

## THE TRUE COST OF INCARCERATION ON FAMILIES

Each year, the United States spends \$80 billion to lock away more than 2.4 million people in its jails and prisons – budgetary allocations that far outpace spending on housing, transportation, and higher education. But costs run deeper than budget line items and extend far beyond the sentences served. These costs are rarely quantified and measured and primarily impact incarcerated populations and the families and communities from whom they are separated, the same people who are already stigmatized, penalized, and punished. Four decades of unjust criminal justice policies have created a legacy of collateral impacts that last for generations and are felt most deeply by women, low-income families, and communities of color.

In March 2014, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Forward Together, and Research Action Design launched a collaborative participatory research project with 20 community-based organizations across the country to address this unjust legacy. Trained community researchers reached directly into communities in 14 states, probing into the financial costs faced when a family member goes to jail or

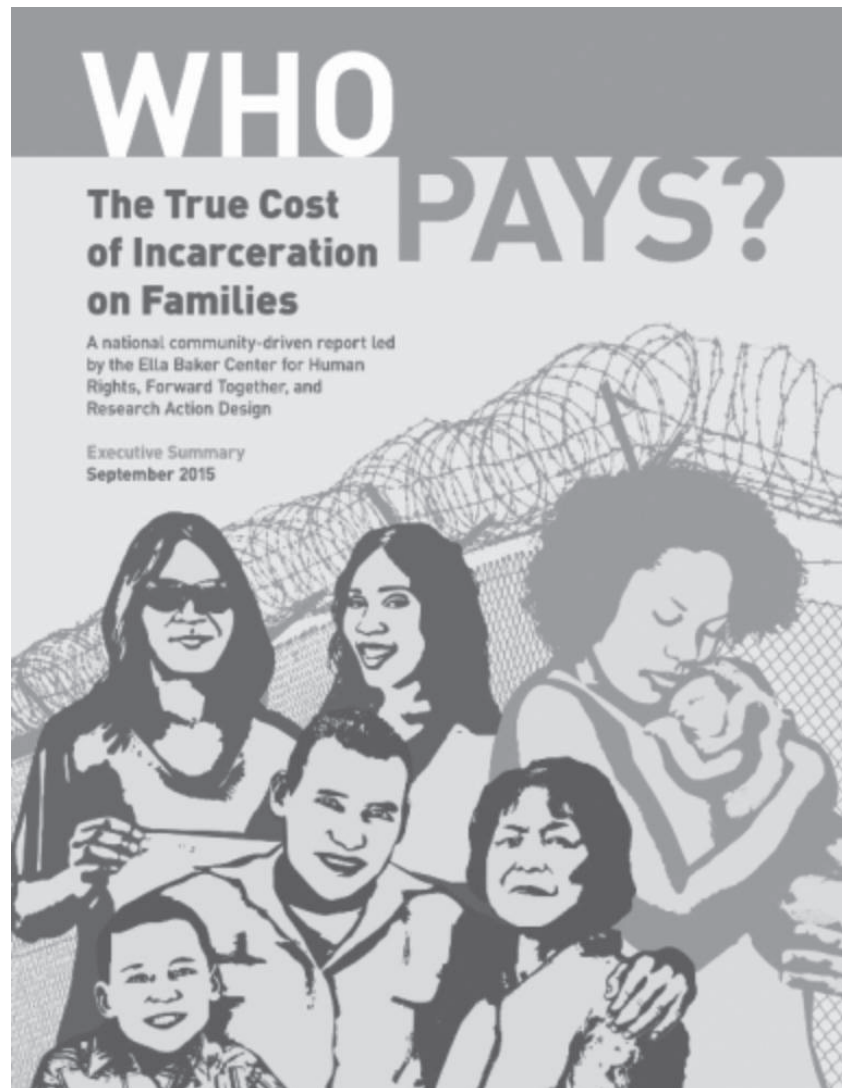
prison, the resulting effects on physical and mental health, and the challenges and barriers encountered by all when an individual returns home. The research included surveys with 712 formerly incarcerated people, 368 family members of the formerly incarcerated, 27 employers, and 34 focus groups with family members and individuals impacted by incarceration. The project revealed that many of the costs and penalties associated with incarceration continue long after incarceration ends and reach far beyond the individual being punished, with negative impacts for families and communities.

The findings show that the long-term costs extend beyond the significant sums already paid by individuals and their families for immediate and myriad legal expenses, including cost of attorney, court fees and fines, and phone and visitation charges. In fact, these costs often amount to one year's total household income for a family and can force a family into debt. Latent costs include, but are not limited to, mental health support, care for untreated physical ailments, the loss of children sent to foster care or extended family, permanent declines in income, and loss of opportunities like education and employment for both the individuals incarcerated and their family members, opportunities that could lead to a brighter future.

Specifically, the research group learned:

People with convictions are saddled with copious fees, fines, and debt at the same time that their economic opportunities are diminished, resulting in a lack of economic stability and mobility.

Forty-eight percent of families in our survey overall were unable to afford the costs associated with a conviction, while among poor families (making less than \$15,000 per year), 58% were unable to afford these costs. Sixty-seven percent of formerly incarcerated individuals associated with our survey were still



unemployed or underemployed five years after their release.

Many families lose income when a family member is removed from household wage earning and struggle to meet basic needs while paying fees, supporting their loved one financially, and bearing the costs of keeping in touch.

Nearly 2 in 3 families (65%) with an incarcerated member were unable to meet their family's basic needs. Fortynine percent struggled with meeting basic food needs and 48% had trouble meeting basic housing needs

because of the financial costs of having an incarcerated loved one.

Women bear the brunt of the costs—both financial and emotional—of their loved one's incarceration.

In 63% of cases, family members on the outside were primarily responsible for court-related costs associated with conviction. Of the family members primarily responsible for these costs, 83% were women.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Nonprofit Org. U.S.  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 488  
Stockton, CA

Peace & Justice Network  
of San Joaquin County  
P.O. Box 4123  
Stockton, CA 95204  
209/467-4455

### SAVE THE DATES

OCT 1 PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TALK P18  
NOV 27 RUN/WALK AGAINST HUNGER P18  
AUG 22 PEACEFUL HOLIDAY FAIRE P18

### CONTENTS

MIGRANTS & REFUGEES P5-6  
IRAN PEACE DEAL P7  
BUSINESS AS USUAL P10-11

GMOS AND GLYPHOSATE P12  
CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS P13-15  
TUNNELS: WRONG P16  
RYAN CAMERO P20



BRUCE GIUDICI

## Editors Letter

Equilibrium is an economic concept that focuses on the inevitable - the endpoint of a process that takes place within environmental boundaries. Right now, we are moving toward equilibria in many processes.

In the global labor market, the current system is moving toward an average wage closer to Mexico than to that of the US. In the movement of human refugees, more people are violating immigration laws to live in relatively peaceful havens. Our environment will settle on a higher average global temperature, once we stop pumping excessive CO2 into our atmosphere. In these areas (and most every other "market" in which humans participate), the rules we set determine the ultimate outcome. At this point of our development, it is absurd to say that the outcomes we fear are inevitable. The outcomes we face are a direct consequence of the way we have chosen to organize society. If we want different outcomes, we need to simply change the rules - and use the abundant resources we

have to effect change. We still have choices.

Our pathetically weak responses to serious environmental and humanitarian challenges are a function of the level to which the powerful rich have limited the scope of possible change. President Obama once observed that a single payer health care system would be preferable if we were starting "from scratch," which of course in all things, we will never be. As a result, he felt forced to accept the second-best solution - now called Obamacare - with the hope that a single payer system will happen within 20 years.

And so, in most all things that matter, the "politics of the real" trumps the politics of reality:

We set up a system that rewards profit - and act surprised when people act greedy.

We lower taxes on wealth - and act surprised when our public schools fail and our bridges and roads crumble for lack of funding.

We subsidize oil

# Signs of a political awakening

exploration for the most wealthy corporations in the world - and act surprised when these profit-driven companies evade the polluting consequences of drilling and exploration and foul our public places as a cost of doing business.

We bomb civilians in the hopes of killing a terrorist leader - and act surprised when the families of those we kill are less than grateful for our service.

We support wars in distant lands to protect our commercial interests - and act surprised when the people in those lands migrate and become part of the largest refugee horde in decades.

We neglect economies in rural backwaters in which there are no American corporate interests - and act surprised when they deforest their lands and eradicate their wildlife to simply survive. And we do this all from the comfort of our living room, where escape is a mere click away.

If we are serious about making this planet a sustainable habitat for future generations, we need to start thinking out of the box into

which we have been placed by the rich and powerful of this world economy. The rules of a marketplace may have sufficed when computers didn't exist and Adam Smith's "invisible hand" determined what was produced and consumed. But that invisible hand of supply and demand has always been a poor allocator of resources - to think otherwise is to believe that widespread starvation, disease, and environmental degradation are acceptable by-products of a system that works perfectly well for those with money, and not at all for the rest of us. Flawed is a system that "efficiently" allocates millions of dollars to hedge fund managers, corporate management and second-string baseball players, yet is unable to allocate anything for Ebola vaccine research, habitat for endangered species, an efficiently run health care or public school system. We can - and will have to - do better, if we are to survive. If powerful computers can be programmed to maximize the profit of a stock sale in milli-seconds, track our every email and predict the weather, why cannot they be used to plan for the efficient planting of edible crops to feed the world's hungry while protecting wildlife habitat? The motivating function

needs to move from profit to sustainability; we all know technology is up to the task. But what of our politics?

As these issues impact more and more people, long-ignored political voices are now being heard. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, for example, are coming out against business as usual - and are striking a chord for greater equality in resource distribution. Not only is this approach morally fair, but it is economically sound: low-income people spend their money because they have to, creating the demand that causes the rich to invest and hire - creating economic growth. And using governmental policy to get prices right can guide consumers to sustainable choices (such as moving subsidies from coal and oil to solar and wind; taxing stock transactions to fund free college tuition; taxing estates to fund public transport). Remembering this basic economic lesson is vital, because monied interests will tell a different story to preserve their privilege.

Establishment views are being questioned more and more; the signs of a political awakening are taking shape. Keep the ball rolling - and have a great Autumn.

## Why so many guns on our streets?

Editor,

The Record article from 9/16/15 titled "76 arrested in street gang probe" contained the following statement by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Mark Dennings, "All of these weapons could have been used to kill someone." Later, he said that testing is currently underway to see if any of the seized firearms can be connected to a crime.

I would like to make another request of DA Mark Dennings. Please investigate if any of these firearms or any weapons recently confiscated by the Stockton PD or any of their Multi-agency Task Force partners, could be connected to Gunwalking programs such as the Fast and Furious program run by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and

Firearms out of their Phoenix office. This program resulted in over 2,000 guns being "allowed" to be purchased by "criminals" who might use these guns to commit crimes. Mr. Dennings, all of these gunwalked weapons could also be used to kill someone. In fact this program resulted in a Phoenix Sheriffs Officer being shot and killed with one of these guns. Mr. Dennings, have any of these guns reached the streets of Stockton and are now in the police evidence room?

Some questions for the Record to investigate: Why are there so many guns on our streets? Have Nortenos been manufacturing them? Has there been a spike in home burglaries resulting in gun thefts? Why does the Record fail to report on Gunwalking programs such

as Fast and Furious?

It's time that Stockton residents and Record readers learn about gunwalking and other tactics used by policing agencies that encourages crime and promotes the public perception that we are not safe because the "bad guys" are out to get us and we need to hire more police officers.

JIM WALSH

### League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County

PRESENTS A FORUM:

### CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON HEALTH

SPECIAL GUEST

Congressman Jerry McNerny, PhD,  
Representative of District 9

PRESENTERS:

*Linda Rudolph*, MD, MPH, Director of Center for Climate Change and Health, Public Health Institute

*Bonnie Homes-Gen*, BS, MA, Senior Policy Director, Air Quality and Climate Change, American Lung Association in California

*Katelyn Roedner Sutter*, MA, Environmental Justice Program Director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015

Health Place of San Joaquin Community Room

7751 S Manthly Rd, French Camp

I-5 Exit 467 B, Matthews Road West

9:30-10:00 - Meet and Greet with Refreshments

10:00-1:00 Presentations, Panel Discussions and Questions

The Forum is FREE and open to the Public  
Questions/RSVP: Julia Schardt (209) 986-3029 or JuliaSchardt@gmail.com



## CONNECTIONS

**Editor:** Bruce Giudici, 786-3109; bgiudici@caltel.com

**Layout:** Luis Gonzalez, lrg.lxxxvii@gmail.com

**Proofreader:** Debbie Cousyn

**Ad Rep:** Vacant

**Distribution Coordinators:** Deane and Marcia Savage, 209-242-2254

**Distribution Site:** Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton

**Distributors:** Suzy Arnett, Harold Bell, Antoinette Celle, Caly Chhin, Clarence Edwards, Daniel Fong, Catherine Hourcade, Christie Kelley, Tenaya Ledeux, Catherine Mathis, John Minnehan, Heather Ryan, Deane and Marcia Savage, Richard Slezak, Julie Vaughn, Patrick Wall, Jim Walsh

**Deadline:** 7th of each month (except Aug & Dec)

**Circulation:** 8,000

**CONNECTIONS** is a monthly publication of the Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County. The views expressed in CONNECTIONS are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Network. News, articles, letters and calendar items should be sent to the Peace & Justice Network, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204. The editor reserves the right of final decision on copy. Call (209) 467-4455 for more information. PJN is on the internet: <http://www.pjnsjc.org>



### Peace & Justice Network Board of Directors

**Chair:** Richard Blackston

**Vice-Chair:**

Christie Kelley

**Treasurer:** Deane Savage

**Secretary:** Cathy Mathis

**Members—at-large:**

Margie Brown, Daniel Fong, Tenaya Ledeux, Paula Leveck, Bruce Giudici

**Organizational members:**

89.5 Stone Soup Radio (Cathy Mathis), Fathers & Families (Jim Walsh), Puentes (Richard Blackston), Single Payer San Joaquin (Suzy Arnett), CARA (Jerry Bailey)

"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared responsibly for the well-being of all her inhabitants and all future generations."



# THE TRUE COST OF INCARCERATION ON FAMILIES

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In addition, families incur large sums of debt due to their experience with incarceration.

Across respondents of all income brackets, the average debt incurred for court-related fines and fees alone was \$13,607, almost one year's entire annual income for respondents who earn less than \$15,000 per year.

Despite their often-limited resources, families are the primary resource for housing, employment, and health needs of their formerly incarcerated loved ones, filling the gaps left by diminishing budgets for reentry services.

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents' families helped them find housing. Nearly one in five families (18%) involved in our survey faced eviction, were denied housing, or did not qualify for public housing once their formerly incarcerated family member returned. Reentry programs, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations combined did not provide housing and other support at the levels that families did.

Incarceration damages familial relationships and stability by separating people from their support systems, disrupting continuity of families, and causing lifelong health impacts that impede families from thriving.

The high cost of maintaining contact with incarcerated family members led more than one in three families (34%) into debt to pay for phone calls and visits alone. Family members who were not able to talk or visit with their loved ones regularly were much more likely to report experiencing negative health impacts related to a family member's incarceration.

The stigma, isolation, and trauma associated with incarceration have direct impacts across families and communities.

Of the people surveyed, about one in every two formerly incarcerated persons and one in every two family members experienced negative health impacts related to their own or a loved one's incarceration. Families, including their incarcerated loved ones, frequently reported Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, nightmares, hopelessness, depression, and anxiety. Yet families have little institutional support for healing this trauma and becoming emotionally and financially stable during and post incarceration.

These impacts hit women of color and their families more substantially than others, deepening inequities and societal divides that have pushed many into the criminal justice system in the first place. Almost one in every four women and two of five Black women are related to someone who is incarcerated.

Poverty, in particular, perpetuates the cycle of incarceration, while incarceration itself leads to greater poverty. Estimates report that nearly 40% of all crimes are directly attributable to poverty and the vast majority (80%) of incarcerated individuals are low-income. In fact about two-thirds of those in jail report incomes below the poverty line. The research in this report confirms that the financial costs of incarceration and the barriers to employment and economic mobility upon release further solidify the link between incarceration and poverty.

Most of all, this report's collaborative research found that while supportive families and communities can help reduce recidivism rates, these bedrocks of support lack the necessary resources to help incarcerated individuals serve out their sentences and reenter society successfully. It is not enough to reform the criminal justice system without considering its purpose and impact on communities. Institutions with power must acknowledge the disproportionate impacts the current system has on women, low-income communities, and communities of color and address and redress the policies that got us here. Additionally, society as a whole must rethink our approach to accountability and rehabilitation, shift perceptions, and remove barriers that prevent formerly incarcerated individuals and their families from getting

another chance at life.

## A BETTER APPROACH IS POSSIBLE

For decades, individuals, families, and communities—especially low-income people and communities of color—have faced destabilizing and detrimental impacts as a result of our nation's unfair criminal justice policies. The repercussions of these policies extend far beyond sentencing and incarceration, affecting the employment, education, housing, and health of individuals and their families for years to come. A unique contribution to the body of research, the study explores the ways in which women support their incarcerated loved ones, often jeopardizing their own stability. Our nation can no longer afford the devastating financial and familial costs of incarceration if we truly want to foster communities that are healthy, sustainable, and just.

As a result of this research, recommendations are made for three key categories of critical reforms necessary to change the criminal justice system and to help stabilize and support vulnerable families, communities, and formerly incarcerated individuals: Restructuring and Reinvesting, Removing Barriers, and Restoring Opportunities.

## RESTRUCTURING AND REINVESTING

Following the lead of states like California, all states need to restructure their policies to reduce the number of people in jails and prisons and the sentences they serve. The money saved from reducing incarceration rates should be used instead to reinvest in services that work, such as substance abuse programs and stable housing, which have proven to reduce recidivism rates. Additionally, sentencing needs to shift focus to accountability, safety, and healing the people involved rather than punishing those convicted of crimes.

## REMOVING BARRIERS

Upon release, formerly incarcerated individuals face significant barriers accessing critical resources like housing and employment that they need to survive

and move forward. Many are denied public benefits like food stamps and most are unable to pursue training or education that would provide improved opportunities for the future. Families also suffer under these restrictions and risk losing support as a result of their loved one's conviction. These barriers must be removed in order to help individuals have a chance at success, particularly the many substantial financial obligations that devastate individuals and their families. On the flip side, when incarcerated people maintain contact with their family members on the outside, their likelihood of successful reunification and reentry increases, and their chances of recidivating are reduced. For most families the cost of maintaining contact is too great to bear and must be lowered if families are to stay intact. Removing cost and other barriers to contact is essential.

## RESTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Focusing energy on investing and supporting formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, and the communities from which they come can restore their opportunities for a brighter future and the ability to participate in society at large. Savings from criminal justice reforms should be combined with general budget allocations and invested in job training and subsidized employment services, for example, to provide the foundation necessary to help individuals and their families succeed prior to system involvement and upon reentry.

Our nation's criminal justice system has dramatic impacts on the lives of individuals who are incarcerated and the lives of those they touch. These effects wreak financial, physical, and emotional havoc on women, families, and communities, undermining potential for a better life. The true costs of our criminal justice system are complex, deeply rooted, and demand a closer look at the multiple impacts on individuals and families. When these costs are understood and acknowledged, it becomes clear that the system—and society more broadly—must change.

Source: *Who Pays?* Sept 2015 <http://whopaysreport.org/>

## Black teenager arrested by nine California police officers after 'jaywalking'

RORY CARROLL

Nine police officers arrested an unarmed black teenager in California after he allegedly jaywalked and then scuffled with an officer. A video of the incident shows the officers surrounding the 16-year-old African American and forcing him to the ground after he got into an altercation with an officer who accused him of walking in a bus-only lane. The incident happened in the city of Stockton, 80 miles (130km)

east of San Francisco, on Wednesday morning. A cellphone video uploaded to Facebook and YouTube by a passerby has been viewed more than 10,000 times. It shows an officer using his baton to push and hold the boy, wearing shorts, on a landscaped perimeter on the sidewalk. They scuffle, the boy yelling "get the f--- off me" and the officer shouting "stop resisting arrest". The officer strikes him in the face and orders him to the ground but the boy does not comply.

An unseen female bystander shouts in protest: "That's a f---ing kid! Don't touch him, leave him alone! That's a kid. Are you serious? He didn't do nothing wrong." The officer retrieves from the ground what appears to be a body camera knocked off during the scuffle. Several patrol cars arrive and four officers force the boy to the ground, handcuff him and march him to a car while colleagues mill around them. The protester's voice rises in anger and disbelief: "That

is a child! That is child that was jaywalking! That's a f---ing child! What's wrong with y'all?"

YouTube user Edward Avendaño posted the video under the username Stockton Port City. In a Facebook post he said the officer tried to stop the teenager for jaywalking and ordered him to sit but the teen kept walking to his bus. "The cop kept grabbing his arm & the kid took off the cop's hand off his arm so the cop took out his baton & that's when

I started recording because everything happened too quick. He didn't have to hit the kid with the baton & no need to call about 20 cops."

Joseph Silva, a spokesman for Stockton's police department, told the Guardian the first officer had seen the teen walking in a bus lane near the city's transit center. The teen "cussed" when ordered onto the sidewalk "for safety reasons", said Silva. "These things wouldn't happen if people followed officers'

lawful instructions." The teenager was held in custody and released to his mother pending a charge in juvenile court with resisting arrest and trespassing. It appeared that the officers acted within policy but the incident was under review because any use of force triggers an automatic administrative review, said Silva. The boy's family has filed a complaint, he added.

Source: *Guardian* UK 9/18/15 <http://www.theguardian.com/>



# California's great leap forward on voter registration

SOPHIE SCHUIT &  
JONATHAN BRATER

The California legislature just passed a bill that has the potential to add millions of new voters to the rolls. If Gov. Jerry Brown (D) signs it into law, the plan would dramatically modernize voter registration in the Golden State by replacing old-fashioned, ink-and-paper cards with a system that automatically registers eligible citizens when they visit the DMV. Automatic registration in the most populous state in the country is a watershed moment in the effort to fix our broken election system: California will be putting the responsibility for ensuring eligible citizens can vote where it should be – on the government, not the individual.

Automatic registration does two very small but transformative things. First,

it registers eligible citizens when they interact with government agencies, unless they decide they do not want to be signed up. That is a subtle, but impactful change – the status quo method is to keep people off the rolls unless they take an action to get themselves registered. The second is that government agencies will electronically transfer voter registration information instead of making election officials hand-enter data from paper forms.

Automatic registration is a straightforward solution to a real problem. Our voter rolls are frayed – one in four eligible citizens is not signed up at all, and one in eight registration records is invalid or has serious errors. Automatic registration will increase the accuracy of the voting lists. Digitally sent information introduces fewer errors than when election officials have to

decipher voter registration forms and then hand-enter the information. That means fewer Election Day problems, like long lines and disenfranchised voters. And it means more of California's eligible voters will get on, and stay on, the rolls. Automatic registration will also save the state money. In Arizona, Maricopa County found that processing a paper application costs 83 cents while an electronically transferred and processed application only costs 3 cents.

California is not alone in making this groundbreaking reform. In March, Oregon passed its "New Motor Voter" law, becoming the first state nationwide to adopt automatic voter registration. New Jersey's legislature passed a similar bill in June that awaits the governor's signature.

These states have made changes that could catapult their civic participation to

new heights. If all three implement their bills, 14 percent of the nation's population would live in states with automatic registration – that's a huge achievement in just a few months.

These states are the vanguard of a broader movement: At least 17 states and the District of Columbia have introduced bills that would automatically register citizens. At the national level, presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have endorsed automatic, universal registration, and at least two bills have been introduced in Congress – one sponsored by Sanders.

"California's bill is a much-needed turnabout. The state has lagged behind on voting technology for years. With one stroke of his pen, Governor Brown can bring California to the front of the pack," said Myrna

Pérez, deputy director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice. "Nationwide, too many states still make new voters fill out ink-and-paper forms to sign up. Automatic registration modernizes how citizens get on the rolls and creates a more accurate, secure, and cost-efficient system."

The push to modernize voting also comes amid a larger battle over voting rights in America. Since the 2010 election, 21 states have new voting restrictions in place – and 15 states will have stricter rules in effect in 2016 than they had in 2012. At the same time, since the 2012 election, 23 states plus the District of Columbia have passed new laws to improve voting.

The California Legislature's decision to push forward is an important advancement of voting rights. Gov. Brown should sign the bill, making automatic

registration the law. And other states should follow.

Action: 1) Read more about Voter Registration Modernization, visit <http://www.brennancenter.org/> 2) Contact Gov Brown.

SOPHIE SCHUIT JOINED THE BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE IN JUNE 2014 AS A RESEARCH AND PROGRAM ASSOCIATE IN THE DEMOCRACY PROGRAM, WHERE SHE FOCUSES ON VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTIONS. JONATHAN BRATER SERVES AS COUNSEL FOR THE BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE'S DEMOCRACY PROGRAM. HIS WORK FOCUSES ON VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTIONS.

Source: Brennan Center for Justice  
9/14/15 <http://www.brennancenter.org/>

## Still no Democratic debates; what's going on?

DAVE JOHNSON

The second Republican Presidential candidate debate was held on September 18. The ratings for the first and second shows one were through the roof because people are interested and are tuning in to the campaign; for now, the Republicans are getting all the "eyeballs."

Meanwhile there hasn't been even a hint of a Democratic candidate debate. What's going on? Why are the Democrats letting Republicans have the attention? Do they feel the party has nothing to offer – or something to hide?

### THE LAST TIME, DEBATE AFTER DEBATE

As of this date in 2007 there had already been several Democratic debates. The first debate was April 26, 2007, at South Carolina State University,

Orangeburg, South Carolina. Present were Senator Joesph Biden, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Christopher Dodd, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Senator Barack Obama, Governor William Richardson and the debate was moderated by Brian Williams. Afterward Democrats debated at these events:

- June 3, 2007 at Saint Anselm College, Goffstown, New Hampshire.
- June 28, 2007 at Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- July 12, 2007 at the NAACP convention, Detroit.
- July 23, 2007 at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.
- August 4, 2007 at the YearlyKos convention in Chicago.
- August 7, 2007 in Chicago, sponsored by the AFL-CIO.
- August 9, 2007 in Los Angeles, an LGBT debate sponsored by the LOGO cable channel.
- August 19, 2007 in Des Moines, the Iowa Democratic Party/ABC debate.

- September 9, 2007 at University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, broadcast by Univision and simultaneously translated to Spanish.

So that is 10 debates up to now in the 2008 cycle.

### THIS TIME, SILENCE

*This time* the Democratic Party has disappeared entirely from the 2016 presidential campaign – at

least as far as prime-time, televised, mass-audience, attention-grabbing, awareness-driving, conversation-starting, media-triggering debates are concerned. The party has taken itself out of the game, and more and more people are asking why.

Eight years ago the first debate was in April, 2007. *This time* the first debate is not scheduled until October 13 – a seven-month difference. (A seven-month media vacuum.) October 13 is the day after a three-day weekend for many people. Is this an intentional attempt to limit the audience?

That first debate will be a CNN/Salem Radio event in Las Vegas. CNN? Who watches CNN anymore? And Salem Radio is a conservative Christian network. Is this an intentional attempt to limit the audience and force hostile questions?

So far there have been seven months and 10 or 11 debates-worth of lost opportunity and visibility for Democratic ideas and candidates. But wait, there's more. In the 2008 cycle there were /two more /Democratic candidate debates between now and the time of the first scheduled debate on October 13: a September 20, 2007 PBS "health care" debate in Davenport, Iowa, and a September 26, 2007 MSNBC debate at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

The second Republican debate had another huge audience. The second 2016-cycle Democratic candidate debate is not scheduled until November 14, with CBS/Des Moines Register in Des Moines, Iowa. Then the third Democratic debate is not scheduled until just before the holidays on December 19, in Manchester, New Hampshire. The fourth debate will take place January 17, 2016 in Charleston, South Carolina with NBC News and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute. Like the October 13 debate, this debate is scheduled on a holiday weekend. After that there are /only two more debates/, not yet scheduled, one with Univision (Spanish language.)

### WHAT'S GOING ON?

Why are the Democrats hiding their candidates? What's going on? Even when they are having a rare debate, the schedule appears to be designed to limit the potential audience. This is basic marketing, people. Exposure is good. Repetition is good. If you want to reach the public, you have to reach the public. Instead the Democratic Party is hiding their candidates from the public. Why?

One candidate being hurt by the restriction on debates is Hillary Clinton. (You may have heard

that name somewhere – but not in a 2016-cycle debate.) Clinton has offered a very strong set of policy proposals.

(Click through <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/>, really, she has.) But in the absence of any events to distract the media and bring attention to the positions of the Democratic candidates Clinton is hounded by the email pseudo-scandal. (By the way, like the Benghazi pseudo-scandal, can anyone explain what she is supposed to have done that is wrong?) With no debates to move the conversation along to the issues the media has almost no choice but to focus on this weird non-story.

Candidate Martin O'Malley also wants to know why the Democratic Party leadership is limiting the number of debates. O'Malley has a lot to offer. For example, in August he offered a very strong plan to expand retirement security – at a time when so many Americans need exactly that. O'Malley has also offered a very strong (and badly needed) criminal justice reform plan. Take a look at his "vision" page at <https://martinomalley.com/vision/>. Bet you didn't know he was offering such a good set of proposals – and you won't know because the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





# There are no migrants, only global citizens



ROBERT C. KOEHLER

Who are all these people? Here's another global problem – this flow of refugees – that national governments are apparently incapable of dealing with in a long-term, cooperative, globally responsible way. As with climate change, as with war and disarmament, they retreat into insularity in the face of such matters and become protective of their short-term, individual “interests,” which mostly concern the bureaucratic sacredness of their borders and an obsessive distinction between us and them.

“The European Union, (French President François Hollande) said, needed to create ‘hot spot’ reception centers at those borders under the greatest onslaught – in Greece, Italy and Hungary – to register new arrivals and turn back those who do not meet the requirements for asylum,” reports the New York Times. And: “(British Prime Minister David) Cameron said Monday that Britain would accept up to 20,000 Syrian refugees, but they would most likely be limited to those who apply for asylum from camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The British government is wary of giving migrants any incentive to make the dangerous journey into Europe, officials said. . . .” Of course, it gets a lot worse than that: razor wire, brute force, big walls. Desperate people risk their lives.

Boats capsize. Children die as racist slogans reverberate. Families flee war and poverty, hell on earth. They need new homes. What a nuisance.

The photo of the body of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi, who washed up on a Turkish beach after his family's boat capsized as they tried to escape Syria – his mother and 5-year-old brother also died – has turned the refugee crisis, at least temporarily, into something more than an abstraction. “Within hours,” Jamie Fahey wrote at the Guardian, which initially published the photo, “the image had gone viral and become the top-trending picture on Twitter with the hashtag #KiyiyaVuranInsanlik (humanity washed ashore).”

Humanity washes ashore, but does anything change? There's only one way for real change to happen: The value of human life must supersede citizenship. Refugees – people forced by terrible circumstances out of their homes – shouldn't have their escape routes blocked, either by barbed wire or bureaucratic minutiae, because they have been rendered “stateless.”

For instance, while Aylan's family had relatives in Canada and, therefore, could legally have entered that country, his parents “had been unable to get family reunification visas that would have given them a legal route out of Turkey,” the /Washington Post /

reported. “Instead, they tried to reach Greece by boat, with tragic consequences.”

The arguments defending border restrictions concern the sanctity and necessity of maintaining national order. But these arguments begin to crumble when one considers the extent to which potential host nations bear responsibility for much of the chaos in those broken parts of the world – such as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan – from which most of the world's refugees are fleeing.

This phenomenon isn't usually included in news stories about refugees. Thus they are portrayed either as pitiable unfortunates who need our benevolence or would-be freeloaders trying to get a good deal for themselves in some wealthy country with generous benefits.

But as Robert Parry, who as a reporter for the Associated Press in the 1980s helped expose the Iran-Contra fiasco, wrote recently: “The refugee chaos that is now pushing deep into Europe . . . started with the cavalier ambitions of American neocons and their liberal-interventionist sidekicks who planned to remake the Middle East and other parts of the world through ‘regime change.’”

“Instead of the promised wonders of ‘democracy promotion’ and ‘human rights,’” he continued, “what these ‘anti-realists’ have accomplished is to spread death, destruction and destabilization across the Middle East and parts of Africa and now into Ukraine and the heart of Europe. Yet, since these neocon forces still control the Official Narrative, their explanations get top billing – such as that there hasn't been enough ‘regime change.’”

The neocons, who began their “cult of regime change” in Central America during the Reagan era, reclaimed control over American foreign policy when Bush Jr. was elected president and used 9/11 to cohere

support for their long-sought invasion of Iraq. This action, of course, shattered the country and let loose the howling chaos of civil war. Since then, the U.S. and its allies have perpetrated similar disasters in Libya,

Syria and elsewhere, as they've continued to impose regime change on select Middle Eastern countries they hope to control.

But today's global refugee crisis goes deeper than the neocons. The colonial powers of the Western world conquered and exploited the whole planet. Even when these powers relinquished their control over the Third World, they left behind a patchwork of states with randomly drawn borders that were in many cases deeply ungovernable.

As Gurinder K. Bhambra wrote recently in the Australian publication *The Conversation*: “The failure to properly account for Europe's colonial past cements the political division between legitimate citizens with rights and migrants/refugees without rights. . . .”

“If belonging to the history of the nation is what traditionally confers membership rights upon individuals (as most forms of citizenship demonstrate), it's incumbent upon us to recognise the histories that would see refugees as already having claims upon the states they wish to enter.”

There should be no such concept as stateless migrants, left to the mercy of the weather and the tides, the smugglers of human cargo, the border bureaucrats. There should only be global citizens. This is all of us, equal to one another in our humanity, equally deserving of the chance to live and prosper. The photos of a 3-year-old boy washed ashore in Turkey make this clear.

Source: Buzzflash at Truthout 9/10/15  
<http://truth-out.org/buzzflash>

## Still no Democratic debates; what's going on?

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Democratic Party has limited the debate schedule.

And then there's Bernie Sanders. Sanders would also benefit from the exposure an expanded debate schedule would offer. His biggest problem is still name recognition. As Democrats hear his ideas they largely support his ideas. (Some people think this is why the party leadership is limiting debates.)

(I'm told there are two other people running, Jim Webb and Lincoln Chafee. If there were lots of debates the public would get a chance to know this, too.)

### THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WOULD BENEFIT FROM MORE DEBATES

Overall the entire Democratic Party would benefit from having many, many more

televised debates. This time the Democrats have a strong message that resonates with the majority of the public. *This time* they have strong candidates. This time they have the moral high ground. And *this time* they aren't letting the public know these things. Why is the Democratic Party being so undemocratic? Why are they limiting the number of debates? Why are they trying to keep their candidates hidden from the public and letting the Republicans set the narrative?

DAVE JOHNSON (REDWOOD CITY, CA) IS A FELLOW AT CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE, WRITING ABOUT AMERICAN MANUFACTURING, TRADE AND ECONOMIC/INDUSTRIAL POLICY. HE IS ALSO A SENIOR FELLOW WITH RENEW CALIFORNIA.

Source: Campaign for America's Future 9/18/15 <http://ourfuture.org>

## Finland proposes taxing the rich to take in more refugees

NADIA PRUPIS

Finland on Thursday proposed raising taxes on high earners to help pay for an influx of refugees that is expected to arrive later this year from war-torn regions in the Middle East and Africa.

Finance Minister Alexander Stubb said the highest bracket of earners would pay one percent more on capital gains taxes, while those who make more than \$81,000 USD (72,300 euros) a year would pay what Stubb referred to as a “solidarity tax.” “These will help to cover higher immigration costs which we estimate to be about 114 million euros this year,” Stubb said on Thursday

at a press conference.

Finland is expected to take in 30,000 new refugees, compared to just 3,600 last year, at a time when the numbers of asylum seekers from Syria, Eritrea, and Afghanistan, among other countries in the Middle

East, are rising with meteoric speed. As *Common Dreams* has previously reported, the majority of refugees fleeing war and poverty have found themselves shut out of countries in the European Union and around the world.

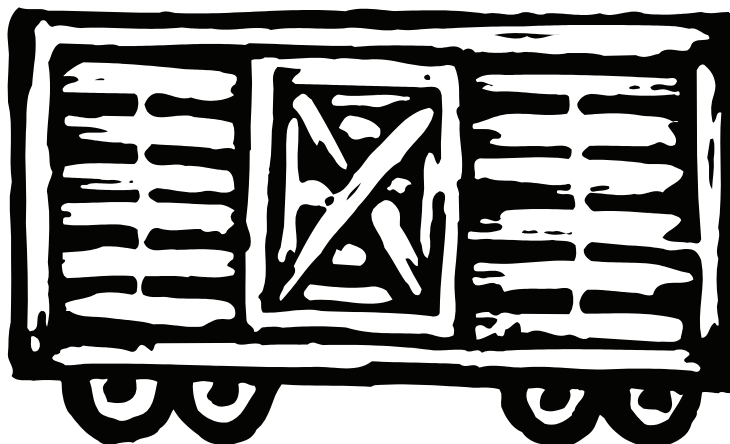
Despite Finland's own economic problems, its vow to take on 30,000 asylum seekers come as the U.S. makes much smaller

concessions, with President Barack Obama on Friday directing his administration to take in 10,000 Syrians—even as U.S. military escalation in the besieged country creates more humanitarian crises in its wake. /Reuters/ reports: “The tax proposals may also be aimed to counter accusations that the poor and middle class have been hit worst by government policies. The government also announced that members of parliament would be required to take a week's unpaid holiday and all ministers would forgo a week's pay.”

Source: Common Dreams 9/10/15  
<http://www.commondreams.org>



# What America owes the refugees pouring into Europe



PHYLLIS BENNIS

The Syrian war – and the refugee crisis which it has spurred – has everything to do with U.S. actions dating back to the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq, which gave rise to ISIS in the first place. Even now the U.S. airstrikes in Syria and neighboring Iraq are escalating the war in both places.

The vision of hundreds of thousands of desperate human beings fleeing airstrikes, terror, and violence from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and beyond has brought the stark human cost of today's "anti-terror" wars to the front pages. The heart-breaking photo of one small boy, still clad in a "red shirt, blue jeans, and little sneakers," as a now-viral poem goes, washed up on the Turkish shore, has brought the horror of that stark reality into our hearts.

Indeed, the refugee crisis growing out of the multi-faceted Syrian war and others is now a full-blown global emergency. It's not only an emergency because it's now reaching Europe. It's an emergency several years in the making as conditions have deteriorated throughout the Middle East and North Africa. In addition to Syria, refugees are also pouring into Europe – or dying as they try – from Libya, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Bangladesh, and beyond.

But it's the war in Syria – now involving a host of regional, sectarian, and global actors all fighting their own wars to the last Syrian – that lies at the bloody center of the current crisis. And here the United States bears no small responsibility.

The Syrian war – and particularly the rise of ISIS – has everything to do with U.S. actions dating back to the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq, which gave rise to ISIS in the first place. Even now the U.S. airstrikes in Syria and neighboring Iraq are escalating the war in both places.

So emergency responses, particularly from the United States, need to start – though they must not end – with Syria. The Obama administration's decision to allow 10,000 Syrian refugees into the country next year is a welcome step, but not remotely adequate. Here's what needs to happen next.

## **Immediately, the United States should announce:**

- An increase in daily U.S. refugee assistance to the World Food Program and the UN Human Rights Committee equivalent to the daily cost of U.S. military action against ISIS – that is, about \$9 million a day.

- A decision to immediately accept 65,000 Syrian refugees by the end of the year, as called for by leading human rights organizations.

## **In next 30 days, Washington should roll out:**

- A plan to parole desperate refugees into the United States on humanitarian grounds. They should be provided with temporary protected status as long as conditions in their

home countries remain dangerous. Once they're in the United States, safe and provided with medical care, housing, work, education, and other support, longer-term protection can be determined on a case by case basis. Such an administrative decision can be made by the White House alone.

## **In next 45 days, the White House should announce:**

- That the United States will provide 28 percent of needed emergency refugee assistance, equivalent to the U.S. share of global wealth. That means...

- That it will immediately pay 28 percent of the current United Nations refugee relief request, which totals \$5.5 billion to support almost 6 million Syrian and related refugees through the end of this year. That would amount to approximately \$1.5 billion in U.S. contributions by the end of 2015.

- That the United States will accept 28 percent of those refugees from Syria (and others forced to flee as a result of the Syrian war) who need refuge abroad. That means 28 percent of up to 4 million refugees as determined by the United Nations, or up to 1.12 million refugees who are allowed to come to the United States.

It should be noted that fewer than 1,000 Syrians have been allowed into the United States this year, while Germany has already agreed to take in 800,000. The limits on numbers of refugees allowed into the United States each year are set by the White House, and fluctuate for political and policy reasons. (For example, in just over a decade, beginning with the decline of the Soviet Union in 1990, more than 378,000 Soviet Jews immigrated to the United States. In 1992 alone, more than 62,000 entered the country.)

## **Finally, in next 60 days, the U.S. should develop:**

- A new plan, now that the Iran nuclear deal is being implemented, to engage with Iran as well as all other regional and global players in a renewed United Nations-led diplomatic and arms embargo initiative to end the Syrian war.

PHYLLIS BENNIS DIRECTS THE NEW INTERNATIONALISM PROJECT AT THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES. HER MOST RECENT BOOK IS UNDERSTANDING ISIS AND THE NEW GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR. OTHER BOOKS INCLUDE UNDERSTANDING THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT: A PRIMER, UNDERSTANDING THE U.S.-IRAN CRISIS: A PRIMER, ENDING THE IRAQ WAR: A PRIMER, AND ENDING THE US WAR IN AFGHANISTAN: A PRIMER.

Source: *Foreign Policy In Focus* 9/14/15 <http://fpif.org/>



## **Mainstream Media = Truth?**

Check out the Alternatives  
and Find out for yourself!

If you tap in to some of the alternative media, you will get a very different perspective on events. Especially now, when the mainstream media often acts as a cheerleader for whatever the administration does, it's necessary to go a little further to get your news. An internet connection is helpful.

**Firedoglake** <http://firedoglake.com>

**Emptywheel**  
<http://emptywheel.firedoglake.com/>

**Calitics** <http://www.calitics.com/>

**Eschaton** <http://www.eschatonblog.com/>

**Huffington Post**  
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

**Hullabaloo** <http://digbysblog.blogspot.com>

**Daily Kos** <http://www.dailykos.com>

**Talking Points Memo**  
<http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com>

**TPM Muckraker**  
<http://www.tpmuckraker.com/>

**FiveThirtyEight.com**  
<http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/>

**Congress Matters**  
<http://www.congressmatters.com>

**Think Progress** <http://thinkprogress.com>

**Down With Tyranny**  
<http://downwithtyranny.blogspot.com/>

**Crooks and Liars**  
<http://www.crooksandliars.com>

**Media Matters** <http://mediamatters.org/>

**Common Dreams**  
<http://www.commondreams.org/>

**Truth Out** <http://www.truthout.org/>

**Raw Story** <http://www.rawstory.com>

**Open Left** <http://www.openleft.com/>

**AlterNet** <http://www.alternet.org/>

**Independent Media Center**  
<http://www.indymedia.org>

**The Nation** <http://www.thenation.com/>

**Hightower News**  
<http://www.webactive.com/hightower/>

**Mother Jones** <http://www.motherjones.com/>

**In These Times** <http://inthesetimes.com/>

**The Guardian**  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/>

**Corporate Watch**  
<http://www.corpwatch.org/home/PHH.jsp>

**KPFA (94.1 FM)** provides excellent coverage on many issues. You can listen on the internet at <http://www.kpfa.org>

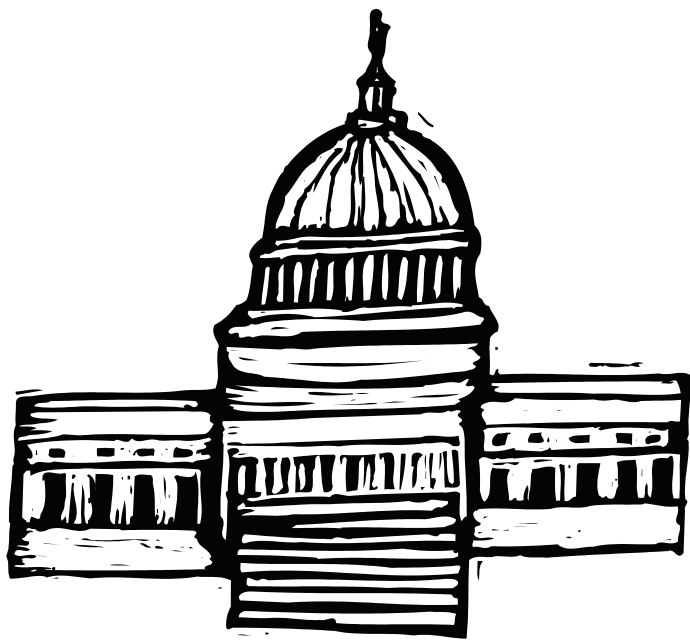
**Democracy Now!** on KPFA, 94.1 FM and KVMR, 89.5 FM or on the web at: <http://www.democracynow.org>

**People's World** <http://www.peoplesworld.org>





# War should be the last option



BERNIE SANDERS

I support the agreement that the United States negotiated with China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom and Iran. I believe this approach is the best way forward if we are to accomplish what we all want to accomplish – that is making certain that Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapon – an occurrence which would destabilize the region, lead to a nuclear arms race in the area and would endanger the existence of Israel.

It is my firm belief that the test of a great nation, with the most powerful military on earth, is not how many wars we can engage in, but how we can use our strength and our capabilities to resolve international conflicts in a peaceful way.

Those who have spoken out against this agreement, including many in this chamber, and those who have made every effort to thwart the diplomatic process, are many of the same people who spoke out forcefully and irresponsibly about the need to go to war with Iraq – one of the worst foreign policy blunders in the modern history of our country.

Sadly, people like former vice president Dick Cheney and many of the other neo-cons who pushed us to war Iraq were not only tragically wrong then, they are wrong now. Unfortunately, these individuals have learned nothing from the results of that disastrous policy and how it destabilized the entire region.

I fear that many of my Republican colleagues do not understand that war must be a last resort, not the first resort. It is easy to go to war, it not so easy to comprehend the unintended consequences of that war.

As the former Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I have talked to veterans from WWII to Iraq, and I have learned a little bit about what the cost of war entails. In Iraq and Afghanistan we have lost 6,700 brave men and women, and many others have come home without legs, without arms, without eyesight.

Let us not forget that 500,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan came back to their families with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. The suicide rate of young veterans is appallingly high. The divorce rate is appallingly high, and the impact on children is appallingly high. God knows how many families have been devastated by these wars.

And we should not forget

the many hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqi men, women, and children who died in that war, and those whose lives who have been completely destabilized, including those who are fleeing their country today with only the clothes on their back as refugees. The cost of war is real.

Yes, the military option should always be on the table, but it should be the last option. We have got to do everything we can do to reach an agreement to ensure that Iran does not get a nuclear weapon without having to go to war.

I believe we have an obligation to pursue diplomatic solutions before

resorting to military engagement – especially after nearly fourteen years of ill-conceived and disastrous military engagements in the region.

The agreement calls for cutting off Iran's pathways to the fissile materials needed for a nuclear weapon by reducing its stockpile of uranium by 98 percent, and restricting the level of enrichment of uranium to well below the level needed for weaponized uranium. The agreement requires Iran to decrease the number of installed centrifuges by two-thirds, dismantle the country's heavy-water nuclear reactor so that it cannot produce any weapons-grade plutonium, and commit to rigorous monitoring, inspection, and verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Only after Iran has demonstrated to the international community its compliance with the tenets of the agreement – the U.S. and European Union will lift the sanctions that helped bring Iran to the negotiating table in the first place. The agreement also contains a mechanism for the "snap back" of those sanctions if Iran does not comply with its obligations.

Does the agreement achieve everything I would like? No, it does not. But to my mind, it is far better than the path we were on - with Iran developing nuclear weapons capability and the potential for military intervention by the U.S. and Israel growing greater by the day.

Let us not forget that if Iran does not live up to the agreement, sanctions may be reimposed. If Iran moves toward a nuclear weapon, all available options remain on the table. I think it is incumbent upon us, however, to give the negotiated agreement a chance to succeed, and it is for these reasons that I will support the agreement.

Source: Reader Supported News 9/10/15 <http://readersupportednews.org>

## Talking It Through

EDUCATION • ENVIROMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

Peace & Justice Network Sponsors two Half-Hour Shows:

"Lets Talk" documentaries of important community meetings and events. **Mondays, 6pm.**

"Talking It Through" hosted by Sammy Nuñez features live discussions of important community issues, especially with your people. **Mondays, 6:30pm.**

Both shows are produced by Peace & Justice volunteer Vince Kotecki on SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26.

For up to the minute listings of current shows, see our website [www.pjnsjc.org](http://www.pjnsjc.org), click on Talking it Through.



### PACIFIC COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE CENTER

*serving Stockton since 1984*

Yi—Po Anthony Wu, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Medical Director, Internal Medicine*

Teresa M. Chen, Ph.D.  
*Program Coordinator*

Dorel Rotar, L.Ac., MTOM  
Brian Chee C. Loh, L.Ac., O.M.D.  
Shu—Chuan Susan Wang, L.Ac., Ph.D., O.M.D.  
*Licensed Acupuncturists, Herbalists*

• Internal Medicine • Acupuncture & Moxibustion •  
East & West Herbs •  
Chinese Health Exercises (Tai Chi & Qi Gong)

### Shop at the Herb Store

Specializing in Traditional Chinese Herbal Remedies  
wide variety of western herbs & nutritional supplements  
imported teas % vitamins & minerals % health bars  
essential oils % healthcare & educational books %  
over—the—counter medications

Store Hours: Monday—Friday 9 a.m.— 5 p.m.

**645 West Harding Way • 464—4800**  
Visit our website @ <http://www.wuway.com>

Membership includes a subscription to *Audubon Magazine & Hoot Owl*.

**Make checks payable to ... National Audubon Society.**  
Send to: Audubon  
PO Box 7755, Stockton, CA 95207

\_\_\_\$35 Individual \_\_\_\$38 Family \_\_\_\$20 Student \_\_\_\$21 Senior-  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PH# \_\_\_\_\_


ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Questions about Audubon? Call Dave Wagner 943—6997.  
[www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org](http://www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org)

Join our  
LOCAL

## Audubon



**Roger K.Lang,  
D.D.S., Inc.**

3031 W. March Lane, Suite 318E  
(Go north on I—5, exit March Lane, go  
west to "The Fountain" and turn right)  
(209) 956—0601  
Fax: (209) 952—8845  
Email: [info@drklangdds.com](mailto:info@drklangdds.com)  
Web: [www.drklangdds.com](http://www.drklangdds.com)

*"Together, we will walk the pathway to health and wholeness."*



## Planned Parenthood sole safety-net

LAUREN MCCAULEY

As the partisan attack on Planned Parenthood heats up on Capitol Hill this week, a new study published Tuesday found that the women's healthcare provider is in many cases the only source of contraceptive care for minority and low-income women across the country.

The analysis was conducted by the Guttmacher Institute, a New York-based reproductive health research organization, in response to a Congressional Budget Office request. After examining the most recent data available, Guttmacher found that, "unequivocally that for women in many areas of the country, losing Planned Parenthood would mean losing their chosen provider—and the only safety-net provider around." Safety-net providers are institutions that provide care and services in low-income, medically underserved, immigrant, and communities of color.

The study, published at the /Health Affairs /blog, found that in one-fifth of the 491 counties in which Planned Parenthood sites are located, they are

the sole safety-net family planning center. Further,

in two-thirds of those counties, Planned Parenthood serves at least half of all women obtaining contraceptive care from safety-net health centers.

These findings debunk the myth, spread by conservative detractors of Planned Parenthood, that the care provided by the group could be easily supplanted by a publicly-funded safety-net centers, such as federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) or county health departments. In fact, the study found that the average Planned Parenthood health center serves "significantly more contraceptive clients each year" than FQHCs, or similar providers.

Further, such community health centers are already chronically underfunded and would be unable to "pick up the slack" if Planned Parenthood's funding were to be slashed, as health policy expert Sara Rosenbaum recently noted. Such cuts, Rosenbaum added, would have a significant impact on the "millions of poor women" dependent on safety-net care.

"Community health centers operate

on modest budgets and repeatedly have been shown to be highly efficient," Rosenbaum writes. "But no amount of efficiency can give them the means to ramp up quickly enough to replace the loss of preventive women's health services of the magnitude that would result were Planned Parenthood clinics to close."

"Unable to access the contraceptive care they need, women would be left to pay the price, as more unintended pregnancies and abortions result," she adds.

On Wednesday, conservative lawmakers are holding the first in a series of congressional committee hearings on Planned Parenthood, pivoting off claims made in the latest smear campaign against the group. Also, a growing number of Republican lawmakers are pledging to oppose any legislation to fund the government that also continues to fund Planned Parenthood.

Source: Common Dreams 9/9/15 <http://www.commondreams.org>



We are a grassroots environmental organization promoting Outings, Education and Action.

We meet the 4th Monday of most months at 3700 Pacific Avenue across from UOP.

We offer interesting topics, speakers and discussions. The public is welcome!  
See us online at **Delta-Sierra Group**.

### BEST REMODELING SERVICES

BY MASTER CRAFTSMAN DAVID BEST  
Lic # 541562

Kitchen & Bathroom Remodels. Patio's built.  
Doors hung right...and every possible repair  
around your home. Free Estimates.  
Numerous satisfied costumers.

**WE SAVE, REUSE, RESTORE (209) 368-2378**

### Publications

Technical Writing & Editing / Graphic Design / Web Sites

### InfoWright

PO Box 162644  
Sacramento 95816  
916.444-5118  
[llitman@pacbell.net](mailto:llitman@pacbell.net)






## FEATURE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Advertise in **Connections** and get seen by your local community and support alternative media.

<b>\$46</b>	<b>2x2"</b>
	(Business Card Size)
<b>\$58</b>	<b>2x4"</b>
<b>\$70</b>	<b>2x6"</b>

Contact us for more rate options. Discounts for longer terms and nonprofits available. Contact: [bgiudici@caltel.com](mailto:bgiudici@caltel.com) or PJN, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton 95204

*Come and hear this gentle teacher's story.*



**Bassem Tamimi:**  
*"Our destiny is to resist"*


From the village of Nabi Selah in the West Bank comes a leader of nonviolent resistance.

*Lessons from Ghandi, King, and Mandela practiced in Palestine*

**2 Speaking Engagement in Stockton :**  
**Thursday, October 1, 2015**  
 TBA Afternoon at San Joaquin Delta College  
 West Forum, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton  
 &  
 7 pm at Central United Methodist Church  
 Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton

Bassem Tamimi, Palestinian human rights activist and organizer of weekly nonviolent demonstrations against illegal Israeli settlement construction and military occupation in his West Bank farming village of Nabi Selah.  
 Detained by the Israeli authorities many times, and brutally beaten while under interrogation, Tamimi once spent three years in administrative detention, without trial.  
 Amnesty International declared him a "prisoner of conscious."  
 On August 30, 2015, the Tamimi family and village of Nabi Selah made national US headlines when videos and photographs of Bassem's wife and daughter physically preventing the assault and arrest of their young son/brother by an Israeli soldier went viral over social media.

Stockton appearances sponsored by San Joaquin Peace and Justice Network,  
 Israel/Palestine Task Force CA/NV Conference United Methodist Church, Jewish Voice for Peace,  
 FOSNA-NORCAL SJDC History Department (History of Middle East Course)







# How the geography of U.S. poverty has shifted since 1960



JENS MANUEL KROGSTAD

## LESS SOUTHERN, MORE URBAN THAN IN 1960

Since President Lyndon B. Johnson launched the War on Poverty 50 years ago, the characteristics of the nation's poor have changed: A larger share of poor Americans today are in their prime working years and fewer are elderly. In addition, those in poverty are disproportionately children and people of any age who are black, Hispanic or both.

But perhaps just as striking is that the geographic distribution of the poor has changed dramatically, too. A new Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data finds that the South continues to be home to many of America's poor, though to a lesser degree than a half-century ago. In 1960, half (49%) of impoverished Americans lived in the South. By 2010, that share had

dropped to 41%.

Much of the geographic shift of poverty reflects general trends in population shifts across the country over that same period. As rural areas, such as in the Midwest, have become less impoverished since the

1960s, those areas make up a smaller share of the U.S. population overall. At the same time, urban centers have gained in total population and hold a greater share of the U.S. population overall.

For example, in 1960, places like Maine and North Dakota had higher poverty rates than many of the nation's biggest metro areas. But by 2010, the reverse was true: High-poverty areas were in counties that are a part of the nation's largest metro areas such as Chicago, Los Angeles and New York, but not in places like Nebraska and South Dakota. At the same time, the share of the population in the nation's urban areas increased from 70% to 81% over that 50-year period.

## SINCE 1960, THE LARGEST DECLINES IN THE POVERTY RATE HAVE BEEN IN THE SOUTH

And much of the South still struggles with poverty. Of the 16 Southern states, only Maryland and Delaware had a poverty rate below the national average in 1960. Among the 14 Southern states with poverty rates /higher/ than the U.S. average that year, only Virginia's had dropped below the national mark by 2010.

Over the past 50 years, the poor have increasingly lived in the 20 most populous counties. In 2010, about one-in-five poor Americans (21%) lived in these high-density counties such as Los Angeles in California, Queens in New York and Clark in Nevada, up from 14% in 1960.

As a result, many of the nation's biggest counties by population had high poverty rates in 2010, though that was not the case in 1960. Twelve of today's most populous counties had poverty rates above the national average in 2010, including Los Angeles, Cook (Chicago) in Illinois, Maricopa (Phoenix) in Arizona, Kings (Brooklyn) in New York, and Dallas. In 1960, eight of these 12 counties had poverty rates /below/ the national average. Another three had poverty rates above the national average in /both/ 1960 and 2010: Bexar (San Antonio) in Texas, Miami-Dade in Florida, and New York (Manhattan). And one county, Broward (Ft. Lauderdale) in Florida, had a poverty rate that was above the national average in 1960 but dipped below the average by 2010. It's worth noting that as the geography of poverty-stricken areas has shifted, the nation's official poverty rate has declined over the past half-century, from 22.1% in 1960 to 14.5% in 2013, according to Census Bureau data.

Even in some of the nation's poorest regions, the poverty rate has declined. In Appalachia, the poverty rate remains above the national average, but has been cut nearly in half (from 30.9% in 1960 to 16.6% in 2010). Poverty is also entrenched in Texas counties that share a border with Mexico. In 12 border counties home to /colonias/ – residential areas that lack basic infrastructure like clean water, septic or sewer systems, or electricity – the poverty rate has dropped from 49% to 31% over the same time period.

Source: Pew Research Center 9/10/15  
<http://www.pewresearch.org/>

AFL-CIO report

## Landmark year in collective bargaining will raise wages for millions

Working people are achieving significant victories through the most expansive period of collective bargaining in modern labor history, according to a new report by the AFL-CIO's Center for Strategic Research.

"This country is having an important debate about raising wages and tackling income inequality," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "This report provides clear evidence that joining a union and bargaining with your employer is the most effective way to give workers the power to raise their own wages. When working people speak with one voice, our economy is stronger, and all workers do better."

The AFL-CIO

### INCLUDE:

- Among private sector workers: grocery stores, health care, rail transportation, telecom, and auto manufacturing combined account for 31% of workers covered by newly bargained contracts.
- The contracts in the top eight industries include workers from 22 AFL-CIO affiliated unions.
- A combined 2.4 million union members will bargain for new contracts in the top eight industries negotiating contracts.

For the full report, visit <http://www.aflcio.org>

### OTHER NOTABLE STATISTICS FROM THE REPORT

*The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is a voluntary federation of 56 national and international labor unions. The AFL-CIO union movement represents 10.5 million members, including 2 million members in Working America, its new community affiliate. We are teachers and truck drivers, musicians and miners, firefighters and farm workers, bakers and bottlers, engineers and editors, pilots and public employees, doctors and nurses, painters and laborers-and more.*

Source: AFL-CIO 9/11/15  
<http://www.aflcio.org>

## Become a PEACE PAL!

Please consider giving to PJN month by month. It will give us stable, predictable funding to continue providing our services. It's easy for you and cost—effective for us. Our website online donation is recommended for ease and convenience. Your monthly donation can be automatically withdrawn from your bank account.

### Monthly Giving Enrollment Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I accept your invitation to become a charter member of Peace Pals. Here is my monthly pledge contribution of:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$(Other) \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to donate by one of the following methods:

☐ U.S. mail; please send me envelopes

☐ Online donation through PJN website: [www.pjnsjc.org](http://www.pjnsjc.org) (click on donation button)

☐ Automatic Bank Transfer

☐ I've enclosed a check for my first contribution. Arrangements will be made by me with my bank for future pledges.

Mail checks to:  
**Peace and Justice Network,  
P.O. Box 4123, Stockton CA 95204**

*The Peace and Justice Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.*



# End corruption by punishing the corrupt

ROBERT REICH

Right-wing conservatives never tire of saying people are paid what they're worth. So what do they make of Jeff Smisek (below, top), the CEO and chairman of United Airlines, who was just fired for bribing a public official – and yet is walking away with a \$4.9 million separation payment? Smisek didn't even make money for

United. The airline has been crippled with operational problems since its merger with Continental, mounting customer complaints, and a standoff with its unions.

An internal investigation by United revealed Smisek's involvement in a scheme to give personal favors to David Samson, the former chairman of the New York-New Jersey Port Authority, in

order to get the Authority to do favors for the airline. (The payoff came in the form of United reinstituting a money-losing flight to an airport near Samson's South Carolina weekend home, which even Authority officials nicknamed "the chairman's flight" and which United discontinued as soon as Samson resigned.) Samson, you may remember, had been appointed by

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and resigned in March 2014 amid charges he and his underlings had closed lanes leading to the George Washington Bridge, at the direction of Christie and Christie's underlings, to punish a mayor who hadn't supported Christie's reelection.

Payoffs to public officials are obviously a form of

corruption. Payoffs to ousted CEOs are another form of corruption. Closing a public bridge as a political vendetta is a third form of corruption. Corruption doesn't end until corrupters and the corrupted are punished. If Smisek was involved in paying off Sampson, both should go to jail. If Chris Christie had anything to do with closing the George Washington

Bridge as a political vendetta, he should be jailed as well. Meanwhile, Smisek's separation agreement should be clawed back, as should his pay since he became CEO. And United's major shareholders should sack United's board of directors. What do you think?

Source: Robert Reich's Facebook 9/10/15 <https://www.facebook.com/RBReich/posts/>

## Governor Brown signs Worker Cooperative Act

Governor Brown announced in mid August that he signed a bill into law to facilitate the creation of worker-owned cooperative businesses in California. The new law, Assembly Bill 816, will remove unnecessary barriers to the creation of new worker cooperatives in California and improve operations for some existing worker cooperatives.

"AB 816, the California Worker Cooperative Act, provides a clear legal template for the formation of worker-owned businesses," said East Bay Community Law Center staff attorney Sushil Jacob. "By providing a pathway to incorporation and a clear legal structure, AB 816

will encourage the creation of new businesses and jobs that build the assets of working people throughout the state."

"Worker owned businesses are central to a full economic recovery and to closing the income inequality gap," explained State Assemblymember Bonta, who introduced the bill. "As low-income communities continue to struggle with the dual problems of high rates of unemployment and low-wages, worker-owned, worker-managed small businesses have emerged as an effective way to rebuild the local economy and address economic inequality."

The law is the result of a multi-year effort on the

part of a coalition called the California Worker Cooperative Policy Coalition, which includes representation from the Sustainable Economies Law Center, the East Bay Community Law Center, the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, the Democracy at Work Institute, the Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives, the Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives, and several individual members and supporters of cooperatives.

AB 816 is the latest example of a growing movement to strengthen local economies through the creation of small businesses that are democratically owned and operated by

their workers. Specifically, AB 816 establishes a worker cooperative corporate entity, a statutory definition of a "worker cooperative", and eases barriers to raising investment capital from within the local community. AB 816 mandates that a worker cooperative have a class of worker-members, and that the worker-members control the cooperative.

Anya Kamenskaya, a worker-owner at Oakland-based DIG Cooperative, Inc. commented that the new law was necessary to help expand her business, a graywater installation and servicing company. Kamenskaya stated that "DIG Cooperative, Inc was



incorporated in 2006 using the consumer cooperative statute, as there was no way to legally form as a worker cooperative. The language in the existing statute does not accurately portray the organizational structure of a worker-owned coop. The updated provisions in AB 816 will enable our business to more easily raise operation and expansion capital by securing securities exemptions. This, in turn,

will increase our capacity to employ Oakland residents at a workplace that puts the well-being of our members first."

For a more detailed summary of the bill, visit SELC's discussion page on the bill at: <http://www.theselc.org/ca-worker-cooperative-act>.

Source: The Sustainable Economies Law Center release, 8/12/15, <http://theselc.nationbuilder.com>

## Nearly half the world's largest corporations are obstructing climate change legislation

COLE MELLINO

New research reveals that nearly half (45 percent) of the world's 100 largest companies are "obstructing climate change legislation." And those that aren't actively obstructing climate policy are members of trade associations that do. A full 95 percent of these companies are members of trade associations "demonstrating the same obstructionist behavior."

With help from the Union of Concerned Scientists, UK-based nonprofit InfluenceMap has released a report identifying the best and worst of the world's major companies when it comes to climate policy. "More and more, we're seeing companies rely on their trade groups to do their dirty work of lobbying against comprehensive climate policies," said Gretchen Goldman, lead analyst at Union of Concerned Scientists. "Companies get the delay in policy they want, while preventing nations from acting to fight climate change. It is unacceptable that companies can obstruct

climate action in this way without any accountability."

The researchers found that corporate influence over climate policies extended "beyond the activities normally associated with lobbying, including intervention in the public discourse on climate change science and policy via advertising, PR, social media, and access to decision makers, as well as the use of influencers, such as trade associations and advocacy groups."

The companies were graded on an A to F scale. None of the companies received an A. The top three companies, which all received a B, were Google, Unilever and Cisco Systems. GlaxoSmithKline, Deutsche Telekom, National Grid, Vodafone Group, Nestle, Apple and Anheuser Busch InBev rounded out the top 10. But even Apple, which has been praised in recent months for its sustainability efforts received a paltry C+. It should also be noted that of those top 13 companies, only three are headquartered in the U.S.: Google, Apple and Cisco Systems.

The rest are headquartered in Europe.

"There is a lack of detailed analysis available in this area and sadly great companies sometimes do bad things by lobbying against government action to avoid dangerous climate change," said Paul Dickinson, executive chairman of CDP.

As mentioned early, nearly all of the companies (95 percent) are members of trade associations that are fighting against climate action. Those associations include BusinessEurope (recently under attack in the UK for their obstructionist stance towards climate legislation) and the secretive U.S. industry group, NEDA/CAP, "who have been suing the U.S. EPA to prevent them using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions," according to InfluenceMap.

Other trade associations include the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), European Automobile Manufacturers Association, American Petroleum Institute, National Association of Manufacturers, U.S. Chamber of Commerce,

Business Council of Australia and Japan 2 Business Federation.

InfluenceMap's research found that "despite their public communications, few corporations have actually supported the progressive climate policies being proposed by governments globally. There also remains a lack of transparency around their relationships with trade associations, with very few companies willing to publicly challenge them despite clear misalignment between their climate positions and the actions of the associations."

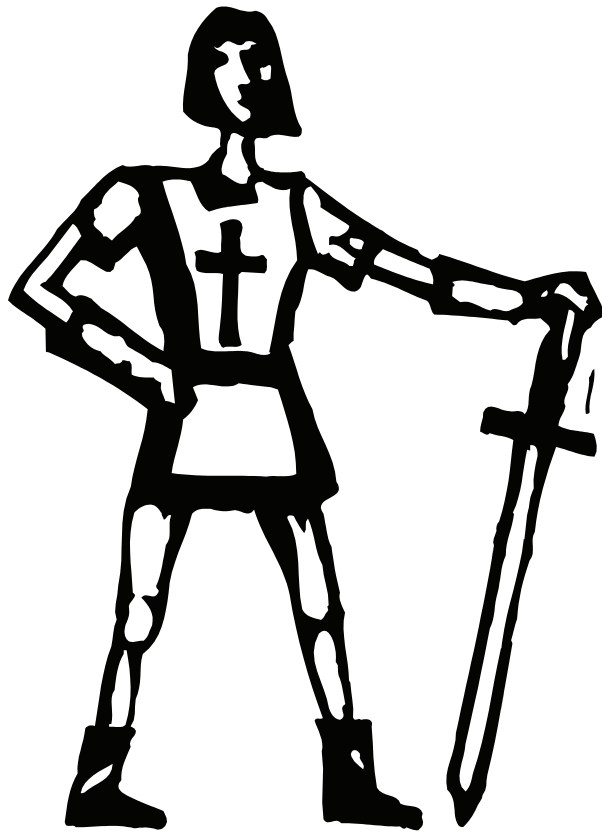
The companies receiving the lowest grades come as no surprise. Among them are major fossil fuel companies such as Chevron, BP, Duke Energy and Phillips 66. And at the bottom of the list is climate denying extraordinaire Koch Industries. Interestingly, two media companies even make the list: 21st Century Fox and Comcast.

Source: EcoWatch 9/18/15 <http://ecowatch.com>





# Why so many Americans defend the failed capitalist experiment



PAUL BUCHHEIT

Capitalism has worked for big business and for the people with stocks and estates. But for the past 35 years our economic system, stripped of sensible regulations, has poisoned the nation with deadly inequality and driven much of middle America to an ever-widening lower class.

Yet for much of the nation the delusion persists, against all common sense, that deregulated free-market capitalism works, that it equates to true Americanism, and that people have only themselves to blame for their failure to thrive in this expanding world of wealth. The reasons for this delusion are not hard to determine.

## 1. THE RICH ARE EASY TO UNDERSTAND: CAPITALISM JUSTIFIES SELFISHNESS

Studies have consistently shown that increased wealth causes people to turn inward, to believe more in their own "superior" traits, and to care less about the feelings and needs of others. This anti-social attitude blends well with the Ayn-Randish "greed is good" message of unregulated capitalism.

Other studies have determined that money pushes

people further to the right, making them less egalitarian, less willing to provide broad educational opportunities to all members of society, and certainly part of the reason that our investment in public infrastructure as a component of GDP dropped by 60 percent from 1968 to 2011.

## 2. THE WOULD-BE RICH: DOLLAR SIGNS DANCE IN THEIR HEADS

Capitalism allows profit-seekers to view students as sources of revenue, and to drain money from the public school system. Jeb Bush likened schools to milk cartons in a supermarket aisle: "I wish our schools could be more like milk...You can get whole milk, low fat milk or skim milk...chocolate, strawberry or vanilla...milk alternatives, like soy milk, almond milk and rice milk...Who would have ever thought you could improve upon milk? Yet, freedom, innovation and competition found a way."

Bush's milk alternative is the charter school business. David Brain, head of the tellingly named Entertainment Properties, called it "a great opportunity set with 500 schools starting every year. It's a two and a half billion dollar opportunity set in rough measure annually."

# Jeb's tax plan: welfare for the 1%

ROBERT REICH

I've finally had a chance to review Jeb Bush's tax plan in detail. Frankly, I have never seen proposed such a huge transfer of income and wealth to the very top. According to Josh Barro of the Times, the plan would save each member of America's top 0.01 percent an average of \$1.5 million a year.

A few details: The plan cuts the top federal income tax rate from today's nearly 44 percent (including the

Obamacare surcharge) to 28 percent, cuts the top tax rate on capital gains and dividends, and abolishes the estate tax, and reduces the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.

Yes, it expands the Earned Income Tax Credit for the working poor and raises the standard tax deduction for the middle class – but these are tiny relative to the huge giveaway for the top.

It would cost would be some \$3.4 trillion over 10 years. To pay for this,

Bush would cut spending (he doesn't indicated where the cuts would come from), cut back federal regulations, and allow big corporations to repatriate the hundreds of billions they've stashed overseas.

This is a bigger version of the trickle-down voodoo economics his brother unleashed on America (which itself was a bigger version of Reagan's trickle-down voodoo economics).

That this plan comes from the Republican Party's most establishment candidate

– at a time when the wealthiest Americans are raking in a higher share of total national income and wealth in more than a century, when the middle class is shrinking, and when almost 1 out of 5 of America's children are in poverty – reveals the utter moral bankruptcy of today's Republican Party (as if we needed more evidence). Your view?

Source: Robert Reich's Facebook  
Page 9/12/15 <https://www.facebook.com/RBReich>

But the money didn't start rolling in until the public school system began to be starved. The U.S. Department of Education reported that \$197 billion is needed to repair the nation's K-12 public school buildings. The public system is going broke, deprived of tax dollars that go to charters. State budgets are providing less per-pupil funding for kindergarten through 12th grade than they did six years ago – in many cases far less.

And the results of the capitalist school experiment? Still coming in, although evidence is quickly accumulating that many charter school systems are mired in fraud and secrecy, and shaping up as a prime example of the folly of treating human beings like products to be bought and sold.

## 3. THE REST OF US: THE MEDIA KEEPS TELLING US THAT CAPITALISM IS THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE

The mainstream media's unwillingness to state the truth about inequality has led people to vastly underestimate the wealth gap in our country, guessing that the poorest 40 percent own about 10% of the wealth, when in reality they own much less than 1% of the wealth. Out of every dollar, they own a third of a penny.

Conservative writers overwhelm us with their capitalist-loving mantras:

Income inequality is simply not a significant problem. (*The Wall Street Journal*)

Income inequality in a capitalist system is truly beautiful... (*The Washington Post*'s George Will, quoting John Tamny)

Capitalism has worked very well (Bill Gates)

A free market system...ensures a fair, democratic process (Sarah Palin)

Let the market do its job (*Chicago Tribune*)

Many of them believe that the state of America is reflected in the stock market. But the richest 10% own over 90 percent of the stocks and mutual funds. No problem for the Koch Foundation.

They comfort us with the knowledge that If you earn over \$34,000 a year, you are one of the wealthiest one percent in the world.

## 4. ANYONE ABOVE THE LOWEST CLASS: IT'S EMPOWERING TO LOOK DOWN ON SOMEONE

Members of the sinking middle class in our pathologically unequal society may well find it convenient to blame people in lower economic classes, who are unlikely to fight back. Guidance for such condescension comes from libertarian write Charles Murray, who apparently doesn't understand the family stress caused by the lack of educational and employment opportunities. He accuses the poor of having a "genetic makeup that is significantly different from the configuration of the population above the poverty line." And, he adds, "Married, educated people who work hard and conscientiously raise their kids shouldn't hesitate to voice their disapproval of those who defy these norms."

This inspires people like Paul Ryan and Scott Walker, both of whom compared the safety net to a "hammock," and John Boehner, who explained the thinking of poor people: "I really don't have to work...I think I'd rather just sit around."

The critics of struggling Americans should be reminded that the cost of the entire *Safety Net* is only about One-sixth of the \$2.2 trillion/in tax avoidance that primarily benefits the rich.

A good American capitalist like Republican Senator Lindsey Graham would say, "It's really American to avoid paying taxes, legally...It's a game we play." It's a game for the people looking down on a troubled nation.

Source: Truthout 9/14/15 <http://www.truth-out.org>



# Upcoming Senate vote on GMO labeling could jeopardize GMO-free zones

JANE AYERS

Oregon farmers are now concerned that provisions in the H.R.1599 GMO labeling bill to be voted on soon by the Senate could jeopardize their legally established GMO-free zone and GMO crop/seed ban. Creeping its way through the halls of Congress and the Senate is the "Safe and Accurate Labeling Act," a misleading name for a bill that actually will block labeling of GMO products at state levels, instead of safely and accurately labeling what is GMO in the food supply. The bill passed the House of Representatives last month and will be voted on in the Senate any day now. Critics call H.R. 1599 the DARK (Denying Americans the Right to Know) Act, and the plot is thickening in the game of twisted politics.

Recent polls have indicated that 90% of Americans want to know what is in their food and support labeling of all GMO products. But the bill being voted on is a far cry from real, authentic GMO labeling – it is the opposite of safe and accurate labeling. Food Democracy Now, a public interest group for food safety, states that the GMO labeling bill to be voted upon by the Senate would "prohibit states from labeling GMO foods or enforcing existing labeling laws" even if a high percentage of consumers are in favor of labeling. In addition, they emphasize that the labeling bill would "forbid states, cities, and counties from overseeing the production of GMO crops, creating clear opportunities for Monsanto and other mega-corporations to overrule local citizens and local food economies in favor of GMO and toxic

pesticide agriculture," all while weakening federal regulations on GMO crops. They also point out that the bill would allow the labeling of GMOs as "natural" on product labels (even though they are not natural), "tricking consumers into buying foods and products they might otherwise consider unsafe for their families."

## THREATS TO GMO CROP BANS: OVERTHROWING COUNTY INITIATIVES

Even though this bill is supposed to be focused solely on the labeling of GMOs, there are possible threats to GMO crop bans inserted in the wording of the bill. Oregon farmers are on high-alert that their GMO crop ban could be in jeopardy in southern Oregon. Though the wording of the bill does not explicitly say it will overturn county initiatives of existing GMO crop bans and GMO-free zones, there is a section of the bill with language that could be interpreted later in courts of law to potentially endanger existing citizen-based ordinances and county and state laws.

Chris Hardy, co-author of the GMO crop ban bill in southern Oregon, stated, "A number of attorneys have expressed concern that leads me to believe the H.R.1599 GMO labeling bill could shut down a dozen GMO crop bans which have been implemented to protect local traditional farming practices nationwide." The questionable wording in the GMO labeling bill is found under Section 113, and could in subsequent lawsuits be interpreted as saying that county ordinances cannot ban GMO crops due to "interference with

commerce" of GMO farmers.

Even though proponents of this bill have argued on the House floor that this is "not about GMO bans," at the very least, this portion of the H.R.1599 should be struck or amended by the Senate to protect already existing or future GMO crop bans nationwide. The deletion of this section, however, does not mean that this labeling bill will be acceptable. If the Senate's vote is to truly represent the will of the people, they should scrap this bill in its entirety.

## AN ACCEPTABLE GMO LABELING BILL

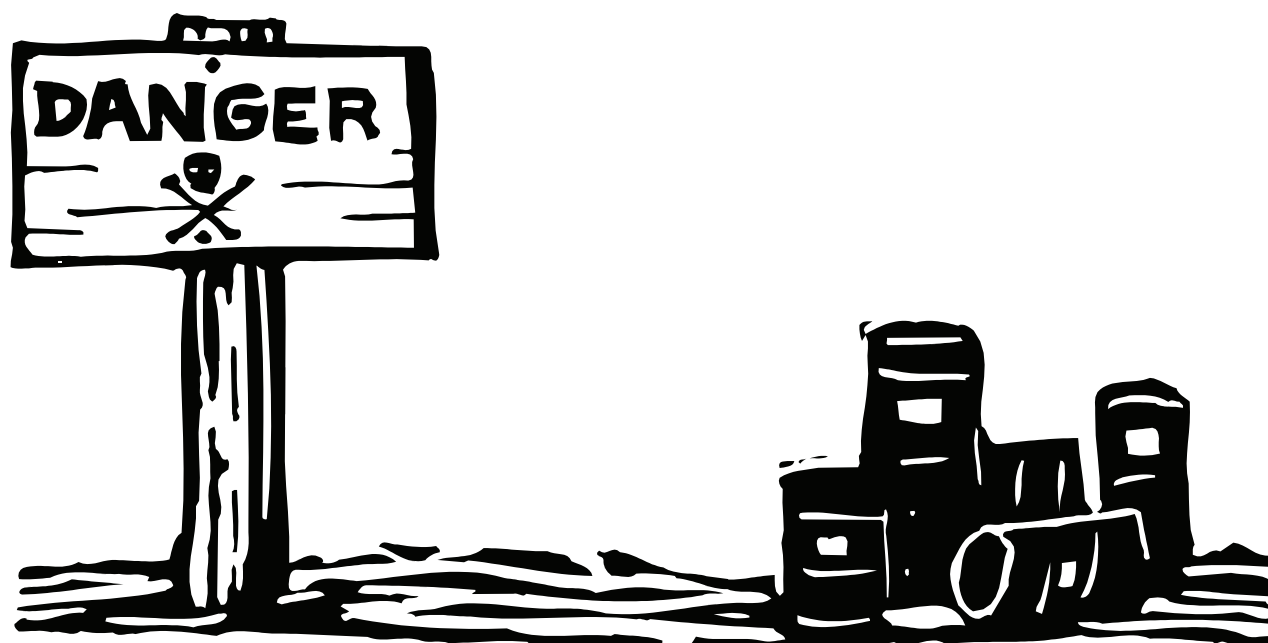
Another bill, H.R.913, the Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act, was introduced in March 2015 by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Rep. Peter De Fazio (D-Ore.) The bill would require labels to show genetically engineered foods/ingredients, and would prohibit labeling GMOs as natural. It has yet to be voted on.

*Action: Contact your representative.*

JANE AYERS IS A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO READER SUPPORTED NEWS. SHE IS ALSO A STRINGER WITH USA TODAY AND LOS ANGELES TIMES.

*Source: Reader Supported News 9/10/15*

# Monsanto favorite glyphosate soon to join California's cancer list



NADIA PRUPIS

In an unprecedented move, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) will soon start labeling the common herbicide ingredient glyphosate a "probable carcinogenic," stepping up efforts to protect health and wildlife in the agriculture-

heavy state even as use of weedkillers that include such toxins hits an all-time high.

Under Proposition 65, California is required to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer or birth defects. Glyphosate—favored ingredient of agrochemical producers like Monsanto and Dow—was declared "probably

carcinogenic to humans" in March by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a body of the World Health Organization.

"California's taking an important step toward protecting people and wildlife from this toxic pesticide," said Dr. Nathan Donley, staff scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD).

"More than 250 million pounds of glyphosate are used each year in the United States, and the science is clear that it's a threat to public health and countless wildlife species. It's long past time to start reining in the out-of-control use of glyphosate in the United States."

In an email to EcoWatch,

Donley added that California appears to be the first state to take such measures against the chemical. "As far as I'm aware, this is the first regulatory agency in the U.S. to determine that glyphosate is a carcinogen," he wrote. "So this is a very big deal."

Giving a chemical 'Prop 65' designation does not prevent sale or use of the substance, and glyphosate will only join the list after a 30-day period of public comment. Still, the news was received warmly by environmental advocates, who say it's important for California to acknowledge the IARC's findings and respond accordingly.

Rebecca Spector, west coast director at Center for Food Safety, told EcoWatch, "Since The World Health Organization's research arm recently declared glyphosate is probably carcinogenic to humans, listing it under Prop 65 and requiring it to be labeled as such is a logical next step."

According to CBD, use of glyphosate is at an all-time

high. "Its use increased more than 20-fold, from 10 million pounds in 1990, largely due to the widespread adoption of crops, particularly corn and soy, that are genetically engineered to withstand what would otherwise be fatal doses of glyphosate," the center wrote in a statement. Recent studies have also linked its widespread usage to declining populations of Monarch butterflies and has even been found in the blood and urine of agricultural workers. France announced in June that it would cease over-the-counter sales of Roundup over its carcinogenic concerns.

Donley said Friday, "The spike in usage of glyphosate is really concerning because more use equals more exposure. It's nearly impossible for people to limit exposure to this toxin because it is just so widespread. That's why we need much tighter controls on its use."

*Source: Common Dreams 9/8/15  
http://www.commondreams.org/*





# The clean power checkerboard

GAR ALPEROVITZ

Following the landmark Supreme Court ruling in 2014 affirming the Environmental Protection Agency's right to reduce carbon pollution, President Obama has introduced a major program in the lead-up to the Paris climate talks at the end of this year that seeks to significantly reduce carbon emissions from US power plants, targeting a 32 percent drop from 2005 levels by 2030. This is a substantial executive action in a hostile legislative context, although many climate activists rightly demand far more ambitious targets.

What few have noticed is that the implementation phase of the Clean Power Plan is where things could start to get very interesting as there are almost certainly going to be very important opportunities for powerful local organizing.

Basically, the EPA will be mandating reductions on a *state-by-state* basis, and then each state will be responsible for hitting those targets - or the federal government would step in, via the proposed Federal Plan, and do it for them if they refused or were unwilling to meet the targets. In certain ways, the approach resembles the Affordable Care Act, but given the flexibility in the strategies states can pick to cut their emissions, there is going to be a great deal of unexpected room to begin demanding, *at the state level*, plans that get the climate job done while also moving toward a more democratic economy.

This is potentially true even in states politically hostile to the notion of government regulation, where even mentioning the fact that climate change is caused by humans remains ludicrously taboo in political discourse. Savvy climate activists in these conservative states might well push for a "cap-and-dividend" plan - *in response to the conservative fear that the federal government will otherwise step in*. Rather than turning the right to pollute into a financialized commodity to be traded by Wall Street and between giant corporations as "cap-and-trade" does, such a plan would promise to transfer the fees

imposed on polluters directly to every citizen.

From the climate perspective, this could be one way to do an end run around red-state opposition - it's harder to side with the fulminations of climate denialists when your carbon reduction dividend check reliably arrives in the mail every year. From an economic standpoint, such a move would put what amounts to a first step toward a *universal basic income* on the table in a very practical way. Indeed, the deep red state of Alaska has no problem with this traditionally socialist principle when it comes to the annual checks each resident receives from the Alaska Permanent Fund (a publicly owned fund that collects and invests proceeds from oil and mineral extraction in the state).

In many states, however, it might well be possible to do far better. Many grassroots environmental justice groups are rightly angry that the featured status of cap-and-trade arrangements in the Clean Power Plan means essentially that polluters disproportionately harming poorer, predominantly Black and Brown communities (where dirty power plants tend to be located) are likely going to be allowed to pay for the privilege of perpetuating this harm. But what if it were possible in certain states to force dirty power to help finance its own displacement, and to do so in a way that started to address persistent economic marginalization along class and race lines?

In these states, the checkerboard is slightly more open: Here, a push might be made not for strategies like cap-and-dividend that generate funds earmarked for anyone whatsoever, but to earmark funds for the communities that face the most harm in the current energy system. The goal, too, would be to directly build up an alternative. Carbon dividends could be used to finance low-income community solar, for instance, with community benefit provisions directing the jobs created into community-based or cooperative businesses built to intentionally create opportunities where they are most needed. The Clean Power Plan requires, at least nominally, the inclusion of low-income



communities in the formulation of state plans. Moving toward a community-based, democratized energy system could make those provisions more than just empty token gestures.

Finally, in a few states the politics might align to really open a path clear across the checkerboard. Elsewhere in the world, we've seen pessimism give way to populist efforts to build very different energy systems: Cooperative ownership of wind turbines, for instance, played a major role in the development of a renewable sector in Denmark. Germany's *Energiewende*, while not without its problems, has shown that ambitious planning around energy transition is a real possibility - and this policy regime is now being supplemented by popular activist movements that support remunicipalizing large portions of the electrical system. Nor is this kind of thing impossible in the United States; they're successfully doing it in Boulder, Colorado, for instance.

With Obama's mandated reductions necessary, but not sufficient to meet key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) targets to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we're going to need local pressure and local momentum to go beyond what the EPA has set out. The Clean Power Plan is an invitation to the states to reinvent their energy systems.

On the new clean power checkerboard, it's entirely possible, given the right strategic mobilizations, that three or four breakout

states will fully embrace a transition to renewables aligned with economic justice and democratic ownership. Another 10 or 15 states might achieve substantial progress to align more modest carbon reductions with the growth of a community-centered energy economy. And even in the states that will inevitably fight tooth and nail for their right to continue ignoring the threat of climate change, new approaches to a democratized energy system may be able to begin to help shape the federal option that will be imposed on the holdouts.

A state-by-state checkerboard strategy can be powerful: Same-sex marriage seemed like a political impossibility at the start of the millennium; 15 years later, it's the law of the land. In the New Deal era, much of what ultimately became Roosevelt's signature social and economic programs was a product of the checkerboard strategy as well, prototyped in the local "laboratories of democracy." A strategic breakthrough at the state rather than federal level might one day make it possible to tell a similar story about the fight for a just energy transition.

GAR ALPEROVITZ, AUTHOR OF / WHAT THEN MUST WE DO? STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT THE NEXT AMERICAN REVOLUTION/, IS COFOUNDER OF THE DEMOCRACY COLLABORATIVE, AND CO-CHAIR OF THE NEXT SYSTEM PROJECT.

Source: Truthout 9/10/15 [www.truth-out.org](http://www.truth-out.org)

## Turning cities green will save trillions of dollars



Improving cities' green infrastructure could save up to US\$22 trillion and cut the same amount in carbon pollution as India's entire yearly greenhouse gas emissions, economists predicted Tuesday. The Global Commission on Climate and Economy, made up of former finance ministers and leading research institutions, discovered that climate-smart changes, like broadened public transport, energy-saving buildings and more efficient waste management, could boost economic development and improve quality of life, as well as reduce pollution.

The massive savings that could occur, should

government adopt the efforts, could reach US\$22 trillion by 2050, and by 2030 the equivalent of 3.7 gigatons of pollution could be avoided - higher than India's present greenhouse gas output. The report debunks the idea that investing in preventing climate change is too expensive to be worth while. "There is now increasing evidence that emissions can decrease while economies continue to grow," said Seth Schultz, a researcher for the C40 climate leadership group who advised on the report. "Becoming more sustainable and putting the world - specifically cities - on a low carbon trajectory is actually feasible and good

economics."

According to the document, investment in public transport would have the greatest immediate effect, cutting air pollution strangling India and China and curtailing traffic and accidents in cities like Sao Paulo. Indeed as well as saving money, the report says, the changes could save time: bus lanes like those built in Buenos Aires could halve commuter times.

Ecuador is one country already committed to lowering emissions through investment. The country's socialist president, Rafael Correa, has invested US\$5 billion in green infrastructure projects, and by 2016 Ecuador

will be run 96 percent on renewable energy sources. Another mammoth project is introducing induction stoves into family kitchens, based on renewables rather than gas. The aim is to convert 3 million houses, out of a population of 14 million.

The findings of the study, which call on world leaders to adopt emissions-saving efforts by 2020, were released as French President Francois Hollande warned on Monday that global climate change negotiations due to take place in Paris at the end of the year could fail.

The talks are considered to be key to creating a legally binding global emissions treaty, but will achieve

nothing if leaders cannot agree, the French head of state said. "There is a risk of failure," Hollande told journalists, after a meeting on the issue of providing financial assistance to poor countries affected by climate change. "If we don't conclude (with a successful agreement), and there are no substantial measures to ensure the transition (to a climate-affected world), it won't be hundreds of thousands of refugees in the next 20 years, it will be millions."

Source: teleSUR 9/8/15 <http://www.telesurto.net>



# In gutting California climate bill, big oil won skirmish — but not war

DEIRDRE FULTON

Big Oil has succeeded in dismantling a key component of California's sweeping climate change bill, with legislative leaders announcing Wednesday afternoon that in the wake of an intense lobbying campaign, they would drop a measure calling for a 50 percent cut in petroleum use by 2030. The fossil fuel industry had poured money into advertising and lobbying campaigns against Senate Bill 350 (SB350), calling the legislation the "California Gas Restriction Act of 2015" and warning that it could lead to gas-rationing, bans on SUVs, and the demise of oil companies.

Supporters had a different take, saying that SB 350 represented "an opportunity for our state to go in a new direction, allowing us all to avoid toiling away to stop yet another toxic power plant in our backyard, and it can also reverse our destructive reliance on fossil fuels," as one young activist, Evelyn García, wrote in the lead up to this week's showdown. Among climate

leaders like 350.org's Jamie Henn, there was little doubt that the fossil fuel industry's "bottomless war chest" was to blame for the defeat.

At a press conference Wednesday, Senate President pro Tempore Kevin De León noted that the bill's remaining sections—which call for the state to boost energy efficiency in buildings by 50 percent and to get half of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030—"are in and of themselves landmark achievements."

"But in the end—with two days left," he said, "we could not cut through the million-dollar smokescreen created by a single special-interest with a singular motive and a bottomless war chest." De León didn't stop there. "[T]he fact that, despite overwhelming scientific opinion and statewide public support, we still weren't able to overcome the silly-season scare tactics of an outside industry which

has repeatedly opposed environmental progress and energy innovation—means that there's a temporary disconnect in our politics which needs to be overcome,"

he declared. Gov. Jerry Brown echoed those charges while expressing optimism about the road ahead. "Oil has won a skirmish," Brown said at the press conference. "But they lost a bigger battle, because I am more determined than ever to make our regulatory regime work for the people of California."

According to /KQED News/: "[Gov. Brown and Sen. De León] said the oil industry's main goal was actually to include provisions in SB 350 that would strip power from the California Air Resources Board, the regulatory agency that has overseen the state's ambitious push toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The board has been a frequent target of Republicans and business groups opposed to the state's already-ambitious climate change laws. "Look, we had a long discussion. It's very simple — if we said turn every rule that the ARB makes over to the Legislature, then we get the bill, if we don't do that, then (they) kill it," Brown said of negotiations with oil companies in recent days. But he added, "California is not

going to miss a beat, be very clear about that, we don't have a declaration in statute, but we have absolutely the same authority we had going forward. The only difference is my zeal has been intensified to a maximum degree, and nothing is going to stop the state from pushing forward."

"It's a sad day when oil industry lies stand in the way of clean air, but if the industry thinks they have won a victory, it will be short-lived," the Natural Resources Defense Council said in a statement.

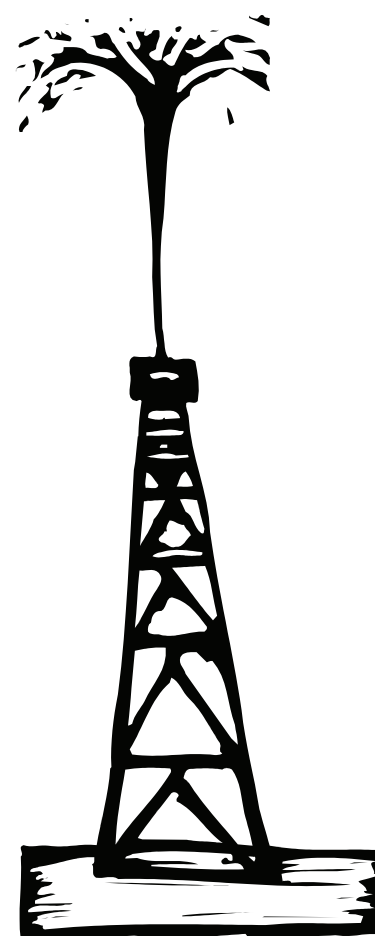
However, it continued, "California's leadership and communities across the state are more determined than ever to reduce petroleum dependence." Henn, of 350.org, agreed, pointing to a specific step that Brown could take to strike back against fossil fuels. "Big Oil succeeded in gutting one of the most important provisions of this bill," Henn said in a statement. "Let's face it: Governor Brown got his hat handed to him. Now, the clearest way he can fight back against the industry is by banning fracking in California—and

that's something he can do on his own, without the State Legislature."

Meanwhile, elsewhere in California, environmentalists rejoiced as the University of California's chief investment officer on Wednesday said it has sold off about \$200

million of direct holdings in coal and tar sands companies, which he said were no longer good investments for the university's \$98.2 billion fund.

Source: Common Dreams 9/10/15  
<http://www.commondreams.org>



## Report details Obama's authority to keep 450 billion tons of greenhouse gas pollution in ground

The Center for Biological Diversity released a report today detailing the forms of legal authority that President Obama, as well as future U.S. presidents, possesses to stop new federal fossil fuel leasing on public lands and oceans.

That step would prevent up to 450 billion tons of greenhouse gas pollution from escaping into the atmosphere and worsening the global climate crisis. It would also protect America's public lands, water and wildlife from destructive development of oil, gas, coal, oil shale and tar sands.

The report is called Grounded: The President's Power to Fight Climate Change, Protect Public Lands by Keeping Publicly Owned Fossil Fuels in the Ground. It describes broad authority under the Mineral Leasing Act, Outer Continental Shelf Act and Federal Land Policy and Management Act that the president can use — without waiting for Congress — to defer and ultimately prohibit new leasing of publicly owned, federal fossil fuels onshore and offshore.

"President Obama has the power to take a giant leap toward tackling the climate crisis by ending new leases for drilling, mining and fracking on our public lands," said Michael Saul with the Center. "It's not enough to just regulate tail pipes and smokestacks — new production needs to be phased out too. President Obama can do that now, under existing law, by ending new fossil fuel leases on our public lands and in our oceans."

Today's report follows a landmark report by EcoShift Consulting, issued in August on behalf of the Center for

Biological Diversity and Friends of the Earth, that estimated the potential greenhouse gas emissions of federally controlled, publicly owned fossil fuels. The analysis, The Potential Greenhouse Gas Emissions of U.S. Federal Fossil Fuels, models the life-cycle greenhouse gas pollution that would result from developing federally controlled coal, oil shale, natural gas, crude oil and tar sands on public lands and offshore ocean areas under government control. It showed that:

Potential greenhouse gas emissions of federal fossil fuels (leased and unleased) if developed would release up to 492 gigatons (Gt) (one gigaton equals 1 billion tons) of carbon dioxide equivalent pollution (CO<sub>2</sub>e), representing 46 percent to 50 percent of potential emissions from all remaining U.S. fossil fuels. Of that amount, up to 450 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e have not yet been leased to private industry for extraction, an amount that could be kept from the global pool of potential emissions by a president who stops new federal fossil fuel leases. Releasing those 450 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e (the equivalent annual pollution of more than 118,000 coal-fired power plants) is incompatible with any U.S. share of global carbon limits that would keep emissions below scientifically advised levels. More than 67 million acres of public land and ocean — an area 55 times larger than Grand Canyon National Park — are already leased to the fossil fuel industry.

Both reports come as world leaders prepare for December's climate negotiations in Paris, where they

must negotiate a binding international agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Since the United States is the world's largest cumulative emitter and one of its strongest economies, its leadership in those negotiations is vital.

Scientists tell say that to preserve a habitable climate — in which the world isn't ravaged by rising seas, food shortages and horrific weather events — we must keep a vast majority of fossil fuels in the ground.

"President Obama has the clear authority to keep nearly half of U.S. potential greenhouse gas pollution out of the atmosphere for good," said Saul. "If he did, he would make the U.S. the world's first nation to keep its remaining government-controlled carbon in the ground, and would challenge other nations to do the same. History will side with strong action that ensures a livable climate."

At the Center for Biological Diversity, we believe that the welfare of human beings is deeply linked to nature — to the existence in our world of a vast diversity of wild animals and plants. Because diversity has intrinsic value, and because its loss impoverishes society, we work to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction. We do so through science, law, and creative media, with a focus on protecting the lands, waters, and climate that species need to survive.

Source: Center for Biological Diversity 9/10/15 <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>





# Setting up a fight with the fossil fuel industry, activists prepare for Paris climate talks



Thursday's show, Off & On, picked up where Do the Math left off, telling the story of how the world can move beyond fossil fuels. The title refers to 350.org's mission to "turn off" the fossil fuel industry and "turn on" an 100% renewable energy economy. Over the course of two hours, climate leaders from around the world told the story of a growing global resistance against the fossil fuel industry, and how communities are leading the transition towards clean energy.

"The world is waking up to climate change. There are no single-issue movements any more: the fight for climate justice is a fight for social justice. If we're going to change everything, we need everyone," said Cynthia Ong, the Founder & Executive Director of LEAP (Land Empowerment Animals People) in Borneo, who co-hosted the event. Ong helped lead a coalition of environmentalists and locals in a successful battle against a massive coal plant in the Malaysian state of Sabah.

The speakers reminded the audience, however, that the climate crisis is a race against the clock. They said that a top priority for the climate movement must be to "defuse" the world's largest "carbon bombs," major fossil fuel reserves that must stay in the ground in order to keep global warming from spiraling out of control. Top targets include the tar sands in Canada and coal mines in Germany and Australia.

"We can do this. This is not a technological problem. Its a problem of too much corporate power," said Naomi Klein. "As we move to a new energy paradigm we need to move to a new world too: one that takes justice seriously."

Other speakers at the Thursday event included Rev. Lennox Yearwood, president and CEO of

the Hip Hop Caucus; Cynthia Ong, the Founder & Executive Director of LEAP (Land Empowerment Animals People) in Borneo; Eddie Bautista, Executive Director of the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; and others. The speakers represented the growing breadth and depth of the climate justice movement.

"The long history of social change should give us some guidance, and some optimism. Jim Crow, apartheid: they seemed as mighty as the fossil fuel industry does right now. It seemed like they'd be with us forever. But as people changed the zeitgeist—with civil disobedience, with divestment, with organizing—those old institutions began to crumble," said Rev. Yearwood of the Hip Hop Caucus, which is currently leading a tour across America called "Act on Climate" with the People's Climate Music project. "That work is not complete, as we can see from the huge inequalities that remain. Which is why our climate solutions need to deliver racial justice too."

Over the last few years, 350.org has emerged as a leading force in the growing climate movement, helping grow the fossil fuel divestment effort from a few college campuses in the US to a worldwide campaign, and organizing major mobilizations like last year's People's Climate March that brought 400,000 people to the streets of New York.

Now, 350.org and its allies are looking to dramatically expand the divestment campaign, put hundreds of thousands of people in the streets during the Paris climate summit, and pull off a series of major actions targeting fossil fuel projects

next Spring. Thursday evening's Off & On presentation will be turned into a series of videos that will be shared with activists around the world to help them plan local campaigns and further build the movement for climate justice.

"We're laying out a strategy that we think can have a profound impact on our politicians, while keeping power in the hands of the people, so we can create the change we need to see," said 350.org Executive Director, May Boeve. "This show marks the start of a campaign to supercharge our movement and take the fight right to the source of the problem."

The number 350 is the red line for human beings, the most important number on the planet. The most recent science tells us that unless we can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million, we will cause huge and irreversible damage to the earth. But solutions exist. All around the world, a movement is building to take on the climate crisis, to get humanity out of the danger zone and below 350. This movement is massive, it is diverse, and it is visionary. We are activists, scholars, and scientists. We are leaders in our businesses, our churches, our governments, and our schools. We are clean energy advocates, forward-thinking politicians, and fearless revolutionaries. And we are united around the world, driven to make our planet livable for all who come after us.

Source: 350.org 9/11/15 <http://www.350.org>

Nearly 2,000 people packed into a concert hall in Brooklyn this Thursday evening to listen to Bill McKibben, Naomi Klein, and other movement leaders launch a new campaign to challenge the fossil fuel industry ahead of a major UN Climate Summit in Paris this December.

"Our job, as a movement, is to turn off the world's supply of fossil fuel, and to turn on the infinite power of renewable energy," said Bill McKibben, the writer and co-founder of the international climate

campaign 350.org. "Paris can send a signal that the world is moving away from fossil fuels, but it will still be up to us to get the job done."

Back in 2012, McKibben and Klein hosted a 21-city tour called "Do the Math" to launch the fossil fuel divestment campaign. That show helped popularize the idea of the carbon bubble, the realization that fossil fuel companies are overvalued because the world cannot burn all of the reserves on their balance sheets and keep global warming below 2°C.

## Feds offering up 42 million acres for drilling in Gulf of Mexico

JENNIFER LARINO

The federal government will offer more than 42 million acres off the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and western Florida for oil and gas drilling in a March lease sale. The sales will be the ninth and 10th under the Obama administration's five-year offshore leasing plan. The

government will offer more than 7,900 lease blocks in the central and eastern Gulf of Mexico in waters ranging from 9 feet to more than 11,000 feet in depth. The sale will be held in March at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management estimates the proposed lease acreage in the central Gulf

could hold up to 894 million barrels of oil and 3.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Acreage in the eastern Gulf—the waters off of Mississippi, Alabama and parts of Florida—could hold up to 71 million barrels of oil and 162 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Federal lease sales for drilling rights in the Gulf slumped at the most recent sale in August amid low oil

prices. Just five companies placed \$22.6 million in bids, the smallest sale in nearly 30 years. The Obama administration has offered more than 60 million acres for oil and gas exploration under the current 2012-17 lease plan. Federal sales have drawn nearly \$3 billion in bonus revenue.

Source: NOLA.com 9/12/15 <http://www.nola.com>



**LAW OFFICES OF  
ANN M. CERNEY  
SHELLIE LOTT  
LANGLEY KREUZE**

**Attorneys at Law**  
42 N. Sutter Street, Suite 40, Stockton  
104 N. School St. #205, Lodi  
948-9384 or 369-1333

- Social Security
- Probate
- Wills
- Trusts

*Se Habla Espanol • Thai • Vietnamese*



**LELA NELSON REALTY**  
2222 Pacific Avenue • Stockton, CA 95204

**(209) 467-1200**  
(209) 942-5673 Fax  
(209) 466-6243 Res.  
E-Mail: [LelaNelson@aol.com](mailto:LelaNelson@aol.com)  
Website: [www.lelanelson.com](http://www.lelanelson.com)

**E. Lela Nelson**  
BROKER





# Victory! Uruguay abandons TiSA negotiations

In a major victory against the corporate-driven trade model, the President of Uruguay has announced that the country will be leaving the controversial Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiations. Uruguay's initial decision to join the TiSA negotiations was met with strong and vocal opposition. Last month, more than 40,000 protesters shut down the city of Montevideo for a 24 hour general strike in which the TiSA was a major issue. The Frente Amplio (FA), Uruguay's leading political party, passed a resolution calling for Uruguay to leave the negotiations, and yesterday, Uruguayan President Vázquez officially announced Uruguay's departure. Uruguay's decision is in no small part thanks to the tireless efforts of many activists, labor unions, environmental organizations, and other civil society groups in the country.

And the Uruguayans are right to be concerned about TiSA. Comprised of 51 nations, negotiations on the "trade"

agreement have been on-going since 2013. Much like its TPP and TAFTA counterparts, TiSA negotiations have been conducted behind closed doors, with no access for civil society or stakeholders. However, a number of leaks of negotiating documents have confirmed the worst: TiSA is a threat to key public services and domestic regulations that we rely on for commonsense financial, data privacy, net neutrality and a number of other issues. And that's just what we can confirm based on leaks.

While Uruguay's rejection of TiSA is certainly a moment to celebrate in the fight against the global expansion of the corporate trade model, much work remains. Given what we know about TiSA, its completion would be disastrous for workers, consumers, internet users, and those in need of public services. Therefore, the campaign continues, and in the words of Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary of the Public

Services International global union (one of the groups leading the charge against TiSA), Uruguay's decision is "an example that we hope others will soon follow."

EYES ON TRADE IS A BLOG BY THE STAFF OF PUBLIC CITIZEN'S GLOBAL TRADE WATCH (GTW) DIVISION. GTW AIMS TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY BY CHALLENGING CORPORATE GLOBALIZATION, ARGUING THAT THE CURRENT GLOBALIZATION MODEL IS NEITHER A RANDOM INEVITABILITY NOR "FREE TRADE." EYES ON TRADE IS A SPACE FOR INTERESTED PARTIES TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE ISSUES, AND IN PARTICULAR FOR US TO SHARE OUR WATCHDOGGING INSIGHTS WITH YOU! GTW DIRECTOR LORI WALLACH'S INITIAL POST EXPLAINS IT ALL.

Source: *Eyes on Trade* 9/8/15 <http://www.citizen.org/tradewatch>.

# Delta tunnels would violate ESA, groups warn



Conservation groups warned state and federal regulators today that the Delta Water Tunnels project (the so-called "California Water Fix") to build massive tunnels to divert water from the Sacramento River to the Central Valley and State Water Projects cannot be permitted under the Endangered Species Act because it would adversely affect protected critical habitat for endangered salmon runs and other imperiled fish species in the Bay-Delta and Sacramento River.

"The Water Tunnels project agencies are pandering to special-interest groups while ignoring their public trust responsibilities for endangered species, the health of the Bay-Delta Estuary, and to future generations," said Robert Wright, senior counsel for Friends of the River. "We must never forget that while profit is for today, extinction is forever. Building the tunnels would mean the permanent loss of our salmon runs."

"Governor Brown and the Bureau of Reclamation are determined to destroy what remains of our salmon runs and consign the native fish in the Delta to extinction – all to send more Sacramento River water south to wealthy agribusiness," said Jeff Miller with the Center for Biological Diversity. "This water

diversion scheme isn't legal, since federal agencies are not permitted to adversely alter critical habitat that is explicitly protected for the recovery of these endangered fish. Such blatant disregard for the Endangered Species Act will certainly make this project ripe for litigation."

"Documents obtained through the public records act show plans to take hundreds of farms by eminent domain to build the tunnels," said Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Restore the Delta's executive director. "Despite massive public opposition and an ongoing public comment period, open until October 30, the governor has his hard hat ready to go for this project. This process has become increasingly un-democratic."

Friends of the River, Restore the Delta, the Center for Biological Diversity, California Water Impact Network, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and the Environmental Water Caucus (a coalition of more than 30 nonprofit environmental and community organizations and California Indian tribes) sent a letter today to the California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Natural Resources Agency and federal

regulatory agencies objecting to the tunnels project proposal to adversely modify critical habitat for five threatened and endangered fish species. The project would divert

enormous quantities of freshwater from areas that are designated as critical habitat for endangered Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon and four other threatened species: Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead trout, southern green sturgeon and delta smelt.

The groups warned that the Delta Water Tunnels project is not permissible under the Endangered Species Act and that the Bureau of Reclamation has failed to obtain biological opinions or reasonable and prudent alternatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service regarding impacts to protected fish species, as required under the Endangered Species Act.

## BACKGROUND

Four distinct runs of chinook salmon spawn in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River system. Winter-run chinook enter the Sacramento River as adults from December through early August. Sacramento winter-

run chinook currently only spawn in a small section of the upper Sacramento River, with historic spawning areas in the McCloud, Pit, and Little Sacramento Rivers blocked by Shasta and Keswick dams. The spawning run has declined from more than 100,000 fish in the late 1960s to only a few thousand annual spawners. Spring-run chinook adults enter the Sacramento River from late March through September, hold in cool water habitats through the summer, then spawn in the fall. Spring-run chinook were historically the most abundant salmon run in the Central Valley, with runs of more than 600,000 fish. Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon now only have remnant runs of about 10,000 or less wild fish in Mill, Deer and Butte creeks, tributaries to the upper Sacramento River.

Historically 1 million to 2 million Central Valley steelhead trout spawned each year in 81 different reaches of tributaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, but now fewer than 10,000 steelhead spawn each year. The southern population of green sturgeon has been reduced to about 300 spawning fish annually in the Sacramento River. Former spawning populations in the Eel River and San Joaquin River have been eliminated. The delta smelt was once one of the most common and abundant of the Delta's open water fishes. Excessive water diversions have driven the species to near extinction. Recent surveys failed to

detect any delta smelt for the first time surveys began in 1959.

The Delta Water Tunnels project would divert vast amounts of fresh water from the Sacramento River between Clarksburg and Courtland and ship it through two tunnels roughly 35 miles south for the Central Valley and State Water Projects. This massive new diversion would prevent freshwater from flowing through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta during critical life stages for each of the five listed endangered and threatened fish species, and significantly alter their critical habitats. Under the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies are prohibited from destroying or adversely modifying designated critical habitat for any listed species.

Source: *Restore the Delta Blog* 9/9/15  
<http://restorethedelta.org/blog>





# Fast, faster, fastest: why the rush?

RALPH NADER

Socrates and Plato were not in a hurry. Neither was Aristotle nor Heraclitus. They took time to think deeply. As far back as twenty-four centuries ago, they offered insights and observations about the human condition, character, and personality that are as true today as they were then.

Fast forward to our fast-paced society. Many people think if they talk faster, people will think they're smarter. Talking fast is not talking smart. Evening TV news interviews of individuals may average five or less seconds, called sound bites, while they averaged about eighteen seconds in the nineteen-seventies. Standardized tests put a premium on how fast you can answer the questions, putting an emphasis on speed and memory rather than understanding. With standardized testing, deeper learning never really had a chance. Marketers aim for your instant gratification when selling you junk food and other impulse buys.

"One-click ordering" has taken this system to a completely new level. Smart traders surrender to computerized trading, speculating in split seconds on the stock exchanges. I could give you ten reasons why this is a bad idea.

You can now hear the evening news on National Public Radio in just three or so minutes—an absurdity. There are radio segments called the "academic minute" and the "corporate crime minute," dedicated to shrinking attention spans.

To state the obvious, there are fast food outlets everywhere—so many that a modest slow food movement is underway. Many hospitals have been known to admit women in labor and discharge these new mothers less than twenty-four hours after they have given birth – exhibiting a corporate form of "attention deficit disorder." Advertisements for drugs and other consumables end with warnings of adverse effects that are described so swiftly that they are simply incomprehensible. A top sushi restaurant in Tokyo charges by the minute, not the amount ordered—running you about \$300 for a thirty minute meal.

Ever count how many images flit by in an ordinary TV news show while it is being narrated? Play it again – does the viewer even have a chance to absorb and mentally react? TV advertisements are, of course, more emotionally charged this way.

Then there is Twitter with its limited 140 character tweets, the ping-pong exchanges of text messaging scores

of times throughout the day, and the constant immersion in video games. Back in 1999, Barbara Ehrenreich, in her view of James Gleick's book "Faster: The Acceleration of Just About Everything," pauses to ponder: "What we lose, as 'just about everything' accelerates, is the chance to reflect, to analyze and, ultimately, to come up with moral judgments."

Not quite everything in our society, however, is speeding up. Rush hour speeds have slowed to ten or fifteen miles per hour in many cities. Banks, in a computer age, deliberately take days to clear checks, maybe hoping to penalize you with a \$35 bounced check fee. Try getting through to a business or another institution on an automated phone line. You may have to work through ten levels of "press one, press two..." After choosing, you may only have the opportunity to leave a voicemail message.

As a society, it has taken far too long to implement proven policies that could address and abolish poverty, including raising the minimum wage that has been long gutted by inflation. As a society, we are too slowly expanding mass transit, confronting climate change, converting to renewable energy, and improving the miles per gallon of our automobiles.

Except for Medicare reimbursements, physicians know how long it takes for insurance companies to pay up. Our companies and governments take a long time to clean up their own pollution or respond to complaints from consumers and citizens. These days, it's looking like a contest of who can care less.

On the other hand, a bizarre, frantic emphasis has emerged to get the packages you order delivered faster and faster. Amazon is following through on their wildest dreams and even thinking about using drones to make deliveries. Likewise, Walmart is gearing up to deliver to your homes and businesses as fast as they can. Pretty soon, people won't have to go to stores; they'll just order everything online and never see any other shoppers or have chance meetings with friends and neighbors. Let's hear the applause from those people who haven't thought through these "improvements" and the resulting destruction of communities.

Entertainment is a bubble waiting to burst. People do not have more than two eyes, two ears, or twenty-four hours in a day. In the nineteen-fifties, there were three national television networks. Now, there are hundreds of cable channels and over-the-air TV stations, not to mention the

avalanche of internet-based programs and diversions. The pressure for ratings is starting to implode on its vendors. In an article published on August 31, 2015 in the New York Times titled "Soul Searching in TV Land," reporter John Koblin, sums up the "malaise in TV these days," namely, "there is simply too much on television." Too much is colliding with too fast and our technological wonderland is fraying.

Hewlett Packard (HP) has just started an advertising campaign with the headline: "The Future Belongs to the Fast." The text includes this message: "HP believes that when people, technology, and ideas all come together, business can move further, faster."

By contrast, fifteen years ago, Bill Joy, the famous technology inventor/innovator wrote an article titled "The Future Doesn't Need Us," citing the oncoming converging technologies of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and nanotechnology.

So which is it? Got a minute to think about it? Hurry! Oops, you've just lost 63 nanoseconds already trying to decide.

RALPH NADER IS A CONSUMER ADVOCATE, LAWYER, AND AUTHOR. HIS LATEST BOOK IS THE SEVENTEEN SOLUTIONS: BOLD IDEAS FOR OUR AMERICAN FUTURE. OTHER RECENT BOOKS INCLUDE, THE SEVENTEEN TRADITIONS: LESSONS FROM AN AMERICAN CHILDHOOD, GETTING STEAMED TO OVERCOME CORPORATISM: BUILD IT TOGETHER TO WIN, AND "ONLY THE SUPER-RICH CAN SAVE US" (A NOVEL).

Source: Common Dreams 9/12/15 <http://www.commondreams.org>



## Contact Your Reps

Pres. Barack H. Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC 20500. 202-456-1414; [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) ; Twitter: @BarackObama, @whitehouse

Sen. Barbara Boxer, 70 Washington Street, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94607, 510-286-8537, fax 202-224-0454; 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3553, [senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov) ; Twitter: @senatorboxer

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, One Post Street, Ste 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104. 415-249-0707; 331 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3841, [senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov) ; Twitter: @senfeinstein

Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-9th District) 2222 Grand Canal Blvd #7, Stockton, CA 95207. 209-476-8552. Fax 209-476-8587. 1210 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515; [info@jerrymcnerney.org](mailto:info@jerrymcnerney.org), 202-225-1947, <http://www.JerryMcNerney.org> ; Twitter: @RepMcNerney

Rep. Tom McClintock (R-District 4), 8700 Auburn-Folsom Road, Suite 100, Granite Bay, CA 95746, 916, 786-5560, fax 916-786-6364; 434 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC, 20515, Fax 202-225-5444, Fax 202-225-544 ; Twitter @RepMcClintock

Rep. Jeff Denham (R-District 10), 4701 Sisk Road, Suite 202, Modesto, CA 95356, 209-579-5458, Fax 209-579-5028. 1730 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-4540. Twitter @RepJeffDunham

Gov. Jerry Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2841

State Sen. Cathleen Galgiani (District 5), 31 E Channel St, Room 440, Stockton, CA 95202. 209-948-7930; State Capitol, Rm 4082, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-651-4005

Assemblyperson Susan Talamantes Eggman (District 5), 31 E. Channel St., Rm. 306, Stockton CA 95202, 209-948-7479

## November 7

### The Burden: Fossil Fuels, the Military, and National Security

When: Saturday, November 7, 2015

Where: Burwood Auditorium, San Joaquin County Office of Education, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA 95206

Admission: Free

Pre-screening activities and reception, 1-2 pm

Film and panel discussion, 2 -3:30 pm

*The Burden: Fossil Fuels, the Military & National Security* is the first feature-length documentary to convey how our dependence on fossil fuel threatens our national security and puts the lives of our men and women in uniform deployed around the world at greater risk. And it shows how the military is poised to lead in the development of new clean energy technologies.

The United States' heavy dependence on fossil fuels makes it extremely vulnerable to the volatile prices of the global market. As the largest institutional consumer of fuel in the world, the Department of Defense is acutely at risk. For the Department of Defense, then, energy security means having assured access to reliable sources and the ability to protect and deliver sufficient energy to meet operational needs. To address this vulnerability, the military is leading the world in developing clean energy technology. Here's a few facts to consider:

- The US consumes one-fifth of the world's oil.
- The US military is the world's largest institutional consumer of petroleum.
- Every \$1 increase in the price of a barrel of oil costs the US military \$130 million
- 50% of all convoy loads is fuel.
- A tanker truck averages 5 miles per gallon.

Following screening of the film, a panel discussion will take place featuring veterans and policy makers to discuss our collective efforts. This promises to be a terrific discussion about the military's clean energy demands and the innovation that industry can supply.

Event hosted by Truman National Security Project; Co-sponsored by Delta-Sierra Group. Please visit [www.theburdenfilm.com](http://www.theburdenfilm.com) to view the trailer.





# Stockton-SJ Library actions coming up

**SAT, OCT 10**

## Great Valley Bookfest

What: Fast-growing annual outdoor festival celebrating books, authors, and reading!

Where: Promenade Shops at Orchard Valley aka Bass Pro Center Hwy 120 @ Union Road exit ~ 280 Lifestyle Rd., Manteca

When: Saturday, Oct 10th 2015 from 10 am to 4 pm. Free admission!

Info: [greatvalleybookfest.org](http://greatvalleybookfest.org)

**SAT, OCT 24**

## Dinner in the Stacks fundraiser

What: Fundraising dinner to benefit the Friends of the Stockton Public Library & Strong Libraries = Strong Communities. Never before in Stockton have we had the opportunity to eat in the Library. Join other library supporters for this unique evening of food and fun: dinner, entertainment and some wonderful auction items.

Where: Cesar Chavez Central Library, 605 N.

El Dorado Street, Stockton, CA 95202

When: 6 pm

Info to sponsor and attend: Donna Brown; 209 609-4842; [Dmbrown737@Comcast.net](mailto:Dmbrown737@Comcast.net)

### 4 WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:

#### • Follow the library's 135 year history via pinterest

Here is the link to our new Pinterest page for our Library's History, going back to the 1880s: <https://www.pinterest.com/stronglibraries/history-of-the-stockton-san-joaquin-public-library/> Please follow us, and invite your pinterest friends to do the same.

#### • Share your story

How has the library helped you? Was the library important in making you the person you are today? Help us spread the word about the importance of libraries by adding your voice (and face) to our StoryBank. We will photograph you along with a quote sharing your story and add it to our collection of stories from community members and leaders who support the library. To share your story, contact us at [slscssj@gmail.com](mailto:slscssj@gmail.com).

#### • Follow Strong Libraries = Strong Communities on Facebook

Here is the link to our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stronglibraries>. We recently launched our Facebook page, and we have over 300 followers already! Please follow us, and invite your facebook friends to do the same.

#### • Get added to the email list

Go to <http://eepurl.com/6nyBf> and get added! The email newsletter, "The Stockton-San Joaquin Library Action! BULLETIN" (SSJLAB), is intended to connect friends, supporters, and users of our city-county library system. With SSJLAB, we can share advocacy and support opportunities to help our local public libraries. Today, more than ever, libraries need articulate and savvy supporters. SSJLAB will help library supporters speak out loudly, proudly and effectively. To submit news, events and announcements, please send your library-related news and announcements to the editor at [slscssj@gmail.com](mailto:slscssj@gmail.com).

Source: Strong Libraries = Strong Communities release 9/1/15 [slscssj@gmail.com](mailto:slscssj@gmail.com). 150 W Yosemite Ave, Manteca, CA 95336



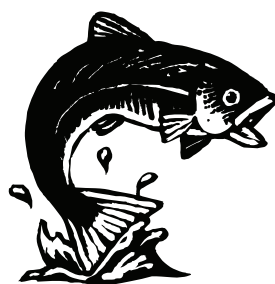
**Mon, Oct 26**

## Sierra/Audubon celebrates the Sacramento river: Watching the River Run

It's that time of year for our annual Audubon-Sierra Club joint meeting. So please come to learn about the wonder of the Sacramento River, as Bob Madgic presents his multimedia program Watching the River Run.

Based on his book, The Sacramento: A Transcendent River, Bob traces the river's course from its headwaters to its estuary, and its human history from before Euro-Americans to the present. He conveys the power and beauty of this magnificent river and the creatures it supports and is now taking his message to various groups in the region including: Audubon groups, the Sierra Club groups,

various paddlers, Rotary groups, and fly fishing clubs. The Delta-Sierra Group will award a door prize at our joint meeting with Audubon. Come and enjoy an evening presentation and become eligible to win the speaker's book that will be handed out at the end of the evening. Admission is free; program starts at 7 pm.



**October 1**

## Palestinian human rights activist to speak in Stockton

When: Thursday October 1, 7-8 pm

Where: Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton

(Across from the University of the Pacific)

Bassem Tamimi is a Palestinian human rights activist and organizer of weekly nonviolent demonstrations against illegal Israeli settlement construction and military occupation in his West Bank farming village of Nabi Salah. Detained by the Israeli authorities many times, and brutally beaten while under interrogation, Tamimi once spent three years in administrative detention

without trial. Amnesty International declared him a "prisoner of conscience." On August 30, 2015, the Tamimi family and village of Nabi Salah made national US headlines, when videos and photographs of Bassem's wife and daughter physically preventing the assault and arrest their young son/brother by an Israeli soldier went viral over social media. For an hour, please come and hear this gentle teacher's story.

Tamimi's Stockton appearance sponsored by the San Joaquin Peace and Justice Network, the Israel/Palestine Task Force of the CA/NV Conference United Methodist Church, the Jewish Voice for Peace and FOSNA-NORCAL

## 29th Peaceful Holiday Faire (wow!) Calling all vendors

CHRISTIE KELLEY

The 29th Annual Peaceful Holiday Faire sponsored by the Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County will be held this year on Friday, December 4th (4:00 pm - 9:00 pm) and Saturday, December 5th (10:00 am - 2:00 pm), in the Fellowship Hall, Central United Methodist Church at 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.

The Peaceful Holiday Faire is designed to provide a venue for local artists and artisans to sell their wares and to support the Network. Each year the Peaceful Holiday Faire reminds people to celebrate the holiday season, ever mindful of the need to promote peace, justice

and support for our environment both locally and internationally. Our goal is to have items for sale that promote non-violence, reflect the beauty of nature and sustainable living, the creativity of the spirit, the skill of the hands, and contributes to a more responsible world.

If you are interested in participating in this festive affair by providing beautiful, creative and unique works of art and/or crafts to our community, you are invited to 1) rsvp as soon as possible by email to [kelleyno2@gmail.com](mailto:kelleyno2@gmail.com) and then 2) fill out the application below and return at once to reserve a space.

All vendors will be provided one 8 ft table and 2 chairs. Additional cost will occur with added tables and extra tables are limited.

Table covers and décor are the responsibility of vendors. Applications that support our community's goals will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis. Once your application is processed, you will receive a letter of confirmation.

We hope you will join us again this year in making this holiday season a memorable one! If you have any questions, please call Christie Kelley at (209)479-1225 or email [kelleyno2@gmail.com](mailto:kelleyno2@gmail.com).







# OCTOBER / NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Editor's note: if your event isn't listed, let us know. Send all copy to: [bgiudici@caltel.com](mailto:bgiudici@caltel.com) by the 10th of every month.

## OCT 8 - NOV 5

Delta Center for the Arts LH Horton Jr Gallery presents the 6th annual 2D-3D Works National Exhibition and Awards Competition, Imagine the Fantastic,. SJDC, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. T 11am-4pm, W-Th 11am-6:30pm, F 11am-1pm. The exhibition presents a survey of artists working in two and three-dimensional forms, including traditional and digital painting, digital photography, and collage, and fiber, bronze, ceramic, and metal sculpture. Free and open to the public. 209-954-5507.

## THUR - SUN SEPT 2 - 27

Young Frankenstein. Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton. This electrifying musical comedy adaptation of Mel Brooks' legendarily funny film comes from the creators of the record-breaking Broadway sensation The Producers. Every bit as relevant to audience members who will remember the original as it will be to newcomers, Young Frankenstein is scientifically proven, mon-stroously good entertainment which will leave you in stitches! \$15 - \$25. 473-2424. [www.sctlivetheatre.com](http://www.sctlivetheatre.com)

## SAT, SEPT 26

San Joaquin Bike Festival, UOP DeRosa University Center, 3600 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Join hundreds of families and singles for this fun, family tradition. 9 am - 2 pm. Info: [www.sjbikefest.org](http://www.sjbikefest.org); or call (209) 969.3875. University Symphony Orchestra Concert, 7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 senior/UOP staff, students free with ID.

Mon, Sept 28  
Delta Sierra Club meeting presents: Hiking the Highway 108 Corridor, with Kathi Joye, Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton across from the UOP Tower. Open to everyone whether you are a Sierra Club member or not. (see page 18)

Wed, Sept 30  
University Concert Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 senior/UOP staff, students free with ID.

Sat - Sun  
Oct 3 - 11  
St. Mary's Theatre Presents:

My Sister Eileen Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 7:30 pm (Oct 3) , Sat 2 pm & 7:30 pm (Oct 10), Sun 2 pm. Performed at the Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton. Set in the 1940's, the classic American comedy My Sister Eileen tells the story of two sisters from Ohio who are out to stake claims to their careers from their dingy basement apartment in the Greenwich Village section of New York City. \$15 adult; \$12.50 senior, \$10 student/children. 957-3340 x250. [www.sctlivetheatre.com](http://www.sctlivetheatre.com)

## SAT, OCT 3

Stocktoberfest 2015, Waterfront Warehouse Amphitheater, 445 W. Weber Avenue. Stocktoberfest is now in its 7th year! Keg lifting competitions, main stream, craft and seasonal beers on tap, sausages, home brews, chicken dance dance-offs and, of course, beer stein holding competitions, Stocktoberfest 2015 is not to be missed! Modeled after a German Oktoberfest with a Stockton twist, Stocktoberfest seating is outdoors on the waterfront with long tables, wooden benches and BIG glass steins. Ages 21+ only! Info: 464-5246

Haggin á la Carte, The Haggin Museum 1201 N Pershing Ave, 6 - 9 pm. Celebrating the Museum's 27th annual wine, beer and food tasting fundraiser, Haggin á la Carte, will serve as the opening reception for the special exhibitions Picasso, Miró & Hawaii Five-O: Prints from the Jack Lord Collection and Framed: Step into Art. This year's fundraiser will again feature signature dishes, desserts and drinks from some of the area's best restaurants, caterers, wineries and breweries. \$35 Haggin Museum members \$45 general.ic

## MON, OCT 5

Campaign for Common Ground meeting, 7 pm. Family Resource & Referral Center, 509 W. Weber Ave., Stockton.

## THUR, OCT 8

Simon Rowe Latin Project at Take 5 Jazz at the Brew. 7 pm. Valley Brewing Company 157 W Adams Street Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 student w/ ID.

## FRI-SUN OCT 9 - 18

Delta Drama presents "Much Ado About Nothing," by Wm Shakespeare, directed by Greg Foro. 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Alfred H. Muller Studio Theater, SJDC, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. . \$10/\$12.

## FRI, OCT 9

Movies At The Point: The Book of Life - Spooktacular Event and Trick-or-Treat Parade, Weber Point Event Center, 221 N Center St, Stockton. Gates open 5:30 pm,. Free. 937-8119

## SAT, OCT 10

Stockton Symphony Classics I concert: Beethoven, Maestro & Son James .. with featured artist: Zhou-Yu-Jaffe Trio. 6 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton.\$25-63

"Brundibar" Children's Opera, 2 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Originally performed by children at the Terezin concentration camp, this fairytale opera by Hans Krasa for the entire family celebrates the triumph of the helpless over tyranny and the transformative power of art. \$10 general, \$5 senior/UOP staff, students free with ID.

## TUES, OCT 13

Delta Band Concert, 7:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. \$8 adult; \$5 student/senior over 61, children 12 & under free with admission ticket. 209-954-5209

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 5:30 - 7 pm, Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 467-4455.

## THURS, OCT 15

SJDC Fall Festival of Choirs, Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. Still only \$8; \$5 for students and seniors over 61.

## FRI, OCT 16

2015 Brubeck Festival: Pacific Mambo Orchestra, 7 pm. Stockton Civic Auditorium, 525 N Center St, Stockton. 2014 Grammy Winner the Pacific Mambo Orchestra is a 20 piece, San Francisco based musical group leading the rebirth of the Latin Big band Sound. Join us at 7pm for Salsa lessons followed by an 8pm concert. This event joins Pacific's Latino Heritage Month celebration. \$20.

Take Five Jazz at the Brew. 10 pm. Valley Brewing Company 157 W Adams Street Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 student w/ ID.

## SAT, OCT 17

Brubeck Festival Jazz and Civil Rights Symposium, 11 am, Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave. Speakers include Grammy-winning author, educator, music journalist, and

concert producer Ashley Kahn; Independent arts consultant/producer, writer and broadcaster Willard Jenkins; and Brubeck Scholar and University of the Pacific faculty member Keith Hatschek. Free.

Brubeck Festival Jazz on the Green, 1-5 pm. University of the Pacific 3601 Pacific Ave. Join us for an afternoon of live jazz, interactive cultural arts and educational activities, an instrument petting zoo, an SUSU students' art showcase, great food and much, much more! Fun for the whole family! Free.

2015 Brubeck Festival presents Karrin Allyson and SFJAZZ Collective, 7:30pm

Bob Hope Theatre 242 E. Main St., Stockton. Karrin Allyson will be opening the evening with her smooth and sultry voice. The SFJAZZ Collective will close out the festival with their all-star award-winning jazz ensemble performing the works of Michael Jackson. \$25-\$50.

Noche de Musica Concert, 8-10 pm, UOP, Bechtel International Center 3547 Baxter Walkway, Stockton. A celebration of Latin culture for the Pacific and Stockton communities through live Latin American and Spanish music featuring the LA-based trio, Los Tres Músicos, performing folk and popular music from all corners of the Spanish speaking world. The group gives short narrative introductions to many of the songs, provides lyrics so that the audience can sing along, encourages participation and takes song requests. Free.

Take Five Jazz at the Brew. 10 pm. Valley Brewing Company 157 W Adams Street Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 student w/ ID.

## SUN, OCT 18

Pacific Choral Ensembles, 2:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 senior/UOP staff, students free with ID.

## WED, OCT 21

SJDC Jazz Ensembles featuring Chad Lefkowitz-Brown, Tillie Lewis Theater, SJ Delta College, Stockton. Still only \$8; \$5 for students and seniors over 61.

## THUR, OCT 22

Patrick Langham Quintet at the Brew. 7-10 pm. Valley Brewing Company 157 W Adams Street Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 student w/ ID.

## SUN, OCT 25

Friends of Chamber Music present the Turtle Island Quartet, 2:30pm

Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave, Its name derived from creation mythology found in Native American Folklore, the Turtle Island Quartet, since its inception in 1985, has been a singular force in the creation of bold, new trends in chamber music for strings. Winner of the 2006 and most recently, the 2008 Grammy Award for Best Classical Crossover Album, Turtle Island fuses the classical quartet esthetic with contemporary American musical styles, and by devising a performance practice that honors both, the state of the art has inevitably been redefined. Cellist nonpareil Yo-Yo Ma has proclaimed TIQ to be "a unified voice that truly breaks new ground - authentic and passionate - a reflection of some of the most creative music-making today." \$25 general; \$15 UOP faculty/staff. FT students free with student ID.

## MON, OCT 26

Delta Sierra Club meeting presents: River Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton across from the UOP Tower. Open to everyone whether you are a Sierra Club member or not. (see page 18)

## TUES, OCT 27

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 5:30 - 7 pm, Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 467-4455.

## THUR, OCT 29

All You Can Eat Tacos Catholic Charities Fundraiser, 6 - 8 pm. Miguel's Mexican Restaurant, 7555 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Enjoy music, raffle, costume contest, and all you can eat tacos. Tickets are \$10 and benefit Catholic Charities' Senior Services Program. 444-5900.

## SUN, NOV 1

Dia de los Muertos Ballet Folklórico de Carlos Moreno presented by Delta College La Raza Employees Association. 3 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJDC, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15 - \$20.

## MON, NOV 2

Campaign for Common Ground meeting, 7 pm. Family Resource & Referral Center, 509 W. Weber Ave., Stockton.

## WED, NOV 4

UOP Percussion Ensemble Concert, 7:30pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton.

## THUR, NOV 5

Arts Lecture with Terryl Whitlatch, Imagine the Fantastic. 12:30 - 1:30 pm. SJ Delta College Tillie Lewis Theatre, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Terryl is

celebrated as one of the top creature designers in the world. Terryl has worked with many studios, including Lucasfilm, Industrial Light and Magic, and Walt Disney Feature Animation, on such films as Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace, Brother Bear, Jumanji 1 & 2, Men in Black and The Polar Express. Free. 954-5507

Simon Rowe Latin Project at Take 5 Jazz at the Brew. 7 pm. Valley Brewing Company 157 W Adams Street Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 student w/ ID.

Peace & Justice Network board meeting, John Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6:30 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

## SAT, NOV 7

University Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 general, \$5 senior/UOP staff, students free with ID.

## TUES, NOV 10

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 5:30 - 7 pm, Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 467-4455.

## NOV 13-14

22nd Fine Arts Festival, 4 pm, Spanos Community Center at St. Basil's Greek Orthodox Church, 920 W. March Lane, Stockton. The 2015 Fine Arts Festival sponsored by the San Joaquin Potters Guild is one of the largest non-profit art events dedicated to the advancement of hand-crafted art in the area. Artists are widely acclaimed and some are internationally recognized. 477-4273.

## SAT, NOV 14

Stockton Symphony Classics II concert: Copland, Dukas, and Berlioz. 6 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton.\$25-63

## FRI - SUN

**NOV 18 - DEC 13**  
Disney's The Little Mermaid. Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2:30 pm (Dec 5, 12 1 pm). Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton. \$15 - \$25. 473-2424. [www.sctlivetheatre.com](http://www.sctlivetheatre.com)

## SUN, NOV 22

University Concert Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 2:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Eric Hammer, director. \$10 general, \$5 senior/UOP staff, students free with ID.

## THUR, NOV 26

11th annual Run and Walk

# Stone Soup Stockton-Community Radio

Answering questions: status, direction and vision

### Where can I find you?

Stone soup radio is on-line - at <http://stocktoncommunityradio.com/> Stone Soup radio, a community radio station for Stockton, has been online for over a year with music and talk. We have been 'practicing' for the real thing, a terrestrial radio station that you can access on the radio dial at home, work, in your car and online. The vision is of a radio station that provides a voice for those who are not represented in the mass media, an outlet for local musicians, a chance to be a part of a broader community and to hear and discuss ideas that will challenge our community to move forward. Like us on FACEBOOK: Stone Soup Stockton-Community Radio

### Hasn't this been going on forever?

It is not a new idea: a group of dedicated (if not slightly delusional) folks have been working on this since 2009, when the Peace & Justice Network first decided to apply for an FCC permit. If that seems like a long time to you, well... it has been. As a result, many of the people who began working with us have moved on to other things or places. There have been ups and downs, strong support and equally strong insecurities and yet we persevere.

### Are you on the radio dial?

Not yet. Stone Soup is now ready to put up its transmitter. We have a studio with solid equipment. Anthony Henry Sr., aka BeGee and Robert Lathan worked tirelessly to get us broadcasting on-line, providing valuable experience and educating novice Djs and engineers. Support from William Story at San Joaquin Delta College (on the air at KWDC 93.5 FM) and a myriad of other folks have kept us busy developing our infrastructure. And then there's the ...by-laws, mission statement, job descriptions, a capital campaign etc., etc. etc. So, right now, we have several live shows, shows from other stations and many hours of playlists for your listening pleasure. But we want more! We want to be your community radio, an alternative to the mass media and an active part of a radio "network" of stations that delve into social justice issues through news, talk shows and music. We have the capability of reaching thousands and instigating real change -

in part by obtaining local, regional, national and international programming to build our content.

### "I looked on-line and couldn't find you" OR "Your website and schedule are out of date!"

You are right! We need you to help us up our game, to increase our number of shows, to keep our webpage and Facebook up to date, to buy equipment. Your level of input to our proposed project could range from volunteering your time - to contributing thousands of dollars - to answering the question: where can I fit in?

### What can I do?

1) Come to a 7 pm meeting either the second or fourth Tuesday at the Peace Center, 231 Bedford Rd in Stockton - to see the lay of the land.

2) If you're in a giving mood, our goal is to raise \$15,000 to purchase and place a transmitter, pay royalty fees, purchase studio equipment, and pay bills. Contributors, supporters, underwriters will all be recognized and acknowledged on air for their fully tax-deductible gift. Particularly, make your check out to PJN and put Stone Soup in the For \_\_\_\_\_ line. If we can raise \$7,888 we can purchase what we need for the transmitter and terrestrial connections to get on the air. If we can raise \$10,000 we can buy the equipment needed to back up an expanded studio. With the full \$15,000 we can support the PJN John Morearty Center with funds to help pay the bills.

3) For more information: 209-479-1225.

STONE SOUP shall be a model of programming: filling needs that other media do not, providing programming to diverse communities and un-served or underserved groups.

STONE SOUP shall provide access and training to those communities.

STONE SOUP's news and public affairs programming shall place an emphasis on providing a forum for diverse, controversial, or neglected perspectives on important local, national and international issues, reflecting STONE SOUP's values of community, peace, justice, democracy and social change.

# OCT/NOV CALENDAR

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Against Hunger, Stockton Ports Ballpark, Fremont & Van Buren, Stockton. 8 am. 464-7369.

### FRI, DEC 4

29th annual Peaceful Holiday Gift Fair, featuring peace gifts. 4 - 9 pm. Entertainment, refreshments and a good cause. Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 462-3489.

### SAT, DEC 5

29th annual Peaceful Holiday Gift Fair, featuring peace gifts. 10 am - 2 pm. Entertainment, refreshments and a good cause. Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 462-3489.

### FIRST MONDAYS

Campaign for Common Ground meeting, 7 pm, Towers Building, 509 W Weber Ave, Stockton. [cgmemb@gmail.com](mailto:cgmemb@gmail.com)

### FOURTH MONDAYS

Delta Sierra Club meeting, 7 pm. Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 7 pm program with social time following. All welcome.

### SECOND TUESDAYS

89.5 Valley Community Radio

meeting, 7 - 9 pm, Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 467-4455.

### FOURTH TUESDAYS

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 7 - 9 pm, Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 467-4455.

### THURSDAYS

Peace demonstration, 5-6 pm, edge of Delta campus on Pacific, across from Macy's. Free parking at mall. Weekly since 2003. We have signs, or bring your own. We get LOTS of honks! Info 464-3326. Take Five Jazz club, 7 - 9 pm, Valley Brew

### SATURDAYS

Crosstown Freeway Farmers Market, under the freeway between El Dorado & San Joaquin, Stockton. 7 - 11, or when sold out. 943-1830

Free Yoga in Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton. Bring your yoga mat or beach towel and positive attitude for a free yoga experience every Saturday! [khubaka@yahoo.com](mailto:khubaka@yahoo.com)

**A big thanks to our long-serving distributors!!**

## Delta activist, artist Ryan Camero wins Brower Youth Award

Restore the Delta is proud to announce that Ryan Camero, Delta Activist and native of Stockton, California has been selected as a Brower Youth Award winner for 2015. Each year, Earth Island Institute (founded by environmental icon David Brower) recognizes six young activists from across North America, "for their outstanding efforts to promote ecological sustainability and social justice." This year, one of these winners is Ryan Camero, a youth activist and artist intern staffer at Restore the Delta, based in Stockton. "I feel very grateful that

my efforts are helping a larger community cause. These life-giving ecosystems are absolutely crucial to protect in the middle of this drought," said Camero. "The fact that these awards exist to connect and uplift youth working toward environmental and social justice gives me hope. Having lived along these waterways all my life, I continue to feel compelled to prevent them from being extracted and water being controlled by unsustainable industries like big desert farms and extreme energy. The largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas

needs to not only survive, but thrive for the generations that come after us."

A Stockton native, Ryan grew up very familiar with the economic, social and ecological threats to the sustainability of his neighborhood and his bioregion. He set out to join a group committed to building resiliency in the corner of the world he calls home. He brought in considerable artistic vision and talents to Restore the Delta. "Ryan has led the way in making the protection of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary a youth movement. In three

years, we have watched him grow from a novice to a youth movement leader. As a result of his work, we now have many young volunteers in our public outreach program, which is thriving. Ryan Camero's art and public speaking skills are helping to Stop the Delta Tunnels and to protect the Bay-Delta estuary for future generations," said Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of Restore the Delta.

In 2014 Camero helped create an interactive presentation called "Sucked Dry." This travelling mural/presentation drew parallels



between the current struggle to protect the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and the peoples' struggles against large-scale infrastructure projects in Mesoamerica. The work was a project of the Beehive Collective, an activist art group.

Last fall, Camero led a three-week tour to 18 California cities where he presented Sucked Dry to local audiences and

facilitated discussions about the fragile Delta ecosystem. He is continuing his activism through intersectional organizing, working additionally with the California Student Sustainability Coalition, of which he is a part as well as being the group that initially nominated him.

Source: Restore the Delta 9/10/15 release, <http://restorethedelta.org>