



Stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

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Civil Rights leader Diane Nash: It's up to us

By DAN ONORATO

"What we did," Diane Nash told a large audience at Modesto Junior College's auditorium on February 1 at the 20th Annual Commemoration of Dr. King's birthday, "took many thousands of people. Many of them made bigger sacrifices by far than I did, and we will never know their names."

Like her mentor, Ella Baker, who was probably the most influential woman in the Civil Rights Movement, Nash has never sought status or fame. She doesn't look to charismatic leadership to solve social problems. She knew Martin Luther King, Jr. well. She enjoyed his "marvelous sense of humor," and what endeared him to her was his humanness. He "made mistakes and he was afraid" but he had a "wonderful capacity to change and grow" and he was steadfast, a "truly great man," a "person of integrity" who always "had the interests of black people at heart." But the Movement was not Dr. King's. "Martin wasn't the leader," she said. "He was the spokesperson. It was a people's movement."

Many people say today, I wish we had a great leader. But Nash says emphatically, "No!" and reminds us it was ordinary people who brought about the changes. "The only way this country will make it through our difficult times is if we citizens take our future into our own hands, study, plan, and execute an intelligent strategy."

Much of her talk was an explanation of how to do just that. Her insights came from her direct experience working for social change. Nash was raised in a middle class Catholic family in Chicago, so when she went to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and witnessed the oppression of segregation, she was shocked and outraged. Black people could buy take-out food in restaurants but they couldn't sit down and eat inside; they ate outside on the curb. In some places even the hospital nurseries were segregated. She quickly understood the purpose: to humiliate and dehumanize black people, make them feel inferior. But her grandmother had taught her to never let anyone mistreat her, so two blocks from Fisk she found Methodist minister James Lawson's weekly workshops on nonviolence and got involved. Lawson had spent time in India studying Gandhi's methods. "I got an excellent education in the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence," she said. She applied what she learned by leading the effort to desegregate department store lunch counters in downtown Nashville.

Later, after some of the Freedom Riders were brutally beaten, when the Freedom Rides to desegregate interstate bus travel in the South were about to be called off because the leaders feared the riders would be killed, Nash and the Nashville Student Nonviolent

NASH. cont. p 8



PHOTO: Jim Costello

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RUMMAGE SALE!

Fund Raiser for
The Modesto Peace/Life Center
Saturday April 5, 2014, 8 am to 2 pm.
College Ave. Congregational Church
parking lot, 1341 College Ave. Modesto
To donate articles, take them to the
College Ave. Congregational Church,
Friday, April 4 between 3 pm and 6 pm.
(We will add items to the sale
that are there by 9 am April 5)
For more info., call John at 209-765-3813
The Modesto Peace/Life Center has worked for
over 43 years for peace, social justice,
and sustainability

*You are invited to the
Peace Essay Contest
Awards and Reception*

*Friday, March 21, 2104
7:00 p.m.*

*Mary Stuart Rogers Student
Learning Center*

Modesto Junior College West Campus

2301 Blue Gum Ave.

(parking free after 5:00 p.m.)

Great Valley Songwriters' Series features Mark Lemaire and Twilight



Submitted by **JAMES COSTELLO**

The Great Valley Songwriters' Series presents "Mark Lemaire and Twilight" on Friday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. (\$10 at the door) at the Central Grace Community Church, 918 Sierra Dr. in Modesto.

The music of New Acoustic performer Mark Lemaire is both ethereal and deeply grounded, the guitar playing smooth, beautiful, and not quite like anything you've heard before. Berkeley songwriter Carol Denney says that "To call him a remarkable player would be a considerable understatement - just about nobody I know is doing what Mark can do on the guitar."

Mark Lemaire has shared the stage with Tracy Chapman, Maria Muldaur, The Dixie Dregs, and fretless bass virtuoso Michael Manring.

Farm 2 School Fundraiser

The Farm 2 School Fundraiser will be held on **Thursday, March 6, 2014 6:30 p.m. at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto.** Cost is \$50 per person.

The University of California Cooperative Extension will host this Farm to School Fundraiser to promote efforts across the Northern San Joaquin Valley. We hope a night of fun education on what to do with those "unknown" fruits and vegetables you see in the market, will not only further inspire interest to purchase locally grown produce, but also spark curiosity in participating in a Community Support Agriculture Partnership (CSA) and help grow our program to reach all local schools in our area.

In addition to dinner and a cooking demonstration we will be having: Wine & Beer Tasting; Produce Tasting; a Farmers Market; Silent Auction and more.

We will be entertained by the Manteca Unified Vocational Academy of Culinary Arts students and participate in an Olive Oil Taste Testing.

Space is limited so please register at <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=11869>

Info: Terri Spezzano: 209-525-6800; email: tmspezzano@ucanr.edu

Mark performs with his partner Cindy van Empel. They sing of the vicissitudes of love and the strange surprise of middle age creeping up on us.

This is music for adults, yet with clarity and incisiveness appealing to the part of us that is ageless.

Cruz M. Bustamante, former California Lt. Governor, to speak in Modesto

By **MAGGIE MEJIA**

On **THURSDAY, MARCH 20** from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.—the Latin Community Roundtable invites you to the **13th Annual Cesar E. Chavez Si Se Puede Empowerment Luncheon** at the Modesto Centre Plaza, 1100 K St., Modesto. **CRUZ M. BUSTAMANTE, former California Lt. Governor,** will speak. Tickets: \$20.00 a person. For reservations or more information call (209) 303-2664 or email maggiemejialcr@gmail.com

Also, on **SATURDAY, MARCH 15** from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., LCR will assist the Mexican Consulate Mobil Unit with 400 appointments for Mexican citizens of Stanislaus County to obtain their government documents as Mexican residents. The workshop will be at Hanshaw Middle School, Las Vegas Ave., Modesto.

Note: The Latino Community Roundtable (LCR) meets monthly on the second Thursday at Noon at Bel Piatto Italian Cucina, 1000 Kansas Ave., Modesto. For lunch reservations call Maggie Mejia at (209) 303-2664 or email maggiemejialcr@gmail.com

Non-Violence Book Club

By **JOHN FRAILING**

If you were fortunate enough to attend the MLK, Jr. event sponsored by the Modesto Peace/Life Center and other organizations, you heard Diane Nash speak about the power of non-violence and how to successfully change society through non-violent actions. And the operative word here is "actions." To further understand this method, Ms. Nash recommended three books to read. They are:

The Power of Non-Violence by Richard Gregg

My Experience with Truth by Mahatma Gandhi (aka The Autobiography of)

Conquest of Violence by Joan Bondurant

To further our knowledge and group understanding of these books, the Center has decided to have a book club to discuss these books. We will start with the first book, which is available, on-line at no cost, or can be ordered for a paper copy. Mr. Gregg wrote this book in 1935, when the world was in chaos and headed for another world war.

We are going to have the first meeting on Saturday morning, March 29th from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Peace/Life Center. This should be educational and lots of fun. Please join us in this new adventure.

Film night at the Center features Pete Seeger, "The Power of Song"

By **JOHN LUCAS**

Singer, songwriter, musician, and life-time activist Pete Seeger died in January, but he lives for the ages in a film the Peace/Life Center is showing on Wednesday, March 19, called *Pete Seeger: The Power of Song*. This stirring tribute will be presented at the Center, 720 13th St. at 6:30 p.m.

I have been a longtime admirer of Pete Seeger's music, his concern for humanity and the environment, and his activism. I was fortunate to see him in a free concert in San Francisco at Stern Grove over thirty years ago. Pete did a lot of free concerts. At this concert, just before it was time for Pete to go on, I was looking for the restroom. Apparently, the dressing rooms for performers were in the same area as the restrooms. Walking towards me on his way to the stage to perform was Pete Seeger. There was no one with him. We met and I hugged him, and he hugged me back. All these years later that moment, not surprisingly, is all I remember about the concert. Pete Seeger gave countless people hugs over his lifetime. That was the type of human being he was.

If you haven't seen this film, don't miss it!

In *Pete Seeger: The Power of Song*, the only authorized biography, director Jim Brown documents the life of one of the greatest American singer/songwriters of the last century.

Pete Seeger was the architect of the folk revival, writing some of its best known songs including, "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "If I Had A Hammer." Largely misunderstood by his critics, including the US government, for his views on peace, unionism, civil rights and ecology, Seeger was targeted by the Communist witch hunt of the Fifties. He was picketed, protested, blacklisted, and, in spite of his enormous popularity, banned from American television for more than 17 years. With a combination of never-before-seen archival footage and personal films made by Seeger and his wife, *Pete Seeger: The Power of Song* serves as a testament of Seeger's belief in the power of song above all else and his conviction that individuals can make a difference.

Musicians including Arlo Guthrie, Joan Baez, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, Natalie Maines, Tom Paxton, and Peter, Paul and Mary appear in this intimate portrait and discuss Seeger's lasting influence on the fabric of American music.

The film will make your heart soar!

Note: April's film will be *Mother Caring for 7 Billion*. Wednesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. For more information e-mail (lucasjal@sbcglobal.net) or call (209-765-3813)

Pete Seeger remembered

By JOHN McCUTCHEON

All the “news” I’d have to share with you this month...a recap of the Left Coast Tour, upcoming dates, announcement of my summer songwriting camp at Highlander, etc... is overshadowed by the death of Pete Seeger this past week. At 94, his passing could hardly be unexpected, though it came as a surprise, nonetheless. He was such a constant in our culture it seems strange that he’ll not be there to exhort us into song, waving his long arms, pointing his chin to the stars. Personally, I’ll miss the unpredictable phone calls when he’ll run a verse of a new song, give me tips on teaching harmony in the South African tradition, or pepper me with questions about a new technology to further break down the “fourth wall” between performer and audience. He was the North Star of the folk music world, a link to a glorious and tumultuous past, a conscience guiding us to a humane and purpose-driven future. He is only gone in body, however, what he contributed hardly requires his presence.

Pete’s actually been preparing us for this moment for years. I recall hearing him sing “Quite Early Morning” in 1970. When he intoned “And when these fingers can strum no longer, hand the old banjo to young ones stronger” I remember thinking, “For crying out loud, Pete, you’re 50 years old! Cut out with the death talk already!” But as I’ve learned since, assuming the role of elder is to view and to accept mortality and, with equal parts humility and generosity, let others know they are neither the first, nor the last. We accomplish things in small steps, but we each must make those steps. And, as the song reminds us, “the longest march can be won.”

Pete was a shy man. He was never comfortable with the attention he received so he developed a persona that was both familiar and distancing. He appeared on vast stages: whether it be Carnegie Hall or before the House Un-American Activities Committee. And on each he knew he had an audience and a microphone and something to say.

Pete, along with Joe McCarthy, created my job, lots of

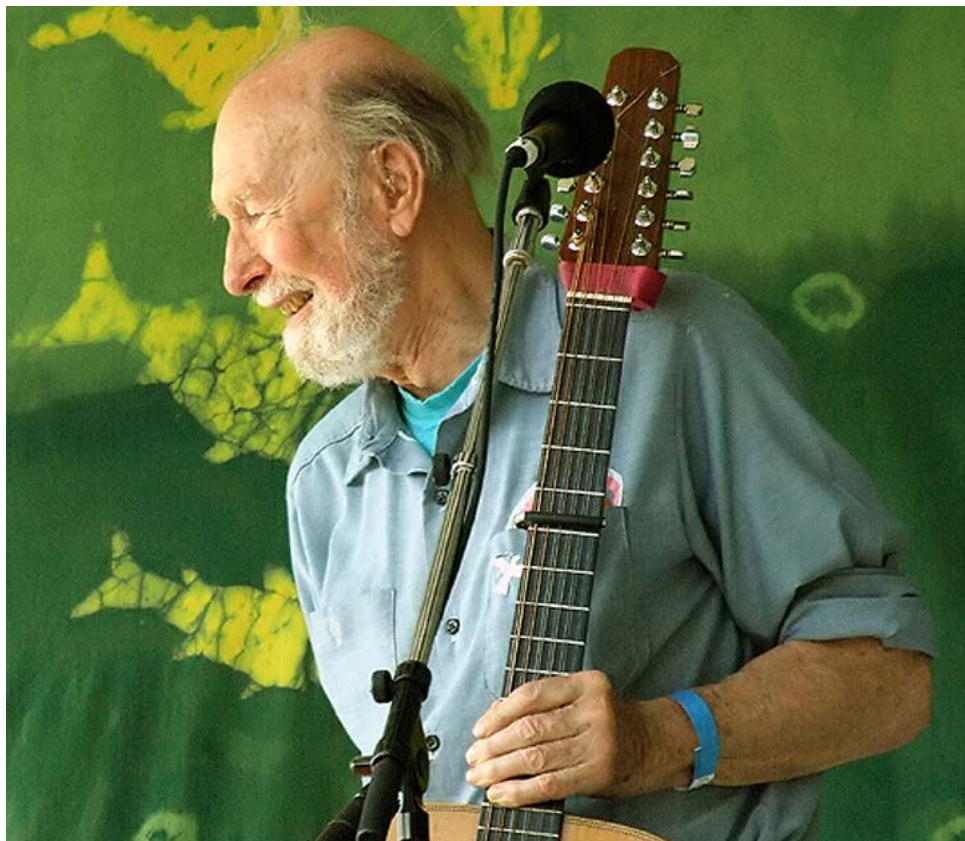


PHOTO: Anthony Pepitone.

folksingers’ jobs. When Pete was blacklisted because of McCarthy’s witch hunts, he went from being a member of the biggest group in popular music, the Weavers, to being unemployable. So he and his wife, Toshi, contacted church groups, small colleges, nascent folksong societies, and the like across America looking for any kind of work. Unwittingly, they helped establish a grassroots network of music presenters that thousands of musicians benefit from to this day. More importantly, it created a sense of connectedness and community that helped introduce tens of thousands of people to the joys of making their own music. In an age dominated by the consolidation of the “entertainment industry” into a product-oriented, profit-driven cultural monopoly, the idea of people taking control of their own common wealth, making their own music, organizing their own dances, and providing for their own entertainment was nothing short of revolutionary. And it didn’t stop there.

To be an audience member in one of Pete’s concerts was a transformative experience. Make no mistake, Pete was a terrific musician. He did things with the banjo that had never been done. He was a masterful performer. But that was not his gift. People who had been told their entire lives they could not sing found that they could. In harmony! People who believed they had no power suddenly knew they did. People who were convinced they were alone found they were not. Concert as community: it was unheard of, unimaginable, unforgettable.

His reach was far beyond what the obits will cite. Any kid who sang around a campfire probably owes his or her repertoire to Pete. He helped uncover and reclaim an enormous body of American folksongs. Anybody who sings songs for

kids today who claims they didn’t pore over Pete’s “Children’s Concert at Town Hall” album is lying to you. For a song-leader, Pete’s performances were university classrooms. His championing of new, up-and-coming songwriters (Tom Paxton and Bob Dylan, especially, in their early days) would seem rare signs of grace and generosity today. And his own skills as a songwriter, often overlooked, were prodigious. The fact that “If I Had a Hammer,” “Turn, Turn, Turn,” and “Where Have All the Flowers Gone” are commonly thought to be traditional songs is a compliment that few songwriters achieve. Or deserve.

Pete was powerful but hardly perfect. He clung to the CP party line about Hitler far too long before World War II and on Stalin far too long afterward. He was a champion of human rights with a blind spot (as does much of the American Left) concerning Cuba. But he faced his mistakes in ways that traced the thinking, evolution, and change that ordinary people inevitably struggle with and that celebrities seldom voice. Even in his missteps he sought to teach. Progress, not perfection,

was his muse.

Personally, Pete was a mentor who treated me as a peer, a decidedly undeserved kindness. He was a husband and partner to his wife, Toshi, who passed away last July, a signal to those who knew and loved them both that Pete was surely not far behind. He was a beacon of optimism and hope in a cynical time. The fact that I’ve had to go back and edit so many verbs from present to past tense in describing Pete is testimony to how strange it is now to think of him in those terms. But, as the song Pete gave us right out of the Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us, “To everything there is a season...a time to be born, a time to die.” For Pete it is, at long last, a time of peace.

Pete Seeger. ¡Presente!

Visit John’s website: <http://www.folkmusic.com>

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Life by the Drop

By JENIFER WEST

Water is certainly on everyone's minds these days. How much does your household use in a day? Here's a link to a website to help you find out: <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/sq3.html>. Of course, any estimates will be based on averages, but I was astounded to learn that, on a typical week day, we use in the neighborhood of 132 gallons of water – and about 250 on a working-around-the-house Saturday! (These estimates do not include water used for landscaping.)

There are ways to save water which require minimal effort – just a mindfulness that each drop counts. Most folks are aware, for example, that it's a good idea to turn the water off while brushing teeth and washing hands.

For most of us, though, there's room for improvement in the kitchen. Again, turning the water off while washing hands will help. To save water while rinsing dishes to prepare them for the dishwasher, put the largest item to be washed (pan, mixing bowl, etc.) under the faucet to catch the water from rinsing smaller items. Use the collected water to rinse the remaining dishes, allowing any that need to soak to stay in the bowl or pan until the food has loosened. (Incidentally, the plastic mesh bags that potatoes, onion or other produce comes in, cut into squares, are great for cleaning. They won't scratch like the green or blue scrubbies you can buy in the store, but they get the job done just as well – and they don't cost a thing!) Waiting to run the dishwasher until it's full is another obvious way to save water.

The laundry room is another area where water can be saved. Again, making sure to run only full loads will save water and other resources. Another way to save energy, although not necessarily water, is to limit (or even eliminate) the use of the dryer. This will save wear and tear on clothes, as well as preventing stains from setting (as long as the item is not put into the dryer at all).

Finally, we've recently installed something at our house that's helping us save both water and money, and have whole-house, instant access to hot water, in the bargain! I learned about it from my dad, who had recently installed one himself. It's called a recirculating pump, and was pretty easy to install. The literature says it can save a typical household about 15,000 gallons of water per year. If a recirculating pump were installed in only ten households, 150,000 gallons of water could be saved. If 100 households installed them, 1,500,000 gallons less water would be wasted. And if they were installed in 1,000 households...

The kit, available at hardware stores for around \$200 (we got ours for about \$175 on Amazon), consists of a pump that attaches to the water heater, and a valve that is installed under the sink furthest from the water heater. The pump draws hot water from the water heater and sends it through the hot water pipes, until it arrives at the furthest faucet, where the pressure opens the valve, sending the slightly cooled water

back to the water heater through the cold water pipes. Thus, the hot water pipes stay warm, which means virtually no waiting for hot water at any fixture. It has a built-in timer, so it can be set to run at times of day when hot water use is at its peak. The system uses minimal electricity – similar to that used by a light bulb. As an added bonus, we've actually been able to turn the thermostat on our water heater down!



Having virtually instant hot water available allows big savings in water use. A typical older shower head allows a flow of 4 – 8 gallons per minute, or an astounding 40 – 80 gallons of water for the typical 10-minute shower! (The newer, low-flow shower heads allow a flow of about 2.5 gallons per minute, with a 10-minute shower using in the neighborhood of 25 gallons.) Add to that the several minutes of running water it takes to warm up

the pipes before the water's hot enough to brave getting into it, and the environmental cost goes way up. Low-flow shower heads certainly afford savings, but some of it is negated by running water down the drain while waiting for it to heat up. The recirculating pump avoids all that, and really makes a difference when we all need to be getting ready for the day at once – we save time, and we're less likely to run out of hot water, as well.

Cutting back water use is something we all can and need to do, these days. The good news is that each one of us really can make a difference.



Miniature Gardening

By Anne Schellman
Photos by Holly Guenther & Mark Tovar

Connections author publishes new book

By JAMES COSTELLO

Horticulturist and sometimes *Connections* author, Anne Schellman, has published her new book, *Miniature Gardening*. To get a copy, send a check for \$15 to: Anne of Green Gardens, P.O. Box 74311, Davis, CA 95617-4311, or visit her Facebook page at "Anne of Green Gardens" and select "Store."

Anne will be an exhibitor at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, March 19-23. Visit her booth, #1210. For more on the show and where it is located, visit <http://sfgardenshow.com>

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Peace in the Korean Peninsula

First Place ~ Division I Winner – Peace Essay Contest

ELIANA MONTALVO

Whitmore Charter High School ~ Marian Barr, teacher

With every passing era, politics, traditions, and societies change, but the ever-present need for peace remains. The conflict in the Korean peninsula has been waged for many years and continues to threaten peace on an international level. There are, however, peaceful solutions to resolve this conflict. Peace and stability can be brought to the Korean peninsula by aiding the North Korean people, convincing China to play a greater role in denuclearizing North Korea, and encouraging peace talks between the parties involved.

Conflicts on the border of North and South Korea began the Korean War back in 1950 (Briney). Although the war ended with peace negotiations, current tension in the Korean peninsula has expanded into an international conflict that may result in another war. North Korea has currently been experimenting with long-range rockets and nuclear missiles. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2087 specifically condemned North Korean rocket launching, but North Korea has directly defied this agreement by conducting more nuclear tests and building more missiles (2013 Korean Crisis). Ms. Geunhye Park, the current president of South Korea announced, “I consider the current North Korean threats very serious” (In Focus: North Korea’s Nuclear Threats). Indeed, in March of 2013, North Korea announced that it ended the Korean Armistice Agreement and stated that it would use aggression and retaliation at its discretion (2013 Korean Conflict). Such threats endanger many countries, increasing the likelihood that the conflict could develop into war.

If a new war were to develop in the Korean peninsula, it would most likely involve other countries and cause unnecessary strife throughout the world. In addition, a nuclear war in today’s era would be immensely more destructive than wars of past eras. Not only would human lives be lost, but nuclear bombs would be extremely harmful for the environment. Additionally, the economies of numerous countries would face depression with the expenses of war. At all costs,

war should be avoided, as the consequences would be much too high.

In spite of this, several steps can be taken to ease the conflict and reduce the chances of war. The first step would be for stable countries like the United States to offer food aid to North Korea in exchange for a shutdown of their nuclear programs. According to the New York Times, “two-thirds of the country’s 24 million people struggle to find food from day to day.” They also report that many North Koreans are reliant on food aid and face severe malnutrition.

If the general public had access to basic necessities, the country as a whole would benefit. By taking care of the country’s basic needs, the underlying problems would be alleviated, and more work could be done politically. In addition, this compromise would benefit both sides, as North Korea would receive much needed aid, and other countries would not have to fear a threatening nuclear nation.

A vital key in controlling North Korea lies in their main ally, China. China holds great economic and political power over North Korea and therefore would be a great help in denuclearizing the country. In fact, “China’s potential leverage over North Korea is significant, since without the extensive aid that Beijing provides, the regime in Pyongyang would be unable to survive” (Glaser). China, however, has continued to support North Korea for self-protective purposes. Another war would cost many Chinese lives. In addition, instability in North Korea would also send many refugees into China, whom China would then have to support. Essentially, China assists North Korea because it does not want to suffer the repercussions of another war or the collapse of the Korean government (Glaser). In order to soothe China’s fears, the U.S. should support them in placing adequate pressure on North Korea to discontinue its nuclear program. A strong U.S.-China relationship is crucial, for China will likely take further action if backed by the U.S. The U.S. can build a trustworthy relationship if all American negotiations are done openly within multi-country peace talks.

Furthermore, the six-party talks between Russia, Japan, the U.S., China, North Korea, and South Korea should be revived. In April of 2009, North Korea refused to continue

the peace talks, instead wishing to focus its attention on its nuclear program. This year, however, there has been discussion of continued talks between the six nations, and the United States should initiate and facilitate this process (Six-party talks). This conflict will remain a stalemate unless there is active work being done to solve it. If many countries bonded together to propose peace to North Korea, this country would be more compelled to denuclearize. During the meetings, the countries should discuss the exchange of ordinary diplomatic relations with North Korea for the termination of their nuclear program. North Korea has, in fact, requested to be treated as a normal country before, and this solution would be a good compromise for both sides (Six-party talks).

The need for peace in the Korean peninsula is a pressing issue as it affects people on an international scale. This goal can be achieved by aiding North Korea’s people, convincing China to take a bolder stance against North Korea’s nuclear programs, and by reviving six-party peace talks with the countries involved in the Korean conflict. Peace on the Korean peninsula is just one more step toward creating lasting international peace and a safer world for future generations.

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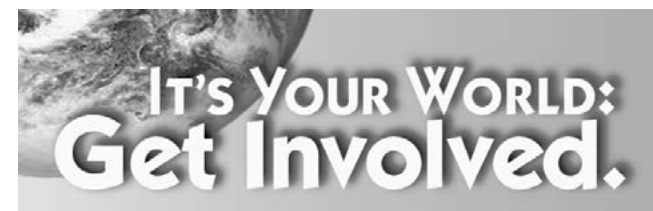
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Peace Essay Contest Winners

Division I:	WINNER	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
First Place & School Winner	Eliana Montalvo	Whitmore Charter High School	11	Marian Barr
Second Place & School Winner	Princess Pe	Central Valley High School	11	Ms. Ghimenti
Third Place & School Winner	Sam Miller	Hughson High School	12	Karalee Ruelas
Honorable Mention	Ellie Gundlach	Heritage Christian	11	Susan Janis
Honorable Mention	Henna Hundal	Turlock High School	11	Mary Asgill
Honorable Mention	Lucas Wiggins	Whitmore Charter High School	12	Marian Barr
Finalist	Jillian Coelho	Hughson High School	12	Karalee Ruelas
Finalist	Joshua Callahan	Hughson High School	12	Karalee Ruelas
Finalist	Simaran Dosanjh	Central Valley High School	11	Ms. Ghimenti
Finalist	Taylor Ensley	Denair Charter Academy	12	Ms. Verschelden
Finalist	Claudia Franco	Central Valley High School	11	Ms. Ghimenti
Finalist	Marcus Jansen	Hughson High School	12	Karalee Ruelas
Finalist	Morgan Lesan	Whitmore Charter High School	12	Marian Barr
Finalist	Jose Mendoza	Hughson High School	12	Karalee Ruelas
Finalist	Crosby Perez	Whitmore Charter High School	12	Marian Barr
Finalist	Cynthia Sanchez	Central Valley High School	11	Ms. Ghimenti
Finalist	Ashlynn Slovek	Whitmore Charter High School	12	Marian Barr
Finalist	Austin Turner	Whitmore Charter High School	11	Kelly Hayes
Finalist	Joshua Wood	Whitmore Charter High School	11	Kelly Hayes
Finalist	Brenda Yu	Whitmore Charter High School	11	Kelly Hayes



Division II:	WINNER	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
First Place & School Winner	Cerina Cervantes	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett
Second Place	Gabriella Germann	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett
Third Place	Angelika Pe	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett
Honorable Mention & School Winner	Austin Neave	Whitmore Charter High School	9	Marian Barr
School Winner	Andrea Tolentino	Johansen High School	10	Ms. di Cristina
Finalist	Amber Coston	Independent Home School	9	Susan Janis
Finalist	Natalia Herrera	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett
Finalist	Louie Higashi	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett
Finalist	Eric Jalli	Gregori High School	10	Christopher Eddings
Finalist	Michael Jones	Whitmore Charter High School	9	Marian Barr
Finalist	Joshua Lesan	Whitmore Charter High School	9	Marian Barr
Finalist	Wyatt Michael	Hughson High School	10	Mrs. Jones
Finalist	Nikolas Mitchell	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett
Finalist	Maria Rojas	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett
Finalist	Austin Romito	Oakdale High School	10	Ms. Springer
Finalist	Mohamad Sabri	Whitmore Charter High School	9	Marian Barr
Finalist	Sunil Saini	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett
Finalist	Daniyel Wiggins	Whitmore Charter High School	9	Marian Barr
Finalist	Isaac Wright	Whitmore Charter High School	9	Marian Barr
Finalist	Savandra Yim	Central Valley High School	10	Kirsten Bartlett

Division III:	WINNER	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
First Place	Abigail Sloan	Independent Home School	8	Susan Janis
Second Place & School Winner	Juliet Hardy	Hart Ransom Academic Charter	8	Susan Janis

Third Place & School Winner	Malika Shoker	Cesar Chavez Jr. High School	8	Mr. Aldrich
Honorable Mention & School Winner	Natalie Hernandez-Brothers	Prescott Jr. High.	7	Maia Tobin
Honorable Mention	Micaela Meyer	Prescott Jr. High.	8	Maia Tobin
Honorable Mention & School Winner	Daniel Tackett	Glick Middle School	8	Mr. Giffen
School Winner	James Forkner	Oakdale Jr. High	8	Ms. Hawksworth
School Winner	Garret Fountain	Gratton School	7	Rexann Jensen
School Winner	Jairol Harris-Red	La Loma Jr. High School	8	Lin Frederick
School Winner	Crystal Anguiano	Mark Twain Jr. High School	8	Rachael Howenstine
School Winner	Marlee Baker	Whitmore Charter School	8	Staci Gentry
Finalist	Marisa Bruner	Oakdale Jr. High	8	Ms. Hawksworth
Finalist	Ella Cheek	Hart Ransom Academic Charter	8	Kathy Berndt
Finalist	Carlos Coc	Cesar Chavez Jr. High School	8	Mr. Aldrich
Finalist	Alexis De La Torre	Prescott Jr. High.	8	Maia Tobin
Finalist	Andrea Duran	Cesar Chavez Jr. High School	8	Mr. Aldrich
Finalist	Fernando Guerrero	Prescott Jr. High.	7	Maia Tobin
Finalist	Zachary Hill	Hart Ransom Academic Charter	7	Susan Janis
Finalist	Alyssa Humeston	Prescott Jr. High.	8	Maia Tobin
Finalist	Brooklyn James	Cesar Chavez Jr. High School	8	Mr. Aldrich
Finalist	Krishma Malhotra	Cesar Chavez Jr. High School	8	Mr. Aldrich
Finalist	Dana Miranda	Cesar Chavez Jr. High School	8	Mr. Aldrich
Finalist	Kaitlynn Tran	Prescott Jr. High.	8	Maia Tobin
Finalist	Renee Woodard	Prescott Jr. High.	7	Maia Tobin

Division IV:

	WINNER	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
First Place & School Winner	Arnav Krishnamoorthi	Lakewood Elementary	6	Christine Malekos-Quick
Second Place & School Winner	Olivia Navarro	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
Third Place & School Winner	Charles Baker	Whitmore Charter School	6	Kathie Knudsen
Honorable Mention	Charlize Badillo	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
School Winner	Eric Ocegueda	Caswell Elementary	5	Ilaen Marron
School Winner	Litzy Arce	Don Pedro Elementary	5	Ms. Scheller
School Winner	Miles Drew	Fremont Open Plan	6	Todd Brownell
School Winner	Miguel Mendiola	Northmead Elementary	5	Mr. Southernland & Mrs Eddings
School Winner	Hannah Guardiano	Daniel Savage Middle School	6	Mrs. Cline
School Winner	Mikiya King-Gordon	Sipherd Elementary	6	Mrs. White
Finalist	Morgan Arakelian	Agnes Baptist Elementary	5	Mr. Theodozio & Mrs. David
Finalist	Evelyn Fahlen	Agnes Baptist Elementary	5	Mr. Theodozio & Mrs. David
Finalist	Matthew Flauta	Agnes Baptist Elementary	5	Mr. Theodozio & Mrs. David
Finalist	Leslie Gomez	Agnes Baptist Elementary	5	Mr. Theodozio & Mrs. David
Finalist	Emma Guerrero	Agnes Baptist Elementary	5	Mr. Theodozio & Mrs. David
Finalist	Michael Osman	Agnes Baptist Elementary	5	Mr. Theodozio & Mrs. David
Finalist	Karely Rodriguez	Agnes Baptist Elementary	5	Mr. Theodozio & Mrs. David
Finalist	Enrique Alania	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
Finalist	Halli Booth	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
Finalist	Khushi Kantilal	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
Finalist	Katherine Mauthe	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
Finalist	Morgan Peacock	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
Finalist	Jamie Runyan	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
Finalist	Rachel Thompson	Agnes Baptist Elementary	6	Mr. Carpenter & Mrs. David
Finalist	Michael Perillo	Whitmore Charter School	6	Kathie Knudsen

Nash: It's up to us

from page 1

Coordinating Committee she chaired refused. "We couldn't allow the campaign to stop. If we did, the racists would conclude they could stop any nonviolent action by inflicting violence on the demonstrators. We couldn't let that message jell. We had to shape the public attitude. So we decided to continue, no matter what happened. If the first group of us were stopped, injured, or killed, the second would come, then the third. We were prepared to lose our lives."

Nash and those young college students understood well the ultimate demand of nonviolence: to sacrifice oneself, even one's life, for the greater good. But the word "nonviolence" isn't accurate for her. It merely connotes the absence of violence, but that notion "doesn't adequately communicate what we were trying to do." Gandhi taught large numbers of people to focus their love energy, their power, on bringing about desired social change. That power, as in refusing to pay the British-imposed salt tax or boycotting the imported British cotton, was not passive. It was active and required courage in facing risks. And it was aimed to defeat injustice, not people. A better term to describe this process of healing a wrong, Nash suggested, is "Agapic Energy." The Greek word "Agape" means "love of humanity," and "Energy" conveys the power produced by this love.

Nash explained the basic principles of Agapic Energy:

The first is *that people are never our enemy*. Unjust political and economic systems, attitudes, racism, emotional and mental illness—these are the enemies. Nash told the story of how the manager of one of the first six department stores the Fisk students desegregated went to the second six stores' managers to persuade them to desegregate theirs. "If we'd treated him as an enemy," she said, "this never would have happened." "If we lose focus and attack individuals, the system of evil remains."

The second principle is that *oppression always requires the cooperation of the oppressed*. If the oppressed withdraw their cooperation, the system will fall. A good example is the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott. After a year of blacks refusing to use the public bus system, Montgomery finally integrated the buses.

There are **six steps** or phases in the process of an **Agapic Energy Campaign**:

- First is *investigation, gathering information and facts needed to bring about change*. With accurate knowledge about the problem, we decide on an objective and then anticipate what we'll need to know to achieve this objective. For example, where is the money coming from to keep the oppression going? Who are the power players in the oppression? How are the oppressed participating in the oppression?
- The second step is to *educate our constituents and recruit them to get involved*. In her voter registration work in Mississippi Nash often heard local blacks say, "You won't be successful. The Negroes won't stick together." So she and her fellow activists would ask each person, "Well, Mrs. Johnson, if your neighbors won't come to a meeting, will you?" The answer was inevitably yes. But when people arrived at the church or wherever the meeting was held, they found it packed. So we shouldn't assume what others will or won't do. We start by taking action ourselves.
- The third step is *negotiation*. We have to talk with our opponents and let them know what our objective is. In doing this, it's important to respect them while not tolerating the evil they are doing.
- The fourth step involves *demonstrations that focus public attention on the problem and create pressure for change*,

like the lunch counter sit-ins that highlighted the racial segregation.

- The fifth step is *withdrawing support from the system*, as in the Nashville blacks' boycott of downtown clothing stores during Easter week when black people usually spent a lot of money on new clothes.
- The final step is *taking measures to make sure the problem doesn't reoccur*. Nash mentioned the recent legal actions that have rolled back voting rights. A massive education program is needed to counter this slide backward.

Nash recommended three books to better understand these principles and steps: Richard Gregg's *Power of Nonviolence*, Gandhi's autobiography called *My Experiments With Truth*, and Joan Bondurant's *Conquest of Violence*.

The function of history, Nash said, is to help us cope with the future. In her analysis, Agapic Energy and the 1960s Civil Rights Movement provide us with a legacy, a different and better way to solve social problems. For us in the peace movement, she made an important distinction. When we engage in isolated protests, we mostly show our opponents what they already know—that some people don't like their policies or practices. But in an Agapic Energy campaign, we set an objective and accomplish it. If the protests are not part of a larger campaign, their value is questionable.

In her mid seventies, Nash may walk more slowly, but her calm, quiet spirit is still afire. For those of us fortunate to hear her, she left some of her flame in our hearts in her parting words: "My contemporaries had you in mind when we acted. We did it for you. We knew danger, maybe even death, lay ahead, and we were afraid. But we also knew we were doing this for generations unborn, just as future generations will look to you."

2014 Stanislaus County Artists Open Studio Tour

Over 50 artists will be participating in the 2014 Stanislaus County Artist Open Studio Tour. Now in its fourth year, the Open Studio event invites the public to visit artist studios and workplaces, meet the artists, and even purchase works directly from the source. Stanislaus County Open Studio weekend is April 12 and 13, 2014. Tour maps (\$10.00) go on sale March 1, with a preview show and map sale at Gallo Center for the Arts, Friday March 14 as part of the Modesto Pops Concert pre-show activities.

The tour features artists all over the county. Maps will note the primary expertise and media artists work with. Many of our local artists are multitalented. Media include painting genres, ceramics, sculptural works, art jewelers, fabric art, wood working, metal, photography, digital art and multimedia.

Meet the artists, ask questions, and see their works beyond the usually more limited gallery presentation, with greater access to portfolio pieces, unseen works, and works in progress.

The Open Studio event sponsors a Purchase Award Prize

where submitted works are juried, purchased from the artists and given away by drawing to patrons attending the event. See winners at <http://stanislausaos.wordpress.com/2013/12/31/announcing-the-2014-purchase-awards/>

Open Studio maps feature Gallery and Arts Sponsor destination points including special demonstration or display notes. Purchase maps from local galleries, tour artists and at the Gallo Center March 14 preview, or rsvp by email at openstudio.stanislaus@gmail.com

Stanislaus Artist Open Studio is an initiative of the Stanislaus County Tourism and Travel Round Table to support local artists and expand their interaction with the public.

Dates: **April 12 and 13, 2014**. Time: 11 am to 5 pm. Preview Show: Gallo Performing Arts Center, March 14, 2014, 6 pm with the Modesto Pops Concert. Tour map booklets \$10 each. Students 18 and under FREE in attendance with a map holder.

ACTION: Information at <http://www.stanislausaos.wordpress.com> or Jim Christiansen, 209 -241-7130, email: mercenary_graphics@yahoo.com. On Facebook as Stanislaus County Artists Open Studio.





POET Veenu Gill: "I am human."

My name is Veenu Gill and I am human. I am twenty, I attend Modesto Junior College. Modern Dance and Cultural Anthropology are my pursuits in terms of education. I have an unquenchable thirst for experience and knowledge.

I work at a Bakery/Deli/Coffee House here in Modesto. I enjoy playing drums, painting, swimming, dancing, reading, learning about and playing new and different musical instruments. Making connections with other humans is where I feel most of the magic happens, animals too. I try my best to always be kind and keep an open mind.

I have been writing off and on for about seven years. My poetry is influenced by Patti Smith, Charles Bukowski, J.D. Salinger, and events and people I encounter in my everyday life. I truly want to travel the darkest corners and brightest boulders on this planet. Very happy to be surrounded by a community that has such a strong drive and inspiration for the arts. I hope you enjoy my work.

The House With The Tall Deep Green Palm Trees

Where I am from
Is a pretty posed palace
It used to be mahogany orchard soil, a large lot
Time went by, wood was stood, concrete poured
Eventually, the orange men told us the slate grey box was ready
It was built, solely for us
Flowers planted, palm trees grew tall
Father said he would grow old in their shade

Where I am from
Two kitchens, inside and outside, constant running machines
Produced welcoming, spicy aromas of exotic tastes
Turmeric, cardamom, and red chili powder always a must
Budweiser, the beer of choice
Those two elders, my grandfather and his son
Shared philosophies about this world and the next
Not a day went by they didn't water their garden

I used to crush masala for hot chai tea that I served my Mother and her sister's
My grandmother nagging her youngest son
Sister lost in her books, she always read life before experiencing it
Brother running astray on his trains
Life was loud, life was good

It was summer that day, we found out
Two days before the Fourth of July
Leading up to the fireworks and colorful neon rocket lights
It was a heart attack, he was in a restaurant, out of state,
I thought he'd come back home
Summer's past, Father's gone
The rooms remain
Almost ghostly, cold vast, and abandoned

Our names are still present, with one large flower
On that hardened concrete Father painted on our sidewalk
The few that stayed don't live the same
We have no rhythm, no meter
Meals not eaten together
Time not spent together
Each goes through that big grey door, disappears for days

We live different lives, share the same history
Expectations run high, but the efforts don't lie
Where I am from is a pretty posed palace
Surrounded by deep green palm trees my father planted
On the inside is a quiet empty meadow
Maybe, just maybe you could catch someone in the shadows

If I Don't Break These Awful Patterns,

I've got some terrible habits,
I think they cost me everything I'm worth

And I am no every day diamond
I am rare like ruby's, elegant like the Queen's crown
A royal gem
I am too intelligent, exquisite,
Too significant to die this young

I have a condition you see
It gets hard to breathe and my knees are weak
I add to it, with black tar, and excessive t-h-c
I put in my mouth what I see
Rarely do I make time to prepare what I eat
I let him do what he wants with me
Take me where I should not be

I wish my insides were more red and green
Healthy and clean
Quick and productive
With more clarity and abundance

I have so much potential, I know
It's my effort that rots me slow

My Dearest Body & Brain

Some one once said that we, humans
"Don't have a soul, we are a soul"

I think I believe him,
However why are you two so difficult?

Always pulling me in the opposite direction?
Dragging my arms, tugging at my limbs
Some times I enjoy it, most times I don't

You both always have to be right, and if you're not
Right, it doesn't mean you're wrong either
Simply well mannered, with your own perspective light
Well I call bullshit

I suppose I am a soul
But you brain, and you body
Have got my spirits riled up in a frenzy
And most times I simply believe, I am, crazy

AGENDA FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING**

MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER

SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2014

8:30-9:00: Refreshments and socializing

9:00-9:30: Committee reports, includes time for review and questions

9:30-9:45: New board members and members up for re-appointment

9:45-10:15: Discussion on the continued funding of the Center: plans for the coming year. Financial deficit and time spent on money issues instead of activist issues.

10:15-11:15:* Discussion on topic that the Center will concentrate on for the year. It should be noted that this should be an action item, not an item that is just for discussion. We want to make a difference this year!

Suggestions include:

- Local environment including the Tuolumne River
- Water usage and wells/conservation issues
- Economic inequality
- Immigration

*includes a 10-15 minute break

11:15-12:00: Educational issues for the coming year: How we will involve the community with peace and justice events; subjects for education (drones, homelessness, pollution, climate change, etc.); methods for education (movies, vigils, book clubs, Connections, Peace Essay, etc.)

** This agenda is tentative. We look forward to other suggestions and topics to include.

Stanislaus CONNECTIONS, published by the non-profit Modesto Peace/Life Center, has promoted non-violent social change since 1971. Opinions expressed DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the Center or Editorial Committee. We welcome pertinent, signed articles, 800-1000 words or less, and letters with address, phone number. DEADLINE: 10th of the Month PRECEDING the next issue. Send articles and ads to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org. Submit PHOTOS as high-resolution JPEGs; ADS as PDF files.

EDITOR: Jim Costello

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Jim Costello, Luella Cole, Tina Driskill, Myrtle Osner

LAYOUT EDITOR: Linda Knoll

ADVERTISING: (vacant)

ONLINE EDITION: George Osner

COLLATING & DISTRIBUTION: Shelly Scribner, many appreciated volunteers

ADS must be consistent with Peace/Life Center tenets. No ads for candidates for public office or for liquor. Advertisers do not necessarily support Peace/Life Center views nor does the Center endorse advertised products or services. To ADVERTISE, email Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org

Come to Peace Camp, June 27-29, 2014

By KEN SCHROEDER

You are invited to join us for the Modesto Peace/Life Center's annual Peace Camp on June 27-29 at Camp Peaceful Pines on Clark Fork Rd. off Hwy 108 in the Sierra.

At the 6,200-foot elevation in the Stanislaus National Forest near the Clark Fork of the Stanislaus River, Peace Camp enjoys a beautiful setting for our workshops, hiking, campfires, singing, talent show, recreation, youth activities, and crafts.

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

and other work. Families and individuals are welcome.

The \$80 fee covers program, food and lodging for the weekend. Young people 18 and under are \$60. Ages 3 and under free. Minors need to be accompanied by an adult. Early registration entitles registrants to a \$10 per person discount. Partial scholarships and day rates are also available. Campers may arrive after 2:00pm on Friday. The camp opens with supper at 6pm on Friday and closes after the morning workshop on Sunday. Directions and other information will be provided to participants before camp.

Information: Ken Schroeder, 209-569-0321.

Would you like to write with us about our homeless?

By JOHN LUCAS

Modesto and Stanislaus County provide many diverse services to our homeless. Our Homeless in Modesto Video Documentary Project seeks to put a face on Modesto's homeless, display the hard work of local groups serving our homeless, and show viewers how they can volunteer and help. In the process of generating our footage, we offer each interviewed service group a pro-bono edited short video that they can use for their group's fund raising and publicity.

The expenses of the project are borne by our video team of 4. Our finished video documentary will be completed Jan. 2015.

As we interview homeless individuals, we have been struck by their stories, and would like to more quickly portray their stories for the public and upload them to the Internet soon after we interview them.

We are seeking one or more writers who would work with us by writing an article telling the story of one of our interviewed homeless people. We will provide the author a DVD of the taped interview. The URL of our corresponding on-line video interview would be within the text of the

story, hopefully leading the reader to view our on-line piece. These articles could be published in media such as *Stanislaus Connections*; *Stanislaus Magazine*; <http://thevalleycitizen.com> or others.

These prose pieces will enable us to put the face on our homeless for the public much sooner than will our final video documentary. And perhaps they will touch lives.

If a writer would like to join in this effort, please contact Richard Anderson, andersonr@mjc.edu or 529-5182.

Current Homeless in Modesto Project members:

- Leng Power, Program Manager, DRAIL (<http://www.drail.org/contact.html>) 521-7260 - 920 12th St.
- Frank Ploof, Member, Advocate for the Homeless; City of Modesto Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness 2012; mbeguy@gmail.com, 556-2376
- John Lucas, Modesto Peace/Life Center lucasjal@sbc-global.net, 527-7634
- Richard Anderson, Ph.D., Modesto Science Videos; andersonr@mjc.edu, 529-5182

Green tips on water conservation: HOME WATER AUDIT

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Water conservation is always a top priority, and even more so now. Consider the following suggestions in the Home Water Audit on line at <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/home-water-audit/>

Saving water is easy when you think about it. Here's a fun and easy way to see how water-wise you are around your home. Click on the online buttons that describes your water use habits, then click Calculate Score to see how you're doing. It might surprise you just how easy it is to save water – and money – around your home.

This audit is a simple way to discover what you are already doing as a water-wise consumer and what you can add to your everyday water conservation options. Finally, be sure to share this information with friends and family.



IN MEMORIAM

Hurley Couchman

September 5, 1919 -
February 16, 2014

Long time member of the
Modesto Peace/Life Center

Cut off the NSA's juice

By **NORMAN SOLOMON**

The National Security Agency depends on huge computers that guzzle electricity in the service of the surveillance state. For the NSA's top executives, maintaining a vast flow of juice to keep Big Brother nourished is essential — and any interference with that flow is unthinkable.

But interference isn't unthinkable. And in fact, it may be doable.

Grassroots activists have begun to realize the potential to put the NSA on the defensive in nearly a dozen states where the agency is known to be running surveillance facilities, integral to its worldwide snoop operations.

Organizers have begun to push for action by state legislatures to impede the electric, water and other services that sustain the NSA's secretive outposts.

Those efforts are farthest along in the state of Washington, where a new bill in the legislature — the Fourth Amendment Protection Act — is a statutory nightmare for the NSA. The agency has a listening post in Yakima, in the south-central part of the state.

The bill throws down a challenge to the NSA, seeking to block all state support for NSA activities violating the Fourth Amendment. For instance, that could mean a cutoff of electricity or water or other state-government services to the NSA site. And the measure also provides for withholding other forms of support, such as research and partnerships with state universities.

Here's the crux of the bill: "It is the policy of this state to refuse material support, participation, or assistance to any federal agency which claims the power, or with any federal law, rule, regulation, or order which purports to authorize, the collection of electronic data or metadata of any person pursuant to any action not based on a warrant that particularly describes the person, place, and thing to be searched or seized."

If the windup of that long sentence has a familiar ring, it should. The final dozen words are almost identical to key phrases in the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

In recent days, more than 15,000 people have signed a petition expressing support for the legislation. Launched by RootsAction.org, the petition is addressed to the bill's two sponsors in the Washington legislature — Republican Rep. David Taylor, whose district includes the NSA facility in Yakima, and Democrat Luis Moscoso from the Seattle area.

Meanwhile, a similar bill with the same title has just been introduced in the Tennessee legislature — taking aim at the NSA's center based in Oak Ridge, Tenn. That NSA facility is a doozy: with several hundred scientists and computer specialists working to push supercomputers into new realms of mega-surveillance capacities.

A new coalition, OffNow, is sharing information about model legislation.* The group also points to known NSA locations in other states including Utah (in Bluffdale), Texas (San Antonio), Georgia (Augusta), Colorado (Aurora), Hawaii (Oahu) and West Virginia (Sugar Grove), along with the NSA's massive headquarters at Fort Meade in Maryland. Grassroots action and legislative measures are also stirring in several of those states.

One of the key organizations in such efforts is the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, where legal fellow Matthew Kellegrew told me that the OffNow coalition "represents the discontent of average people with ... business-as-usual failure to rein in out-of-control domestic spying by the NSA and other federal departments like the FBI. It is a direct, unambiguous response to a direct, unambiguous threat to our civil liberties."

In the process — working to counter the bipartisan surveillance-state leadership coming from the likes of President Obama, House Speaker John Boehner, the House Intelligence Committee's chair Mike Rogers and the Senate Intelligence Committee's chair Dianne Feinstein — activists urging a halt to state-level support for the NSA include people who disagree on other matters but are determined to undermine the Big Brother hierarchies of both parties.

"By working together to tackle the erosion of the Fourth Amendment presented by bulk data collection," Kellegrew said, "people from across partisan divides are resurrecting the lost art of collaboration and in the process, rehabilitating the possibility of a functional American political dialogue denied to the people by dysfunction majority partisan hackery."

From another vantage point, this is an emerging faceoff between reliance on cynical violence and engagement in civic nonviolence.

Serving the warfare state and overall agendas for U.S. global dominance to the benefit of corporate elites, the NSA persists in doing violence to the Constitution's civil-liberties amendments — chilling the First, smashing the Fourth and end-running the Fifth.

Meanwhile, a nascent constellation of movements is striving to thwart the surveillance state, the shadowy companion of perpetual war.

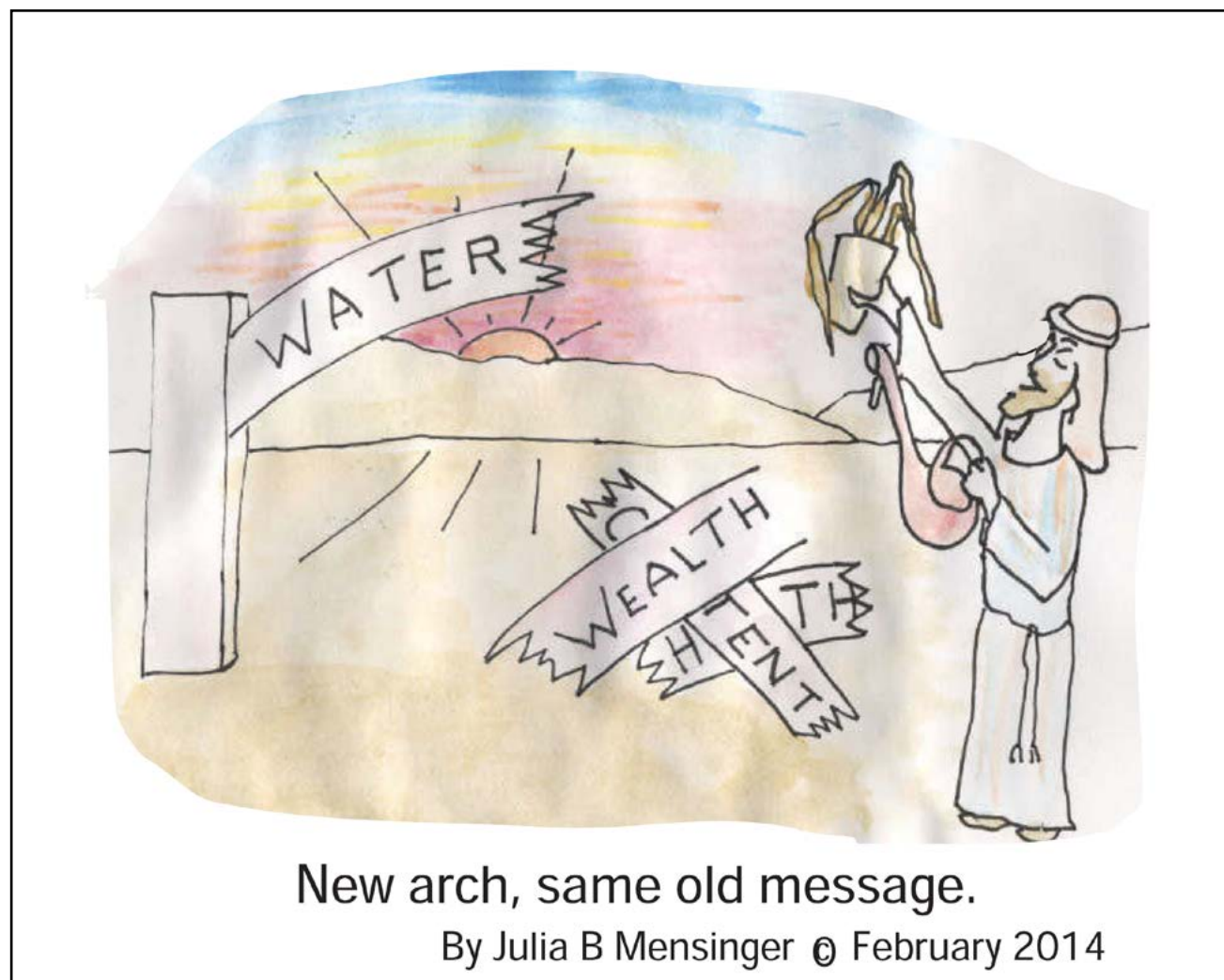
This is a struggle for power over what kind of future can be created for humanity.

It's time to stop giving juice to Big Brother.

Norman Solomon is co-founder of RootsAction.org and founding director of the Institute for Public Accuracy. His books include "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death." Information about the documentary based on the book is at www.WarMadeEasyTheMovie.org

http://www.normansolomon.com/norman_solomon/2014/01/cut-off-the-nsas-juice.html#more

Visit OffNow at <http://nullifynsa.com>. Visit the Bill of Rights Defense Committee at <http://bordc.org>



New arch, same old message.

By Julia B Mensinger © February 2014

12 CALENDAR



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

ACTIONS FOR PEACE

Sonora - Stockton

SONORA: Contact Alice at lewisalice090@gmail.com

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

MARCH

1 SAT: Modesto Peace/Life Center Annual Meeting, 8:30 am to Noon (see agenda). Join us!

Ongoing: MJC Modesto Area Partners in Science 2014, MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132. 7:30 pm. **3/21:** Judy Van de Water, UCD, *Immune Activation and Autism*. **4/11:** "Art Inspired by Science and Mathematics" Dr. Carlo H. Séquin, UC Berkeley. More at <http://maps.events.mjc.edu>

Ongoing: MJC Science Colloquium, Wednesdays, Science Community Center Rm 115, MJC West Campus, 3-4 pm. Javier Castellon, Ph.D. Dir. Research, Duarte Nursery/Dry Creek Labs, *Plant Science and Its Applications in the Modern Nursery*. **March 12:** Richard Serros, MJC Art Professor, *Art on MJC's Science Building*. **March 19:** Robert McGrew, M.D. *The Importance of your Vaccinations*. **March 26:** John Carter, MJC Economist, *Cap and Trade: Why and How California is Implementing It*. **April 2:** Anjani Thakur, M.D. Valley Vein Health Center, *Paradigm Shifts in Surgery*. **April 9:** April Bird, M.S. *Invertebrate Researches at the University of Oregon*.

5 WED: The Friends of the Modesto Library Annual Meeting, Speaker: **Tom Changnon**, Stanislaus County Schools Superintendent. 6:30 pm. Modesto Bee Conf. Rm., 1325 H St., Modesto. RSVP to jjbkquinn@sbcglobal.net, or call 529-4295

9 SUN: "Science On Screen" at the State Theatre presents *The Blue Butterfly*. MJC Professor Derek Madden speaks. There will also be Blue Morpho butterflies on display. 2 pm. <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/191>

11 TUES: Lil Rev; the Life & Music of Woody Guthrie for Ukulele. Trinity Presbyterian, 1600 Carver Rd. 6 pm. \$25. RSVP to funstrummersuke@aol.com, 209-505-3216.

15 SAT: Latino Community Roundtable assists the Mexican Consulate Mobil Unit with 400 appointments for Stanislaus County Mexican citizens to obtain their **government documents as Mexican residents**. Hanshaw Middle School, Las Vegas Ave., Modesto. 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Info: maggiemejialcr@gmail.com

16 SUN: Modesto Film Society hosts *Singing in the Rain*. 2 pm, State Theatre. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/97>

16 SUN: 22nd Annual Ecumenical Choir Concert to benefit **Habitat for Humanity Stanislaus County**. First Methodist Church, 16th & I Sts., Modesto. **FREE** but a good-will offering will be taken. 4:00 pm.

19 WED: "Film Night at the Center" features *Pete Seeger: The Power of Song*. Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., 6:30 pm. See article this issue.

20 THURS: 13th Annual Cesar E. Chavez Si Se Puede Empowerment Luncheon. Modesto Centre Plaza, 1100 K St., Modesto. Invited guest speaker, **Cruz M. Bustamante, California Lt. Governor (Retired.)** Tickets: \$20.00 a person. Reservations or info., call (209) 303-2664, maggiemejialcr@gmail.com

21 FRI: Peace Essay Contest Awards and Reception. Mary Stuart Rogers Student Learning Center, MJC West Campus, 2301 Blue Gum. 7 p.m.

19 WED: Film night-Modesto Peace/Life Center: Freedom Riders. 720 13th St., Suite D, Modesto. 6:30 pm. Discussion follows film. See article, this issue.

21 FRI: Great Valley Songwriters' Series: . Central Grace Community Church, 918 Sierra Dr., Modesto. \$10 at the door. See article, this issue.

29 SAT: Non-Violence Book Club. Modesto Peace/Life Center. See article for books to read. 7:30 am to 9:30 am

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, April 5, 2014: PLC Benefit Rummage Sale, College Ave. Congregational Church parking lot, 1341 College Ave. Modesto, 8 am to 2 pm. To donate articles, take them to the College Ave. Congregational Church, Friday, April 4 between 3 pm and 6 pm. Info: John Lucas, 209-765-3813' email lucasjal@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, May 3, 2014: Friends of the Modesto Library Used Book Sale: 8am-3pm, East portico of the Modesto Library, 1500 I St., Modesto. Thousands of books in every genre, prices are \$1 hardbound, 50 cents paperback. The Beard Family Companies are matching our total up to \$4,000. For information or to donate books, contact Clare Noonan, 522-5054.

June 27-29, 2014: MPLC's Annual Peace Camp in the Sierras. See article, this issue

ONGOING

Calculators for a sustainable environment: valuable website which contains car payment and car use calculators and links to many calculators to help people reduce their energy footprints. <http://www.carpaymentcalculator.net/calcs/environmental.php>

Valley Improvement Project's mission is to improve the quality of life of under-represented and marginalized residents of California's Central Valley. For ongoing events visit V.I.P. at <http://valleyimprovementprojects.org/about>. Email: valleyimprovementprojects@gmail.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ValleyImprovementProjects?ref=br_tf

GREAT VALLEY MUSEUM of Natural History: Classes for children. Museum exhibits and store open Tues. to Fri., 9 am to 4:30 pm. Info: 575-6196. Call for info about classes.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ART ASSOCIATION AND MISTLIN GALLERY. Exhibits by local artists; art classes for children and adults; art teachers for schools. Open Tues. - Fri. 11:30 - 5 and Sat. 12-4. 529-3369 or www.ccartassn.org

A.R.T.S. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER: All things recycled free arts materials for teachers, scout leaders, child-care, artists for their projects. Open M - F 8 to 4:30, 917 Oakdale Rd. Modesto, Media Center behind Ross Store. Volunteers needed. Info: 567-4516.

CENTRAL VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB. Monthly meetings: Modesto, Patterson, and Oakdale. For more information, call Neil Hudson at 847-0540.

CHILDRENS STORY HOURS Stanislaus County Library: Modesto, **WiggleWorms!** Program for children age 2 and younger and their caregivers; combines age appropriate stories and movement activities that promote essential pre-reading skills. Mondays: 10:15 am & 11:15 am, Tuesdays, 11:15 am. **Preschool StoryTime** (children ages 3 - 6 years) Tuesdays: 6:15 pm; Wednesdays: 10:15 am. **Cuentos en español-jueves**, 6:15. Bilingual StoryTime/Cuentos bilingües - Saturdays 10:15 am. All Library branches have story hours. All branches closed Fridays. Info: http://www.stanislauslibrary.org/tk_kids_storytime.shtml#mod

Habitat for Humanity's RE-STORE: used and new quality materials, 630 Kearney Ave (across from Post Office), and at 3124 McHenry Ave., Modesto. Funds benefit homes built by Habitat in Stanislaus County. Visit <http://www.stanislaushabitat.org/home/restore>

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.