



# stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

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## Modesto's Alzheimer/Dementia Support Center – It's About the Caring

An interview by TOM PORTWOOD

*There are only four kinds of people in the world. Those who have been caregivers. Those who are currently caregivers. Those who will be caregivers, and those who will need a caregiver.*

– Rosalynn Carter

If anyone can appreciate the wisdom of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter's words, it's Jewell Kee, the volunteer Office Administrator and Board Secretary of the Alzheimer/Dementia Support Center. Of course, caregiving for patients with Alzheimer's or other cognitive impairments

is especially difficult for many caregivers.

"It's a stressful, stressful job," Ms. Kee remarks, who was a caregiver for her husband before he passed away from Alzheimer's in 2012. "Many families don't step in to help and it leaves the total caregiving burden on the primary caregiver living at home."

Indeed, The Alzheimer's Association reported recently that "Alzheimer's disease has a devastating impact not just on those with the disease. It's also an extreme burden on their caregivers – a job that usually falls on family and friends." In a report published earlier this year, the Association went on to indicate

that "in 2018, 16.3 million family members and friends provided 18.5 billion hours of unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's and other dementias."

Founded as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization in 2013, the Alzheimer/Dementia Support Center's goal "is to empower caregivers caring for someone with cognitive impairment related illnesses." "We had actually had a support group going on in the same building under the auspices of another organization, Ms. Kee relates. "When they decided to leave the area, we decided to form our own non-profit organization. The next



week we met and brought our card tables and lawn chairs and continued our support group just as we had been doing it all along and never missed a meeting."

"The day-to day running of the organiza-

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## Your Community Radio Station is up at Full Power!

By JAMES COSTELLO, KCBP 95.5 FM  
General Manager

Your Community Radio Station, your volunteer-driven "Voice of the Valley," is broadcasting at 6KW from 810 feet all over the Valley 24 hours a day! A variety of programming and music you won't hear anywhere else is continually being updated. *LISTEN! Let us know what you think!*

To truly serve the community, to share your voice, we need volunteers with and without radio experience to help program local shows, music, poetry, plays and discuss current issues and events and to help fundraise. We need donors and businesses to underwrite our programs. *We can't provide the programming you want without your support.*

**ACTION:** to volunteer, contact Outreach Coordinator Jocelyn Cooper at the Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750, or email [jocelyncoper2012@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyncoper2012@gmail.com). To donate, send your check to Dave Tucker, memo: "Radio KCBP"



at Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353. Or go the KCBP Radio website at <http://kcbpradio.org/> and click on the **Donate** button.

## Read the Mueller Report, Part II. Read it Now

By ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen

Every American citizen should read the *Mueller Report, Part II*. While *Part I* covers Russian interference into a presidential election, *Part II* centers on the behavior of the nation's leaders subsequent to the interference, including the President of the United States.

High school teachers, college professors, law enforcement officers, military personnel, attorneys, judges, elected local, state and federal officials, and business leaders throughout the nation in particular have a special obligation to fulfill their civic duty and read what is destined to become one of the foundational documents of our nation's history.

Though he's been castigated for remaining silent about the meaning and import of his findings, history will show Robert Mueller, Special Counsel for the United States of America, stood firm on the foundations of Constitutional law and disinterested integrity when he refused to elaborate on the meaning

and import of his voluminous report.

It was clear from his statements on May 29 that Mueller believes his report sufficient and thorough enough to address reasonable questions about Russian interference and attempts by the President and his associates to obstruct justice. He further believes that Congress and the people of the United States are the only powers with the Constitutional authority to pass judgment on the people and events featured in his investigation.

*Part II* of the report will be studied and taught for as long as people value the force of reason and the rule of law. It includes eleven incidents possibly involving obstruction of justice. The incidents are presented in outline form, lettered "A" through "K." An additional section, labeled "L," covers *Overarching factual issues*. Finally, there's a section of rebuttal to the President's attorneys'

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### READERS!

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

## Children Shouldn't Be Dying at the Border. Here's How You Can Help.

Speak up. Donate. Educate yourself. Vote.

By The Editorial Board, The New York Times, June 24, 2019. Read more here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/24/opinion/border-kids-immigration-help.html>

## Concentration Camps Existed Long Before Auschwitz

From Cuba to South Africa, the advent of barbed wire and automatic weapons allowed the few to imprison the many

By ANDREA PITZER, Zócalo Public Square

"Before the first prisoner entered the Soviet Gulag, before 'Arbeit macht frei' appeared on the gates of Auschwitz, before the 20th century had even begun, concentration camps found their first home in the cities and towns of Cuba.

"The earliest modern experiment in detaining groups of civilians without trial was launched by two generals: one who refused to bring camps into the world, and one who did not.

Battles had raged off and on for decades over Cuba's desire for independence from Spain. After years of fighting with Cuban rebels, Arsenio Martínez Campos, the governor-general of the island, wrote to the Spanish prime minister in 1895 to say that he believed the only path to victory lay in inflicting new cruelties on civilians and fighters alike. To isolate rebels from the peasants who sometimes fed or sheltered them, he thought, it would be necessary to relocate hundreds of thousands of rural inhabitants into Spanish-held cities behind barbed wire, a strategy he called reconcentración.

Read more at here: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com>

## The Chill List: A Team Poetry Slam Invitational at the State Theatre

From the creators of the annual, sell-out ILL LIST Poetry Slam comes the hottest spoken word event of the summer: The CHILL LIST on Saturday, July 20 at the State Theatre, 1307 J. St., Modesto.



The Chill List will feature four of the best poetry slam \*teams\* in the country competing for a \$2000 prize. Poetry slam teams are comprised of the top-ranked poets in a particular city who have competed and won their respective slams.

As a team, poets choose to compete in pairs or as a full ensemble of up

to five voices through four rounds of performance poetry. Imagine what you've seen at the ILL LIST and multiply that by 2, 3, 4 or 5 poets on stage performing at once!

Randomly selected judges from the audience will award points to teams based on the strength of their poems and the quality of their performance. Audience participation remains essential. Laughter, tears, snaps, applause, and inspiration are sure to be had by all who attend this world-class literary battle royale!

This is a Free Speech event. Doors at 6:30; Show at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$25 (A \$2 preservation fee applies to every ticket.)

## Modesto Area Express Announces July Service Change and Free Rides

Modesto Area Express (MAX) announced it will be expanding service in July to extend operating hours and provide additional trips along current routes. The expanded service will go into effect on July 1, when **MAX will also begin its Free Rides All July campaign** funded through a grant from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) under the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP).



"MAX riders wanted more trips and longer service hours, so we delivered," said Adam Barth, MAX's Transit Manager. "Passengers can now ride several MAX routes late into the evening."

For a complete summary of the July service change, MAX encourages riders to review the Summary of Changes on the MAX website or pick up the new Ride Guide on any MAX bus or at the Downtown Transit Center.

The Free Rides in July program will allow Modesto residents and visitors to experience MAX's expanded service free of charge. Barth hopes the community will take advantage of the free month of travel which is also being offered by regional transit partners in Stanislaus County, including Ceres Area Transit (CAT), eTrans (Escalon), Stanislaus County Regional Transit (StaRT), and Turlock Transit.

MAX was formed in 1973 and is the primary public transportation provider for the Modesto Urbanized Area. MAX serves 20 routes, operates 7 days a week, and transports approximately 2,800,000 passengers annually with its fixed-route buses. In addition to MAX, the City of Modesto provides a special demand-response transportation service 7 days a week, every day of the year, for registered seniors and qualified disabled residents of the Modesto Urban Area, including Salida. For more information, visit [www.modestoareaexpress.com](http://www.modestoareaexpress.com) or call 209-521-1274.

## ACLU Summer of Action Training

This summer, the ACLU is holding a training to equip people with the knowledge and skills they need to build power across the Central Valley.

You will learn how to advocate for laws, lobby politicians, register voters, and prepare for the 2020 elections!



**Join other ACLU activists and learn skills to make your voice heard.**

Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at The Big Red Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704.

Sign up at [https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action\\_tend/20121](https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action_tend/20121)

## Mueller Report

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*Constitutional Defenses* against the Special Counsel's right to conduct the investigation.

Though Mueller advises that, "Judgements about the nature of the President's motives during each phase [of the investigation] would be informed by the totality of the evidence," readers with time constraints will profit from reading any one section. The report also includes an excellent introduction and concise executive summary.



The methodology of the *Mueller Report* is at least as important as its content. The structure is developed from the classical syllogism, a keystone of Western legal reasoning at least since the time of Plato and Aristotle. The basic parts of the syllogism—claim, support (evidence), conclusion—are drawn out into systematic presentation of each incident of possible obstruction.

Every incident in the report is developed into an argument or "case," for or against the charge of obstruction. The fundamental elements of each case

are virtually identical and divided into sections. There is an "Overview," featuring a concise narrative of the incident in question. The "Overview" is followed by "Evidence," which is further divided by source and kind.

The "Evidence" section is followed by "Analysis." Most "Analysis" sections include legal definitions of such things as "obstruction" and "intent." They also include what the Mueller team calls a "Nexus," a link to connect evidence to conclusion.

Weighing in at over a pound and a half and measuring 8.5 x 11 x 1 inch thick, the *Mueller Report* presents a daunting challenge for most any reader. However, except for the response to the arguments of the President's attorneys, it's remarkably free of dense legal language.

It also provides a gripping narrative of characters and actions that already loom over current events like larger-than-life players in a drama that will change the direction of history. The style is clear and free of rhetorical ornamentation, subjective inferences, and groundless speculation.

Most of all, the *Mueller Report* reflects the work of a public servant who believes that facts can lead to truth and truth can lead to justice. Throughout his long career, Robert Mueller not only earned the nation's regard for valor in combat, he also earned the trust of both Bush administrations, the Clinton administration, and the Obama administration. He served in official capacities in all four.

In 1967, when he wanted to enlist in the United States Marines and serve in Vietnam, Robert Mueller had to wait for a year until an injury to his knee healed and he was deemed fit for service. Immediately upon arriving on the battlefield, he became a rifle platoon leader. Later, he earned a Bronze Star for rescuing a wounded Marine when ambushed and

continued next page



# How allies can defend against ICE raids

## Defending immigrant rights

By KRISTIN KUMPF, American Friends Service Committee

The Trump administration has announced that it would ramp up Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) efforts to arrest and deport immigrants across the United States — stoking more fear in immigrant communities, which have been subject to numerous attacks under this administration.

No one should be detained and deported. And it's critical that we do all that we can to protect our community members to ensure they live in safety and peace that we all deserve.

Here are eight ways that allies can stand with immigrant communities against ICE today:

### No more funding for ICE and Border Patrol!

For decades, ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have separated families and terrorized our communities. Our federal budget should not be used to fund President Trump's anti-immigrant agenda. As Congress and the president continue to negotiate a 2020 budget, tell your representatives: Cut funding to ICE and CBP to defund hate!

### Download and display our posters in your community to help create welcoming spaces for all.

Spread the messages "Keep loved ones together: Stop ICE and Border Patrol," "Abolish ICE," and "Sanctuary Everywhere" using our posters and social media graphics. Use them for actions, display them in public spaces, or share them with your networks on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media.

### Share our Know Your Rights card in your community.

We all have rights and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, even when confronted by ICE or other law enforcement. Our online resource (in English and Spanish) provides an overview of your rights at home, in your car, and in detention as well as how to prepare for these emergencies.

### Join local efforts to respond to immigration raids and

## Mueller Report

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under enemy fire. Half his platoon was lost in the ambush.

James Madison, fourth President of the United States and the principal author of our Constitution, wrote in 1822, that, "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."


In delivering his report to the nation, Robert Mueller offered knowledge tempered by facts, truth, and reason. If the American people truly mean to "be their own Governors," they should execute their civic duties to avoid a "Farce or a Tragedy" and read the *Mueller Report*. Those wanting a clue to the report's content and conclusions need only ponder briefly the last sentence of the Special Counsel's response to legal defenses offered by the president's attorneys:

"And the protection of the criminal justice system from corrupt acts by any person—including the President—accords with the fundamental principle of our government that 'no person in this country is so high that he is above the law.'"

Read *Part II* of the *Mueller Report*. Read it now.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CARD**


Present the following card to immigration or the police if you are arrested in order to exercise your right to remain silent and to request an attorney.

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_ 

This is to advise any law enforcement officer that I cannot answer any questions (other than my name), sign any papers, or consent to any search until I have had the opportunity to speak with a lawyer.

Please let me know if I am under arrest or free to go. If I am under arrest please allow me to make a phone call so that I can secure legal counsel.

Thank you.

Me llamo: \_\_\_\_\_ 

Esta tarjeta sirve para informar a cualquier oficial, que no puedo contestar sus preguntas (más allá de mi nombre), no firmare ningún papel, y no consentiré a ser revisado hasta que tenga la oportunidad de hablar con un abogado.

Por favor informeme si estoy bajo arresto o libre de irme. Si me está deteniendo, por favor permítame hacer una llamada para obtener un abogado defensor.

Gracias.

You have the right to:

1. Identify yourself with your name
2. You don't have to answer any more personal questions
3. Say that you want to speak to a lawyer
4. If they attempt to search you, your car, your home, or your belongings, say that you DO NOT consent to the search.
5. If you are arrested you have the right to:
  - Remain silent
  - Speak with a lawyer (DO NOT sign anything before this)
  - Make a call
6. Remain calm and act respectfully [www.wearcasa.org](http://www.wearcasa.org)

Usted tiene derecho a:

1. Identificarse con su nombre
2. No tiene que contestar preguntas personales
3. Decir que quiere hablar con un abogado
4. Si intentan revisarlo a usted, su coche, su casa, o sus efectos, diga que NO CONSENTIRÉ.
5. Si le arrestan tiene derechos de:
  - Guardar silencio
  - Hablar con un abogado (NO FIRMAR nada antes de eso)
  - Hacer una llamada
6. Mantenga la calma y sea respetuoso [www.wearcasa.org](http://www.wearcasa.org)

### provide support to individuals and families affected.

AFSC works with communities in several cities that have formed rapid response teams to report, track, and observe and document ICE presence as well as deter mistreatment by immigration enforcement. We also support local efforts to help individuals affected and their families, including through legal assistance and providing for their basic needs. Contact local immigrant rights organizations in your area to find out about opportunities to get involved.

### Support organizing and advocacy to end collaboration between ICE and local law enforcement.

Do research to find out if your local law enforcement partners with ICE. Numerous reports have documented the negative impacts when local law enforcement collaborates with ICE, which leads to widespread racial profiling, denies immigrants due process rights, and fuels distrust between immigrant communities and law enforcement. In places like New Jersey and California, AFSC has played a critical role in stopping local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE to round up and detain immigrants.

### Raise immigration issues to candidates on the campaign trail.

During election season, you have a unique opportunity to get candidates on the record about issues that are important to you — and to influence their opinions. You can do this by seeking out a candidate (for Congress, state legislatures, or any public office) and asking them where they stand on issues like immigration. Such efforts can generate media coverage that helps inform the public and elevate the importance of calling for humane immigration policies.

### Offer sanctuary to people facing or fearing deportation.

Religious and faith communities have a long history of providing sanctuary to those in need. Today, many congregations are working to ensure all people feel safe and welcome in their communities. If your congregation is considering creating a sanctuary space for community members facing deportation? If so, read this account from someone who helped his Quaker meeting offer sanctuary and watch our webinar "How to offer sanctuary."

Donate today. Support AFSC's ongoing work to support communities organizing to protect human rights and overcome injustice across the U.S. and around the world.

Kristin Kumpf is the director of AFSC's Human Migration and Mobility.

# Trump Proposal to Shrink Poverty Line Means More Hardship for Californians

By SARA KIMBERLIN, The California Budget & Policy Center

The Trump Administration has quietly announced a proposal to change the way the federal poverty line is updated each year for inflation. This proposal is far more than a minor technical change affecting government statistics — it would cut low-income Californians' access to health care, basic nutrition, and other essential needs. These consequences arise because the federal poverty line forms the basis of criteria that determine whether individuals are eligible to access many vital public supports that are funded (at least in part) by federal dollars — like public health insurance through Medi-Cal, food assistance through CalFresh, and home energy assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). As a result, changing the method for updating the poverty line as proposed would threaten low-income Californians' ability to meet their most basic needs.

The Trump Administration's under-the-radar proposal, included in a notice requesting public comments issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), puts forward the idea of updating the Census Bureau's official poverty thresholds, or poverty line, using an alternative measure of inflation in place of the inflation measure currently used to update the thresholds each year (the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, or CPI-U). Two alternative inflation measures specifically mentioned as options are the chained Consumer Price Index (the chained CPI, or C-CPI-U) or the Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index (PCE Price Index). Using either of these alternative inflation measures would make the poverty thresholds increase more slowly over time. There are several reasons that this proposed change would actually make the federal poverty line less accurate rather than more accurate as a measure of basic economic security. What is more, the Trump Administration is explicitly not requesting input to understand how this change would affect people's access to vital public supports that help address families' and individuals' most basic needs.

### Slowing Down the Annual Increase in the Poverty Line Would Make It Less Accurate, Not More Accurate, Especially in California

Switching to a slower-rising inflation measure to update the federal poverty line each year would make the official poverty thresholds less accurate as a measure of a minimum adequate level of economic security. The federal poverty line is already far lower than the basic cost to support a family, particularly in California, where the cost of living is high in many regions. According to the *Budget Center's Making Ends Meet analysis*, the statewide average cost of a basic family budget for a working single parent with two children — including housing and utilities, food, child care, health care, transportation, taxes, and miscellaneous other basic necessities — totals nearly \$66,000 (in 2017 dollars), while the 2017 official poverty threshold for the same family was only \$19,749. In the most expensive parts of the state the cost of basic needs is much higher — as much as \$103,423 for this same family in San Francisco County, or more than five times the federal poverty line. Even in Fresno County, a county with relatively low costs, the basic family budget for a single parent with two children is more than \$50,000, or two and a half times the poverty line. Slowing down the rate by which the poverty thresholds are updated each year would only make this disconnect worse.

# GREEN TIPS: 'We Need to Ban Fracking': New Analysis of 1,500 Scientific Studies Details Threat to Health and Climate

*"The data show that fracking impairs the health of people who live nearby, especially pregnant women, and swings a wrecking ball at the climate."*

By Jake Johnson, staff writer, Common Dreams

A comprehensive analysis of nearly 1,500 scientific studies, government reports, and media stories on the consequences of fracking released Wednesday found that the evidence overwhelmingly shows the drilling method poses a profound threat to public health and the climate.

The sixth edition of the *Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking* (the Compendium), published by Physicians for Social Responsibility and Concerned Health Professionals of New York, found that "90.3 percent of all original research studies published from 2016-2018 on the health impacts of fracking found a positive association with harm or potential harm."

The analysis also found that:

69 percent of original research studies on water quality found potential for, or actual evidence of, fracking-associated water contamination;

87 percent of original research studies on air quality found significant air pollutant emissions; and

84 percent of original research studies on human health risks found signs of harm or indication of potential harm.

"There is no evidence that fracking can operate without threatening public health directly and without imperiling climate stability upon which public health depends," the Compendium states.

Sandra Steingraber, PhD, co-founder of Concerned Health Professionals of New York, said in a statement that "the case against fracking becomes more damning" with the publication of each edition of the Compendium.

"As the science continues to come in, early inklings of harm have converged into a wide river of corroborating evidence," said Steingraber. "All together, the data show that fracking impairs the health of people who live nearby, especially pregnant women, and swings a wrecking ball at the climate. We urgently call on political leaders to act on the knowledge we've compiled."

According to the Compendium, the first edition of which was published in 2014, the "feverish pace" of U.S. fossil fuel extraction—which has accelerated under President Donald Trump—"has spurred a massive build-out of fracking infrastructure," putting air quality and water sources at risk in communities across the United States.

In addition to the harmful effects of fracking on those who live near oil and gas development projects, the Compendium found, the drilling practice is "also at odds with the emerging scientific consensus on the scale and tempo of necessary cli-

mate change mitigation and with rising public alarm about the impending climate crisis that this consensus has amplified."

"Despite efforts by the gas industry to suppress all health data on fracking, the Compendium documents the serious harm fracking holds for pregnant women, children, and those with respiratory disease," Walter Tsou, MD, MPH, interim executive director of Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility, said in a statement. "We need to ban fracking."

The sixth edition of the Compendium comes just days after more than 100 environmental groups sent a letter urging Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf to investigate the link between fracking and the emergence of rare childhood cancers in rural Pennsylvania counties.

As Steingraber—one of the letter's signatories—told online environmental outlet *The Daily Climate* on Wednesday, much of the data in the Compendium comes from Pennsylvania, which is home to over 100,000 active oil and gas wells.

"What makes fracking different from any other industry I've studied in public health is that there's no industrial zone," Steingraber said. "It's taking place literally in our backyards, and unfortunately some of the best evidence for both polluting emissions and emerging health crises is coming out of southwestern Pennsylvania."

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## Introducing Resistance Studies

Scholar-activists are advancing a new radical discipline through course offerings, a global network and publications.

By SARAH FREEMAN-WOOLPERT and STELLAN VINTHAGEN

Resistance Studies is a collaborative effort between academics and activists which promotes the analysis of — and support for — direct action, civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance around the world. This includes the Resistance Studies Initiative at UMass Amherst, scholars in the Resistance Studies Network and the interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed *Journal of Resistance Studies*.

### The Resistance Studies Initiative

The Resistance Studies Initiative, or RSI, at UMass Amherst is the first of its kind anywhere in the world. RSI supports unarmed struggles against all forms of exploitation and violence. The Resistance Studies Initiative seeks to create "resistance studies," a liberationist social science analyzing and supporting the efforts of activists worldwide who are employing direct action, civil disobedience, everyday resistance, digital activism, mass protest, and other kinds of nonviolent resistance.

As we define it, resistance challenges all forms of domination—not just "the state," but capitalism's exploitative practices (economic injustices, commodification, alienation, and fetishism), the status quo's discursive truth-regimes and normative orders, and sociocultural patriarchal hierarchies of gender, race, status, caste, and taste. In resisting any of these, activists question, challenge, and undermine not only the state, but power as such.



The essential goals of this initiative are to help create a more humane world by fostering social change and human liberation in its fullest sense. RSI studies how resistance can undermine repression, injustices, and domination of all kinds, and how it can nurture such creative responses as constructive work, alternative communities, and oppositional ways of thinking.

RSI works towards these goals in a number of ways: through course offerings at UMass Amherst, ranging from everyday resistance to struggles for land rights in the Americas; public events and conferences; participation in the Resistance Studies Network, and support for the publication of texts like the peer-reviewed *Journal of Resistance Studies* and "Researching Resistance and Social Change: A Critical Approach to Theory and Practice."

### The Resistance Studies Network

RSI collaborates closely with the Resistance Studies Network, or RSN, a forum for scholars engaging with practices of resistance. The RSN is a joint initiative of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst and San Francisco State University's College of Ethnic Studies in the United States. The RSN is administered with the support of the Centre for Advanced International Theory, or CAIT at Sussex.

The network was launched in 2006 by scholars at the School for Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg to facilitate exchange and collaboration around the study of resistance at the contemporary juncture of global transformation.

In 2015, a generous donation from a Quaker activist family has underwritten the Initiative and the creation at UMass of an Endowed Chair in the Study of Nonviolent Direct Action and Civil Resistance.

Three initiatives came together in mid-2015 and were joined in late 2016 by the San Francisco State University's College of Ethnic Studies, the only college of its kind in the United States. SFSU joined the steering group of the RSN, bringing a long tradition of teaching and research on Race and Resistance Studies.

The network is open for all interested in fostering pluralistic, critical and self-reflective exchange on diverse modes of resistance — be they organized or spontaneous, explicitly political or everyday struggles — from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

With the help of collaborative workshops and conferences, joint research and publication projects, thematic educational events and a regular mailing list, the RSN aspires to deepen collaboration between researchers interested in the study of resistance. Join our efforts by learning how you can get involved in the Resistance Studies Initiative, the Resistance Studies Network, and the *Journal of Resistance Studies*.

Find out more here: <https://wagingnonviolence.org/rs/>



# Edging toward homelessness: “A human catastrophe of historic dimensions...”

By ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen

In a sweeping survey of housing needs in the San Joaquin Valley, the *California Housing Partnership* and the *California Coalition for Rural Housing* have concluded that the Valley needs 137,254 more affordable homes. Among the most troubling findings was that many hard-working Valley citizens live on the edge of homelessness because housing costs consume up to 70% of their incomes. Minimum wage earners are especially burdened.

Of the eight Valley counties surveyed, the two northernmost, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, had the most burdensome housing costs for low-income residents, most likely because of demand from Bay Area commuters fleeing stratospheric rents and mortgages near their places of employment.

In San Joaquin County, rental costs require incomes 2.5 times minimum wage; the same costs are 2.1 times minimum wages in Stanislaus County. Farther south, in Kern and Madera Counties, workers must earn 1.5 times minimum wage to meet current average rents.

One of the major reasons for housing shortfalls in California is the loss of federal and state funding for affordable housing. Stanislaus County alone has lost more than \$17 million annually since 2008; San Joaquin County lost more than \$16 million a year, and other Valley counties have suffered similar fates.

Current budget proposals from the Trump administration are likely to make things even worse for low-income workers already at risk of homelessness. According to the *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*,

*“President Trump’s fiscal year 2019 budget proposes the most radical retrenchment of federal aid for such families since the U.S. Housing Act was first enacted in 1937. The Trump budget would slash aid that helps millions of low-income working families with children, seniors, and others afford decent, stable homes.”*

These Trump budget cuts for affordable housing are coming when homeless numbers are escalating rapidly throughout the state, especially in the San Joaquin Valley. Many low wage earners are one auto repair or health care cost away from insolvency.

Matt Schwarz, President and CEO of the California Housing Partnership, said after viewing these most recent

**Many hard-working Valley citizens live on the edge of homelessness because housing costs consume up to 70% of their incomes. Minimum wage earners are especially burdened.**

findings,

*“These reports make clear that the housing crisis is bigger than any single community and no matter how hard local governments and their citizens work to address the crisis they need help from the State and Federal governments.”*

California Governor Gavin Newsom has pledged more funding for affordable housing and other remedies for homelessness, but state funding alone is unlikely to be enough.

Meanwhile, homeless people are camping along our rivers, in our parks, behind our businesses and homes, and along our freeways. The costs in commercial and residential values are tremendous; the social and humanitarian costs even higher.

Rob Wiener, Executive Director for the California Coalition for Rural Housing, called the housing crisis a “human catastrophe,”

*“In California, including in the San Joaquin Valley, we have to move beyond the usual platitudes about having an affordable housing crisis. It is more than that. It is a human catastrophe of historic dimensions. It is not normal to have tens of thousands of our neighbors living ‘on the street’ ev-*

*ery day. It is not normal to have many more who are on the edge of homelessness. It is not normal to live in overcrowded dilapidated homes and to pay 50%, 60%, 70% of income and more for our housing...We must mobilize now with the political will and resources to significantly ameliorate the problem or California’s future will be in serious jeopardy.”*

The latest study shows Stanislaus County alone needs 15,142 more rental homes. In the meantime, many low-income Valley residents live in sub-standard, hazardous and unhealthy homes, trailers, and motels that escape condemnation only because our cities and counties lack the staff and political will to enforce minimum standards. And whenever such places are condemned, the inevitable result is more people on our streets and sidewalks.

Even with emergency funding, it will take years to catch up on the housing shortfalls. Meanwhile, more people are seeking shelter from a punishing storm of rising costs, stagnant incomes, and growing holes in the nation’s social safety net. It is an emergency of epic proportion and it’s getting worse every day.

## Statewide Policy Recommendations

Excerpted from *Stanislaus County’s Housing Emergency Update* by Danielle M. Mazzella and Lindsay Rosenfeld

The California Housing Partnership calls on State leaders to take the following actions to provide relief to low income families struggling with the high cost of housing:

- Replace Redevelopment funding for affordable housing with at least \$1 billion annually to help local governments meet their State-mandated production goals.
- Expand the State’s Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program by \$500 million per year to jump-start affordable housing production and preservation.
- Create a new California capital gains tax credit to preserve existing affordable housing at risk of conversion and to fight displacement pressures in Opportunity Zones.
- Reduce the threshold for voter approval of local funding of affordable housing and infrastructure from 67% to 55% as was done for educational facilities in 2000.

### Local Recommendations For Stanislaus County

- Streamline use of existing fee reductions and waivers and promote new fee reduction programs for affordable housing developments.
- Create zoning that promotes infill development and al-



lows for alternative or non-traditional forms of housing, including ADUs and smaller housing units.

- Promote coordinated entry processes placement of all people experiencing the housing crisis to extent possible.
- Prioritize public land for affordable housing wherever feasible.
- Adopt a policy that public lands will be conveyed through long-term ground leases that ensure long-term community control of these scarce resources rather than being sold.
- Promote, zone and support use of different forms of residential construction - modular, prefab and other factory-built alternatives.
- Master lease houses to nonprofits that commit to renting to households not traditionally served by subsidized housing.
- Adopt an ordinance to regulate rents for mobile home park

This report was produced by the California Housing Partnership. Local policy recommendations provided by: California Coalition for Rural Housing Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority. For questions about Stanislaus County’s housing need, contact: Alicia H. Sebastian, [alicia@calruralhousing.org](mailto:alicia@calruralhousing.org) (916) 443-4448.

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# On Reparations, the Question Isn't If, but When and How

*The House subcommittee hearing held on Juneteenth is the result of centuries of work.*

By **ZENOBIA JEFFRIES WARFIELD**

*We will never achieve racial justice in America if this country does not examine the impact and legacy of slavery—and make strides toward achieving reparatory justice.*

—Jeffery Robinson, deputy legal director, ACLU

For nearly 250 years, enslaved Africans and their descendants toiled on the land and in the homes of White enslavers in the United States.

They planted, fed, weeded, mowed, and harvested crops that were not theirs; cared for and fed children they did not birth; and cleaned homes and tended lands they did not own.

We're all familiar with this uncomfortable but sanitized image of U.S. slavery.

The harsh reality is that too many of the more than 300,000 African men, women, and children who were brought to this land for the sole purpose of providing *free* labor—and their children and their children's children, and so on—were brutalized and terrorized to continue the cycle for centuries to come.

It's estimated that over 4 million Africans and their descendants free-labored under the legal institution of slavery—and not just in the South, but also in the North, East, and West.

Having no agency over their own bodies or minds—not to mention not owning land or having property—they *were* property. Many lived in the most inhumane conditions. They were beaten, raped, starved, and in some cases worked to death—literally. They were forced to breed children to increase the numbers of the enslaved. Their children were often stolen from them and sold away. Furthering the torment, many of the women were forced to nurse their enslavers' children, care for them, tend to them, raise them.

It is that 250 years of “sun-up to sun-down” menial free labor that this country was built upon. It is the 200-plus years of free labor that is the foundation of this country's wealth and the capitalist system that has prospered globally, exploiting us all.

And it didn't end there.

If slavery is the foundation, then Black Codes and Jim Crow laws that followed emancipation are the walls; housing discrimination and redlining the roof, and mass incarceration the windows of the house America built.

A house that is starting to crumble.

This year we observe the 400th anniversary of the first captive Africans brought to what is now the United States of America, and this month we observe Juneteenth, the celebration of freedom for all U.S. enslaved Black people.

But we will also observe another monumental moment in U.S. history.

On June 19, Juneteenth, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties [held] a slavery reparations hearing. It is the first of its kind in decades. And the first time ever the issue has garnered as much attention and support, including a declaration from the United Nations. The purpose of the hearing is “to examine, through open and constructive discourse, the legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, its continuing impact on the community and the path to restorative justice.”

While the topic of reparations has made its way to the

forefront of mainstream discourse, this hearing is the result of centuries of work. The push for reparations did not just come into being with current presidential candidates purporting their support of some kind of reparations. It didn't just come about as a reaction to the divisive leadership of Donald Trump. And it didn't come into being, as some have reported, with the excellent reporting of Ta-Nehisi Coates' 2014 piece in *The Atlantic*, “The Case for Reparations.”

In the late 1800s to early 1900s, a formerly enslaved Black woman named Callie House, who was head of the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension Association, led a movement to secure reparations for formerly enslaved U.S. Blacks—specifically pensions to older freed men and women who'd worked without pay—to no avail.

House was jailed for her efforts.

There is a debt owed to the American Descendants of Slavery. And it's time for the U.S. to pay up.

Other movements for reparations to those enslaved, and later their descendants, would wax and wane with no success for the next 150 years. Although reparations were given to enslavers for loss of their “property.”

In 1989, former Congressman John Conyers introduced the first reparations legislation. Created with the help of N'Cobra (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America), bill HR 40 would establish the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African American Act, designed to examine the institution of slavery, investigate its impact, and make recommendations for reparations to Congress. Every congressional year for almost 30 years until he was forced to resign in 2017, under allegations of sexual harassment, Conyers introduced this bill.

This year Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee sponsored the bill, and presidential candidate Sen. Cory Booker is sponsoring its companion in the Senate, the only reparations bill ever to be introduced in the post-Reconstruction U.S. Senate. Booker along with Coates and actor-activist Danny Glover (honorary board member of YES! Magazine) will testify at the hearing.

It's important to know that as we listen to the testimonies—and even if some of us choose not to listen—that the purpose of this hearing (or the legislation, period) is not to determine whether reparations are warranted or should be dispersed.

The purpose is to convene a group of accountable specialists who can determine *how* reparations will be given.

In his article, Coates estimated the cost of reparations to be nearly a trillion dollars, paying out annually for the next

10 to 20 years the \$34 billion estimated by researchers in the 1970s. A more recent tally given by University of Connecticut researcher Thomas Craemer puts the cost of reparations between \$5.9 trillion and \$14.2 trillion.

It's unlikely that checks will be cut and given to every American Descendant of Slavery. In fact, it's not practical nor expected, I would imagine.

But there are very practical implementations that could be made. To name a few: funds (or loans forgiven) for housing, education, health care, those institutions where descendants were systemically and systematically cut off or exploited. Funds (or loans forgiven) for Black farmers and growers. Coates described a “claims system” for Black veterans who were denied the benefits of the GI Bill.

Direct intentional harm was done to those 388,000 Africans who made it to this land and to their millions of descendants. One hundred-fifty years of so-called freedom where intentional harm continues, contrary to what some like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell say, does not erase that.

McConnell and his ilk—those before him and his contemporaries—have benefited mightily from the free labor and continued oppression of Black people in this country. They all are just as responsible for the harm and wrongdoing as their ancestors.

There is a debt owed to the American Descendants of Slavery.

And it's time for the U.S. to pay up.

*Zenobia Jeffries Warfield wrote this article for YES! Magazine. Zenobia is a senior editor at YES! She covers racial justice. Follow her on Twitter @ZenJWar.*

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## Dear Trump Supporter,

*[The following was posted to Facebook by Steve Faulkner and others. An attempt to reach him was unsuccessful. It is unclear if he wrote it, but it is a succinct description of our current presidential situation. Connections will give credit to the individual who wrote it if that person's name becomes known. Ed.]*

You don't realize it, but you have followed a man down a very dangerous path to a world view based on complete fabrications, paranoia, and lies.

You stood by as he called American Nazi's and White Supremacists 'very fine people' after one of them rammed his car into a young woman, Heather Heyer, killing her.

You followed and stood by as the President labeled any critical press 'The Enemy of The People' and you turn a blind eye when death threats are made, or bombs are mailed to politicians he demonizes.

You followed and supported him as he lied about payments to silence those with whom he had affairs as he sought to mislead the American people for the benefit of his campaign.

You have followed and supported him from saying there were zero contacts & business dealings with Russians, to hundreds of pages detailing Trump orbit contacts with Russians and the truth emerging about the timeframe and nature of his

Russian business dealings for Trump Tower Moscow slipping far beyond what anyone imagined.

You followed him as he fired or removed any person doing the honorable thing and ensuring that the multitude of known ties and improper contacts between a hostile foreign government and an American Presidential campaign were properly investigated for the good of this country; you believed one of history's most verified liars when he made completely unsubstantiated allegations that he was wire tapped, or 'spied' on, and that there was some sort of 'deep state' conspiracy to take him down.

You have followed him as he makes bogus claims about the impetus of the Mueller report being based on the so called 'Steele Dossier' as an attempt to delegitimize the entire report, even though any truth-seeking person can easily see that the investigations were opened long before The Dossier came to light.

You have followed him after he asked an FBI director for loyalty, and to look the other way when Mike Flynn's egregious transgressions came to light, and you followed him when he removed the man leading investigations into him [Flynn] and as he bragged about it to laughing Russians in the White House.

You followed and stood by him as he demonized known Republicans who were part of Mueller's team, and Robert Mueller himself (a Republican) as angry democrats...an outright lie.

You have followed him as he broke apart children from their families, many potentially who will never be reunited, in the name of 'deterrence' and eliminated DACA with the swipe of a pen thus crushing the hopes of those who came to this country as children at no fault of their own; you have said nothing.

You followed him as he used his pardon power to thwart the rule of law and issue pardons to convicted felons justly tried and convicted in a court of law. Some even pled guilty to their crimes and all pardons had political benefit to this President. But you said nothing about this dangerous precedent.

You have stood by and followed him as he heaped praise upon and coozied up to anti-democratic strongmen, even saying that he believed Vladimir Putin's assertion that Russia did not interfere in our elections rather than accepting the intelligence gathered by brave men and women who risk their lives daily to keep our country safe and secure.

You stood by and followed him as he vetoed the condemnation of support by BOTH houses of congress for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen in the wake of the brutal killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a journalist who lived in the U.S. and was critical of Bin Salman and the Saudi regime. You said nothing when the President ignored intelligence on the killing

and tried to create doubt as to who was responsible when there was none.

You stood by him when he took the unprecedented step of revoking the security clearances of Americans who have stood in the honorable service of our nation's intelligence agencies, and whose mentorship and perspectives can no longer be shared with current leaders.

You followed and stood by as security clearances were pushed through for family members and others after huge red flags were discovered and recommendations to deny said clearances were put forth in the Department of State.

You have said nothing about Trump's use of a regular iPhone to conduct business for the nation, or of Jared and Ivanka's use of private email and easily infiltrated apps to conduct official business.

You have followed him and stood by as he continues to deny or protect us from what any objective American knows; that Russia and other outside actors wish to interfere in our sacred electoral process; the very fabric of our way of life.

You have stood by as he and his party destroy environmental protections and refuse to accept or acknowledge scientific consensus.

You have stood by and said nothing as he and his party plunge the country far deeper into debt while passing massive tax cuts for the top earners and large corporations.

You stood by when he made completely false claims that millions cast votes illegally in 2016, formed a commission to 'investigate' and then quietly dissolved the sham commission after not a shred of evidence was found.

You stood by him, a verified draft dodger, as he belittled a fighter pilot who was shot down over Vietnam while serving his country, and subsequently tortured for years even after the Vietnamese offered to let him go.

You also stood by and said nothing when he mocked a disabled reporter, offered to pay the legal fees of those at his rallies who attacked anyone in opposition, and disparaged a Gold Star family.

You have believed and defended all of his lies and attacks on good Americans who love their country.

You have done so willfully, and displayed an unwillingness to gather the facts from reliable sources absent of tribal bias, and draw impartial conclusions in a search for truth. You have repeated the lies in his defense over and over again on social media and excused his every despicable action.

You don't realize that everything listed above...is what you actually stand for.

You have crossed the nexus into demagoguery and arrived in a place where a man can literally do no wrong.

You do not get to hold onto credibility when you have traded it in willfully for lies and deceit.

Please, for the good of the nation, reclaim your credibility.

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## Common Myths and Misconceptions about Human Trafficking in the U.S

*The following summarizes some of the commonly-held myths and misconceptions regarding the definition of human trafficking and the types of human trafficking operations existing in the United States.*

*Myth 1: Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals or are only immigrants from other countries.*

**Reality: The federal definition of human trafficking includes both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals** - both are protected under the federal trafficking statutes and have been since the TVPA of 2000. Human trafficking within the United States affects victims who are U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, visa holders, and undocumented workers.

*Myth 2: Human trafficking is essentially a crime that must involve some form of travel, transportation, or movement across state or national borders.*

**Reality: Trafficking does not require transportation.** Although transportation may be involved as a control mechanism to keep victims in unfamiliar places, it is not a required element of the trafficking definition. Human trafficking is not synonymous with forced migration or smuggling, which involve border crossing.

*Myth 3: Human trafficking is another term for human smuggling.*

**Reality: Smuggling is a crime against a country's borders; human trafficking is a crime against a person.** Each are distinct federal crimes in the United States. While smuggling requires illegal border crossing, human trafficking involves commercial sex acts or labor or services that are induced through force, fraud, or coercion, regardless of whether or not transportation occurs.

*Myth 4: There must be elements of physical restraint, physical force, or physical bondage when identifying a human trafficking situation.*

**Reality: Trafficking does not require physical restraint, bodily harm, or physical force.** Psychological means of control, such as threats, fraud, or abuse of the legal process, are sufficient elements of the crime. Unlike the previous federal involuntary servitude statutes (U.S.C. 1584), the new federal crimes created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 were intended to address "subtler" forms of coercion and to broaden previous standards that only considered bodily harm.

*Myth 5: Sex trafficking is the only form of human trafficking.*

**Reality: The federal definition of human trafficking encompasses both sex trafficking and labor trafficking,** and the crime can affect men and women, and children and adults.

*Myth 6: Human trafficking victims always come from situ-*

*ations of poverty or from small rural villages.*

**Reality: Although poverty can be a factor in human trafficking because it is often an indicator of vulnerability, poverty alone is not a single causal factor or universal indicator of a human trafficking victim.** Trafficking victims can come from a range of income levels, and many may come from families with higher socioeconomic status.

*Myth 7: Victims of human trafficking will immediately ask for help or assistance and will self-identify as a victim of a crime.*

**Reality: Victims of human trafficking often do not immediately seek help or self-identify as victims of a crime** due to a variety of factors, including lack of trust, self-blame, or specific instructions by the traffickers regarding how to behave when talking to law enforcement or social services. It is important to avoid making a snap judgment about who is or who is not a trafficking victim based on first encounters. Trust often takes time to develop. Continued trust-building and patient interviewing is often required to get to the whole story and uncover the full experience of what a victim has gone through.

*Myth 8: Human trafficking only occurs in illegal underground industries.*

## Alzheimer's Support

from page 1

tion focuses on providing information to caregivers about where they can get help for their loved ones, and what to do in a given situation," Ms. Kee explains. "For example, if the person needing care gets to the point where he or she doesn't want to take a bath, we'll try and provide some creative ideas on how to convince the patient that it's a good idea to take a bath, or if they get to the point where they don't want to eat. The good thing about our organization is that everyone here has been through the same thing."

"We are open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and we have support groups that meet here in the office on Mondays and Thursdays," continues Ms. Kee. "We also have several outlying support groups in various areas of the County and in San Joaquin County throughout the week. The first thing we do at the support group is to acknowledge anyone new to the caregiving experience. The facilitator of the group makes sure that everyone has a chance to talk and have their particular concerns addressed. Anyone around the table who has experienced the same thing will be able to share what they've learned. We've had some really good success stories because of this sharing. What you hear in support group today may not always apply at that moment, but two weeks down the road it may hit you in the head as a great idea."

Ms. Kee has the highest regard for those often-unsung people who selflessly take on the role of caregiver to a patient with Alzheimer's or other dementias. "We're like an extended second family," she says fondly. "What comes to mind are two young women who sacrificed their careers and lucrative jobs in order to come to Modesto to take care of their mothers who had Alzheimer's disease. Our caregivers go all the way up to an 87-year-old gentleman who's taking care of his wife of sixty-five years. We've had all kinds of people in here who were caregivers from all walks of life, including a fellow who worked at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory as a nuclear scientist, and another gentleman who worked for Boeing."

**Reality: Trafficking can occur in legal and legitimate business settings as well as underground markets.** Human trafficking has been reported in business markets such as restaurants, hotels, and manufacturing plants, as well as underground markets such as commercial sex in residential brothels and street based commercial sex.

*Myth 9: If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation or was informed about what type of labor they would be doing or that commercial sex would be involved, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they "knew better."*

**Reality: Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment.**

*Myth 10: Foreign national trafficking victims are always undocumented immigrants or here in this country illegally.*

**Reality: Not all foreign national victims are undocumented.** Foreign national trafficked persons can be in the United States through either legal or illegal means. Although some foreign national victims are undocumented, a significant percentage may have legitimate visas for various purposes.

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

The Alzheimer/Dementia Support Center typically serves between 150 to 200 people a week. In addition to providing the support groups and other resources for caregivers, the agency also offers a separate support group for those afflicted with Alzheimer's or other dementias, i.e., the Loved Ones. This group is led by a professional caregiver, who is the only paid professional on the staff. All the other work is done by volunteers. "We try to make sure there's music playing in the room that's from the era where they would remember those songs," Ms. Kee says of the support group for the loved ones. "Sometimes they play bingo or some kind of a card game - anything they can handle at their particular stage of the disease. Sometimes, that just means sitting there talking to them. They remember those old memories, things that happened to them when they were children. The caregiver will ask questions as a way of prompting those memories, but if those questions disturb the loved one, then she'll just change the subject. Sometimes the loved one will remember that they have children, sometimes they won't."

Besides working long hours in the office every week, Ms. Kee's dedication extends to being always on call for those who may need her. "I leave my cell phone on 24/7 because many times in the middle of the night there is often a need to talk with someone who'll listen. Sometimes that's all you can do. I want to make sure that everyone who is going through this has someone to talk to whenever they need to talk. If I can do that, help just one person avoid some of the potholes I fell into when taking care of my husband, I know my life has some value. I have made some lifelong friends over the last seven years."

**ACTION:** For more information on the programs and services available at Alzheimer/Dementia Support Center, Inc., contact Jewell Kee, (209) 577-0018. The agency is located at 700 McHenry Ave., Suite B. Modesto 95350. Volunteers and donations are always needed.

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## The Great Red Spot Is On My Driver's License Because I Am Trying To Say Sorry

If apology could be anything:  
something to put on a mantel  
inside a shadow box

the juice of a too-firm lime  
frayed denim, indigo still

If apology could be anything:  
a burning dot the color of Jupiter's storm  
illuminating my license

like being an organ donor  
except you get all of me

In apology: I will lay at your side  
reassembling all your shortcomings  
into pulpy poetry  
into ragged prayer

## Some Days I Don't Have An Ounce Of Grief For Humanity

*after Athena Lathos*

Dear cracked concrete  
Wobbling under my step

In the backyard of my childhood  
Home: I have never known meadows,

Only acres of farmland tamed  
By the hands of my ancestors.

Dear cracked concrete  
Wobbling above a history

Of meadows: when we destroy ourselves  
You will succumb to the wild that shakes

You now. And your grey  
Will be ever-green.

Dear cracked concrete:  
I will come back wobbling through air,

A dragonfly, iridescent and longing  
To be tamed at the tendrils

Of thistle and foxtail I  
Will come back with enough rods and cones

To see everything and to never know you,  
Dull and dead.

## Leadlight

O ancestors, forgive us  
Or forgive not,  
For our gods are plural  
& we find holiness in cold  
Cups of coffee.

We praise the tumbleweed  
Not for its obedience  
To wind. We praise  
Its rootless abandon,  
Its arid survival.

We praise humanity,  
Not because it can be  
Good but because it is  
It is it is.

We are in adoration,  
Yes, always:  
Of wounds & libraries  
Of love that doesn't wash  
Before dinner because

It is too hungry to wait.  
Forgiven or not, our eyes  
Will always be more lead-  
Light than stained  
Glass, and your blood

Will have helped make  
These bodies heirlooms—  
Blessed and sinful and  
Scratching  
The sun.



## POET: Sara Coito

Sara Coito is a queer-identified poet and Spotify DJ. After living in Portland, OR for five years going to school and working in a kindergarten classroom, she has moved back to the Central Valley with fresh eyes. She is published in the Sigma Tau Delta *Rectangle*, University of Portland's *Writers* magazine, and recently won first prize in MoSt Poetry's Young Poet's Chapbook contest.

## Another Greenhouse Effect

I.

You are only warm in the greenhouse. Once, you held a numb-lipped, jointless thing to your chest. Susan. She died and then every doll was Susan. Two other flour-skinned, slight as sugar, flesh of your flesh watch you fail them in warmth. You name all the orchids Susan. You teach them to stay open; you open yourself to them. You show them your second row of teeth. Your husband's heart is big enough.

The bedroom you share is a greenhouse.

You try to remember the bedroom, a greenhouse, as you lay on a drug-soaked mattress. You are trying to remember every last wrinkle in the sheets. You are trying to remember the cuticles in the hands you hold. You are trying, one final time, to escape the cold. As you lay, drug-soaked and frantic, the orchids are alone. The orchids are dying.

II.

Your hands are callused from building a house and loving a blade. Your orchid-wife. Behind the house you share with your orchid-wife is a barn, and it's got spaces between each plank of wood. When you are both dead, everything in the barn will be taken out. All that will be left is dirt and wood and light.

The holding room looks nice today. The light there—you can see its curves, the way it changes colors, the way it leans into itself and its shadows. This is what you and the orchid-wife look like when you hold each other. You hope when she dies she will be permitted to be big, big in her way, big like the light, big enough like your heart.

You built the house, but hers were the arms that reached around and held it together. You can't believe her shoulder blades never cut through the skin. Not even once did they cut through the skin.

You hope when she dies, she will be permitted to be big and

the orchids will stretch out to meet her, her body

a greenhouse.

## Modesto Sound Awarded Record Number of Grants to Create Artistic Media

By **BRENDA FRANCIS**

Modesto Sound was awarded two grants totaling \$17,980 by the California Arts Council. One of the grants is a Youth Arts Action Grant in the amount of \$3,490 and, along with grants from Boyett Petroleum's Make Dreams Real Endowment Fund. An in-kind donation from Gallo Center for the Arts will fund Modesto Sound's Summer Recording Arts Music Camp by providing scholarships to low-income youth to attend camp for free.

Modesto Sound is one of 244 grantees chosen for the Youth Arts Action program. The award was featured as part of a larger announcement from the California Arts Council, with grant funds totaling a projected \$24,508,541 for 2018-19, the highest investment in statewide arts programming since the 2000-01 fiscal year.

"Arts and culture are inextricably linked to our humanity," said Nashormeh Lindo, California Arts Council Chair. "They serve as a universal touchpoint for understanding and addressing our societal issues—dismantling inequity, heal-

ing trauma, reframing justice, inspiring truth and shaping futures. The Council is humbled to support the vital work of Modesto Sound and its passionate efforts to make a better California for us all."

Modesto Sound also received \$14,490 from the California Arts Council via the Arts and Public Media grant. This, along with grants from the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation and the Bright Family Foundation, will allow another series of podcasts. The California Audio Roots Project (CARP) to continue. CARP's goal is to help people feel they are part of a community project participating in creating media and not standing on the sidelines. Intended outcomes include:

- boosting cross-cultural understanding
- building feelings of being heard and mattering through story and art sharing
- using creativity and teamwork
- mentoring through professional interactions at the studio
- increasing self-confidence

- providing the county with material for broadcasting, which highlights community members sharing stories and art

A third Modesto Sound Program has been funded by US Bank in the amount of \$2,500. The Job Circle, an audio technician educational program teaches youth and young adults real-world job skills including communication and teamwork while they learn audio skills like how to record a band and set up a stage.

Additional support for some of these programs comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Peace/Life Center's KCBP 95.5FM, Valley Media's KGIG 104.9FM and KPHD 93.3FM, the Gianelli Family, Dittos Printing and many other caring organizations and individuals.

Modesto Sound's annual fundraiser will be held this year at the Gianelli's home on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Silent auction items are needed and everyone is invited to attend. There is a charge for tickets since it is a fundraiser. Most of these grants require a match and organizations, such as Modesto Sound, are encouraged to raise funds locally and if possible to have earned income through providing services. These help to make a match possible.

Modesto Sound is honored to have received a record number of grants this year to fulfill their goal of helping youth gain valuable life skills and to enrich the community. It is looking for volunteers who are passionate about the arts that might want to be on the Board of Directors. The board meets once a month and helps to steer the organization to meet its mission. Perhaps you or someone you know would be interested in possibly joining this successful organization?

Modesto Sound opened in 2005 and has a recording studio, live sound service, educational programs, and provides local programming for public radio. The educational programs offer scholarships for students on free or reduced lunch programs (kidsdata.org for 2015 lists this at 61% in Stanislaus County). Local programming is provided to area radio stations as a win-win for artists, media outlets, and community enrichment. Streaming podcasts are uploaded to SoundCloud, radio4all.net, and linked on the organization's website. Each season a free public showcase is held at the downtown Stanislaus County Library.

"I am proud to be part of this evolving and exciting media outlet that brings happiness to people's lives" says Brenda Francis, Founder of Modesto Sound. "With the expert guidance of our Producers, Directors, and Teachers everything comes together, even though we are dealing with electronics and technology, to create beautiful works of art. It helps that we have cheerful and energetic participants that ask for more. Their enthusiasm carries me forward."

Families wishing to participate in any of these activities, many of which are free, are encouraged to contact the organization.

\* Music (recording arts) camp is for ages 8-17 and dates are July 15 – July 20 from 10am-2pm. It is free for youth from low income families. There are community service hours required (that the entire family can participate in) which the Make Dreams Real Endowment grant requires and Modesto Sound supervises such as cleaning up a park. Activities at camp include writing a song and performing it on stage at the Gallo Center for the Arts at a free concert open to the public.

\* The California Audio Roots Project involves recording a radio show about experiences of living in California and can include community members' poetry and music. It is free to participate. For information, contact Janet at (209) 573-0533, janet@modestosound.org or visit [modestosound.org](http://modestosound.org)



## Designing Armageddon at Livermore Lab

### Rally, March & Nonviolent Action for Nuclear Disarmament

8 AM – Hiroshima Day – August 6, 2019

Meet at the northwest corner of the Lab at Vasco Road & Patterson Pass Road in Livermore. Hear from A-bomb survivor Nobuaki Hanaoka, famed author and whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, and other speakers and musicians.

Following the rally will be a procession to the West Gate where those who choose may risk arrest.

Free parking is available. There will be vanpools to and from the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station. Call Tri-Valley CAREs, 925.443.7148 to reserve your seat – space is limited. A family friendly Peace Camp will be held at a nearby lake on August 4 & 5.

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

The resurgent risks of nuclear war and unresolved climate danger have caused the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists to keep the **Doomsday Clock set at 2-minutes to the apocalyptic midnight hour**. This is as close to global Armageddon as the clock has been since it was introduced in 1947.

By gathering on August 6, we will use the visible power of our presence to transform U.S. policy from violence to peace. **JOIN US!**

[www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org) • [www.wslfweb.org](http://www.wslfweb.org)

## A Peace Camp south of Livermore in conjunction with the August 6 action

**WHAT:** A group camp out at a beautiful reservoir, available for one or two nights. Family friendly.

**WHEN:** Sunday, Aug. 4 and/or Monday, Aug. 5. Confirm check-in times with Scott 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.)

**PARKING:** Scott Yundt has some no-charge parking passes for peace campers; carpools are encouraged.

**COST:** Tri-Valley CAREs is covering costs; bring food, swimsuit, art supplies, camping gear.

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

Musical instruments welcome • Kids' action art making (bring supplies) • No pets • No alcohol

Join the Modesto Peace/Life Center's Annual **Hiroshima Remembrance and Potluck** at Legion Park, Modesto on **Tuesday, August 6th at 6:00 p.m.** 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.



# Understanding when repression will help or hurt a movement

*When repression backfires, it can galvanize movements. But sometimes it does the opposite. What explains these different outcomes?*

By **MICHAEL WILSON-BECERRIL**

**“We realized the importance of playing the activists at their own game.”**

– Manager of the Pishtaku mine

I remember when I first arrived in the district nearest to the Pishtaku mine. On my way there from a nearby province, I sat in the front of the *colectivo* minivan as it filled with passengers, and started chatting with the driver, ‘Jon.’ Jon was a young local of the district to which we were headed.

“I’m here to study how actors’ strategies help mining conflicts escalate or get resolved,” I answered, after Jon asked me what brought me to the area. He told me that mining has expanded dramatically, and the town’s main river has been toxic for years.

“Look up the video of a farmer whose cow’s skin is peeling after days of drinking river water descending from the mine,” he said. The farmer complained to the authorities, but “because of economic power,” Jon recalled, nothing was ever done about it.

Jon believes that is what happened to his town: the people there used to be organized, and they almost stopped the mine. But the company paid off local leaders, divided them, and started criminal proceedings against dozens of people. Many locals were tried, and some served sentences. “So now nobody complains,” Jon told me. “They can’t do anything like before. Everyone was either sold out to the mine or they were criminalized, and that is how it works. They stopped the movement however they could.”

There is widespread suspicion, though difficult to prove, that large corporations plan covert operations in order to infiltrate, coopt, and neutralize local resistance movements opposing natural resource extraction. In a recent investigation published in the *Journal of Resistance Studies*, I carefully detail one such example, theorizing how these acts challenge resisters to refine our approaches to repression and demonstrating how activist-scholars can use their privileged status to uncover these surreptitious forms of corporate violence.

Repression sometimes backfires: it swells the ranks of activists’ groups, activating support and galvanizing resistance. But it can also lead to isolation of social leaders, effectively

demobilizing or neutralizing their resistance efforts. What factors explain these different outcomes?

To build theory that may help answer this puzzle, I demonstrate the analytical leverage of distinguishing between private and public repression, in terms of both its sources and targets. I draw on extensive ethnographic research conducted during 14 months in Peru, where a large number of mining conflicts have generated different patterns in the relationships between local, state, and company actors. I focus on several rounds of conflict associated with one particular mine, which is understudied but representative of medium-to-large mines in Peru.

To protect study participants, I’ve given the mine the pseudonym Pishtaku (a name which no mining firm would actually choose, because its meaning in Quechua refers to a demon who swallows up the earth from underneath). In its remote rural locality, the company faced fierce opposition from masses of farmers, who were willing to commit property damage to stop the mine. Mining company agents developed different strategies to quell its opposition, each with different effects on the organizing capacity and tactics of local movements.

Company managers began by relying on the state apparatus to punish their opponents, who were perceived as a more-or-less faceless collective. However, the project then shifted into a different strategy: surprisingly candid interviews with several of the company’s local operators revealed the creation of a complex system of private repression most accurately conveyed by the term “corporate counterinsurgency.” Access to these revelations are a direct result of my positionality as a white, non-Peruvian male, carrying University of California credentials and a solid pitch to “better understand corporate responses to conflict.” Thus, my interlocking privileges opened unexpected doors and fostered trust with company actors.

When they developed these underhanded means of coercion—comprising espionage, infiltration, defamation, blackmail, intimidation, and physical violence—and used these tactics to target private individuals rather than broader groups, they were most effective at demobilizing resistance, isolating leaders, sowing distrust and fear, and curtailing public opposition.

“Repression can backfire and galvanize resistance, but it can also discourage opposition, resulting in a chilling effect on activists.”

Various contacts in the company and other realms of the conflict (including residents at large, activists, and mine supporters) confirmed the salience of this understudied dynamic. Senior and junior company operators revealed that they were keen to infiltrate, record, and frame their opponents as corrupt, violent, adulterous, and more. Together, they detailed the creation of a semi-professional espionage and delegitimation

apparatus, which included the formation of artificial groups meant to divide Pishtaku’s local opponents.

Previous studies have worked to clarify and qualify repression, and they present evidence that it can backfire and galvanize resistance, that it can discourage opposition, resulting in a chilling effect on activists. Sometimes both effects occur and offset each other.

However, the vast majority of studies on the matter assume that repression is conducted by states. In a period of corporate neoliberalism and privatization, state-centric perspectives fall short in their increasingly outdated understanding of repression. Moreover, this especially corresponds with the ground realities of conflicts over natural resource extraction, where—unlike struggles over foreign occupations, authoritarianism, and so on—the state is a secondary agent, often even exculpating itself from direct intervention.

In Peru, where the most common and the deadliest type of conflicts are about mining projects, companies increasingly rely on both public armed forces and their own private security. Peru’s post-war context is marked by a large, unregulated, and demobilized military apparatus, which exists alongside weak state capacity in the countryside. As such, research has found that the high demand from powerful extractive firms creates a lucrative market of private security contracts for current and former members of the state’s armed forces.

Furthermore, the study also zooms out to examine these tendencies in other cases in Peru and beyond. In Guatemala, a Peruvian former counterinsurgency colonel became the head of a Tahoe Resources private security detail, which is facing trial in Canada for allegedly opening fire against peaceful protesters at the mine. In Honduras, several Lenca indigenous leaders have been killed over the construction of the World Bank-backed Agua Zarca dam, whose owner is a former military intelligence officer. In the United States, the TigerSwan private military intelligence firm has worked with the FBI to infiltrate and stifle opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline. In short, these trends are rising at an alarming rate.

These brief examples provide chilling insight into the number of people who are killed for defending the environment, an activity that has never been more important—nor any deadlier.

Protesters have much to gain from understanding when repression backfires. Privatized forms of repression might affect the power and tactics employed by resistance movements. If repression today differs from its traditional forms, then we must adapt the ways in which we understand and respond to it. Additionally, turning a lens on the agency of powerful and often inaccessible entities like mining companies will assist locals in demanding accountability and getting justice.

Read the full-length article on corporate counter-insurgency at the Pishtaku mine, and subscribe to the *Journal of Resistance Studies* or ask your affiliated academic institution to order a subscription.

This story was produced by Resistance Studies

**Michael Wilson-Becerril, Ph.D** is a Mexico City native, activist, and researcher specializing on political ecologies of violence and resistance in Latin America. You may reach him on Twitter or here.

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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*.

## JULY

**3 WED: VIGIL: Immigration.** McHenry & J St., 4:30-5:30 pm.

**13 SAT: ACLU Summer of Action Training** to equip people with the knowledge and skills to build power across the Central Valley. Learn how to advocate for laws, lobby politicians, register voters, and prepare for the 2020 elections! 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., The Big Red Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno. Sign up at [https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action\\_attend/20121](https://go.peoplepower.org/event/action_attend/20121).

**15 MON – 20 SAT: Recording Arts Camp.** Held at Gallo Center for the Arts, 1000 I St., downtown Modesto, and Modesto Sound, 110 Santa Barbara Ave. 10 am-2pm. For ages 8-12 and 13-17. Write, record, & perform your original song! \$175. Scholarships available. 573-0533, ModestoSound.com/camp

**20 SAT:** The State Theatre presents **The Chill List: A Team Poetry Slam Invitational**, 1307 J. St., Modesto. 7:30 pm. See article, this issue.

**21 SUN: The Modesto Film Society** presents *The Black Stallion*, 1307 J. St., Modesto. 2:00 pm. Join the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/Membership>

## AUGUST

**3 SAT:** American Legion Post 74 presents its 2019 **Citizen of the Year Award** to Chris Murphy. Dinner & Award Ceremony, Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto. 5:30 pm. \$20 donation. Info: Al Menshew, 209-664-1599.

**6 TUES: 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.

**7 WED: VIGIL: Immigration.** McHenry & J St., 4:30-5:30 pm.

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Saturday Sept. 21: Modesto Sound Annual Fundraiser.** Music, Food, & Networking. Gianelli's, 602 Northgate Dr., Modesto. 5-8 pm. To donate silent auction items, get tickets, or find out more, visit [modestosound.org](http://modestosound.org), call 209-573-0533 or email [studio@modestosound.org](mailto:studio@modestosound.org).

**Sunday, October 20: Oktoberfest**, 4pm - 7pm at the Gene Bianchi Community Center, 110 S. 2nd Ave., Oakdale. Oommpapa, a tasty German dinner, beer tasting, live Oktoberfest music, and an auction. Advance tickets: \$30; \$40. Info: contact Tena McLane-Ceja, 209-247-2752. Sponsored by AAUW Oakdale, Riverbank and Escalon Branch.

## 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

**Suicide Loss Support Group:** Friends for Survival meets every third Monday at 7 pm. Details: Norm Andrews 209-345-0601, [nandrews6863@charter.net](mailto:nandrews6863@charter.net).

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

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

**Silver & Gold Support Group** for our senior LGBT communities' unique concerns and experiences. Come to a group that will understand and accept you where you are. For LGBT folks over 50 yrs. old. Every Monday at 3 pm to 4 pm at the Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St., Suite 2, Modesto, CA. Information: Steven Cullen/Facilitator. Cell/text - (559) 799-0464. Email: [stevencullen@sbglobal.net](mailto:stevencullen@sbglobal.net)

### TUESDAYS

**Teen Tuesdays** every week from June-August, 2-5 pm., Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St. Peer Support, Games & movies. Safe space for teens to socialize, work together on projects, and learn about LGBTQ history. Each week will be a little different as we want YOU (youths) to guide the direction this group will go! Info: Maggie Strong, Political Activist Director/ GSA Liaison, [mstrong@moprider.org](mailto:mstrong@moprider.org), 209-284-0999.

**Attention Veterans:** Join us for Free Coffee & Donuts Meet & Greet at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am – 11 am

**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/24765549018387/>

**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 Rd., Donation. 209-505-3216, [www.Funstrummers.com](http://www.Funstrummers.com).

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

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

## 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> and at 95.5 FM, 2 pm to 2 am.

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

**MEDIA COMMITTEE** of Peace/Life Center. Meetings TBA.

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

**Merced LGBT Community Center** offers a variety of monthly meetings and written materials. Volunteers, on site Wed-Fri, offer support. Ph: 209-626-5551. Email: [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.

**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](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

**Laughter Yoga**, Every other Thursday at The Bird's Nest, 422 15th St., Modesto. The dates are February & March 7th & 21st, April 4th & 18th, May 2nd & 16th. 5:30pm-6:30pm. \$15.00 per class. To register, call or text Nicole, 209-765-8006 or visit [www.nicoleottman.com](http://www.nicoleottman.com)

**Attention Veterans:** Join us for Free Coffee & Donuts Meet & Greet at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am – 11 am

**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.

**LGBTQ+ Collaborative Meetings** are on the 2nd Thursday of the month, unless noted. Evening meeting, 5:30 pm to 7 pm, at Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th Street, Suite 2, Modesto, CA. Information: John Aguirre at cell/text - (559) 280-3864/ e-mail: [jpmamodesto@gmail.com](mailto:jpmamodesto@gmail.com)

**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)

**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>

**Art Walk**, downtown Modesto, Third Thurs., 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Info: <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

**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; [jpmamodesto@gmail.com](mailto:jpmamodesto@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

**12-Step/Buddhist Meeting** starts with a 30-minute meditation and then open discussion. Held monthly every second Saturday, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto at the UUFSC in Sarana (small building, rear of the east parking lot). Freely-offered donations welcome. Information: 209-606-7214.

**Free Community Drum Circle** every third Saturday, 3 pm, Deva Café, 1202 J. St., Modesto. No experience or drums necessary to participate. All levels welcome. <https://drum-love.com/>

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

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

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

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

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