

A Question For You

By **JAMES COSTELLO**
 Editor, Stanislaus Connections

The November election could be the most pivotal one in our lifetime. With a myriad of national issues to consider, one crucial question underlies them all. And it's a question that every voter should grapple with.

At the heart of this election is a fundamental choice. Do we stand to preserve our republic, as outlined in the Constitution of the United States? A system with three branches of government, their relationship maintained by a vital separation of powers. Or do we risk dismantling that balance, allowing a president to assume dictatorial powers and demanding loyalty as a first principle of governance?

This is not an academic exercise; this is not a drill.

It is an irony of history that out of a powerful, white society that routinely dispossessed its native citizens of their lives and property, that enforced the evil institution of slavery, and that still grapples with offering legal equality to all of its inhabitants, especially those of color, that those fractious men called the "Founding Fathers" could fashion a living document that can potentially offer equal standing before the law to all of this nation's citizens regardless of who they are.

Now, after over 200 years, are we ready to sound the death knell of our Constitution, tossing it onto the ash heap of history as just another failed experiment?

On page 6 of this issue, we present an overview of *Project 2025*, or "Mandate for



Leadership: The Conservative Promise," a plan written by the Heritage Foundation. It is a blueprint for the destruction of our Federal Government as we know it, which might go into effect in January 2025. It is long, wonky,

and even possibly boring. Read it anyway and think about what is at stake.

"The price of liberty, and even of common humanity, is eternal vigilance."

— Aldous Huxley

COMING SOON: South Modesto Wellness Center

By **KARINA FRANCO, MS, PPS**

For years, Sierra Vista has been operating our South Modesto Family Resource Center out of a community church room. As our operations have expanded, so have our needs. We are excited to break ground for our new facility, the South Modesto Wellness Center at 908 Imperial Avenue, this summer of 2024. This marks the beginning of a new chapter for the community in South Modesto.

Making An Impact

Sierra Vista is dedicated to cultivating lasting change in the well-being of our communities by strengthening youth and families. The South Modesto Wellness Center will embody this mission by providing programs and opportunities tailored to

families within their neighborhoods.

Family-Focused: Services are designed to meet individual needs in a flexible, family-focused, and culturally sensitive environment.



Strength-Based Approach: Services are designed to be unique to each individual and draw on their strengths to help them reach their goals.

Community Hub: Operating as a community hub, the South Modesto

Wellness Center will foster connections among families and local community resources.

Coming in 2025

We invite you to join and support us through this journey. We look forward to working collaboratively with all community partners to bring together resources and activities that are accessible and responsive to the community needs. Let's celebrate the inauguration of the South Modesto Wellness Center together in 2025. Stay tuned for more updates and ways to get involved!

Sierra Vista 1600 N. Carpenter Rd., Bldg. B, Modesto, CA 95351. info@svcfs.org, 209-523-4573, <https://svcfs.org/southmodesto/>



INSIDE CONNECTIONS			
LOCAL	2	BLUEPRINT FOR DICTATORSHIP	6-8
UNARMED PEACEKEEPERS	3	GATHERING OF VOICES	9
GIVE PEACE A CHANCE	4	KCBP RADIO	10
LISTENING	5	IN MEMORIAM	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
 If you do not have Adobe Reader, download it free from
<http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>

Ecosource Refillery: Refill & Recycle Your Containers, and more

The Sunday, June 23 edition of *The Modesto Bee* has a wonderful article about the Ecosource Refillery, owned and operated by Erin Sperry, daughter of Doug and July Hardie, who hosts the annual Yokuts-Sierra Club potluck picnic.



reduce our plastic consumption and move toward a zero-waste lifestyle. Erin also recycles plastic tubes and bottles. The store is located at 1367 Standiford Ave, Suite D, Modesto, CA 95350.

Contact her at erin@ecosourcerefillery.com, or at (209) 767-0514.

Visit www.ecosourcerefillery.com

Please consider buying from Erin to

ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Join the Modesto Peace/Life Center's Annual Hiroshima Remembrance and Potluck

Join us at Gracecda Park, Modesto, on **Tuesday, August 6th at 6:00 PM**. Bring food and drinks to share as we converse and rededicate ourselves to reversing the efforts to rebuild and proliferate nuclear weapons.

We will remember Daniel Ellsberg and others who stood against nuclear weapons.

Bring your own table service and a lawn chair.

Plankwalker Studios Presents: Rockin' with MJC!

Rockin' with MJC students that is. KCBP 95.5 FM Community Radio proudly presents a series of 25 one-hour music shows created by Modesto Junior College Students as part of their Film, Television & Electronic Media (FTVE) class under the instruction of Janeiro Freeda.

For all you night owls out there, get ready for a regular dose of music! Our show kicks off at 1:00 a.m. every Saturday (right after Cyber Stallion), with repeats at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. And the best part? A brand-new program will be waiting for you each week.



Please Join Us 8/3 @ 1:00 for a **FREE** Staged Reading of

\$35 and a Dream:
The Maddox Brothers & Rose

By
Arnold Anthony Schmidt & Ken White

Directed by Jim Johnson

MODESTO

From their Dust Bowl beginnings to the Grand Ole Opry, this Central Valley family act revolutionized American popular music, influencing Country, Rockabilly, and Rock 'n Roll. For four decades starting in the 1940s, Rose Maddox played with Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, Elvis Presley, and Bob Wills. Come see their story as they rise from poverty, encounter success, and become legends. And hear some of the music that made them famous!

The Little Theatre
Modesto Junior College East Campus
435 College Avenue
Modesto CA 95350
209-575-6550

For more information, contact
Arnold Anthony Schmidt @
aschmidt@csustan.edu
or Ken White @
KenWhite@kw209.com.

Please RSVP to Arnold or Ken.

Kids Connect Community Celebration!



Last year thanks to your help, Stanislaus DCSS was able to provide **968** backpacks, **311** lunch boxes and over **3,000** school supplies to students in our community!

This year, we are aiming to collect **1,100** backpacks and **3,000** school supplies! Let's all join together for a much needed cause and collect backpacks for this family fun event that connects families to valuable resources in our community!

EVENT INFO:

Join **Stanislaus County Department of Child Support** in partnership with **First 5 Stanislaus** and **United Way of Stanislaus County** for this **FREE** family fun event and backpack giveaway at Modesto Junior College.



Friday - July 19th,
2024

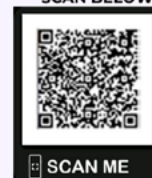


Modesto Junior College
435 College Avenue
Modesto 95350



4:00 PM
TO
7:00 PM

DONATE THROUGH UNITED WAY
SCAN BELOW



Visit us on Facebook
for more information.



Now is the time to send unarmed peacekeepers to Gaza and the rest of Palestine

Hundreds of unarmed civilian protectors could be quickly deployed to support Palestinians in securing a more sustainable peace than armed forces ever could.

By **MEL DUNCAN, May 28, 2024**
from **Waging Nonviolence**

When the U.N. Security Council finally passed a [Ceasefire Resolution for Gaza](#) by a vote of 14-0 — with the U.S. abstaining — on March 26, it was clear in its demand for a ceasefire, as well as several other key points, including the unconditional release of all hostages, the proper treatment of detainees in compliance with international law and access to humanitarian and medical aid. However, the UNSC was silent about how these demands might be enforced, thus rendering them more akin to suggestions.

That same day, an [advance draft of a U.N. Human Rights Council report](#) offered a glimpse at how such enforcement could actually happen, calling for the deployment of “an international protective presence” to help stem violence against Palestinians in Gaza and the rest of the Occupied Territories. The following day, the report’s author — Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese — [expanded on her recommendation at a news conference](#) in Geneva, saying that such an international protective presence should operate like the handful of NGO-affiliated unarmed civilians currently interposing themselves on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. “This is the thing that should be done,” she explained. “Making sure that pending the military withdrawal from the Occupied Territories, there is a shelter between the Palestinians and the armed settlers and army.”

Albanese is correct: Now is the time to recruit, prepare and send large numbers of well-trained [unarmed civilian protectors](#) to the Occupied Territories of Palestine to support local civil society, directly protect civilians and bolster those already providing unarmed civilian protection on a small scale. While the U.N. Security and Human Rights Councils have created openings, we cannot wait for them to act. The Security Council could take months — if ever — to make a decision, and even then, it would be prone to

send armed peacekeepers. Unarmed civilian protection and accompaniment groups have, for years, been successfully carrying out the activities described by the UNSC and HRC. We must accelerate this people-to-people response.

As Special Rapporteur Albanese noted, Israeli, Palestinian and international groups have already been providing unarmed civilian protection, or UCP, in other parts of Palestine. Facing intensified harassment and violence from settlers and the Israeli Defense Forces since Oct. 7, groups like Ta’ayush, Looking the Occupation in the Eye, the Center for Jewish Nonviolence and Community Peacemaker Teams continue to provide protective presence and support self-protection in the homes of Palestinians and at checkpoints, as well as by accompanying farmers and shepherds.

Recently, in response to [Israeli settlers blocking a Gaza aid convoy](#) arriving from Jordan at the Tarqumiya checkpoint, the Jewish and Palestinian grassroots movement [Standing Together](#) mobilized a Humanitarian Guard to accompany trucks carrying aid destined for Gaza. “There is always the risk that something physical might happen, of course, but engaging with the settlers is not our goal,” Rula Daood, the national co-director of Standing Together [told Haaretz](#). “Instead, we not only want to call attention to what is happening at the border crossing, we hope that our presence there will bring accountability to the police and the army.”

On May 19, the Humanitarian Guard was able to block the settlers from the convoy at Tarqumiya checkpoint, with the police arriving promptly to move the settlers back. The group again helped remove settlers when they attacked the trucks at another junction. “Up to now all the food that went out today will get to Gaza safely,” a Standing Together spokesperson [reported](#). They will be going out every day to protect the trucks from settler attacks.

[Haaretz recently reported](#) on the stories of six Israeli activists who are trying to protect Palestinians in the West Bank. Hillel Levi Faur is part of a group of about 100 young people called Presence in Hard Times, which places Israelis in homes under threat in the South Hebron Hills. As Levi Faur stressed, “They keep pleading with us to come. There are communities that make you feel bad if you don’t show up for a week or two. They say, ‘We can’t sleep.’ It’s terrible, having those conversations.”

As part of her work for the Center of Jewish Nonviolence, [Katie Loncke reported](#) similar examples of deterrence through protective presence during her stay in Masafer Yatta, citing shepherds who were able to extend their grazing areas and a family that was able to return to their home.

The 2016 study “[Wielding Nonviolence in the Midst of Violence](#)” found multiple respondents reporting positive

impacts of unarmed civilian protection in the Palestinian territories, including enhancing Palestinian leadership and nonviolent resistance, helping people keep land and stay in their communities, decreasing violence toward Palestinian demonstrations, de-escalating violence by Israeli soldiers, decreasing violence by Palestinians, protecting school children and decreasing checkpoint abuse. According to the study’s findings, “Respondents consistently reported that UCP activity has diminished violence from soldiers, settlers and Palestinians.”

The 2016 study “Wielding Nonviolence in the Midst of Violence” found multiple respondents reporting positive impacts of unarmed civilian protection in the Palestinian territories.

The good news is that those already active groups are scaling up their efforts. The Center for Jewish Nonviolence is [recruiting individuals](#) to join 10-day Summer Solidarity Shifts to bolster the existing network

of solidarity presence. The Italian group Operazione Colomba is continuing to support the nonviolent struggle of the Palestinian communities south of Hebron, and the U.S. group [Meta Peace Team](#) is gearing up to send a team. Meanwhile, companions from the World Council of Churches-sponsored [Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel](#) are returning to their work in the West Bank.

The opportunity

While the existing work is extremely important, it will have to be significantly scaled up in numbers and duration to address the needs of not only the West Bank, but especially Gaza. Fortunately, the human resources exist. Hundreds of veteran unarmed civilian protectors and companions live in at least 35 countries and have worked with one or more of the 60-plus organizations practicing UCP and accompaniment. At least 20 of these organizations have already worked in the Occupied Territories of Palestine.

With sufficient funds (a fraction of the cost of any military intervention), they could be mobilized, provided updated training by Palestinians and deployed quickly. Working closely with local Palestinians and UCP groups on the ground, these veterans could effectively carry out the objectives in the Security Council Ceasefire Resolution and Human Rights Council report, including:

- protecting efficient provision of humanitarian assistance and medical care,
- accompanying people under threat,
- interpositioning between conflicting parties,
- monitoring ceasefires,
- monitoring and reporting on compliance with international law, and
- providing direct protection to civilians.

Members of Nonviolent Peaceforce’s Community Safety Team in Minneapolis during the opening statements of the

continued next page



MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER

Working for **peace, justice**
and a **sustainable future**

Connections is published monthly except in

August by the Modesto Peace/Life Center
829 13th St., Modesto, CA 95354

Open by appointment.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 134,
Modesto, CA 95353

209-529-5750 / stanislausconnections.org

Send unarmed peacekeepers to Gaza from page 3

Derek Chauvin trial in 2021. (Instagram/ Nonviolent Peaceforce)

Peace Brigades International, for example, has been , among other places, since 1994. The organization I helped to found, Nonviolent Peaceforce, has been opening humanitarian access for remote, difficult-to-reach places in South Sudan since 2011. The Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation is among many UCP groups that — in addition to providing accompaniment and protective presence, as well as supporting communities in self-protection — monitors and reports on international law, for example arbitrary detentions in Mexico.

Nonviolent Peaceforce was also part of the ceasefire process in Mindanao from 2009-2014, having been invited by both the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to be an official part of the International Monitoring Team. Reflecting on her work with my former organization in Mindanao, Ambassador Kristine Leilani R. Salle from the Philippine Mission to the U.N. in Geneva said: “Our experience shows that civilian-led nonviolent approaches can contribute to saving lives and empowering people in communities to build a just and lasting peace for themselves even under the most difficult of circumstances.”

These veterans of UCP and accompaniment also have experience in applying a variety of other nonviolent methodologies, including de-escalation, early warning/early response and supporting community-based unarmed self-defense. What’s more, they have extensive experience dealing with armed actors — whether they be warring governments or non-state actors like the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the Philippines or the FARC in Colombia. Their goal is not to convert anyone — although sometimes that happens — but rather to be able to communicate with one another, lessen tensions, protect civilians and prevent violence.

Violence as default

Despite the success stories cited above, many policy leaders are once again poised to spend billions of dollars for an armed peacekeeping approach in the Occupied Territories. On May 16, the Arab League passed the “Manama Declaration,” calling for U.N. peacekeeping forces to be sent to the occupied Palestinian territories until a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict is implemented. This comes at the same time as the U.N. is withdrawing 13,500 peacekeepers from Democratic Republic of the Congo at the demand of the Congolese government, which says the peacekeepers have failed — after 20 years — to protect civilians from armed groups.

While armed peacekeepers can often keep other armed groups apart, they are neither trained, equipped nor good at community engagement, which is essential for



protecting civilians and building sustainable peace. Military peacekeeping forces are usually drawn from South Asian or African militaries — with their governments being paid for the service. They typically do not speak local languages and are not allowed to live in the community. Therefore, they

These veterans of UCP and accompaniment also have experience in applying a variety of other nonviolent methodologies, including de-escalation, early warning/early response and supporting community-based unarmed self-defense.

only have limited interactions with civil society.

Working with Nonviolent Peaceforce, I saw U.N. peacekeepers’ lack of on-the-ground engagement in South Sudan. I even unsuccessfully advocated — with the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping — for their armed peacekeepers to protect women from assault by walking with them as they collected firewood in the bush. I was told that it would be too unsafe. This is something our unarmed teams did routinely for four years.

Because armed peacekeepers have limited engagement with local civil society which is a fundamental element in protection, the best they can offer is an imposed, temporary, top-down intervention. Rachel Julian of Leeds Beckett University observes in her forthcoming book on UCP, “Transforming Protection,” that such top-down, armed approaches to protection assumes expertise and power are in the hands of a few outsiders, excluding local agency. “This means that what safety means to them, the diverse nature of the threats and the transformational change required are

not included. Transformational change requires a change in the power system,” Julian concluded.

With the attack on Israeli civilians by Hamas on Oct. 7 or the targeted killing of World Central Kitchen staff by IDF drones on April 1, it is fair to ask why unarmed civilian protectors would be treated any differently. However, it’s the international attention brought on by these very tragedies that may expand the protection internationals can provide. For example, in 1987, American engineer Ben Linder and two other humanitarian workers were killed by the Contras along the northern border of Nicaragua. His death elevated international outrage mobilizing hundreds of internationals to go Nicaragua, which in turn expanded a protective presence in rural areas.

While it is almost impossible for anyone to get into Gaza at the moment — let alone a large group — pressures are building rapidly with the growing recognition of Palestinian statehood, the International Criminal Court issuing arrest warrants, the International Court of Justice ordering Israel to abide by the Genocide Convention and ceasefire negotiations still ongoing. At the same time, on the grassroots level, students around the world are pressing for divestment from Israel, the Freedom Flotilla is pushing for entry into Gaza and groups like Jewish Voice for Peace are organizing for a ceasefire and an end to military aid to Israel.

These diplomatic, legal and grassroots initiatives will intensify and continue to create cracks if not openings. We have to be ready to take advantage of them when they occur. If we wait to prepare until the opportunities are fully formed, militaries will have already been deployed. By demonstrating our readiness, we build the reality and pressure to use UCP.

Acting as a consortium, UCP groups can bring together a large-scale, experienced, well-trained international force of unarmed civilian protectors who have proven that they can protect civilians, deter violence, accompany hostages, protect the delivery of humanitarian assistance, protect homes, support community self-protection and assist the implementation of ceasefires. They can work closely with local civil society to build lasting peace. To have this resource available now, will only speed up the peace process.

Mel Duncan is the founding director of Nonviolent Peaceforce as well as serving as their UN representative for six years. For over 25 years, he has been successfully applying nonviolent protection methods in violent areas around the world. He retired from NP last October.

<https://wagingnonviolence.org/2024/05/now-is-the-time-to-send-unarmed-peacekeepers-to-gaza-and-the-rest-of-palestine/>

Learning to Listen to Palestine: A Personal Quest

BY LANETTE LANCHESTER

A new book has been released that offers profound hope regarding the humanitarian crisis in Israel and Palestine. This crisis is bleak, sad, and seemingly hopeless. However, hope was found when author Lani Lanchester learned to listen to Palestine about a conflict that has spanned a century. Hope is hidden in many stories.

Lani Lanchester is a high school science teacher who shares, “No matter what our culture is telling us, scientifically, there is only one race. The human race.” She also knows that you cannot teach someone who doesn’t trust you. So, in her classroom, she is careful to build trust with each one of her students, and this requires her to listen to their stories.

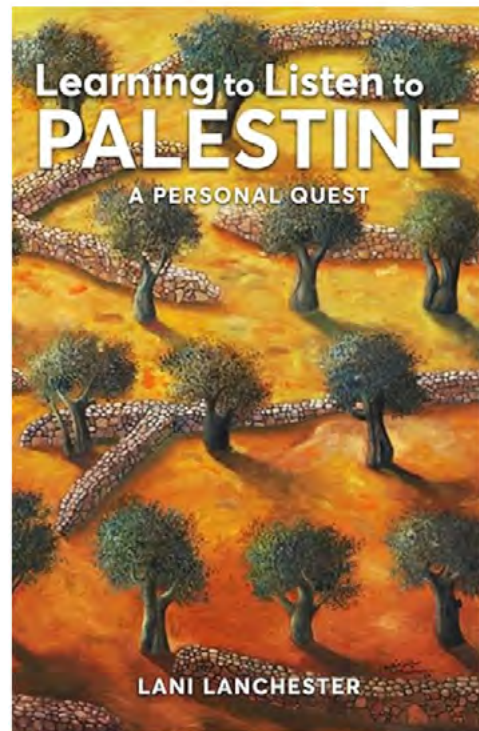
Lani shares a story in her book: “Oftentimes, my African American students do not trust me because I look like someone who has been abusive to them. At some point, when we just are not working well together, I will point at the door and say, ‘In the hall.’ These are fighting words for some. The hall is where they expect more abuse. They expect to be belittled, dehumanized, and threatened with punishment. I find this horrible.

This is what I do: “Lean against the wall. Stare that way,” I tell them. Then I lean against the wall next to them, neither of us looking at the other.

“What, what do you want?” the student may ask as their frustration, fear, or anxiety grows, turning toward me.

“We are leaning against the wall until I calm down. Just lean.” I will explain. Soon, I feel myself again. I am not answering the situation in anger, and the student may become curious and more relaxed.

I look at the student and say, “I love you. That is my most important job, and I should not be here if I did not love you.” This shocks and softens my student to the next thing that I offer. “We are not working well together, but we have a job to do. To give you the best life possible, we need to be on the same side.”



At this point, I must be open to hearing the student. There is something wrong. Perhaps it was something that I said that triggered them. Perhaps it was simply because I looked like someone who hurt them in the past. Sometimes, students at this point, will start telling me something very important that someone must know and care about for them to have a chance to succeed. The key is to convince them that I care, that I am on their side, and that there is only one side in my classroom.

Lani’s story continues by shaking all her beliefs and what she thought she knew about the land of Israel and Palestine. “I was getting ready to go to Israel by myself on a road trip tour of Israel.”

“As I was preparing to go, I read about Shireen Abu Akleh. Shireen was almost exactly my age, 51 years old. She was a Palestinian Christian who earned her citizenship in the United States. She went to school here and worked here, but she returned to Israel and Palestine to report on what was happening between Israel and Palestine. She had covered the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for 25 years.

However, on May 11, 2022, Shireen Abu Akleh was targeted by an IDF (Israeli Defense Force) sniper and shot in the head. The IDF denied this for a few weeks but, in

the end, admitted to the crime. The incident was caught on film, and there were many witnesses. Forensic evidence was gathered. Nevertheless, no one was held accountable for her death.

This brought me into full, crushing confusion. I thought I knew Israel. I knew nothing. I did not understand why I had not heard about this tragedy before from the press. I did not understand why the US government had not called for accountability and justice. I did not understand how the IDF, which was supposed to be keeping people safe, could have so blatantly murdered this woman who served by only telling the truth. “

This was the first of many stories that made Lani pay attention and start to listen. While traveling up a winding road in Israel with her Palestinian friend, Lani recalls that she ignorantly said, “There must have been something righteous about 1948.”

Her friend stopped the car. He said, “Righteous?! 530 villages were destroyed. There were massacres, rapes! They killed men, women, and children! 750,000 people were forced out of their homes. The Israelis plant trees over ruined villages and massacres to hide the evidence.”

Lani had never heard this before. None of it. She was shocked to her core. This began a quest to learn what was

true. Learning was difficult. Much of the evidence is deeply hidden. Eyewitnesses are readily available to share personal stories and want to be heard. Every step revealed more myths in her beliefs and more hidden abuses perpetrated on the Palestinian people.

But Lani did not just learn about horrible things. She learned that Palestinians are a resilient, beautiful people with rich culture, heritage, family, and values. As she was learning to listen, she was always welcomed into a warm, kind, familial atmosphere. Palestinian culture has much to offer the world in love and peace.

Most importantly, Lani Lanchester has found a new hope in peace. Listening to each other’s stories and creating real connections does make peace, one relationship at a time. We individuals can make the world a better place every day by connecting with these precious people and listening to their stories. This is the first step in love and healing. As we do this as individuals, we create a grassroots peace movement that is unstoppable. It will spread to cover the land and even to break the rocky ground of hate and fear.

How can you join this peace movement? Reading “Learning to Listen to Palestine” by Lani Lanchester is a wonderful first step and guide into listening to Palestinians. Lani also encourages people, if they live in an urban area, to join a group and tell a Palestinian that you want to hear their story. They are likely to welcome you with love and tea!

Lani has found that local libraries are an amazing resource for forming these relationships. If there is not a Learning to Listen to Palestine group in your area, start one at your local library.

Hear more about Lani Lanchester and her quest for learning by listening to her podcast, “Learning to Listen to Palestine,” available on Spotify, Apple Tunes, and YouTube Music, or contact her at lanilanchester@gmail.com.

Lani Lanchester will speak at a Book Launch Party at 3:00 p.m. at the Lodi Library, 201 W. Locust Street, Lodi, California, on Saturday, July 13, 2024. The event will be open to the public.



Project 2025: The Latest Plot Against America

By ANNE NELSON, Election 2024
The Washington Spectator

“Project 2025” has been winning an increasing amount of attention in its own right, but it’s actually the opening salvo of “The 2025 Presidential Transition Project.” This comprehensive playbook was produced under the auspices of the Heritage Foundation and supported by over 100 partner organizations. Officially titled “Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise,” its perverse genius lies in its sheer length—900 pages, much of it mind-numbing bureaucratic prose.

But ignore it at your peril. The massive tome is the latest iteration of a four-decade-long process of crafting right-wing policies to dismantle the federal government, deregulate industry and eliminate consumer protections and public health measures, while installing a regime controlled by fossil fuel interests and the Religious Right. Not coincidentally, the members of its advisory board have been making headlines attacking American institutions at a grassroots level, in preparation for the big takeover—ranging from Moms4Liberty’s assaults on local public schools, to the Koch-founded Institute on Energy Research’s war on climate initiatives.

Project 2025 lays out specifics for hundreds of policy objectives affecting every area of public life. Many of them affect three primary areas: first, the dismantling of environmental regulations, clean energy measures, and climate policy; second, a rollback of civil and political rights for women and LGBTQ populations and the elimination of public health measures; and third, a massive purge of career civil servants and the concentration of power in the Executive branch in the White House, to consolidate an entrenched authoritarian regime. The following inventory of Project 2025 prescriptions is far from comprehensive, rather it is an attempt to highlight a few of the more alarming features.

Here are ten things you need to know about Project 2025:

1. It’s not just about Trump. Project 2025 specifically states that it does not depend on a Trump victory in November; it’s explicitly directed at “the next conservative” or “the next GOP” occupant of the White House. Since its donors and partner organizations have achieved effective control of the Republican Party through purging moderates and promoting their supporters, it’s unlikely that any Republican candidate can successfully run without their support.

Translation: Cumulatively, these organizations control massive voting blocs, concentrated among evangelical Christians, and coordinate extensive and carefully-orchestrated disinformation media that spreads, most concerningly, across battleground states.

2. It’s not new. Project 2025 builds on a longstanding series of “Mandates for Leadership,” going back to the Reagan Administration in 1981. The authors claim that

Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump both implemented over half of their previous recommendations. Thanks to their inroads in federal court appointments during the Trump Administration, they are now in the position to implement far more.

Translation: The Project 2025 partner organizations have been putting the squeeze on every Republican president since Reagan, and have often been disappointed. They met with unprecedented success with Donald Trump, and have no intention of giving up their advantage.

This project was bought and paid for with funding from the Koch Network and Leonard Leo. Although the names of the over 100 supporting organizations are trimmed with terms such as “freedom,” “public,” and “independent,” over a third of them receive funding from the Koch Network, the driving force in advancing climate denial in the US.

(According to a review of IRS filings by Ralph Wilson of the Corporate Genome Project, a partial list of Koch Network beneficiaries include the Alabama Policy Institute, Alliance Defending Freedom, American Commitment, American Council of Trustees and Alumni, American Juris Link, American Legislative Council [ALEC], Citizens Against Government Waste, Claremont Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Concerned Women for America, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Family Policy Alliance, Foundation for Government Accountability, Heartland Institute, Heritage Foundation, Hillsdale College, Independent Women’s Forum, Institute for Energy Research, Intercollegiate Studies Institute, James Madison Institute, Leadership Institute, Liberty University, Mackinac Center, Mississippi Center for Public Policy, National Association of Scholars, Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Pacific Research Institute, Patrick Henry College, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life

America, Tea Party Patriots, and the Texas Public Policy Foundation.)

Some two-thirds of the groups are funded by Leonard Leo philanthropies, powered by a \$1.6 billion war chest from Chicago billionaire Barre Seid. Leo, a leading figure of the Catholic right, has led the initiative to install conservative judges in the US federal courts and played a pivotal role in overturning Roe. Recipients of Leo’s funding include Leo’s own Marble Freedom Trust (Leonard Leo, chairman); the Teneo Network (Leonard Leo, chairman) and the 85 Fund (a Leo funding hub).

The Koch Network and Leo funding regimes overlap in many cases, including through Donors Trust, a massive dark money donor-advised fund. Not coincidentally, Leo, Donors Trust CEO Lawson Bader, and the directors of a large percentage of the supporting organization are members of the Council for National Policy, the secretive umbrella organization that coordinates the activities of right-wing donors, media, and front organizations. William Walton, President of the CNP from 2020-2022, is the lead author on the chapter on the Treasury translation: The best autocracy money can buy.

3. According to Project 2025’s website, the recommendations constitute the first of “four pillars” of a 180-day plan.

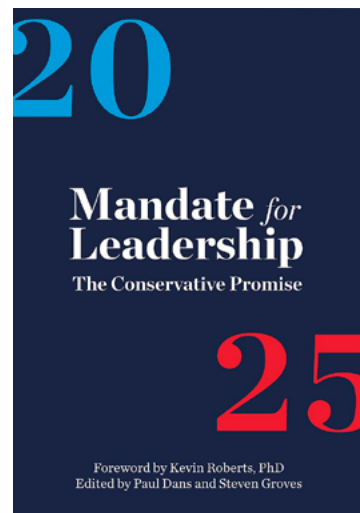
The implementation of the first step, or “policy agenda,” corresponds to Trump’s promise to be “dictator for a day” and issue a sweeping round of executive orders. This would include the reimposition of Schedule F, removing civil service protection from tens of thousands of federal employees and replacing them with political allies.

The second pillar, currently underway, is the compilation of a “Personnel Database” to “cast a net across the country to identify conservatives from all walks of life to serve in the next conservative administration”—known as “Linked-In for the Right.”

The third pillar is a “Presidential Administration Academy,” also currently underway, which offers online and in-person certificate programs for recruits to “start implementing the President’s agenda from Day One.”

The fourth pillar, the “180-Day Playbook,” involves “a concrete, comprehensive action plan for each federal agency.” This would be implemented by former members of the Trump Administration (many of whom are listed as authors of chapters concerning their agencies), along with the newly recruited “army” of militants.

Translation: This is not a drill: the MAGA Plan is already underway.



The massive tome is the latest iteration of a four-decade-long process of crafting right-wing policies to dismantle the federal government, deregulate industry and eliminate consumer protections and public health measures, while installing a regime controlled by fossil fuel interests and the Religious Right.

continued from previous page

Principal Policy Initiatives: Some Specifics

4. Climate, Environment, and Energy: Recommendations regarding energy, climate and the environment are dispersed among a number of chapters. The authors of these chapters are telling. The lead author for the chapter concerning the Department of Energy is Bernard McNamee, a former member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under the Trump administration, an advisor to Ted Cruz, and a member of the Federalist Society. The lead author for the chapter on the Environmental Protection Agency served in the agency under Scott Pruitt, the former energy industry lobbyist who served as EPA Administrator under Trump and resigned under a cloud of ethics scandals and charges of gross mismanagement.

Plan 2025's recommendations on climate and energy, which would withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, and expand fossil fuel drilling and consumption, also include:

“Rollbacks. A new Administration must immediately roll back Biden's order, reinstate the Trump-era Energy Dominance Agenda, rescind [Department of the Interior] Secretarial Order 3398 [on protecting public health and restoring science to tackle the climate crisis] and review all regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and similar agency actions made in compliance with that order.” (p. 521)

“End the focus on climate change and green subsidies.... Eliminate energy efficiency standards for appliances.... [which currently include] air conditioners, furnaces, water heaters, stoves, clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers, light bulbs, and shower heads.” (p. 378)

“The Clean Energy Corps is charged with investing more than \$62 billion to deliver a more equitable clean energy future for the American people.’...New Policies: Eliminate the Clean Energy Corps by revoking funding and eliminating all positions and personnel hired under the program.” (p. 386)

“The next Administration should eliminate the Climate Hub Office and withdraw from climate change agreements that are inimical to the prosperity of the United States.... [and] withdraw the U.S. from the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.” (p. 709)

“USAID should cease its war on fossil fuels in the developing world and support the responsible management of oil and gas reserves as the quickest way to end wrenching poverty and the need for open-ended foreign aid. The next conservative Administration should rescind all climate

policies from its foreign aid programs (especially USAID's Climate Strategy 2022-2030), shut down the agency's offices, programs, and directives designed to advance the Paris Climate Agreement, and narrowly limit funding to traditional climate mitigation efforts.” (p. 257)

“With the federal government facing mounting debt, the best course of action would be to remove federal subsidies for transit spending.” (p. 636)

Translation: The fossil fuel industries intend to go for broke, extracting every last penny of profit from their wanton destruction of the planet—and we'll foot the bill.

Protections for wildlife are also targeted:

“Rescind the Biden rules and reinstate the Trump rules regarding 1. BLM [Bureau of Land Management] waste prevention; 2. The Endangered Species Act rules defining Critical Habitat and Critical Habitat Exclusions; 3. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and 4. CEQ [White House Council on Environmental Quality] reforms to NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act].” (p. 524)

“Reinstate



President Trump's plan for opening most of the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska to leasing and development.” (p. 524)

A school lunch tray with all the MyPlate food groups recommended by the Department of Agriculture. Project 2025 would eliminate free school meals.

Translation:

So much for the birds, the bees, and the endangered species. That could eventually include us.

5. Public Health. The recommendations concerning health are dispersed among the introduction and various chapters. Together, they argue for an abandonment of the government's role in promoting public health for American children and adults. The author of the foreword is Heritage President Kevin Roberts and the chapter on the Department of Health and Human Services is Roger Severino, a former Trump appointee who previously served as the director of the DeVos Center at the Heritage Foundation. His wife, CNP member Carrie Severino, who clerked for Clarence Thomas, currently heads the Judicial Crisis Network, which coordinates efforts with Leonard Leo on federal court appointments.

Roberts' foreword launches a full-bore assault on LGBTQ and reproductive rights, in an Orwellian exercise seeking to erase the very vocabulary of social progress from the national discourse.

“The next conservative President must make the

Plan 2025's recommendations on climate and energy, which would withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, and expand fossil fuel drilling and consumption.

institutions of American civil society hard targets for woke culture warriors. This starts with deleting the terms sexual orientation and gender identity ('SOGI'), diversity, equity, and inclusion ('DEI'), gender, gender equality, gender awareness, gender-sensitive, abortion, reproductive health, reproductive rights, and any other term used to deprive Americans of their First Amendment rights out of every federal rule, agency regulation, contract, grant, regulation, and piece of legislation that exists.” (p. 4-5)

Translation: Forget the goal of “health” if it involves female organs.

Not surprisingly, Severino's first stated goal is to “protect the fundamental right to life.” “Goal #4: Preparing for the Next Health Emergency” codifies COVID disinformation (such as the claim of “excess deaths” due to lockdowns, etc.), and seeks to disable the Centers for Disease Control's ability to advise the public on measures for disease control.

“The COVID-10 pandemic demonstrated how catastrophic a micromanaging, misinformed, centralized, and politicized federal government can be. Basic human rights, medical choice, and the doctor-patient relationship were trampled without scientific justification and for extended periods of time. Excess deaths, not due to COVID-19, skyrocketed because of forced lockdowns, isolation, vaccine-related mass firings, and colossal disruptions to the economy and daily rhythms of life... Unaccountable bureaucrats like Anthony Fauci should never again have such broad, unchecked power to issue health “guidelines” that will certainly be the basis for federal and state mandates.” (p. 451-452)

Translation: “Excess deaths, not due to COVID-19, skyrocketed” never happened. But why quibble over details.

The chapter even seeks to prohibit the CDC from advising the vaccination of schoolchildren. (As of March 3, outbreaks of measles, a potentially deadly disease easily avoided through vaccination, have been reported in 17 states).

“By statute or regulation, CDC guidance must be prohibited from taking on a prescriptive character. For example, never again should CDC officials be allowed to say in their official capacity that school children ‘should be’ masked or vaccinated (through a schedule or otherwise) or prohibited from learning in a school building.” (p. 454)

Translation: The Centers for Disease Control should be prohibited from attempting to control disease. Thanks to anti-vaxxing campaigns, we now confront rampant

continued next page

continued from previous page

outbreaks of measles, with a statistical likelihood of 1-2 preventable deaths per 1000 children. Is polio far behind?

6. Plan 2025's "Family Agenda" also has profound implications for the health and safety of children, which would evidently constrain child protective services, foster homes, and adoption for children at risk:

"The Secretary should proudly state that men and women are biological realities that are crucial to the advancement of life sciences and medical care and that married men and women are the ideal natural family structure because all children have a right to be raised by the men and women who conceived them." (p. 489)

"Promoting Life and Family. In dealing with sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, the OASH (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health) should focus on root-cause analysis with a focus on strengthening marriage and sexual risk avoidance." (p. 490)

Translation: Limiting parenting to "the men and women who conceived them" would eliminate adoption and foster homes for abused children, to say nothing of "unnatural family structures." Also, marriage has traditionally proven to be an unreliable cure for syphilis.

The chapter on the Department of Labor includes one of various measures designed to roll back the rights of LGBTQ populations:

"Rescind regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, transgender status, and sex characteristics." (p. 584)

Translation: Allow LGBTQ individuals to be fired without cause. And what are "sex characteristics"?

Other chapters seek to eliminate Department of Agriculture's role in promoting nutrition and food safety inspection, and additional measures to promote occupational safety.

The next Administration should "promote legislation that would allow state-inspected meat to be sold in interstate commerce. These barriers to the sale of meat and poultry from USDA-approved state-inspected facilities should be removed." (p. 305)

Translation: Let's let Sarah Huckabee Sanders' Arkansas hog and poultry inspectors decide on food safety for the rest of us.

"Eliminate or Reform the Dietary Guidelines. Nutrition and dietary choices are best left to individuals to address their personal needs.... The next Administration should: Work with lawmakers to repeal the Dietary Guidelines. (p. 309)

Translation: Because with 40 percent of Americans obese and 70 percent overweight, we're obviously getting

adequate nutritional guidance—as reflected by our declining life expectancy (trailing Macao, the Maldives, and Kosovo).

"Congress should: ...Repeal the Dodd-Frank mandated disclosures relating to conflict minerals, mine safety, resource extraction, and CEO pay ratios." (p. 832)

Translation: Because occupational safety could affect CEO pay ratios?

7. Plan 2025 calls for the concentration of powers in the White House.

The chapter on the "White House Office" was written by Rick Dearborn, formerly Trump's Deputy Chief of Staff. It anticipates legal challenges to the wholesale withdrawal of regulatory measures, and calls for preemptive legal action.

"To offer guidance, the White House Counsel must get up to speed as quickly as possible on all significant ongoing legal challenges across the executive branch that might affect the new Administration's policy agenda and must be prepared at the outset of the administration to present recommendations to the president including recommendations for reconsidering or reversing positions of the previous Administration in any significant litigation."(p. 28)

The chapter on the Department of Justice also calls for expansion of presidential powers. It was written by Gene Hamilton, who formerly served in Trump's DOJ. He is the general counsel of the America First Legal Foundation, co-founded with former White House advisor Stephen Miller. Hamilton calls for the conversion of the FBI into a political instrument of the President:

"The next conservative Administration should direct the Attorney General to remove the FBI from the Deputy Attorney General's direct supervision within the department's organizational chart and instead place it under the general supervision of the Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division, as applicable.... Such a structure would...place the FBI under a politically accountable leader with fewer things to manage than the Deputy Attorney General or the Attorney General have." (p. 549-50)

Translation: There will be lawsuits, but with an army of White House lawyers and the FBI acting as a White House security force, these can be dealt with.

8. In a break from precedent, the chapter on the State Department calls for a preemptive mass disruption of the diplomatic corps, and the immediate installation of loyalists in place of career diplomats, without regard for security clearances and other protocols—a recipe for chaos. The chapter also calls for a "freeze" on international treaties,

disbursements, etc.

"Reboot Ambassadors Worldwide. All ambassadors are required to submit letters of resignation at the start of a new Administration. Previous Republican Administrations have accepted the resignations of only the political ambassador and allowed the foreign service ambassadors to retain their posts, sometimes for months or years into a new Administration. The next Administration must go further. It should both accept the resignation of all political ambassadors and quickly review and reassess all career ambassadors. This review should commence well before the new Administration's first day. Ambassadors in countries where U.S. policy or posture would substantially change under the new Administration, as well as who have evinced hostility toward the incoming Administration or its agenda, should be recalled immediately. The priority should be to put in place new ambassadors who support the President's agenda among political appointees, foreign service officers, and civil service personnel, with no predetermined percentage among these categories." (p. 174)

Translation: Career foreign service officers can join their fellow civil servants in the bread line, and cronies can take their place. What could possibly go wrong?

"Before inauguration, the President-elect's department transition team should assess every aspect of State Department negotiations and funding commitments. Upon inauguration, the Secretary of State should order an immediate freeze on all efforts to implement unratified treaties and international agreements, allocation of resources, foreign assistance disbursements, domestic and international contracts and payments, hiring and recruiting decisions, etc., pending a political appointee-driven review to ensure that such efforts comport with the new Administration's policies." (p.174)

Translation: Continuity in foreign policy be damned. Our allies won't mind because we won't have any.

Plan 2025 contains relatively little material on foreign policy, but what it does include is concerning. "Ending economic engagement" with China would collapse the economy (as opposed to the current policy of gradually diversifying supply chains); likewise, it's hard to imagine that including Russia in the "Europe, Eurasia, and Russia region" will contribute usefully to the "global security architecture" under the current international situation.

"Economic engagement with China should be ended, not rethought." (p. 13)

Translation: "Ending" trade with China would collapse the global economy. But whatever.

"American foreign policy has long benefited from cooperation with the countries of Europe (generally, the EU), and any conservative Administration should build on this resource. Yet the transatlantic relationship is complex, with security, trade, and political dimensions. First, the



The chapter on the Department of Labor includes one of various measures designed to roll back the rights of LGBTQ populations.

TOM MYERS: ONE OF OUR FINEST POETS

Tom Myers is a retired teacher who grew up in Modesto in the 1950s when it was still a small agricultural community. Much of his poetry is framed by a sense of place. He enjoys walking his dog, birding, hiking, and the quiet of wild places. He is currently a board member of MoSt, Audubon, and Modesto Neighbors Inc.



A Gathering of Voices is pleased to feature six of his poems in this issue of *Stanislaus Connections*.

Towards Thanksgiving

~ after Linda Pastan

There is always a vacant farm,
a dilapidated tank house riddled
with bullet holes, a rickety barbed
wire fence, buckled posts and rusted wire.

We almost find it – beyond the sleepy Greyhound
Bus Depot, beyond County Road A7 rimmed
by walls of silage corn. The road embraces us as
we travel with Bob and Dave, towards a Thanksgiving
wrapped farm house, where a giant red oak peers
above the second story window, three blackbirds
drift like lint above the chimney; disappearing
as the house vanishes around a bend, out of reach,
the way a dream disappears the moment of waking.

Riding Bart

Two stops before Dublin,
A woman appears from the next car
Wearing a soiled red flannel shirt,
Grubby jeans and tattered sneakers.
Thin lips, turned down mouth,
Drawn face. Flops into an empty seat.
“Need a dollar,” she barks.
“I have a dollar,” a man replies.
“That’s not enough. Give me three,”
she demands.
“A dollar’s all I have.”
She grabs it, turns away,
Disappears through the exit door.
Her desperation and pain remain.
The years of her life, dwindling.
Every night, alone.
No one to hold the hurt of her heart.

Tendrils

A taste of memory
lingers on my lips
a kiss, a sweet pomegranate.
Open eyes search
the fields of youth
where a great horned owl
perched on a gray fence post
near the farmhouse
where I did not live.
Its tendrils reaching out,
a thread crackling electric,
a tremor in my bones.

Water Song

He stood
On the river
Toes buried in mud.

His friends chided
“Come on, it’s shallow
We’ve been here before.”

Last September
When the murky Tuolumne oozed,
Not in mid-April.

His cry for help
Was lost
Swallowing green water.

A Skin-diver emerged
Forty yards downstream
A wide-eyed frog.

“Why don’t they learn to swim?”
A whisper carried
From a circle of orange vests.

Her chest heaves
Shallow breaths
Of loss.

She remembers the rivers
Of her home
Where she swam as a child.

Rivers running flat
In the Mekong Delta
The scent of lemon grass strong.

Baptism in Zion

Stone skyscrapers shade Upper Emerald pool.
A waterfall dimples its surface like tiny fish

chasing mosquitoes. Vertical lines of desert varnish
extend hundreds of feet draping Navajo sandstone

in brown, tan and gray banners. Maiden hair ferns thrive
on a damp shelf tucked beneath rock’s broad torso.

A young father stands near water’s edge, cradling their
daughter; his wife motions him closer to the pool; takes

a photo, witness to the baptism of their first born. Pearls
of spray plink water’s surface, faint piano keys.

The anointing mist washes over her
in the name of earth, sky and water.

Sacred cathedral walls voice this new prayer,
evoke the glory of stone, the power, the permanence.

Untethered

~ Based on a photo by Tim Ragsdale

Three turkey vultures perch
on separate rocky crags,
speckled granite hosting green,
brown and orange lichen.

Great beveled wings spread open
ruffling long fingered feathers,
a salutation to the sun,
warm rays a blessing.

They lift in a flurry of feathers
reaching for blue sky, wings
skirting cliff clouds, shadows
rippling over stony backbones.

Higher and higher they soar
in widening, wobbly circles
like floaters appearing
across the lens of an eye.

Dark specks disappearing,
lone black angels
opening
another door to heaven.



Great Programs on KCBP 95.5 fm, the Voice of the Valley

Streaming on www.kcbpradio.org

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Confetti Park - Music, stories New Orleans style, Saturdays at 8:00 am; & Sunday's 12:30 pm.

The Children's Hour - Sundays 3:00 pm.

SCIENCE

Radio Ecoshock – the latest scientific information on Climate Change – Saturdays, 9:00 am.

Explorations – Science explained with Dr. Michio Kaku - 9:00 am Sundays.

Big Picture Science - 1:00 pm Sundays.

Planetary Radio – 2:30 pm Sundays.

PROGRAMS

Ukraine 2.4.2 - a collaboration between Anne Levine, WOMR, the Pacifica Network, and Kraina FM, a 26-city radio network in Ukraine that arranges weekly cutting-edge and exclusive interviews with key people in Ukraine – Thursdays, 10:00 am.

Beethoven to Bernstein - Classical music ranging from Beethoven to Bernstein. Big hits from well-renown composers - Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Ravel, Copland - and many more, mostly in the form of orchestral, chamber, and piano music - Saturdays, 10:00 pm.

The Not Old – Better Show - fascinating, high-energy program of big-name guests, inspiring role models, interesting topics, with entertaining host and former Modestan, Paul Vogelzang – Fridays, 2:00 pm, Saturdays, 12:30 pm.

Down on the Farm - topics important for our San Joaquin agriculture with Madera organic farmer Tom Willey - Saturdays, 6 am

Sounds Irish Music from County Wicklow - Saturdays, 7:00 pm.



Various musical programs during the noon hour: Oldies, Old Piano, and International.

Dead Air - Hear the Grateful Dead with Cory Daniels. Fridays, 6 pm; Saturdays, 3 pm.

Attitude with Arne Arnesen – 3:00 pm. Political and social issues.

Sojourner Truth - 4:00 pm – Tuesdays. Interviews and panels focus on issues that affect people of color.

Democracy Now! - 7:00 am, Monday thru Friday. Reporting by veteran journalists Amy Goodman & Juan Gonzalez.

Flashpoint Magazine - 10:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. Politics, social issues, from KQED's Dennis Bernstein.

Alternative Radio – 4:00 pm, Mondays. Interviews with prominent political and social people.

Julian Taylor's Jukebox – 4:00 pm, Thursdays and Fridays. Eclectic, contemporary music.

Nuestra Música – 4:00 pm, Tuesdays. Eclectic, Latin-flavored music with a beat!

LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

Rockin' with MJC – One-hour music shows by Modesto Junior College students. 1:00 a.m. Saturdays; 2:00 p.m. Saturdays; 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays.

Triumphant Tuesdays – Noon, Tuesdays. Inspirational thoughts & music with Catrice.

Sports Talk Modesto - Join Jay Freeda and Jimmie Menezes. Snappy banter to catch up on everything happening in the sports world. – Thursdays, 5 pm.

Vib'n with the West Modesto Collaborative - Jasmine Corena and Likhi Rivas. Engage, Educate, and Advocate on behalf of the West Modesto Community. Showcases Voices of the West Modesto Community – Wednesdays, 7 pm.

AREA 5150 UFO RADIO – Spooky music & sounds out of this world, Friday night, 11:00 pm.

Cyber Stallion: Bucks Stallion's Radio Transmission Emporium – Cyber Acoustic Music - Saturdays, 12:00 am, Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

I-On-Modesto - John Griffin interviews local people who reveal their inspiring stories. Mondays & Fridays, 10 am and Wednesdays at 9 pm.

Arts of the San Joaquin Valley with Linda Scheller and Laura Stokes - Mondays, 8:00 pm; Tuesdays, 9:00 am & Wednesdays, 8:00 pm. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp> and on Spotify

Women of the Valley with Linda Scheller and Laura Stokes - 8:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays & Wednesdays, 9:00 am. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbpwotv> and on Spotify.

Modesto Sound - California Audio Roots Project (CARP) – Tuesdays 5:30 pm, Wednesdays 11:30 am, & Sundays 11:00 am & 4:30 pm.

Sunday Cruisin' with your host, DeeJay Rig! Oldies hits from 1959 to 1999 – Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

Faithful Fridays – inspirational music and thoughts with Catrice – Fridays, 7:00 p.m.

Why Not Nice? - Showcases unique music from unique cultures and thinkers worldwide, focusing on world/academic/jazz and roots music – Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

Mars Radio – Hip-Hop Show - Music, interviews from local & regional artists - Fridays, 8:00 pm. A new, second show plays on Saturday nights at 8:00 pm, with a third at 8:00 pm Sundays.

Modesto Area Music Awards (MAMA) with Middagh Goodwin – Mondays 5:00 pm; Fridays 9:00 pm & Saturdays 6:00 pm.

Freak Radio with Christian E. Boyett, 6 pm Thursdays. Replays Saturdays, 9 pm & Tuesdays 11 pm.

This is SKA with Middagh Goodwin - Tuesdays, 9 pm; Fridays, 11 pm; Sundays, 5 am to 7 am.

I'll Take You There - A musical journey with Modesto's El Comandante - Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sundays, 9:00 pm.

Penny Bloods – Fun, Victorian melodrama radio plays, often performed by local actors, written by Arnold Anthony Schmidt, CSU, Stanislaus. As scheduled.

PSAs in English and Spanish produced by the West Modesto Community Collaborative.

LISTEN TO OUR MUSIC PLAYLISTS AT SPINITRON <https://spinitron.com/KCBP/calendar>

Find a complete programming schedule on our website, www.kcbpradio.org

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION: Donate here: <https://kcbpradio.org/donate/> Please consider a recurring monthly donation.



DOWNLOAD THE APP

Project 2025: The Latest Plot Against America continued from page 8

Europe, Eurasia, and Russia region is made up of relatively wealthy and technologically advanced societies that should be expected to bear a fair share of both security needs and global security architecture. (p. 187)

Translation: Inviting the “Russia region” to “bear a fair share” of “global security architecture” may be a tell. Goodbye NATO.

9. The chapter on the **Department of Homeland Security** was written by CNP member Ken Cuccinelli, who used his position in the department under the Trump administration to restrict immigrant rights. It calls for limiting cybersecurity and anti-disinformation efforts, especially “closer to an election.” It also mislabels the findings of the Mueller Report regarding Russian election interference as a “Clinton campaign ‘dirty trick.’”

“Of the utmost urgency is immediately ending CISA’s (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) counter-mis/disinformation efforts. The federal government cannot be the arbiter of truth. CISA began this work because of alleged Russian misinformation in the 2016 election, which in fact turned out to be a Clinton campaign ‘dirty trick.’... the entirety of the CISA Cybersecurity Advisory Committee should be dismissed on Day One....CISA should not be significantly involved closer to an election.” (p. 155)

The chapter on the Department of Justice calls for an end to FBI measures to combat disinformation as well—leaving the door open for ongoing disinformation efforts from Russia, China, and Iran, as documented in the Mueller Report.

“Prohibit the FBI from engaging, in general, in activities related to combating the spread of so-called misinformation and disinformation by Americans who are not tied to any plausible criminal activity.” (p. 550)

Translation: Welcome to the Kremlin News Network.

10. **How much of Plan 2025 is feasible?** It’s difficult to imagine a president coming into office and “ending economic engagement” with China, or cancelling

Voters should regard Project 2025 as a full-throated statement of intent. If there’s anything the past eight years have taught us, it should be that the unimaginable is all too often achievable.

expenditures allocated by Congress. But the Trump Administration succeeded in reversing a large number of environmental regulations during Scott Pruitt’s tenure at the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as other protective measures that have been restored by the Biden Administration. The Trump Administration took measures against the Department of Agriculture’s research divisions on climate science, food assistance, and tax policy by moving them to Kansas City, losing half of the staff, and these divisions are still recovering.

These measures met resistance from the courts and Congressional Democrats. But thanks to the Trump administration, the current Mandate for Leadership would be better positioned than its predecessors. Trump’s court appointments could remove legal guardrails to more radical measures, and a Republican Congress would eliminate many

of the remaining obstacles. Republicans currently control 27 statehouses, compared to the Democrats’ 21, and have used their position to leverage bills across state lines limiting reproductive rights and advancing voter suppression. As many of these laws make their way through the appeals process, their ultimate destination will be a Supreme Court that was tilted by Trump, Leo, and their allies.

Voters should regard Project 2025 as a full-throated statement of intent. If there’s anything the past eight years have taught us, it should be that the unimaginable is all too often achievable.

Translation: Project 2025—it’s not a threat, it’s a promise.


Anne Nelson is the author of *Shadow Network: Money, Media, and the Secret Hub of the Radical Right*. Nelson is the recipient of the Livingston Award for journalism and a Guggenheim Fellowship for historical research.

“Project 2025: The Latest Plot Against America” by Anne Nelson, Published Mar 13, in *The Washington Spectator*, <https://washingtonspectator.org/project-2025-the-latest-plot-against-america/>

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

DRUG-RELATED OVERDOSE & POISONING DEATHS!

Stanislaus County has been impacted by a recent increase in suspected drug-related overdose and accidental poisoning deaths




What you can do:

- Carry Naloxone (NARCAN)
- If you suspect an overdose, call 911 right away - even if you administered Naloxone (NARCAN)
- Check in with friends and family with a history of substance use
- Seek treatment for substance use disorder
 - Call 1-888-376-6246

FOR MORE INFORMATION Visit StanCounty.com or StanRx.net

IN MEMORIAM



Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr.
September 22, 1928 - June 9, 2024
Civil Rights Leader
Pioneer in the Teaching of Non-Violent Resistance

Robert Gallo
Conservationist, Winemaker

Photo: Joon Powell

2024 Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace
Poetry Contest
The awards contest encourages poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit.

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Extended Deadline!

July 15 2024

More information
peacecontests.org
1622 Anacapa Street, CA, 93101

MRB MICHAEL R. BAUDLER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

mb@modestocpas.com **Michael R. Baudler, CPA**

TELEPHONE (209) 575-2653 ext 303

FACSIMILE (209) 575-0629

1120 14TH STREET, SUITE 2
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354

KD UR LAW OFFICES OF
KELLY, DUARTE, URSTOEGER & RUBLE, LLP

Sharon E. Kelly 1600 G St
Jeffrey R. Duarte Suite 203
Markus R. Urstoeger P.O. Box 0142
Megan E. Ruble Modesto, CA

Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability Attorneys
Know your rights
Call today (209) 521-2552

calendar

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

july

The Prospect Theatre: 23/24 season has continuing offerings. Visit <https://prospecttheaterproject.org/>

2 TUES: VIGIL: PEACE-ISRAEL-GAZA at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five Points), 4:00-5:00 pm. Call the Center for info: 209-529-5750 or email jcostello@igc.org NOTE DAY & TIME CHANGE.

4 THURS: Peace/Life Center ZOOM Monthly Board Meeting, 6:00 pm. Email jcostello@igc.org for login.

9 TUES: Monolin "Manny" Moreno & Lillian Vallee, Second Tuesday Poetry, The Artist Lab at Prospect Theater Project, 1214 K St., Modesto. 7:00 p.m.

21 SUN: The State Theatre and Modesto Film Society presents *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* at 2 pm. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, and support Modesto's historic non-profit theatre. Visit <https://thestate.org/films/star-trek-ii-the-wrath-of-khan-072024/>

august

MAPS - Modesto Area Partners in Science: Free MJC science programs on Fridays in MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 pm. unless noted otherwise. Schedule: TBA.

Modesto Science Colloquium: Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 pm, MJC West Campus, SCC 115. Free and Open to the Public. Check our website for updates and live and recorded talks: <https://www.youtube.com/@mjcsceincecolloquium7636>. Schedule: TBA.

6 TUES: NO VIGIL this month.

6 TUES: Annual Hiroshima Remembrance & Potluck. Graceada Park, Modesto, 6:00 PM. Bring food and drinks to share as we converse and rededicate ourselves to reversing the efforts to rebuild and proliferate nuclear weapons. Bring your own table service and a lawn chair.

18 SUN: The State Theatre and Modesto Film Society presents *Lincoln* at 2 pm. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, and support Modesto's historic non-profit theatre. Visit <https://thestate.org/films/lincoln-082024/>

regular meetings

SUNDAYS

Unity of Modesto meets in person every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at 2467 Veneman, Modesto. Information: 209-578-5433.

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

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. All are welcome. For more information, please email charlie@imcv.org. Our mailing address is IMCV, P.O. Box 579564, Modesto, CA 95357.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County meets in person and on Zoom every Sunday at 10:30 am at 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto. Info: 209-788-3720; www.stanuu.org

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

MONDAYS

The Compassionate Friends, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter is meeting by Zoom on the second Mondays at 7:00pm. Bereaved parents, grandparents, and adult siblings are invited to participate in this support group for families whose children have died at any age, from any cause. Call 209-622-6786 or email for details: tcfmodestoriverbank@gmail.com; <https://www.modestoriverbanktcf.org/>

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

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. Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com or call 209.577.1604.

TUESDAYS

Women's Support Group for Women in all stages of life. Join us in a safe and judgment-free environment where you can give and receive support for the many issues that we struggle with as Womxn. Every Tuesday from 1 pm-2 pm at the CalPride, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto CA (Ages +18), (209) 408 8848. If less than 18, encourage bringing a chaperone. Contact Sandra Vidor - 209.652.3961 or Kellie Johnson 209.918.0271. This event moves to Wednesday on March 20.

Climate Action Justice Network-Stanislaus meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CJAN-FirstTuesday>

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@mopride.org, 209-284-0999.

First Tuesday - LGBTQ+ Ages 12-14, 5-7 pm activities and support. Second Tuesday- LGBTQ+ Ages 15-17, 5-7 pm activities and support. Third Tuesday-Friends and Family, 5-7 pm Discussion and emotional support. CalPride, 1202 H St., Modesto, (209) 408-8848.

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. King-Kennedy Center, 601 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto, 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm. 209-645-1909; For ZOOM link, visit <https://www.naacpmodestostanislaus.org/> email: naacp.branch1048@gmail.com

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

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

Tuesday Evening Funstrummers Ukulele Jam. Songbooks provided. 6pm to 8pm, 1600 Carver Rd., Donation. 209-505-3216, www.funstrummers.com.

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

WEDNESDAYS

Women's Support Group for Women in all stages of life. Join us in a safe and judgment-free environment where you can give and receive support for the many issues that we struggle with as Womxn. Every Wednesday from 12 pm-1 pm at the CalPride, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto CA (Ages +18). If younger than 18, encourage bringing a chaperone. (209) 408-8848. Contact Sandra Vidor- 209.652.3961 or Kellie Johnson 209.918.0271.

Retired Public Employees Association. All seniors welcome! Meetings every third Wednesday. Denny's Restaurant, 1525 McHenry Ave. 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Call (209) 324-2060. Pay \$8.00 and order from the menu.

The Almond Blossom Sangha meets on Wednesdays, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Zoom, and sometimes hybrid, for meditation and Dharma discussions. Call Anne at 209-404-4835 for more information.

The GAP. A place of support for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ or questioning kids every Wednesday 6:30

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

MEDIA: Listen to **KCBP95.5 FM** Community Radio, the "Voice of the Valley" also streaming at <http://www.KCBPradio.org>

PEACE LIFE CENTER BOARD MEETING, FIRST Thursdays, 829 13th St., Modesto, 6:00 pm, 529-5750. Meetings on Zoom. Email Jim Costello for login information, jcostello@igc.org

PEACE/LIFE CENTER MODESTO, 829 13th St. Call 209-529-5750. We'll get back to you with current info on activities.

pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1528 Oakdale Rd. Instagram: Thegapmodesto

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

Let's Talk Coffee. LGBTQ+ Senior (age +55) Coffee Meet up! Every Thursday @ 1 pm., CalPride, 1202 H St., Modesto. "Weekly social group to provide connectedness and community inclusion for LGBTQ+ Senior Citizens. Men, women, and gender non-conforming individuals encouraged, refreshments and snacks provided. Contact Steven Cullen, 559.799.0464.

CA10 Progressive Coalition Monthly Meeting, third Thursdays. Inclusive group of progressive activists to share resources, ideas, and information in order to support all the great organizing work happening in the Valley! Feel free to invite trusted allies. Meet-up and social hour: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. Meeting: 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Follow group on Facebook. Info: Tim Robertson, tim@nvlf.org

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

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, 1pm to 2 pm, Central Valley Pride Center, 400 12th St., Suite 2, Modesto, CA. Information: John Aguirre at cell/text - (559) 280-3864/ e-mail: jpmadesto@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

3rd Thursday Art Walk, downtown Modesto, third Thursdays, 5 to 8 pm. stroll to art displays and galleries.

Info: <https://visitmodesto.com/arts-entertainment/#art-walk>

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 Thursday, Cafe Amore, 3025 McHenry Ave, Suite S., Modesto, 8 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

FRIDAYS

International Folk Dancing with Village Dancers, Friday 7:30-9:30 pm (Sept thru May) Carnegie Art Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock \$7. No experience or partner needed. 209-480-0387 for info.

Overcoming Depression: small group for men & women. Every Friday, 7:15 pm. Cornerstone Community Church, 17900 Comconex Rd, Manteca, CA 95366, (209) 825-1220.

Ukulele On Funstrummer Fridays. Every Friday morning from 9 am to 10:30 am Play Along Easy Songs from the Funstrummers Songbooks of over 500 songs. Funstrummers Performing Band Practice from 10 to noon and afternoon gig. Unitarian Church, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto, 209-505-3216 for details. Donations accepted. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mej3gD0ZD40&list=LLB8Y19zZg660qHCXGoC6ojQ&index=1>

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.

SATURDAY

TransForward Group meets at the Queen Bean every Saturday at 1 pm. 18+. Info: 209-408-8848.

First and Third Saturdays - **Gay Men's Group,** Noon to 2 pm. First and Third Saturdays- Positive Support Group for folks living with HIV. All at CalPride, 1202 H St., Suite C, Modesto. Call 209-408-8848.

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, 11 am to 12:30 pm, Gallo Center for the Arts, 10th & I 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

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

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.