



# stanislaus CONNECTIONS

Working for peace, justice and a sustainable environment

A MODESTO  
PEACE/LIFE  
CENTER  
PUBLICATION

NOVEMBER, 2017  
VOLUME XXVI, NO. 3

## We love our libraries, but without the one-eighth cent sales tax they won't exist

By PAT PORTWOOD

If you think the line at Starbuck's is long in the morning, check out the crowds waiting outside the Modesto Library 15 minutes before the doors open on almost any day of the week.

And you know what? Everyone gets in, everyone is served, and it doesn't cost them a penny.

Yes, people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds line up to get inside the library each day. Here, they will search for books, seek information for school reports, use a computer to update a resume, attend a story hour for children, learn a new skill, conduct a genealogy search, apply for a passport, meet with a tutor to improve their reading skills, be entertained and be enriched.

Dozens of innovative programs and services are keeping the library relevant and essential.

Even if you are not a regular library visitor, you surely understand the importance of libraries in our communities. Libraries level the playing field, making resources available to all and give each member of the community the essential tools they need to make their lives better. Go and visit the library and see what's going on, then spread the word!

In July, libraries were restored to almost pre-recession levels. Thanks to a gradually improving economy and prudent scheduling, all library branches throughout the county are again open six days a week. Nevertheless, the need for funding continues.

There are a number of support groups with "Library" in their names; each has its unique role in supporting the library:

**Library Advisory Board** – Members are appointed by the Stanislaus County Board of



Supervisors; they meet with the library director to advocate for the interests of each of the county's supervisorial districts.

**Friends of the Library** – Each of the 13 branches has its own group, which raises funds for special projects ranging from reading benches to special programs at their local branch.

**Stanislaus Library Foundation** – This group provides an umbrella of support to ensure that all 13 branches are funded for crucial programs like Summer Reading.

**Save Stanislaus Libraries** – With the

November election just around the corner, this group has been working hard to pass Measure S, the renewal of the library sales tax.

**Eighty-nine percent of the library's operating funds for the 13-branch system comes from the dedicated, eighth-cent sales tax** which has received continued approval the four previous times it has come before voters. The tax costs voters about \$20 per citizen per year. No, that's not a typo. Each resident pays an average of \$20, and for all that we are entitled to enjoy and benefit from the services the library provides.

It's as simple as this: **No tax, no library.**

Please say "Yes to S!" to ensure the library's fiscal lifeblood is secure for the next 12 years. It's important to remember that **in order for Measure S to pass, two-thirds of the voters on November 7<sup>th</sup> must vote "Yes!"**

*Pat Portwood is co-chair of the Stanislaus Library Foundation; she wrote an earlier version of this article for the September 9, 2017 issue of The Modesto Bee.*

## The Blueprint for the Most Radical City on the Planet

*"If we do not save the environment, then whatever we do in civil rights, or in a war against poverty, then whatever we do will be of no meaning because then we will have the equality of extinction."*

By BILL QUIGLY, Common Dreams

In July 2017, 34-year-old Chokwe Antar Lumumba was sworn in as Mayor of Jackson Mississippi. He soon announced that the city was going to be "the most radical city on the planet." This was not an idle boast because Jackson Mississippi, of all places, is where one of the country's most radical experiments in social and economic transformation is happening.

For years, people in Jackson have been organizing to build and sustain community power. They created Cooperation Jackson to take concrete steps to make human rights a reality for all by changing their demo-

continued page 10



### INSIDE CONNECTIONS

LOCAL	2
PEACE ESSAY CONTEST	3-4
TIME TO STEP UP	5
NUCLEAR ZERO	6

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE	7
TAXES	8
GATHERING OF VOICES	9
ACTIVISM	10
ANIMAL RIGHTS	11

### READERS! Sign-up for our e-edition!

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

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

To sign-up, send your email address to Jim Costello, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

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



## MAPS: Upcoming programs

Modesto Area Partners in Science (MAPS) presents free, informative community science programs on Fridays at 7:30 pm, MJC West Campus Sierra Hall 132 except where noted.

**Oct. 27 – John Buckley, CSERC: “Forest Health and Fire Resiliency in a Changing Climate.”**



What effect does a warming climate have on the capability of Sierra Nevada forests to be resilient to wildfires? To what degree has the combination of recent drought and insects altered forest conditions? Is there any clear

trend in wildfire impacts in the Sierra Nevada? Will forest management choices made in the near term potentially affect forests, wildlife, recreation, and forest watersheds for decades into the future?

**Nov. 3 – MJC East Campus Auditorium, a Family Science (all ages) Presentation. Tierney Thys, National Geographic Explorer and TED speaker: “Ocean Engine of Life.”** See accompanying article.

**Dec. 1 – Garry Hayes, MJC Geology Professor: “The Earth Has a History: Rates of Geologic Change and Global Warming”**

One of the most important clues in understanding today’s climate is the Earth’s past history. This presentation will provide a perspective on how rapidly the Earth’s climate has changed over the last 65 million years compared to the changes happening today. The discussion will also include a look at some of the methods geologists use to document the past.

MAPS is grateful to SCOE, ASMJC and the MJC Foundation for generous support.

4/6/18 Spring Family Science Preview, Raja GuhaThakurta, UCSC: “Our Place in the Cosmos”

[https://www.astro.ucsc.edu/faculty/profiles/singleton.php?&singleton=true&cruz\\_id=pguhatha](https://www.astro.ucsc.edu/faculty/profiles/singleton.php?&singleton=true&cruz_id=pguhatha)

## Peace/Life Center looking for volunteers

The Modesto Peace/Life Center needs volunteers to assist with projects, events, our radio project (radio knowledge, skills needed), fundraising, and administrative activities. No experience necessary. Experience in social media, Word, Excel, or other special skills are desired for some volunteer positions. We need volunteers for a few hours per week, or an ongoing commitment.

For more information, contact our volunteer/outreach coordinators: Susan Bower or Jocelyn Cooper at the Peace Life Center (209) 529-5750.

## Modesto Area Partners in Science (MAPS) presents a free FAMILY SCIENCE show: “Ocean Engine of Life”

Dr. Tierney Thys, National Geographic Explorer and TED Speaker will speak at MJC East Campus Auditorium, 435 College Ave., Modesto on **Friday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.**

Get ready to jump off the land and into the water for a wild ride around the entire world ocean. As we encounter places of destruction and desolation, hope and salvation, we’ll learn of the ocean’s immense importance to all life, how it has influenced human evolution and world history. Discover state-of-the-art research (including the ocean sunfish of course!) aimed at ensuring a healthy ocean and planet for generations to come. **COME DIVE IN!**

Tierney Thys (Ph.D. in zoology - Duke Univ.) is a National Geographic Explorer and a Research Associate at the California Academy of Sciences, biologist, and filmmaker. Her work bridges the worlds of primary research and science communication to promote environmental understanding and stewardship. Dr. Thys studies giant ocean sunfishes in

numerous locations including the Galapagos, California, and Indonesia, with an aim to reduce bycatch, promote marine protection, and expand sustainable ecotourism.

When not chasing fish, or doing neuro-research, Thys collaborates with a variety of artists to message science and conservation in diverse ways, from filmmaking to dance, and creating ocean trash sculptures. From 1998–2008, Thys served as the Research Director for Sea Studios Foundation, a California-based natural history documentary production house that produced the multimillion-dollar NSF-funded series *Strange Days on Planet Earth* and a series of classroom videos called *The Shape of Life*.

For a schedule of MAPS events, please visit: <https://modestoscience.wordpress.com/> and <http://murov.info/maps.pdf>. For a downloadable copy of this event’s flyer, visit <http://murov.info/thys.pdf>

## Arthur Miller play at the Prospect Theatre

Submitted by Mary Pieczarka

A “miracle” healing spring that actually poisons; a doctor desperate to spread the truth; a town desperate for false promises; a press which profits from confusion and conflict.

The Prospect Theater Project presents Arthur Miller’s *An Enemy of the People* (based on Henrik Ibsen’s play *An Enemy of the People*) running November 17th to December 3rd, Fridays and Saturdays 8:00 PM & Sundays 2:00 PM. Tickets are available online at <https://prospect.vbotickets.com/events>, by phone, 209-549-0341 and at the door 1214 K St. Ticket prices are \$20 general admission, \$10 students. The last Sunday performance includes a talkback with the director and the cast.



MICHAEL R. BAUDLER, CPA  
DONNA E. FLANDERS, CPA

Office (209) 575-2653  
Fax (209) 575-0629

e-mail [b\\_f@modestocpas.com](mailto:b_f@modestocpas.com)  
1120 14th Street, Suite 2  
Modesto, CA 95350



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

*Peace Life/Center ID Project*

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

Volunteers ready to assist!

Call 209-222-8624 to set an appointment!

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





# California Roots Media Project

**Wanted:** participants for a radio show that starts this month!

This California Arts Council supported program is looking for poets, musicians, and storytellers from low-income families to share their stories through their chosen field of audio art. The shows will be aired on public radio, streamed via podcasts, and put onto a CD for you to share with your friends and family. There will also be a public showcase at the Modesto Library of all the shows and their participants in the Summer of 2018. This is a FREE program and features California's poet and librarian, Stella Berattis. Modesto Sound is hosting the project and participants will be working with audio engineers Mark Oesau and Lucky Lew along with some of the finest artistic talent in California.

To sign up or find out more call 209-573-0533 visit <http://www.modestosound.com/radio>

## Radio Update: Now Webstreaming! And More!

By JAMES COSTELLO

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

Our Operations Committee has just submitted our long-awaited proposal to place our antenna on a tower just west of Patterson. Entravision, the company that owns the tower, has allowed us to make an offer to set up our equipment and antenna on its existing radio tower. We now anxiously await its decision!

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

Our enthusiastic Programming Committee continues to create offerings for broadcast. We are fine tuning our software so that actual broadcast times for various programs can be published. Stay tuned! A new crop of volunteers has just started training. We will need more volunteers!

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

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

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

**ACTION:** To volunteer your help in fundraising or programming, contact Sue Bower at [suebower@prodigy.net](mailto:suebower@prodigy.net). To donate, send your check to Dave Tucker, memo: Radio KCBP, at Modesto Peace/Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto, CA 95353. Or go <http://kcbpradio.org/> and click on Donate, OR go to our Gofundme page at <https://www.gofundme.com/kcbp-community-radio-startup>



## 2018 Peace Essay Contest

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

~ Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States

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



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

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

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

from many lands around the world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

View information: [www.stanislausconnections.org](http://www.stanislausconnections.org) OR [www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest)

Email questions to: [peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com)



## 2018 Peace Essay Contest

### Rules & Submission Directions

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

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

### Judging

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

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

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

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

### Notification of Winners

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

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

## A solution for the Homeless?

By JANE CARLILE BAKER

May I make a suggestion to the City of Modesto? Our city has many unused or badly used parks. We also have approximately 2,000 homeless people. Whatever a person's opinion on how these people became homeless, here they are. What if, rather than complain about them littering, laying around in public places, etc., we give them a leg up? If we took ten of over seventy City parks, only a few adjacent to schools to accommodate homeless families, and built tiny homes in them, we could help the homeless get off the streets. Stanislaus County has a \$2.5 million grant from the state to help fight homelessness. The money is available.

Back during the Great Depression, camps were set up for people escaping the Dust Bowl. The camps were successful because the residents set up the rules and kept the camps clean themselves. Eventually, they were no longer needed, as the people found permanent jobs and housing.

A homeless person in Modesto is up against a Catch 22. With no job, she can't pay rent. With no address, she can't get a job. If she resided in one of the tiny houses, she'd have an address and could stop the vicious cycle. Many organizations in Modesto are already attempting to help the homeless. Imagine what they could do if the homeless were staying in tiny homes.

The parks could be scattered throughout the town. What if the neighborhoods where they are located banded together to make a project of supporting the efforts of the people living in their tiny home park? What if representatives from social services, credit unions, and the EDD taught the residents what they need to know to get back on their feet? Two thousand people is a large number, but break it into ten parks, and 200 is a lot more doable, especially if the neighbors are working together.

I'd suggest we consider using: Muncy Park (near my house), Enslen Park, Sutter Park, Brewers Rose Park, Cesar Chavez Park, Bellenita Park, Beard Brook Park, Ashby Park, and Sutter Park. Most of those are on or near bus lines.

Perhaps someone who already works for the city could organize the construction, tiny home park leaders, and volunteers. I realize there would be details to work out. However, if we begin, we will solve a large part of the homelessness problem. If we continue to complain, and do nothing, we will continue to have the same problem.

stanislaus  
CONNECTIONS

is published monthly except in August  
by the Modesto Peace/Life Center  
720 13th St., Modesto, CA 95354.  
Open by appointment.  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 134,  
Modesto, CA 95353  
209-529-5750

# Homeless: Denial Still Dominates

By **ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen**

One year ago, Modesto City Councilmember Kristi Ah You suggested we should allow homeless people to camp in designated areas, including places like Beard Brook Park. Today, Beard Brook Park is surrounded by a chain link fence and hundreds of Valley citizens are facing yet another winter with nowhere to go.

Virtually paralyzed by the problem, the City of Modesto has been unable to offer solutions other than futile anti-camping ordinances and repeated sweeps and busts that have come to look eerily like an Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

Stanislaus County, which now has resources for homelessness into the millions of dollars, seems stuck in the cogs and gears of the "Focus on Prevention," a program with a title that seemed from the very beginning to be in denial of the burgeoning homeless population we confront every day.

Investing in prevention of homelessness is like investing in a plan to plot a new course for the Titanic. How do you "prevent" present realities? Homelessness is not a future forest fire we can prevent by calling on Smokey the Bear—it's a growing conflagration. What we need are firefighters and we need them now.

Last year, we speculated that it was very likely the homeless people who lived through the winter of 2016 would be homeless again this year. It now looks like that's going to happen, with even more homeless people in Stanislaus County this year than last; the 2017 homeless count registered over two-hundred more people without shelter than in 2016.

Just recently, at least a few California cities are finally beginning to react to the undeniable realities of a growing population of people with nowhere to go. In part because of a disturbing increase in cases of Hepatitis A, San Diego officials opened the city's first permitted homeless camp just last Monday. Oakland will open two permitted camps within



the next few weeks.

Objections to allowing homeless people to use tents feature a familiar litany of complaints about trash, crime, and needles. But anyone capable of an honest appraisal can find trash, crime and needles in any poor neighborhood in the Valley.

Yes, homeless camps would have to be supervised, policed, and regulated, but at least the concentration of people would be easier to monitor than the current diaspora of refugee citizens into every available public space.

Public officials say they are overwhelmed by complaints about homeless people, but why should they expect anything else? Refusal to react to homelessness with anything other than demonstrably failed policies and programs amounts to a pathology of denial.

It's virtually inevitable that as the homeless population grows, there will be more outbreaks of Hepatitis A, more and more problems with human defecation, trash, needles and crime, and more and more depreciation of business and residential values. There will also be more and more costs

associated with the inevitable busts, sweeps, hospitalization, and sanitation. While long-term housing options are the only real solution for homelessness, until housing is available, we need better policies now.

The president of a San Diego charity for the homeless said it best when agreeing that homeless camps are only a temporary solution:

"But what do people do in the meantime? Die in the streets?" he said. "There's got to be a starting point."

Continuing to argue that we're all better off denying homeless people a place to camp is like arguing we're all better off with a growing population of people living in our parks, streets, parking lots, and store fronts. It's a form of denial that becomes more and more costly the longer it's maintained.

<http://thevalleycitizen.com/homeless-denial-still-dominates/>

IF NOT YOU  
Then Who?

I know now that all people hunger for a noble, unsullied past, that as sure as the black nationalist dreams of a sublime Africa before the white man's corruption, so did Thomas Jefferson dream of an idyllic Britain before the Normans, so do all of us dream of some other time when things were so simple. I know now that the hunger is a retreat from the knotty present into myth and that what ultimately awaits those who retreat into fairytales, who seek refuge in the mad pursuit to be made great again, in the image of a greatness that never was, is tragedy.

— Ta-Nehisi Coates, *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy*

*Chefs of New York*  
ITALIAN CUISINE FROM OLD FAMILY RECIPES

**2307 Oakdale Rd., Modesto**  
**209-551-0163**

**1325 J St., Downtown Modesto**  
**209-857-5102**

**Open 7 Day a Week!**  
**www.ChefsOfNewYork.com**  
**Follow us on Facebook!**  
**@chefsofnewyork**

**Be informed!**

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

## NEW MODESTO RADIO STATION COMING SOON!

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

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



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



# The Fierce Urgency of Nuclear Zero: Final Symposium Statement

By RICK WAYMAN, The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

*[This document reflects the discussions at the symposium “The Fierce Urgency of Nuclear Zero: Changing the Discourse,” held in Santa Barbara, California, on October 24-25, 2016, and also takes into account the changed political landscape in the U.S. following the election of Donald Trump, which occurred two weeks after the symposium. The symposium was sponsored and organized by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.]*

**Humanity and the planet face two existential threats: environmental catastrophe and nuclear annihilation.** While climate change is the subject of increasing public awareness and concern, the same cannot be said about growing nuclear dangers arising from worsening international circumstances. It’s time again to sound the alarm and mobilize public opinion on a massive scale. Our lives may depend on it.

More than a quarter of a century since the end of the Cold War, some 14,900 nuclear weapons, most an order of magnitude more powerful than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, 93% held by the U.S. and Russia, continue to pose an intolerable and increasing threat to humanity and the biosphere. Recent studies by atmospheric scientists show that a nuclear war between India and Pakistan involving 100 Hiroshima-size atomic bombs dropped on cities could produce climate change unprecedented in recorded human history. A drop in average surface temperatures, depletion of the ozone layer, and shortened agricultural growing seasons would lead to massive famine and starvation resulting in as many as two billion deaths over the following decade. A full-scale nuclear war between the U.S. and Russia would result in a “Nuclear Winter,” triggering a new Ice Age and ending most complex life on the planet.

*The danger of wars among nuclear-armed states is growing. There is hope that such wars can be avoided, but that hope, while the essential basis of action, is not sufficient to end the nuclear threat facing humanity and complex life on this planet. Hope must give rise to action.*

The United States is poised to spend one trillion dollars over the next 30 years to modernize its nuclear bombs and warheads, the submarines, missiles and bombers to deliver them, and the infrastructure to sustain the nuclear enterprise indefinitely. The other nuclear-armed countries – Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea – are modernizing their nuclear arsenals as well.

## RISING TENSIONS

Tensions between the United States/NATO and Russia have risen to levels not seen since the Cold War, with the two nuclear giants confronting each other in Ukraine, Eastern Europe, and Syria, and an accelerated tempo of military exercises and war games, both conventional and nuclear, on both sides.

The U.S., the only nation with nuclear weapons deployed on foreign soil, is estimated to have 180 nuclear weapons stationed at six NATO bases in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey. In June 2016, the largest NATO war games in decades were conducted in Poland. The exercises came weeks after activating a U.S. missile defense system in Romania and ground breaking for another missile



defense system in Poland. Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that there would be “action in response to guarantee our security.”

In October 2016, Russia moved nuclear-capable Iskander missiles into the Kaliningrad territory bordering Poland and Lithuania, signaling its response to NATO, while claiming it was a routine exercise. Russian officials have previously described the role that the 500 km-range Iskander system would play in targeting U.S. missile defense installations in Poland.

In mid-December 2016, the Obama administration announced plans to deploy troops in Poland, the Baltic states and Romania. According to the U.S. Commander, this would send “the very powerful signal” that “the United States, along with the rest of NATO, is committed to deterrence.”

In Syria, with perhaps the most complex war in history raging, the U.S., Russia and France are bombing side-by-side and sometimes on opposing sides.

Adding to the conflicts among nuclear-armed states, the U.S., with its “pivot” to the Pacific, is facing off against China in seas where other Asian nations are contesting Chinese territorial claims. India and Pakistan remain locked in a nuclear arms race amid mounting diplomatic tensions, border clashes and rising military budgets. And North Korea, refusing to heed strong international condemnation, continues to conduct nuclear weapons tests. It has even announced an intention to test an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States.

These potential nuclear flashpoints are ripe for escalation. An accidental or intentional military incident could send the world spiraling into a disastrous nuclear confrontation. A great danger is that the rulers of one nuclear-armed state will miscalculate the interests and fears of another, pushing some geopolitical gambit to the point where economic pressures, covert actions, low-intensity warfare and displays of high-tech force escalate into regional or general war. This vulnerability to unintended consequences is reminiscent of the circumstances that led to World War I, but made more dangerous by U.S. and Russian policies of nuclear first-use, keeping nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert, and launch-on-warning.

## THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY

During the Presidential campaign, Donald Trump’s nuclear weapons rhetoric was cavalier, suggesting deep ignorance. No one knows what he’ll do in office, but U.S. national security policy has been remarkably consistent in the post-World War II and post-Cold War eras, despite dramatically changed geopolitical conditions and very different presidential styles. The threatened use of nuclear weapons as the “cornerstone” of U.S. national security policy has been reaffirmed by every President, Republican or Democrat, since 1945, when President Harry Truman, a Democrat, oversaw the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

According to the Trump transition website: “Mr. Trump will ensure our strategic nuclear triad is modernized to ensure it continues to be an effective deterrent...” This is essentially a continuation of the Obama administration’s policy. Trump’s ominous December 22, 2016 tweet – “*The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes*” – seemed to indicate an intention to increase the level of reliance on the nuclear threat.

While Trump’s conciliatory tone towards Russia offers a glimmer of hope for lowering tensions between the two nuclear-armed giants, the firestorm raging around U.S. government assertions that Russia manipulated the U.S. election to help Trump win has immeasurably compounded the difficulties in predicting what will happen next. Trump’s stated aim to tear up the Iran nuclear deal reveals his deficient understanding of international relations, indicating a lack of awareness that this is a multilateral agreement involving all five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany, and that Russia and Iran are engaged in cooperative military operations, including against ISIS. Trump’s belligerent attitude toward China, a strategic ally of Russia, and his threat to upend the decades-long U.S. “one China” policy, is another cause for serious concern.

In his farewell address to the nation in 1961, President Dwight Eisenhower warned: “In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.” An earlier version of his warning referred to the “military-industrial-congressional complex.”

We now face the likelihood of a far more military-industrial Presidential cabinet. The specter of a Trump presidency with a right-wing Republican House and Senate, as well as a compliant Supreme Court, is chilling to an unprecedented degree. Trump’s appointments and nominations of reactionary, hardliner ex-generals, billionaire heads of corporations, and climate-change deniers are cause for grave concern in both the domestic and foreign policy arenas.

The Cold War concept of “strategic stability” among great powers, although itself never an adequate basis for genuine international security, is foundering. The Cold War and post-Cold War managerial approach to arms control must be challenged. Addressing nuclear dangers must take place in a much broader framework, taking into account the interface

between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons and militarism in general, the humanitarian and long-term environmental consequences of nuclear war, and the fundamental incompatibility of nuclear weapons with democracy, the rule of law, and human well-being.

## GROWING CRISES

In 2009, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warned, “Military superiority would be an insurmountable obstacle to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. Unless we discuss demilitarization of international politics, the reduction of military budgets, preventing militarization of outer space, talking about a nuclear-free world will be just rhetorical.”

Nuclear arms control has ground to a halt and the world is backsliding. The growing crises among nuclear-armed states must be defused and disarmament efforts put back on track. *Nothing is more important now than to counter the notion that collaborative security with Russia is to be regarded as treasonous or somehow more dangerous than confrontational geopolitics.* Peace is an imperative of the Nuclear Age. Starting with the U.S. and Russia, the nuclear-armed states must sit down at the negotiating table and begin

to address Gorbachev’s agenda.

*It is essential at this time to assert the credibility and the necessity of a transformational approach to nuclear disarmament.* We should do our utmost to marshal public discourse to counter the militarization of governments’ imaginations. The use of military force should always be the last option, not just in rhetoric, but in diplomatic practice.

There has never been a greater need for imaginative diplomacy. The cycle of provocation and response must be halted. Nuclear threats must cease. Nuclear weapons modernization programs must be terminated. Military exercises and war games must be curtailed and conducted with great sensitivity to geopolitical conditions. The U.S. should withdraw its nuclear weapons from NATO bases and, at a minimum, stop NATO expansion and provocative deployments. Policies of nuclear first-use, hair-trigger alert, and launch-on-warning must be ended.

In the longer term, military alliances should be dismantled and replaced by a new collective security paradigm. All nations, first and foremost the U.S., by far the largest weapons exporter, should stop the sale and supply of arms to conflict regions.

# International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Receives 2017 Nobel Peace Prize

By DAVID KRIEGER,  
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
([www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org))

The world’s most prestigious prize for peace, the Nobel Peace Prize, has been awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). This award will help shine a light on the passion and commitment of this worldwide movement to abolish nuclear weapons. It will also draw attention to the goals ICAN has enthusiastically sought to achieve: First, a public awakening of concern for the dangers to humankind and to all that each of us loves and treasures posed by nuclear weapons; Second, the entry into force of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; Third, the abolition of nuclear weapons.

ICAN has brought considerable youthful energy to the issue of nuclear disarmament. It also operates as a global campaign involving some 400 civil society organizations from more than 100 countries. The campaign began ten years ago, and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) was one of its initial members. We’ve been a part of the campaign from the beginning. We are proud to stand with the other civil society groups throughout the world in working with ICAN to achieve its goals, which are also our goals.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was drafted by states with the participation of civil societies. On July 7, 2017, it was adopted by 122 countries. The treaty bans, among other things, the possession, use and threat

of use of nuclear weapons. NAPF lobbied for the treaty to include “threat of use” as well as “use” of the weapons. Rick Wayman, our Director of Programs, delivered a speech at the United Nations treaty-drafting meeting arguing this point, and it was adopted in the final text. On September 20, 2017, the treaty was opened for signature at the United Nations. Fifty countries signed the first day and subsequently three more countries have signed the treaty.

The treaty will enter into force 90 days after the fiftieth country ratifies it. So far, there are three ratifications. ICAN will be working to see that the treaty gets more signatures and ratifications, including the support of the nine nuclear-armed countries, which boycotted the treaty negotiations. On the day the treaty was adopted, the U.S., UK and France issued a joint statement in which they said, “We do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become a party to it.” ICAN represents the will of the people to pass the planet on intact to new generations, while the nuclear-armed countries reflect an outdated concept of security in which they are willing to threaten the future of civilization for their own misguided concepts of security.

In the mid-1980s, there were 70,000 nuclear weapons in the world. Today there are just under 15,000. ICAN’s goal and NAPF’s goal is a world with zero nuclear weapons. This must also become the goal of all humanity. The great hope in the Nobel Peace Prize going to ICAN is that it will help draw global attention and concern to the ongoing threats posed by nuclear weapons and tip the scales toward ending the nuclear weapons era with its abundant dangers to all humanity.

David Krieger is a founder and president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation ([www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org))

Ed. note: see “The Nobel Peace Prize 2017 - Press Release. [Nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org) Nobel Media AB 2014. Web. 16 Oct 2017. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/2017/press.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2017/press.html)



## CHANGING THE DISCOURSE

Changing the discourse involves both language and processes. We need to take seriously our human role as stewards of the earth and talk about nuclear dangers in terms of potential omnicide. Nuclear weapons are incompatible with democracy. They place vast unaccountable power in a few leaders’ hands, unchecked by the millions of voices that true democracy depends on. We must reject notions of U.S. exceptionalism that exempt this country from respect for the rule of law and the authority of the United Nations. Further, we must revitalize the U.S. Constitution by reintroducing checks and balances into decision-making about war and peace.

*Indeed, much of the world does seem to be coming to its senses regarding nuclear weapons.* Deeply frustrated by the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament, in December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly voted by a large majority to hold negotiations in 2017 on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, leading to their elimination. The vote represents an historic global repudiation of the nuclear weapons status quo among the vast majority of non-nuclear weapons states. None of the nine nuclear-armed nations supported the resolution, and it is unlikely that any nuclear-armed states will participate in the negotiations.

To realize the full value of a “ban” treaty, we must demand that the nuclear-armed states recognize the existing illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons under international law protecting civilians and the environment from the effects of warfare. The governments of these states must finally act to meet their disarmament obligations under Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and customary international law, and participate in good faith in the negotiations as unanimously mandated by the International Court of Justice in its 1996 Advisory Opinion.

The media have narrowed the boundaries of debate, and the public has virtually no feasible means to engage decision-makers on disarmament imperatives. Yet the need for such discourse has never been more urgent. We reject the apocalyptic narrative and summon the imaginations of people everywhere to envision a vastly different future. There is no inevitability to the course of history, and a mobilized citizenry can redirect it toward a positive future.

## AN ETHICAL IMPERATIVE

*There exists an ethical imperative to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons.* The survival of the human species and other forms of complex life requires acting upon this imperative. We will need to successfully reach out to constituencies and organizations outside the peace and disarmament sphere to inspire and engage millions, if not tens of millions, of people. Education and engagement of both media and youth will be critical for success. Hope must be joined with action if we are to abolish nuclear weapons before they abolish us. The alarm is sounding.

*\*Initial endorsers of this statement include: Rich Appelbaum, Jackie Cabasso, Paul K. Chappell, Noam Chomsky, Daniel Ellsberg, Richard Falk, Mark Hamilton, Kimiaki Kawai, David Krieger, Peter Kuznick, Robert Laney, Judith Lipton, Elaine Scarry, Jennifer Simons, Daniel U. Smith, Steven Starr, and Rick Wayman. A full list of symposium participants, along with videos, audio and transcripts of presentations, are available [www.wagingpeace.org/symposium-fierce-urgency](http://www.wagingpeace.org/symposium-fierce-urgency)*



## An Independent Thinker's Guide to the Tax Debate

*There's a heist coming. Arm yourself with the facts!*

By **CHUCK COLLINS**

For 40 years, tax cutters in Congress have told us, “we have a tax cut for you.” And each time, they count on us to suspend all judgment.

In exchange, we've gotten staggering inequality, collapsing public infrastructure, a fraying safety net, and exploding deficits. Meanwhile, a small segment of the richest one tenth of 1 percent have become fabulously wealthy at the expense of everyone else.

Ready for more?

Now, Trump and congressional Republicans have rolled out a tax plan that the independent Tax Policy Center estimates will give 80 percent of the benefits to the richest 1 percent of taxpayers.

The good news is the majority aren't falling for it this time around. Recent polls indicate that over 62 percent of the public oppose additional tax cuts for the wealthy and 65 percent are against additional tax cuts to large corporations.

Here's the independent thinker's guide to the tax debate for people who aspire to be guided by facts, not magical thinking. When you hear congressional leaders utter these claims, take a closer look.

### “Corporate tax cuts create jobs.”

You'll hear that the U.S. has the “highest corporate taxes in the world.” While the legal rate is 35 percent, the *effective rate* — the percentage of income actually paid — is closer to 15 percent, thanks to loopholes and other deductions.

The Wall Street corporations pulling out their big lobbying guns have a lot of experience with lowering their tax bills this way, but they don't use the extra cash to create jobs.

The evidence, as my Institute for Policy Studies colleague Sarah Anderson found, is that they more often buy back their stock, give their CEOs a massive bonus, pay their shareholders a dividend, and lay off workers.

### “Bringing back offshore profits will create jobs.”

Enormously profitable corporations like Apple, Pfizer, and General Electric have an estimated \$2.64 trillion in taxable income stashed offshore. Republicans like to say that if we give them a tax amnesty, they'll bring this money home and create jobs.

Any parent understands the folly of rewarding bad behavior. Yet that's what we're being asked to do.

When Congress passed a “repatriation tax holiday” in 2004, these same companies gave raises to their CEOs, raised dividends, bought back their stock, and — you guessed it — laid off workers. The biggest 15 corporations that got the amnesty brought back \$150 billion while cutting their U.S. workforces by 21,000 between 2004 and 2007.

For decades now, those big corporations have made middle class taxpayers and small businesses pick up the slack for funding care for veterans, public infrastructure, cyber security, and hurricane mop-ups. Let's not give them another tax break for their trouble.

### “Tax cuts pay for themselves.”

Members of Congress who consider themselves hard-nosed deficit hawks when it comes to helping hurricane victims or increasing college aid for middle class families are quick to suspend basic principles of math when it comes

to tax cuts for the rich.

The long-discredited theory of “trickledown economics” — the idea that tax cuts for the 1 percent will create sufficient economic growth to pay for themselves — is rising up like zombies at Halloween. As the economist Ha Joon Chang observed, “Once you realize that trickle-down economics does not work, you will see the excessive tax cuts for the rich as what they are — a simple upward redistribution of income.”

### “Abolishing the estate tax will help ordinary people.”

This is the biggest whopper of them all. The estate tax is only paid by families with wealth starting at \$11 million and individuals with \$5.5 million and up. There is no credible economic argument that this will have any positive impact on the economy, but it would be a huge boon for billionaire families like the Trumps.

This tax cut plan is an unprecedented money grab. Whether the heist happens, is entirely up to the rest of us.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License.

**Chuck Collins** is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies where he co-edits Inequality.org, and is author of the new book, *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good*. He is cofounder of Wealth for the Common Good, recently merged with the Patriotic Millionaires. He is co-author of *99 to 1: The Moral Measure of the Economy* and, with Bill Gates Sr., of *Wealth and Our Commonwealth: Why America Should Tax Accumulated Fortunes*.

**Work with Musicians!**  
**Learn Job Skills!**  
**Join us at The Job Circle.**

**Audio Technician Course**  
\* **LIVE Sound**  
\* **Recording Bands**  
\* **Producing, Mastering**  
\* **Electronics, ProTools**  
**Hands-On Learning**

**Modesto Sound LIVE**  
Recording | LIVE Sound Education

New classes every 8 weeks. Space is limited, call now! ModestoSound.org 209-573-0533

## A Gathering of Voices: Leah Shoshanah: Singer/Songwriter, Poet, Activist, Teacher, Cantor... Beautiful Voice

By **TINA ARNOPPLE DRISKILL**

“Music from deep in the soul! There are some singer/songwriters whose music clearly comes from a deep and profound place. Not just words attached to music, but songs that express an inner truth that clearly comes straight from the soul.” Leah Shoshanah's debut album, *A Child Like This*, is clearly a spiritual autobiography of her own journey - one that is at once intensely personal and powerfully universal, deep and accessible.



Leah is also an immensely gifted musician/vocalist. It would not be hyperbole to compare her to singer/songwriters such as Joni Mitchell, Tori Amos or Sarah McLachlan. Bottom line: “*A Child Like This*” “deserves the widest possible listenership. And if she ever visits your town, you owe it to yourself to hear her perform her music in person.” (Brant Rosen)

Leah Shoshanah will perform in concert at Sunday Afternoons at CBS as a member of the Rosebud Duo with James Abud on Sunday November 12 at 3 p.m. at 1705 Sherwood Avenue, Modesto. (SundaysAtCBS.com)

A world traveler, performer, and poet, Leah shares words and lyrics that “are ripe with vulnerability. They explore childhood dreams, the meaning of animal totems, love, heartbreak, abortion and summing up the courage to be stronger than you ever knew was possible. From Leah's heart to yours, “*A Child Like This*” is a doorway to a world of travels, spirituality, family, resilience and love. It is a reminder that no one is alone, that we all struggle, and that, in that struggle, is our connection to each other.”

**Local Public Radio**  
**FM 104.9**  
**www.ValleyMedia.Org**  
**Local Bands, Real News**



## In the Garden

Life looks a lot like a thought  
So what if you loved it a whole lot  
And build the garden of Eden  
Right behind your house?

You could plant anything you want  
A row of hope and celery stalks  
Tomato vines, and lots of time  
To spend with people that you love

*In the garden, sitting with the Buddha, in between the earth and sky.*

Life looks a lot like a seed.  
You don't always fall where you want to be.  
And sometimes, you have to grow,  
Through the seasons and the snow.

But when you make it through the dirt,  
The Earth will be waiting for your birth.  
With a cup of rain and plate of sun,  
A bed of soil and lots of bugs.

*In the garden, sitting with the Buddha, in between the earth and sky.*

There's more to life than what you see  
You can't always be where you want to be  
So make everywhere you are alive

In the garden, sitting with the Buddha, in between the earth and sky.

## ai-ae-ai

My heart is a mountain  
where dreamers come to sing  
weaving songs from the shadows  
*ai ee ai*

My heart is a fire  
echoes 100 drummers deep  
and beats until morning light  
*ai ee ai*

*Wake wake all the sleeping dreams  
Take them from the mountain and back to the sea  
Wake wake all the sleeping dreams  
Take them from the mountain and back to the sea  
back to the sea, ai ee ai*

My heart is a river  
Where the lovers go to sleep  
and remember with their bodies  
*ai ee ai*

My heart is a dark sky

With clouds of endless stars  
And wisdom as old as time  
*Ai ee ai*

*Wake wake all the sleeping dreams  
Take them from the mountain and back to the sea  
Wake wake all the sleeping dreams  
Take them from the mountain and back to the sea  
back to the sea, ai ee ai*

## Goodbye Night

How could anyone go to sleep, go to sleep so early?  
How could anyone, go to sleep, when the moon in so large?

And I need you in my arms  
The moon keeps losing the time  
and falls for the windowpane

Goodbye night

How could anyone go to sleep, go to sleep, with all these canvases?  
White and barren, stacked and knocked along the attic walls

The acrylic's going dry  
And the moon keeps losing the time  
And falls for the windowpane

Goodbye night

For the early birds, who sing for the dawn  
Of the oncoming day  
And I've been told  
That the people think I'm lost  
And now I feel lost  
With all these birds, who sing for the dawn  
Of the oncoming day  
And I've been told  
That the people think I'm lost  
And now I feel lost  
With all losses, with all of these losses

Goodbye night

How could anyone go to sleep, go to sleep so early?  
How could anyone, go to sleep, when the moon in so large?



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

By CHRIS GUPTILL

I thank everyone who participated in our latest river cleanup on October 14th. This was our 33rd cleanup event and we were able to completely clean the entire south bank of the river from upstream of 9th St. to downstream of Hwy 99. This area is free of shopping carts, tires, illegal encampments, illegal dumping, styrofoam, plastic, and garbage. Saturday's 78 volunteers did a great job of returning this entire area to a state the community can be proud of and can recreate along. We had students from Davis, Ceres, Modesto, Enochs, MJC, and Stanislaus State as well as many returning veteran volunteers. In all we removed 27 shopping carts, 17 tires, completely filled 40 cubic yard dumpster plus 3 other

truckloads, and removed 9 tons of material from the river bank and adjacent River and Zeff Roads.

Check out the totals from our 33 cleanups here. Take a look at a few before and during photos here. Here is a map of the Dry Creek and Tuolumne Riverside Trails that runs along the our park, creek, and river for hiking, biking, riding, and paddling. It is a great place to recreate both in and along the Tuolumne River and it is open to recreation.

Special thanks to Captain Phil McKay with Fish and Wildlife, Lt. Stanfield with MPD for the mountain bike officer support, Lt. Marc Nuno with the Sheriff's Department for the dumpster, Duane Becker for the truck driving crew, gloves,

bags, grabbers. Modesto City Parks Department for providing the restroom and hauling trash. Vicki Rice with the City of Modesto for recycling the tires, Mike McCormick with Pepsi for providing beverages, and Del Ambris with Cost Less Foods who helped recycle the shopping carts.

We have a lot more work to do and we need as many volunteers and partners as we can get. Spread the word via social media. Direct them to <http://tinyurl.com/operation9-2-99> to sign up and receive reminders via e-mail.

Our next clean-up will be on Saturday, November 18th as we continue to combat blight in our parks, waterways, and open spaces and promote recreation opportunities in its place.

## The Blueprint for the Most Radical City on the Planet

from page 1

cratic process and their economy.

Their goal is self-determination for people of African descent, particularly the Black working class. The vehicle is the building of a solidarity economy in Jackson Mississippi on a democratic economic base. The long-range plan is to participate in a radical transformation of the entire state of Mississippi and ultimately the radical democratic and economic transformation of the United States itself.

The story of how Jackson Mississippi is being transformed and its plans for the future are set out in the new book *JACKSON RISING: The Struggle for Economic Democracy, Socialism and Black Self-Determination in Jackson, Mississippi*, edited by Kali Akuno and Ajamu Nangwaya.

This book details the history of how Jackson became the center of an epic campaign of organizing for Black self-determination politically and economically. It explains the philosophy undergirding this work, how cooperative economics works, and the community's concrete plans for present and future building.

### History

Mississippi, despite arguably the most racist and violent government in the country, has always had its freedom fighters. It has also been the home to outstanding organizing. While no social movement can be captured in one person's story, one narrative is instructive to highlight important markers along the road to progress in Jackson Mississippi.

In 1971, Chokwe Lumumba, father of the current mayor, first came to Jackson along with a number of seasoned organizers who were part of the Republic of New Afrika Peoples Organization, a group advocating for Black self-governance and self-determination in the U.S. South. Though he left



Mississippi to finish law school he returned and with others co-founded the Malcom X Grassroots Movement, a progressive multiracial organizing community, in 1990.

One of their organizing efforts was the creation of a series of Peoples' Assemblies. The assemblies, often hosted at Black churches, were vehicles for local low-income residents to practice self-determination and local governance. These assemblies have become a building block in the philosophy and practice of the changing of Jackson.

The first Peoples' Assembly was organized in a city council district that in 2009 elected Chokwe Lumumba as their city council representative. Peoples' Assemblies began organizing citywide. They focused both on self-determination projects and changing city policies. Citywide organizing by Peoples' Assemblies ultimately set the foundation for a mayoral run for Chokwe Lumumba.

The 2013 election of Chokwe Lumumba as Mayor of Jackson signaled the beginning of a new phase of community driven economic democracy.

Unfortunately, he unexpectedly died in February 2014 on the exact day that significant plans were due to be presented to the city council. Those plans were further derailed when his son, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, who was openly dedicated to continuing the work, was defeated in a special election.

Now with Chokwe Antar Lumumba as Mayor, the nation's attention has turned back to Jackson, but it has been organizing for years. And the progress is not just political, it is economic as well.

### Cooperation Jackson

Despite the death of Chokwe Lumumba in 2014, Cooperation Jackson was launched in 2014.

Cooperation Jackson is an initiative to help address the material needs of Jackson's low income and working-class communities through cooperative economic efforts. Without government support it rose autonomously and created a network of worker cooperatives, a community land trust and a network of urban farms.

The book explains the basics of cooperative economics and documents a long tradition of cooperative economic models in the African American community. Ella Baker, Marcus Garvey, Fannie Lou Hamer, A. Philip Randolph and

many others pressed for coops seeing them as pathways for economic liberation. Dr. W.E. DuBois wrote in 1933 "We can by consumers and producers cooperation establish a progressively self-supporting economy that will weld the majority of our people into an impregnable, economic phalanx."

A federation of local cooperatives and mutual aid networks, Cooperation Jackson, has many concrete forms including an urban farming coop, a food coop, a cooperative credit union, a hardware coop, and a cooperative insurance plan. They plan to be an incubator for more coop startups, a school, a training center, a cooperative credit union, a bank, a community land trust, community financial institutions like credit unions, housing cooperative, childcare cooperative, solar and retrofitting cooperative, tool lending and resource libraries, community energy production. They are also working to build an organizing institute and a workers union.

Cooperation Jackson is an economic movement, a human rights movement and a movement insistent on environmentally sustainable progress. They work for clean air and water, zero waste, and against toxic industries. They explicitly recognize the wisdom of James Farmer, "If we do not save the environment, then whatever we do in civil rights, or in a war against poverty, then whatever we do will be of no meaning because then we will have the equality of extinction."

The book includes essays on Jackson by a beautiful mix of radical voices including Hakima Abbas, Kali Akuno, Kate Aronoff, Ajamu Baraka, Sara Bernard, Thandisizwe Chimurenga, Carl Davidson, Bruce Dixon, Laura Flanders, Kamau Franklin, Katie Gilbert, Sacajawea "Saki" Hall, Rukia Lumumba, Ajamu Nangwaya, Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Max Rameau, Michael Siegel, Bhaskar Sunkara, Makani Themba-Nixon, Jazmine Walker and Elandria Williams.

Whether Jackson Mississippi can indeed become the most radical city in the world is as yet unknown. But it is definitely off to a concrete start and that itself is both instructive and inspirational.

Visit Cooperation Jackson at <http://www.cooperation-jackson.org/>

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License

Bill Quigley is Associate Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and a law professor at Loyola University New Orleans. Contact Bill at [quigley77@gmail.com](mailto:quigley77@gmail.com)



# Voices Calling for Justice

By VASU MURTY

Since its founding, the United States has been both a haven for the oppressed yearning to breathe free, as well as a nation with a progressive concept of “human rights.” The phrase “all men are created equal” once referred only to white, male property owners. Since the abolition of human slavery, it now includes women and minorities. Why should equality, rights and justice end with humans? Religion has traditionally been a tool of oppression, but there have been voices calling for justice towards animals:

The earliest Christians were vegetarians as well as pacifists. Clemens Prudentius, the first Christian hymn writer, in one of his hymns exhorted his fellow Christians not to pollute their hands and hearts by the slaughter of innocent cows and sheep, and pointed to the variety of nourishing and pleasant foods obtainable without blood-shedding. Secular scholar Keith Akers concludes: “But many others, both orthodox and heterodox, testified to the vegetarian origins of Christianity. Both Athanasius and his opponent Arius were strict vegetarians. Many early church fathers were vegetarian, including Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Heironymus, Boniface, and John Chrysostom... Vegetarianism is at the heart of Christianity.”

St. Richard of Wyche, a vegetarian, was moved by the sight of animals taken to slaughter: “Poor innocent little creatures. If you were reasoning beings and could speak, you would curse us. For we are the cause of your death, and what have you done to deserve it?” St. Francis of Assisi taught: “If you have men who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.” St. Filippo Neri spent his life protecting and rescuing living creatures. A vegetarian, he could not bear to pass a butcher’s shop. “Ah,” he exclaimed, “if everyone were like me, no one would kill animals!”

“Thanks be to God!” wrote John Wesley, founder of Methodism, to the Bishop of London in 1747. “Since the time I gave up the use of flesh-meats and wine, I have been delivered from all physical ills.” Wesley was a vegetarian for spiritual reasons as well. Wesley based his vegetarianism on the biblical prophecies concerning the Kingdom of Peace, where “on the new earth, no creature will kill, or hurt, or give pain to any other.” Wesley taught that animals “shall receive an ample amends for all their present sufferings.” Wesley further taught that animals will attain heaven: in the “general

deliverance” from the evils of this world, animals would be given “vigor, strength and swiftness... to a far higher degree than they ever enjoyed.” Wesley urged parents to educate their children about compassion towards animals: “I am persuaded you are not insensible of the pain given to every Christian, every humane heart, by those savage diversions, bull-baiting, cock-fighting, horse-racing, and hunting.”

The Quakers have a long history of advocating kindness towards animals. In 1795, the Society of Friends (Quakers) in London passed a resolution condemning sport hunting: “...let our leisure be employed in serving our neighbor, and not in distressing, for our amusement, the creatures of God.” John Woolman (1720-1772) was a Quaker preacher and abolitionist who traveled throughout the American colonies attacking slavery and cruelty to animals. Woolman wrote that he was “early convinced in my mind that true religion consisted in an inward life, wherein the heart doth love and reverence God the Creator and learn to exercise true justice and goodness, not only toward all men, but also toward the brute creatures... Where the love of God is verily perfected... a tenderness toward all creatures made subject to us will be experienced, and a care felt in us that we do not lessen that sweetness of life in the animal creation which the great Creator intends for them.”

Joshua Evans (1731-1798), a Quaker, said reverence for life was the moral basis of his vegetarianism: “I considered that life was sweet in all living creatures, and taking it away became a very tender point with me... I believe my dear Master has been pleased to try my faith and obedience by teaching me that I ought no longer to partake of anything that had life.” The “Quaker poet” and abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), wrote: “The sooner we recognize the fact that the mercy of the Almighty extends to every creature endowed with life, the better it will be for us as men and Christians.”

The founder and first secretary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), the Reverend Arthur Broome, an Anglican priest, endured poverty and jail for the cause of animals. The RSPCA was originally founded as a Christian Society “entirely based on the Christian Faith, and on Christian Principles,” sponsoring sermons on humane education in churches in London. Its first *Prospectus* spoke of the need to extend Christian charity and benevolence to the animals, and was signed by many leading 19th century Christians including William Wilberforce, Richard Martin, G.A. Hatch, J. Bonner, and Dr. Heslop.

General William Booth (1829-1912), founder of the Salvation Army, practiced and advocated vegetarianism. Booth never officially condemned flesh eating as cruelty to animals nor as gluttony, but taught that abstinence from luxury is helpful to the cause of Christian charity. “It is a great delusion to suppose that flesh of any kind is essential to health,” he insisted.

Although Seventh Day Adventists are known to promote vegetarianism, nonsmoking, and nondrinking for health and nutrition, church founder Ellen White taught kindness to animals is a Christian duty. She urged the faithful to: “Think of the cruelty that meat eating involves, and its effect on those who inflict and those who behold it. How it destroys the tenderness with which we should regard these creatures of God!”

*“To stand for Christ is to stand against the evil of cruelty inflicted on those who are weak, vulnerable, unprotected, undefended, morally innocent, and in that class we must unambiguously include animals. There is something profoundly Christ-like about the innocent suffering of animals. Look around you and see the faces of Christ in the billions of innocent animals suffering in factory farms, in laboratories, in abattoirs, in circuses and in animals hunted for sport.”*

---Reverend Andrew Linzey, contemporary Anglican priest, and author of several books on animal rights and Christianity

Reach the author at vasmurty@aim.com

## Vegetarian, Gardening & Bee-keeping Resources

Online Culinary Resources for Vegetarianism

- 11 Facts About Meatless Monday That Will Inspire You To Reach For The Veggies
- How To Transition To A Plant-Based Diet
- Nutrition And The Vegan Diet
- 10 Helpful Tips for Beginning Gardeners
- Grow Food At Home: 7 Tips For Growing Food In Small Spaces
- Garden Better With Biodiversity & Wild Pollinators
- The Buzz on Beekeeping: A Guide to Bringing Up Bees in Your Own Backyard

**Note:** links are active in the pdf copy of Connections and online in the Calendar section

## Annual Holiday Potluck Song Fest: From the Beatles to Christmas!

Celebrate our Peace Community at the Onorato's, 1532 Vernon Ave., Modesto on **Friday, December 8, from 6 to 9 p.m.** Bring your favorite dish and beverage to share, your merry Holiday spirit, and your eagerness to sing. 6 to 9 pm. All welcome!

Bring an unwrapped children's book (K-6) which will be distributed to children by teacher, Jana Chiavetta.

### ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN



NOW REGISTERING

AT THE GALLERY, OR ONLINE AT  
[WWW.MISTLINGALLERY.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWW.MISTLINGALLERY.EVENTBRITE.COM)

1015 J Street, Modesto • (209) 529-3369  
Tues. - Fri. 11:30 - 5:00, Saturday 12-4  
[www.ccaagallery.org](http://www.ccaagallery.org)

LAW OFFICES OF

**ROCKWELL, KELLY & DUARTE, LLP**

DAVID N. ROCKWELL  
SHARON E. KELLY  
JEFFREY DUARTE  
MARKUS URSTOEGER  
*Attorneys/Abogados*

1600 G Street  
Suite 203

P.O. Box 0142  
Modesto, CA  
95353-0142

(209) 521-2552  
FAX (209) 526-7898



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

### Stockton

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

## NOVEMBER

**Modesto Area Partners in Science** (MAPS) free, community science programs, Fridays, 7:30 pm, MJC West Campus Sierra Hall 132 except where noted. Oct. 27 – John Buckley, CSERC: “Forest Health and Fire Resiliency in a Changing Climate”. **Nov. 3** – MJC East Campus Auditorium, a Family Science (all ages) presentation. Tierney Thys, National Geographic Explorer and TED speaker: “Ocean Engine of Life.” See article, this issue. **Dec. 1** – Garry Hayes, MJC Geology Professor: “The Earth Has a History: Rates of Geologic Change and Global Warming.”

**MJC Fall Science Colloquium**, Science Community Center, Room 115, West Campus, 3:15pm – 4:15 p.m. Contact: Teri Curtis (209) 575-6775, [curtist@mjc.edu](mailto:curtist@mjc.edu). **Nov. 1** – Jack Sparks, Outdoor Recreation Planner, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, “Exploring the Resources of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex.” **Nov. 8** – Susan Kerr, MJC Anthropology, “Giants and Gorgets: A Journey to the Prehistoric Mounds of the Southeastern U.S. Nov. 15 – Sally Gerling, Nutritionist, “Nutrition: From the Science to Your Plate.” **Nov. 22** – No program. **Nov. 29** – Alex Martin-Ginnold, Engineer, “Nanotechnology and Bioengineering.” **Dec. 6** – Rev. John Roberts, “Adam and Eve and Evolution: Seeking a Synthesis of Faith with Science.”

**1 WED: Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGIL: GUNS.** McHenry & J St., 4:00-5:00 pm.

**3 FRI: The Modesto Peace/Life Center’s annual Harvest Gathering** honors five community activists: Richard Anderson, Mike and Jana Chiavetta, John Lucas and Frank Ploof. Refreshments. 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., 1125 Edgebrook Dr., Modesto. \$20.00 donation.

**5 SUN:** The State Theatre presents *Obit.* 1307 J St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/983>. Become a member of the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>

**12 SUN: Sunday Afternoons at CBS: Leah Shoshonah.** Chicago-based singer, songwriter, and cantor, plays original world-folk, Jewish, and children’s music All concerts held at 1705 Sherwood Ave. at 3 pm. Tickets available through the CBS office and at the door. Single Tickets (with the exception of Feb.): \$25/Adults; \$20/Seniors & Students; \$10 children. Call (209) 571-6060 for tickets or info. Learn more at [sundaysatcbs.com](http://sundaysatcbs.com)

**15 WED: Film Night at the Center.** *No film this month.*

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

**19 SUN: The Modesto Film Society** and The State Theatre presents *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*. 1307 J. St., 2:00 pm. Visit <http://www.thestate.org/calendar/event/899>. Become a member of the State Theatre and get perks! Visit <http://www.thestate.org/membership>

## LOOKING AHEAD

**DEC. 8 FRI: Annual Holiday Potluck Song Fest.** Celebrate our Peace Community at the Onorato’s, 1532 Vernon Ave., Modesto. Bring your favorite dish

and beverage to share, your merry Holiday spirit, and your eagerness to sing. 6 to 9 pm. Bring an unwrapped children’s book (K-6). All welcome.

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

**Saturday, January 20: Dolores Huerta** speaks at the 24th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration. Modesto Junior College Auditorium. 7 PM

## 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.

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

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

### MONDAYS

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

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

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

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

### TUESDAYS

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

**NAACP Meeting:** Christ Unity Baptist Church, 601 L St., Modesto, 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. 209-645-1909, email [naacp.branch1048@gmail.com](mailto:naacp.branch1048@gmail.com)

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

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

**Weekly insight meditation** and dharma talk, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC parking lot). Info: Contact Lori,

## MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

**CONNECTIONS EDITORIAL MEETINGS:** Info: 537-7818, [jcostello@igc.org](mailto:jcostello@igc.org)

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

209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: [insightmeditationcentralvalley@gmail.com](mailto:insightmeditationcentralvalley@gmail.com)

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

**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

**LGBTQA Collaborative Meetings** 4th Thursdays. Agendas are the same for each meeting. Lunch meeting: Peer Recovery Art Center, 1222 J St, Modesto, Noon to 1:30 pm. Dinner meetings: Stanislaus BHRS – Redwood Room, 800 Scenic Dr., Modesto, CA 95354, 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Meeting dates: Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov. 17, Dec. 15: No meeting/ Winter Mixer. Dedicated to promoting well-being in the LGBTQA community. John Aguirre, [jpmadesto@gmail.com](mailto:jpmadesto@gmail.com), 559-280-3864.

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

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

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

**The Book Group**, First & third Thursdays. College Ave UCC Youth Bldg., Orangeburg & College Ave., 3:30 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)

[com, http://www.tcfmodesto-riverbankarea.org](http://www.tcfmodesto-riverbankarea.org)

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

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

### FRIDAYS

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

**Funstrummers Ukulele Band** every Friday, 9:15 am-noon, Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto. Donation. Info: 209-505-3216; [www.Funstrummers.com](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: 549-9155. Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts> for info on hikes and events.

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

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

### SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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