of brotherhood and sisterhood, a race to save our planet from further degradation, a race for simple living and corrective action."

The other line-crossers coming to trial are Tom Fox, CEO and president of the *National Catholic Reporter*; Sunny Jordan Hamrick, a member of the Christian community Jerusalem Farm in KC; Lu Mountenay, a Community of Christ minister in Independence; and Brian Terrell, a Catholic Worker in Maloy, Iowa, and co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Non-Violence, based in Chicago.

During the Dec. 6-7 events, the resisters will say why their action was lawful and the build-up of nuclear weapons is unlawful. Before crossing the property line May 28, Hamrick said his brother and sister-in-law would soon have a son, Jackson. "I want Jackson to come into a world that tries to love its enemies," he said, indicating he was risking arrest for the sake of peace.

In a report May 29, Fox called his line-crossing "a small step and a logical one, coming after decades of speaking out and writing about the life-threatening nuclear bombs issue." He decided two years ago to take his protest to a new level, he said. "I wanted to take this step because I want my grandchil-

dren to remember anti-war activism. It is my hope this act of civil disobedience might stand out in their memories." He spoke with each of his and Kim Hoa Fox's seven grandchildren in advance, telling them he wanted a world free of nuclear weapons and he would cross the line May 28 on their behalf. "They expressed their worries," he said, "seeing me somehow in jail as a law-breaker. I had to explain it was unlikely I would end up in jail. I hoped to allay their fears but nudge my arrest into their collective memories." He imagined them saying, "My grandpa got arrested because he was against nuclear weapons." Fox reflected, "If that memory lingers on, the action is well worth the effort."

Mountenay also has her mind on her grandchildren. "We have a threatening arsenal being upgraded and enlarged in our neighborhood, one-step-over-the-line-away," she said of what she plans to tell the judge Dec. 7. "I won't be around in the next 50 years to protect my grandchildren when the poison leaks from the land, but hopefully they will know that I stood on one side of the line and then crossed over for justice. It is all I can do."

On Oct. 24, Terrell reflected on an observation of Phil Berrigan, an anti-nuke activist and Catholic Worker. Terrell e-mailed: "Phil Berrigan once said, 'We shudder under the blows of a society permanently mobilized against peace. Duplicity, propaganda, media indifference, institutional betrayal mark our plight. Our people are confused and hopeless. Let us not give up. Let us continue to nourish each other by consistent and prayerful presence at military installations, in courts and lock-ups.' Since I often leave Iowa to travel to the ends of the earth to join such communities of resistance, answering the call to join good friends in Kansas City at the National Nuclear Security Administration's 'campus' on Memorial Day was an easy decision! The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists'* doomsday clock is now set to two minutes to midnight, and it is critical to speak and act now. I will go to trial on Dec. 7 because on Memorial Day we did not break the law. I will argue that, once again, the police arrested the wrong people."

—Jane Stoever, of PeaceWorks, has been known to cross a line or two for peace.

Featured image at top of the page: Lu Mountenay, with the microphone, on May 28 calls her co-conspirators "thorns in the side of militarism" before they cross the property line of the National Security Campus. From left, the "thorns" are Sunny Jordan Hamrick, Tom Fox, Brian Terrell, and Henry Stoever. —Photo by Jeff Davis

<http://peaceworkskc.org/nuclear-weapons/come-to-nukes-on-trial-dec-7-and-celebration-of-hope-dec-6>

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Restoring Hope and Dignity to Those in Need: How Church in The Park Serves Our Community

An interview by TOM PORTWOOD

Sometimes what seems like “a crazy adventure” turns out not to be crazy at all and actually evolves rapidly into a vital community resource.

Case in point: the Cleansing Hope Shower Shuttle, launched by Church in the Park (CITP) in 2016, which is addressing many of the most basic needs of our impoverished or homeless neighbors by providing some key essentials we so often take for granted – access to a shower, clean socks and underwear, and a haircut. But the Shower Shuttle and a mobile laundromat (currently under construction), while spectacularly innovative in their design, are just the most recent efforts by this ministry to reach out and make a difference in our community. Indeed, CITP has been offering a variety of services for almost a decade. And it all started with the vision and determination of one man.

“We started back in 2009 with an outreach ministry called Church in the Park,” recounts Dean Dodd, the President and founder of the organization, a nonprofit ministry serving “the homeless, the hurting, and the impoverished in our community. I was actually a homeless man myself at that time and basically started the ministry with only my food stamp card and sharing my lunch money. From that we grew significantly over the years to the point that we now serve and feed and clothe between 175 to 250 people a week.”

A few years ago, “we saw that there was a real shortfall with showers in the Modesto area.” Mr. Dodd adds, “There were only showers on the east side of town – so we devised this crazy idea to come up with a mobile shower system that would take the showers to the people. So, we launched our first bus, Grace, in 2016. But we knew we couldn’t stay with just the one shower because the need was so great, so we started a fundraising campaign to build the second mobile shower. We created these buses with our own design and built them right here in this warehouse.” The funding for the building of the two buses “trickled in, through raising awareness of this crazy adventure. All of the labor – the hundreds and hundreds of hours – was donated to us as a labor of love.”

From the outset, CITP has furnished a broad outreach to those in need. “They say that change comes at the speed of trust, so we’re going out to people and engaging them, befriending them and trying to build their trust, Mr. Dodd explains. “Encouraging them to make better choices and to connect with other community resources and providers and get out of their current situation. I’m living testimony that

there is hope after homelessness. We are always at the ready to encourage people when the opportunity is there.”

Providing a non- denominational church service in Oregon Park each week is a key to CITP’s goal of offering hope and encouragement to those they engage. “We have a full-on church service that we bring to the park in trucks,” Mr. Dodd relates. “We provide all the seating and tables, all the cookware. We actually prepare the food in the park.”

“We’ve actually increased our congregation since moving to Oregon Park because we’re near neighborhoods,” adds

“There are three washers and three dryers inside this thing, with a huge generator inside it which will power all six appliances,” marvels Mr. Dodd. “It really is something.”

In addition to its outreach and programs to the area’s homeless individuals and families, CITP also responds to natural disasters such as the Camp Fire. Within days of that tragedy, a crew from the ministry was providing hot showers to those affected by the wildfire.

Because the ministry keeps expanding the scope of its services, a tremendous amount of community support is needed for Church in the Park to continue to succeed. Mr. Dodd estimates that each shower costs over \$10, counting the socks and the underwear. Each year, some 14,000 pairs of socks and underwear are distributed. CITP tries to be as cost-effective as possible, recycling garments whenever possible.

“It’s a true calling, what we do,” Ms. Ott thinks. “We go out with a true heart to serve and love and provide what they need and we’ve seen some amazing things happen as a result – watching people thrive and grow and become part of the community again. It’s a beautiful thing.”

“Other municipalities are interested in what we are doing because homelessness is a nationwide epidemic,” concludes Mr. Dodd. “Church in the Park is not a church *for* the homeless, it’s a church *with* the homeless. We believe in giving a hand up, not just a hand out.”

Church in the Park is located at 236 S. Santa Cruz Ave., Suite A, Modesto, CA 95354, www.shower shuttle.com

Shower Shuttle Locations: **Mondays**, Crosspoint at 1301 12th Street, Modesto; **Tuesdays**, Modesto Gospel Mission, 1400 Yosemite Blvd., Modesto; **Wednesdays**, the Salvation Army, 320 9th St., Modesto; **Thursdays**, Davis Park Church of Christ, 901 W. Rumble Rd., Modesto

A brief video of Dean Dodd: <https://vimeo.com/92181039> (video courtesy of Richard Anderson)

A video of the dedication for the first Cleansing Hope Shower Shuttle: <https://vimeo.com/177970650> (video courtesy of Richard Anderson)



“They say that change comes at the speed of trust, so we’re going out to people and engaging them, befriending them and trying to build their trust.”

Kelli Ott, who works alongside Mr. Dodd and two other full-time employees. “We’re seeing more people benefit from our services. We’re out there every Sunday, come rain or shine. We provide pastries and coffee for breakfast and then we have our service – it’s great to be out in the open air for that, and then we break and prepare a hot lunch.”

“We’re family – there’s no division between haves and have-nots,” Ms. Ott says of the clients the agency serves. “We’re all there for the same purpose, which is to come together and partake of fellowship and share a meal. The shower is a beautiful way to provide a service, but we are also providing community, a way for them to reconnect to humanity. As you build trust, you build relationship. As you build relationships, you build a sense of community.”

Once the mobile laundromat, CITP’s most recent project, has been built and launched, the ministry will be able to provide a service that is fundamental to employment, hygiene, court appearances, reuniting families. – a multitude of things.

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

Why I Have Hope in the Face of Human Extinction

Around the world, people are realizing the current path will lead only to disaster, and they're beginning to ask the hard questions about what to do next.

By David Korten

When I ask an audience, “Who believes we are on a path to self-extinction?” nearly every hand goes up. It’s a sign of a growing awareness that humanity is on a path to self-imposed environmental and social collapse. For me, that awareness is a source of hope.

I recently discovered an even deeper source of hope on a trip to South Korea. There I was involved in a remarkable series of international discussions on the transition to “ecological civilization.” I had the privilege of keynoting a conference on the transition hosted by Park Won-soon, the mayor of Seoul, and joined him in an interview with one of Seoul’s daily newspapers.

The concept is gaining traction elsewhere as well. China has embedded its commitment to ecological civilization in its constitution.

Last week, I explored the idea of an ecological civilization in a lively discussion with the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. Next week I join four leading contributors to the ecological civilization dialogue—Lent, Matthew, John B. Cobb Jr., and my wife, Fran—to explore the idea at the Parliament of the World’s Religions conference in Toronto.

I find the term “ecological civilization” especially well-suited to the changes we must achieve to have a viable future. “Ecological” focuses our attention on the active interdependence of all living organisms and their ability to self-organize into diverse, symbiotic communities. “Civilization” evokes the depth of the cultural and institutional transformation required to create a human future of peace, justice, and environmental health that is truly civil.

The vision of an ecological civilization is related to terms used elsewhere. Latin Americans speak of *buen vivir* and *sumac kawsay* (good living), a commitment now enshrined in the constitutions of Bolivia and Ecuador. Africans speak of *ubuntu* (humanity), often translated as “I am because we are.” Ecological civilization embraces both of these frames and more.

A transformation to ecological civilization is both possible and essential to the future of humanity. It’s spurred by growing awareness of the extent to which past cultural, institutional, and infrastructure choices disrupt our connections to one another and Earth to serve the interests of the very rich at the expense of the well-being of everyone else. This now

poses an existential threat to our future. But evidence that this awareness is spreading gives me a renewed hope that humanity can and will rise to the challenge of the transition.

We humans now have the knowledge and technology to move beyond the violence, fear, and daily struggle for survival that besets the lives of so many. We have the capacity to secure a world of peace, beauty, diversity, creativity, material sufficiency, and spiritual abundance for all people, and have all that in balance with Earth’s ecosystems. Achieving such a goal requires that we make this vision our common goal and transform our cultural narratives, institutions, and infrastructure accordingly—a steep but imperative challenge.



“Immediate action is required to stop the further concentration of wealth while advancing equitable cooperative ownership, restoring the commons, and connecting the rights of ownership with corresponding responsibilities.”

Success requires leadership from all levels of society, including from people everywhere working to grow community-facilitating cultural values, institutions, and infrastructure in the places where they live. Together we need to achieve four conditions critical to the transition.

Earth balance. We must reduce humanity’s total environmental burden to bring us into sustainable balance with the capacity of Earth’s generative systems. This requires immediate action to eliminate nonessential consumption—including fossil fuels and weaponry. Longer-term action is needed to create institutional and physical structures that make doing the right thing easy and enjoyable—for example, designing urban environments to make the essentials of daily living readily accessible by biking, or walking in safe and pleasant neighborhoods connected by convenient mass transit.

Equitable distribution. We must achieve an equitable distribution of wealth and power. Immediate action is required to stop the further concentration of wealth while advancing equitable cooperative ownership, restoring the commons, and connecting the rights of ownership with corresponding responsibilities.

Life-serving technologies. We must advance technologies that strengthen rather than impair life’s regenerative

capacity. Immediate action is required to roll back use of harmful technologies, including the use of toxic chemicals in agriculture and our dependence on carbon and nuclear energy. Longer-term action is needed to develop and apply technologies that better meet human needs while simultaneously restoring the environment, such as developing greener agricultural practices and creating buildings designed for natural heating and cooling.

Living communities. We must rebuild relationships of people to one another and to nature to create strong, healthy, deeply democratic living communities. This will involve reducing dependence on money while encouraging shar-

ing and mutual self-help in the places where people live. Immediate action is required to block further concentration of corporate power, while taking longer-term steps to break up existing concentrations, secure the accountability of governments to the people, advance equitable participation in local cooperative ownership and shared housing, and establish rules that assure the accountability of businesses to the communities in which they operate.

The transition will test the limits of human creativity, social intelligence, and commitment to collaborate in the face of relentless establishment opposition. We now equate money to wealth and see making money as the key to well-being and happiness. In doing so, we ignore the reality that we are living beings born of and nurtured by a living Earth. Money is merely a number that has no intrinsic value. To destroy life

only so that the financial assets of billionaires can grow is a monumental act of collective stupidity.

Forward-looking communities around the world are engaged in advancing these transformations on both micro and macro scales. Their activities must become the norm everywhere, with all peoples and governments freely sharing the lessons of their efforts to develop proven, deeply democratic approaches to local self-reliance and liberation from corporate rule. The well-being of people and planet will rise, as corporate profits fall.

It is time to unite as families, communities, and nations in our common identity as members of an ecological civilization, with a commitment to creating the possible world of our shared human dream.

David Korten wrote this article for YES! Magazine. David is co-founder of YES! Magazine, president of the Living Economies Forum, a member of the Club of Rome, and the author of influential books, including “ and “Change the Story, Change the Future: A Living Economy for a Living Earth.” His work builds on lessons from the 21 years he and his wife, Fran, lived and worked in Africa, Asia, and Latin America on a quest to end global poverty. Visit him at davidkorten.org. Follow him on Twitter and Facebook.

The Best Medicine for My Climate Grief

A climate scientist talks to a psychologist about coping with the crushing stress related to climate change. Here's what he learned.

By PETER KALMUS

Sometimes a wave of climate grief breaks over me. It happens unexpectedly, perhaps during a book talk, or while on the phone with a congressional representative. In a millisecond, without warning, I'll feel my throat clench, my eyes sting, and my stomach drop as though the Earth below me is falling away. During these moments, I feel with excruciating clarity everything that we're losing—but also connection and love for those things.

Usually I don't mind the grief. It's clarifying. It makes sense to me and inspires me to work harder than ever. Occasionally, however, I feel something quite different, a paralyzing sense of anxiety. This climate dread can last for days, even weeks. It can come with nightmares, for example, my favorite shady oak grove baking in the full sun of a heat wave, the oaks all dead and gone. During these periods, writing about climate change becomes all but impossible, as if hundreds of thoughts are jostling to squeeze through a narrow doorway onto the page. My scientific output slows to a trickle, as well; it feels like it just doesn't matter.

I sense a social barrier to talking about these emotions. If I bring up climate change in casual conversation, the topic is often met with awkward pauses and the polite introduction of new subjects. Aside from increasingly frequent articles in the news about the typically incremental and sometimes disastrous progression of climate breakdown, we seldom talk about it, face to face. It's as though the topic is impolite, even taboo.

With so much at stake—our security and normalcy; the futures we'd envisioned for our children; our sense of progress and where we fit in the universe; beloved places, species, and ecosystems—the psychology is going to be complex. So I reached out to Renee Lertzman to gain insight into how we're coping with such huge impending losses. Lertzman is a psychologist studying the effects of environmental loss on mental health and the author of *Environmental Melancholia: Psychoanalytic Dimensions of Engagement*.

"There is overwhelming research that distress and anxiety relating to climate is on the rise," she told me. "Many people, I'd argue, are experiencing what I'd call a 'latent' form of climate anxiety or dread, in that they may not be talking about it much but they are feeling it."

If we're feeling these emotions or if we know others who are, it would be helpful to talk about them. "The main thing is that we find ways to talk about what we are experiencing in a safe and nonjudgmental context, and to be open to listening.

All too often, when anxiety or fear comes up, we all want to push it away and move into 'solutions.'"

A 2017 report by the American Psychological Association found that climate change is causing stress, anxiety, depression, and relationship strain. The psychological weight of climate change can lead to feelings of helplessness and fear, and to climate disengagement. Not surprisingly, those directly impacted by climate-augmented disasters fare even worse: For example, after Hurricane Katrina, suicide in affected areas more than doubled; the situation in post-Maria Puerto Rico is similarly dire. In general, suicide is projected to rise dramatically due to climate change; in addition to the psychological toll, our brains don't respond well physically to excessive heat.

"If I bring up climate change in casual conversation, the topic is often met with awkward pauses and the polite introduction of new subjects."

To think daily about climate change and any of its dire implications can be a crushing psychological burden. Each of us is just one mammal, with all our mammalian limitations—we get tired, sad, irritated, sick, overwhelmed—and the climate crisis wields the force of 8 billion humans with infrastructure, corporations, capital, politics, and imaginations heavily invested in burning fossil fuel.

"It's important to remember that inaction is rarely about a lack of concern or care, but is so much more complex," Lertzman said. "Namely, that we westerners are living in a society that is still deeply entrenched in the very practices

"The main thing is that we find ways to talk about what we are experiencing in a safe and nonjudgmental context, and to be open to listening. All too often, when anxiety or fear comes up, we all want to push it away and move into 'solutions.'"

we now know are damaging and destructive. This creates a very specific kind of situation—what psychologists call cognitive dissonance. Unless we know how to work with this dissonance, we will continue to come up against resistance, inaction, and reactivity."

I've been working through my own climate dissonance since 2006, back when the atmospheric carbon concentration was just 380 parts per million. That year I reached a tipping point in my own awareness of what was happening and what it meant. It was challenging to carry that knowledge when no

one close to me seemed to care. But, said Lertzman, "we need to be careful not to make assumptions about other people's relationships with these issues. Even if people may not be showing it, research shows again and again that it's still on their minds and a source of discomfort or distress." If she's right, maybe the sea change in public action we desperately need is closer than it seems. It would certainly be helpful if we could talk openly about how climate change is making us feel.

Modern climate change is completely different: It's 100 percent human-caused.

Things do feel somewhat different now, both because more people are calling for action than in 2006 and also because I'm now part of communities with people who are as concerned as I am (for example, my local chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby). There are more people in my life talking openly about climate change. And that helps.

Another way I cope is by simply burning less fossil fuel. This eliminates internal cognitive dissonance by aligning my actions with my knowledge. It also brings some great fringe benefits, such as more exercise from biking, healthier eating through vegetarianism, more connection to the land through gardening, and more connection to my community through activism and public outreach.

Finally, I actively work to be hope-oriented. In the film *Melancholia*, about a mysterious planet on a collision course with Earth, the protagonist passively accepts, even embraces, apocalypse. Nothing can stop it; ecological annihilation is inevitable.

Modern climate change is completely different: It's 100 percent human-caused, so it's 100 percent human-solvable. If humans pulled together as if our lives depended on it, we could leave fossil fuel in a matter of years. This would require radical change across global society, and I'm not suggesting it will happen. But it *could*, and this possibility leaves open a middle path, something between sweeping climate action and an unavoidable planetary collision—a rapid cultural shift, one that we all can contribute to through our conversations and our daily actions. And that's a very hopeful thing.

From the [Yes Magazine Mental Health Series](#)

If you're having suicidal thoughts, or know someone who is, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK).



Paradise is Burning

Draught shriveled apples
hang from The Tree.
No one was allowed to
taste of their knowledge.

Adam and Eve have been evacuated.
The neighbors are scattering
in all four directions.
Noah's animals and family are unprotected.

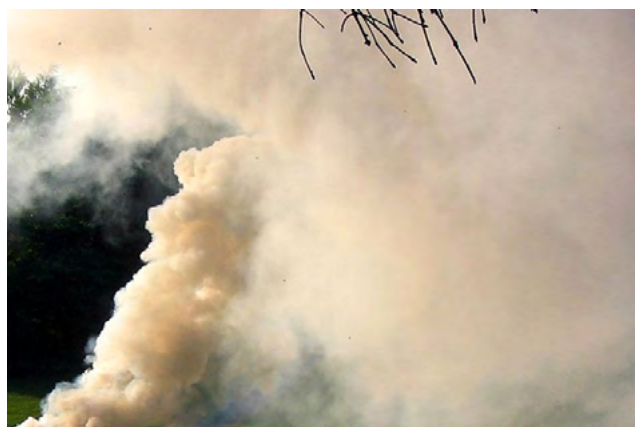
Smoke shrouds California's North.
Her center is choking.
Countrymen look on in horror.
False gods maintain constant denial,
are followed by children flailing
in shameful ignorance.

Atop Great Gatsby's garage flashes
a billboard of dollar signs and hate.
Unseeing, deeply hollow eyes look on.
The parched landscape
takes on the pallor of SCREAM.

Millions have shouted out, have accepted
the scientific Tree of Life,
While a false god's minions support
his depravity as "truth".

Hope has been voted in,
stands ready and willing,
Accepts the daunting challenge,
is ready to pave a path...

To the Brave New World
– Tina Arnpole Driskill



Passion

It's a question of
how fire strikes

there has to be a spark
a friction

for illumination
enlightenment

whether of a mind, a lamp
a campfire, a community

passion needs fuel
and a vessel for containment

or it becomes wildfire
voracious for consumption

an overcompensation for drought,
for blockage, for depression

disease born of inflammation
of a body, of a home, of a country

a vessel of containment is needed
a holder, a pit, an oven, a heart

cradled passion
cooking something up

– Karen Baker

Something Like Prayer

Written in September, 2015

When the world sits sullen
Strait-jacketed by hate
When a hummingbird darts in and out
Of a backyard
Before breath is taken
With a sky burnt scarlet from fire
With a drought of hope in people's souls
With each of us encamped in fear and prejudice
Do the angels of mercy bow with gentle rain
Extend a hand to the helpless
Sustenance and shelter to refugees fleeing
Love to the dying and voiceless.
With despairing night unavailing to us
With the self-righteous clamoring loudest
Do the angels of mercy come with enfolding grace
Do the angels of mercy embrace without judging
Lay flowers before our path
Weep at our folly, our unceasing cacophonies
Weep, whispering something like prayer.

This Particulate Matter

Forgive me for breathing
these haunted breaths:
your walls, your pages, your hammers and teaspoons,
your lives.

Forgive me for already missing
the cousins' Thanksgiving forts, the firewood
I stacked on the wooden porch, first one way, then another,
until the stack was enough to stave off the cold.

Forgive me my fury now
at pine needles, at drought,
how those pine needles
could be crushed to dust in my palm.

Forgive me how much I resented
all the weekends we raked leaves and needles
off the roof, out of the gutters, made piles in the yard,
heaved the piles into the trailer.

The trees kept growing, despite the lack of rain,
kept dropping leaves, kept dropping needles.

Once, from that porch, and this is true,
I saw seven ravens fly low and silent through the pines,
a group of three, then a pair,
then two more, hurrying.

I didn't know that was how many years
those pines had left in their tottering lives.

Forgive me. I can't stop breathing
these haunted, holy, particulate breaths.

– Gillian Wegener



The Invaders

They're coming. Rumbling up the gut
of the Americas like volcanic ash, like
the blood of red lava. The grand-baiters
feed political hay to a cattle of haters.

Fear is sponsored, sweetened with
Halloween candy and razor blades apples.

— don't you, — can't you, see it,
feel it settling deep into the
marrow, the red-herring
bones of the father-land.

Because white is the color of no color,
it is thought neutral, harmless even. In
some quaint way, not considered worth
crying all this spilt milk over. A place
where bombs have names: Fat Boy and
Little Man, cluster and white phosphorous.
Napalm, that perennial favorite of children
everywhere. And they are coming, marching
straight up the backbones of this, a cringing
mass of freelanders.

A hoard of children. An army of children.
Children armed with rabbit teeth, their arms
thin, eyes wide as the Rio Grande. Uniformed
children with their weapons of hope and hope.
Hundreds of children. A Patton's army of children,
marching marching marching in their menacing
uniforms — of rag and flip-flops.

— Ed Bearden

MAKE A
Difference.

MoSt to host 7th Annual Poetry Festival



Modesto-Stanislaus
Poetry Center

The Modesto-Stanislaus (MoSt) Poetry Center will host its 7th Annual Poetry Festival on Feb. 2, 2019 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church facilitated once again by Indigo Moor, poet, playwright, teacher and current poet laureate of Sacramento.

The festival features a poetry contest open to attendees of the day-long workshop. The 2019 contest categories include:

1. Here In This House,
2. What Remains,

3. The Edge of the Sea,
4. In and out of Fashion (Life a la Mode).

Flyer and registration forms for the festival and contest are available on the MoSt website (www.mostpoetry.org). **The contest deadline is January 11.** Registration fees (\$35, \$30 MoSt members or \$10 high school/college students), include the contest, workshop, a delicious luncheon, an author's table and fellowship with poetry aficionados from throughout Northern California. Entries can be submitted by mail to Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center, PO Box 578940, Modesto, CA 9535. Info@mostpoetry.org

Who pays? The true cost of incarceration on families

From the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

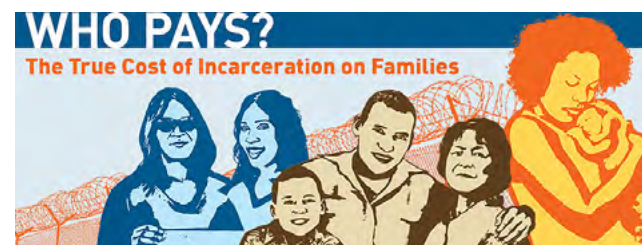
In September 2015, the Ella Baker Center, Forward Together, Research Action Design, and 20 other organizations across the country launched *Who Pays? The True Cost of Incarceration on Families*. The report proves that the costs of locking up millions of people in jail cells is much deeper than we think — when we lock up individuals we also break apart their families and communities.

This new report reveals the overwhelming debt, mental and physical ailments and severed family bonds that are some of the hidden consequences of mass incarceration in the United States. The situation is dire, but a better approach is possible according to *Who Pays?* which suggests critical and achievable family-centered reforms. Read the report and share the powerful findings.

Download the report [here](#).

Right now, we are in a critical moment where we can win **family-centered, community-driven solutions**. Help us take the next step by starting conversations in your community about how incarceration hurts families, and how we can create change:

Organize a conversation on ending mass incarceration at your place of worship, your office, your reading group, or in your living room where you can discuss the report's findings, recommendations, and local opportunities to take action. We encourage you to include people who have been affected by the criminal justice system, as well as community service providers who can share information about available resources.



Suggested discussion questions:

What did you find most surprising about the report? Were there any stories or findings that particularly moved you or made you feel compelled to take action?

How do the issues raised in the report relate to your own life or someone in your family?

In what ways did the report challenge you to think about how an arrest or criminal conviction might burden a person and their family for life?

In each section, there were examples of barriers that formerly incarcerated people, currently incarcerated people, and their families face. How might the family's circumstances have been different if they were offered support instead of punishment?

How do the findings in the report relate to what is happening in your community?

What can community members do to raise awareness about how criminalization and incarceration hurt families?

Learn more about our work.



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7 Economic Terms That Are Often Used to Trick People Out of Their Money

If it sounds too good to be true, take a closer look beyond the buzzwords

By VALERIE VANDE PANNE

There are so many plans these days to “transform” an area via a “public-private partnership” that will “restore” and “fix” the local economy and lead to an economic “recovery” for the “brave” group of “stakeholders” who’ve come together to make it happen. The business leader drumming up support is often a “good friend” of the politicians in charge. To entertain another plan, the people in power warn, will “hurt” the economy.

No matter the project, the end result is the corporation pays little to no tax, and gives little to nothing to the community—not even the promised jobs.

Have you heard that story in your own backyard recently?

It’s a story that might as well be contemporary Shakespeare, except it could be written by the auto-correct text on a developer’s iPhone.

It is a story told repeatedly, with different players: It’s the tale of Little Caesar’s Arena in Detroit. It’s the story of the big box stores including Wal-Mart and Home Depot. And it’s the story of Amazon’s HQ2.

No matter the project, the end result is the corporation pays little to no tax, and gives little to nothing to the community—not even the promised jobs. It is guaranteed to extract everything from captured tax dollars to fire and police resources, also paid for with tax dollars. It will likely capture education dollars and even take away employment from locals as small businesses close, and then it leaves the taxpayer with the clean-up bill. Empty, toxic real estate and a growing lower class are left behind.

In other words, these “transformational” projects drive locals into worse-off conditions while lining the pockets of the already wealthy.

It’s a tale as old as capitalism itself, and it’s being told over and over again with different players but using the same popular words.

Here are the economic development words to watch out for, and what they really mean.

Public-Private Partnership.

Meaning: A massive tax dollar giveaway to a private company at taxpayer expense. Taxpayers lose money on everything from schools to fire departments. Taxpayers end up footing the bill for the private company’s land, clean-up, and more. Taxpayers receive comparatively nothing in return.

Instead, communities are healthier and more sustainable when they are more economically vibrant and diverse with co-ops, small businesses, and collectives.

Restore.

Meaning: We’ve destroyed something irreplaceable—a neighborhood, wetlands, a forest—and see a way to make even more money on what’s been destroyed. This happens over and over again—it’s one of the cycles of capitalism. The truth is once the neighborhood is gone and its inhabitants displaced—once the habitat that took 1,000 years to create is destroyed—it cannot be restored. You cannot restore Detroit’s vibrant African American neighborhood of Black Bottom by putting in a B.B. King supper club any more than you can restore wetlands that took thousands of years to establish and flourish. What you’re doing is making money on destruction—not restoration. Preservation is more powerful than the destroy-restore cycle.

Good Friend.

Meaning: A favorite phrase thrown around in the Democratic Party and political circles nationwide; when someone says they are a “good friend,” what they really mean is they are stabbing that person or group in the back. Be wary whenever someone tells you—especially in politics or development—that someone else important is a “good friend.” Be honest about who people are, and listen for honesty when someone is trying to sell your community a development.

Stakeholders.

Meaning: The modern-day equivalent of a dog-and-pony show, “stakeholders” is regularly used as a catch-all phrase by those who want to appear inclusive and cover their own asses.

... these “transformational” projects drive locals into worse-off conditions while lining the pockets of the already wealthy.

The chosen “stakeholders” are often those with strong social media followings and the local LGBTQIA/POC community members likely to be the most friendly to the development plan. They are often offered a seat at the table because they are often those who are least likely to rock the boat. Pictures will be taken, Instagram posts made, tweets sent—inclusion looks like it feels so good.

Such stakeholder meetings are often exclusionary of those most marginalized, disenfranchised, and impacted by development plans.

Brave.

Meaning: This one can be used for a “stakeholder” folding for the developer, or for a developer going into a depressed community. It’s also used for a long list of virtue signaling. Brave used to be a word reserved for firemen running into

burning buildings to save children and pets; self-sacrificing soldiers saving their brothers-in-arms and helpless civilians; non-violent protesters standing strong in the face of weapons, violence, and hate. Bravery is not a self-righteous action—and definitely not meant for those selling out their community to a developer, or for a developer taking tax dollars to develop a community.

Developing new and locally tailored solutions to a broken system is possible—but it can mean leaving behind the broken system entirely.

Fix.

Meaning: Something is broken beyond repair—for example, the vast majority of public school systems. But there is a new way to make money on the broken-beyond-repair things by “fixing” them: For-profit charter schools and intensive testing, done by private corporations with state or local school system contracts paid for with tax dollars—all of which tend to break the system even more. Developing new and locally tailored solutions to a broken system is possible—but it can mean leaving behind the broken system entirely.

Hurt.

“We can’t do that; it’ll hurt the economy,” warns almost every politician when faced with an economically sound solution to ecological crises our society and planet are facing.

Meaning: What they mean is, it’ll hurt their own investments, their own power, and their own bottom line.

The fact is, few things hurt the economy and our environment more than the public-private partnerships, their schemes and scams, and development deals that let events like the Flint Water Crisis continue. When someone says, “We can’t do that; it’ll hurt the economy,” ask yourself whose pocket-book it will really hurt, and chances are it’s not yours—it’s the people in power.

As George Carlin used to say, “America’s leading industry is still the manufacture, distribution, packaging and marketing of bullshit. High-quality bullshit; world-class, designer bullshit, to be sure.” These words of decades ago are still used, and they are still bullshit, just like these seven phrases are today.

This article was produced by Local Peace Economy, a project of the Independent Media Institute.

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Valerie Vande Panne is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at Local Peace Economy, a project of the Independent Media Institute. She is an independent journalist whose work has appeared in the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, Columbia Journalism Review, the Guardian, Politico, and many other publications.



DECEMBER 2018

MJC Science Colloquium Schedule, Fall 2018, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 pm Science Community Center, Rm 115, MJC West Campus. Temporary Parking Permits can be purchased for \$2 from dispensers located near MJC West Campus entrances.

MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science). Free, informative, engaging community science programs. 7:30 pm, MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132. **Fri. Dec. 7:** New time: 6:00 pm, Sergei Samborski, CSU Stanislaus, The 1986 Chernobyl Meltdown and Consequences. **Fri. Jan. 25, 2019,** Dr. Ian C. Faloona (UC Davis). Ian's research group investigates how trace gas emissions in marine and terrestrial boundary layers mix, disperse, and ultimately influence the Earth's climate <http://faloona.lawr.ucdavis.edu/>

1 SAT: World Aids Day Health Faire. Sponsored by MoPRIDE and the Central Valley Pride Center. Free, confidential HIV testing. Raffle, local musicians, guest speakers. College Avenue United Church of Christ, 1341 College Ave., Modesto. Health Faire, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm; Reception, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Info: 209-284-0999, bhodge@mopride.org

5 WED: VIGIL: Keeping Families Together. McHenry & J St., 4:00-5:00 pm.

7 Fri: Annual Holiday Potluck Song Fest. Celebrate our Peace Community at the Onorato's, 1532 Vernon Ave., Modesto. Bring your favorite dish and beverage to share, your merry Holiday spirit, and your eagerness to sing. 6 to 9 pm. Bring an unwrapped children's book (K-6). All welcome.

7 FRI: The Women's Auxiliary presents, **30th Emerald Gala: A Night to Remember.** Black Tie Affair at The Century, 927 10th St. Modesto. Champagne social hour, live band, DJ, silent auction, raffle. Proceeds for Scholarship Fund. Tickets: \$75.00. Info: Synthia Lofton, 209-543-5769.

15 SAT: MoPride and the LGBTQ Collaborative hosts a “**Winter Wonderland.**” An LGBTQ winter formal with live DJ, food, and surprises. Dance open to ages 14-20 with ID. Tickets: \$10.00 at the door. Form attire encouraged. Modesto Centre Plaza, 8 pm to midnight.

20 THURS: The State Theatre presents *A Christmas Story*. 1307 J. St., Modesto. 1:00 pm. Join the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>

23 SUN: The Modesto Film Society presents *Christmas in Connecticut*, 1307 J. St., Modesto. Film followed at 5 pm by *It's a Wonderful Life*. Join the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, January 15: Annual John McCutcheon Concert, 7:00 pm, Modesto Church of the Brethren. See article, this issue for ticket information.

Saturday, February 2: The Modesto-Stanislaus (MoSt) Poetry Center host its **7th Annual Poetry Festival.** St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Facilitated by Indigo Moor, poet, playwright, Poet Laureate of Sacramento. Visit <http://www.mostpoetry.org>

The **25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration,** TBA.

Peace Essay Contest Awards Ceremony. TBA.

June 28-30: Peace Camp in the Sierra.

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

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.

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

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

MONDAYS

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 (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.

Silver & Gold Support Group 50+ years of age. Ongoing support group for mental health and wellness to meet the needs of the mature Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community. Every Monday 3:00-4:00 pm, Community-Hope-Recovery, 305 Downey Ave. Modesto. Info: Monica O, Tiamonica64@gmail.com or Susan J, SusanthePoet@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

NAACP Meeting. Christ Unity Baptist Church, 601 'L' St., Modesto, 3rd Tuesday @ 7 pm. 209-645-1909; email: naacp.branch1048@gmail.com

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

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

Tuesday Evening Funstrummers Ukulele Jam. Songbooks provided. 6pm to 8pm. 1600 Carver Road, Donation. 209-505-3216, www.funstrummers.com.

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

MEDIA: Listen to Peace/Life Center radio, KCBP 95.5 FM streaming at <http://www.KCBPradio.org> and at 95.5 FM, 2:00 pm to 2 am.

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

MEDIA COMMITTEE of Peace/Life Center. Meetings TBA.

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

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/>

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

LGBT 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: Anne, 521-6977.

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

THURSDAYS

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

LGBTQA Collaborative Meetings 4th Thursdays. Agendas are the same for each meeting. Lunch meeting: Peer Recovery Art Center, 1222 J St, Modesto, Noon to 1:30 pm. Dinner meetings: Stanislaus BHRS – Redwood Room, 800 Scenic Dr., Modesto. CA 95354, 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Dedicated to promoting well-being in the LGBTQA community. John Aguirre, jpamodesto@gmail.com, 559-280-3864.

Green Team educational meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10 to 11 am, Kirk Lindsey Center, 1020 10th St. Plaza, Suite 102, Modesto. www.StanislausGreenTeam.com

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

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

The Book Group, First & third Thursdays. College Ave UCC Youth Bldg., Orangeburg & College Ave., 3:30 – 5:00 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>
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

Game Night and Potluck, third Friday of each month. For 21+ only. Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St., Suite 2, Modesto. 7 pm to 10 pm. Info: John Aguirre, (559) 280-3864; jpamodesto@gmail.com

Friday Morning Funstrummers Band Rehearsal. Donation 9:15am to Noon. College Avenue United Church of Christ, 1341 College Ave., Modesto. 209-505-3216, 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: 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

SATURDAY

Indivisible Stanislaus 2.0 will hold a demonstration every fourth Saturday until the November election at McHenry and Briggsmore Aves., Modesto from Noon to 1:00 pm. All resistance groups invited. Please bring signs regarding the upcoming District 10 election. Info: June Mills, 209-765-5029, millsjunem@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

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.