



stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

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Hate in America has become commonplace. What can we do to stop the hate?

Ed note: the following is a very abbreviated version of the Southern Poverty Law Center's new brochure, "10 Ways To Fight Hate: A Community Resource Guide." The complete guide can be found here. It contains much more information and is well worth downloading. It can also be viewed on the SPLC's website at <https://www.splcenter.org/>

A presidential candidate wins election after denigrating Muslims, Latinos, women and people with disabilities. A young white man opens fire and kills nine African Americans who welcomed him into Bible study at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, tell-

ing his victims, "I have to do it." A Muslim woman is seated on a bench in front of a coffee shop in Washington, D.C., when a woman begins screaming anti-Muslim epithets. A swastika and other anti-Semitic graffiti appear at an elementary school in Stapleton, Colorado. A lone gunman carrying an assault rifle and a handgun storms a well-known gay club in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people and wounding 53 others.

Bias is a human condition, and American history is rife with prejudice against groups and individuals because of their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or other

characteristics. As a nation, we've made a lot of progress, but stereotyping and unequal treatment persist.

When bias motivates an unlawful act, it is considered a hate crime. Most hate crimes are inspired by race and religion, but hate today wears many faces. Bias incidents (eruptions of hate where no crime is committed) also tear communities apart and can escalate into actual crimes.

Since 2010, law enforcement agencies have reported an average of about 6,000 hate

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Homeless: Why We Need Casey's Law

By ERIC CAINE, from The Valley Citizen

Though still little-publicized, more and more young people are falling victim to the demons of addiction, especially opioids. Law enforcement officials in Oakdale noticed a surge in heroin use among young people in 2013, and attributed it to the availability of cheap "black tar" heroin that has caught a rising number of teen-agers and young adults in the cruel trap of an addiction that drives a host of crimes ranging from prostitution, petty theft, auto theft, and upward.

Many young people become homeless when their parents can no longer deal with their drug use. Once homeless, they enter the endless—and mindless—cycle of addiction, arrest, release, arrest and release again that is society's default answer to drug use—unless, of course, the child has wealthy or powerful parents.

In those cases, public sympathy can transform the addicted youngster from a common criminal to a sick victim in need of help and the best medical science available. That was the case when Jeb Bush's daughter became one of the most celebrated examples of recovery after a court-ordered stay at an addiction-recovery center.

After experiencing first-hand the piercing agony of a loved one's addiction, Bush became a believer in court-ordered treatment and promised as a presidential candidate to support a holistic approach to addiction, featuring, "multi-disciplinary coordination, including the judiciary, the prosecution, mental health specialists, social services and treatment professionals."

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Say Yes to S! Save Stanislaus County libraries

Our County libraries desperately need your help. The 1/8 of a penny sales tax that funds the libraries is expiring in 2018. Voters will be asked to renew it with a vote on **Measure S** on the November ballot.

If we don't act, our libraries will lose 88% of their funding and many, if not all, branches will close.

Since 1995, when it was first approved by more than two thirds of Stanislaus County voters, this tiny sales tax has kept our libraries open through tough times. When you examine the facts, we hope you will decide to support the library sales tax renewal and help Save Stanislaus Libraries:

This is not a new tax. It just renews the current 1/8 of a penny sales tax we already pay.

By law, these revenues can only be used for library services. They can't be taken by the state or diverted for other uses. With our state budget always in flux, local measures are the only way to ensure our tax dollars are being used to satisfy our priorities.



An *independent citizens' oversight committee* will be written into the measure to ensure funds are being spent in the way the voters approved.

In the Internet age, our libraries are still vitally important. Nearly 415,000 Stanislaus County residents have library cards, and usage is up by every measure:

- **Children** participate in story times and are learning the importance and joy of reading, a key building block to success in school.

- **Teens** use the library as a safe place to read and study.
- **Seniors** utilize services like computer training, large print books, and book-delivery to the homebound.
- **Workers** access job applications, employment services and job training resources.
- **Businesses** use the library as a resource for economic information and research.
- **Adults and families** are able to change their lives through literacy training the library offers.

In these tough economic times, free access to nearly 700,000 books and publications, DVDs, CDs, downloadable books and music, and online databases is more valued than ever.

- The library's **free computers and Wi-Fi access** are in constant demand.

To win at the ballot box in November 2017, we need your help and critical vote! Sign up today to Help Save Stanislaus Libraries! Vote Yes on Measure S! Information at www.SaveStanislausLibraries.org

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READERS! Sign-up for our e-edition!

Get the latest e-edition of Stanislaus Connections delivered right into your email box!

Can enlarge text to read more easily! Print out if desired!

To sign-up, send your email address to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org

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

The S Word film screening in Sacramento

By JOHN AGUIRRE

A suicide attempt survivor is on a mission to find fellow survivors and document their stories of unguarded courage, insight and humor. What she discovers is a national community rising to transform personal struggles into action.

From the creative team behind the award-winning *Of Two Minds*, comes a new award-winning film that tackles one of the most unfathomable and cloistered issues of our time... Suicide. This film documents the first-person perspectives of a number of survivors in order to understand the impacts of suicide and recognize that it's okay to talk when we're struggling emotionally and psychologically.

Join us on **Wednesday, October 18th** for a special screening of this powerful story of hope and recovery. Immediately following the screening will be a discussion with director Lisa Klein and one of the subjects of the film, Kelechi Ubozoh, to talk about their respective journeys tackling the issues of mental health and suicide and their experiences making this film.

This event is FREE to the public. Register at The S Word Film Screening Registration

Raise Your Paddle in Support of the Tuolumne River Trust

Come *Raise Your Paddle* with us on **October 8th** from **5-8pm** in celebration of the **Tuolumne River Trust** for our **annual fall gala** at the in **Downtown Palo Alto!** A 2016 Forbes Four Star Hotel, with Spanish-style architecture and courtyard, this elegant venue will transport you to the idyllic streets of the Mediterranean without leaving the innovative and illustrious Silicon Valley for a night that's sure to inspire.

This year's event will feature special guest awardees **Dr. Wallace J. Nichols** (*The Blue Mind*) and **Catherine Elvert** (City of Palo Alto Utilities), **virtual rafting trips** on the Tuolumne, photo booth, a full plated **dinner**, and a **live auction** to benefit our work on behalf of the Tuolumne River. Auction items include vacations and excursions both near and far, as well as unique and exciting items.

Special room rates are available at the Garden Court Hotel for the night of the event. Details will be included in your ticket confirmation email.

Buy tickets at <http://www.tuolumne.org/raiseyourpaddle/>

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.

Spooktacular Fest

By JOHN AGUIRRE

Boo! St. Paul's Episcopal Church and MoPRIDE, Inc./ Central Valley Pride Center are hosting its first Spooktacular Fest to be held Saturday, October 28th, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight at St. Paul's, 1528 Oakdale Rd, Modesto, CA 95355.

We are so excited about this new partnership! It's going to be a great event with a DJ, dancing, costume contests, tons of appetizers and desserts, raffles and a no-host bar! This is an event you don't want to miss! Tickets are only \$10 if purchased in advance from Wil and Pastor Nick or at the Central Valley Pride Center. You may also choose to order online by emailing Kelly at kcruzmoprideinc@gmail.com. We will email you an invoice and you can pay online and we will have your tickets waiting for you at the door the day of the event!

We are also reaching out to you for donations to help cover some of the costs. All proceeds will be split between MoPRIDE, Inc. and St. Paul's. To donate, mail a check payable to MoPRIDE, Inc., 400 12th St., Ste. 2, Modesto, CA 95354. Please write in "Spooktacular Fest" in the memo line.

Can't wait to see you there!

Tri-Valley CARES: "2017 Youth Video Contest"

August 15th was the opening day for Tri-Valley CARES' Youth Video Contest 2017. Any young person aged 10-30 has a chance to **win up to \$500** by creating a short video - up to 2 minutes in length - showing how nuclear weapons affect them and their world.

The contest is designed for the youth population and is intended to spark discussion about nuclear weapons and the effect that their development has on the air, soil, water and public health. The videographer may choose from any of those topics or devise a related one.

For young residents within the Tri-Valley and Tracy areas, videos can focus on the impacts of the Lawrence Livermore National Lab's nuclear weapons activities. Both the Lab's Main Site in Livermore and Site 300 in Tracy are on the Environmental Protection Agency's "Superfund" list of most polluted locations in the nation, with radioactive and toxic wastes that have migrated into the underground water aquifers. Accidents and airborne releases have also occurred at both locations.

Tri-Valley CARES is conducting this contest to provide an opportunity for youth to learn more about an issue that affects their lives, and to use their skills to win a Grand Prize of **\$500**. There will also be a **Second Place Award** of **\$250**, and a **Third Place Award** of **\$100**. Videographers may use webcam, cell phone or any technology of their choosing. Contest entries may take a local, regional, national or international perspective. The contest is open to youth outside the Tri-Valley and Tracy. All interpretations of the subject matter are welcome and, for the first time, **videos may be submitted in English or Spanish**.

Young people interested in the Youth Video Contest are invited to visit the Tri-Valley CARES Facebook page www.facebook.com/youthvideocontest2017. Or, go to www.trivalleycares.org/new/contest2017.html. Contest details are available at both links. **The deadline to submit a video is 5:00pm Pacific Time on October 31, 2017.**

Contact: Valeria Salamanca, contest & outreach coordinator, Tri-Valley CARES cell: (209) 601-8489, Office: (925) 443-7148, valeria@trivalleycares.org

Casey's Law

from page 1

Unfortunately, Bush's personal experience and the successful recovery of his daughter Noelle haven't translated into a broader understanding of drug use and addiction nation-wide. Despite overwhelming evidence that the arrest and imprison cycle doesn't work, it's still our first and often our only response to addiction.

Bush wasn't the only presidential candidate with a family connection to the agony of addiction. Carly Fiorina's stepdaughter died of drug addiction and the experience led to Fiorina's conviction that, "If you're criminalizing drug abuse and addiction, you're not treating it—and you're part of the problem."

Nonetheless, most regions of our nation, including the San Joaquin Valley, remain, "part of the problem." In fact, even the mention of homelessness itself often brings on a chorus of, "It's the drugs," and even louder rants about, "The needles, the needles!" The problem with these responses is they offer only condemnation and disgust, when what we really need are comprehension and treatment.

Every day, more people are willing to examine statistics about the causes of homelessness, including such things as the lack of affordable housing, deinstitutionalizing the mentally ill, and wage stagnation. So far, there still hasn't been a comparable understanding of the physiology of addiction and its role in homelessness. Instead, homeless addicts are routinely demonized as deserving of their fate because of their "choice" to use drugs.

But advances in brain science and physiology have shown that drugs actually destroy and re-route the brain's neural circuits; addiction tricks the brain into thinking drugs are necessary for survival. Choice becomes irrelevant when the brain perceives drugs as essential as food or water. Moreover, new research has shown that some people, especially those diagnosed with mental illnesses like Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder and schizophrenia, are far more susceptible to addictive behavior than most.

Widespread local support for Laura's Law, which enables court-ordered treatment for people with serious mental illness, needs to be followed by support for Casey's Law, which would facilitate court-ordered treatment for people in danger of death from drug use and overdose. Over thirty-three thousand United States' residents died from opioid overdoses in 2015, and the numbers will only get worse unless we begin effective treatment as soon as possible.

Some will argue that medical approaches to addiction are far too costly and that addicts aren't worth the expense. In fact, the cycle of hospitalization, crime, incarceration, and costs to businesses and residents are far greater than those of treatment. Failure to treat drug addiction as a health problem has resulted in what amounts to a regressive tax for those who must pay for enforcement and incarceration while experiencing ongoing losses in business and property values.

Like mental illness, addiction afflicts people from all social classes and levels of achievement, and more and more young people all the time—especially young and homeless people. Arguments that addicts aren't worth the expense of treatment are arguments against humanity itself. A wealthy nation that calls itself Christian can do much, much better.

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

October's Film night focuses on the Dreamers

By DAN ONORATO

With national attention once again on immigration issues and the uncertain future of the 800,000-young people whose legal status is now uncertain, the Modesto Peace/Life Center's Film Night on Wednesday, October 18 will feature **DREAM: An American Story** by filmmaker Aldo Bello. The documentary follows Juan Gomez, who came to the United States from Colombia when he was 2 and grew up speaking English. His parents were seeking to escape Colombia's civil war, but their application to remain in the United States was denied. They stayed anyway. But later they were deported.

"I wanted to do something that reflected what was going on with the Hispanic community in this country," says Bello, who has had a life-long interest in using media to make a difference in the world. The filmmaker, born in the U.S. of Chilean parents, bonded with Gomez.

"My mom comes in crying," Gomez says in the movie, "and told us they were not going to re-open their case, so they'd be leaving in six days. My parents are gone and it's time to face the facts and just go on ahead with your life."

"It really caught my attention," Bello says, "the way Juan Gomez was almost deported but wound up being a student at Georgetown University and representing quintessentially what these DREAMers are all about."

Gomez graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown and landed a Wall Street job, but when his temporary legal immigration status ended, he was ultimately deported from the country he grew up in.

Through a wide range of interviews, the film discusses the impact of immigration policy and laws on the nation, and documents how after years of protests DREAMers were able to win temporary legal status through President Obama's executive action.

"For anyone who proudly believes in the United States as a nation of immigrants," states Austin Arceo who heads a student engagement program at DePauw University, "**DREAM** is a powerful documentary that shows how, now more than ever, the Land of Opportunity may no longer be living up to the ideals that became the bedrock of our collective national identity."

The film focuses on the challenges undocumented immigrants face daily, but also highlights their remarkable strength and the persevering grit they draw upon to continue to struggle for a better life.

The free film will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St. Modesto. A discussion will follow. Please mark your calendars now.

More at <http://www.dreamthedocumentary.com/>



2018 Peace Essay Contest

Bearing different memories, honoring different heritages, immigrants have strengthened our economy, enriched our culture, and renewed our promise of freedom and opportunity for all."

~ Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States

Throughout United States history, millions of people around the world have left their homelands for a chance to start a new life in this country—and they continue to come here to this day. People who come to live in a new country are called immigrants.

Over the past 400 years, immigrants have had many different reasons to come to United States. Some came to escape war, others for the freedom to practice the religion of their choice. Still others came for the opportunity to own land or simply for a chance to work and escape poverty. Those immigrants we call refugees have come because the conditions in their homeland had become unlivable.

Over the centuries, the United States, and its people, have been more welcoming to some immigrants and refugees than to others. Immigrants must overcome the obstacles of leaving their homelands and all that is familiar to them. Once in the United States they face the challenges of adapting to a new culture, language and lifestyle.

Immigration has added to original Native American cultures a diverse mix of the practices, traditions, customs, and knowledge from a variety of homelands. The United States has become a uniquely diverse culture with the opportunity to represent the best

from many lands around the world.

The 2018 Peace Essay Contest invites students to research, write, and submit a fictional narrative essay addressing this prompt and following the submission rules:

Division I (grades 11-12) and Division II (grades 9-10)

Imagine what it might be to live in another country and need or want to leave your homeland to come to the United States. Write a fictional narrative that shares the story of a person from another country coming to the United States today as either an immigrant or refugee. Familiarize yourself with some of the conditions around the world today that might create the desire to immigrate and choose a country of origin for your character. Research the immigration/travel process and the experiences that might occur upon arrival. In your narrative of 500 - 1,000 words:

- 1) Introduce your "made-up" character, explaining who he/she is, their age, where they are from and why they need or want to leave their homeland. Give enough background information to make the narrative a realistically possible experience in light of today's current events.
- 2) Include the experiences your character faces coming to the United States;
- 3) Give details about the challenges your character experienced when he/she arrived in the US.
- 4) Describe the experiences that that made your character feel welcomed and/or uneasy about their new location.
- 5) End your narrative by having your character share his/her hopes for the future.

Division III (grades 7-8)** and Division IV (grades 5-6)

Imagine what it might be like if you live in another country and need or want to leave your homeland to come to the United States. Write a fictional narrative that shares the story of a person from another country coming to the United States today as either an immigrant or refugee. Research the country of origin, the immigration/travel process and the experiences that might occur upon arrival. In your narrative of 250-500 words:

- 1) Include the experiences your character faced coming to the United States;
- 2) Give details about the challenges your character experienced when he/she arrived in the United States.
- 3) Describe the experience(s) that made your character feel welcomed and/or uneasy about their new location.
- 4) End your narrative by having your character share his/her hopes for the future.

Deadline for Entries: November 17, 2017 Notification of Winners: February 28, 2018

AWARDS	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mention
Division I	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division II	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division III	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25
Division IV	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25

Download: flyers / entry forms / submission rules <http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com>

View information: www.stanislausconnections.org OR www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest

Email questions to: peaceessay@juno.com

2018 Peace Essay Contest

Rules & Submission Directions

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who are residents of Stanislaus County or attend any public, private, or home school in Stanislaus County.
2. Submit one copy of your essay. Essays in Division I & II must be typewritten, double spaced. Essays in Divisions III & IV must be either typewritten or written in dark ink, double spaced, using one side of white paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Number the pages consecutively. Your essay must be of a quality to photocopy legibly. **YOUR NAME OR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
3. Give your essay a title. Place it on the first page where you begin your essay. **DO NOT** use a separate title or cover page.
4. Print & complete the Entry Form and attach to the front of your essay (the form may be found at: <http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com> OR www.stanislausconnections.org OR email peaceessay@juno.com).
5. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
6. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
7. The Modesto Peace/Life Center reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
8. Entries may be delivered to **the Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto, from 2pm-5pm November 15 - 16 - 17, 2017.** You may also mail all entries, postmarked no later than November 17, 2017 to:

**2017 Peace Essay Contest
Modesto Peace/Life Center
P.O. Box 134
Modesto, CA 95353-0134**

Judging

A distinguished group of local writers, educators, and peacemakers will judge the essays. Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

- 1. Content**
 - A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
 - B. Has the writer used relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples to fully develop their ideas?
 - C. Does the essay address the given topic?
- 2. Style**
 - A. Is the essay original and interesting?
 - B. Did the student establish and maintain a formal writing style?
 - C. Does the voice of the writer come through?
- 3. Clarity of Expression**
 - A. Does the narrative have a distinguishable introduction and conclusion? Is the narrative well organized with clear transitions from one idea to the next?
 - B. Are each of the requested points of the narrative included?
 - C. Are the ideas clearly stated with factual support?
- 4. Mechanics**
 - A. Has the writer attempted to use appropriate transitions, precise language, and an engaging narrative style?
 - B. Are grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
 - C. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
 - D. Does the essay stay within the word limit?

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the four divisions which have at least 15 entries. In the event that fewer than 15 entries are entered in any one division, all prizes may or may not be awarded in that division at the discretion of the judging panel. Up to 3 Honorable Mentions may be awarded in each division. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome; however, a student may only enter one essay.

The writer of the best essay in a division from a school which has ten or more entries in that division will be honored as the school winner. All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Notification of Winners

In late February 2018, winners will be notified through the student's teacher. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in the spring. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

2018 Peace Essay Committee: Indira Clark, Steve Collins, Nancy Haskett, Peggy Hoover, Linda Lagace, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner, Jann Spallina and David Tucker
This **31st Annual Peace Essay Contest** is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750 and is co-sponsored by: **Department of Literature and Language Arts, Modesto Junior College**

RADIO UPDATE: NOW WEBSTREAMING! Go fund me page started

By JAMES COSTELLO

We are now continuously WEBSTREAMING at <http://kcbpradio.org/>.

We have started a Gofundme page at <https://www.gofundme.com/kcbp-community-radio-startup>. How about donating? We are a \$900.00 of a \$12,000.00 goal!

Our enthusiastic Programming Committee continues to create offerings for broadcast. We are fine tuning our software so that actual broadcast times for various programs can be published. Stay tuned! Our Operations Committee is working with our radio engineer to enter into an agreement to place our antenna on a tower just West of Patterson.

We now have over \$13,000.00 in our radio account! Thank you to our enthusiastic donors and volunteers!

Our community radio station, KCBP FM 95.5 will offer a lively and diverse blend of local programming highlighting important local issues and events and spotlighting local talent in music and the arts.

We need **YOUR HELP!** With equipment and technical assessments estimated to cost up to \$100,000, we need money. Besides generous donations from individuals and underwriting support from organizations and businesses, we need people who'd like to help with fundraising. We also need people who want to create programs ranging from music to discussions of issues to public service announcements.

Anyone donating \$500 or more will become a Founding Member of KCBP FM

ACTION: To volunteer your help in fundraising or programming, contact Sue Bower at suebower@prodigy.net. 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 <http://kcbpradio.org/> and click on Donate, OR go to our Gofundme page at <https://www.gofundme.com/kcbp-community-radio-startup>



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Green Tips for a Green Planet: Environmental Engineering in a nutshell - Spencer McDermott

By **TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL**

"I look to the future in the hope that one day I will help create a better world." — Spencer McDermott

I met this young man at a local gym...and from our friendly discussion, I learned he was transitioning from Modesto Junior College to the University of California, Merced to pursue a career in Environmental Engineering. I wondered what that field looked like in the real world, how he was drawn to the field, and how that would translate into his future career. I am pleased that he took time to share the answers to my questions with our readers and submit the following article — Tina Arnopolet Driskill

Inspiration for Environmental Engineering

I didn't always believe I would be an engineer. In fact, there were times when I didn't think I would be anything. I had gone back and forth over what I wanted to be, needed to be, or had to be. Of course, my parents drilled into my head the fact that I could be anything I wanted to be, but I didn't believe them all too much; I was never one for being full of myself without joking. The one thing I did always enjoy doing was creating things whether it'd be a Lincoln Logs building or a mechanical robot. I never stopped loving a finished product that I had worked hard to complete. Couple this with my views on the beauty of nature and the environment around me and thus springs my inspiration for becoming an environmental engineer.

I want to get into the field to create solutions to environmental problems that continue to surround our society every day despite the fact that some are surprisingly debated. My ultimate goal is to work with a team to research methods of

combating global climate change, while also working on better ways to implement clean forms of energy. Though I am already on the path towards accomplishing these goals education wise, I still have a way to go and a plan to accomplish my ultimate goal. From where I stand at this moment, I will work for the next two years to get my BS in Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Merced before applying for a grad program to study energy and climate change. I also look to get my M.S. and Ph.D.; I will be working closely with the UC Merced advising staff on how to further my education down that path and to study abroad. I understand this path will take quite a while to run through, but for now I look to the future in the hopes that I will help create a better one.

Environmental Engineering in a Nutshell

What is Environmental Engineering?

- A sub-branch of civil engineering with further sub-branches.
- A field that helps to promote and conduct environmentally safe engineering procedures.
- A field that works on solutions to current environmental issues such as: Global Climate Change, droughts, pollution.

What does an Environmental Engineer do?

- Analyzes current environmental issues and comes up with solutions based on critical thinking processes and research.
- Manages reports on projects currently under construction to ensure environmental safety.
- Lays out procedures for hazardous waste cleanup.

Depending on the specific job, design engineering projects to positively impact a habitat or landscape.

What is an Environmental Engineer's salary?

Based on a 2015 statistical analysis by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for an environmental engineer is \$84,890. Salary can vary from \$74,000-\$103,000 based on the specific position.

(916)807-9451; spencer_mcdermott@yahoo.com

Air District seeking Valley student artwork for annual kids' calendar contest

Students K-12 submit your entry with Healthy Air Living message

Do you know a kindergarten through high school student in the San Joaquin Valley with a passion for drawing? Here's an opportunity to showcase their work in the 2018 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar!

The deadline for entries is **Monday, Oct. 2, 2017** for this annual, bilingual calendar, produced with the artwork and clean-air messages from students illustrating how Valley residents can live healthy air lives. Twenty-thousand copies are printed and distributed free of charge to schools, community groups, healthcare facilities, churches and nonprofit organizations Valley-wide.

Guidelines for creating a winning Healthy Air Living calendar entry:

- Paper should be placed sideways, in landscape orientation, so it is 8-1/2 inches high and 11 inches wide.
- Artwork should be in color. Produced by paint, pen, crayon, marker, pencil or even computer-generated art. Vivid colors are recommended.
- Artwork should contain a message about how to live a Healthy Air life. Examples of past messages are "Switch off your engine," "Apague su motor," "Be cool and car-pool when going to school."
- Bilingual and Spanish-language messages are encouraged.

Fourteen pieces of art will be selected for the calendar. Artists must include their name, address, phone and email contact, age, grade and school on the back of the entry. Please mail art flat, not folded or stapled, to: 2018 Kids Calendar, Valley Air District, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726, or submit your art at the nearest District office.

For an example of this year's calendar, visit www.valleyair.org/kidscalendar. For questions about the contest, email public.education@valleyair.org or call a regional office: in Fresno (559-230-6000), in Modesto (209-557-6400) and in Bakersfield (661-392-5500).

Peace Life/Center ID Project

Free/Low-cost ID and/or Birth Certificate Application Assistance

Volunteers ready to assist!

Call 209-222-8624 to set an appointment!

Modesto Peace/Life Center
720 13th, Modesto, CA 95354



NEW MODESTO RADIO STATION COMING SOON!

The Modesto Peace/Life Center has been granted a full power radio station license and needs YOUR help!

- ⇒ Donations, Donations, Donations!
- ⇒ Feedback on future programming from YOU!
- ⇒ Volunteers with radio backgrounds & experience
- ⇒ Local Music, Arts and Entertainment connections
- ⇒ Community partners

To get involved or learn more about the new station, contact James Costello, (209) 402-9191 or jcostello@igc.org. You can donate by sending your check to the Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353 with "Radio Station" in the memo. You can also donate online at <http://peacelifecenter.org>



IN MEMORIAM

Verona Maryam Ovrachim
December 7, 1986 – August 21, 2017

Rudy Platzeck
November 4, 1930 – August 26, 2017

Douglas Chadwick, M.D.
October 28, 1935 – August 29, 2017

Reflecting on Mahatma Gandhi

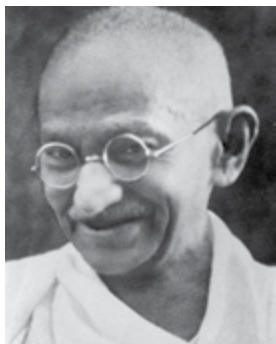
By DAN ONORATO

Every October I remind myself, it's Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, October 2. Do something to keep his legacy vital. So, this year I plan to follow the simple suggestion I offer here: take a few minutes to learn a little more about this extraordinary man and his life-long commitment to nonviolence. You can even do this every day by getting the "Daily Metta Thought for the Day" online. In her daily reflections on nonviolence, the Metta Center's Executive Director Stephanie Hook highlights an aspect of Gandhi's life and teaching. Here's a recent example:

Metta Center founder and president Michael Nagler gives this illustration in his American Book Award-winning, *The Search for a Nonviolent Future*:

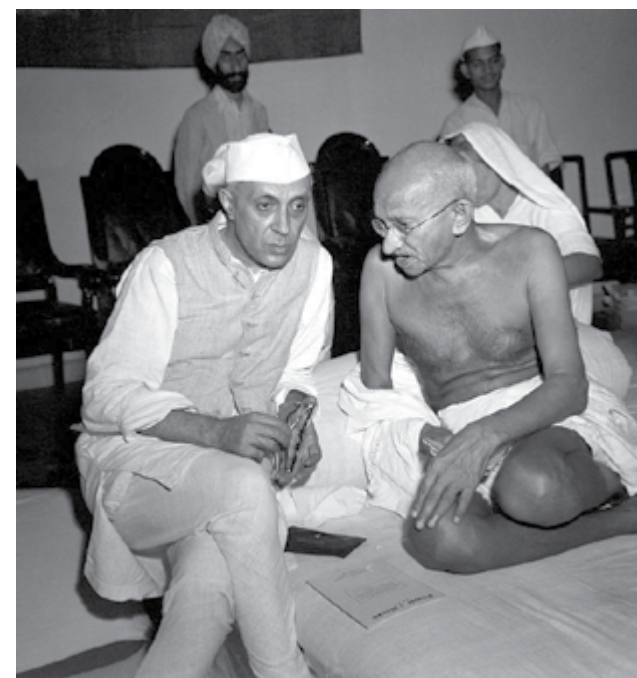
I am thinking of the anger Gandhi experienced that fateful night of May 31, 1893, when he was thrown off the train at Pietermaritzburg a week after his arrival in South Africa. This was no minor irritation; according to his own testimony, Gandhi was furious. That, along with the fact that Gandhi is more than usually articulate about his inner experiences, is what makes this event (among millions of similar insults human beings endure at one another's hands) such an important window into the dynamics of nonviolent conversion.

The first clue as to how he finally succeeded, after a night of bitter reflection, to see the creative way out is that he didn't take the insult personally; he saw in it the whole tragedy of man's inhumanity to man, the whole outrage of racism. Not



"they can't do this to me," but "how can we do this to one another?" The second clue is the state of his faith in human nature. Already at that period he believed that people could not ignore truth forever. He did not yet know how to wake them up; he just knew they could not want to stay forever asleep.

That is how he was able to find the third way between running home to India and suing the railroad company. Imagine the old-fashioned locomotive carrying this "coolie barrister" from Durban up the mountains to Pretoria, standing at the station in Pietermaritzburg with a good head of steam. You could shovel in more coal and just bottle up all that power and even pretend it wasn't there, until finally it exploded, or you could just open the valves and scald everyone on the platform—but surely you would want to use it to drive the train.



Gandhi with Rashtrapati Jawaharlal Nehru, during a meeting of the All India Congress, Bombay, India, 1942. More information about this photograph in John Hlavacek, *United Press Invades India: Memoirs of a Foreign Correspondent, 1944-1952*, 2011, pp. 47-48

This is what Gandhi was going through with all the emotional power built up in him by the accumulated insults he had met since his arrival at the Durban pier. He chose neither to "pocket the insult," as he said, nor to lash out at the immediate source of the pain. He launched what was to become the greatest experiment in social change in the modern world.

ACTION: If you find this reflection useful, find more online at www.mettacenter.org

Metta Peace Team seeks potential members for its upcoming Peace Team work in Palestine



METTA CENTER
for NONVIOLENCE

Metta Peace Team (MPT) has been creating nonviolent alternatives to militarism and violence through empowered peacemaking since 1993. As part of their practice, they have been placing peace teams in places such as Iraq, Haiti, Bosnia, Egypt, Panama, Mexico, Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and within the US.

MPT's peace teams act to reduce and prevent violence, utilizing a practice known as third-party nonviolent intervention, which includes tools like protective accompaniment; human rights monitoring/reporting; a peaceful presence; and

interpositioning (getting in between conflicting parties to deter them from using violence against one another).

The Palestine Peace Team will depart for the West Bank on January 21, 2018, and the program will run 4 to 6 weeks. Team members must have completed MPT's basic 8-hour Nonviolence Training and the preparation process (includes a 5-day intensive training November 9 – 13, 2017, in Michigan).

Estimated cost per person is \$3,800 for 4 weeks, \$4,600 for 6 weeks. Fundraising is done as a team.

Apply by October 11, 2017. Learn more on the MPT website and in the program flyer. Download an application.



Be informed!
Read the Valley Citizen at
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"More Usable" Nuclear Weapons?

From Tri-Valley CAREs

One of the scariest aspects of the Trump Administration is that the dead-and-buried notion of designing "more usable" U.S. nuclear weapons is being resurrected from its grave. This could trigger the true-life "Zombie Apocalypse" with catastrophic consequences beyond imagining.

The plans are being formulated in the nuclear weapons labs at Livermore and Los Alamos and funneled into the deepest recesses of the Pentagon, where Trump's Nuclear Posture Review is being formulated in secret by unregenerate cold warriors.

Will the Trump posture review recommend new nuclear weapons - including extremely low yield designs explicitly intended to be used first in a conventional conflict? Is a U.S. breakout to restart nuclear explosive tests in Nevada in the offing?

Tri-Valley CAREs has been tracking the neocons making these recommendations to the president. They include the Pentagon's Defense Science Board (see our blog of February 20, 2017 for example), the Heritage Foundation and others. Our concern has been that these groups have new traction in

One of the scariest aspects of the Trump Administration is that the dead-and-buried notion of designing "more usable" U.S. nuclear weapons is being resurrected from its grave.



the Trump era for their extremely dangerous-and-previously-discarded nuclear fantasies.

Make no mistake - these nuclear concepts are being resurrected.

Roundly rejected after the George W. Bush 2001 posture review sought to increase nuclear test readiness while lowering the threshold for nuclear use in war, these bad ideas are once again being considered at the highest levels of government.

A new article in POLITICO, "**Trump review leans toward proposing mini-nuke**" makes these same points, based on interviews the reporter conducted with officials involved in the current administration's Nuclear Posture Review.

Nuclear explosive testing in the desert near Las Vegas and nuclear war itself are fast becoming more likely.

Read the POLITICO article here...

Sign the PETITION by Tri-Valley CAREs to prevent funding for programs that may lead to resumption of nuclear test explosions or new nuclear weapons here...

Your signature will be hand-delivered to the White House Office of Management and Budget and to the U.S. Congress by Tri-Valley CAREs' executive director, Marylia Kelley, and other nuclear disarmament leaders.

From www.trivalleycares.org



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

New Book: VOICES FOR PEACE- War, Resistance and America's Quest for Full-Spectrum Dominance

This timely anthology edited by T.J. Coles includes articles by Voices for Creative Nonviolence co-coordinators Kathy Kelly and Brian Terrell, Noam Chomsky, John Pilger, Cynthia McKinney, Bruce Gagnon and others. It can be ordered from the publisher or from Wordery.

The United States' military doctrine, as proclaimed by its Department of Defense, is to attain 'full-spectrum dominance... in the air, land, maritime and space domains and information environment... without effective opposition or prohibitive interference.' This is an agenda for global conquest – for an ever-expanding US empire.

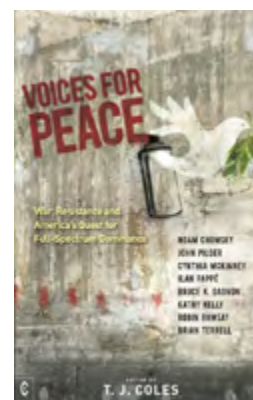
As America prepares for conflict with Russia and China, wars continue in the Middle East and North Africa, tens of millions are exiled from their homes whilst many more face famine. But there is not only hope for change in the air, there is active resistance. People all over the world are challenging the status quo by taking nonviolent action. Voices for Peace features some of the world's leading thinkers, journalists and activists, offering insight, inspiration and solutions to the world's most critical problems: nuclear war, environmental destruction and refugee flows.

In the wealth of material presented here, Kathy Kelly talks about the Afghan Peace Volunteers and Standing Rock protesters in the USA, calling for global unity. Bruce K.

Gagnon's piece on space weapons discusses South Korean activists' opposition to American weapons in their country. Brian Terrell challenges the legality of drone warfare and outlines the grassroots links being forged between US and Russian citizens. Noam Chomsky discusses US policies towards Russia and Syria, as well as South America, trade, ISIS and Ukraine. John Pilger talks about the Trump-Obama naval build-up around China and exposes Britain's 'deep state' connections to the Manchester terror attack. Former US Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney analyses the Charlie Hebdo attacks and the deep state in recent US history. Ilan Pappé offers an exclusive analysis of Israel's actions to ethnically cleanse Israel of Palestinians. Finally, Robin Ramsay exposes the unconditional support given to the USA by successive UK governments.

Seeking to inform and educate, this penetrating anthology is edited and introduced by author T. J. Coles, who gives a broader framework and context to the individual articles.

T. J. Coles (Editor) received his Ph.D. from Plymouth University (UK) in 2017 for work on the aesthetic experiences of blind and visually impaired people, which draws on the philosophy of cognitive psychology and neuroscience. He is also a columnist with Axis of Logic and the author of Britain's *Secret Wars*, *The Great Brexit Swindle*, and *President Trump, Inc.*



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**IT'S YOUR WORLD:
Get Involved.**

Veteran Group Reacts to First Episode of Burns/Novick Vietnam Series

Veterans for Peace (VFP) members in every U.S. time zone and beyond tuned in to watch the first episode of Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's PBS documentary, "The Vietnam War" to see how well it squares with what they know about what the Vietnamese call "the American War in Vietnam."

The opening scenes and the program as a whole showed that the U.S. has not come very far, in terms of learning from its mistakes.

Executive Director, Michael McPhearson, a veteran of the Gulf War, states, "Watching the documentary, I was struck by how little has changed from then to now or gotten worse. In Afghanistan, Iraq and around the globe our government continues to attempt to force whole nations into compliance, using the same failed and depraved strategies used in Vietnam. The documentary portrayal of the U.S. troop buildup in Vietnam shows how quick the U.S. government uses fear of "the other" to justify brutal violence. It is the same fear cultivated in Islamophobic, anti-immigrant and general xenophobic rhetoric used today to pit people against each other at home and to justify wars abroad. This formula of fear and racism used in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq is being used in the streets of my city right now to justify the killing of 24-year-old Anthony Lamar Smith and other black and brown people across the country."



Doug Rawlings, who served in an Army artillery unit in Vietnam from 1969-70, watched the first episode

at his home in central Maine and had this to say: "It was certainly engaging," but Rawlings noted "When the narrator says early on that 'America's involvement in Vietnam... was begun in good faith, by decent people, out of fateful misunderstandings.' The U.S. did everything it could to keep Vietnam a French colony and failing that to make it an American one, no matter the cost. Burns and Novick actually show that pretty clearly, yet they still say it was begun in good faith? That just shows how powerful the myth that America is always on the side of the angels."

Veterans for Peace continues their work on several initiatives in Vietnam and in the U.S. towards accountability for the legacies of the Vietnam War. To see a full list of our projects, visit our Press Kit.

Veterans For Peace members have also re-printed a newspaper, Full Disclosure, that focuses on telling the truth about Vietnam and are distributing it at the many public, community events that surround the documentary.

Veterans Available for Interviews. <http://bit.ly/2wqFJYI>

Veterans for Peace is a national organization founded in 1985. It is structured around a national office in Saint Louis, MO and comprised of members across the country organized

in chapters or as at-large members. The organization includes men and women veterans of all eras and duty stations including from the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current Iraq wars as well as other conflicts. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary

September 11, 2017

There's something happening here
And it's not at all something clear.
Some say it's about climate denying,
But I think more's behind all this dying.
We saw locusts, hail, blood and frogs
Consuming clean water and natural bogs,
And still few paid this much attention.
Oh, and diseases, too, I forgot to mention.
Years later, we each still point the finger
At the "other" while hatred continues to linger.
We forget about food for all of our babies,
Treat the homeless like pit bulls, like dogs who have rabies.
No meds for our grandmas and no pills for Gramps,
Or those sleeping outdoors, under bridges, in camps.
We're uprooting Dreamers and all those with dreams,
Ripping real life apart at the most fragile seams.
No water for years and years on end,
Then floods and torrents and typhoons You send.
And, yet, somehow, we all still miss the point,
Though no one is left to pray or anoint.
We're jogging in place, running toward the fall—
To be fit when we have to climb over the wall—
When families must pack up and move over there.
Something's happening, oh G-d, can't you hear?
It's not about scientists learning too late
'Bout global warming, but, rather, it's hate
Casting shadows and darkness and casting out fast
The "other" so color and rainbows won't last.
Smoke rises today high into the sky;
How many more children and babes have to die?
The locusts are gone but our beaches are soaking;
The hail has abated, but people are choking.
Does death have to visit upon Pharaoh's kin
To show humankind that to hate's not to win?
Be it storms, be it droughts or wars between powers,
My friends, tell me, where are all of the flowers?

— Rabbi Andra Greenwald

Stop the Hate

from page 1

crime incidents per year to the FBI. But government studies show that the real number is far higher — an estimated 260,000 per year. Many hate crimes never get reported, in large part because the victims are reluctant to go to the police. In addition, many law enforcement agencies are not fully trained to recognize or investigate hate crimes, and many simply do not collect or report hate crime data to the FBI.

The good news is, all over the country people are fighting hate, standing up to promote tolerance and inclusion. More often than not, when hate flares up, good people rise up against it — often in greater numbers and with stronger voices.

This guide sets out 10 principles for fighting hate in your community. (Links are active in the pdf version of *Connections*.)

Act: Do something. In the face of hatred, apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public and — worse — the victims. Community members must take action; if we don't, hate persists.

2. Join Forces: Reach out to allies from churches, schools, clubs, and other civic groups. Create a diverse coalition. Include children, police, and the media. Gather ideas from everyone, and get everyone involved.

3. Support the Victims: Hate crime victims are especially vulnerable.

4. Speak Up: Hate must be exposed and denounced. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth.

5. Educate Yourself: An informed campaign improves its effectiveness. Determine if a hate group is involved, and research its symbols and agenda. Understand the difference between a hate crime and a bias incident.

6. Create an Alternative: Do not attend a hate rally. Find another outlet for anger and frustration and for people's desire to do something. Hold a unity rally or parade to draw media attention away from hate.

As much as you might like to physically show your opposition to hate, confrontations serve only the perpetrators. They also burden law enforcement with protecting hatemongers from otherwise law-abiding citizens. If an event featuring a hate group, avowed separatist or extremist is coming to your college campus, hold a unity rally on a different part of campus. Invite campus clubs, sororities, fraternities and athletic organizations to support your efforts.

Every act of hatred should be met with an act of love and unity. Many communities facing a hate group rally have held alternative events at the same hour, some distance away, emphasizing strength in community and diversity. They have included forums, parades, and unity fairs featuring speakers, food, music, exhibits, and entertainment. These events give people a safe outlet for the frustration and anger they want to vent. As a woman at a Spokane, Washington, human rights rally put it, "Being passive is something I don't want to do. I need to make some kind of commitment to human rights."

7. Pressure Leaders: Elected officials and other community leaders can be important allies.

8. Stay Engaged: Promote acceptance and address bias before another hate crime can occur. Break bread together.

9. Teach Acceptance: Bias is learned early, often at home. Schools can offer lessons of tolerance and acceptance.

10. Dig Deeper: Look inside yourself for biases and stereotypes.



This Too Shall Pass

A forgetful Mother repeats
herself like a mocking jay,
out of tune with her reality.

Someone has stolen her
mascara, her glasses,
her curlers, her sanity.

Remembering her morning ritual
of coffee, toast and jam, with turkey
bacon, she watches the local news.

She no longer has an appetite
for life, for joy, for love, and her
patience has worn very thin.

Time is her cruel taskmaster,
silence her torturer, as her mind
spins around, as hamster encaged.

Dazed and confused, without any
filters, she flings her arrows of
dis-satisfaction, so disappointed.

Technology eludes her, as she
fumbles with the TV remote, the
coffee maker, washer and cell.

Depressed and dejected, she
swears she wants to die, but is
terrified of her coming transition.

Trading nightgown for work clothes,
she attacks her day with gritted teeth,
hoe in hand, cell phone in pocket.

Laughing through her waves of tears,
she is surprised, amused by the cat,
who has gifted her with a gopher.

Rays of sunlight kiss her bed of roses,
as she picks one for her windowsill.
The fragrance calms her nerves.

The hours pass slowly, then fade,
as she weeds her life's garden,
waters her lawn, and flowers.

Hungry hummingbirds remind
her she is needed! She refills their
feeder chanting, "pretty bird"....
preeeety bird, preeeety bird!

Hours later, muddy tracks,
across kitchen floor, announce

her timely arrival for lunch.

Her "I'm not hungry" mantra,
quiets as she devours her ham
and Swiss cheese sandwich.

After downing her medication
with swigs of sprite, she retires
to her bedroom for a daily nap.

Startled awake by telemarketers,
she jumps up cussing like a sailor,
then smiles with the arrival of a sister.

Number two Son and wife stop by,
on their way to the movie theater.
We gift them pie for his birthday.

Number three Son shows up hungry.
Chowing down between grumbles
and moans, he struggles to walk.

Number one Son is seldom seen,
working two jobs; electric company,
and ranching, now amidst harvest.

Consumed with loss and regret,
she pines for all that might have been,
but wasn't, and all that will never be.

As the eldest, her only Daughter,
I do what I can to fulfill her basic
needs, sidestepping her drama.

Her doctors remind her of how
fortunate she is to have a family
who loves her, and cares for her.

There are so many Souls who
arrive at the sunset of their lives
alone, with absolutely no one.

I pray for these Souls, as I pray
for my Mother facing her mortality,
her transition. May it be peaceful.

I am my Mother's daughter,
but I choose not to continue her
ancestral cycle of self-abuse.

I pray peace for Myself, my Son and
his family, especially my grandsons.
May they joyfully live long, prosper.

I pray peace for my family and their

families, in all phases of their lives,
for inner-strength and endurance.

I pray peace for friends and coworkers,
as they enter, endure and escape the
daily grind of a mechanistic world.

I pray peace for my Spirit Sisters,
who connect hearts, gathering,
with supportive wings of love.

I pray peace for Mother Nature, Gaia,
for the parts of her that are dying,
and for her resilient rebirthing.

I pray gratitude for her inspiring
Creations, her Spiritual Mysteries,
and synchronistic connections.

The Great Mother is always there
When I need her, embracing me
with her light, humor and love.
May we all be blessed,
More than ever, Amen.

by m/s.sage

(Sandra Shaw-Kovacs, MA, CHT)

POET: Sandra M. Shaw-Kovacs, MA, CHT > m/s.sage

Born into a cowboy family, in a farm-
ing community, Sandra embodies the
Pioneer Spirit of her Paternal
Grandparents and the
Nurturing Soul of her Maternal
Italian-Catholic
roots/ancestry.

Her passion
for art, writing,
teaching, heal-
ing and commu-
nity building led her to study Art in Mexico
and to receive a BA in Art. After closing New
Horizons, a Montessori Farm School, here in
the Central Valley, she received certification
in Advanced Hypnotherapy, and an MA in
Holistic Health Education with an empha-
sis in Movement Psychology and Process
Oriented Psychology/Art Therapy.

While caregiving family, she has written
poetry, a book, and power decks of inspira-
tion cards.



Containment – Sanctuary in Nature

As a Child, I held court in an irrigation
ditch near home, with my cat, rabbits,
and hawks. This was my sanctuary.

Tall cat tails, rendered me invisible
to the world, and I was out of range
of arguing parents and antagonizing
brothers. It was Me, Earth and Sky.

Inhaling silence, my inner-chalice
overflowed, as I observed clouds,
then belly to ground, sketched in
the fine graphite sand. I withdrew.

A red-tailed hawk, circling above
the landscape, keeps a watchful eye,
inadvertently answering my prayers.
I feel safe, protected. Witnessed.

A distant beeping grows louder,
as Mom honks the horn of our red,
1959 Chevy station wagon, calling
me home. Daydreams dissolve.

Pausing between worlds, I anchor
awareness, that I can return to my
inner- sanctuary, whenever my little,
hopeful heart desires. Peace be still.

Trusting animal instincts and the
youthful inner-knowing, that Great
Spirit breathes within me and all
living things, I evolve who I Am.

I Am safe, protected and guided
by invisible forces, synchronicity,
Angels, Ascended Masters. I Trust.

I Am connected to and celebrate
all that is sacred, Mother Earth,
Sister Luna, Father Sun. I Breathe.



Fulfilling Your Destiny and Discovering True Happiness

By VERONICA JACUINDE

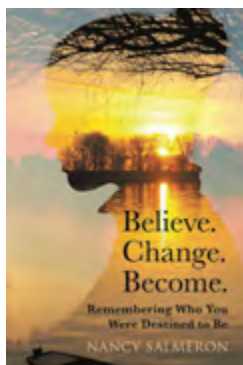
In these difficult times, some of us may find it hard to stay positive and maintain an uplifting perspective on life and the world around us. In the new book, *Believe.Change.Become: Remembering Who You Were Destined to Be*, written by Nancy Salmeron, an alternative outlet for those searching for a brighter future for them, and for the world, is presented.

Nancy is a personal development coach and an inspirational speaker whose passion is helping individuals to fulfill their life's purpose. A former teacher, she has an M.A. in education and has written for many publications on personal empowerment. Her work inspires and motivates one to find their true north and realize their full potential, which she believes is unlimited. In her new book, she shares her personal journey from humble beginnings as a migrant farm worker harvesting crops in 105-degree heat, to finding and living her own dream as a life coach, author, and inspirational speaker.

Her book will inspire you to seek deeper purpose and meaning in your life offering practical tips and observations from her own experience. Through her writings she will teach you how to remember your purpose, explore the why of your existence, identify your passion and discover what makes you come alive. She explores the power of positive thinking and the law of attraction as it relates to creating a happy and fulfilled life full of love, gratitude and inspiration, no matter what obstacles you or society may face. She believes a life of bliss and satisfaction is possible for you and emphasizes that your desires and talents are gifts for you to share with the world.

With the book, *Believe.Change.Become*, you will gain the courage to take a leap of faith and pursue what you were born to do. The author guides you into transforming your doubts and fears into belief in your destiny. She shows you how to silence your inner critic and connect with your loving spirit voice. Essential to this is learning to embrace change so that you can become who you were destined to be. More importantly she stresses that one must create their own definition of success and happiness and let go of fear. She urges you to begin living the life you were meant to live because this is your time—your time to believe, change, become.

You may purchase her book on Amazon, at Barnes & Noble and at www.BalboaPress.com. She is available for personal consultations and speaking engagements. On October 4th at Modesto Junior College, Nancy will lead an interactive seminar on the principals of discovering your passion and connecting it to your purpose. For more information on this or about her book, visit www.believechangebecome.com or email her at nancy@believechangebecome.com



Modesto Junior College: Civic Engagement Project Fall 2017 Film Series

Thursday nights, Rm. Forum 110, 7 p.m., MJC East Campus, 435 College Ave.

Open to the Public Free of Charge

Making of a Gangsta – Oct. 5: Through interviews with clinical psychologists, gang experts, and former gang members, *Making of a Gangsta* presents viewers with stories of heartbreak and messages of healing, not glamorized media images. Emotional accounts of adverse childhood experiences and individuals shaped by pain, loss, rejection, and distrust are disclosed in the film, which aims to reduce prejudice, inspire empathy, and raise hope by encouraging viewers to see beyond stereotypes.

Guest speakers for this one-hour film include Patrick Correa (Correctional Supervisor at Juvenile Hall in Modesto), Michael Glauner (Stanislaus County Youth Development Facilitator), and Adam T. Ybarra (Director of *Making of a Gangsta*). Ybarra also served as Team Chaplain for the Oakland Raiders and currently heads The Tenacious Group, which partners with youth organizations to promote purpose, hope, and vision.

The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution – Oct. 19: Subtitled *Vanguard of the Revolution*, this film sets the rise of the Black Panther Party alongside the turbulent tide of the Vietnam protests and amidst the raging disputes over civil rights. Through a combination of archival footage and interviews with surviving Panthers and FBI agents, The Black Panthers tells the story of a controversial movement that was viewed as a source of great inspiration by some but was regarded as extremely menacing by others, such as FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who declared the Black Panthers to be “the greatest threat to internal security of the country.”

The White Helmets – Nov. 2: Winner of the Academy Award for best short-subject documentary in 2016, this film follows a group of volunteer rescue workers of the Syrian Civil Defense, also known as the White Helmets, as they risk their lives in their efforts to save victims trapped in the rubble caused by military airstrikes.

<https://www.mjc.edu/president/cep/filmandlecture.php>

New Downtown Modesto Tradition: 1st Friday Street Faire to Finish Its Season with Hints of What's to Come in 2018

By STEPHANIE FOSTER BURTCH

Downtown Modesto Partnership is getting ready for its season finale of *1st Friday Street Faire*, a growing downtown tradition that invites hip craft designers, performance artists, vintage apparel vendors, and food vendors. Hosted on 10th Street between J and K, from **5 - 9 p.m. on Friday, October 6th**, this special event will be an evening of eclectic culture, delicious cuisine, and community.

During the free community-friendly event, you can enjoy live music, see what local designers and vintage vendors have been trending, and taste a variety of treats. Patio seating at

neighboring restaurants lets you savor the coming Fall weather. Fun, giant-sized games such as chess and Jenga are set up for play and delight.

1st Friday Street Faires are the creation of our community, the movers and shakers, and those who celebrate downtown living. New visionaries

for a vibrant and vivacious downtown are joining the movement every month. Downtown Modesto is a place where people can discover new layers of their community. If you are looking for beauty and creativity you can find it at *1st Fridays* or bring it there through your own joy and imagination.

Please join us for this final *1st Friday* event of the 2017 season. Downtown Modesto Partnership looks forward with excitement to seeing how this event evolves for 2018. For now, it is time to celebrate the changing seasons with *1st*



Friday and dance the evening away with your friends and neighbors.

For additional information email Stephanie Foster Burtch at smfwowera@gmail.com or call (209) 247-7694. To apply to become a vendor or performer, visit domopartnership.org.

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ModestoSound.org
209-573-0533

"True faith..."

By VASU MURTY

"There is no religion without love, and people may talk as much as they like about their religion, but if it does not teach them to be kind to beasts as well as man, it is all a sham."

—Anna Sewall

author, *Black Beauty*

"I care not for a man's religion whose dog or cat are not the better for it... I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being."

—Abraham Lincoln

Christian hip hop artist Lecrae has often been vocal about standing up for black lives on social media and beyond. "True faith stands up for the oppressed and the broken..." he wrote in a post.

I would like to see organized religion join the struggle for animal rights.

Religion has been wrong before.

It has been said that on issues such as women's rights and human slavery, religion has impeded social and moral progress. It was a Spanish Catholic priest, Bartolome de las Casas, who first proposed enslaving black Africans in place of the Native Americans who were dying off in great numbers. The church of the past never considered human slavery to be a moral evil. The Protestant churches of Virginia, South Carolina, and other southern states actually passed resolutions in favor of the human slave traffic. Human slavery was called "by Divine Appointment," "a Divine institution," "a moral relation," "God's institution," "not immoral," but "founded in right."

The slave trade was called "legal," "licit," "in accordance with humane principles" and "the laws of revealed religion." New Testament verses calling for obedience and subservience on the part of slaves (Titus 2:9-10; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-25; I Peter 2:18-25) and respect for the master (I Timothy 6:1-2; Ephesians 6:5-9) were often cited to justify human slavery. Some of Jesus' parables refer to human slaves. Paul's epistle to Philemon concerns a runaway slave returned to his master.

The Quakers were one of the earliest religious denominations to condemn human slavery. "Paul's outright endorsement of slavery should be an undying embarrassment to Christianity as long as they hold the entire New Testament to be the word of God," wrote Quaker physician Dr. Charles P. Vaclavik in his 1986 book, *The Vegetarianism of Jesus Christ: The Pacifism, Communalism, and Vegetarianism of Primitive Christianity*. "Without a doubt, the American slaveholders quoted Paul again and again to substantiate their right to hold slaves. The moralist movement to abolish slavery had to go to non-biblical sources to demonstrate the immoral nature of slavery. The abolitionists could not turn to Christian sources to condemn slavery, for Christianity had become the bastion of the evil practice through its endorsement by the Apostle Paul. Only the Old Testament gave the abolitionist any biblical support in his efforts to free the slaves. 'You shall not surrender to his master a slave who has taken refuge

with you.' (Deuteronomy 23:15) What a pittance of material opposing slavery from a book supposedly representing the word of God."

In 1852, Josiah Priest wrote *Bible Defense of Slavery*. Others claimed blacks were subhuman. Buckner H. Payne, calling himself "Ariel," wrote in 1867: "the tempter in the Garden of Eden... was a beast, a talking beast... the negro." Ariel argued that since the negro was not part of Noah's family, he must have been a beast. Eight souls were saved on the ark; therefore, the negro must be a beast, and "consequently, he has no soul to be saved."

The status of animals in contemporary human society is like that of human slaves in centuries past.

Quoting Luke 4:18, Colossians 3:11, Galatians 3:28 or any other biblical passages merely suggesting liberty, equality and an end to human slavery in the 18th or 19th century would have been met with the response animal rights activists receive today if they quote Bible verses in favor of vegetarianism and compassion towards animals.

Past generations of Christians glibly quoted the Bible to justify slavery, and today glibly quote the Bible to justify the institutionalized killing and mistreatment of billions of animals.

Some of the worst crimes in history were committed in the name of religion.

There's a great song along these lines from 1992 by Rage Against the Machine, entitled "Killing in the Name."

Christianity can also help end injustice: like the civil rights movement. A growing number of Christian theologians, clergy and activists are beginning to take a stand in favor of animal rights. In a pamphlet entitled *Christian Considerations on Laboratory Animals*, Reverend Marc Wessels notes that in laboratories animals cease to be persons and become "tools of research." He cites William French of Loyola University as having made the same observation at a gathering of Christian ethicists at Duke University—a conference entitled "Good News for Animals?"

On Earth Day, 1990, Reverend Wessels observed:

"It is a fact that no significant social reform has yet taken place in this country without the voice of the religious community being heard. The endeavors of the abolition of slavery; the women's suffrage movement; the emergence of the pacifist tradition during World War I; the struggles to support civil rights, labor unions, and migrant farm workers; and the anti-nuclear and peace movements have all succeeded in part because of the power and support of organized religion. Such authority and energy is required by individual Christians and the institutional church today if the liberation of animals is to become a reality."

Reach the author at vasumurti@aim.com

To All Operation 9-2-99 Clean-Up Participants

By CHRIS GUPTILL

I thank everyone who participated in our latest river clean-up on September 9th. This was our 32nd cleanup event and we were able to completely clean the entire north bank of the river around Legion Hall in Tuolumne River Regional Park.

This area is free of shopping carts, tires, illegal encampments, illegal dumping, styrofoam, plastic, and garbage. 27 volunteers assisted by a claw and compaction truck (talk about a force multiplier!!) did an almost impossible job of returning this entire area to a state the community can be proud of and can recreate along. Students from Davis, Ceres, and Enochs as well as many returning veteran volunteers removed 21 shopping carts, 31 tires, 1 giant boat that had been set on fire, completely filled a garbage compactor truck, and removed 10 tons of material from the river bank, Legion Hall, boat launch, and the area around the soccer field in TRRP Park.

Also some great news was just announced that a grant from the Department of Boating and Waterways has been secured to build a boat launch, river, and trail access point near John Thurman Field and Dryden golf course. Along with the scheduled removal of Dennett Dam next summer, this is a game changer when it comes to river recreation in Modesto. It is a sign that our hard work over the past 3 1/2 years is paying off with greater recreation opportunities that our community deserves. We are very close to restoring the 5 miles of trail damaged due to the high river flows.

Special thanks to Captain Phil McKay with Fish and Wildlife, Lt. Stanfield with MPD for the mountain bike officer support, Duane Becker for the truck driving crew, Modesto City Parks Department for providing the restroom, gloves, bags, grabbers, and claw and packer, Edgar Garibay with the Tuolumne River Trust, Vicki Rice with the City of Modesto for recycling the tires, Mike McCormick with Pepsi for providing beverages, Brian Gini with Collins Electric for the tools, and Del Ambris with Cost Less Foods who helped recycle the shopping carts. It took all of these great partnerships to make this effort successful.

We need as many volunteers and partners. Spread the word via social media, and to your friends and neighbors. I hope to see people at our **Saturday, October 14th** cleanup as we continue to combat blight in our parks, waterways, and open spaces and promote recreation opportunities in its place. See the difference we are making at our website.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/operation9-2-99> for before, during and after photos. Join or donate to our partner the Tuolumne River Trust.

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

Stockton

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

OCTOBER

1-3 SUN – TUES: Last 3 days to see *Delores* at the State Theatre. Outstanding film about an unsung heroine of the United Farmworker movement, Delores Huerta. 1307 J. St., Modesto. <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/980#>

4 WED: Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGIL: Immigration and DACA. McHenry & J St., 4:30-5:30 pm.

6 FRI: 4th Annual Battle of the Paddles. Boys & Girls Clubs of Stanislaus County. Modesto Centre Plaza. Exclusively for adults. Exciting evening of delicious hors d'oeuvres, refreshing cocktails, cool music, and an epic battle for the best ping pong player. Individual tickets \$50. For sponsorships or to enter as a team, call Laura Ward at (209) 549-2765 or email laura@wardpromotional.com.

14 SAT: Operation 9-2-99 Clean-Up. 8 am to 11 am. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/operation9-2-99>

15 SUN: The Modesto Film Society and The State Theatre presents *Alien*. 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/898>. Become a member of the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>

18 WED: Special screening of the film, *The S Word* with its director, Lisa Klein, at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., Sacramento, 3:30 pm. Free admission. Register at <https://www.tpcp.org/s-word-film-screening/>

19 THURS: Toast to Your Health. Buffet dinner event for the West Modesto Collaborative. The Seasons Event Center, 945 McHenry Ave., Modesto. Keynote speaker, Dr. Matthew Coates, Board-Certified Bariatric and General Surgeon. 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Info: Patricia Munoz, 209-522-6902 or ppmunoz63@westmodestocollaborative.com. Sponsorships available. RSVP by October 12.

21 SAT: Run...Walk...Wheel Charity Event 5K Great Pumpkin Color Run Walk hosted by DRAIL. 9 am to 12 pm. Morris and the Virginia Corridor. Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drail-5k-great-pumpkin-color-run-tickets-36617794810>

21 SAT: Modesto Sound All Hallows Eve Fundraiser. Costumes encouraged. Jonny Valdez & Lucky Lew; Blake Boetto & Plant; Johnny Rocket & Thurst and more. Tickets: \$25 (adult); \$10 (students) includes dinner. Raffle, prizes. At The Portal, 1324 Coldwell Ave., Modesto, 209-402-7900. 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Info: call (209)573-0533.

26-28: THURS-SAT: Boys & Girls Clubs' Haunted McHenry Museum. Fun family friendly event to celebrate Halloween at the historic McHenry Museum. Tickets \$5. Children under 5 free. Info: call (209) 222-5826 or email Denise Goodell, dgoodell@fmbonline.com

28 SAT: Spooktacular Fest, hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church and MoPRIDE, Inc./Central Valley Pride Center. 7:00 pm to midnight at St. Paul's, 1528 Oakdale Rd, Modesto, CA 95355. DJ, Dancing, costume contests, appetizers, desserts, raffles, no-host bar! Tickets are only \$10 if purchased in advance. Order online from Kelly at kacruzmodprideinc@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, January 9, 2018: Annual John McCutcheon Concert. Details to follow.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

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

Weekly insight meditation and dharma talk, 9:00 am-10:15 am, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (in the UUFSC sanctuary). Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: insightmeditationcentralvalley@gmail.com

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

MONDAYS

StanCounty Radical Mental Health: a peer facilitated support group open to people living with mental health issues. Mondays, 7 pm at the Modesto Peace/Life Center 720 13th St., Modesto. We strive to create a safe, non-judgmental space. Information: email.stancountyrmh@gmail.com or contact Sue at 209-247-4659.

Walk With Me, a women's primary infertility support group and Bible study. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm the first and third Mondays of each month (September only meeting 9/15/14 due to Labor Day). Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com or call 209.577.1604.

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

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

TUESDAYS

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.

Ukulele Jam led by Lorrie Freitas. 6 p.m. Songbooks provided. Telle Classrooms Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver, Modesto. Donation. Info: 209-505-3216. www.Funstrummers.com

Weekly insight meditation and dharma talk, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: insightmeditationcentralvalley@gmail.com

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

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS: held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), (NOTE TIME), 4:30-5:30 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

MEDIA: Listen to Peace/Life Center radio, KCBP 95.5 FM streaming at <http://www.KCBPradio.org> (not on the air yet)

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.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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. Meeting dates: Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov. 17, Dec. 15: No meeting/ Winter Mixer. Dedicated to promoting well-being in the LGBTQA community. John Aguirre, jpamodesto@gmail.com, 559-280-3864.

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

Third Thursday Art Walk, Downtown Modesto, downtown art galleries open - take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-8 pm every third Thursday of the month. Info: 579-9913, <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

A Buddhist Approach to Recovery from Addiction. Jana Lynn Community Rm., 500 N. 9th St., Modesto. Thursdays 6:30-8 pm. FREE (donations accepted). Info: email RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com

The Book Group, First & third Thursdays. College Ave UCC Youth Bldg., Orangeburg & College Ave., 3:30 pm. Info: mzjurkovic@gmail.com

The Compassionate Friends, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter. 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact: Joanna Rose-Murray, 209-484-8276, jrmcompassionate@gmail.com, <http://www.tcfmodesto-riverbankarea.org>

NAACP. King-Kennedy Center, 601 S M.L. King Dr., Modesto, 7 pm, 3rd Thursdays. 549-1991.

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

Funstrummers Ukulele Band every Friday, 9:15 am-noon, Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Donation. Info: 209-505-3216; www.Funstrummers.com

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

Village Dancers: Dances from Balkans, Europe, USA and more. Fridays, Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock. 7:30-9:30 pm, \$5 (students free). Info: call Judy, 209-480-0387.

Sierra Club: Yokuts group. Regular meetings, third Friday, College Ave. Congregational Church, 7 pm. Info: 549-9155. Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts> for info on hikes and events.

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

Hispanic Leadership Council, 1st & 3rd Fridays at 7:00 am, El Concilio, 1314 H St. Other meetings at Terrace Cafe, Double Tree Hotel. Info: Yamilet Valladolid, 523-2860.

SATURDAY

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

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Modesto Chapter, meets every first Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 937 Oxford Way, Modesto. Questions: Call Kathy, 523-5907.

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

SERRV: Saturdays, 10 - Noon and after church Sundays or by appointment. Call Mary, 522-6497 or 523-5178. Gifts from developing countries. Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland, Rm. #4, Modesto. nonprofit organization. <http://www.gaycentralvalley.org/>

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.