



# stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO  
PEACE/LIFE  
CENTER  
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## March-RALLY: Families Belong Together, Saturday, June 30

On Saturday, June 30 at 11:00 AM, Modesto will rally to oppose the separation of children from their parents/legal guardians along the U.S. border with Mexico, at other ports of entry into the U.S., and in our very own communities. We protest the conditions in which these children are kept and call for a change to policies that cause irreversible trauma. We stand together to call for and work toward an end to family separation.

The March will begin at the Lucas Statue outside Ralston Tower (across the street



from Denny's) at the corner of 17th and J Sts. (5 Points) in Downtown Modesto and end at 10th Street Plaza in front of Modesto City Hall where we will have speakers to discuss what we can do to continue to resist this oppressive and inhumane policy.

Sponsored by Indivisible Manteca; Our Revolution, Turlock; Our Revolution #CA10; Modesto Progressive Democrats; Indivisible Stanislaus.

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

## A Statement from Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, June 13, 2018

Fort Lauderdale, FL: "At its core, asylum is an instrument to preserve the right to life. The Attorney General's recent decision elicits deep concern because it potentially strips asylum from many women who lack adequate protection. These vulnerable women will now face return to the extreme dangers of domestic violence in their home country. This decision negates decades of precedents that have provided protection to women fleeing domestic violence. Unless overturned, the decision will erode the capacity of asylum to save lives, particularly in cases that involve asylum seekers who are persecuted by private actors. We urge courts and policy makers to respect and enhance, not erode, the potential of our asylum system to preserve and protect the right to life.

Additionally, I join Bishop Joe Vásquez, Chairman of USCCB's Committee on Migration, in condemning the continued use of family separation at the U.S./Mexico border as an implementation of the Administration's zero tolerance policy. Our government has the discretion in our laws to ensure that young children are not separated from their parents and exposed to irreparable harm and trauma. Families are the foundational element of our society and they must be able to stay together. While protecting our borders is important, we can and must do better as a government, and as a society, to find other ways to ensure that safety. Separating babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral."

<http://www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-098.cfm>

## The Trump Presidency: Thoughts on the First 500+ Days

By TOM PORTWOOD

Following the drumbeat of numbing, disheartening news that has marked President Trump's first five hundred days in office, I decided to summarize a few thoughts I have about his presidency, though much of what I'm expressing here has been stated far more comprehensively and eloquently by others. For the past sixteen months, Mr. Trump has brought shame to himself and to his country, undermined the very linchpins of our democracy, and glibly trampled on the rights of more and more of his fellow Americans as well as guests in our country. At virtually every turn, Mr. Trump or members of his administration have made statements or taken actions favoring the strong over the weak, the rich over the poor, the privileged over the helpless, the corporate world over the family and the worker, the influential over those he perceives as voiceless.

Earlier this month, his attorney general stated that those seeking refuge from domestic or gang violence will not be eligible for asylum in the United States. This decision came fast on the heels of another horrendous, equally inhumane policy separating children from their parents at the moment of their greatest vulnerability. The heartbreaking images of terrified, crying children being ripped from the arms of their mothers is a stain on this country and a use of force reminiscent of Nazi Germany. I was once proud - perhaps naively so - that our nation believed in and stood by the words inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty, that we truly opened our arms to all those seeking a safe harbor and a new life. The President seems obli-

ous to the very values so many of us hold dear - compassion, generosity, forgiveness, empathy.

He has insulted and tried to bully our oldest, most trusted friends in the world, while admiring and chumming up to repressive thugs like Vladimir Putin and now Kim Jong-un and others of the same ilk. He is small of heart, narrow of mind, more like a petulant child who always has to have his way than the leader of this nation, or the free world - a position he seems all too happily to have abdicated to others. At times he seems to be spiteful just for the sake of being spiteful or contrarian. Like all bullies, he pounces hardest when he smells blood in the water. He craves flattery and is openly hostile to the work of a free press.

Presidents set precedents, and one of the great fears we should all have is that this President's propensity to boorish, ill-mannered behavior will become all too characteristic of our future leaders. If that happens, if the village well of our public discourse becomes that poisoned, we really are diminished as a people. That so few leaders of his own party have spoken out against the growing "cult of Trump," as Senator Bob Corker called it, is disgusting and further weakens and imperils our democracy. Those who willfully stay silent are not only betraying the trust of the American people, they are planting seeds which will bear bitter fruit.

There is so much good in people - across this country, everywhere in the world. I see it every time I go to the local library, where

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## Library Foundation to Host Trio of Local Authors at Gala Fundraiser

Annual event features gourmet meal, guest speakers and auction

By PAT PORTWOOD

Three local authors will be guests and featured speakers at the Stanislaus Library Foundation's annual Authors Garden Gala fundraising event on Saturday, Sept. 22. The gala will take place at 6 p.m., outdoors at a private Modesto residence. All proceeds will benefit children's programs at the library's 13 branches countywide, including the Summer Reading program, which serves more than 10,000 school-age children each year.

Jeff Jardine ("Home to the Brave: Remembrances of War Brought Home to One Small Dot on a Map"), Ken White ("Touchstones: Life and Times of Modesto") and Paula Treick DeBoard, author of four books including "Here We Lie" (2018) will discuss the writing process and ways living in The Central Valley have influenced their work.

"The Gala is the Foundation's primary annual fundraiser," said Board Co-Chair Pat Portwood. "Guests will enjoy a sumptuous meal and hear three very accomplished and well-known local authors while enjoying an elegant evening in a lovely, intimate garden setting."

The evening will include a live auction for a dozen high-value items; 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the library for various children's and enrichment programs. A limited number of tickets, at \$140 each, are available. For tickets call (209) 634-3592 or (209) 523-9083. Additional information is available at stanislauslibraryfoundation.org.

*About the Stanislaus Library Foundation: Established in 1994, the Stanislaus Library Foundation enriches lives in our community by raising funds to support key library programs, increasing awareness, and advocating for a vital library.*



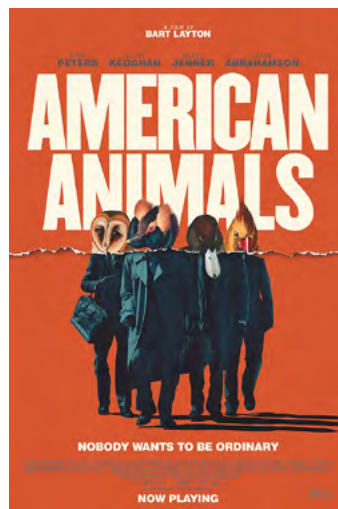
Stanislaus  
County  
Library  
Foundation

## See a Movie, Help the Library

Attend a Special Premier of the film *American Animals* at The State Theatre on Friday, June 29. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Friends of the Modesto Library.

**Tickets are \$10** and are available at The State Theatre Box Office or <https://bit.ly/2JOOTsK>

**About the film:** Spencer Reinhard, Warren Lipka, Eric Borsuk and Chas Allen are four friends who live an ordinary existence in Kentucky. After a visit to Transylvania University, Lipka comes up with the idea to steal the rarest and most valuable books from the school's library. As one of the most audacious art heists in U.S. history starts to unfold, the men question whether their attempts to inject excitement and purpose into their lives are simply misguided attempts at achieving the American dream. <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/index.php?id=1163>



## Pulled Pork Fundraising BBQ for the Cleansing Hope Shower Shuttle

**When:** Saturday, July 28, 2018, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Where:** Geneva Presbyterian Church

1229 E. Fairmont Ave., Modesto, (across from Downey High School)

**Cost:** \$12.00 per plate donation

**Menu:** pulled pork sandwich, beans, coleslaw, watermelon, cookie or brownie & punch.

Pick-up or dine-in (pick-up does not include punch)

**Info:** 209-524-6841.

*Help support the Hope Shower Shuttle which provides showers to the homeless.*



## Yokuts Sierra Club Mixer and Book Exchange

**When:** Sunday July 29, 2018, 3-5 PM.

**Where:** Stewart and Jasper Orchards Co. Store  
1700 McHenry Ave. (McHenry Village)  
Suite 58, Modesto.

Join Sierra Club members and friends for some mid-summer fun. Do you have any hiking guides, or books with natural history or environmental themes that you would like to pass on to others? Join us in sharing these books. If you are looking for some summer reading, you might find the perfect book!

Snacks will be provided. A no-host bar is available.

RSVP to Elaine, [vevado@yahoo.com](mailto:vevado@yahoo.com) or Steve, 209-544-1617 or [stomlinson015@gmail.com](mailto:stomlinson015@gmail.com)

## TAKE ACTION: Family Reunification, Medicare, Medi-Cal

By ELIZABETH SHOLES,  
California Council of Churches, IMPACT

Three mostly good things have just happened. By Executive Order (not needed - just follow the existing law) the administration has stopped separating new refugee families. Then they decided to stop prosecuting the adults. And just a short time ago, the House rejected 231-193 a dreadful immigration bill that did nothing to help immigrants and would have made things far worse. Yes, the HOUSE rejected this bill!

Now the bad news. There is absolutely no momentum to restore all the thousands of children taken away over the last year and especially since May. So, we are working on trying to do two things - open up the concentration camps, for that's what they are, and then find a way to develop a DNA registry of parents and children to enhance reunification. No records of the relationship between children and adults have been kept. Very young ones, especially infants, cannot possibly say who they are much less who their parents are. We would hope the International Red Cross would spearhead this and do for these people what they did for displaced persons after World War II. They would also be better stewards of information requiring privacy than would our government. How sad is that to say?

The worse news in some ways comes as the essential concern about the fate of these families overwhelms us. While we have been focused on the children and reunification, the House leadership has created its new 2019 budget. It proposes to balance the budget, now with over a **trillion**-dollar debt load by making what they see as essential cuts. They will be:

- \$537 billion in cuts to Medicare.
- \$1.5 **trillion** in cuts to Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California).
- \$4 billion in cuts to Social Security.

Never mind, apparently, that Medicare and Social Security are OUR money, paid into our individual accounts over our working lives. Never mind that neither

## 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.



# Homeless in Modesto Screens July 19 at the State Theatre

By RICHARD ANDERSON

Want a helpful peek into our homeless problems?

We invite you to:

- Hear the stories of several local homeless folks, and about the root causes of homelessness, its harsh effects, and our imperfect solutions.
- Tour three important Modesto shelters: the Salvation Army Berberian Shelter, the Gospel Mission, and Family Promise.
- Hear local City and County officials explain their policies and plans to remediate and hopefully to prevent homelessness.

This July 19, 7-9 p.m. at the State Theatre, Modesto Peace/Life Center will screen *Homeless in Modesto*. As a fundraiser its nominal \$5 admission will go to Family Promise of Greater Modesto which specializes in sheltering and rehabilitation of homeless families with children. Currently, no other Modesto shelter accepts families with children, keeping the families together.

After the film, from 8-9 p.m., an important Q/A will occur with a Panel Discussion of five:

- Brad Hawn, local businessman and chairman of the County's Focus on Prevention program.
- David Fuller, a long-time Valley resident who is currently homeless.
- Kristi Ah You, Modesto City Councilwoman.
- Galen Carroll, Modesto City Police Chief.
- Tamra Losinski, Director of Modesto's Family Promise.

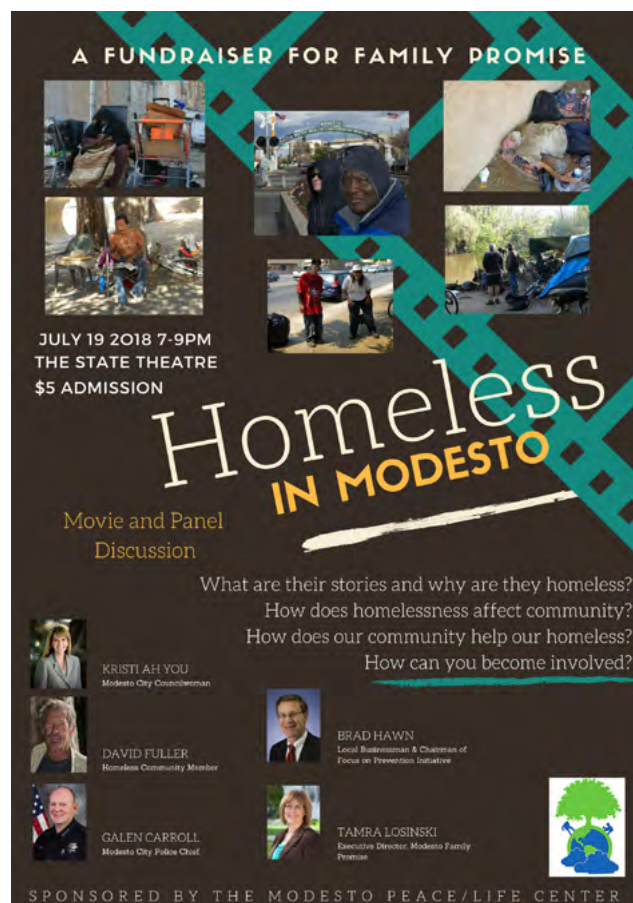
This film was 5 years in the making. In late 2012, John Lucas and Richard Anderson joined forces when John advertised in the *Stanislaus Connections* that he was looking for a video team to document local homelessness. Richard had just videotaped the 2012 candlelight vigil for the 11 who had died homeless in Modesto <https://vimeo.com/56184214>. He learned that many homeless people did indeed want to share their stories.

## The Documentary Team

Leng Nou has worked in various local non-profits ad-

## TAKE ACTION: Family Reunification, Medicare, Medi-Cal

Medicare nor Social Security actually are in the general budget but occupy protected fund status outside. They are self-sufficient (and could be improved in sustainability quite easily) contributing nothing to the national debt. Never mind that they have been raided to pay for wars and other non-health and human services actions. The federal obligation is to the recipients for those missing funds - our money - not on recipients. Medicaid is one of the leanest and most effective supports for low and no-income people we have. It keeps the poor healthy and thereby keeps our society healthy by making sure people do not go untreated with potentially communicable diseases. It is a moral abomination and a fiscal disaster to cut this program.



ministering service structures to the affected populations of individuals who are homeless or at risk. She joined the documentary team as principal interviewer as a way to align her interest in social justice related to poverty and income inequality with the real experiences of those living on the margins of our community. As board president of the Modesto Peace/Life Center, she was instrumental in co-designing and implementing the Homeless ID project. She has presented on the topic of homelessness at the annual Social Justice conference held at CSU Stanislaus.

Frank Ploof joined our team in 2014 and has spent day after day working with our homeless population, acting ceaselessly as an ombudsman, getting to know homeless

individuals and helping them access community resources. He successfully got Phil (in our movie) and others housed. He began his efforts on homelessness with 20 years volunteering at the Hutton House and was on Modesto's 2011 Blue Ribbon Commission. He was the architect of the Peace/Life Center's Homeless ID Project, also included in the movie. He currently is on 5 boards relating to housing and homelessness. He has set up interviews and created our web site.

Eric Caine joined our team in 2015, beginning with a powerful interview of Carl at <https://vimeo.com/140533627>. He publishes *The Valley Citizen*, a website dedicated to local issues and stories at <https://thevalleycitizen.com/>, in which he has written and archived dozens of intimate articles about our homeless. He is our still photographer and narrator.

John Lucas is the heart behind the project, did early videography and started and sustains the Peace/Life Center Homeless ID program.

Joseph Homer came on board in 2017, contributing important narration for our movie.

Richard Anderson has been the main videographer, post-production editor, and director of the final product. He funded this State screening, so all the admissions can go to Family Promise.

We have all learned a lot about our local homeless and the services that are being provided. We hope you'll join us in the homeless scene through our film and the Panel Discussion.

### ACTIONS:

- Attend the July 19, 2018, 7-9 p.m. screening of *Homeless in Modesto* at the State Theatre, 1307 J St., 527-4697. Doors open at 6:15 pm. Admission: \$5.00.

- Check out a few of our more extended homeless interviews at the Homeless in Modesto archive at

<https://www.modestocahomelessdocumentary.org>

Visit Family Promise at <http://www.modestofamilypromise.org/>

**NOTE:** this is not the same film shown last year at the State about people living on Modesto's Ninth St.

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So we ask you to call the House switchboard again - 202-224-3121. If you prefer to contact the district office, please go <https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/VaXAW0TbDuFL5g3pfyFS3g> to use our link.

1. Insist they kill the second awful immigration bill that makes the immigration situation worse! We want legislation that assures family unity, that protects childhood arrivals, and that creates pathways to lawful employment and ultimately citizenship.

2. Insist that they stop using the upset over border crises to deflect us from their other actions!

3. Demand that they restore full funding for Social Security, for Medicare, and for Medicaid. These three items

so not contribute to the deficit or national debt. We, the people, are being told to sacrifice our health and economic stability to compensate for the horrific tax cut for the very wealthy. That is morally and fiscally depraved!

Remind them we are witnesses to their moral choices about who matters in our society, and we will not allow them to cut essential programs - our programs - in silence. We will not assent!

Raise your voice - every day if you can - and let your Representative know that none of these choices can be tolerated. We will be **constructively disruptive** in bearing witness against those who pretend such actions are rational, justified. We will be silent no more.



## Digging Deeper

By KATHY KELLY

June 5, 2018

Here in Kabul in early June, outside the home of several Afghan Peace Volunteers, a large drilling machine is parked on what was once a lovely garden. To this now muddy patch, workers will soon arrive for another noisy, dusty day of digging for water. The well dried up a week ago. As of today, the household has no water.

Ongoing battles between militants, government forces, and international allies have destroyed much of Kabul's water infrastructure, forcing people to drill their own wells.

Across Kabul, numerous households face similar water shortages. With an average annual rainfall of just fourteen inches, Kabul's water table has been falling each year. The current population, estimated around 4.5 million, is expected to reach 9 million by 2050. The estimated groundwater potential is enough to supply only 2 million inhabitants with water.

Alarming reports say that drought now afflicts twenty-one of Afghanistan's thirty-four provinces.

Rural families in drought-stricken areas watch their crops fail and their livestock die of dehydration. In desperation, they flee to urban areas, including Kabul, where they often must live in squalid, sprawling refugee camps. In the city, an already inadequate sewage and sanitation system, battered by years of war, cannot support the soaring population rise.

Droughts in other countries have led to violent clashes and civil wars. It's difficult to imagine that Afghanistan, already burdened by forty years of war, will escape eventual water wars.

The most sophisticated and heavily armed warring party in Afghanistan is the U.S. military. Despite spending hundreds of billions of dollars on non-military aid to Afghanistan, the United States has done little to improve Afghanistan's infrastructure or alleviate its alarming water crisis. President Donald Trump's interest in what's happening under the ground in Afghanistan is focused exclusively on the U.S. capacity to extract Afghanistan's mineral wealth, estimated to be worth trillions of dollars.

Ordinary Afghans could be forgiven for feeling paralyzed and defeated by controlling elites who ignore their most basic human needs. Yet every day, Afghan communities reject continued war and call for peace.

On May 13, a single-file procession of Pashto men started off on a 400-mile trek along dusty roads from Helmand to Kabul, to call for the Afghan government and the warring parties to end the war.

The participants are asking the Afghan government and militants to stop fighting. They are walking during Ramadan, the month when observant Muslims fast from food and water between sunrise and sundown, becoming ever more mindful



of people who lack water and food.

During the past three weeks, throngs of people in cities and towns along their route have shown solidarity with the walkers.

My young Afghan friends show steady resilience in the face of war and destitution. They are growing up with a keen sense of the importance of water for life and the essential need to share resources. They also know the importance of resisting those who menace people with military might.

In this unpredictable time, I can't help but wonder at Afghan people, scarred by war, facing drought and impoverishment, digging deep into their rich cultural and historical resources to take a lead in efforts to abolish war and build a better world.

A version of this article initially appeared in *The Progressive*.

Kathy Kelly (Kathy@vcnv.org)

co-coordinates Voices for Creative Nonviolence. While in Kabul, she is a guest of the Afghan Peace Volunteers.

## Mistlin Gallery Autumn Art Festival and Fundraiser

By PHONSIE BATES

The Central California Art Association at Mistlin Gallery, in downtown Modesto, is proud to present the Third Annual Autumn Art Festival. This is the CCAA's members-only juried art show and fundraiser at the Mistlin Gallery from August 14-October 5. It is a great time for artists to join the organization, meet their peers and compete for cash prizes. Look on line or visit the gallery for membership information.

Artist prospectus/entries are due at the gallery by Saturday, July 28. Entered art must be physically brought into the gallery and will be juried by three judges: Terri Wilson, Tina Moore, and Jacob Weige. The art must be received at the gallery on August 4 and 5. Download the Call to Artists, Prospectus and Guidelines for entry information: <https://ccaagallery.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/AAF-2018-Call-for-Entries.pdf>

Many of the participants will be award-winning artists who have shown their work at galleries in the Central Valley, San Francisco and coastal areas, while others may be showing their work for the first time. Bring your masterpieces and join the fun! All work must be for sale.

Awards will be given at a fundraising gala on August 25 at the Mistlin Gallery. Gourmet food, wine and music are included in the \$30 ticket. Tickets can be purchased in the Mistlin Gallery at 1015 J St., Modesto, CA, phone 209-529-3369 or online. Complimentary parking vouchers are available in the gallery for the parking garage at 11<sup>th</sup> and K streets. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 1130 AM to 500 PM, Fridays 1130 AM to 800 PM and Saturdays, noon to 400 PM. Additional extended gallery hours from 500 PM to 900 PM to view this juried show are on the Third



## Seeds of Identity: 31 Foods Mexico Gave the World at the Mistlin Gallery

Experience the rich diversity of Mesoamerican culture through the exquisite photography of Ariadna Cuadriello and Juan Pablo Cardona. Rediscover the origins of familiar tableside favorites and explore the staple cuisine of Mexico in a stunning new light. At the crossroads of history and beauty, this show seeks to lay bare the vital fruits, flowers, and plant forms of the country that graciously shared them with the rest of the world.

**Note:** Show ends July 6. Don't miss it. Mistlin Gallery, 1015 J St., Modesto, 209-529-3369



Thursday Art Walks – August 16 and September 20, 2018. Food and beverages are complimentary at these events. The gallery is open to the public free of charge.

The CCAA is a non-profit gallery, offering an array of art classes for children and adults, scholarships and outreach programs. The Mistlin Gallery is open to the public, offering opportunities for artists to show their work and the community to enjoy and appreciate the visual arts.

For more information go to <https://ccaagallery.org> or, call Mistlin Gallery 209-529-3369.

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209-529-5750



# March for Nuclear Abolition & Global Survival, August 6



Commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the place where new nuclear weapons are being created today.

**STOP TRUMP'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICIES**

**8:00 AM Rally, Monday August 6, 2018, Livermore Lab, Vasco & Patterson Pass Rds., Livermore.**

**Program** features **Daniel Ellsberg**, famed whistleblower, author, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*; **Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka**, atomic bomb survivor; **Professor Christine Hong**, UC Santa Cruz expert on Korea. **With movement leaders:** Carol Hisasue, Dr. Bob Gould, Pennie Opal Plant, Fred Norman, Jackie Cabasso, and Marylia Kelley. Music by Oakland Mind.

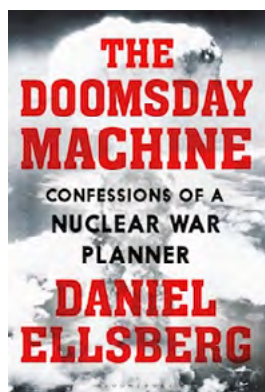
**9:30 AM March & Action:**

Join the procession to the Livermore Lab West Gate with a Japanese bon dance and symbolic die-in to commemorate the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Music by Gen yu kai (Okinawan string music) will be followed by the opportunity to peaceably risk arrest.

**Vanpool Option:** Reserve your seat in a free vanpool from the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station to the rally site by calling 925-443-7148. Offer available while seats last!

**Bring a Group:** Apply for a gas, van or bus rental stipend. Application form is available on-line at [www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org) or call 925-443-7148. Limited supply.

**Contact:** 925-443-7148 or 510-839-5877. More info: [www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org) and on Facebook.



## Modesto Remembrance Potluck Aug. 6

Join the Modesto Peace/Life Center's Annual Hiroshima Remembrance and Potluck at Legion Park, Modesto on Monday, August 6th at 6:00 PM. Bring food, drinks to share as we converse and rededicate ourselves to reversing the efforts to rebuild and proliferate nuclear weapons. Bring your own table service.

The evening will conclude with a candlelight vigil on the banks of the Tuolumne River.



## Hungering for Nuclear Disarmament

By KATHY KELLY

In the state of Georgia's Glynn County Detention Center, four activists await trial stemming from their non-violent action, on April 4, 2018, at the Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay. In all, seven Catholic plowshares activists acted that day, aiming to make real the prophet Isaiah's command to "beat swords into plowshares." The Kings Bay is home port to six nuclear armed Trident ballistic missile submarines with the combined explosive power of over 9000 Hiroshima bombs.

This week, five people have gathered for a fast and vigil, near the Naval Base, calling it "Hunger for Nuclear Disarmament."

Kindly hosts in Brunswick, GA turned over their Air B and B to us. The accommodation is a remodeled garage, - were we not fasting we might find the kitchen a bit crowded, but for us, this week, the accommodations are ideal. Egrets, ospreys and vultures glide overhead. Huge live oaks surround us, looming and beautiful, draped in Spanish moss. Tannins released from the oak trees seep into the nearby river, historically a source of fresh water because the tannins killed the bugs. Centuries ago, colonizers would fill huge containers with "brown" water from the river, water in which the bugs couldn't survive, and use that water for their drinking needs throughout their voyages back to Europe.

When we travel along the roads, vast stretches of wetlands extend as far as the eye can see. Recent laws mandate conservation of these marshy grounds.

Our small community here longs to preserve all life, to end potential omnicide.

During vigils at the Naval Base, in front of the detention center and at the District Court House, we hold banners, one of which says "Disarm Trident, Love One Another. Steve Baggary, one of the fasters, carries copies of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, negotiated in July 2017, by 122 nations. "Most of the world is tired

## Peace Camp before Aug. 6 Livermore Action

A Peace Camp will be held in conjunction with the August 6 action at Lake Del Valle Regional Park, south of the City of Livermore, on August 4 and 5, 2018.

**WHAT:** A group camp out at beautiful Lake Del Valle, available for one or two nights. Family friendly.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Aug. 4 and/or Sunday, Aug. 5. Confirm check-in times with Scott Yundt when you RSVP. At 7:15 AM on Aug. 6, we will caravan to the Lab for the event. (Park gate opens at 5 AM.)

**WHERE:** Punta Vaca Group Campground at Del Valle Regional Park, located on Del Valle Road off Mines Road, about 9 miles outside of Livermore. A beautiful campground; room for 50 people!

**PARKING:** Scott has some no-charge parking passes for peace campers; carpool where possible please.

**COST:** Tri-Valley CAREs is covering costs; bring food + musical instruments & art-making welcome.

**DETAILS: RSVP REQUIRED:** Scott Yundt, 925-443-7148 or 415-990-2070, [scott@trivalleycares.org](mailto:scott@trivalleycares.org).

of being held hostage by omnicidal weapons and wants nuclear disarmament," said Steve. "The U.S. and the 8 other nuclear powers who boycotted the Treaty negotiations are the outliers." Baggary added that, "Our true national security lies in achieving the long overdue objective of nuclear disarmament."

The Kings Bay action was the latest of 100 similar actions taken around the world since 1980 and the first plowshares action to take place since the global treaty banning nuclear weapons was signed.

This afternoon, when we ended our vigil, we visited a small park, opposite an entrance to the base, which marks the site of a sugar factory owned by John Houstoun MacIntosh. The memorial plaque in front of the factory ruins makes it sound as though MacIntosh built the factory and mansion. Hardly the case! In 1825, slaves assuredly constructed the buildings and cultivated the sugar cane, risking their lives in the dangerous process.

Eventually, small groups of abolitionists working to end the slave trade gained momentum. Disarmament activists today draw inspiration from their struggles. "Nuclear weapons are a theft from the poor," said fast participant Beth Brockman. "People here in Georgia and across the South are in desperate need of the resources squandered on the war economy."

Two highlights of the day were conversations with Mark Colville and later Steve Kelly, both of whom called us from the Detention Center. Each had begun the day reading the same reflection we had earlier shared, which included a passage from the Sermon on the Mount. Choosing to "go the extra mile," our friends who face trial bring to life the spirit of early abolitionists and the ancient call to choose life that you and your descendants might live.

Kathy Kelly, ([kathy@vcnv.org](mailto:kathy@vcnv.org)), a participant in the Hunger for Nuclear Disarmament fast, co-coordinates Voices for Creative Nonviolence.



# Indian Country Remembers the Trauma of Children Taken from Their Parents

As Congress prepares to debate separating families at the border, a look back at the U.S.'s past with the cruel practice.

By Mark Trahan, posted Jun 18, 2018.

Indian Country remembers. This is not the first administration to order the forced separation of families.

The Trump administration has initiated a zero-tolerance policy on the border. Zero tolerance means that people caught crossing the border are treated as criminals.

On Friday, the Department of Homeland Security said the Trump administration separated 1,995 children from the adults they were traveling with at the U.S. border between April 19 and May 31.

"The act of ripping children away from their parents is nothing new for the United States. Separating children and their families to 'kill the Indian to save the man' by sending Native children to boarding schools, and doing it in the name of religion, is one generation removed from my family," wrote Peggy Flanagan on Twitter. Flanagan, White Earth, is a candidate for lieutenant governor in Minnesota. "Trump's 'zero tolerance policy' is nothing more than a clear violation of human rights. We must learn from history. We must stand with immigrants and refugees."

Many on social media referred to a piece in *Indian Country Today* by Mary Annette Pember in 2013, illustrated by a picture of tiny handcuffs.

From the piece: "For such small objects, the child's handcuffs are surprisingly heavy when cradled in the palms of one's hand. Although now rusted from years of disuse, they still convey the horror of their brutal purpose, which was to restrain Native children who were being brought to boarding schools. 'I felt the weight of their metal on my heart,' said Jessica Lackey of the Cherokee tribe as she described holding the handcuffs for the first time."

Pember wrote that she had heard rumors about the existence of the handcuffs during visits to Haskell. Then Haskell agreed to allow a public viewing of the handcuffs. She wrote: "Andy Girty, one of the elders who first blessed the handcuffs when they were given to Haskell in 1989, helped unwrap them for me. Known as the Haskell Institute in its early years, the school opened its doors in 1884. It was originally founded as an instrument of the final solution to this country's 'Indian problem.' Haskell Institute's mission then was embodied in the now infamous motto of Captain Richard H. Pratt, founder of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School: 'Kill the Indian, Save the Man.' This mind-set led to decades of forced acculturation through brutal military-style incarceration cloaked as education in U.S. Indian boarding schools."

This tragic history is again public policy. And, as in previous public policy debates, the authorities rely on Christian scripture for their inhumane acts.

"The American people have been begging and pleading with our elected officials for an immigration system that is lawful and that serves our national interest—one that we can be proud of. There is nothing mean-spirited about that. They are right, decent and just to ask for this," Attorney. "We've



got a choice here. We either have open borders or we have laws. It's one or the other."

Sessions, a Sunday School teacher, proclaimed: "I would cite you to the Apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13, to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained them for the purpose of order."

Immigration is an issue that will surface again in Congress as soon as this week.

Republicans debate their own competing plans for immigration reform. The House will consider two bills: A conservative, hardline approach and a more moderate version. (Moderate among Republicans. The bill is unlikely to win votes from many Democrats.) A third bill, an actual moderate proposal, could only be brought to the floor with a discharge petition, the signatures of a majority of members. The House leadership's immigration bill is designed to make sure that never happens.

But the division between Republicans (harsh across the board on immigration or mostly harsh on immigration) leaves Democrats out of the discourse, and therefore any bill is unlikely to become law.

The conservative bill is authored by House judiciary chair Bob Goodlatte of Virginia. That bill includes funding a wall, further slowing legal immigration, and ending family reunification as a policy. The conservative approach does not address the family separation issue or any legal citizenship route for the dreamers, immigrants who came to this country as children.

The House leadership bill, according to a draft posted by *Politico*, calls for more border security, a solution for the dreamers via a special visa. It also says it ends separation of families at the border.

Both bills restrict legal immigration and provide penalties for cities that support sanctuary policies.

Rep. Tom Cole, R-Oklahoma, a member of House leadership, told Axios that the only way this bill can happen is if President Trump "leans in on it hard, he can make a huge difference." The president is expected to meet with House Republicans this week.

Perhaps an immigration bill could pass in the House. But Senate Republicans would need votes from Democrats in order to prevent a filibuster—and that's unlikely.

Meanwhile, over the weekend, Speaker Paul Ryan picked up more flack for the Trump policy of separation of children from their parents.

Singer John Legend attacked Ryan's Father's Day tweet. "Seriously, f--k you," he [tweeted](#). "Reunite the families at the border and we can talk about Father's Day."

Legend is not alone in his condemnation of the policy. Former First Lady Laura Bush wrote a Post: "On Sunday, a day we as a nation set aside to honor fathers and the bonds of family, I was among the millions of Americans who watched images of children who have been torn from their parents," she wrote. "People on all sides agree that our immigration system isn't working, but the injustice of zero tolerance is not the answer. I moved away from Washington almost a decade ago, but I know there are good people at all levels of government who can do better to fix this."

**The separations will cause "irreparable harm to lifelong development by disrupting a child's architecture."**

And there is one more parallel with Indian Country and the border policy of family separation. The president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Colleen Kraft, told Buzzfeed News that the separations will cause "irreparable harm to lifelong development by disrupting a child's architecture. Immigration has become so politicized. We would really like people to sit back instead and think of the health of these children."

She cited a list of physical and mental health issues. She said the research shows that children who are forcibly taken from their parents have demonstrated links to asthma, obesity and cancer, in addition to tendencies toward substance abuse, developmental delays and mental health issues.

One such study is a 2013 report in the *Journal of Family Issues*. Researchers looked at historical trauma "incurred by genocide (see [United Nations definition, 1948](#)) and the subsequent forced acculturation policies has been accumulating over the past decade to include affective states like anger, depression, guilt, and anxiety, internalized oppression, and feelings of inadequacy in parenting roles."

"The Intergenerational Effects of Relocation Policies on Indigenous Families" by [Melissa L. Walls](#), Ph.D., and [Les B. Whitbeck](#), Ph.D., said that "government relocation policy of the 1950s provides a somewhat recent example of an acculturation policy. It affected a cohort of whom many

continued next page



# A recurring nightmare of separation

By LENG NOU

A recurring nightmare when I was younger was that my parents would be sent back to the country we fled.

I vividly recall tearfully waving at them as they boarded the plane in my dream. When I woke up, relieved it wasn't real, I would just cry myself back to sleep at the thought. I had little reason to think this other than a deep sensing that there was little stability in our world.

It's this connection and that of being a parent that my heart breaks for what is happening to the children of asylum seekers. Some as young as I was when we arrived on US soil. This country has been so generous to my family and others like us. I refuse to believe we have become who I feared in my dreams. As an adult, I have worked with kids who have been separated from their families and trafficked into this country and their stories are as heartbreaking as they are inspiring.

I cannot quell the gnawing ache at my core as I have been able to with most things this past year and a half. We know that trauma stays throughout generations and we are in-

tentionally sowing seeds of a sorrowful tomorrow for those who need humanity the most.

At times, I feel slight guilt that maybe we exhausted all the compassion there was, but I know better that the depth of love and humanity is infinite and regenerative, and I wish that were enough but it must be coupled with earnest action that aligns with our truest American spirit. The one that recognizes our place amongst all others.

When given the choice of countries that would accept refugees, my father chose this one because he had heard about



Leng Nou's family in refugee camp. Leng is wearing the plaid dress.

## Trauma of Children

from page 6

still survive and affords the opportunity to measure the psychosocial impact of moving individuals from reservations to urban employment settings."

The study found "a critical and widely documented aspect of intergenerational continuity concerns the mediating effects of parenting processes on parent-to-child transmissions of behavior and emotional well-being."

A key point: "Generational ties are particularly valued because elders are viewed as repositories of cultural knowledge, spirituality, and traditional language. Their life experience is enormously respected, and they are turned to for direction and advice. When these linkages are disturbed the consequences ripple through subsequent generations."

Mark Trahan is an independent journalist and a journalism professor at the University of North Dakota. He's a member of the Shoshone-Bannock tribes and has written about American Indian and Alaska Native issues for more than three decades. His most recent project, TrahanReports, covers the 2016 election with a focus on Native issues and candidates. Follow him on Twitter at @TrahanReports. Mark wrote this article for *Indian Country Today* of which he is editor-in-chief and a former board member of YES!

From *Yes Magazine*, <http://www.yesmagazine.org/peace-justice/indian-country-remembers-the-trauma-of-children-taken-from-their-parents-20180618>

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## Pediatricians' Statement on Family Separation

By COLLEEN KRAFT, MD, MBA, FAAP, President,  
American Academy of Pediatrics

"Today's executive action seeks to end this Administration's harmful policy of forced separation of children from their parents at the U.S. southern border. The American Academy of Pediatrics agrees with ending this abhorrent practice, which drew widespread outcry among pediatricians, advocates, and the American public. Families should remain together.

Sadly, however, continuing to maintain the "zero tolerance" policy will put more children in detention facilities, an environment the AAP states is no place for a child, even if they are accompanied by their families. The order also fails to address the more than 2,300 children who have already been cruelly separated from their parents.

"In 2017, the AAP published a [policy statement](#) that immigrant children seeking safe haven in the United States should never be placed in detention facilities. Studies of

the aspirations of this nation made up of diversity and ideals that honored each human being as a citizen of our world and understood our shared responsibility to one another.

detained immigrants have shown that children and parents may suffer negative physical and emotional symptoms from detention, including anxiety, depression and posttraumatic stress disorder. Conditions in U.S. detention facilities, which include forcing children to sleep on cement floors, open toilets, constant light exposure, insufficient food and water, no bathing facilities, and extremely cold temperatures, are traumatizing for children. No child should ever have to endure these conditions.

"Family detention is not the solution to address the forced separation of children and parents at the U.S. southern border. We urge our government to stop exposing children to conditions or settings that may retraumatize them, such as those that exist in immigration detention. Alternatives to detention exist. Children and families should have access to legal counsel throughout the immigration pathway and community-based case management can increase the likelihood of compliance with government requirements. As pediatricians, we know children fare best in community settings, under the direct care of parents who love them.

"We must remember that children do not immigrate, they flee. Parents will continue to flee violence to protect their children and themselves and seek safe haven in our country. The Academy's mission is to protect the health and well-being of all children – no matter where they or their parents were born – and we hold our federal leaders to that same standard. These vulnerable families deserve our compassion and assistance."

6/20/2018: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/AAP-Statement-on-Executive-Order-on-Family-Separation.aspx>



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# Working Harder on Homelessness in Central Valley

By JOSH HARDER

The homelessness crisis in California is growing. We see our homeless neighbors in our communities, in our hospitals and, unfortunately, in our prisons. And yet little is being done by our national leaders to address this problem.

Given the many misconceptions about homeless people, it's necessary to shed some light on homelessness in our community. Eleven percent of homeless people are military veterans. One out of every three homeless individuals in Stanislaus County has severe mental illness. Over 14% of the homeless people in Stanislaus County are children.

Our national leaders' inability to tackle the homelessness crisis is simply unacceptable.

It is unacceptable to treat veterans who risked everything to protect us. It is unacceptable to allow people suffering from mental illness to sleep on our streets. It is unacceptable that children in our communities must worry about where they will sleep. And it is unacceptable that our representative in Congress is not working to solve the issue of homelessness.

## 15 Actions That Can Shut Down Trump's Assault on Immigrant Families

Whether from your phone or on the front lines of the border crisis, here are things you can do to help. Visit YES Magazine.

## First 500+ Days

from page 1

so many people enduring homelessness take a respite from this June's often scorching sun. There, on the street by the library, men and women, sometimes with children in tow, huddle under a magnolia tree's leafy shelter, checking up on each other, exchanging information or bits of food, giving directions, listening to each other's troubles. Surviving. Together. But that sense of community, of one for all and all for one, bears no resemblance to Mr. Trump's dim, narcissistic worldview.

Rather than bringing people together, President Trump does just the opposite - exploiting divisions within our country - not just exploits them, picks at them like a scab that looks as if it might be healing over, lies about them, shouts like a demagogue about them. That his administration has taken such hateful positions on immigration, racial inequality and injustice, women's rights, the environment, and a host of other issues, should come as a surprise to no one.

If I were given the chance to convey one bit of advice to Mr. Trump, I would forward these words from Cesar Chavez to him: "History will judge societies and governments - and their institutions - not by how big they are or how well they serve the rich and the powerful, but by how effectively they respond to the needs of the poor and the helpless." Indeed, for all of us, these are good words - to remember, and to act upon.

While Congress remains sidelined, leaders at the local level have stepped to the plate. People like Frank Ploof on the Modesto Citizens Housing and Community Development Committee. People like Assemblyman, Adam Gray, and Stanislaus Community Foundation who together scored a \$3.5 million for shipping containers allocated toward securing emergency housing for our homeless population.

We also have examples we can learn from to end homelessness here in Stanislaus County. One successful program is the Housing First model rolled out in Utah, which reduced chronic homelessness by 91%. The concept behind Housing First is to ensure that housing comes first, services after. The formerly homeless pay a nominal fee for the housing - 30% of a person's income or a maximum of \$50 a month, whichever is greater.

Housing the homeless is not only a moral imperative, but also sound economic policy. Through the Housing First program, public safety got better, the demand of police services decreased and costs to taxpayers went down.

Once people have a stable living location, homeless individuals can begin their journey toward re-integration into society while they receive the support they need. We can provide veterans with services tailored toward issues like post-traumatic stress disorder. Partnerships with programs like HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing and Supportive Services for Veteran Families have proven effective in the past. We however need Congress to step up to fund these programs locally.

By housing people, we can also focus on addressing one of the roots of the problem: mental health. In our district, we have one of the lowest per-capita usages of conservatorships - court cases where a judge appoints a responsible person or organization to care for adults who are not fit to care for himself or herself or manage his or her own finances. I stand



with Candidate for Supervisor Frank Damrell in support of Laura's Law, a court-ordered outpatient treatment program which would help homeless people access the mental health resources they need.

Solving the issue of homelessness in our community will require true leadership from national leaders to support our local advocates.

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## Grief in the Backyard

The backyard is where I  
Grieve. The water in the  
Pool flutters and I see  
The neighbor's cedar

Deodora, their pine tree,  
The pear that he planted,  
The red geraniums  
Hanging over the edge of

The pool. He is alive with  
The undulations of the  
Water. Overhead pale blue  
Clouds are lined with the

Sunset red of the west.  
Mylar flashes pick up  
Light that attempts to keep  
Mockingbirds away.

Unsuccessful, the birds  
Swoop from peaches to  
Nectarines, snatching ripe  
Bites like I try to snatch

Him back to me. Where is he?  
Do the mockingbirds know?  
Or the tiny bees in the teeny  
Pink blossoms?

Maybe one of them will  
Tell me -- show me -- lead me  
To wherever he is still working  
In his beautiful garden.

— VJ Vogelzang

## Widow

I am the only one that this  
Has ever happened to.  
I have heard about it, read about,  
Know women who claim to be.

I am the only one who has ever  
Been "becoming a widow."  
It is awful to see him in bed,  
An energetic, lively man

Trying to breathe, to eat, to walk.  
No woman has ever been through this,  
Has ever slept with oxygen hissing,  
Has ever strained to understand

His halting words,  
Has ever looked at boney legs with  
Swollen red feet,  
Has ever seen him turn his back

To the movers who packed up his  
Drill press, lathe, milling machine  
As he busied himself reading about  
Stocks and bridge.

I watched him fill his Tucks cans  
With nuts, nails, bolts, screws  
And then study for his contractors'  
License

To help build a new medical  
Building where he could continue  
Enjoying connecting with his  
Patients by listening to their  
Deepest concerns.

It's over now.  
The truth is  
It is better to be becoming  
Than it is to be.

— VJ Vogelzang

## Calaveras Big Trees State Park

She drove up Highway 4, quickly found a trail to run  
And disappeared, leaving me in the parking lot  
With the children squealing at squirrels or running  
from parents.

I opened the car door to offer cool air and water for  
The dog, then found a short walk to a bench on  
the hiker's trail. The dog liked the new plants and  
Stellar smells and then lay beneath my legs.

I watched the families and serious hikers stride down  
The trail into the sunlight and shadows. The area was  
Quiet and I looked up into the forest and gasped as I  
Noticed the layers of white dogwood blossoms everywhere.

She had been gone longer than anticipated. I wasn't  
worried as I was peacefully engaged, marveling at the  
Giant trees. We drove back to Murphys for lunch, then  
Through Angel's Camp, Turtletown, down Rawhide Road  
To Jamestown and home to the valley.

She sent me her Mothers' Day poem:

Massive ancients stand  
And witness the passages of seasons --  
Of dogwood blooms and snowfalls,  
Acorn harvests and summer heat.  
They abide the onslaught of history.  
A vast thickness of papery-fine bark  
Armors them.

To appreciate their vulnerability,  
I gather my courage and touch.

An outing in spring, companionship of a loved one, the glory  
Of nature presented me a reprieve from fretting my loss.

— VJ Vogelzang



## POET: VJ Vogelzang

VJ Vogelzang, Modesto, CA, has written nonfiction articles and poetry for magazines and newspapers and she has written three books. She is a member of the Poets of the San Joaquin and the Modesto Branch National League of American Pen Women of which she was president. She and her late husband, Dr. Roger Vogelzang, have supported the Peace/Life Center for years and have assisted Thelma Couchman in years past.

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## Green Tips for a Green Planet: To Lawn or Not to Lawn

By TINA ARNOPOLE DRISKILL

Here in the agricultural belt of California drought is an ongoing concern, especially in the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. A green grass lawn can be a major water conservation "drain," and according to the *Handbook of Water Use and Conservation*, an average lawn uses close to 10,000 gallons of water annually over and above any rainwater.

Americans are to lawn as they are to cars. Sadly. Happily, like cars, there are green alternatives to a heavily watered lawn. The ultimate green lawn could be a waterless Astro Turf, if it's looks and no maintenance you seek. However, most folks want to feel the soft blades beneath their feet and between their toes, and synthetic lawns are made from non-renewable, petroleum-based materials.

A green alternative would include drought tolerant choices that require much less water. Suggested choices include Bermuda grass, Zoysia grass, regional native grasses and other drought tolerant plants.

Ground covers can require less water, as well as less work to maintain. Steve Graham of Network suggests the following options:

Prairie Zinnia, Blue Woolly Speedwell, Showy Snowcrop, Hardy Yellow Ice Plant, Woolly Thyme, Native Grass Seed Mixes, and Blue Grama Grass.

There also are useful weeds to plant, including Chickweed, Dandelion, Nettle, and Red Clover., as well as a variety of herbs and wildflowers that can be used as teas or mealtime ingredients.

A big plus to using drought tolerant landscaping and letting lawns go by the way side is freedom from mowing lawns, and a push mower can be used if one chooses to mow drought tolerant grasses.

Be sure to research these and other alternatives to green thirsty grasses to be sure they meet your landscaping and family needs. You will certainly find joy in the colorful native plants and draught tolerant choices, and the leisure time afforded by planting them.

**Tip:** Check out the beautiful draught tolerant garden on Encina Ave. west of El Vista Ave. Our Peace/Life writer, Lillian Vallee, and other friends of the Center have planted many examples in this lovely, peaceful setting.

## KCBP 95.5 FM Community Radio is almost here!

By JAMES COSTELLO

The good news: our nonprofit, community radio station should be on the air by the August 12 deadline. The bad news: we won't be broadcasting at full-power. What gives?

Our application for a use permit is currently in the Stanislaus County Planning Department for approval, which is expected by early July. After approval arrives, we have to apply for building permits which will take time to process. All of this means that we will not be able to broadcast at full-power from our tower site west of Patterson by the August 12 deadline mandated by Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

However, we can broadcast at low-power from a site just west of Westley. A homeowner there, has given us permission to put up a temporary radio antenna so that we can get a signal on the air by our deadline which will satisfy the FCC.

When all of our approvals are granted, we can start construction at the main tower site which will take 2 to 3 months. The final result will be a radio station dedicated to our Stanislaus County community. What does all of this mean?

To make this new enterprise valuable for the community, we need volunteers who wish to learn programming and to develop shows for broadcast. And/or, we need volunteers to help develop programming or help solicit underwriting. We also need people who are experienced in radio to offer their expertise as we develop and grow.

To succeed, we must provide programs and entertainment that you, the community needs and wants, so YOUR input is critical. There is a vibrant, musical scene here that we would like to capture. There are poetry readings and live

events that we would like to broadcast. Great things are happening in our schools and we want students to share their activities with us on the air. Local theater companies are producing quality performances that could be broadcast to the greater County community. We also want to cover local political and public affairs. We now webs stream at least 6 shows produced locally. That and other programming will continue at [www.kcbpradio.org](http://www.kcbpradio.org).

Lastly, we need financial support. We have received generous donations but we will need much more.

**ACTION:** to volunteer, contact outreach coordinator Jocelyn Cooper at the Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750, or email [jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyncooper2012@gmail.com). To donate, send your check to Dave Tucker, memo: "Radio KCBP" at Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353. Or go the Center's website at [peacelifecenter.org](http://peacelifecenter.org) and on the Home Page click on Donate, on the right.



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This is what George Orwell noticed about the authoritarian brutalists: They don't use words to illuminate the complexity of reality; they use words to eradicate the complexity of reality.

— David Brooks, June 18, 2018



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## Moving Backward

### Efforts to Undo Pre-Existing Condition Protections Put Millions of Women and Girls at Risk

By **THERESA CHALHOUB, ADITYA KRISHNASWAMY,**  
and the **National Partnership for Women & Families**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) prohibits discriminatory insurance practices in pricing and coverage in the individual market. Before the law was enacted, women routinely were denied coverage or charged more for insurance based on so-called pre-existing conditions. For example, in the individual insurance market, a woman could be denied coverage or charged a higher premium if she had been diagnosed with or experienced HIV or AIDS; diabetes; lupus; an eating disorder; or pregnancy or a previous cesarean birth, just to name a few. The ACA provided women with protections for pre-existing conditions and access to comprehensive, affordable, and fair health services.

But recent efforts to eliminate key ACA protections, discussed below, would put millions of women and girls once again at risk of being charged more or denied coverage for individual insurance.

### Efforts to eliminate ACA protections threaten the security of women with pre-existing conditions

Recently, the U.S. Department of Justice refused to uphold the law in *Texas v. United States*, when it argued that the community rating and guaranteed issue provisions of the ACA are unconstitutional. Without guaranteed issue, women could be denied coverage based on their medical history, their age, and their occupation, among other factors. Without community rating, women could be charged more, or priced out of the insurance market altogether, based on their health status or other factors. Insurance companies could also try to reinstate gender rating, a common pre-ACA practice in which insurance companies charged women higher premiums than they did men, even though other parts of the ACA protect women from discrimination in the health care system.

Now, think tanks and conservative opponents of the ACA are introducing proposals to repeal the ACA yet again. If implemented, these proposals would similarly put women at risk of being denied coverage or charged more because of their health status.

### More than half of all women and girls have pre-existing conditions

The authors estimate that more than half of women and girls nationwide—more than 67 million—have pre-existing conditions. There are also nearly 6 million pregnancies each year, a commonly cited reason for denying women coverage on the individual market before the ACA. The two tables



available for download below provide state-level detail for the number of women and girls with pre-existing conditions and the number of pregnancies.

A large share of women has coverage through an employer or Medicaid and would, therefore, not face discriminatory practices such as medical underwriting or denials based on health conditions. But the data make clear that allowing insurers to return to pre-ACA practices could lead to millions of women and girls being denied coverage or charged more based on their health status if they ever sought coverage in the individual market.

*Theresa Chalchoub is a senior policy analyst for the Women's Health and Rights Program and Health Policy at the Center American Progress. Aditya Krishnaswamy is an intern for Health Policy at the Center. The National Partnership for Women and Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group dedicated to promoting fairness in the workplace, reproductive health and rights, access to quality health care, and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family. More information is available at [NationalPartnership.org](http://NationalPartnership.org).*

*To download the tables with the estimated number of women and girls with pre-existing conditions and estimated number of pregnancies by state, click here.*

### Methodology

The estimates for the number of women and girls with pre-existing conditions who could be charged more or denied coverage for individual insurance were based on American Community Survey (ACS) data. First, the authors used the 2016 ACS to find the total number of women and girls under age 65 in each state. They removed the number of nonelderly women covered by Medicare according to the ACS because women covered by Medicare would not be subject to possible discrimination based on a pre-existing condition. Finally, the authors calculated the number of women who may have at least one pre-existing condition based on a 2017 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report. It estimated that 51 percent of women and girls have a pre-existing condition that would have subjected them to coverage carve-outs, higher rates, or coverage denials prior to the ACA.

The estimates for the number of pregnancies are based on the Guttmacher Institute's 2011 data for the number of pregnancies in each state among women ages 15.

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

### IN MEMORIAM

**Jan Hightman**  
September 12, 1943 - April 16, 2018





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

## JULY

**4 WED: NO VIGIL TODAY.** Postponed to July 11. Renew your strength! Have a Safe and Happy 4th!

**6 FRI: LAST DAY to see *Seeds of Identity: 31 Foods Mexico Gave the World*.** Experience the rich diversity of Mesoamerican culture through the exquisite photography of Ariadna Cuadriello and Juan Pablo Cardona. Mistlin Gallery, 1015 J St., Modesto, 209-529-3369.

**11 WED: Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGIL: Immigration: Keep Families Together** McHenry & J St., 4:30-5:30 pm. NOTE NEW DATE!

**12 THURS & 15 SUN:** The State Theatre presents **Special 50th Anniversary** showing of *Yellow Submarine*. 1307 J. St., Showings: 7:00 pm Thursday, 5:00 pm Sunday. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/index.php?id=1148>. Become a member of the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>.

**15 SUN: The Modesto Film Society** and The State Theatre presents *Rocky*. 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/index.php?id=1074>. Become a member of the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>.

**19 THURS:** Special showing of *Homeless in Modesto* documentary created by the Homeless Documentary Project. Sponsored by the Modesto Peace/Life Center. Proceeds benefit Family Promise of Greater Modesto. Panel discussion with community leaders follows. Admission: \$5.00. 7 to 9 pm. State Theatre, 1307 J. St., Modesto. NOTE: this is not the film shown last year at the State about people living on Modesto's Ninth St.

**29 SUN: Yokuts Sierra Club Mixer** and Book Exchange. Stewart and Jasper Orchards Co. Store, 1700 McHenry Ave. (McHenry Village), Suite 58, Modesto. RSVP to Elaine, [vevado@yahoo.com](mailto:vevado@yahoo.com) or Steve, 209-544-1617 or [stomlinson015@gmail.com](mailto:stomlinson015@gmail.com)

## AUGUST

**1 WED: Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGIL: Immigration: Keep Families Together** McHenry & J St., 4:30-5:30 pm.

**6 MON: Modesto Peace/Life Center's Annual Hiroshima Remembrance and Potluck**, Legion Park, Modesto, 6:00 PM. Bring food, drinks to share as we converse and rededicate ourselves to reversing the efforts to rebuild and proliferate nuclear weapons. Bring your own table service. Evening concludes with a candlelight vigil on the banks of the Tuolumne River.

**6 WED: March for Nuclear Abolition & Global Survival.** No Nukes! No Walls! No Wars! No Warming! 8 am, Livermore Lab, corner of Vasco & Patterson Pass Rds. More information: 925.443.7148 or 510.839.5877. See article, this issue.

**19 SUN: The Modesto Film Society** and The State Theatre presents *Carousel*. 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/index.php?id=1075>. Become a member of the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**September: Peace Essay Contest** begins. TBA.

**September 22: Library Foundation** Hosts Trio of Local Authors at **Gala Fundraiser**. Live auction; Limited number of tickets, \$140 each. For tickets, call (209) 634-3592 or (209) 523-9083. Info: [www.stanislauslibraryfoundation.org](http://www.stanislauslibraryfoundation.org).

**October 20: El Concilio's 50th Annual Gala** Dinner in Stockton. To learn more about the event, contact Annette Sanchez, (209) 644-2627 or email at [asan@elconcilio.org](mailto:asan@elconcilio.org).

## REGULAR MEETINGS

### SUNDAYS

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

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

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

### MONDAYS

**Monday Morning Funstrummers** Beginner Ukulele Lessons. Modesto Senior Center. 10:45am to Noon. Free Scenic and Bodem.

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

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

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

### TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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

**IMCV weekly Insight Meditation** and dharma talk, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or

## MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

**Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS:** held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), 4:30-5:30 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](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

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

see <https://imcv.org/> Email: [info@imcv.org](mailto:info@imcv.org)

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### THURSDAYS

**IMCV Grupo de Meditación en Español**, cada semana 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (edificio trasero al final del estacionamiento este de UUFSC). Ofrecido libremente, las donaciones son bienvenidas. Info: Contacto Vanessa, 209-408-6172

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

**Green Team** educational meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10 to 11 am, Kirk Lindsey Center, 1020 10th St. Plaza, Suite 102, Modesto. [www.StanislausGreenTeam.com](http://www.StanislausGreenTeam.com)

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

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

**The Book Group**. First & third Thursdays. College Ave UCC Youth Bldg., Orangeburg & College Ave., 3:30 - 5:00 pm. Info: [mzjurkovic@gmail.com](mailto:mzjurkovic@gmail.com)

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

**Valley Heartland Zen Group:** every Thurs 6:30 to 8:30

pm, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2310 Woodland Ave. Meditation. Newcomers welcome. Info: 535-6750 or <http://emptynestzendo.org>

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

### FRIDAYS

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

**Friday Morning Funstrummers Band** Rehearsal. Donation 9:15am to Noon. College Avenue United Church of Christ, 1341 College Ave., Modesto. 209-505-3216, [www.Funstrummers.com](http://www.Funstrummers.com).

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

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

**Sierra Club:** Yokuts group. Regular meetings, third Friday, College Ave. Congregational Church, 7 pm. Info: 300-4253. Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts> for info on hikes and events.

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

**Hispanic Leadership Council**, 3rd Fridays at noon, 1314 H St., Modesto 95354. Questions? Yamilet Valladolid, [yamiletv@hotmail.com](mailto:yamiletv@hotmail.com)

### SATURDAY

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

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

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

**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](mailto:kathyhaynesSESG@gmail.com)

**SERRV:** Gifts from developing countries. Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland, Rm. #4, Modesto. Call Marye, 209-523-0449, or email [ezjamm@aol.com](mailto:ezjamm@aol.com)

**DEADLINE to submit articles to CONNECTIONS:** Tenth of each month. Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org) Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.