



## RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS CAN BE MORE POWERFUL THAN PRESIDENT TRUMP

AMY GOODMAN & DENIS MOYNIHAN

From Barack Obama, the first African-American president, the pendulum has ominously swung to the Ku Klux Klan's choice, Donald Trump. Just elected the 45th president of the United States, Trump opened his campaign calling Mexicans "rapists," and promised to build a wall along the border with Mexico (and to make Mexico pay for it). He vowed to ban Muslims from entering the country, insulted people with disabilities, bragged about committing sexual assault, denied climate change and said he would jail his opponent, Hillary Clinton. With the House of Representatives and the Senate remaining in Republican control, Trump's power could be almost entirely unchecked.

While people around the world express shock and financial markets plummeted as the election results came in, here in the United States, the Beltway prognosticators offer "mea culpas," and pollsters attempt to explain the failure of their scientific methods. This political upset is truly without precedent in U.S. history. In the aftermath of this bitterly fought, often crude, vastly expensive and punishingly long election, two questions dominate: How did this happen, and

where do we go from here?

First, Trump's campaign was overtly racist, and this seems to have motivated a terrifying number of voters. An increase in white voters was matched by aggressive efforts to depress voting by people of color. This was the first national election in more than 50 years conducted without the full protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Systematic efforts to restrict voting in communities of color flourished in the South, including in the two key battleground states of Florida and North Carolina.

The media played a critical role in creating President-elect Donald Trump. The Tyndall Report, which tracks how much airtime different issues and candidates receive on the major news networks, summarized media coverage of the candidates in 2015. Donald Trump received 327 minutes, or close to one-third of all the campaign coverage, at a time when he had 16 Republican challengers. "ABC World News Tonight" aired 81 minutes of reports on Donald Trump, compared with just 20 seconds for Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, according to Tyndall. On March 15, 2016, after the primary day dubbed "Super Tuesday 3," the networks played all the candidates' speeches, except for the speech by Sanders. The networks actually spent more time showing Trump's empty podium, filling the time until he spoke, than playing any words of Sanders', who addressed the largest crowd that night.

Earlier this year, CBS CEO Les Moonves told a Morgan Stanley-hosted media-industry conference, speaking about the volume of political advertising that the "circus" of Trump's campaign was attracting: "It may not be good for America, but it's damn good for CBS. ... The money's rolling in." As world-renowned linguist and political dissident Noam Chomsky says, "The media manufacture consent."

Another element contributing to Trump's unexpected win: the FBI. On Oct. 28, FBI Director James Comey sent a letter to congressional Republicans suggesting more emails had been discovered "that appear to be pertinent to the investigation" of Hillary Clinton's private email server. This was 11 days before the election. Nine days later, he stated publicly that the emails offered nothing new. Early voting was happening during those nine days, with Hillary Clinton under the cloud of potential renewed FBI investigation. According to Business Insider, 24 million votes were cast during this period. We may never know how many votes Clinton might have lost as a result of that FBI intervention. "It would be entirely fair to say that the FBI swung the election to Trump," journalist Allan Nairn said on the Democracy Now! news hour. "I don't think anyone has ever claimed that J. Edgar Hoover swung a presidential election," he added.

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, but Donald Trump prevailed in the Electoral College. (On election night 2012, Trump tweeted, "The electoral college is a disaster for a democracy.") Thus, he will assume the most powerful position in the world, the presidency of the United States. But there is still a force more powerful: movements. Within hours of Trump's victory speech, protests were being planned across

the country. In Morocco, where the United Nations climate summit convened just the day before the U.S. election, climate negotiators, environmental activists and stakeholders from around the globe organized ad hoc meetings, fearing that Trump could scuttle the entire Paris accord on climate change.

Donald Trump closed his victory speech by saying, "I can only say that while the campaign is over, our work ... is now really just beginning." For the millions of people around the globe committed to opposing Trump's dangerous and divisive agenda, their work, too, has just begun.

AMY GOODMAN IS THE HOST OF "DEMOCRACY NOW!," A DAILY INTERNATIONAL TV/RADIO NEWS HOUR AIRING ON 1,100 STATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA. SHE WAS AWARDED THE 2008 RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AWARD, DUBBED THE "ALTERNATIVE NOBEL" PRIZE, AND RECEIVED THE AWARD IN THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT IN DECEMBER. DENIS MOYNIHAN IS A WRITER AND RADIO PRODUCER WHO WRITES A WEEKLY COLUMN WITH/DEMOCRACY NOW/'S AMY GOODMAN.

Source: Truthdig 11/10/16 <http://www.truthdig.com/>

Nonprofit Org. U.S.  
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Permit No. 488  
Stockton, CA

Peace & Justice Network  
of San Joaquin County  
P.O. Box 4123  
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### SAVE THE DATES

Dec 2-3 Peaceful Holiday Faire, P1  
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BRUCE GIUDICI

## Editors Letter

We have been here before. As you will see in these pages, there are many takes on this election. The City Council has moved forward, with a young African-American in the mayor's seat returning civility to the body. Statewide, propositions passed that supported bi-lingual

education, higher taxation on the well-off and recreational marijuana, while making smoking more expensive and ammunition harder to get - and California provided the popular vote difference to the feminist candidate.

Nationwide, however, the cause of peace and justice at first blush appears to have taken a major hit - the election of a misogynist bigot

## We have been here before

is obviously a short-term nightmare. His appointments will be monstrous and proposed legislation would take us back 60 years. Remember Reagan's and W's first years - tax cuts for the rich, deficits, recession, wars, environmental destruction. W's first 6 years for Republicans controlled everything - never a veto: 9/11, Afghanistan, Iraq, Abu Ghraib, Katrina, Great Recession and more. A disaster. Prepare.

In the longer term,

however, the seeds may be sown for a progressive future harvest. As detailed in this issue, there is an argument that, in this election, voters were demanding change. So change they got, albeit with fewer votes than in the past 2 elections, electing an overwhelmingly disliked man who lost the popular vote by 2 million. This was not a mandate for the winning candidate's ideas; rather, it was a mandate against the status quo promised by the losing candidate. The many in this country who are hurting economically were by and large ignored by Democrats and for that they were punished.

As a result, we now have an opportunity to inject the "idealistic" issues of peace and justice into a failed mainstream party leadership that will come to understand that what we want is what the country wants. Peace through negotiation, compromise

and disarmament. Justice by reallocating resources: tuition paid by stock transaction taxes, social security paid by lifting the cap on taxable incomes, single-payer health care paid by efficiencies in the existing bloated system, renewable energy paid by eliminating oil subsidies - the list is long and popular. And always remember, the loser really won - by 2 million votes.

Of course, California is already leading the way - and will do more. We all have challenges ahead - but we know where we are now, where we have been and where we need to be.

Martin Luther King said "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice:" we will not be stopped and will never, ever go back. That should be on everyone's resolution list.

Happy New Year - it will surely be a busy one.

## Trump's victory - Nov. 9, 2016

Editor,

Anxious anticipation swept over me like a dark wave. My mind flew back to the days before our invasion of Kuwait. After more than six months in the desert, living in horrible conditions I was as angry as I was scared. The projections for our losses were horrendous. So called experts and alleged professionals had filled our heads with horrible images of nerve gas used by Saddam in prior engagements. As we cleaned and checked our weapons, fear loomed in our hearts. More than half a million Americans had been placed in harm's way and wanted to kill the enemy, rip out his heart and eat it. Anger and fear turned into a toxic combination of anxious anticipation.

Unbelievably, that experience and the election of Donald Trump felt identical. As is also often true, you should be careful what you wish for. After months of anticipation, the American army attacked upon the invaders of Kuwait city and literally massacred the retreating army. We left an untold number of dead and unknown numbers of wounded in the emptiness of the Iraqi landscape.

That war and those that followed left its painful scar on many veterans. Amazingly, after all that nothing seems to have been resolved. Everything we fought for seems to have been lost in the pages of history. New dictators and tyrants rose up to take the place of those we removed. After so much pain, suffering,

and so much death the world continues to turn as if nothing happened. The future once again seems ominous and threatening.

Those of us who've know this kind of anxious anticipation can verify the awful side effects. Will Trump spark a new wave of racism that lies beneath a thin veneer of now exposed white hatred? Will his lack of political experience take us into another world war or economic depression? Will Russian Pres. Putin use his connections to create a new crime wave of Russian Mafia? Will hate, racism and white supremacist launch a new wave of hate crimes, anti immigration legislation? How will all this affect the Latino population? How will deportations of millions affect us? How will this impact the agriculture empire of the Central Valley? Will other states adopt racist laws that require us to show documentation to prove our citizenship, like Hitler did

in Nazi Germany? What will happen to the children of Flint Michigan and other victims of Trumpism?

All good men will be called upon to step forward and make themselves known. If any of Trump's anti-immigrant promises are to be implemented, we will be called upon to act. Sound judgment and democratic principals, which seem to have disappeared, must reappear in our daily enter actions. Dark days once again loom over the horizon as they did during my time in the Saudi Arabian desert. Although we are not anticipating an attack, it's not a welcomed feeling. The call for unity and courage once again goes out to all people of worth: let's pray those who supported Trump's outrageous speeches and demeaning behavior will remember - we are still a country of laws.

JORGE MARTINEZ



## We stand with Standing Rock

The San Joaquin Peace and Justice Network stands with the Standing Rock Sioux in their struggle to protect their water and sacred sites. We recognize and support the struggle of indigenous peoples everywhere whose lands, resources, livelihood, culture, and existence have been threatened. The protest at Standing Rock speaks not only for the health and well being of the Sioux, but for all people who live downstream and breathe the air. It's a struggle for the protection of the earth. Our community on the San Joaquin Delta has been struggling for many years to protect the Delta, our source of water, from government-backed corporate exploitation and degradation. People in Palestine, South America, and around the world are engaged in the same struggle. The gallant struggle at Standing Rock is a source of hope for us all.

## CONNECTIONS

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

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

**Proofreader:** Debbie Cousyn

**Ad Rep:** Ava Simpson

ava.simpson.as@gmail.com  
916-320-2672

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

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

**Distributors:** Suzy Arnett, Vic Berncorff, Richard Blackstone, Antoinette Celle, Cally Chin, Lee Christensen, Daniel Fong, Christie Kelley, Jeanne Kerr, Catherine Mathis, John Minnehan, Heather Ryan, Jeff Ryan, Deane and Marcia Savage, Richard Slezak, Julie Vaughn, Patrick Wall, Juanda Jones

**Deadline:**

**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>



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# *This is a time to fight, not retreat or fantasize about Canada*

ALEX S. VITALE

So, the darkness has descended and we must decide how to respond. Will we look to the Democratic Party to develop new technocratic strategies for winning a few more votes in a few more swing states? Will we retreat into an isolationist cultural politics like those faced with the rise of Ronald Reagan? Will we double down on centrism and triangulation in the hopes of gaining a few more moderate votes for a political program we don't really support? Or will we fight?

In order to fight, we need to understand the nature of the threat. We are not just fighting over control of Congress or the Supreme Court. We are fighting to preserve some semblance of democracy and stop the spread of fascist alt-right movements, or what Umberto Eco calls "ur-fascism," which will feed on the Trump victory and push to make the politics of racism, misogyny and xenophobia more politically mainstream. There is also the threat of another aspect of fascism, which is even more blurring of the lines between political and economic elites. While Trump is not beloved on Wall Street because of his anti-free-trade rhetoric, there are many sectors of business very happy to embrace his pro-business, anti-regulation politics head on. Under Trump we can expect an increase of crony capitalism in which favored players reap the rewards of protectionism, deregulation and privatization.

Here are some of the things we must do to build a broad and robust anti-fascist politics to transform people's political views and serve as a bulwark to the politics of white male resentment roiling the nation:

## 1. FORM OR JOIN A LABOR UNION

Unions have been the single most important American institution in demanding an economy that serves the needs of working people. From the eight-hour day to worker's compensation, the labor movement has been the source of power for most of the progressive economic reforms of the last century. While unions rarely speak with only one voice and have themselves engaged in racial and gender discrimination, they remain essential to opposing the empty and dangerous right-wing populism embodied by Trump.

Unfortunately, over the last 40 years, union membership has declined significantly, especially in private-sector unions. While Ronald Reagan's firing of striking air traffic controllers in 1981 was the opening salvo in this process, politicians of both parties have overseen the weakening of labor laws and the embracing of a politics of free markets and government austerity that undermine the bargaining power of workers and their unions. It is essential that workers have organized political power if we hope to reverse the neoliberal economics that has undermined standards of living and increased inequality.

In addition, we have to struggle to make those unions more democratic and more relevant to working people. We need to embrace various forms of social unionism that look to defend the broad interests of working people. Narrow business unionism, devoid of a more systemic political analysis, has left unions vulnerable and members alienated. The major unions poured tens of millions of dollars into the Democratic Party this year and have almost nothing to show for it. That money could have been spent on building a real workers' movement that only supports candidates who repudiate the politics of neoliberalism and austerity that have been at the center of the Democratic Party nationally.

## 2. DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION

Fascism relies on extra-legal politics to gain power. Trump clearly signaled his disdain for the rule of law by calling the election "rigged" and threatening to jail Clinton. Trump, backed up by the likes of Rudy Giuliani and Chris Christie will almost certainly call for a variety of witch hunts targeting immigrants, Muslims, political progressives, and others. It is therefore essential that we have robust organizations that can

fight back against violations of the constitution. The ACLU was founded in the face of just such a threat in the 1920s as the "Red Scares" and "Palmer Raids" led to large-scale civil rights violations. They and groups like the Center for

Constitutional Rights and the Southern Poverty Law Center are at the forefront of exposing and pushing back against racist, xenophobic and misogynist actions by governments at all levels. These groups have brought litigation on behalf of immigrants wrongly deported or held in deplorable conditions, defended the right to protest, and informed the public about the threats posed by right-wing extremists. The Constitution remains a vital if imperfect tool for defending individual liberties in the face of a potentially tyrannical leader like Trump. We must join and actively support these organizations to protect the rights of those who would be targeted by fascist movements.

## 3. SUPPORT THOSE UNDER ATTACK

Trump and the alt-right have centered their politics on vilifying immigrants, Muslims, and anyone else perceived to interfere with the "supremacy" of the white male. We must all directly support groups that represent the interests of targeted populations so that they can better defend themselves and organize for greater political power as an alternative to the politics of hate. Large organizations like the ACLU and American Friends Services Committee do great work supporting immigrants, but we also need to support those doing grassroots organizing work, like the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Desis Rising Up and Moving and United We Dream, who are working at the local level and in coalition with other groups across the country.

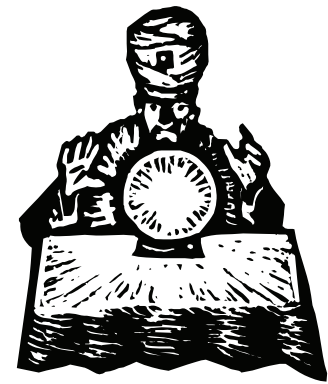
We must also build a more robust racial justice politics. The Trump victory has confirmed the extent of white supremacy. While the demographics of the country make catering to white supremacists a weak long-term electoral strategy, we must find a way to fight white racism. This can involve direct support of movements like the Movement for Black Lives and hundreds of other local and, Black Youth Project 100 and the Dream Defenders. But we must also find ways of confronting racism within the white community. Even if we develop an economic program that could improve conditions for both working class whites and Blacks, we cannot assume that whites will support it just because it's in their financial best interest. A simplistic classanalysis is no more likely to be successful than one based solely on race. Groups like the Catalyst Project are doing the hard work of bringing an analysis of white privilege into progressive social movements, which is a crucial start to such an effort.

We must also directly confront the forces of fascism in the streets. Just like "clinic defenders" have warded off anti-abortion extremists, anti-fascists must be prepared to demonstrate against right wing forces, such as the Ku Klux Klan, wherever they attempt to manifest themselves publicly. Many have already taken the first step by constantly disrupting Trump rallies, but stopping a growing fascist movement will require much larger-scale mobilizations.

## 4. ENGAGE LOCAL POLITICS

For too many people, politics means voting for the president every four years and not much else. Unfortunately, this is the arena in which individuals have the least influence. The sums of money needed and the politics of the parties are such that individual choice plays a very small role. The outcome in most states is a foregone conclusion, leaving only a handful of "battleground" states in play. If you don't live in one of these states, then your vote is essentially taken for granted.

It is essential that we begin revitalizing politics at the local level. The fundamentalist right wing understood this all too well when they began running people for local school boards and city council seats, building political momentum for the anti-evolution, anti-choice, and anti-immigrant politics that produced the current crop of GOP national leaders like



Paul Ryan, Mitch McConnell and Donald Trump.

There are strong structural impediments to participation in electoral politics. Big money increasingly plays a role even in local races, with hedge fund billionaires pouring millions into local races in hopes of getting richer by privatizing schools and cutting taxes for themselves. But we cannot concede this territory. We need to form local political clubs that engage elected officials and push for progressive legislation. The Working Families Party, which started in New York and is growing nationally, offers a model. By combining grassroots issue campaigns with targeted endorsements of pro-labor progressives, they are trying to push the Democratic Party to the left from the ground up. Many are turned off from this kind of politics because it is messy and full of compromises, of which the Working Families Party has made many. But we cannot sit on the sidelines discussing foreign affairs and national politics from a position of moral certainty but political powerlessness. We have to get our hands dirty in the trenches. Not just working to elect yet another moderate Democrat, but instead to develop a real agenda with real popular support and the tools to implement it.

This is not intended to be a substitute for the social movement politics that is essential now. The planet is in jeopardy economically and environmentally and we must embrace movements for racial, economic, and environmental justice. But these movements cannot exist as single-issue special interest movements detached from either a more systemic analysis or the rigors of local community-based politics. Any long-term strategies for gaining power have to take electoral politics into account. Even if people support more revolutionary political programs, people live in communities in which government plays a major role in their lives and we have to figure out how to effectively respond to that reality, not just dismiss it as reformist.

## 5. FORM STUDY GROUPS

Developing a political agenda for unions and local political clubs, and figuring out which organizations to support, requires an analysis of the nature of the fascist threat and how to counter it. It's not enough to read a social media feed or subscribe to a few progressive publications. A real analysis requires deeper study and a community of people to engage with.

Ideally, study groups should be connected to the struggles we are each participating in. Unions, political clubs, and grassroots organizations should all sponsor and encourage such active learning and long-term thinking. We need a much stronger analysis of the economic and political dynamics that have created the current moment and strategies for reversing the trend of growing inequality and right-wing backlash.

For those of us who are not facing immediate threats to our safety or survival, now is not the time to retreat, to turn inward or to fantasize about escaping to Canada. Now is the time to fight and to think. We owe it to ourselves, our children and the planet.

ALEX S. VITALE IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE AND AUTHOR OF *CITY OF DISORDER: HOW THE QUALITY OF LIFE CAMPAIGN TRANSFORMED NEW YORK POLITICS*.

Source: Truth-out 11/10/16 <http://www.truth-out.org>



# Education victories Democrats can rally around



JEFF BRYANT

Sorting through this week's humiliating defeat by Donald Trump at the polls, Democrats are having a hard time finding any bright spots in all the darkness. But Trump's victory was a very close one (he lost the popular vote) and may be easy to reverse in 2020 with a better campaign. So amidst the dead ashes of defeat, where are the red-hot coals that may spark new fire in the populist rebellion that represents the party's only hope? Some of that promising tinder can be found in communities that voted on Tuesday against the private takeover of their public schools. Reacting to the vote tally coming in against Question 2, education historian Diane Ravitch writes on her personal blog, "On a sad night for the nation, it is heartening to see that the people defended their public schools ... and won."

First, in Massachusetts, voters rejected a referendum called Question 2 that would have forced the expansion of charter schools in the state. Charter schools, which receive taxpayer money but are privately operated, have come to represent another example of the creeping privatization blob rapidly absorbing public infrastructure – transportation, schools, sanitation, prisons, and other essential services – into business pursuits for the wealthy. As the New York Times reports, voters, "easily turned aside a \$26 million effort to increase the number of charter schools" in the state and delivered a victory for public education, a cornerstone of American democracy. Public school advocate Jennifer Berkshire – a colleague of mine at The Progressive and a Boston resident – points out at her that blog Question 2 was generally an effort by "rich, entitled assholes from New York" to tell Massachusetts voters what's best for their children. Bay State folks would have none of it. Opposition to Question 2 came from far and wide, especially from the progressive community, including political icons Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders who opposed the charter expansion.

As Berkshire explains, "The coalition extended well beyond the teachers unions that funded it, growing to include members of all kinds of unions, as well as social justice and civil rights groups, who fanned out across the state every weekend. By election day, the sprawling network of mostly volunteer canvassers had made contact with more than 1.5 million voters."

Opposition came from nearly every kind of community in the state – urban, suburban, and rural – except for the very wealthiest and whitest counties. Reacting to the vote tally coming in against Question 2, education historian Diane

Ravitch writes on her personal blog, "On a sad night for the nation, it is heartening to see that the people defended their public schools ... and won."

In Georgia, another progressive victory for public schools shone bright through the cloud of misery up-ballot. In that state, conservatives led by Republican Governor Nathan Deal had placed a referendum on the ballot, called Amendment 1, that would install a state agency to take over the lowest performing schools in the state and hand them over to private management groups that operate charter schools. Again, money from charter school proponents, such as members of the Walton family of Wal-Mart fame and dark money groups, poured into the state to pass the referendum, while teachers unions and public school advocacy groups supported a local opposition made up of labor groups, progressives, community organizers, and black clergy.

Opposition to the charter takeover agency was widespread, with six out of ten voters opposing the bill, according to an Atlanta news outlet, with no votes coming from both Republicans and Democrats. What "galvanized opposition," according to the reporter was widespread resistance to handing "local operations to for-profit charter school companies." The fact that people generally want some say in where and how they can access their schools should surprise no one, but advocates for privatizing the system with charter schools keep missing the point.

In the state of Washington, the threat to public schools appeared on the ballot in the form of a race for state Supreme Court. Charter proponents – such as Microsoft founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen and other major contributors to previous attempts to force charters on the state – spent at least \$500,000 in an effort to unseat current judges who upheld lower court decisions ruling the method for funding charters in the state unconstitutional. The court had also ruled that the state legislature was not adequately funding schools and had levied a fine of \$100,000 a day against the lawmaking body. The judge who wrote the court's charter school decision Justice Barbara Madsen was the primary target of charter advocates, notes Ravitch in another post on her blog. Madsen won reelection by 64 percent, according to a state news source, the largest margin of victory of the three incumbent candidates.

In Montana, charter school advocates had targeted Democratic Governor Steve Bullock for defeat. Bullock had the temerity to express, according to a state-based news outlet, "I continue to firmly believe that our public education system is the great equalizer. Anyone who says public schools have failed isn't seeing what's happening." His Republican opponent, who had become rich from selling off his high-tech startup, was the founder of a private school and an advocate for "school choice" that encourages parents to withdraw their children from public school at taxpayer expense. Bullock received the endorsement of the Network for Public Education, a public school advocacy group Ravitch helped found, for his "strong, support for public education and democratically governed schools."

The ascendancy of public education as an important progressive cause was prevalent in state and local elections around the country – in races for state board of education in Nebraska, in school board elections in Minneapolis, San Francisco, and Detroit. NPE's endorsement quotes Bullock saying although he supports schools being able to apply for "public charter" status, which would provide more "flexibility to innovate and implement new strategies," governance of schools must remain under the purview of the locally-elected school board and the state education agency. "Public resources should be used to support our outstanding public schools," he states. Bullock won in a tight race, but it was a victory nevertheless, and a win for public education.

The ascendancy of public education as an important progressive cause was prevalent in state and local elections around the country – in races for state board of education in Nebraska, in school board elections in Minneapolis, San Francisco, and Detroit. Of course, support for public education did not win everywhere. There were bad outcomes in state legislative races in California and New York.

Trump has expressed his strong dislike for public schools – calling them "government schools" and a "failed monopoly" – and proposed during his campaign a \$20 billion federal block grant to allow states to give vouchers to low-income students to attend whatever school they want. With Trump's election, school choice and charter advocates now have their strongest proponent in charge of federal policy.

And among establishment Democrats, support for charter schools remains firm. In an astonishing feat of rhetoric, some of these centrist-minded Democrats who support charter schools are conflating Trump's win with the victories for public education in Massachusetts and Georgia, saying the starkly dissimilar events were somehow equally bad for "kids."

As these out-of-touch Democrats celebrate the defeats of progressives such as Zephyr Teachout – who campaigned for good public schools and well paying jobs but lost to a charter school advocate backed by Wall Street – we need to remind them that it was establishment Democrats who handed this election to a rightwing populist, void of decency and respect for others and mobilized by hate and division.

These sell-outs to the big money behind "reforms" such as "free trade," "right to work," and "school choice" are the ones who are complicit in this defeat. And it's time progressive Democrats took their party back. Public school advocates in Massachusetts and Georgia just showed us how to do that.

JEFF BRYANT IS AN ASSOCIATE FELLOW AT CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE AND EDITOR OF THE RECENTLY LAUNCHED/EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY NETWORK, /A PROJECT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE/ OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN CAMPAIGN./

Source: OurFuture.org 11/11/16 <https://ourfuture.org/>

## Contact Your Reps

**President 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

**Senator 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

**Representative 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

**Representative 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

**Representative 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

**Governor 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





# Health care - change is acoming

The election of Donald Trump, along with Republican control of both houses of Congress, threatens health coverage for millions of Americans and the progress we've made in the last half - century with the enactment of Medicaid, Medicare , and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Dramatic rollbacks in health care and coverage are at the top of the agenda of both President - elect Trump and Speaker Paul Ryan, who has re - committed to his longstanding plan to cut Medicaid and Medicare. Many of those changes, as well as repeal of many (but not all) elements of the Affordable Care Act, could be passed through budget reconciliation, which only requires 51 votes in the Senate, a majority vote of the House, and the President's signature.

## MEDICAID SAFETY - NET COVERAGE

Medicaid (called Medi - Cal in California) provides coverage to nearly 14 million Californians, over a third of the state, including a majority of our children, 2/3 of nursing home residents, and many other families and individuals living in poverty. Medi-Cal is a lifeline for those who otherwise don't have access to health care and provides a safety-net for any one of us who may suddenly lose a job or income. Speaker Ryan's "Better Way" proposal would undo Medicaid's matching guarantee to California, and cap the money going to states . States would be forced to choose between taking Medicaid funds either as a block grant or a per-capita cap, neither of which provide sufficient funding to cover California's ongoing needs. The GOP Congress also seeks (passing last year in a 51-vote Senate reconciliation bill) to repeal the Medicaid expansion under the ACA, which provides \$16 billion to California in the 2016 - 17 budget year.

Repeal of the Medicaid expansion alone would eliminate coverage to over 3.5 million Californians. National estimates forecast the Ryan proposal will cut Medicaid funding

by a third to half in ten years, endangering coverage for millions more Californians, as well as forcing further funding reductions for hospitals and other health providers. Medicaid cuts of this magnitude would endanger the safety net of hospitals and the health providers we all rely on.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BUY PRIVATE COVERAGE IN COVERED CALIFORNIA

Over 90% of the 1.3 million Californians who buy coverage through Covered California get financial assistance (tax credits) so the health premium is not more than a percentage of their income (on a sliding scale up to 9.5%). Some Covered California enrollees also get subsidies to reduce deductibles and other cost-sharing. The nearly \$5 billion in financial assistance and subsidies to California families is targeted for repeal –the 51 - vote GOP reconciliation bill last year phased them out after two years. The loss of tax credits will directly increase the cost of health coverage – by hundreds or thousands of dollars – for a million Californians. The resulting loss of coverage would leave a smaller and sicker risk pool in the individual insurance market, spiking the price of health premiums market-wide.

One proposed replacement, funding for Health Savings Accounts, would be inadequate to make private coverage affordable, especially for low- and moderate-income Americans. Another proposed replacement, refundable tax credits, would mean consumers pay premiums first and then get tax refunds later, requiring consumers to front thousands of dollars in premiums and copays they cannot afford .

## PATIENT PROTECTIONS INCLUDING NO DENIALS & RATE HIKES FOR PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Affordable Care Act put in place key consumer protections against insurance company abuses that benefit all patients, most

notably by prohibiting health plans from denying (or charging more to) patients with pre-existing conditions. This also includes requirements that insurers cover essential benefits, eliminate annual or lifetime caps, limit out-of-pocket costs, meet a ctuarial value requirements, not charge women differently than men, and limit differential premiums based on age.

The GOP Congress has sought to repeal these protections in various 60- vote repeal bills. While these patient protections cannot be repealed under 51- vote budget reconciliation, President-elect Trump could hinder these protections through administrative actions, grant waivers voiding some guidelines, simply not implement or enforce some rules, or allow legal challenges to stand.

In addition, President-elect Trump has highlighted his proposal to pre-empt state patient protections by allowing out-of-state insurers to sell a cross state lines and avoid California's strong consumer protections. They include coverage of medically necessary care, standards on timely access to care, network adequacy, language access, and the right to appeal denials of care.

## THE GUARANTEE OF MEDICARE

Medicare covers 4 million California seniors and people with disabilities. Full repeal of the Affordable Care Act would roll back the improvements in prescription drug coverage (which closed the so-called "donut hole") and undo some cost-saving measures that have increased the sustainability of Medicare.

Speaker Paul Ryan has long advocated to privatize Medicare into a "premium support" voucher program, where Medicare beneficiaries would be given a set amount of money to help purchase (but not necessarily fully pay for) private plans. President - elect Trump has made similar references to "modernizing Medicare." California

Congressional Representatives must be clear-eyed about the real life-and - death impact of any proposal they vote on—including these changes to Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act that would leave millions more Californians uninsured, living sicker, dying younger, and being one emergency away from financial ruin. Members of Congress must be accountable for the health and financial consequences to California families and communities.\

Source: Our health care at risk: Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act [www.healthaccess.org](http://www.healthaccess.org)



# Republican dog catches healthcare car, and we reveal the only possible winning strategy now

When, in 2009-2010, we so bitterly opposed the healthcare bill dubbed "Obamacare," we argued that it was nothing but a corrupt corporate con job, that it would fail miserably, and that Republicans would use repeal of it as a rallying cry over a succession of elections until they finally seized control of both Congress and the White House. Unfortunately, we knew what we were talking about.

We will now make another prediction, the uncanny accuracy of which will be proven in due course of time, and which if not heeded will lead to nothing but even more electoral disaster. But first, if you are inspired to support this resource and want to see us endure for the future, please consider making a kind contribution, and you can make it recurrent by checking the box for that, all on this page.

Dogs love to chase cars, but rarely do they ever catch one. We're not sure what they think they would do if they ever did. That's what the Republicans have now done. They have finally caught the healthcare car. They promised to repeal and replace the healthcare bill, and now they are stuck with the responsibility of actually doing it. It can be expected that the reflexive inclination of the Democrats will be to use their remaining minority in the Senate to try to block repeal

by filibuster. This must not happen. They can vote against it with their minority all they please, but they must not filibuster. Why not?

Obamacare is a loser, it's always been a loser, and it's always going to be a loser. What a surprise that the bill written word for word by a corporate healthcare lobbyist has empowered medical industry special interests to now gouge the American people, so soon after its deliberately delayed implementation, with escalating premium hikes.

If the Democrats, clinging to some delusional attachment to Obama's so-called legacy, try to block repeal, exactly the same dynamic that cost them Congress and the White House in the first place will proceed even further. Republicans will let them play their little game, not try to override with some nuclear so-called option, and then will argue in the next election cycle that more Democrats must be removed from the Senate so that they can no longer even filibuster. And 2018 would be the custom-made election cycle for that ongoing pitch. In the meantime, anger against the Democrats will continue to increase as insurance premiums go even further through the roof.

The plain, hard fact is that by the time Trump gets done


Obama will have no legacy to brag about, other the murder of Osama bin Laden. He flushed his presidency, and his legacy, behind a health care boondoggle, written by Liz Fowler, a Wellpoint lobbyist, that was doomed the day it was passed, using a procedural budget reconciliation trick. The instant he lost his House majority as a direct result, he could no longer get any legislation passed, let alone progressive legislation, even if he wanted to.

The pathologically partisan and unpatriotic Republicans vowed en masse to make him a failed president. And tragically, so tragically, President Obama helped them do it. He could have passed anything he wanted to in 2009. He had a party super-majority in the Senate and historic margins in the House. But he elected to try to con his base instead, this was the change you believed in he told us, and so we arrive at the sad present. The Republicans must be forced to take responsibility. And under no circumstances can the Democrats allow them to get off the hook of having to implement their own bill now, on the chance of the American people hating it even more.

Source: The Pen 11/11/16 [theteam@peaceteam.net](mailto:theteam@peaceteam.net)



# Spoiled Americans now want to flee what they created



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*Malak Chabkoun*

Many Americans woke up on November 9 (or didn't sleep to begin with) panicking about the future of the United States. Citizens of other countries, particularly in the Arab world, were probably observing this mass panic with a smirk, thinking, "and now it's their turn". Certainly, not out of spite, but in the hope that Americans would finally understand where they were coming from.

The reality is, citizens of the US - minorities or otherwise - do have reasons to feel fear and disgust under a Trump presidency, not only from his proposed policies of alienation and repression, but also from those supporters of his, whose white power aspirations have now been made official.

However, it is also true that citizens of the US, particularly Arabs and Muslims, must not allow this election result to force them to act as frightened children. Murmurs of migrating to Canada if Trump won apparently translated into reality, with the Canadian immigration website reportedly crashing as it became clear the electoral college votes were in his favour.

These reactions make one pause and wonder how long these same people would last under the Arab and African dictatorships and occupiers the US has propped up and maintained positive ties with over the years. We now have a version of a "dictator-elect" in the US, and rather than promising to fight the changes he has threatened to implement, the initial reaction of many Americans has been to plot ways to flee.

Honestly, the arrogance of Americans who are threatening to flee is breathtaking. They assume that the

world will now welcome them with open arms because in a few months, they will be ruled by a less-than-desirable leader. One which, the world will be quick to mention, was actually chosen by Americans and not imposed on them by occupation or intervention.

## POLITICAL IMMATURITY

As young elementary school pupils in the US, we are programmed during our "social studies" classes to hold our civic duties, such as voting and obeying laws, near and dear. In middle and high school and even college, we run for "political office", setting up small governments within our schools that give us an illusion of holding power. Schools hold mock voting days and colleges invite political officials to come and encourage American students - young and old - to be active participants in the political process. Even naturalised citizens of the US go through a political socialisation process; one that details their rights and responsibilities as a citizen of the US and reminds them that citizenship is a promise to commit to the US and its form of government.

Yet, all of this political socialisation has apparently left us unprepared to deal with the sometimes unexpected and undesirable outcomes of the US' version of democracy. In fact, our reactions to the results of the 2016 election have shown us exactly how our political socialisation has failed us and made us complacent and passive rather than proactive members of our political system. But this is only one small symptom of our political immaturity and decay in the US.

## IGNORANT OF SUFFERING

Contrary to what we may believe, we Americans aren't the centre of the

universe. Our country's policymakers are often the cause of suffering overseas - the very suffering we are fearful of at the hands of Trump - but, as citizens, we tend to take one of two paths. We either shy away from taking responsibility, blaming it on elected officials and claiming we aren't responsible for their missteps in the Middle East and North Africa region, or we don't even have a clue about the kind of suffering our policies contribute to.

Worse than that, we are quick to judge what Arabs and Africans should and should not do while living under dictatorships as we are sitting comfortably in the democracy we love to shove down other countries' throats. Americans have a hard time fathoming why Syrians would "abandon their country" and run from barrel bombs or why Egyptians would run from the threat of forced disappearances. We accuse refugees of "putting the lives of their children at risk" by getting into overflowing boats to escape extremism of all kinds - Islamic or otherwise - judging them harshly for these choices.

Yet, one little brush with a leader who might put us in a position even remotely close to citizens living under Bashar al-Assad, or Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, or the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and we want the entire world to not only understand our urge to flee but also to coddle us and be concerned about our feelings.

## NOT UNEXPECTED

A US under Trump is not going to be pleasant, on that we can agree. However, it is not the first time minorities were targeted and unwanted in the US. African-Americans at some point in history were denied citizenship and their movements restricted. Japanese-Americans were actually placed in internment camps on US soil.

Even ideology has been a target of US government - for example, the First Red Scare. Yet, despite this, members of these groups did not flee the US in droves.

We have had months to digest that Trump had a chance at this race. We knew minorities would be facing some type of backlash. For some reason, however, we continued to arrogantly think that a Trump presidency couldn't happen to us here in the US. But it did, and perhaps that is what will finally force us to address and understand what it is about our political system that finally brought our aggression abroad to haunt us right here at home.

MALAK CHABKOUN IS AN INDEPENDENT MIDDLE EAST RESEARCHER AND WRITER BASED IN THE US.

Source: Al-Jazeera English 11/10/16  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/>

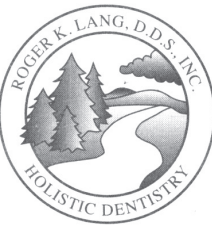
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# For the Trump era: fight not flight



NORMAN SOLOMON

A lot of U.S. citizens are now talking about leaving the country. Canada, Europe and New Zealand are popular scenarios. Moving abroad might be an individual solution. But the social solution is to stay and put

up a fight. The most right-wing U.S. government in our lifetimes will soon have its executive and legislative branches under reactionary control, with major ripple effects on the judiciary. All the fixings for a dystopian future will be on the table. In

a realistic light, the outlook is awfully grim. No wonder a huge number of people in the United States are struggling with mixtures of grief, anger, frustration, fear.

If Donald Trump and major forces backing him get their way, the conditions described by Frederick Douglass—still all too prevalent now—will worsen in the years ahead: “Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.”

As James Baldwin wrote, “People who shut their eyes to reality simply invite their own destruction, and anyone who insists on remaining in a state of innocence long after that innocence is dead turns himself into a monster.”

Those quotes from Douglass and Baldwin are in a book of paintings by Robert Shetterly, */Americans Who Tell the Truth/*. Another portrait in the collection appears under these words from Helen Keller: “When one comes to think of it, there are no such things as divine, immutable, or inalienable rights. Rights are things we get when we are strong enough to make good our claim on them.” That statement from Keller aptly describes our current predicament and possibilities. The impending Trump presidency is a direct threat to basic human rights. To make good our claim on those rights will require that we become “strong enough,” individually and collectively. Gaining such strength will require that we provide much more support for independent progressive institutions—the array of organizations that can

serve as collective bulwarks against the momentum of systemic greed, bigotry, massive violence, economic exploitation and environmental destruction.

We’re now being flung into a new era that will intensify many of the oppressive aspects of the U.S. governmental apparatus and political economy. An ongoing imperative will be to mitigate serious-to-catastrophic damage in many realms. We need a united front—against the very real threat of severe repression that could morph into some form of fascism. At this highly precarious time, progressives certainly don’t need the tempests of factional disputes and ideological battles. And we certainly don’t need the kind of reflexive capitulation that so often comes from the upper reaches of the Democratic Party. We’re at the start of a

protracted crisis that could become cataclysmic. We need progressive unity and unrelenting determination. Only with eyes wide open do we have a real chance to understand clearly and organize effectively against the Trump regime. Failure to put up a fight should be unthinkable.

NORMAN SOLOMON IS CO-FOUNDER OF ROOTSACTION.ORG AND FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ACCURACY. HIS BOOKS INCLUDE “WAR MADE EASY: HOW PRESIDENTS AND PUNDITS KEEP SPINNING US TO DEATH”/ AND /“MADE LOVE, GOT WAR: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH AMERICA’S WARFARE STATE”.

Source: *Common Dreams* 11/10/16  
<http://www.commondreams.org/>

## 10 progressive wins that were obscured by Trump's shocking victory

MICHAEL ARRIA

There’s a good chance you’re currently experiencing one of the five stages of grief now that Donald Trump has been elected president. However, if you’re anywhere near the final stage, a rundown of some progressive victories from last night might cheer you up just a little.

### 1. JOE ARPAIO LOST

The controversial Arizona sheriff who became a symbol for the state’s racist anti-immigration laws lost his race for a seventh term.

### 2. CALIFORNIA LOOSENED PRISON PAROLE RULES

Voters approved Governor Jerry Brown’s plan to loosen prison parole rules, dealing a decisive blow to the state’s prison-industrial complex. The reform rolls back the 2000 decision that sent more juvenile defendants to adult courtrooms. It would also potentially parole felons who haven’t been convicted of crimes that the state designates as violent.

### 3. FOUR STATES VOTED TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

Arizona, Colorado, Maine and Washington all voted to increase their minimum wages. Washington will raise its minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour by 2020, while the others will go up to \$12.

### 4. POT WON BIG

In the biggest electoral night for marijuana since 2012, California, Massachusetts and Nevada all passed recreational weed initiatives while several others landed victories for medical marijuana.

### 5. MASSACHUSETTS VOTERS REJECTED AN EXPANSION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

Massachusetts voters rejected an effort to increase the number of charter schools in the state. “We held the line,” said Massachusetts Teachers Association president Barbara

Madeloni. “Money can’t buy our public schools.”

### 6. THE NATION’S FIRST SOMALI LEGISLATOR WAS ELECTED IN MINNESOTA

Ilhan Omar, 34, a Muslim-American, said after her win, “It’s the beginning of something new. This district has a legacy of making history. I am excited for our progressive values and to be able to be on the ground at the capitol representing the diverse people of my district and being a champion with them and for them.”

### 7. MASSACHUSETTS PASSED A HISTORIC ANIMAL WELFARE LAW

The landmark law will prohibit factory farm policies such as keeping chickens, calves and pigs confined in tiny spaces for their entire lives.

### 8. FLORIDA VOTERS REJECT UTILITY-BACKED SOLAR AMENDMENT

Florida voters rejected a measure that seemed pro-solar but would have dealt a fatal blow to the state’s solar industry. “Today was truly a solar uprising,” Stephen A. Smith, executive director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy said in a statement. “The Sunshine State voters have spoken clearly: they want more solar friendly policies and the freedom to harness the sun’s power for the benefit of all Floridians and not just the monopoly utilities.”

### 9. CALIFORNIA PROPOSAL THAT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED CONDOMS IN PORN WAS DEFEATED

This might not seem like an obvious one, but adult film actor Jesse Jackson breaks down the problems with this legislation in his Huffington Post piece. He points out that the porn industry already has a disease prevention system in place that works, and in addition, “the legislation would empower any resident of California to sue a studio on the basis of a suspected violation. Should that happen, the real names and addresses of the performers in the case become a matter of public record. Prop 60 would put our privacy in

jeopardy.”

### 10. MAINE ADOPTED A VOTING SYSTEM THAT COULD HELP THIRD PARTIES

It’s called ranked choice voting. A Huffington Post piece breaks down the details: “[Ranked choice voting] allows voters to rank their candidates. To win, a candidate must earn a majority of the votes cast. If, after the first round of counting, no candidate has a majority of votes, the ballots get counted again with one exception: for voters who selected the last-place candidate as their top pick, their votes get counted with their second-choice candidate as their first choice.” This kind of voting would have prevented Maine’s infamous right-wing governor Paul LePage from being elected.

MICHAEL ARRIA IS AN ASSOCIATE EDITOR AT ALTERNET AND ALTERNET’S LABOR EDITOR/. /FOLLOW @MICHAELARRIA ON TWITTER.

Source: *AlterNet* 11/9/16 <http://www.alternet.org/>

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# Rigged? you betcha

MICHAEL MCGUIRE

There has been much talk in recent weeks about “rigged elections”. At the state level there is the possibility of gerrymandering, designing the shape of electoral districts to advantage one party over the other. The party controlling the most state legislatures gets to design the most voting districts. The Republicans were doubly lucky during the 2010 elections. They were highly motivated with the explosive growth of the Tea Party movement and turned out in big numbers. It was a wave election from Washington D.C. to state capitals in favor of the Republicans. Most attention after the 2010 election was focused on the change in the House of Representatives. But big changes were occurring in state legislative races too. The Republicans took almost 700 seats away from Democrats in state legislatures. But there was another bit of luck for the Republicans.

The year 2010 was a census year.

This means that the legislatures of many states had to redraw their electoral districts because some had either lost or gained congressmen. Republicans controlled most of the state legislatures. After the 2010 election Republicans had control over the redrawing of 210 congressional districts, the Democrats just 44. With the aid of powerful computer programs, the Republicans were able to design districts for their maximum advantage. How successful were they in “rigging” the system? In 2012 the Democrats attracted 1.7 million more congressional votes than the Republicans. But the Republicans won a majority in the House with a margin of 33 representatives. The vote almost doesn’t matter. For this decade, the Republicans will always win the House. The system is rigged.

The extraordinary success of the Republicans in 2010 allowed them to alter the electoral system in an even better way than gerrymandering. After 2010 Republicans

controlled both houses of the legislatures in 25 states. With a Republican governor, they could pass any election laws they liked. Over the past several years there has been a systematic effort by Republicans to alter election laws in ways that will suppress the registration, turn-out and vote of minorities, mostly blacks and Hispanics, who predominantly vote Democrat. Other laws have been designed to depress the vote of college students. The types of new laws vary from reductions in voting days and locations, which causes long lines and waits in minority districts, to strict voter ID laws. Blacks and Hispanics are twice as likely to not have a driver’s license.

Republicans argue that the new laws are an answer to voter fraud. Is that a reason, or an excuse? There is no evidence of voter fraud on a scale that would affect the outcome of elections. Voter ID laws address impersonation voter fraud where someone

shows up at a poll and casts a ballot in your name. How often does that happen?

There is evidence that ID laws depress turnout. One study found that Democratic turnout fell by 8.8% and Republican turn-out by 3.6% in strict voter ID states. Democrats have been challenging the laws designed to suppress minority voters in federal courts all over the country with some success. The 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals rejected North Carolina’s voting restrictions saying the laws, “target African Americans with almost surgical precision,” and “impose cures for problems that did not exist.” In North Dakota a federal judge said, “The undisputed evidence before the Court reveals that voter fraud in North Dakota has been virtually non-existent.” In several larger states hundreds of thousands of citizens will be deprived of their right to vote.

Donald Trump is right. Our election system is rigged.

## The election was stolen – here’s how

GREG PALAST

Before a single vote was cast, the election was fixed by GOP and Trump operatives. Starting in 2013 – just as the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act – a coterie of Trump operatives, under the direction of Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, created a system to purge 1.1 million Americans of color from the voter rolls of GOP-controlled states. The system, called Crosscheck, is detailed in my Rolling Stone report,

“The GOP’s Stealth War on Voters,” 8/24/2016.

Crosscheck in action:	
Trump victory margin in Michigan:	13,107
Michigan Crosscheck purge list:	449,922
Trump victory margin in Arizona:	85,257
Arizona Crosscheck purge list:	270,824
Trump victory margin in North Carolina:	177,008
North Carolina Crosscheck purge list:	589,393

On Tuesday, we saw Crosscheck elect a Republican Senate and as President, Donald Trump. The electoral putsch was aided by nine other methods of attacking the right to vote of Black, Latino and Asian-American voters, methods detailed in my book and film, including “Caging,” “purging,” blocking legitimate registrations, and wrongly shunting millions to “provisional” ballots that will never be counted.

Trump signaled the use of “Crosscheck” when he claimed the election is “rigged” because “people are voting many, many times.” His operative Kobach, who also advised Trump on building a wall on the southern border, devised a list of 7.2 million “potential” double voters—1.1 million of which were removed from the voter rolls by Tuesday. The list is loaded overwhelmingly with voters of color and the poor. Here’s a sample of the list. Those accused of criminal double voting include, for example, Donald Alexander Webster Jr. of Ohio who is accused of voting a second time in Virginia as Donald EUGENE Webster SR. For example, in the swing state of North Carolina, it was reported that 6,700 Black folk lost their registrations because their registrations had been challenged by a group called Voter Integrity Project (VIP). VIP sent letters to households in Black communities “do not forward.” If the voter had moved within the same building, or somehow did not get their mail (e.g. if their name was not on a mail box), they were challenged as “ghost” voters. GOP voting officials happily complied with VIP with instant

cancellation of registrations.

The 6,700 identified in two counties were returned to the rolls through a lawsuit. However, there was not one mention in the press that VIP was also behind Crosscheck in North Carolina; nor that its leader, Col. Jay Delancy, whom I’ve tracked for years has previously used this vote thievery, known as “caging,” for years. Doubtless the caging game was wider and deeper than reported. And by the way, caging, as my Rolling Stone co-author, attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr., tells me, is “a felony, it’s illegal, and punishable by high fines and even jail time.”

There is still much investigation to do. For example, there are millions of “provisional” ballots, “spoiled” (invalidated) ballots and ballots rejected from the approximately 30 million mailed in. Unlike reporting in Britain, US media does not report the ballots that are rejected and tossed out—because, after all, as Joe Biden says, “Our elections are the envy of the world.” Only in Kazakhstan, Joe.

While there is a great deal of work to do, much documentation still to analyze, we’ll have to pry it from partisan voting chiefs who stamp the scrub lists, Crosscheck lists and ballot records, “confidential.” But, the evidence already in our hands makes me sadly confident in saying, Jim Crow, not the voters, elected Mr. Trump.

### WHAT ABOUT THOSE EXIT POLLS?

Exit polls are the standard by which the US State Department measures the honesty of foreign elections. Exit polling is, historically, deadly accurate. The bane of pre-election polling is that pollsters must adjust for the likelihood of a person voting. Exit polls solve the problem. But three times in US history, pollsters have had to publicly flagellate themselves for their “errors.” In 2000, exit polls gave Al Gore the win in Florida; in 2004, exit polls gave Kerry the win in Ohio, and now, in swing states, exit polls gave the presidency to Hillary Clinton.

So how could these multi-million-dollar Ph.D.-directed statisticians with decades of experience get exit polls so wrong? Answer: they didn’t. The polls in Florida in 2000 were accurate. That’s because exit pollsters can only ask, “How did you vote?” What they don’t ask, and can’t, is, “Was your vote counted.” In 2000, in Florida, GOP Secretary of State Katherine Harris officially rejected 181,173 ballots, as “spoiled” because their chads were hung and other nonsense excuses. Those ballots overwhelmingly were marked for Al Gore. The exit polls included those 181,173 people who thought they had voted – but their vote didn’t count. In other words, the exit polls accurately reflected whom the voters chose, not what Katherine Harris chose.

In 2004, a similar number of votes were invalidated (including an enormous pile of “provisional” ballots) by Ohio’s GOP Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell. Again, the polls reflected that Kerry was the choice of 51% of the voters. But the exit polls were “wrong” because they didn’t reflect the ballots invalidated by Blackwell. Notably, two weeks after the 2004 US election, the US State Department refused to recognize the Ukraine election results because the official polls contradicted the exit polls.

And here we go again. 2016: Hillary wins among those queried as they exit the polling station—yet Trump is declared winner in GOP-controlled swing states. And, once again, the expert pollsters are forced to apologize—when they should be screaming, “Fraud! Here’s the evidence the vote was fixed!”

Now there’s a new trope to explain away the exit polls that gave Clinton the win. Supposedly, Trump voters were ashamed to say they voted for Trump. Really? On what planet? For Democracy Now! and Rolling Stone I was out in several swing states. In Ohio, yes, a Black voter may have been reluctant to state support for Trump. But a white voter in the exurbs of Dayton, where the Trump signs grew on lawns like weeds, and the pews of the evangelical mega churches were slathered with Trump and GOP brochures, risked getting spat on if they even whispered, “Hillary.”

This country is violently divided, but in the end, there simply aren’t enough white guys to elect Trump nor a Republican Senate. The only way they could win was to eliminate the votes of non-white guys—and they did so by tossing Black provisional ballots into the dumpster, ID laws that turn away students—the list goes on. It’s a web of complex obstacles to voting by citizens of color topped by that lying spider, Crosscheck.

GREG PALAST (ROLLING STONE, GUARDIAN, BBC) IS THE AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERS, THE BEST DEMOCRACY MONEY CAN BUY AND BILLIONAIRES & BALLOT BANDITS, NOW OUT AS MAJOR MOTION NON-FICTION MOVIE.

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Source: GregPalast.com release, 11/9/16. Greg Palast, 3357 Cahuenga Blvd W, #13, Los Angeles, CA 90068





ACLU

# If Donald Trump implements his proposed policies, we'll see him in court

ANTHONY D. ROMERO

This morning, Donald J. Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States, and the ACLU has a message for him. President-elect Trump, as you assume the nation's highest office, we urge you to reconsider and change course on certain

campaign promises you have made. These include your plan to amass a deportation force to remove 11 million undocumented immigrants; ban the entry of Muslims into our country and aggressively surveil them; punish women for accessing abortion; reauthorize waterboarding and other forms of torture;

and change our nation's libel laws and restrict freedom of expression.

These proposals are not simply un-American and wrong-headed, they are unlawful and unconstitutional. They violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, and 14th Amendments. If you do not

reverse course and instead endeavor to make these campaign promises a reality, you will have to contend with the full firepower of the ACLU at every step. Our staff of litigators and activists in every state, thousands of volunteers and millions of card-carrying members and supporters are ready to fight

against any encroachment on our cherished freedoms and rights.

One thing is certain: We will be eternally vigilant every single day of your presidency. And when you leave the Oval Office, we will do the same with your successor as we have done throughout our nearly 100

years of existence. The Constitution and the rule of law are stronger than any one person, and we will see to that. We will never waver.

Source: ACLU release 11/9/16  
<https://www.aclu.org>

## Discrimination more appealing than experts thought possible

CHRISTIAN CHRISTENSEN

We were told that this was a high point for postwar democracy: a moment in which an entire nation sent a clear, unambiguous message that the politics of hate, racism and ethno-nationalism would be rejected in favor of decency and restraint. And the result of the second round of the 2002 French Presidential elections certainly seemed to support these lofty claims, with incumbent Jacques Chirac beating Jean-Marie Le Pen of the Front National by the unheard of margin of 82.2 percent to 17.8 percent. French honor had, we were told, been restored.

At the time it struck me that a neo-Nazi who had once called the gas chambers "a detail of history" making in through to the second round of the French Presidential election was hardly a triumph. Nor was it a triumph that in that runoff he managed to attract the support of almost 1 in 5 French voters. This was not crushing loss for the politics of xenophobia and racism, this was one of a number of key moments in contemporary European history (such as the successes of Pim Fortuyn and Jörg Haider) when such politics broke through and became mainstream. Fifteen years later, Marine Le Pen has kicked her father out of the Front National and adopted a slicker, more PR-savvy variation of racist politics. So, 2002 was a start, not an end.

In a victory that will have shocked most of the world and a great many of my fellow Americans, our own Le Pen won. And, it's worth noting that, because of a large difference in voter turnout in the US and France (55% versus 82%), Trump's 47.5% translates into only 26% of votes from all possible voters (the same calculation would put Le Pen in 2002 at 15%). But, win or lose, Trump had already changed the face of US politics and society. In an understanding of politics rooted in competition and commodification, the only thing that matters is the win or loss. But this sports-like worldview is as dangerous as it is naïve, and one in

which long-term impacts are ignored in favor of short-term celebration or despair. Yes, of course it matters who won the election, and there are real—and likely severe—political, social and economic implications of

Trump's victory. With his nomination by the Republicans, however, a line was crossed that can never be uncrossed. And, it is important to note that Trump was not created in a social or political vacuum, but rather was the by-product of a process that has been underway for years.

The use of racism and xenophobia in high-level US politics is nothing new. In his 1976 campaign for the Republican nomination, Ronald Reagan pointed to the problem of "welfare queens" who illegally gamed the US entitlement system to get money and housing. Reagan's main example was an African-American woman, and his "welfare queen" imagery exploited long-held racist notions of lazy African-Americans living off of the tax dollars of honest, hard-working white citizens.

In 1988, the Republican nominee George H. W. Bush ran ads against his opponent Michael Dukakis making reference to the fact that convicted murder William Horton (who is African-American) had raped a white woman while on "furlough" (on leave) from prison in Massachusetts: a practice supported by Dukakis while governor of the state. The Bush campaign ads showed a threatening mug shot of Horton, and critics contended that the campaign stoked racist sentiment in the US by suggesting that black criminals would be released under a Dukakis presidency.

Then, let us fast-forward to the election of Barack Obama in 2008. At the time, there was much discussion that the election of a black President in a predominantly white country would herald a "post-racial" era in the US. The last eight years with have shown this to be a sad joke, with shockingly large numbers of US citizens believing that Obama is a secret Muslim, not a US citizen, or both. Then there is the Trump campaign which over the past year has cynically and consistently used xenophobic, Islamophobic and racist language and imagery to garner support.

From re-tweeting white supremacists to insulting the Muslim parents of a dead US soldier to claiming that a judge from Indiana could not be impartial in a case against Trump University because of his Mexican heritage, the Republican nominee



showed that explicit discrimination appealed to a much larger portion of the US population than experts thought possible...or were perhaps willing to admit. Trump's bigotry was not the softened, PR-savvy bigotry of Reagan and Bush. The language was coarse. The expressions of contempt were explicit. And yet his popularity did not wane. The US was turning ugly.

And, on the sidelines of the circus that ended Tuesday night sat the US media, wondering how a person like Trump could not only get the nomination, but actually maintain support. How someone with his brand of racism, sexism and aggression could possibly succeed in US politics. The problem was that, while on the one hand condemning Trump, on the other the US media provided unlimited media oxygen to the Trump fire.

In what must be classified as one of the most cynical—but honest—comments of the 2016 campaign, the CEO of the national broadcaster CBS, Les Moonves, said of Trump's success: "It may not be good for America, but it's damn good for CBS." In other words, it was in the financial interests of media conglomerates like CBS that Trump was not only in the race, but that he maintained his stream of offensive, anti-democratic rhetoric. It was great, profitable theater, even if the tragedy would eventually leak off of the stage and flood the entire country. As for Trump's steady exploitation of anti-Muslim sentiment, the US media would do well to ask itself what role their own failures after September 11 played in stoking these fires.

After broad and uncritical support for the occupation and destruction of Iraq, the US media basically ignored the subsequent deaths of over half a million Iraqis, as if these Muslim lives were unworthy of attention. It

was this type of dehumanization that Trump would leverage throughout his campaign. Leveraged, it turns out, into a victory, making Trump's victory also a brutal condemnation of US journalism.

So, as the US elections come to a sad, tragic end, it must be said that the loser of the elections was actually decided many months ago: it was, and will be for years to come, the citizens of the United States.

On the evening of November 1, exactly one week before voters went to the polls, a black church in Greenville, Mississippi was set on fire, and the words "Vote Trump" spray-painted on the side of the building. What made the event so poignant was not the shocking violence and apparent racism of the act, but rather the sense of its inevitability and banality, and that US politics had come to a point where supporters felt both the need and the entitlement to burn down a church in support of their candidate. The people who committed this act, and people like them, will not disappear now that the election is over and their man has won.

The horse has bolted the stables. The train has left the station. The ship has sailed. Pick your metaphor. We have seen a vision of America's dystopian future, and it's a future that won't last for only four or eight years.

Elections are often framed as celebrations of democracy. Like most celebrations, however, the tough question is: Who will be willing to clean up the mess once the party is over?

CHRISTIAN CHRISTENSEN, AMERICAN IN SWEDEN, IS PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM AT STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY.

Source: Common Dreams 11/11/16 <http://www.commondreams.org/>



# Democrats, Trump, and the ongoing, dangerous refusal to learn the lesson of Brexit

GLENN GREENWALD

The parallels between the U.K.'s shocking approval of the Brexit referendum in June and the U.S.' even more shocking election of Donald Trump as president last night are overwhelming. Elites (outside of populist right-wing circles) aggressively unified across ideological lines in opposition to both. Supporters of Brexit and Trump were continually maligned by the dominant media narrative (validly or otherwise) as primitive, stupid, racist, xenophobic, and irrational. In each case, journalists who spend all day chatting with one another on Twitter and congregating in exclusive social circles in national capitals – constantly reaffirming their own wisdom in an endless feedback loop – were certain of victory. Afterward, the elites whose entitlement to prevail was crushed devoted their energies to blaming everyone they could find except for themselves, while doubling down on their unbridled contempt for those who defied them, steadfastly refusing to examine what drove their insubordination.

The indisputable fact is that prevailing institutions of authority in the West, for decades, have relentlessly and with complete indifference stomped on the economic welfare and social security of hundreds of millions of people. While elite circles gorged themselves on globalism, free trade, Wall Street casino gambling, and endless wars (wars that enriched the perpetrators and sent the poorest and most marginalized to bear all their burdens), they completely ignored the victims of their gluttony, except when those victims piped up a bit too much – when they caused a ruckus – and were then scornfully condemned as troglodytes who were the deserved losers in the glorious, global game of meritocracy.

That message was heard loud and clear. The institutions and elite factions that have spent years mocking, maligning, and pillaging large portions of the population – all while compiling their own long record

of failure and corruption and destruction – are now shocked that their dictates and

decrees go unheeded. But human beings are not going to follow and obey the exact people they most blame for their suffering. They're going to do exactly the opposite: purposely defy them and try to impose punishment in retaliation. Their instruments for retaliation are Brexit and Trump. Those are their agents, dispatched on a mission of destruction: aimed at a system and culture they regard – not without reason – as rife with corruption and, above all else, contempt for them and their welfare.

After the Brexit vote, I wrote an article comprehensively detailing these dynamics, which I won't repeat here but hope those interested will read. The title conveys the crux: "Brexit Is Only the Latest Proof of the Insularity and Failure of Western Establishment Institutions." That analysis was inspired by a short, incredibly insightful, and now more relevant than ever post-Brexit Facebook note by the Los Angeles Times's Vincent Bevins, who wrote that "both Brexit and Trumpism are the very, very wrong answers to legitimate questions that urban elites have refused to ask for 30 years." Bevins went on: "Since the 1980s the elites in rich countries have overplayed their hand, taking all the gains for themselves and just covering their ears when anyone else talks, and now they are watching in horror as voters revolt."

For those who tried to remove themselves from the self-affirming, vehemently pro-Clinton elite echo chamber of 2016, the warning signs that Brexit screechingly announced were not hard to see. Two short passages from a Slate interview I gave in July summarized those grave dangers: that opinion-making elites were so clustered, so incestuous, so far removed from the people who would decide this election – so contemptuous of them – that they were not only incapable of seeing the trends toward Trump but were unwittingly accelerating those trends with their own condescending, self-glorifying behavior.

Like most everyone else who saw the polling data and predictive models of the media's self-proclaimed data experts, I long believed Clinton would win, but the reasons

why she very well could lose were not hard to see. The warning lights were flashing in neon for a long time, but they were in seedy places that elites studiously avoid. The few people who purposely went to those places and listened, such as Chris Arnade,

saw and heard them loud and clear. The ongoing failure to take heed of this intense but invisible resentment and suffering guarantees that it will fester and strengthen. This was the last paragraph of my July article on the Brexit fallout:

"Instead of acknowledging and addressing the fundamental flaws within themselves, [elites] are devoting their energies to demonizing the victims of their corruption, all in order to delegitimize those grievances and thus relieve themselves of responsibility to meaningfully address them. That reaction only serves to bolster, if not vindicate, the animating perceptions that these elite institutions are hopelessly self-interested, toxic, and destructive and thus cannot be reformed but rather must be destroyed. That, in turn, only ensures there will be many more Brexits, and Trumps, in our collective future."

Beyond the Brexit analysis, there are three new points from last night's results that I want to emphasize, as they are unique to the 2016 U.S. election and, more importantly, illustrate the elite pathologies that led to all of this:

1. Democrats have already begun flailing around trying to blame anyone and everyone they can find – everyone except themselves – for last night's crushing defeat of their party. You know the drearily predictable list of their scapegoats: Russia, WikiLeaks, James Comey, Jill Stein, Bernie Bros, The Media, news outlets (including, perhaps especially, The Intercept) that sinned by reporting negatively on Hillary Clinton. Anyone who thinks that what happened last night in places like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Michigan can be blamed on any of /that/ is drowning in self-protective ignorance so deep that it's impossible to express in words.

When a political party is demolished, the principle responsibility belongs to one entity: the party that got crushed. It's the job of the party and the candidate, and nobody else, to persuade the citizenry to support them and find ways to do that. Last night, the Democrats failed, resoundingly, to do that, and any autopsy or liberal think piece or pro-Clinton pundit commentary that does not start and finish with their own behavior is one that is inherently worthless.

Put simply, Democrats knowingly chose to nominate a deeply unpopular, extremely vulnerable, scandal-plagued candidate, who – for very good reason – was widely perceived to be a protector and beneficiary of all the worst components of status quo elite corruption. It's astonishing that those of us who tried frantically to warn Democrats that nominating Hillary Clinton was a huge and scary gamble – that all empirical evidence showed that she could lose /to anyone/ and Bernie Sanders would be a much stronger candidate, especially in this climate – are now the ones being blamed: by the very same people who insisted on ignoring all that data and nominating her anyway.

GLENN GREENWALD IS A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST, CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER, COMMENTATOR, AUTHOR OF THREE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING BOOKS ON POLITICS AND LAW, AND A STAFF WRITER AND EDITOR AT FIRST LOOK MEDIA. HIS FIFTH AND LATEST BOOK IS, /NO PLACE TO HIDE: EDWARD SNOWDEN, THE NSA, AND THE U.S. SURVEILLANCE STATE./ ABOUT THE U.S. SURVEILLANCE STATE AND HIS EXPERIENCES REPORTING ON THE SNOWDEN DOCUMENTS AROUND THE WORLD. HE IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL I.F. STONE AWARD FOR INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM, A GEORGE POLK AWARD, AND WAS ON THE GUARDIAN TEAM THAT WON THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC INTEREST JOURNALISM IN 2014.

Source: *The Intercept* 11/9/16 <https://theintercept.com/>

## Morning after to-do list

MICHAEL MOORE

The short list:

1. Take over the Democratic Party and return it to the people. They have failed us miserably.

2. Fire all pundits, predictors, pollsters and anyone else in the media who had a narrative they wouldn't let go of and refused to listen to or acknowledge what was really going on. Those same bloviators will now tell us we must "heal the divide" and "come together." They will pull more hooey like that out of their ass in the days to come. Turn them off.

3. Any Democratic member of Congress who didn't wake up this morning ready to fight, resist and obstruct in the way Republicans did against President Obama every day for eight full years must step out of the way and let those of us

who know the score lead the way in stopping the meanness and the madness that's about to begin.

4. Everyone must stop saying they are "stunned" and "shocked". What you mean to say is that you were in a bubble and weren't paying attention to your fellow Americans and their despair. Years of being neglected by both parties, the anger and the need for revenge against the system only grew. Along came a TV star they liked whose plan was to destroy both parties and tell them all "You're fired!" Trump's victory is no surprise. He was never a joke. Treating him as one only strengthened him. He is both a creature and a creation of the media and the media will never own that.

5. You must say this sentence to everyone you meet today: "Hillary Clinton won the popular vote!" The majority of our fellow Americans preferred Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump. Period. Fact. If you woke up this morning thinking

you live in an effed-up country, you don't. The majority of your fellow Americans wanted Hillary, not Trump. The only reason he's president is because of an arcane, insane 18th-century idea called the Electoral College. Until we change that, we'll continue to have presidents we didn't elect and didn't want. You live in a country where a majority of its citizens have said they believe there's climate change, they believe women should be paid the same as men, they want a debt-free college education, they don't want us invading countries, they want a raise in the minimum wage and they want a single-payer true universal health care system. None of that has changed. We live in a country where the majority agree with the "liberal" position. We just lack the liberal leadership to make that happen (see: #1 above). Let's try to get this all done by noon today.

Source: *Michael Moore's Facebook Page* 11/10/16 <https://www.facebook.com/mmflint>





# We never voted for corporate rule

DAVID KORTEN

Last week, Bayer, a transnational drug and pesticide company, secured funding for its \$66 billion offer to acquire Monsanto, the world's largest producer of agricultural seeds. This follows the announced \$130 billion merger of chemical giants Dow and DuPont, and ChemChina's proposed \$43 billion purchase of the seed and pesticide firm Syngenta.

Bayer, DuPont, Dow, Monsanto, and Syngenta are five of the world's six biggest pesticide and seed corporations. There are claims, which I find credible, that the "Big 6" and their products bear major responsibility for pesticide-resistant weeds and insects, and are implicated in impoverishment of small farmers, collapse of honeybee colonies, water pollution, and loss of biodiversity and soil fertility—all serious attacks on the common good. And similar consolidation continues in most every sector of the economy.

As individual corporations grow in size, global reach, and political power, we see a corresponding shift in the primary function of national governments—from serving the interests of their citizens to assuring the security of corporate property and profits. They apply police and military powers to this end, subsidize corporate operations, and facilitate corporate tax evasion. They let corporations off the hook with slap-on-the-wrist fines for criminal actions. Rarely, if ever, do they punish top executives.

The subversion began with the recolonization of developing countries, which I witnessed firsthand while living and working as a development professional in Asia from the late 1970s to the early 1990s. For years, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and national foreign

assistance programs had been luring former colonies into funding development projects with debt payable in foreign currency. They could repay only by selling their national assets and the fruits of their labor to foreign corporations.

It became evident in the early 1980s that most borrowing countries could not repay their debts /and/ fulfill their fiduciary responsibility to their own citizens. The World Bank and IMF stepped in as international debt collectors with a corporatist agenda that forced debtor nations to:

1. Slash public expenditures for health and education to provide tax breaks and subsidies to foreign investors;
2. Put public assets and services, including communications, power, and water, up for sale to foreign corporations;
3. Eliminate restrictions on foreign ownership, imports, banks and financial institutions, cross-border financial flows, and the extraction and export of natural resources; and
4. Roll back protections for unions, workers, public health and safety, and the environment.

Emboldened by this success, the corporatists globalized their agenda in the 1990s through international agreements like NAFTA and international organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO). Step by step, they co-opted politicians and reduced the ability of governments of all countries—creditors and debtors, rich and poor, large and small—to protect and advance community social and environmental

interests if doing so might reduce the anticipated profits of a transnational corporation.

In the United States, as corporate profits soared, working people became mired in unpayable mortgage, credit card, and student debt. It grew harder to find a meaningful and secure job at a living wage. Young people gave up expecting they would have better lives than their parents. And we experienced a host of environmental consequences ranging from violent weather events to contamination of drinking water.

There are no simple solutions to this distortion of priorities and its devastating social and environmental consequences. It will require a major restructuring of both governmental and corporate institutions to strengthen democracy and subordinate corporate power to people power.

DR. DAVID KORTEN IS THE AUTHOR OF *AGENDA FOR A NEW ECONOMY / THE GREAT TURNING: FROM EMPIRE TO EARTH COMMUNITY*, AND THE INTERNATIONAL BEST SELLER *WHEN CORPORATIONS RULE THE WORLD*. HE IS BOARD CHAIR OF YES! MAGAZINE, CO-CHAIR OF THE NEW ECONOMY WORKING GROUP, A FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR LOCAL LIVING ECONOMIES, PRESIDENT OF THE LIVING ECONOMIES FORUM, AND A MEMBER OF THE CLUB OF ROME. HE HOLDS MBA AND PHD DEGREES FROM THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND SERVED ON THE FACULTY OF THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL.

Source: YES! Magazine 10/21/16 <http://www.yesmagazine.org/>

## Take a look at the big economic problem awaiting America's next president

PAUL BUCHHEIT

Disturbing truths about the wealth gap in America have surfaced in recent months. Our nation is breaking in two. Yet downtrodden Americans are hoping for a fairy-tale ending to their misery instead of demanding the progressive measures that would empower them.

### COLLAPSE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

For every \$100 owned by a middle-class household in 2001, that household had just \$72 in 2013. Half of us are barely surviving, and it may be more than half. A J.P. Morgan study concluded that "the bottom 80% of households by income lack sufficient savings to cover the type of volatility observed in income and spending."

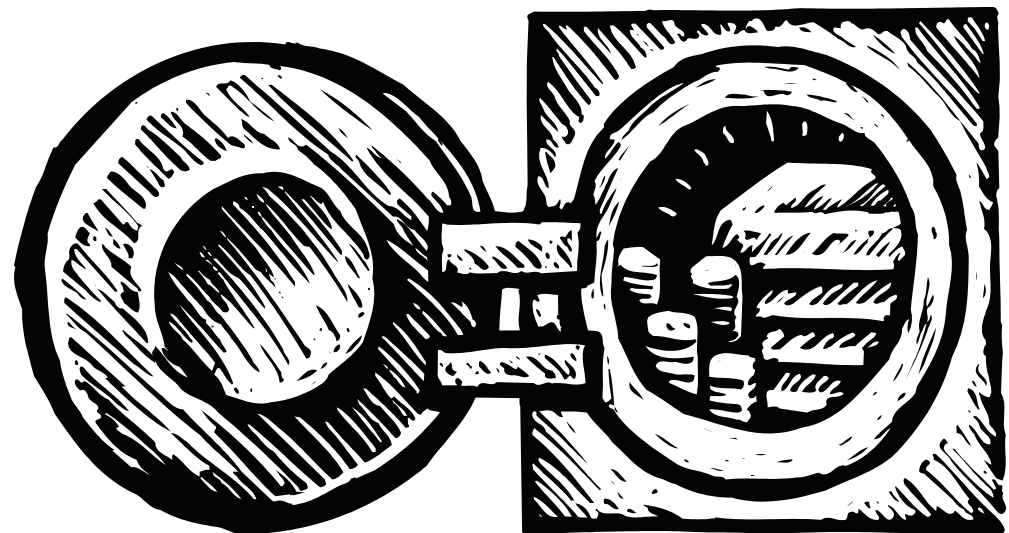
### MORE RICH, MORE POOR, LESS EMPATHY

Nearly two-thirds of American families were considered middle class in 1970. Today it's half or less. The rest of us have gone up or down, mostly down. Stanford researchers have concluded, "It is increasingly unlikely that high-income families interact with middle- and low-income families, eroding some of the social empathy that might lead to support for broader public investment in social programs to help the poor and middle class."

### NO MONEY FOR AN EMERGENCY

Just a year ago it was reported that 62 percent of Americans have less than \$1,000 in savings. That number is now up to 69 percent. Numerous sources report that half or more of American families have virtually no savings, and would have to borrow money or sell possessions to cover an emergency expense. Three out of 5 Americans spend more than they earn, not on frivolous extras, but on essential needs. Minorities suffer the most. The typical black household has enough liquid savings to last only five days, compared to 30 days for a white household.

### SALARIES FOR PRINCES AND PAUPERS, LITTLE IN-BETWEEN



The optimistic job reports generally fail to mention that most of our new jobs are in service industries, including retail and personal health care and food service. Over half of American workers make less than \$15 per hour. The only one of the eight fastest-growing occupations that pays over \$33,000 per year is nursing (and robotic nurses could be in our future). The evidence for downsized jobs keeps accumulating.

A US Mayors study found that "recovery" jobs pay 23 percent less than the positions they replaced. The National Employment Law Project estimates that low-wage jobs accounted for 22 percent of job losses but 44 percent of subsequent job gains. Business Insider, Huffington Post and the Wall Street Journal all concur: the unemployment rate is remaining low because of low-paying jobs. Analysts jabber about the jobs of the near future: Java application developer, internet security specialist, nurse practitioner, dental hygienist, statistical analyst, data mining specialist, physical therapist. For the most part, these are technology-oriented jobs that require advanced degrees and are outside the scope of the millions of young Americans who are burdened with debt and working at jobs below their skill levels. There are a few blue-collar jobs out there, including warehouse associate,

truck driver and machine operator. Some believe many of these areas will one day give way to artificial intelligence.

### ONE HOPE: A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX

The National Review believes that Donald Trump, despite his embarrassing behavior, "grasps the need to address the concerns of ordinary Americans." Donald Trump has shown little respect for his own workers. In addition, he wants to lower the tax rate on corporations and the rich, eliminate the Affordable Care Act, punish women who get abortions, and reintroduce "stop and frisk." Americans deluded by capitalist promises need to learn about progressive policies that would truly help them. The mainstream media makes this difficult. But the basics are clear. We need a guaranteed income, ideally through guaranteed jobs, with the necessary implementation of a financial transaction tax by our new president, and with a commitment to alternative energy infrastructure development. This will help restore the middle class. It may be the only way.

Source: AlterNet 11/7/16 <http://alternet.org/>



# Biotech bullies to rule the new FDA and EPA

RONNIE CUMMINS

In the tumultuous week following the 2016 elections, Monsanto and its minions are moving fast to tighten their control over our food and farming system. Emboldened by the prospect of another pro-industrial-agriculture administration, they're plowing ahead—with total disregard for public health, and blanket dismissal of the warnings pouring in from independent scientists.

Politico, which obtained a list of Trump's talking points on agriculture, said it includes a "sweeping promise" to "defend American agriculture against its critics, particularly those who have never grown or produced anything beyond a backyard tomato plant." From Politico: "The document . . . offers a host of policy pledges—from suggesting a shift back to conventional agriculture, to promises for the Trump White House to be an 'active participant' in writing the next Farm Bill, to fighting the so-called good food movement and undoing Obama-era agricultural and environmental policies."

Pair that news with Trump's EPA transition team pick, climate-denier Myron Ebell who says "pesticides aren't bad for you," and the future for organic regenerative agriculture—and your health—looks bleak.

One day after the election, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the highly controversial, dangerously toxic herbicide dicamba, allowing it to be sprayed directly on cotton and soybean crops. The Obama Administration had delayed commercialization of both 2,

4-D-resistant and dicamba-resistant crops for several years due to public concern over their extreme toxicity. Beyond Pesticides reports that Dicamba, which is linked to kidney and liver damage, neurotoxicity, and developmental impacts, has a "strong propensity to volatilize small particles of the herbicide into the air and drift far off-site. Sensitive crop species can be damaged by dicamba at levels in the parts per million." According to Sustainable Pulse, the EPA's November 9 decision opens the door "for dicamba use to jump from less than 1 million pounds to more than 25 million annually on these two crops," and follows "on the heels of the agency's recent decision to expand approval for a new pesticide called Enlist Duo, made for use on GM corn, cotton and soybeans."

A few days after the EPA issued the disastrous dicamba decision, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) declared it will stop testing foods for glyphosate residue. Never mind that a panel of 17 World Health Organization scientists unanimously agreed that glyphosate is a "probable human carcinogen." Or that this "probable carcinogen" has already contaminated an alarmingly wide range of best-selling foods in the U.S.

The EPA's decision to stop testing foods for glyphosate came less than three weeks after OCA and Beyond Pesticides sued the Sioux Bee corporation for fraudulently labeling its glyphosate-tainted Sue Bee and Aunt Sue's honey brands as "100% Natural." How did we know the honey contained glyphosate? Because the EPA tested it, and US Right to Know used the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to obtain the

results.

We don't need to guess or wonder. The incoming Trump administration will not be a friend to those of us committed to a healthy, pollution-free, climate-friendly future. Where does that leave us? Working at the state and local level to elect candidates and to pass public health and climate policies in line with the obvious truth, which is that we can't go on poisoning ourselves and our ecosystem—and still go on.

It also will require that we expand food testing, and expose the long list of the dangerous chemicals in our food so we can put our consumer power to good use. Once a critical mass of consumers knows exactly what kinds of—and how much—poison we're being fed, we will force Big Food to clean up its act, or go broke. At which point, it won't much matter what Monsanto's minions are up to in Congress. Because the market for their products will shrivel up faster than a glyphosate-drenched weed. Support OCA's work to get pesticides out of our food (tax-deductible, helps support our work on behalf of organic standards, fair trade and public education)

RONNIE CUMMINS IS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION AND A MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF REGENERATION INTERNATIONAL.

Source: Organic Consumers Association 11/16/16 [www.organicconsumers.org/](http://www.organicconsumers.org/)

## Local governments can prohibit GE crops, says U.S. Court of Appeals

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued its decisions Friday on whether federal and Hawai'i state laws preempt Hawai'i counties' authority to regulate genetically engineered (GE) crops and pesticide use. Of significance to state and local communities throughout the U.S., the Ninth Circuit ruled that federal law—specifically, the Plant Protection Act—does not prohibit states and counties from passing local laws to regulate and ban commercially-grown GE crops. "Today's decision to allow states and counties to ban or regulate GE crops is an important victory for GE-free seed sanctuaries and small communities and farmers around the country," George Kimbrell, senior attorney for the Center for Food Safety, said.

In granting its decision the court recognized potential harm to farmers and environment from the widespread planting of GE crops, asserting, "the cultivation and testing of GE plants raise several well-documented concerns." Notably, the court affirmed, "transgenic contamination has previously caused significant economic impacts on farmers of conventional, non-GE crops." The court acknowledged as well that "the cultivation of GE crops also may raise environmental concerns, such as harm to beneficial plants and animals caused by the increased use of pesticides sometimes associated

with testing and growing GE crops, the proliferation of 'superweeds' and other pests resistant to pesticides, and the reduction of biodiversity." The court went on to declare: "The regulation of commercialized crops, both of GE and traditional varieties, remains within the authority of state and local governments."

At the same time, however, the court ruled that under Hawai'i law, counties and municipalities do not have the authority to regulate GE crops (as some in other states do), and that Hawai'i state law places such authority in the hands of the State alone. "We're disappointed that the court misinterpreted Hawai'i law and concluded the Hawai'i legislature decided Hawai'i counties lack any such authority," Earthjustice attorney Paul Achitoff said. "The legislature did not, and the decision leaves Hawai'i unprotected from the harms the Ninth Circuit acknowledged. We believe that when Hawai'i's state courts have an opportunity, they will reject the Ninth Circuit's conclusion on this point and allow Hawai'i's people to protect themselves, since the State certainly hasn't protected them."

The court also ruled that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) alone has the authority to regulate field trials and experimental GE crops; neither states nor local governments can ban or approve. This is particularly troubling to communities in Hawai'i, since the

many field trials and associated pesticide use in Hawai'i poses significant risks to local citizens and the environment "We are extremely disappointed with the ruling that some experimental GE field trials can only be regulated by USDA, and are considering all legal options. Most importantly, we continue to stand and fight with the people of Hawai'i against these chemical companies," Kimbrell said.

Attorneys with Center for Food Safety and Earthjustice, who represented local residents, conservation groups, and Hawai'i County in the proceedings, are analyzing the full scope of the court's decisions and will be considering options that would protect Hawai'i's people, farms and the environment. "As a mother and a resident of Kekaha, Kaua'i, I will continue to stand up and protect my family and my community," said Malia Kahale'ina Chun, a mother, educator and Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner. "It is our responsibility to insure that our keiki have access to clean air, clean water and to 'ina that sustains them."

Source: Ecowatch release 11/16/16 <http://www.ecowatch.com>

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# Climate change has already altered nearly every ecosystem

NADIA PRUPIS, STAFF WRITER

Climate change is already affecting life on Earth, despite a global temperature increase of just 1°C, according to a new study published in the journal *Science* on Friday. Nearly every ecosystem on the planet is being altered, and plants and animals are being so affected that scientists may soon be forced to intervene to create "human-assisted evolution," the study, titled *The Broad Footprint of Climate Change from Genes to Biomes to People*, found. The researchers say 82 percent of "core ecological processes" on land and sea have been affected by climate change in a way that had not been expected "for decades."

Co-author and professor John Pandolfi of the University of Queensland said, "Temperature extremes are causing evolutionary adaption in many species, changing them genetically and physically. These responses include changes in tolerances to high temperatures, shifts in sex-ratios, reduced body size, and migration of species."

"Understanding the extent to which these goods and services have been impacted allows humans to plan and adapt to changing ecosystem conditions," he said.

Dr. James Watson, associate professor of planning and environmental management at UQ's School of Geography, added, "We are simply astonished at the level of change we observed which many of us in the scientific community did not expect to see for decades."

## Governor Brown, Donald Trump & Delta Tunnels

On November 10, Governor Jerry Brown offered his commitment to find "common ground wherever possible" with the incoming Trump Administration, but to oppose the new administration regarding climate change policies. Today, Restore the Delta called on Governor Brown to advocate for the full protection of San Francisco Bay-Delta fisheries and river flows for the estuary, as he establishes his working relationship with President-elect Trump's transition team and administration.

Restore the Delta's executive director Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla said: "It is striking to us that Governor Brown did not mention protecting the Clean Water Act for drinking water supplies, or the Endangered Species Act in regard to fishery protections, in his statement about the incoming Trump Administration. While we oppose Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels project, we know that all

Californians, expect him, like every governor before him has done, to fight to enforce the federal Clean Water and the Endangered Species Acts to protect the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary. Governor Brown must protect the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary in his dealings with the Trump Administration. If he does not, in order to push the Delta Tunnels project through the Federal approval process or to increase freshwater pumping from the endangered estuary, his legacy with Californians will be tarnished permanently. We call on him not to tie his Delta, environmental, and statewide water protection legacy to a weakening of these crucial and essential laws. We call on him to demonstrate to the new incoming Federal administration that saving the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary is as important to him as he has claimed it is while promoting the Delta Tunnels."

Source: Restore the Delta release 11/14/16  
<http://www.restorethedelta.org>

The changes have manifested in some species shifting to higher or lower ground as the planet heats up, while others are becoming smaller, "as a higher surface-area-to-body-mass ratio makes it easier to stay cool," the *Independent* reported. The outlet wrote: "For example, six species of woodland salamander in the Appalachian Mountains have undergone an average eight per cent reduction in body size over the past 50 years. Slightly smaller lizards might not sound like something to overly concern humans, but there is evidence this response is also affecting important sources of food."

"These multi-level biological impacts of climate change will affect humans. Increasing disease outbreaks, inconsistent crop yields, and reduced fisheries productivity all threaten our food security," said co-author Dr. Tom Bridge. Average global temperatures have risen 1°C since the industrial era. The study states that this has "already had broad and worrying impacts on natural systems, with accumulating consequences

for people. Minimizing the impacts of climate change on core ecological processes must now be a key policy priority for all nations."

The study called on governments to follow through on the promises made in the Paris climate agreement, which aims to keep global warming below a 1.5°C threshold—although an increasing amount of scientists are sounding the alarm that even those pledges may be too little, too late.

"Time is running out for a globally synchronized response to climate change that integrates adequate protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services," the study continued.

"It is no longer sensible to consider this as a concern for the future—if we don't act quickly to curb emissions it is likely that every ecosystem across Earth will fundamentally change in our lifetimes," said Dr. Watson.

Source: Common Dreams 11/11/16 <http://www.commondreams.org/>

## Post embraces 'fake news' by printing debunked climate misinformation

JOE ROMM

Trump's climate plan might not be so bad after all," blasted an attention-grabbing Washington Post headline on Monday. Such a headline raises red flags as mainstream media outlets seek to combat "fake news"—misinformation aimed at confusing the public that comes from a repeatedly debunked source but still manages to creep into a widely used and generally more legitimate news outlet.

In this case, the fake news is a long-debunked "analysis" of the Paris climate agreement by perhaps the single most debunked writer in the entire climate arena: Bjorn Lomborg. Lomborg uses the piece to greenwash the extremely anti-scientific and pro-pollution "climate plan" of President-elect Donald Trump.

By long-debunked, I mean that the leading analytical experts on the Paris pledges—the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs)—have explained that Lomborg's analysis "appears to have no basis in fact," as I wrote last year.

I checked with those Climate Interactive experts in light of Lomborg's new op-ed, and they stand by that statement. In fact, they have re-debunked Lomborg, and John Sterman, director of MIT Sloan School's System Dynamics Group, sums it up this way: "Dr. Lomborg sets out to show that the INDCs are useless. To do so he grossly misrepresents the pledges. He constructs an incomplete accounting of the pledges that omits the pledges of many nations, ignores China's pledge to cap its emissions by 2030, and assumes that the [European Union countries] abandon their commitment to emissions reductions as soon as their pledges are fulfilled."

The scientists at Climate Action Tracker similarly debunked Lomborg last year. The CAT scientists also point us to a London School of Economics debunking, and one by the Australian-German Climate and Energy College, "Facts4Paris: Lomborg. Wrong again."

"Lomborg. Wrong again" sums up exactly why the op-ed is fake news and why the Washington Post should be ashamed of publishing it. Leading scientists have been debunking Lomborg's false and leading claims since he started decades ago. Back in 2002, top scientists debunked Lomborg's first book at length in the pages of *Scientific American*. Back in 2010, Yale University Press published *The Lomborg Deception*, detailing how Lomborg's work is "a mirage" and "a house of cards," as biologist Thomas Lovejoy wrote in the foreword (see also *Newsweek* on "Debunking Lomborg" here).

Ironically, the same day the Post published Lomborg's op-ed, they published another piece titled, "Fake news is just the beginning."

"Facebook is on the defensive after the elections, with accusations that it helped spread misinformation," the piece

begins. The Post notes that "after a torrent of criticism from his employees and the media—and indication that fake election news spread widely," CEO Mark Zuckerberg "relented and took responsibility. He promised to improve Facebook's detection, reporting and verification of news." The piece continues: "The tech industry has stepped into the field of publishing and communications without accepting the responsibility that comes with doing so."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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# Trumping disbelief



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By seeing the issues unvarnished and with genuine clarity, we can rededicate our efforts toward confronting that which serves to disempower and set out to build alternatives.

RANDALL AMSTER

The results of the election provide ample reason to try and avoid the reality of President Trump, and wanting to push this debilitating campaign cycle into the dustbin would be an understandable reaction. It could make us feel better than having to confront the inevitability of the titanic changes in the offing.

We might thus conclude that Trumpism is merely a hoax perpetuated by Russia, a result of machinations by multinational corporations, part of a domestic scheme to pit working people against one another, or a maneuver by the media elite to steer their agenda through the aisles of governance.

Maybe it's just a figment of people's active imaginations and a crass play on the apocalyptic fears of the middle class. Or it could simply be a matter of all the data being completely wrong and implicitly biased at the outset.

On the other hand, denial is not a viable political strategy any more than it represents a functional way to navigate environmental crises. Trump may well be a creation of the reality television era, a concocted persona propped up by the social media edifice, a caricature delivered right out of central casting to appeal to a disaffected populace. He might not be real in any palpable sense apart from this constructed identity—but that doesn't mean that the impacts of his ascent to power are any less tangible. Operating from a place of disbelief doesn't change the reality of how things work, nor does it yield a way forward.

So let me offer a different take on the politics of denialism. This is the version where we accept the empirical truth of what has transpired, yet choose to dedicate ourselves to prevent its worst effects. This is the variant in which the very knowledge of the crises squarely framed before us can serve as a reminder and much-needed wakeup call that we stand on a generational precipice where the potential fate of humankind lies in the balance. This form of denial isn't

about rejecting reality, but embracing it as an impetus to push back on the authoritarianism, xenophobia, and destabilization that is upon us. We can turn denial into a mantra for rejecting invidious policies and obstructing mechanisms of injustice. As the fabled Joe Hill urged on the eve of his demise, we can refuse to mourn and instead choose to organize.

This is, at root, a repudiation of hopelessness and despair, a disavowal of narrow interests in favor of an expansive insurgency. By seeing the issues unvarnished and with genuine clarity, we can rededicate our efforts toward confronting that which serves to disempower and set out to build alternatives. We no longer have the indulgence of incrementalism, the comfort of complicity, or the pretext of patience. We do not get to stick our heads in the sand and hope that the arc of justice bends all by itself. This is a moment to be reinvigorated by the realization that mainstream politics provides no path toward peace, and to be reawakened to the power of people working in concert beyond the confines of a voting booth.

Let us be clear-eyed and committed, then, to reimagining and establishing that better world. Appealing to the same structures that have pushed us to the brink of disaster only yields more of the same; facile invocations of unity and civility only work for those who have benefited from the tired status quo. Cultivating healthy soil and planting the seeds of community wherever we are offers another pathway. Mobilizing to interrupt oppression and manifest liberation is the heart of our labors in this world. It's what people everywhere have tried when confronted with profound challenges, and now it's our turn.

The perverse actuality of President Trump cannot now be denied. Still, we can dare to envision that a new climate for change is at hand, and that this will be the moment when possibility trumps disbelief.

RANDALL AMSTER, JD, PHD, IS DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM ON JUSTICE AND PEACE AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, AND SERVES AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES ASSOCIATION. HIS RECENT BOOKS INCLUDE PEACE ECOLOGY (PARADIGM PUBLISHERS, 2014), ANARCHISM TODAY (PRAEGER, 2012), LOST IN SPACE: THE CRIMINALIZATION, GLOBALIZATION, AND URBAN ECOLOGY OF HOMELESSNESS; AND THE CO-EDITED VOLUMES EXPLORING THE POWER OF NONVIOLENCE: PEACE, POLITICS, AND PRACTICE (SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2013) AND BUILDING CULTURES OF PEACE: TRANSDISCIPLINARY VOICES OF HOPE AND ACTION.

Source: Common Dreams 11/10/16 <http://www.commondreams.org/>





# Why the Democrats keep losing the Congress



RALPH NADER

Why isn't the Democratic Party landsliding the worst and cruelest Republican Party in the past 162 years? Just take a glance at their record votes and you'll wonder why the Republican representatives don't just incorporate themselves and be done with any pretense that they are real people.

A brief look at a compilation of Republican votes during the years 2011-2012, when the Republicans controlled the House, demonstrates that they regularly choose Wall Street over Main Street, drug and oil, banking and insurance companies over consumers. And that Republicans want tiny enforcement budgets against corporate crime to assure that hundreds of billions of your health and other consumer dollars are not recovered from the corporate criminals (\$60 billion a year alone in business frauds on Medicare).

Repeatedly, these Republicans, often a unanimous 100% of them, in a bizarre kind of corporate-conditioned response, vote in favor of corporations shipping American jobs overseas rather than voting to protect American workers. This Republican-controlled congress was intent on defending and increasing massive tax breaks for the wealthiest at the expense of the lower income families, attacking Medicare, social security, and other programs assisting elderly Americans, even assaulting women's health and safety, opposing stronger food safety enforcement and preventing toxic pollution controls while at the same time protecting rapacious student

loan companies and keeping victims of mortgage companies and banks defenseless against onslaughts of insurmountable debt accumulation.

They also passed a bill to pay members of Congress during a GOP-led government shutdown, however, while refusing to guarantee that soldiers would get paid during the same shutdown. Moreover, the Republicans have this strange antagonism toward encouraging more people to vote, and assuring that every vote counts.

Go past the façade of the Republican rhetoric praising heroic veterans are their grim votes /against protecting/ veterans from rip-offs as borrowers for their consumer, education and housing needs.

Fast forward to the last two years and you'll find the same corporatist grip on the House. Fifteen times House Republicans have voted for measures attacking women's health; blocked all votes on comprehensive immigration reform; gave the back of their hand against children's well-being; twice voted unanimously /against/ affirming that climate change is real and passed tax cuts of which 99.6 percent go to the richest 1 percent of Americans. Furthermore, they have voted unanimously /against/ even considering a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's 5-4 Citizen's United decision that opened the floodgates of big corporate money in elections. They continue to protect secret money in elections and twice voted against even allowing a vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act giving women new tools for equal pay for equal work.

One hundred percent of all House Republicans voted against allowing a vote to let American workers earn just seven job-protected paid sick days each year – less than has been given for years in western-European countries.

So in hock are they to the student loan industry, the Republicans have repeatedly voted against bringing up for a vote the student loan refinancing bill. One hundred percent of House Republicans voted against even bringing up a bill to stop big companies from dumping their U.S. charter and fleeing abroad to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. Lead-poisoned children in Flint, Michigan got the straight-arm by 236 House Republicans. Republicans held zero hearings in 2016 on the president's 2017 budget – an unheard of breach of legislative duty.

House Republicans in recent years have stupidly cut the IRS budget facilitating \$400 billion of uncollected taxes each year, thereby swelling the federal deficit that the GOP is supposed to care about. The Republicans are knowingly complicit in protecting tax evasion.

Worse, these Republicans are complicit in shielding over \$330 billion each year in computerized billing fraud. This corporate crime wave estimate comes from the leading expert on billing fraud, Harvard Professor Malcolm Sparrow (author of *License to Steal*), backed by an earlier report from

the Government Accountability Office of the Congress. There simply is too little budget for adequate investigators and prosecutors even when every dollar in enforcement brings about ten dollars in recoveries and fines!

Why doesn't all of this anti-human record make news? First, these bills are almost always blocked by the Democrats in the Senate. Second, many of these votes by the House Republicans are blocking votes to require on-the-record roll call votes that show each member's position on a bill. Third, let's be clear, the media, which has reporters swarming all over Capitol Hill, is not doing its job.

Fourth, there aren't a tiny fraction of the civically active people back home organized to publicize the votes by their member of Congress. Fifth, the lack of dynamic leadership by Congressional Democrats included being rolled by a Republican strategy to up the GOP's advantage in the number of gerrymandered districts in 2010 (brilliantly reported in David Daley's new book, *Ratfked: The True Story Behind The Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy*).

In the final analysis, the blame is on the Democratic Party that does not give us a competitive election process over substantive matters uppermost in the minds of the American people. It took strenuous demands by some civic leaders in Washington, D.C. just to get the House Democrats to compile these aforementioned Republican votes and passively release them in a concise form to the public and then only a month before the November elections! With few exceptions, Democrats astonishingly do not campaign on such a base Republican misery index.

Unfortunately, many Democratic candidates are dialing for the same campaign dollars as their Republican opponents and many Democratic incumbent candidates are ensconced in safe, non-competitive electoral districts (often because of their gerrymandering). Consequently, they don't make an effort to show the callousness and cruelty of the Republican Party.

For any further explanation of this Democratic Party's dysfunctional indifference to winning back the House of Representatives, based on the abysmal record of the Republican Party, call in some social psychologists specializing in group machoism.

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 10/31/16 <http://www.commondreams.org/>

## Post embraces 'fake news'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

When will the Washington Post "improve detection, reporting and verification of news?" Where exactly is the "responsibility" from the Post editors in publishing the Lomborg's misinformation on an issue of existential importance to the country? This isn't the first time the Post has published Lomborg's nonsense: back in 2010, the Climate Science Rapid Response Team debunked another Washington Post op-ed by Lomborg. But wait, you say, Lomborg's piece is published in the "opinions" section not "news." Sorry that long-standing excuse for not fact checking op-eds and for publishing misinformation no longer holds water—if it ever did—for two reasons.

First, how exactly are readers to know the Post is publishing something it hasn't fact-checked? Would the Post run a disclaimer acknowledging the piece has not been fact-checked and may be false? Of course they wouldn't. Yet the disclaimer would be accurate whereas the article itself is not. Such is the Orwellian world we live in now.

Second, as a new piece on fake news by the Post's own fact-checker explains, everybody has "shared something based on the headline without actually reading the link." The goal of much, if not most, fake news is simply to spread a false headline far and wide. Newspaper editors have known for decades that most people don't read most stories much beyond the headline. That's even more true today with so many readers getting their news via Facebook and Twitter, search engines and content aggregators.

Thus, vastly more people see the headline of any story than actually read much of the content. So potentially millions of people could have seen the Post's absurd headline, "Trump's climate plan might not be so bad after all" without knowing it comes from an opinion piece that has not been fact-checked, written by a widely debunked writer.

Even worse, the piece does not actually discuss most of Trump's climate plan. It focuses almost entirely on his pledge to quit the Paris deal. Lomborg writes, "Despite its length, and for all of its heat and bluster, the election campaign left many unanswered questions and understandable concerns about

the president-elect's positions on climate change, aid and development."

Untrue. The campaign was actually very clear. On October 26, Trump promised: "I will also cancel all wasteful climate change spending from Obama-Clinton, including all global warming payments to the United Nations. These steps will save \$100 billion over 8 years."

Lomborg blithely asserts that a couple of Trump's vague and meaningless statements mean he might be open to "an innovation-based green energy approach that will harness U.S. ingenuity." In fact, Trump's climate plan would require ending all federal clean energy development (and climate science research). But hey, don't worry about the facts. Didn't we read somewhere that the Washington Post says "Trump's climate plan might not be so bad after all?" They wouldn't print that if it weren't true, would they?

Source: ThinkProgress 11/23/16 <https://thinkprogress.org>



## Our Home

Our world is in need,  
in need of healing  
in need of love  
in need of guidance  
to find the right path.

We are all responsible  
Connected to each other  
Linked with everything

Laying awake at night  
Mind reeling  
Heart racing  
Everything aching  
Consuming  
Tears falling

We cry for the ones who have fallen  
The ones who will fall  
For those who are apart  
And never had a chance to start

For those who died too young  
We cry for the families torn  
For the children unborn  
The world is in pain  
and we cry alone in vain.

There is a call for help, which we must  
heed.  
We cannot be silent!  
Or turn our backs on the violence;  
As humans we have a responsibility to  
our home  
But before we can fix our errors  
the struggle must be known.

Our world is in pain,  
because of its people  
because of the hate  
and all the disdain.

My heart aches  
For those suffering because of our  
mistakes

For all the unnecessary bloodshed  
Thoughts are filled with dread  
at what the future will be  
if we don't change what can be.

The world has so much potential  
We must open our eyes  
our hearts  
our minds  
To the essential

I see destruction  
devastation  
cruelty  
and pain throughout an entire nation.  
People may be breathing  
With hearts beating  
But no longer living  
No longer feeling .

That's why we  
must take a stand  
To make a change.  
So take my hand,  
let's lead the people, let's show the  
world  
what any human can do!

Let us band together,  
and make a move  
because we have something to prove.  
We have a place to protect  
A home to heal,  
The time is now!  
The place is here!

As so many people are dying,  
We have to keep on trying!  
How can we continue to strive?  
What can we do to feel Alive?  
Let love be our guide

~FRANCESCA STIMMING

## My thoughts

My name is Francesca Stimming, I am a 12th grader at The New Village School. At the beginning of 2015, the idea came about to start a high school. I got together with a few students and a teacher to look further into the idea. By September we were having meetings, and eventually some classes. The philosophy that became most relevant to us students creating the school was to live right now. When you're young, people tell you that life starts after high school or after college, but for us, life is right now, this is real life as it is. The New Village High School offers the opportunity for critical thinking, self initiative, and the chance to explore the realities of the 21st century and how to be a participant in the world.

Last school year, one of the largest world crises' was happening, the mass refugee migration. We spent much of the year researching and discussing the situation and acknowledging what it means to "be a witness". There was and still is, a lot of pain, suffering, and there were many deaths, and

deaths still continue. Having to hear about so much hardship was challenging, especially when you don't always know what to do. Part of my curriculum was to do a social practicum; I chose to go to South Africa and work with an NGO, Food 4 Thought. They sponsor and support the pre-primary school, Funimfundo. The meaning of Funimfundo is "seeking knowledge", which I think describes very well, the community there. One of the things I experienced most was the joy and hope that children have, no matter what. Being able to see their glee and excitement every day, was a big inspiration to me in life, as well as some of what I wrote in my poem. No matter what situation the children were in, they were laughing and excited every day. While working with those children I was given new hope every day. Because of that, I know how important it is to bring in positivity, and that even though there is so much suffering in the world, we, the people with privilege, time, money, and the ability to help, must take action, for what is not

## Trump won because Democratic Party failed working people, says Sanders

LAUREN MCCAULEY

Adding his voice to the chorus of condemnation heaped on the Democratic Party in the wake of Donald Trump's election victory, Sen. Bernie Sanders on Thursday attributed the Republican win to the failure of the liberal elite to represent working people.

"It is an embarrassment, I think, to the entire of [the] Democratic Party that millions of white working-class people decided to vote for Mr. Trump, which suggests that the Democratic message of standing up for working people no longer holds much sway among workers in this country," the progressive senator and one-time presidential candidate told the /Associated Press/.

"You cannot be a party which on one hand says we're in favor of working people, we're in favor of the needs of young people but we don't quite have the courage to take on Wall Street and the billionaire class," he continued. "People do not believe that. You've got to decide which side you're on."

Sanders—who, according to hypothetical polls conducted during the primary, would have posed a more formidable challenge to Trump than Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton—told the news outlet that he is "not ruling out" another presidential bid in 2020. But, the 75-year-old senator from Vermont said that, for now, he is focused on rebuilding the party. Among the potential changes to be made, Sanders told /AP/ that he would

recommend Congressional Progressive Caucus co-chair Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) to lead the Democratic National Committee (DNC), a position that Ellison has been reportedly vying for.

The interview comes one day after Sanders issued a statement saying he is prepared to work with the president-elect "[t]o the degree that Mr. Trump is serious about pursuing policies that improve the lives of working families in this country." But, the senator indicated on Thursday he did not think that would be likely. "I hope I'm wrong, but I believe that he is a fraud, and I think despite all of his rhetoric about being a champion of the working class, it will turn out to be hollow," Sanders said. In an appearance on CNN late Thursday afternoon, when asked if he could have beaten Trump, Sanders said, "What good does it do now?"

Source: Common Dreams 11/10/16 <http://www.commondreams.org/>



only right, but what is necessary.

Even in everyday my life I see suffering, injustice, and lack of initiative. On my daily commute to school I pass by homeless people who have to resort to making camp under bridges, because the local homeless shelter was shut down. I know people who have decided not to care because these issues don't

directly affect them. But I believe that because you are a human being, and you live on this earth, which is our home, you are a witness. If you have the time, the money, and/or the privilege, you have a responsibility to act, to take initiative.





# It's time for progressives to seize control of the Democratic party

SCOTT GALINDEZ

Donald Trump's victory has left the Democratic Party open to redefining itself. They understand that both candidates got fewer votes than Mitt Romney and John McCain. They understand that working people in the rust belt voting for Trump cost them the election. On a conference call Thursday night sponsored by Democracy for America, former Labor secretary Robert Reich weighed in, as reported by The Hill. "The Democratic Party can no longer be the same. It has been repudiated," Reich said. "This has been a huge refutation of establishment politics and the political organization has got to be changed ... if the Democratic Party can't do it, we'll do it through a third party."

Reich is not the only Democrat who feels that way. When incoming Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer endorsed Minnesota congressman Keith Ellison for party chair, he said that we need leadership that puts grassroots organizing ahead of fundraising. Ellison, on the same conference call with Reich, said it's "not about money first, not about polls first, it's about voters first." That is the leadership we need at the top of the Democratic Party. Despite Schumer's admission, we should not expect the establishment to give up power without a fight. "They'll hold on to the party mechanisms until you rip it out of their dying hands," said Jonathan Tasini, a Sanders surrogate. "It's all about power and money and influence for them."

The time to rip it out of their hands is now. The momentum from Bernie's campaign along with the repudiation of the Clinton wing by the voters has put us in a position of strength. Remember what happened eight years ago? A black man was elected President. It sent shockwaves through the right wing of this country. The response

was the Tea Party. "We have to install the playbook of the Tea Party," said Ohio state lawmaker Nina Turner, a Sanders surrogate. "The Tea Party had mainstream Republicans shaking in their boots. Even the ones who hung on knew they had to listen to what the grassroots was saying."

We have to be careful to not fall for half measures. Establishment Democrats like Schumer may throw us some bones, like shuffling the chairs in Washington while leaving the same players in place to run the machine. Cenk Uygur, the host of the progressive political commentary show The Young Turks, said, "Everybody in the building needs to be fired immediately."

That probably won't happen right away, but we have to push for wholesale change. In 2018, we have to be depending on real progressives with a progressive agenda to take back Congress, not Republican-lite candidates like Evan Bayh. In 2020, we need a progressive candidate at the top of the ticket so Americans can choose between our vision for America and the conservatives'. We will win if we stop trying to moderate our positions for big money.

As Bernie would say, "our job" is to make the Democratic Party the people's party. Before Tony Cohelo shifted the party focus to raising corporate cash, Labor unions, women groups, civil rights groups, anti-poverty organizations, peace groups, environmental groups, and others controlled the direction of the party. We have let corporate money have too much influence. It's time get the money out and put the people back in.

To my friends in the Green Party and other left party efforts: We need you in this fight. Our system is rigged in favor of the two major parties. The fastest path to power is taking control of one of those vehicles. When we get there, we can un-rig the system so everyone can have a voice. Without those reforms, let's put aside our differences and

seize the day.

SCOTT GALINDEZ ATTENDED SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE FIRST BECAME POLITICALLY ACTIVE. THE WRITINGS OF EL SALVADOR'S SLAIN ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO AND THE ON-CAMPUS SOUTH AFRICA DIVESTMENT MOVEMENT CONVERTED HIM FROM A REAGAN SUPPORTER TO AN ACTIVIST FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE. OVER THE YEARS HE HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE LIKES OF PHILIP BERRIGAN, WILLIAM THOMAS, MITCH SNYDER, DON WHITE,

LISA FITHIAN, AND PAUL WELLSTONE. SCOTT MET MARC ASH WHILE ORGANIZING COUNTERINAUGURAL EVENTS AFTER GEORGE W. BUSH'S FIRST STOLEN ELECTION. SCOTT WILL BE SPENDING A YEAR COVERING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FROM IOWA.

Source: Reader Supported News 11/12/16  
<http://readersupportednews.org>

## I am prepared to vigorously oppose Trump's sexist, xenophobic and anti-environment policies

BERNIE SANDERS

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) issued the following statement Wednesday after Donald Trump was elected president of the United States:

"Donald Trump tapped into the anger of a declining middle class that is sick and tired of establishment economics, establishment politics and the establishment media. People are tired of working longer hours for

lower wages, of seeing decent paying jobs go to China and other low-wage countries, of billionaires not paying any federal income taxes and

of not being able to afford a college education for their kids - all while the very rich become much richer. To the degree that Mr. Trump is serious about pursuing policies that improve the lives of working families in this country, I and other progressives are prepared to work with him. To the degree that he pursues racist, sexist, xenophobic and anti-environment policies, we will vigorously oppose him."

Source: Reader Supported News 11/10/16  
<http://www.readersupportednews.org>

## A prediction

In April of 2010, Noam Chomsky was speaking with Chris Hedges for an interview. Here is one glaring excerpt.

"The United States is extremely lucky that no honest, charismatic figure has arisen," Chomsky went on. "Every charismatic figure is such an obvious crook that he destroys himself, like McCarthy or Nixon or the evangelist preachers. If somebody comes along who is charismatic and honest this country is in real trouble because of the frustration, disillusionment, the justified anger and the absence of any coherent response. What are people supposed to think if someone says 'I have got an answer, we have an enemy'? There it was the Jews. Here it will be the illegal immigrants and the blacks. We will be told that white males are a persecuted minority. We will be told we have to defend ourselves and the honor of the nation. Military force will be exalted. People will be beaten up. This could become an overwhelming force. And if it happens it will be more dangerous than Germany. The

United States is the world power. Germany was powerful but had more powerful antagonists. I don't think all this is very far away. If the polls are accurate it is not the Republicans but the right-wing Republicans, the crazed Republicans, who will sweep the next election."

"I have never seen anything like this in my lifetime," Chomsky added. "I am old enough to remember the 1930s. My whole family was unemployed. There were far more desperate conditions than today. But it was hopeful. People had hope. The CIO was organizing. No one wants to say it anymore but the Communist Party was the spearhead for labor and civil rights organizing. Even things like giving my unemployed seamstress aunt a week in the country. It was a life. There is nothing like that now. The mood of the country is frightening. The level of anger, frustration and hatred of institutions is not organized in a constructive way. It is going off into self-destructive fantasies."

Most lefties have seen this kind of

thing coming for a while. It is never any less shocking than when it happens.

Source: DailyKos 11/9/16 <http://www.dailykos.com>





## Peaceful Holiday Faire celebrates peace

**Dec 4, 4 - 9 pm**

**Dec 5, 10 am - 2 pm**

The 29th annual Peaceful Holiday Faire is an annual gathering of the peace community in the season of giving, at the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave in Stockton. Come enjoy the time that we remember the past year, celebrate the present and anticipate a more peaceful future. The thoughtful gifts you select helps local vendors and supports your Peace and Justice Network.

### VENDORS INCLUDE:

SERRV international

African paper jewelry

Knitted and crocheted goods

Queen Bead Designz and Tule Studios

Essential oils

Fanciful aprons and pot holders

The Beadfool

WAS-quilted and embroidered goods

Framed original art

Jewelry and fair trade chocolate...and more

Of course there will be soup, bagels, bread and cookies as well as hot cider and coffee. Bring your friends and family. We'll see you there.

### December 17

## The Nutcracker

Join Clara and her Nutcracker Prince and relive the wonder and enchantment of this Christmas classic. Experience the beauty and artistry of ballet through Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker performed live by Capitol Ballet Company with students from Stockton Ballet School. Originally choreographed by Marius Petipa and first performed in Russia over a century ago, The Nutcracker has become an enduring holiday classic captivating the imaginations of all ages.

Celebrate Christmas Eve with Clara at her family's grand celebration at the Stahlbaum manor. Herr Drosselmeyer amazes the children with his magical inventions, a life-size doll and bear, which seemingly come to life. Then dream with Clara as her courageous Nutcracker Prince and his toy soldiers boldly battle the villainous Mouse King and his army of mice. Victorious in battle, Clara's Nutcracker becomes a handsome prince and leads her away on a magical journey. Travel with them as they pass through the beautiful land of snow and on



to the Kingdom of Sweets, where they are welcomed by the Sugar Plum Fairy and delighted by dances performed in their honor, including the Waltz of the Flowers and the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

The Nutcracker will be performed on Saturday, December 17, 2016, 2:00 p.m. at the San Joaquin Delta College Warren Atherton

### Draw it out

## Call for artists: Our Anguish, Our Resolve

The Call For Artists is out for the "Our Anguish, Our Resolve" Art Against Violence exhibit in March 2017. Artists of all ages, cultures and viewpoints are invited to submit original artwork in any media, including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, video, garden art, banners, and fabric art.

The "Our Anguish, Our Resolve" theme of the 2017 art show arises from recent events of global and local violence. Artists are invited to submit pieces exhibiting their visual expressions of, and reactions to, the pain caused by these acts, along with visual expressions of resolve and solutions. The Call for Artists asks them to examine how we can move as a community to end the violence in our city or what we can do as a people to stop the global perpetuation of

violence and intolerance, and the extreme positions that encourage them.

The Call For Artists is available online at <http://tiny.cc/dbpie>. The "Our Anguish, Our Resolve" exhibit is sponsored by Draw It Out, a program of Cleveland School Remembers, a Brady Group non-profit organization.

The exhibit venue is the Plants and Flowers Building at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. An Artists Reception at the venue on Sunday, March 5, 2017 from 3-5 p.m. will kick off the art show.

Draw It Out will offer free daily admission, and free guided tours on request for the exhibit during the entire month of March 2017. Artists with questions not answered in the Call For Artists may contact the exhibit information line at (209) 910-3461.

Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission Cultural Arts Awards with support from the City and County of Sacramento. Visit us at [www.capitolballet.com](http://www.capitolballet.com) For further press information, photos, or interviews, please contact Mr. Stuart Carroll. Email: [directors@capitolballet.com](mailto:directors@capitolballet.com) Tel: (916) 484-1188 Capitol Ballet Company ~ 4430 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821 ~ 916.484.1188 [www.capitolballet.com](http://www.capitolballet.com)

### Last Mondays

## Sierra Club gatherings

Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Ave,  
Stockton 7 - 8:30 pm

Free and open to the public.

### Jan 30

"Wheel chair" Bob, presented by Bob Coomber

Bob Coomber is a lifelong Bay Area resident, having been raised in Piedmont and currently calling Livermore home. After acquiring juvenile diabetes in his early 20's, Bob struggled with the illness and its complications. Bob became disabled after his long struggles with diabetes caused severe and irreversible osteoporosis. After multiple leg, ankle and knee fractures, Bob finally took his doctor's advice and began life in a wheelchair.

Wheelchairs can seem confining, but to Bob the chair was simply another challenge. A lifelong hiker, Bob soon began experimenting with easy outdoors excursions. Several broken chairs later, one thing led to another and Bob became a staple of local newspaper and television shows - that guy in a wheelchair who won't believe in limits.

On August 24, 2007 Bob became the first person in a wheelchair to summit California's 3rd highest peak, 14,246' White Mountain. Bob is also the first in a chair to summit two local favorites, Mt. Diablo and its companion, North Peak, as well as Mission Peak in Fremont.

Bob was inducted into the California Outdoors Hall of Fame in January,

2007. He was one of only 27 Americans to receive the President's Council on Physical Fitness Community Leadership Award in 2008. He's also been featured in every Bay Area newspaper, as well as the CBS "Early Show", ABC's "World News with Charles Gibson" and the Hallmark Channel.

### Feb 27

Vernal Pool Genesis, Function, and Ecology - It's All About Water, presented by John Gerlach

Geology and Geomorphology - Why vernal pools are where they are and how they formed.

Vernal Pools as Shallow Lake Ecosystems - How the physical environment and biology interact.

Endangered Plants (Orcuttia and Tuctoria) - Case examples featuring a couple really unique grasses.

John Gerlach is a senior environmental scientist in the Natural Resources Division of California State Parks. John recently moved to Parks from the State Water Resources Control Board. Prior to working for the State he worked for a couple consulting firms on several regional habitat conservation plans. In addition to those positions, John has conducted vernal pool research with funding from the US Army Corps of Engineers. John earned a BS in Botany, a PhD in plant ecology, and did a three-year post doc on the rapid evolution of barbed goatgrass on serpentine soils - all done while at UC Davis.

## Legacy

Many Connections readers will remember John Morearty, one of the founders of the Peace & Justice Network and a frequent contributor to this publication. John died in 2012, but his legacy of activism lives on.

Current efforts by his wife, Ria De Groot, and two of his former associates, Sumana Harihareswara and Jeanne Kerr, are in the process of expanding coverage of his life and writing, in addition to providing additional links on the website to his local public television series, "Talking it Through" (1985-87)

John had asked Sumana and

Jeanne to weed through his papers, to preserve his unpublished writings and to make it possible for others to learn more about his journey from Sanskrit scholar/U.O.P. professor to carpenter/peace activist. His thoughts, especially as communicated in his poetry and letters, give a significant dimension to his life achievements. John learned to appreciate the beauty of a sunset or a few simple notes on a flute; he determined to dedicate his efforts to preserve peace in our world in order for our descendants to be able to live without the threat of war. Stay tuned.





# DEC 2016 / JAN 2017 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.

## NOV 10 - DEC 9

Delta Center for the Arts LH Horton Jr Gallery presents On Reading in the San Joaquin presenting works from Raising Literacy: A Photographic Survey of Libraries and Literacy in Stockton and San Joaquin County. SJDC, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. T 11am-4pm, W-Th 11am-6:30pm, F 11am-1pm. Free and open to the public. 209-954-5507.

## OCT 6 - JAN 8

Medieval to Metal: the art and evolution of the guitar at the Haggin Museum. 6:30 - 9 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton. The show features 40 iconic stringed instruments, ranging from an intricately inlaid Moorish oud, a six-foot long Renaissance theorbo, to guitars displaying the modern Italian design of the Eko and one with a stunning transparent acrylic body of California's BC Rich guitars. Spanning centuries of design and craftsmanship, the exhibition takes visitors through the history of an object that is one of the most recognizable items on the planet. 12-5 pm Sat & Sun; 1:30-5 pm Wed-Fri; 1:30-9 pm 1st & 3rd Thurs. Admission \$5 - \$8. (209) 940-6300 or [education@hagginmuseum.org](mailto:education@hagginmuseum.org).

## THUR, NOV 24

12th annual Run and Walk Against Hunger, Stockton Ports Ballpark, Fremont & Van Buren, Stockton. Register 6:30, run 8 am. 464-7369.

Sun, Nov 27  
San Joaquin Kennel Club Annual Dog Show, 8am, San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Stockton. The San Joaquin Kennel Club will be holding their annual Dog Show at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds in Stockton. The Show will start at 8:00AM. See over 2,500 of the top dogs from all over the country. For specific breed judging times and rings check our website [www.sanjoaquin-kc.org](http://www.sanjoaquin-kc.org)

There will be over 2000 of the top dogs from all over the country. These dogs will be judged on confirmation, obedience, rally and 4-6 month Puppy competition. All these events are FREE to the public.

Mon, Nov 28  
Delta Sierra Club meeting: Stockton's General Land Use Plan, 7 pm. Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. All welcome. 209-670-4442. (p 18)

## THUR-SUN, DEC 1-4

Delta Drama presents "A Christmas Carol", directed by Ashlee Temple. Thur- Sat 7 pm, Sat-Sun 2 pm. Tillie Lewis Theater, SJDC, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Join us for this delightful stage adaptation of the beloved film classic. Suitable for the whole family. A wonderful holiday treat. Adult \$10, student/senior \$5. 209-954-5209

## THUR, DEC 1

Holiday Music with the Ukulele Strummers of Stockton, 6-7 pm, Troke Branch Library, 502 W Ben Holt Dr, Stockton. Free admission. 937-8221

Hot Club Faux Gitane at the Haggin Museum. 6:30 - 9 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton. This Modesto based acoustic swing quintet plays in the Gypsy jazz tradition of Django Reinhardt. Rhythm guitars and bass are augmented with mandolin, bassoon, clarinet and the occasional melodica and C-melody saxophone. HCFG augment the standard Gypsy repertoire with original compositions, jazz standards and Latin tunes. This presentation is included with regular admission, as part of the museum's 1st & 3rd Thursdays series. \$5 - \$5 regular admission. Complementary wine and snacks. (209) 940-6315 or [education@hagginmuseum.org](mailto:education@hagginmuseum.org).

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

## FRI, DEC 2

30th 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 3

30th 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.

SJDC Jazz Festival presents the Pedrito Martinez Group. 8 pm. Pedrito Martinez is a master of Afro-Cuban folkloric music and the batá drum. The band's first album was Grammy nominated and noted as writing a new chapter in Cuban music history by NPR

All Things Considered. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. \$20. 209-954-5209

## SAT-SUN, DEC 3-4

25th annual Festival of Trees, with over 60 uniquely decorated trees, kids activities, entertainment, make-and-take crafts and more. 10 am - 4 pm. SJ County Historical Museum, 11793 N Mickle Grove Rd, Lodi. \$10 general, \$1 kids 2 - 12, under 2 free. All funds raised benefit youth education. 331-2055. [www.sanjoaquinhistory.org](http://www.sanjoaquinhistory.org)

## TUES, DEC 6

Winter around the world: Winter Festival of Choirs, with special guests the Lathrop High School Choirs under the direction of Elizabeth Van Erde. 7:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5100 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Adult \$8, student/senior \$5, children under 12 free.

## WED, DEC 7

A Patriotic Holiday Band concert, featuring the Delta College Symphonic Band and Stockton Concert Band. 7 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. \$8 adult; \$5 student/senior over 61. 209-954-5209

## THURS, DEC 8

SJDC Jazz Concert 7:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. Adult \$8, student/senior \$5, kids 12 and under free. 209-954-5209

## FRI, DEC 9

Holiday concert featuring the Pacific Choral Ensembles, 7:30 pm. Morris Chapel, 620 Chapel Ln, Stockton. Under the direction of Yejee Choi, the University Chorus, Oriana Choir, and Pacific Singers will perform works by J. Rutter, J. Szymko, R. Center, R. Monelle, Britten, T. de Victoria, and D. Elder. \$10 general, \$5 UOP staff/seniors.

Family movie night featuring Elf, 6 - 7:30 pm, Hutchins Street Square, 125 S Hutchins St, Lodi, \$.75 admission, 333-5550

## SAT, DEC 10

Astronomy in the park, Oak Grove Regional Park, 4520 W. Eight Mile Rd, Stockton. Telescope viewing begins shortly after Sunset (4:45 pm). The Moon will likely be visible in the telescopes from the beginning. Dark and clear sky makes for better viewing and as the sky darkens more objects will become visible. Every month we will attempt to feature a different deep sky object.

Objects: The Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Uranus, M13 (Hercules Star Cluster) 8:00 pm Deep Sky Object: M33 (Triangulum Galaxy) The Nature Center will not be open. Entry fee to park \$5.

## SAT-SUN, DEC 10-11

Symphony Holiday Pops: "A Midnight Clear" featuring the Holiday Roller Dancers and the Stockton Master Chorus. Sat 6 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$25-\$75 209-954-5209

## SUN, DEC 11

"It's a Big Band Christmas" 2 pm, Columbia College Dogwood Theater. Guest Bob Secor on piano and trumpet, jazzy versions of all your holiday favorites, plus lots of vocals \$15 reserved. Advanced tickets at Mt. Bookshop Sonora or Columbia College Bookstore @ 588-5126.

## MON, DEC 12

Delta Sierra Club Third Annual Environmental Holiday Gathering, 6:30 pm. Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. All welcome. 209-670-4442. (p 18)

Winter magic show with Mike Della Penna, 6-7 pm, Weston Ranch Branch Library, 1453 W French Camp Rd, Stockton. Free admission. 937-8221

## THUR, DEC 15

Holiday Hootinanny at the Haggin Museum. 6:30 - 9 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton. Everyone is invited to an open mic night of folk, blues, original, and favorite holiday songs. The event will be emceed by Stockton musician and educator David Qualls who will be accompanied by family and friends, so bring your own guitar, sitar, ukulele, saz, bongos, bells, banjo or bodhrán and join us for a festive group sing along. Sheet music and kazoo provided. This presentation is included with regular admission, as part of the museum's 1st & 3rd Thursdays series. \$5 - \$5 regular admission. Complementary wine and snacks. (209) 940-6315 or [education@hagginmuseum.org](mailto:education@hagginmuseum.org).

## SAT, DEC 17

The Nutcracker performed by the Capitol Ballet Company with guest dancers from the Stockton Ballet School. 2 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$16 - \$25. 954-5110. [www.capitolballet.com](http://www.capitolballet.com) 954-5110. (see p 18)

Lodi Ballet presents The

Nutcracker, 2-4 pm. Hutchins Street Square, 125 S. Hutchins St, Lodi. The Lodi Ballet is proud to present its 11th annual production of the classic holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker". Featuring the students of the City of Lodi ballet program, this enduring tale of a young girl's magical Christmas Eve where dolls and toy soldiers come to life is sure to delight all ages, both young and old. Choreographed and directed by Ballet Director Kermit Allen. \$12-\$16. 333-5550.

## THURS, JAN 5

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

## THUR - SUN, JAN 5 - 15

The Importance of Being Earnest, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton. The Importance of Being Earnest is the most renowned of Oscar Wilde's comedies. The elaborate plot ridicules Victorian sensibilities with some of the best loved, and indeed bizarre, characters to be found on the modern stage. Directed by Richard Garvin [www.lindentheatre.com/](http://www.lindentheatre.com/)

## THUR - SUN, JAN 11 - 29

Unnecessary Farce, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton. In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor is supposed to meet with his female accountant, while in the room next door, two undercover cops wait to catch the meeting on videotape. But there's some confusion as to who's in which room, who's being videotaped, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man, and why the accountant keeps taking off her clothes. This new play by Paul Slade Smith has received numerous regional awards, including a Thespie Award for "Best New Show" in 2007. \$15 - \$27. 473-2424. [www.sctlivetheatre.com](http://www.sctlivetheatre.com)

## MON, JAN 30

Delta Sierra Club meeting: "Wheel chair" Bob, presented by Bob Coomber, 7-8:30 pm. Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. All welcome. 209-670-4442. (p 18)

## SAT, FEB 4

Andrew Young to speak at 23rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration, 7 pm, Modesto Junior College Performing Arts and Media Center,

435 College Ave., Modesto. Andrew Young is the highly respected leader in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, former United Nations ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia. Join us for this much-needed inspirational talk. Free admission, donations welcome. (p 20)

## MON, FEB 27

Delta Sierra Club meeting: Vernal Pool Genesis, Function, and Ecology - It's All About Water presented by John Gerlach, 7-8:30 pm. Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. All welcome. 209-670-4442. (p 19)

## FIRST SATURDAYS

Free Yoga. Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton, 9 - 10 am. Yoga in the Park is every first Saturday of the month until November. Free admission.

## SECOND THURSDAYS

Single Payer San Joaquin, 6:30 pm at the John Morearty Peace and Justice Center.

## SECOND FRIDAYS

Movies at the Point, Weber Point Events Center, 221 N Center St, Stockton. 6:30 - 10 pm. Free admission.

## 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.

## LAST FRIDAYS

Waterfront Fridays, Brick & Mortar, 125 Bridge Place, Stockton - on the first floor of historic B&M building - will be transformed into a well-curated specialty food and craft event. Local entrepreneurs will have a chance to test their product and artist to display their works. Every last Friday of the month, the outdoor deck will become a stage for live entertainment from local performers. The event is free and will also feature kids art projects.

Alternating Wednesdays  
Community Radio Council Meeting, 7 - 9 pm, Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 467-4455.

## THURSDAYS

Peace demonstration, 4-5 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.

# On surviving the Trump years with our spirits intact

CYNTHIA KAUFMAN

The day after the election most people I knew were exhibiting physical signs of stress. I felt it mostly in my stomach. The morning after the election, I spent time commiserating with an undocumented student I mentor, and who I love. I held her and tried to be supportive of her in her fear that she didn't know how to continue to be a role model for others, in being an out and proud dreamer when the dreamers may all get deported. As I sat on that bench with her, friends and colleagues keep coming by and I, who usually am the one to see where hope can come from in the concrete actions we can take to move forward, found myself just simply grieving and sharing my fear.

At De Anza College we had a beautiful event hosted by our undocumented student resource center. Students told their stories and cried with a group of about 200 allies. It was an action of solidarity both personal and political. Students put up signs on a wall for all of the groups who they felt fear for, and people signed statements of solidarity. It seems to me that this is exactly what many of us need to make the transition to a post election reality.

We need to know that we have each other's backs. We know that we are entering a time when terrible things will happen, but where we will continue to do all we can to co time to fight for a better world.

Terrible things were already happening and will continue and will certainly get worse. Any slim hope that the Dakota Access Pipeline would be stopped be stopped by the government must be put aside. It, and many other terrible things to come like it, will only be stopped by even more of us throwing our bodies on the line in the way of the machinery of destruction. We will succeed less than in the recent past through calm policy initiatives, and will succeed more often by getting in the way of inhumane actions.

Of course we must continue to work to transform the political system that allowed for the bad choices people were presented with in the election. And we must work to transform the terrible cultural system that has so many people favoring a politics of hatred. Certain things that people have said to me have helped some. My 14-year-old daughter is saying "only 1457 days till the next election". My partner remembered the day after the election Ronald Reagan wearing a button that said "Don't Mourn Organize." I told my daughter the sun will rise tomorrow. I think for me that last approach has been the most calming. There is a Buddhist story I love where a monk is being chased over a cliff by a tiger. As he gets to the edge of the cliff he sees a ripe, red strawberry. As he goes over the cliff he eats the strawberry. And it is delicious. I am finding grounding in gratitude for what I have: for all of the pleasures and connections that sustain me.

As a Jew, I also often weirdly ground myself in the



memory of the Holocaust. That super dark meditation is about reminding myself of the horrors people have experienced and of our survival as a species. And I compare the election of Trump by almost half of those who managed to vote, to the years when Italy lived under Berlusconi, another narcissistic hedonist who fostered hatred and caused tremendous harm. Under that regime, as under the regime we are about to enter, many terrible things happened every day. Just as many tragedies happen every day and have under president Obama and would have under president Clinton.

I have found somewhat frustrating statements from friends urging that we should realize that things aren't that bad. It's true that we have constitutional system that limits president Trump's actions and the actions he can take even with a Republican house and Senate. It is also true that he got elected by playing to the fears and anxieties and racism and sexism, and that we have no idea what that man really is committed to working for besides himself. And yet we the damage to the sense of safety of millions of people's has already been shattered. And there is no possibility that this won't have real negative practical implications. I myself have been mostly feeling the concreteness of the damage with respect to the undocumented and the possibility of saving the climate. It doesn't make me feel better to turn away from those realities.

I was politicized around the election of Ronald Reagan, and have always felt politics mostly as about fighting entrenched forms of evil and unaccountable power. It was only after connecting with the Zapatistas that I began to think

of social change, and my life's commitment to it, in positive terms, as an optimistic call to build a better world. For many years I have found grounding in the statement made famous by Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci, that we should have pessimism of the intellect and optimism of the will. In other words, it doesn't make the world a better place when we sugar coat reality and minimize the problems. That strategy leads to a lack of action that allows problems to fester; it leads to a personal existence of narrowed emotional range as people find ways to protect themselves from taking in the fullness of the reality they are connected to; and it often leads to a weird hostility to those of us who are engaged with trying challenge power, because we are seen as destroying the calm as we bring the realities we see to the attention of others.

But for many people, living in the presence of the horrors of mass incarceration, empire, mass deportations, climate change, etc, and now the reality of a President Trump with a Republican Congress and Supreme Court is too much to bear emotionally. And especially in times like these of huge setbacks, it is hard live with open consciousness in the face of it all.

Gramsci, who died incarcerated by Mussolini, meant by the notion of optimism of the will that we need to find the possibilities of making a positive difference under whatever circumstances we find ourselves. It means we look for the cracks in the systems of domination and push against them with all of our might. I for one will continue to feed my soul by connecting with the people who love me. I will feed my spirit with the strawberries I have the privilege to eat. And will feed my optimism for a better world with the connections I have to the brave people who continue to be in the struggle with me.

Out of my love for the world we inhabit and it's beautiful atmosphere and coral reefs I will continue to fight. Out my love for the amazing complexity and diversity of our species I will continue to fight. We need to stay grounded in our love for each other as concrete human beings who experience fear and whose psyches and spirits are fragile. We need to support each other with the fullness of our hearts and the seriousness of our actions, as we move bravely together into a very hard time in our country's history.

Source: Common Dreams 11/11/16 <http://www.commondreams.org/>

## DEC/JAN 2017 CAL

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Take Five Jazz club, 7 - 9 pm, Valley Brew

### FRIDAYS

Jazz jam at Whirlow's, 7 pm, Whirlow's Tossed & Grilled, 1926 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. Enjoy a live jazz jam session every Friday at Whirlow's on Stockton's historic Miracle Mile! Bring your instruments and join the jam! Hosted by Philip Bailey. Free cover. 466-2823

Live Music at Mile Wine Company, 7 - 10:30 pm. 2113 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. 465-9463

### SATURDAYS

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

Live Music at Mile Wine Company, 7 - 10:30 pm. 2113 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. 465-9463  
Live Music Rosa's at Tower Park, 9 pm - 1 am. Classic rock & roll. \$5 cover.

A big thanks to our long-serving distributors!!

### SAVE THE DATE

## Andrew Young to speak at 23rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration in Modesto

JAMES COSTELLO, MODESTO  
PEACE/LIFE CENTER

Andrew Young, highly respected leader in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, former United Nations ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, will speak at the 23rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the Modesto Junior College Performing Arts and Media Center, 435 College Ave., Modesto, at 7:00 p.m. This community

event is free to the public. However, we depend solely on donations of money or services from our co-sponsors, caring groups, businesses, and individuals. Will you help us bring Andrew Young to our community?

*Action: Make your tax-deductible check payable to "Modesto Peace Life Center-MLK." Send it to Jim Costello, 1849 Richard Way, Ceres, CA 95307-4504. The Peace/Life Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit*

*organization; EIN #94-2800825. Information: jcostello@igc.org*

Sponsors: City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Dept.; Modesto Junior College; Associated Students of Modesto Junior College (ASMJC); Modesto Peace/Life Center and California State University, Stanislaus.

