



# stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

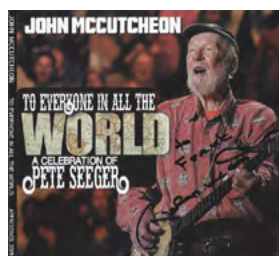
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CENTER  
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## John McCutcheon to give MLK Day concert

By KEN SCHROEDER

Six-time Grammy nominated folk musician John McCutcheon performs in his 17<sup>th</sup> benefit concert for the Modesto Peace/Life Center on Tuesday, January 15, Martin Luther King's birthday, at 7pm at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave. John is a master of the guitar, banjo, hammer dulcimer, piano, autoharp and fiddle. His annual concert has been called the best thing about January in Modesto. John's latest (and 40<sup>th</sup>!) album, **To Everyone in All the World: a Celebration of Pete Seeger**, was just released and will be available at the concert.



John sends New Year wishes:

*"May your (days) be filled with light and miraculous abundance. May your days be filled with signs and wonders. May you find yourself in humble, unexpected destinations. May you find joy in this season and in the new year. And may we find one another together at some point soon, filled with song, laughter, and hope."*

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://mccutcheonmodesto2019.brownpapertickets.com/>. Tickets can also 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.

For information, contact Ken Schroeder 209-480-4576. John's website is <https://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](mailto: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 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization, EIN 94-2800825.

### Critical acclaim for John McCutcheon:

*"The most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard."* — Johnny Cash

*"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."* — Pete Seeger

### For Mark and Cindy Lemaire:

*"It was an impeccable performance. Never have I witnessed such control of the steel stringed guitar's sound. This was a flawless show."* — Mark Twang, Folkways Recordings

*"Complex, sophisticated song arrangements. His guitar playing is so good, it might distract you from his compelling, engaging melodies and sharp songwriting... but only for a second."* — Richard Rice, Director, San Francisco Free Folk Festival

## Homeless: Stanislaus County Workers Bring Christmas Spirit

By ERIC CAINE, *The Valley Citizen*

A bevy of Stanislaus County service workers, many wearing purple T-shirts emblazoned with the motto, "Together We Rise," brought food and comfort to the homeless encampment at Beard Brook Park Saturday, just three days before Christmas.

Working off the clock, many of the workers are part of the county's outreach effort and know village residents by name. They helped distribute pizza, pillows, blankets and Christmas cheer to the hundreds of people who have crowded into Beard Brook Park since the City of Modesto designated it a permitted location for camping.

Recent gray skies and rain gave way to sunshine and brought uplifted spirits to the camp now known as "Beard Brook Village." Residents of the village had been disappointed when the city announced campfires would no longer be permitted due to problems with too much smoke. The fires had been the



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### READERS!

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



## MAPS presents free community science programs

7:30 pm, MJC West Campus Sierra Hall 132. Free Parking and Admission.

**Friday, Jan. 25, 2019:** Dr. Ian C. Faloona, (UC Davis).

*Agriculture is a major source of nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution in California.* 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/>



**Friday, Feb. 22, 2019:** Paul E. Lenze, Jr., Northern Arizona Univ. *Syrian Forced Migration & Public Health in the European Union.* Since the Syrian Civil War began in 2011, more than 400,000 people have been killed and millions displaced. This talk examines the causes of the Syrian Civil War and the impact of migration on public health in the Middle East and Europe. <https://nau.edu/pia/nau-faculty/>

**March, 22, 2019:** Steven Murov, <http://murov.info>, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, MJC, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Mendelev periodic table, will present: *Periodic Table Milestones and Real and Fake Elements.* The talk will include demos and be based in part on Steve's website - <http://murov.info/timelines.htm>.

**Friday, April 12, 2019:** Jonathan Fortney of UC Santa Cruz. *The Kepler Mission: Exotic Solar Systems on the Path to Earth-Like Planets.* Humans have long wondered about other planetary systems and if potentially Earth-like worlds exist around other stars. NASA's Kepler mission was designed to answer these questions. The Kepler space observatory launched in 2009 and just finished operations in November, 2018. It discovered nearly 3,000 confirmed exoplanets and several thousand additional candidates. We now know that while most planetary systems do not look like our own, potentially habitable planets are common in our galaxy. He will share insights from the mission and what it means for the future of planetary research. <http://www.ucolick.org/~jfortney/>

MAPS is grateful to ASMJC, the MJC Foundation, Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), MJC, the Modesto Teachers Assn. (MTA) and the Great Valley Museum for generous support.

## Community Radio Station Update: Our Tower is Up!

By JAMES COSTELLO, KCBP 95.5 FM General Manager

Our tower (pole) has been installed and our transmitter shed is being outfitted for electricity! It won't be long now when 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](http://www.kcbpradio.org).



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 [jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyncooper2012@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.



### 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.

### IN MEMORIAM

Timothy Daniels  
June 2, 1960 – August 18, 2018

Neil Douglas Hudson  
April 8, 1942 – November 28, 2018

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## Homeless: Stanislaus County Workers Bring Christmas Spirit

only way people had of providing themselves heat, warm food, and coffee.

Saturday's sunshine was welcome and so were the warm food and drinks. County workers were joined by members of El Buen Samaritano Church of Modesto and the Second Harvest/Starbucks Food Bank, as well as volunteers who routinely help whenever they can.

In addition to mounds of food, drinks, and toys for children of the homeless, volunteers distributed blankets, pillows, and warm clothing. Beginning with a few tents and some thirty or forty people, the village population has burgeoned to about four-hundred residents,\* most of whom are living in tents on the steep slope along the park's west side.

City and county authorities plan to move the camp a few hundred yards west to a location with flatter ground so that winter rains aren't as much of a problem for the tent dwellers. Under current conditions, heavy rains create mudslides, the wind topples tents, and people in the village are in constant danger of slipping and sliding on the wet mud that forms on the slope.

Authorities also hope to provide sturdier tents for those



who need them. Many campers have only flimsy tents that collapse or blow down in a storm. Ideally, the new village will serve as a low-barrier shelter for people who would otherwise be living in local parks, camping along rivers, and sleeping behind buildings downtown.

Award-winning Modesto Police Sergeant Mike Hammond, who patrols the village frequently, says residents have for the most part done a good job policing themselves, though there are always people who ignore even the simplest rules.

located in the park itself, it will be much easier to evaluate people's needs and direct them to the appropriate services.

Meanwhile, generous giving by local churches, charities and individuals brings the true spirit of Christmas to hundreds of people who, but for the comfort of a tent on a hillside, would be on the streets or hiding in a park or alley, waiting for the next order to move along.

\*An earlier post cited almost six-hundred residents.

## It's Time for the Press to Evolve

By **GEORGE LAKOFF** and **GIL DURAN**, FrameLab Podcast

Attacks on the free press, and constant lying by political leaders, aren't just happening here in the United States. These tactics are also being used by authoritarian leaders in other countries who are taking power using the same tactics as Trump.

These leaders understand how the press works, and they use its own tendencies against it in their efforts to erode democracy and freedom. They lie, knowing the press will repeat the lies. They create distractions because they know the press will chase the distractions. They release bad news when they think no one is paying attention. Too often, these tactics succeed.

It's time for the press to evolve. The press needs new rules, practices and guidelines to respond to the threat posed by lying authoritarians with no respect for truth, freedom, or democracy. These types of leaders attack the press because they see the truth as a threat. And it's the job of the press to report the truth.

Here are some suggestions members of the press can follow to #ProtectTheTruth:

- **Ban the lie from the headline/tweet/chyron.** Repeating lies only spreads them, and spreading lies is a disservice to the truth. It's possible to write engaging headlines without serving the lie. Always start with the truth, and always repeat the truth more than the lie.

- **Use Truth Sandwiches.** When writing about lies, always start with the truth first. Then explain the lie. Then return to the truth. Sequence and repetition matter! Truth first! Always.

- **Separate News from Distractions.** George Orwell said it best: "Journalism is printing what someone else doesn't want printed. Everything else is public relations." Trump's tweets have become a constant obsession for reporters. But his Twitter dramas generally just distract from the important

news stories crucial to democracy. He issues crazy tweets, calls people names, and includes silly typos because he WANTS people to talk about his tweet. And those who give him what he wants need to remember Orwell's quote. What was the big story in the news before the Twitter drama started? Keep a steely focus on things that matter.

- **Limit Trump photos.** Images are crucial. Today, it seems like nearly every news story features a large photo of Trump. It's all Trump, all the time. It's a Trump overload. Editors need to be aware of the overall effect and make an effort to use a range of images to tell the story of our times. Politics is not just about the actors. It's about the millions of people who are affected by those actions.

- **Outsmart the "Friday Dump."** Politicians and corporations tend to release bad or unflattering news late Fridays, and especially on three-day weekends. This is because people pay less attention to the news at this time. So, the use of the "Friday Dump" is a tactic for hiding the truth from people. Imagine if anyone who tried this was instead greeted with a big Sunday or Monday story that also told people they were trying to hide the truth by dumping it on Friday.

These are just a few draft ideas. We'd be interested in hearing any ideas YOU may have. The real goal is to encourage members of the press around the world to engage in a serious discussion about the changes needed to protect the truth in dangerous times like these. Click below to hear more in Episode 15 of FrameLab, the podcast about politics, language and your brain!

<https://soundcloud.com/user-253479697>

Listen to podcasts about politics, language, and your brain. Hosts: Dr. George Lakoff: [www.georgelakoff.com](http://www.georgelakoff.com) and Gil Duran: [twitter.com/gilduran76](https://twitter.com/gilduran76)



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## Interfaith Ministries of Greater Modesto to Host Second Annual Feast for the Eyes Gala, Dinner and Auction

By VERONICA JACUINDE

Interfaith Ministries of Greater Modesto (IFM) will host their second annual *Feast for the Eyes* on February 23, 2019 at The Century in downtown Modesto. Presented by Modesto Subaru, this year's theme is "Rhapsody in Blue" inspired by jazz, the art deco aesthetic, and blue color palettes. It will be an evening of sumptuous décor, eye-catching fashion, exquisitely prepared food, signature cocktails and live entertainment. All funds raised will benefit their *Feed Modesto* program. Sponsorships are available now for this unique community event.

Founded over 40 years ago, Interfaith Ministries works as a caring and sharing group of faith-based congregations, organizations and individuals that help those in the greater Modesto area who need food, clothing and other humanitarian services. IFM serves the equivalent of close to 2 million meals a year to the neediest in the local community where over 20% of the population live below the poverty line which includes more than 36,000 children.

Interfaith Ministries' *Feed Modesto* program provides services to needy individuals and families through their food pantry and home delivery services. They also provide healthy food to other non-profits and churches that feed the community as well. There are additional programs such as



their *Clothes Closet* which provides clothing to low-income and homeless individuals and families. Money raised from the *Feast for the Eyes* event will support these programs.

Chief Executive Officer, Elizabeth Wight, says, "We are excited to once again host this special evening of fun while raising important funds that enable us to provide healthy food to over 40,000 people yearly." She adds, "With this festive event we bring the community together to celebrate the work we do and join us in our mission to bring the social change we need to end hunger."

Don't miss the opportunity to support this important community event by being a sponsor. Various levels are available. For information about sponsorship opportunities contact David Rogers, Communications Director, at (209) 572-3117 or [drogers@interfaithmodesto.org](mailto:drogers@interfaithmodesto.org). For media inquiries contact Veronica Jacuinde at (310) 508-1896 or [veronicajacuinde@gmail.com](mailto:veronicajacuinde@gmail.com).

## Up with People Comes to Modesto for a Special Performance

By VERONICA JACUINDE

Up with People is coming to Modesto from March 18 - 25, 2019 to support Boys and Girls Clubs of Stanislaus County (BGCStan). Up with People's mission is building a more hopeful, trusting and peaceful world by empowering young people to be positive agents of change through action and the international and powerful language of music. Participants from 20 countries are traveling to Modesto for a week of community service and cultural exchange culminating with a professionally produced performance at the Gallo Center for the Arts on March 22nd at 7pm. Tickets are available now at [www.GalloArts.org](http://www.GalloArts.org)

Up with People is known worldwide for bridging cultural gaps and participating in international relations and education. Their blend of music and social action creates the chance for youth to develop a new understanding of the world, recognize the responsibility they have to others, and become global citizens by acting as positive agents of change. Go to [www.UpwithPeople.org](http://www.UpwithPeople.org) for more information.

Through the generosity of Presenting Sponsor, Fuzio Universal Bistro, 100% of the proceeds raised will benefit Boys and Girls Clubs of Stanislaus County.

Janine McClanahan, BGCStan Board Chair, says, "We are thrilled to partner with Up with People to bring this incredible youth program to the City of Modesto. Not only will this be a unique opportunity for our community, it will raise important funds that enable us to keep helping those youth that need us most."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Stanislaus County is an after-school enrichment program that has served local youth since 2013 with four Clubs in Modesto. The Clubs provides a safe and nurturing environment for kids ages 6-18 to learn and have fun. Members participate in activities like sports, technology, art, dance and science. Our programs have an impact. Nearly 90% of Club members graduate from high school and approximately 80% go on to attend college. To learn more about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Stanislaus County visit [www.BGCStan.org](http://www.BGCStan.org).

For Up with People sponsorship opportunities contact Lori Richards at [richards@bgcstan.org](mailto:richards@bgcstan.org) or Kenni Friedman at [kenni.friedman@gmail.com](mailto:kenni.friedman@gmail.com). For media inquiries contact Veronica Jacuinde at (209) 222-5826 ext. 89 or [vjacuinde@bgcstan.org](mailto:vjacuinde@bgcstan.org).



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## Green Tips: Just Do It... Be Green

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Hello to 2019! Hello to JUST BEING GREEN!

No need to waste energy making resolutions you may not keep.

Big need for mindfulness of putting Mother Earth first. Putting our Mother first puts you and your loved ones first.

Take care of your Mother...and she will continue taking care of YOU.

Just simply REDUCE then REUSE then if no options remain RECYCLE.

Teach being green by example to your family, friends, work colleagues, religious communities, social media...with anyone, anyplace you interact in your world.

Thank you from your fellow humans on behalf of our Mother planet.

**Be informed!**

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



# Justly Proud: How the Central Valley Pride Center Forges a Sense of Community

An interview by TOM PORTWOOD

Neatly fifty years after police raids on the Stonewall Inn in New York City precipitated the modern LGBTQ rights movement, many in the LGBTQ community are still fighting to be fully accepted by the wider society, to have their voices heard; in short, to be treated as equals both in spirit and under the law.

Unfortunately, progress towards that goal has often been erratic. On the one hand, the 2015 Supreme Court decision affirming same-sex marriage was definitely a landmark victory and seemed to auger well for a fuller acceptance of LGBTQ individuals and families. Just last year, the Pew Research Center found that “a majority of Americans (62%) support same-sex marriage, while 32% oppose it.”

On the other hand, Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center reported in 2011 that “LGBT people are far more likely than any other minority group in the United States to be victimized by violent hate crimes.” Moreover, a study by the Human Rights Campaign indicated “that 42% of LGBTQ youth reported living in a community that is not accepting, while 92% of them also said they hear negative messages about being LGBT.” In recent years, much of the hate has been directed towards people who are transgender – the Human Rights Campaign reported that 29 transgender people were murdered in 2017 alone, a new record, calling it an epidemic.

“The people who access our services definitely face a lot of discrimination, especially those who are transgender – in the workplace, trying to find employment, trying to find a doctor,” reflects Britni Hodge, the manager of the Central Valley Pride Center (CVPC). “With the current administration there is a sense in the community that people are a little more open with their hate than they were before,” she adds. “A lot of us are feeling that, especially transgender people are feeling scared of things they are hearing in the media. There’s a lot of confusion about what laws can or cannot be changed - what is actually in place to protect people.”

Opened two years ago, CVPC is operated by MoPride, Inc., a non-profit agency established in 2014, whose goal is “to bring people together to celebrate the achievements of the LGBTQ+ movement, to remember our history, and to raise awareness of the work that still needs to be done.”

MoPride, Inc. and CVPC offer numerous programs, activities, and support groups to bolster that sense of acceptance and community. “We offer safe spaces just to do social things, like bowling,” Ms. Hodge explains. “Often LGBTQ people feel safer if they are surrounded by members of their own community. So we organize those sorts of social gathering, such as the LGBTQ Bowling Night at McHenry Bowl, giving them a sense of being protected. We have a TV and a lending library with LGBT books. We also provide a reference and referral service to other agencies, churches, medical needs – whatever LGTBQ people might need.”

The CVPC offers:

- Socializing opportunities several times a month
- Speaking and educational engagements at high schools, colleges, and businesses
- Parent Support Group
- Parents & Kids Day
- Youth Group
- Art Group
- Simple as ABP (Asexual/Bisexual/Pansexual group)
- Queer Women’s Social
- Queer Men’s Group
- Free HIV Testing and other health screenings in partnership with Public Health
- The annual Pride in the Park event

Ms. Hodge concedes that these are challenging times for LGBTQ people, though she sees cause for hope as well. “Acceptance seemed to take two steps forward and then one step back,” she suggests. “But when we go into junior high and high schools, those kids are so accepting!”

Ms. Hodge believes that “the most difficult issue facing the LGBTQ community is adequate access to medical care. There are doctors who refuse to see patients if those patients identify as transgender – and sometimes it’s not because they’re haters, but because they don’t have the education or training. It is a complicated procedure to go through. We also have a high population of homeless youth whose parents are unaccepting that their children identify as LGBTQ,” she adds. “But even if parents are not accepting, we offer to talk with them and show them what not accepting their children could lead to.”

Indeed, the CVPC’s emphasis on health care and particularly mental health care is well justified. The U.S. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion reports that “LGBT individuals face health disparities linked to societal stigma, discrimination, and denial of their civil and human rights. Discrimination against LGBT persons has been associated with high rates of psychiatric disorders, substance abuse, and suicide. Experiences of violence and victimization are frequent for LGBT individuals and have long-lasting effects on the individual and the community.”

Having managed the CVPC for six months now, Ms. Hodge is optimistic about the future. While the CVPC currently serves 100 to 120 people a month, “we are actually looking to expand since people are asking for more mental health services and job training. We are trying to create a safe, open environment here in Stanislaus County. We need active allies to help us, people who’ll march alongside us. Everyone is welcome here, whether you’re LGBTQ, or an ally - we are here for you to enjoy that safe, open environment.”

A full calendar of events and support groups offered by the Central Valley Pride Center is available each month at: <http://www.mopride.org/events>. The Central Valley Pride Center is located at 400 12<sup>th</sup> St., Suite # 2, in Modesto. Phone: (209) 372-3056. The office is open Tuesday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers are always needed.



# Upcoming shows at Mistlin Gallery

The Mistlin Gallery will feature Abstracts and Valley Impressions from January 2 - February 1st, 2019. Sierra Vista Child and Family Services will be included in this exhibition, featuring art produced by kids at risk.

The Sierra Vista part of the show is called Maps. Adult mentors have been working with at risk students through Sierra Vista's after school programs. This opportunity has allowed the mentor and mentee to develop a sense of identification with their geographic location. Viewers have an opportunity to see and think about the work not only as individual images but also as a way to consider how younger viewpoints tie into the larger identity and psychology of a community.

*Abstracts and Valley Impressions* will accompany this Sierra Vista mentor and mentee art show. The abstracts will be in various mediums, in large format as well as smaller images. Mixed in with the abstract paintings and drawings will be works by members who create images of various Central Valley scenes in landscape and urban narratives.

Please join us for the 3rd Thursday Art Walk on January 17th, 2019 from 5:00-9:00 pm at 1015 J Street. Gallery hours are T-F 11:30-5:00 pm and Saturday noon-4:00 pm.

This show will be followed by Foto Modesto's “Best of the Best” in February, and the annual *Young@Art* student exhibition in March.

**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](http://modestosound.org)





# A blast from the past: Castle Air Force Base

By DAN ONORATO

[Ed. Note: this is one of an occasional reprint of a distant past article dealing with peace and justice.]

[On December 18, 1972, the] Castle AFB Peace Action began for me when Sam [Tyson] first told me of his idea to carry out a demonstration in front of the base that would culminate in Civil Disobedience (CD). I was forced to do some deep self-questioning. One of my closest friends was going to risk arrest and jail because of the depth of his conviction. What was I willing to do? I knew that I would be a part of the protest. But was I ready for jail and other possible consequences should they come as a result of my action even though many young people my age have gone to jail for actions resulting from their deeply held principles? Jail was still a scary idea to me. I could not go just because many others could go and have gone. I had my own set of circumstances to consider--the effect of jail or prison on me and my wife and our relationship; was I strong enough to not grow bitter, resentful, maybe hateful in jail? Would any consequences affect my teacher job? Was what I was currently doing more important than how I would possibly grow and what I would learn in jail? I thought often about the decision. By mid-October I had decided against doing C.D. I hadn't answered any of my questions conclusively, rationally. I arrived at my decision by a deep-down feeling. Maybe it was fear. Partly I felt that I had to understand myself more, understand my possibly ego-centered motives for such an action, achieve a fuller understanding about such an action with my wife, grow more spiritually whole and strong. Perhaps these considerations were all rationalizations cloaking my fear. I'm not sure. For reasons I don't fully understand, I decided not to risk arrest and jail.

I didn't help much in the planning of the action until a couple of days before our leafleting and demonstration began. I was concerned that the media report on our action. I wanted as many people as possible to know what we were doing and why. Just to be at Castle without many people knowing about it seemed frustrating; people--lots of people--needed to know. So that they too, could act, in whatever way they saw fit. I phoned the news rooms at all the TV stations in the Bay area and none committed themselves; a news reporter on Channel 13 of Stockton, who expressed interest and did come. The newsroom man at the local Modesto Cable TV station, who though he couldn't cover the event, asked a representative of our group to be on his show the following week to explain our work and the purpose of this particular action.

I was struck by what most of the TV news people I talked with seem to conceive of as newsworthy. They were concerned with the number of people involved and also whether



or not there would be a confrontation with the police. The educational value for their viewers of a small group of people trying to do something in accord with their conscience seemed of less importance than the size of the group and the possible violent confrontation between dissenters and the law. When I emphasized that the action and civil disobedience would be non-violent, they asked no further questions.

**I was forced to do some deep self-questioning. One of my closest friends was going to risk arrest and jail because of the depth of his conviction. What was I willing to do?**

Perhaps one difficulty they had was that I couldn't tell them the exact time the CD would take place on Monday. Sam and Fred Moore didn't want to determine this too far in advance. They would act when they felt most ready. Only on Monday morning did Sam tell me roughly the time. Then I phoned the newsman from Channel 13 and told him, he came down and covered the event.

I was mainly concerned with getting coverage on TV because that would reach the most people. But I also phoned all the Modesto radio stations and sent a couple of them information on the three-day demonstration. I was frustrated and saddened at the response of one station's executive. After I told him the purpose and nature of our demonstration, he said, almost in a tone of disgust, "What makes you think there is any interest in something like that?"

I also phoned a reporter from the largest newspaper of the area, the Modesto Bee. I talked to him three times because I very much wanted this paper to report what we were doing. Though the reporter personally was sympathetic to the peace movement, for some reason, he didn't come.

I feel differently now about equating an action's effectiveness with whether or not it's covered by the media. In re-evaluating my notion of effectiveness, I am coming to feel that what counts in any action is that a person does what he thinks is right, what he must in conscience do, do it in a way

Vigil at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, CA: December 1972

Beyond its initial draft counseling work, one of the Peace Center's first public actions was a 3-day vigil/blockade in December, 1972, at Castle Air Force Base, where the US Strategic Air Command trained B-52 pilots for bombing raids in Vietnam. On December 19, Sam Tyson and Fred Moore chose to cross the entrance line at the base in an act of civil disobedience, but Castle security force refused to arrest them. It was soon learned that on that same day, the unpopular Christmas bombings of Hanoi had begun, and it became obvious that Castle AF had not wished to attract any negative publicity on that particular day.



consistent with his ends, do it to the best of his ability, intelligence and courage and not look for results. If he does this he will grow. If others with kindred attitudes join him, they too will grow. If they work as a group, they will grow mutually together. Each will experience the fulfillment of sharing with others in a situation of varying degrees of risk--the kind of gut level situation in which we grow the most because we extend ourselves beyond our usual stretching point. This enlarging of oneself by facing and overcoming fears and the deepening oneness with others make us fuller, stronger, more prepared and more willing to take the next risk. Everytime we decide to take further risk, our control over our own lives grows more confident and firm. This kind of "effectiveness" does not start with or require large numbers. Society will be better as individuals risk and demand of themselves ever deepening growth.

A related thought about effectiveness. I think that at least part of what lies beneath seeking to be effective is the desire to be able to mold results. In effect, a person seeks to control the future. This subtle impulse or drive to control the unknown is an extension of his ego, his drive for power, his need to have things his way. This tendency seems to be built into our ambivalent nature--what we would all agree was "natural." We all want to succeed at what we do. But its being natural doesn't make it necessarily desirable. This inclination is one of the central insecurities we all experience. As an insecurity, a kind of weakness, it is something within we need to look at and try to overcome. I think the working out of the insecurity lies in the effort to be of more faith: when we believe in something we dedicate ourselves to it fully, and we surrender ourselves to what we believe is right action--we let go the will to control results. When we become more willing to let go and deepen our ability to surrender ourselves, our ego has a decreasing need for praise and satisfaction and is less bothered by censure and blame. On a psychological level, perhaps it is a matter of concentrating on or redirecting our focus. We try to act as consistently as we can rather than look





for our desired results in our actions. The concentration then, is on the process, not the end result. Our physical, mental and spiritual energy focuses on the means we choose to achieve our end rather than on the success of our efforts. We do what we honestly can, in a way consistent with our goals, and then let the cards be turned over as they will. We don't stop trying

**The educational value for their viewers of a small group of people trying to do something in accord with their conscience seemed of less importance than the size of the group and the possible violent confrontation between dissenters and the law.**

because we believe in what we are doing. We need to act as we do because we feel the necessity to respond to a mysterious call within--God, Self, conscience, whatever a person wishes to call it. In this way we continue to try to maintain and guard our integrity as persons. Thoreau's famous claim about the effect of a man of integrity on his society rises forcefully:

*I know this well, that if one thousand, if one hundred, if ten men whom I could name-- If ten HONEST men, in the State of Massachusetts, ceasing to hold slaves, were actually to withdraw from this copartnership and be locked up in the county jail therefore, it would be the abolition of slavery in America.*

**(From essay on Civil Duty and Disobedience)**

Even when I pare away the dramatic hyperbole and declamatory tone, I face head on his encouraging, powerful

truth: an individual, assuming responsibility for his own life, living in accord with his principles, a man of integrity, necessarily has an indelibly salutary impact on his society.

To underscore the effectiveness in individual growth is not to deny the value of and need for media coverage. But it does place the emphasis where I think it needs to be: each person must continually work on him or herself. To reach others effectively we must act with eternal vigilance in rooting out from ourselves our own tendencies to impatience, anger, frustration, self-will.

Everyone has his own struggle with self to enact and comes to realize the need and urgency of that demanding effort in his own time. The media can be instrumental in this process by enabling a person to become aware of a problem and some of its roots and by informing him of attempts to overcome the problem. In this way, it can move a person from awareness to action. The more the media covers non-violent actions, the more people will begin to understand non-violence and decide to try to live it.

In the actual demonstration I spent most of my time leafletting. The position of the roads in front of the base made leafletting fairly easy. A combination of stop lights and RR tracks either stopped the cars or slowed them down. Every time we saw the lights change, we would walk along the side of the street or between the two lanes of cars and ask the people inside if they wanted to read a leaflet. Often times I found myself standing between the two rows of oncoming cars handing leaflets to the passengers as they passed. A couple of times the local police told us to stay out of the street because we might cause an accident. We replied that we had no intention of blocking traffic and that we would be careful. We would go to the side of the street and later we would be back between the two lines of oncoming cars.

I had leafleted in our previous May demonstration, so I had a fair notion of what to expect. To the surprise of us all, our leafletting was responded to with much more openness

**To reach others effectively we must act with eternal vigilance in rooting out from ourselves our own tendencies to impatience, anger, frustration, self-will.**

and friendliness than we had experienced in May. Of course, there was fear and a certain amount of hostility shown us. As harmless as handing a leaflet to someone is, it threatens many people. I expected the fear and hostility, so I didn't let myself get bothered by it. When a few times individual in cars yelled at me or called names or asked an antagonistic question (more a statement than a question), I would either not say anything in response and go on to the next car; or I would answer briefly, trying to maintain an attitude of respect, and then move on.

From *Roots and Fruits*, Vol. I, #3, Fall 1998. A publication of the Stanislaus Peace/Life Center and the Stanislaus Safe Energy Committee.

Read other stories from *Roots and Fruits* at <http://stanislausconnections.org/roots&fruits.htm>

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# California Audio Roots Project (CARP) 2019 Update

By BRENDA FRANCIS

This upcoming season we are going to have three guest artists who rotate through interviewing participants.

The California Audio Roots Project (CARP) is an expansion of an existing project that began in November 2017. The goal of CARP is to create audio recordings of California residents for airing on the radio and having them available online for streaming and downloading. The residents attend for free to do this. The 30-minute shows' focus centers around the life experiences of living in California, and can include storytelling, music, and poetry. This upcoming season we will expand to include a historical context to music in the area and focus on finding answers to questions such as these:

- How did a particular style of music arrive? For instance, perhaps a given style was introduced to the area when people migrated from other countries for agricultural opportunities?
- Are currently played styles still culturally authentic and what are the social implications? How have they been influenced with recent input from younger generations?
- As a specific example, Modesto's main community band (MoBand) is celebrating their 100-year anniversary. Each year the group performs a free 6-week summer concert "in-the-park" at Graceada park with its 130 volunteer musicians. Was this tradition started by homesteaders? How has the event evolved over the years?
- Also, country music is popular in the valley, and what more can we learn about how country music has evolved in relation to the agricultural community.
- As another example, what more can we learn about the roots of rockabilly, which was started in Modesto by The Maddox Family and became the basis for the slapping bass sound that formed Rock and Roll?

CARP brings together several media entities to work together, including two local public radio stations. It connects Friends of the Modesto Library with Modesto Sound by having the two non-profit organizations work together on marketing and public showcases. Participants who record their California story gets a CD, a link to the podcast, and are invited to the free public showcases.

- 450 community members and 7 California media professionals will be engaged in the project.
- Recordings will take place at Modesto Sound's recording studio.
- Public showcases will take place at the Stanislaus County Library.
- Equipment needed is already owned by Modesto Sound for the project.

The three guest artists for this upcoming season are:

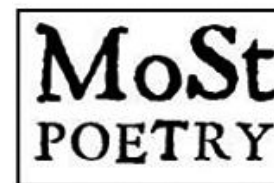
Carlos Caro: (Cuban Percussionist and Composer)  
Proposed grant role: Guest Artist. Carlos, from Havana, Cuba,

immigrated to Mexico and now lives in Modesto. He was nominated by the website [timba.com](http://timba.com) as the best bongosero from Cuba in the Timba style. He won two Latin Grammys with Los Tigres del Norte and Pacific Mambo Orquestra. He is author of *Muy caliente!* (an Afro-Cuban Play-Along CD and Book) and has been featured in movie soundtracks such as *The Last Mambo*. Carlos has collaborated in the past with Modesto Sound at two of their Recording Arts Camps, recording original songs with the youth at the camp using Afro-Cuban instruments <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=renoRxY0rJE>.

Roland Calagos (Retired Educator/Musician) Proposed grant role: Guest Artist. Roland received a bachelor's degree in Social Science with a minor in Asian American Studies from San Jose State University. He taught U.S. History, World History, Ancient Civilizations, and Medieval History for 29 years. He is the founding member of the most popular classic rock band in Modesto called "Johnny Rocket and the Thrust."

Marie Maxwell (Professional Musician/Music Educator) Proposed grant role: Guest Artist. Marie currently holds conducting positions in the Bay Area and is the Music Director for Modesto Junior College Symphony.

# MoSt to host 7th Annual Poetry Festival, Feb. 2



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. [See p. 9]

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](http://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](mailto:Info@mostpoetry.org)



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## Beginnings, Endings, and the Practiced Magic Between

Poetry is not naive. It is a concise language that artistically expresses an emotionally constructed moment. Getting into and out of the poem should be akin to stepping into a flame and exiting a nearly frozen stream... or vice versa. Between these precise bookends, we must exercise a balancing of image and statement that neither obscures the meaning nor presents a stale representation of the poetic intent. This presentation and workshop will cover the artistic construction of poems, groups of poems, and a manuscript.

We will begin by examining and discussing the works of contemporary poets writing in myriad styles. There will be several optional exercises and a chance to share at the end. The focus of this workshop will be to teach you the ruthless, practiced beauty necessary to make your poetry move and flow in your intended direction.

[www.indigomoor.org](http://www.indigomoor.org)

*"I think if he'd read a different book by a different writer at just the right time in his life he'd have been a different man."* – Zoe Luther



### Circus Vows

Our bedroom  
is a circus; moths  
hang from trapezes.

Doubts are the lions  
jumping through hoops,  
Setting the curtains aflame.

You say the broken  
Fork was an omen.  
That clown paper scales

the walls of your sleep &  
The paint inside my head  
Can't mask our problems.

No matter. Nothing's  
Random. I'm dragging  
A foot through sawdust,

Trolling for good news.  
Something to get me  
out of bed. You slip

On a night gown  
Dotted with crickets  
that chirp as the moon

Traipses through  
Our open window  
on camel stilt beams.

The anemic slice  
of wedding cake  
stolen from the freezer,

tossed center ring  
for elephants to trample.  
I blame the dog or media.

Anyone except  
that silhouetted, pissed-  
off you, holding the gun

With the paper BANG!  
flag aimed at my temple.  
I've gone deaf from its repeated

Silence. I know...  
tomorrow night, let's drag  
the canon bedside the bed.

One of us climbs in.  
The other dons the clown  
car like a cheap suit and starts

RUNNING. Let's see  
who gets the Hell out  
of this marriage, *faster*.

### Uprooted

It took all our weight to drag the rusted  
chain over the stump, my brother

and I heaving links heavy enough  
to strangle hope. Our hands lost

in grandfather's big work gloves,  
slick grass betrayed our bare feet.

The tractor vibrated low. Hummed,  
screeched, and began humming again.

Smoke marbled gray this blue morning.  
Where we once played king-of-the-hill

on the stump's weathered face, we now  
played Judas with an iron-linked kiss.

Grandfather spat gobs of *Red Fox*  
tobacco, feathered the clutch once

to tighten the noose. The engine leaned,  
a runner into wind. The chain notched

deep into the wood, imagine a lover's  
embrace gone shockingly wrong.

The stump shuddered, wrenched  
from the earth and tilted skyward.

I don't know what we expected.  
There were no secrets.

No ghosts. No magic. Only  
naked roots torn from the soil.

We stood with hands at our sides,  
lost in the tremor song of earth,

all of us broken like a promise.  
Air so raw, it scratched our lungs.

Days passed until, once more, we  
circled the stump, hoping the spirits

had time to slip away. We then laid  
axe to wood and released the rings.

### Glass

I vowed  
never again  
to cross that street.

But the snake charmer  
laid his flute  
along my spine.

Sodium light  
painted  
my shadow crooked  
across the restaurant's  
plate glass

my breath quickening  
against the pane.

Inside,  
mint teas  
incense  
dark spices  
tinted air.

A belly dancer  
timed finger cymbals  
and a coined sash

to a *sintir's*  
dulcet strumming.

Hand-woven  
tapestries  
thickened the walls

tugging  
at connecting studs.

Couches crouched  
low and sensuous

every divan and ottoman  
adorned  
with scented pillows  
and entwined legs.

*She and I were  
only here once*

I reminded myself.

Still, the music pulsed  
the glass  
beneath my fingers

as hookah pipes  
rose and fell

like empires,  
like longing.



# How to take on fascism without getting played

By GEORGE LAKEY

In front of a standing-room-only crowd at the Howard Zinn Book Festival in San Francisco earlier this month, historian [Mark Bray](#) and I debated the value of using violence to quell the growth of neo-Nazis and white supremacists. Anti-racism trainer Molly McClure was the moderator.

We received a good deal of appreciation for the chance to hear, in the same space, two different perspectives, shared by mutually-respectful activists who were interested in shedding more light than heat.

Dealing with fascists is a very big subject for a short article, so I'll use the frame that Mark and I used that night, which was to try to avoid global, abstract generalizations in favor of speaking to a few strategy issues that are of pressing concern right now. We mostly used historical examples as resources to help us think about what all of us face in the present. Mark's views can be found in [his 2017 book "Antifa."](#)

## Fascism grows in polarized times

The growth of polarization makes it possible for haters to come out from the margins, form larger groups and make political trouble. Why is polarization increasing now, with the accompanying growth of fascist groups?

A [trio of political scientists found](#) that polarization is driven by economic inequality. The inequality is generated by the policies of the economic elite, the 1 percent who dominate our country. The more inequality, the more polarization and — therefore — the more trouble from neo-fascist formations.

Billionaire Warren Buffett let the cat out of the bag when he [revealed to The New York Times](#) in 2006 that the 1 percent has been waging, in his words, "class war." As I see it, that's been going on at least since the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Some young working-class white men are manipulated by the results of that class war — and our country's racism — to respond by joining the Ku Klux Klan and other groups.

In other words, the cause of rising fascism is the economic elite and its wish to take more and more of the country's wealth for itself. Economist [Elise Gould tells us](#) that "The gap between those at the top and those at the middle and bottom has continued to increase through much of the 2000s."

Antifa focuses on fascists as our enemy, but that is mistaking the symptom for the cause. The fascists are mostly people on the margins who have no say about what's hurting them and mistakenly believe their enemies are immigrants, blacks, liberals and Jews. I believe the real perpetrators are super-rich conservatives, libertarians, and Democrats who agree that neo-liberal economic policies are a good thing and that they can live with the "unfortunate" consequences — which not only hurt the rest of us (including members of the Ku Klux Klan), but also the planet and its ability to sustain us.

To reverse course and put our country on what the

civil rights movement called "the Freedom Road," we need to upset the dominance of the economic elite. That requires building mass movements that learn, as they grow, the necessity of nonviolent revolution. My new book "How We Win" describes how to move more quickly in that direction.

## A model for success amidst Nazi threats

The growing economic inequality of the 1920s resulted in increased political polarization in Sweden and Norway — just as it did in the United States during the same decade. The extremes at both left and right grew, including the Nazis.

As with German Nazis and Italian Fascists of the same period, the right-wing extremists of Sweden and Norway wanted to use violence to dominate the politics of their day. It must have tempted the growing left movements of Nordic farmers and workers to preoccupy themselves with the Nazi threat. The Scandinavian left had even more to fear because the Nazi ideology contained an appeal to ancient Scandinavian myths and the "heroic Aryan blood" of the Vikings.

Instead, the Nordic left movements kept their focus on the real perpetrators of inequality and injustice. The left aimed at pushing the economic elite off their pedestals, and they succeeded despite the violence the elite used to protect their privilege. As I've described in my 2016 book "[Viking Economics](#)," the Scandinavian left pulled off the closest thing yet to a democratic revolution that changed class power relations and installed an alternative economic model centering

the worker instead of capital. And they did it with a brilliant multi-dimensional strategy that featured nonviolent struggle doing the heavy lifting.

In the meantime, the left in Germany and Italy got distracted by the right-wing extremists. [Historian Laurie Marhoefer describes](#) the violent leftist response to Nazi provocations in Germany. Battles between left and right inside taverns surged into the streets. The German middle classes became alarmed at the rising amount of violent chaos and went along with their economic elites' decision to hand state power to Adolf Hitler.

A similar dynamic happened in Italy, where the rising violence between left and right led to the appointment of fascist Benito Mussolini to lead the government. After all, in a period of polarization and insecurity, "we need law and order," right? Give the state, the elite reasoned, to the party



Anti-fascist graffiti in Athens, Greece. (Wikimedia/Cogiati)

promising law and order — big time!

I sometimes think the smartest thing the Swedish and Norwegian left did was to avoid getting baited by their Nazi antagonists into street-fighting and mounting chaos. Instead, they modeled self-discipline and used the disruptive, nonviolent power of noncooperation to force a power shift. They also projected a vision to show how the new economy would work for the common good, winning in the process more and more allies, including members of the fearful middle classes.

Since the United States faces increasing chaos — guaranteed by random violence and climate disaster, along with polarization — we should hold this successful model in our minds as we figure out what to do.

## From reactivity to pro-activity

While touring the country the past couple years, I've seen an enormous amount of reactivity among progressives. Many closely follow media that dwell on bad news, trying to respond to a dozen issues at once, competing for political correctness, scattering their energy, and — no surprise — becoming depressed.

That's the opposite of what works for making progressive change.

Antifa offers one more rationale for reactivity: Doing quick mobilizations against right-wing extremist groups that announce a plan to rally. Not only does that reactivity subtract energy needed to build winning campaigns that build movements, but it can also lead us into traps.

In November, activists in Philadelphia heard through social media that the Proud Boys were coming to hold a rally. About 40 right-wingers showed up and made speeches — a non-event, a failure, in no way worthy of mass media coverage.

However, hundreds of progressives showed up, transforming the non-event into political primetime for the right wing.

continued next page



## Anti-fascism

continued

The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, normally a daily newspaper reluctant to cover street demonstrations, published an enormous article containing six photographs (two in full color) and over 20 column inches of text. The bonus for the right-wingers was that the conflict did turn physical and at least one of them was hurt, fitting nicely into the playbook on the right that they are “poor victims” of the liberal elite and deserving of sympathy.

In effect, the progressives gave the right-wingers a victory. A newspaper reader could easily conclude that the extremist right must be consequential — otherwise they wouldn’t have received so much attention. And attention only adds more fuel to the fascists’ fire.

Economic polarization enrolls alienated working-class white men to the extremist right, where they are led by bullies who rise to the top of the gang. Even more than most of us, bullies want attention. And fascism, as a political ideology, only affirms that craving.

There is a way, however, to handle bullies, which most of us know: Refuse to give them what they want. What we need, I believe, is a left like that of the Swedes and Norwegians who knew how to refuse what the bullies in their countries wanted.

We can refuse to be baited and manipulated. We can refuse to play their game. After all, we have something better to do: organize campaigns for winnable goals that help build powerful mass movements, so that we can unite those movements behind a positive vision able to push the economic elite aside and open space for a new society.

Many of those attracted to fascist-led formations will see

the error of their ways. After all, a nonviolent, democratic society is organized around the common good, satisfying the vast majority.

What about the deeply-convinced haters, unwilling to change? They will scatter to the margins, where they wait with the hope that conditions for their politics will once again become favorable. They serve as a barometer of how things are going, as we’ve seen in Scandinavia recently. Sweden, which has allowed economic inequality to grow more than the other Nordics, is also troubled by more growth in their neo-fascist minority. The Swedish majority is once again challenged, as is that of the United States. Will we confront the real problem of inequality?

My hope for the left, in both countries, is to focus on the fundamental problem, rather than the symptom.

Original article at <https://wagingnonviolence.org/feature/how-to-take-on-fascism-without-getting-played/>

*This story was made possible by our members. [Become one today.](#)*

**George Lakey**, active in direct action campaigns for six decades has facilitated 1,500 workshops on five continents and led activist projects on local, national and international levels, most recently with Earth Quaker Action Team. He is author of “Strategizing for a Living Revolution” in David Solnit’s book *Globalize Liberation* (City Lights, 2004). His 2016 book is “Viking Economics,” and in December 2018 Melville House will release “How We Win: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning.”

## 10 Steps to Save American Democracy

By ROBERT B. REICH

Trump isn’t the only problem. As Big Money floods our political system, and some in power are intent on making it harder for certain people to vote, we need a movement to save our democracy.

Here are 10 steps:

Number 1: **Make voter registration automatic for all eligible voters**, using information they’ve already provided the Department of Motor Vehicles or another government agency. This has already been implemented in several states, including Oregon, and it works. In 2014, over 1 in 5 Americans were eligible to vote but did not register. Automatic registration would automatically change this.

Number 2: **Pass a new Voting Rights Act**, setting uniform national voting standards and preventing states from engaging in any form of voter suppression, such as voter ID laws, the purging of voter rolls, and inaccessible and inadequate polling places.

Number 3: **Implement public financing of elections**, in which public funds match small donations — thereby eliminating the advantage of big money.

Number 4: **Require public disclosure of the sources of all political donations**. Much of that is now secret, so no one is held accountable.

Number 5: **End the revolving door between serving in government and lobbying**. Too often, members of Congress, their staffs, cabinet members and top White House personnel take lucrative lobbying jobs after leaving government. In turn, lobbyists take important positions in government. This revolving door must stop. It creates conflicts between the public interest and private greed.

Number 6: **Ban members of Congress from owning specific shares of stock while they’re in office**. Require that they hold their investments in index funds, so they won’t favor particular companies while carrying out their public duties.

Number 7: **Require that all candidates running for Congress and the presidency release their tax returns** so the American people know of any potential financial conflicts of interests before they’re elected.

Number 8: **Eliminate gerrymandered districts by creating independent redistricting commissions**. Some states — Arizona, California, Michigan, and Colorado, for example — have established non-partisan commissions to ensure that congressional maps are drawn fairly, without racial or partisan bias. Other states should follow their lead.

Number 9: **Make the Electoral College irrelevant**. The presidency should be awarded to the candidate who receives the most votes. Period. States should agree to award all their Electoral College votes to the winner of the popular vote by joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

10 and finally: **Fight for a Supreme Court that will reverse its Citizens United decision**, which interpreted the First Amendment to prevent Congress or state governments from limiting political spending.

Follow these 10 steps and begin to make our democracy work again.

Watch a video at <http://robertreich.org/post/181325899935>

### Come & Hear DR. MICHAEL ERIC DYSON!



*Author, Teacher, Activist*

**SATURDAY, March 30, 2019**

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Commemoration**

Performing Arts & Media Center  
Modesto Junior College, East Campus  
435 College Ave., Modesto

• 6:00 p.m. - Doors Open  
• 7:00 p.m. - Free program

— Sponsors —



California State University | Stanislaus

City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Dept.; Modesto Junior College; Modesto Peace/Life Center; California State University, Stanislaus; Associated Students of Modesto Junior College; Modesto Teachers Association; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). *Free Community Event. Sponsors needed!* Contact Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) to donate or co-sponsor.



# 12 CALENDAR



## JANUARY 2019

**MJC Science Colloquium** Schedule, Spring 2019, 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. Schedule TBA.

**MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science).** Free, informative, engaging community science programs. 7:30 pm, MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132. **Jan. 25:** Dr. Ian C. Faloona, (UC Davis). Agriculture is a major source of nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution in California. How trace gas emissions in marine and terrestrial boundary layers influence the Earth's climate. <http://faloona.lawr.ucdavis.edu/>. **Feb. 22:** Paul E. Lenze, Jr., Northern Arizona Univ. Syrian Forced Migration & Public Health in the European Union. Examines causes of the Syrian Civil War and the impact of migration on public health in the Middle East and Europe. <https://nau.edu/pia/nau-faculty/>. **March 22:** Steven Murov, <http://murov.info>, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, MJC. Periodic Table Milestones and Real and Fake Elements. <http://murov.info/timelines.htm>. **April 12:** Dr. Jonathan Fortney, UC Santa Cruz. The Kepler Mission: Exotic Solar Systems on the Path to Earth-Like Planets. Insights from the mission and the future of planetary research. <http://www.uclick.org/~jfortney/>

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

**5 SAT: The State Theatre** presents a one-time showing of this classic horror remake, *Suspiria*. 1307 J. St., Modesto. Join the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>.

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

**18 FRI: 25th Annual MLK Luncheon.** Keynote Speaker: Rev. Jeremiah Williams. King-Kennedy Center, 601 S. Martin Luther king Dr., Modesto. 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. \$20 donation at the door.

**20 SUN: The Modesto Film Society** presents *Cool Hand Luke*. 1307 J. St., Modesto. 2:00 pm. Join the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>

**21 MON: 31st Annual MLK Celebration.** Speaker: Pastor Lonnie Anderson, Jr. Christian Love Baptist Church, 202 H. St., Modesto. 10 am.

## LOOKING AHEAD

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

**February 23: Inter Faith Ministries hosts Second Annual Feast for the Eyes.** At the Century, downtown Modesto. Theme: "Rhapsody in Blue." See article, this issue.

**Friday March 8: Peace Essay Contest Awards Ceremony.** Mary Stuart Rogers Student Center, MJC West Campus.

**Saturday March 30: The 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration.** Speaker, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson.

**June: Annual Pancake Breakfast.** Date 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](mailto:modestovineyard@gmail.com); All Welcome.

**IMCV weekly Insight Meditation** and dharma talk, 8:45 am - 10:15 am, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: [info@imcv.org](mailto:info@imcv.org)

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Tiamonica64@gmail.com) or Susan J, [SusanthePoet@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:naacp.branch1048@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**Ongoing meditation** class based on Qi Gong Principals. Practice a 3 Step Guided Meditation Process I have

## 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.

been doing for over a decade. Fun and Easy. JOIN ME! Donations accepted but optional. Call 209.495.6608 or email Orlando Arreygue, CMT RYT, [orlando@arreygue.com](mailto:orlando@arreygue.com)

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

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

**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](mailto:info@stanpride.org), or [tgssupport@stanpride.org](mailto:tgssupport@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](mailto: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](http://www.StanislausGreenTeam.com)

**Third Thursday Art Walk**, Downtown Modesto, downtown art galleries open - take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-9 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:yamiletv@hotmail.com)

### SATURDAY

**Refuge Recovery: A Buddhist Approach** to Recovery from Addiction. @Friends Coming of Age., 1203 Tully Rd., Ste. B., Modesto. Saturdays 8-9 am. FREE (donations accepted). Info: [RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com](mailto:RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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