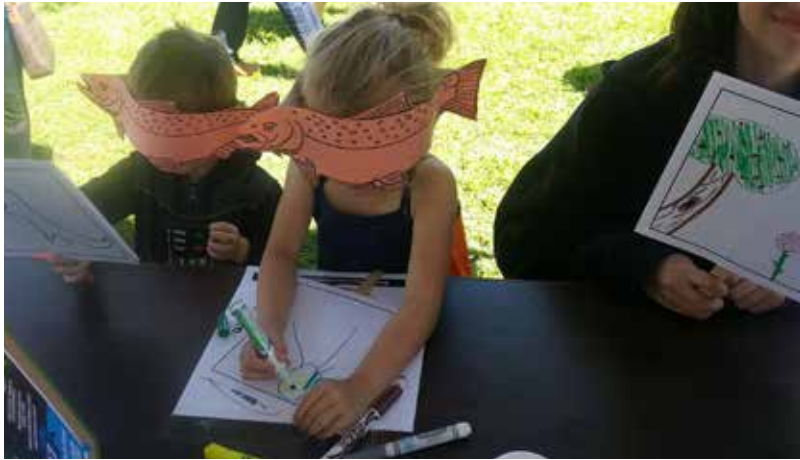


April 22- Earth Day Festival

PROTECT OUR PLANET
THROUGH EDUCATION & ACTION



Earth Day signals the start of spring, the hope and opportunity to make our earth a more pleasant and sustainable place in which

to live. This year's 30th annual Earth Day Festival will be a celebration of our beautiful and miraculous planet, with ideas on how

to keep it that way. The always-free event has moved around Stockton throughout the year, being held in Oak Park, MLK Square, UOP South Lawn, Weber Point and now, for many years, Victory Park. The message, however, has been consistent - we protect our planet best through education and action. This year, we will have more booths discussing vegetarianism, recycling (including what to do with old mattresses), and low-emission vehicles. The stage is set with great local entertainment and we will, as always, serve vegetarian foods that show how we easily make an impact on the earth's resources by going one meat-free day a week.

In the coming days, in which many of us will want to be doing something to make a change in our world, making changes inspired by the stuff learned at the Earth Day Festival will be a great place to start. We welcome you first-timers as well as those who have been to each of our past 29 events. It is a great Stockton tradition; we'd love for you to take part in it.

STOCKTON'S 30TH ANNUAL
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

EVERY DAY IS...
Earth DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018
VICTORY PARK

FREE ADMISSION!

9-10AM: YOGA

10-11AM: MARCH FOR SCIENCE 

SUPPORT THE PLANET, CIRCLE THE PARK WITH A CHAIN REACTION

11AM-4PM: FESTIVAL

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT, DELICIOUS, HEALTHY, LOCAL FOOD
FAMILY EDUCATIONAL EVENT, BIKE-FRIENDLY EVENT

WWW.LIVEGREENSANJOAQUIN.ORG



Stockton
Earth Day
Entertainment
Schedule
at
Victory Park

9-10 am	Yoga in the Park
10-11 am	CCHS Drum Line/Science March
11 am - 12:00 pm	Brubeck Institute Jazz
12-12:30 pm	CCHS Polynesian Dance and Drum Troupe
12:30 - 1:15 pm	New and Used (Rock Band)
1:15 - 1:45 pm	CCHS Mariachi Band
1:45 - 2 pm	Teacher Awards/Dignitaries
2 - 2:30 pm	Stockton Bukkyo Taiko
2:30 - 3 pm	CCHS Jazz Choir
3 - 4 pm	Big Earl and the Cryin' Shame
4 - 4:30 pm	Drum Circle

SAVE THE DATES

Apr. 22 30 Annual Earth Day Festival
Yoga at 9 am
March for Science at 10 am
Festival 11 to 4pm at Victory Park.

CONTENTS

Fixing Gun Laws.....p 3	War spending through roof.p 10-11
Tunnel battle.....p 4	Giving up on Black boys.....p 14
US going to warp 6-7	Iraq war 15 years later.....p 17



EDITOR'S LETTER

BRUCE GIUDICI

It is hard to predict what we will face in the coming months. But it is an easy bet that peace and justice issues will be challenged. The current administration, never merit-based, is loading up on cable tv personalities to become a true Fox affiliate. Most concerning are the nominations of Pompeo at State, Gina at CIA and Bolton in the National Security Advisor position. Relying on this lineup, there

will be little resistance to military belligerence anywhere in the world. Military budgets (never audited) have been bloated to an extreme never seen before - unaccountable and available for service in the hands of a seeming-war-monger president. North Korea and Iran are primary targets, but certainly others are available (Venezuela, Cuba, Somalia, Sudan, and other countries Trump doesn't know about - yet).

Foreign affairs current-

Every day is a day to make change happen

ly distract from what is happening at the EPA (Pruitt) and Interior (Zinke), Education (DeVos), and Justice (Sessions) - one reminisces of the time when the Secretaries of these departments were not well known (quick - who were Obama's choices in these positions?). The non-enforcement of environmental regulations, the opening of public lands to oil drilling, a national support of charter schools and the speedy approvals of lifetime judicial ap-

pointments are quick summaries of the first year in these departments. Such a shift in focus would show that elections have consequences; still, since the current White House occupant lost the popular vote by 3 million votes, some sensitivity would seem in order to placate the majority. Nope - not happening here. On the presidential decree front, we have most notably: DACA rescinded, guns for the mentally ill and Jerusalem as Israel's capi-

tal. The pedal is to the metal, until the cliff is reached. And with the Mueller probe continuing, that cliff is coming soon. When we get there, we must be ready to react as did the admirable students marching for our lives on March 24.

There is no precedent for what is happening in DC now. Stay ready to act - our opportunity may come soon.

See you at Earth Day!! Happy Spring.

Immediately protect dreamers without extreme enforcement

We urge Congress to protect Dreamers by enacting a pathway to citizenship without breaking families apart or ramping up extreme border enforcement. Passing protections for Dreamers is just a first step. True immigration reform will require much more to align policy with our shared values of welcome, compassion, and diversity. Congress should immediately focus on legislation that:

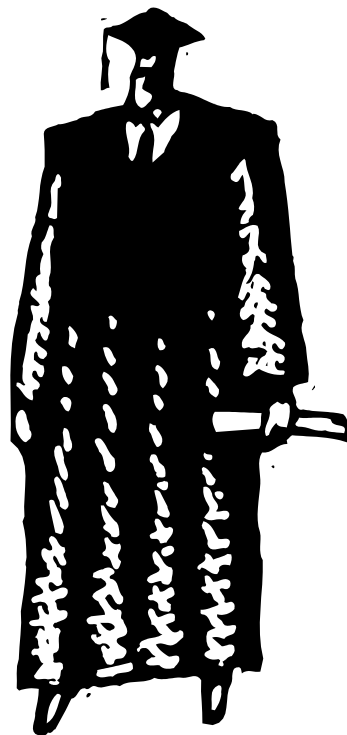
Provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers: Bipartisan legislative proposals, such as the Dream Act (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) and the USA Act (S. 2367/H.R. 4796), open up a long-overdue

pathway to citizenship for immigrants who arrived in the U.S. when they were younger than 18. Rejects endless enforcement: Spending billions to hire more immigration and border enforcement agents, expand immigrant detention, further violate the rights of border communities, and build additional walls along the southern border will not fix insufficient and unjust laws.

Keeps families together: Congress should reject legislation that cuts off the ability for immigrants to sponsor their minor or adult children, spouses,

parents, or siblings. Strengthens legal immigration: Immigrants are an asset to our nation. Congress should make our immigration system more accessible and defend all existing legal avenues for immigrants and asylum seekers. Immediately enact a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, without hurting families or border communities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT HANNAH GRAF EVANS, FCNL'S LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE FOR IMMIGRATION AND DOMESTIC POLICY: HANNAH@FCNL.ORG FCNL.ORG/SLWASK



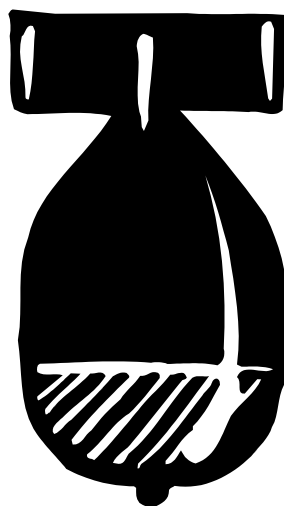
Trump wants new nukes for use

CHELSEA PAGE

The Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) document outlines Trump's nuclear weapons policy and strategy. On February 12, Trump stated his intention to expand the U.S. arsenal "far, far in excess of anybody else." Trump's NPR contrasts greatly with the Obama NPR, which aimed to reduce the role and numbers of nuclear weapons. Trump seeks to expand roles for a "flexible" and "resilient" nuclear weapons force that would provide "tailored deterrence" to counter a variety of nuclear and "non-nuclear strategic threats."

This is overly broad, vague and frankly terrifying for anyone who wants to see nuclear weapons used "never again."

In contrast with the Obama approach, Trump's NPR claims that we need to develop new nuclear weapons capabilities, for our arsenal that is already the second largest in the world and costing billions of dollars a year. And, while it is true that numerically, Russia has a slight edge over the US in numbers of warheads, the numeric difference is not significant overall and the quality of our arsenal is second to none. And the fact remains



that the US and Russia possess more than 90% of the world's nuclear weapons, yet Trump wants the US

to add to its stockpile. An expansive, ready-for-anything role for nukes will drive the development of new and expanded nuclear weapons at the nearby Livermore nuclear weapons lab - a prelude for increased production.

Action: 1) Contact your representative and ask him/her to protest Trump's new nuclear weapons policy. 2) Mark your calendar for 8 am on Monday, August 6, 2018, when Tri-Valley CAREs and hundreds of peace advocates from around the state will commemorate the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. We must say NO to "more usable" nuclear weapons! The keynote speaker will be Daniel Ellsberg, perhaps best

known as the whistleblower who released "The Pentagon Papers" to hasten an end to the war in Vietnam. He has been an analyst at RAND Corp. and consultant to the Defense Dept., specializing in problems of command and control of nuclear weapons, war plans and crisis decision-making. Daniel Ellsberg recently released his long-awaited memoirs, The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner. More information can be found at www.trivalleycares.org.



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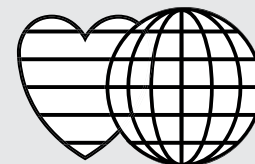
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"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared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



Our manifesto to fix America's gun laws

PARKLAND STUDENTS

As a student publication, the *Eagle Eye* works to tell the stories of those who do not have a voice. Today, we are the ones who feel our voice must be elevated. In the wake of the tragedy that occurred at our school on 14 February at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, our lives have changed beyond what we ever imagined. We, along with our publication, have been transformed. We will remain so for the rest of our lives.

We have a unique platform not only as student journalists, but also as survivors of a mass shooting. We are firsthand witnesses to the kind of devastation that gross incompetence and political inaction can produce. We cannot stand idly by as the country continues to be infected by a plague of gun violence that seeps into community after community, and does irreparable damage to the hearts and minds of the American people. That's why the *Eagle Eye* has come together and proposed these following changes to gun policy. We believe federal and state governments must put these in place to ensure that mass shootings and gun violence cease to be a staple of American culture. We will march on Saturday, 24 March, for those that we loved and lost, and we write this in the hope that no other community or publication will ever have to do the same.

THE CHANGES WE PROPOSE:

BAN SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS THAT FIRE HIGH-VELOCITY ROUNDS

Civilians shouldn't have access to the same weapons that soldiers do. That's a gross misuse of the second amendment. These weapons were designed for dealing death: not to animals or targets, but to other human beings. The fact that they can be bought by the public does not promote domestic tranquility. Rather, their availability puts us into the kind of danger faced by men and women trapped in war zones. This situation reflects a failure of our government. It must be corrected to ensure the safety of those guaranteed the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

BAN ACCESSORIES THAT SIMULATE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS

High-capacity magazines played a huge role in the shooting at our school. In only 10 minutes, 17 people were killed, and 17 others were injured. This is unacceptable. That's why we believe that bump stocks, high-capacity magazines and similar accessories that simulate the effect of military-grade automatic weapons should be banned. In the 2017 shooting in Las Vegas, 58 people were killed and 851 others were injured. The gunman's use of bump stocks enabled vast numbers of people to be hurt while gathered in one of the most iconic cities in America. If it can happen there, it can happen anywhere. That's why action must be taken to take these accessories off the market.

ESTABLISH A DATABASE OF GUN SALES AND UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

We believe that there should be a database recording which guns are sold in the United States, to whom, and of what caliber and capacity they are. Just as the department of motor vehicles has a database of license plates and car owners, the Department of Defense should have a database of gun serial numbers and gun owners. This data should be paired with infractions of gun laws, past criminal offenses and the status of the gun owner's mental health and physical capability. Together with universal background checks, this system would help law enforcement stop a potentially dangerous person before they commit a gun crime.

CHANGE PRIVACY LAWS TO ALLOW MENTAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

As seen in the tragedy at our school, poor communication between mental healthcare providers and law enforcement may have contributed to a disturbed person with murderous tendencies and intentions entering a school and gunning down 17 people in cold blood. We

must improve this channel of communication. To do so, privacy laws should be amended. That will allow us to prevent people who are a danger to themselves or to others from purchasing firearms. That could help prevent tragedies such as the Parkland massacre.

CLOSE GUN SHOW AND SECONDHAND SALES LOOPHOLES

Thanks to loopholes, people who otherwise wouldn't be able to buy firearms are able to purchase them at gun shows and secondhand sales. The existence of these loopholes reflects the ineptitude of state and federal legislators. If we are serious about preventing people from purchasing deadly weapons, we must monitor sales that take place at gun shows and on secondhand markets. This is especially urgent given the danger posed by mentally unstable and violent individuals armed with firearms.

ALLOW THE CDC TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GUN REFORM

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should be allowed to conduct research on the dangers of gun violence. The fact that they are currently prohibited from doing so undermines the first amendment. It also violates the rights of the American people. It is hypocritical to rally people to protect the second amendment, while remaining silent on the ways that blocking research violates one of our most basic constitutional freedoms.

RAISE THE FIREARM PURCHASE AGE TO 21

In a few months from now, many of us will be turning 18. We will not be able to drink; we will not be able to rent a car. Most of us will still be living with our parents. We will not be able to purchase a handgun. And yet, we will be able to purchase an AR-15. Why is it that we will be able to legally obtain a weapon that has the ability to fire over 150 rounds and kill 17 people in about six minutes? That is unacceptable. It makes no sense that to buy a handgun, you have to be 21, but a gun of mass destruction and devastation like the AR-15 can be purchased when one is just becoming an adult. With the exception of those who are serving the United States in the military, the age to obtain any firearm must be raised to 21.

DEDICATE MORE FUNDS TO MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONALS

Federal and state government should earmark more funds specifically for mental health services. Those with mental health issues, especially those who express aggressive, violent, suicidal and/or homicidal thoughts should have the opportunity to receive the help they need regardless of their economic status. Schools specifically should receive more funds in order to hire more psychologists and guidance counselors who can aid students suffering from PTSD, depression and other debilitating mental illnesses. Many of those who commit mass shootings suffer from these kinds of illnesses. It is essential that more funds be dedicated to mental health research.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL SECURITY

We believe that schools should be given sufficient funds for school security and resource officers to protect and secure the entire campus. As a school of over 3,000 students, teachers and faculty, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School was only supplied funds to hire one on-campus armed resource officer by the state. Without backup, this officer's hesitation proved to be disastrous and allowed for the senseless deaths of people who were killed on the third floor of the 1200 building. Though this idea has been proposed in the past, these funds should not be appropriated from the already scarce funding for public education. Governments should find resources to secure the millions of children that attend public schools without taking away from the quality of education that is offered at these institutions.

Source: Guardian UK 3/24/18 <https://www.theguardian.com>



Registering voters young and old is at the heart of the League of Women Voters

BEA LINGENFELTER

The League Women Voters of San Joaquin County (LWVSJC) has initiated a high school voter registration project in partnership with the San Joaquin County Office of Education plus several Manteca and Stockton Unified High Schools. The League of Women Voters US initiated the first high school voter registration project in 2010 called "Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow".

One of the major missions of the LWVSJC is voter service and voter education. Beginning in 1920 with women's suffrage, the League has been at the forefront of voter registration and education across our nation. The League neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates. During voter service activities the League remains politically impartial. The major focus of all LWVSJC activities is to support and encourage an informed electorate for the well-being of our democracy.

LWVSJC has trained teams of League members who are knowledgeable about the voter registration process. These teams of 2-3 members work with our local high school administrators and teachers to visit senior Government or Economics classes to register any eligible student to vote. No student is required to register and students are encouraged to take the registration form home to speak with their parents about the importance of voting. We look

forward to working with many more high schools in the months ahead. While in the classroom, League members inform students ages 16-17 that they may pre-register to vote. After completing the voter pre-registration form, students will be notified by the Registrar of Voters when they are eligible to vote. California youth who pre-register to vote will have their registration become active once they turn 18 years old.

In addition, the League also has a long relationship with San Joaquin Delta College to provide students a convenient opportunity to register to vote while on campus. The "Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow" program is designed to emphasize to young people the importance of voting and becoming actively engaged at the local, state and national levels. These young people are our future and the next leaders of our country. These young people have a critical role to play in shaping important issues in our community and across the nation.

Registering to vote and voting in each election is the first responsibility of citizenship in a democracy. Go to <http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org/> to learn more about the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County

BEA LINGENFELTER IS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY



Sierra Club Capitol Voice

Tunnels: battle over the Delta heads south

KYLE JONES

Despite Governor Jerry Brown's lobbying, his Delta Tunnels project has stalled in Sacramento. The project remains unfunded, and permits are still months – if not years away. Brown and the Department of Water Resources are attempting to skirt the law as they downsize the project to one tunnel without updating the necessary permits.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the project will not move forward before the end of Brown's term. Now, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) has announced a desperate attempt to build it themselves.

MWD is the water wholesaler for the agencies that represent 19 million Southern Californians, including Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and San Diego County Water Authority. Initially, MWD voted to support spending \$4.3 billion for the tunnels project.

The growing sense that Brown won't be able to push through the project has prompted MWD to try to tackle it alone. Doing so will require ratepayers in Southern California to pay \$11 billion – without providing any new water. This massive expenditure will come with the cost of leaving less money available for projects that

can be done to make Southern California as water independent as possible.

Instead of prioritizing tunnels, Southern California should continue investing in developing local water supplies. Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles has already set LA on a path to reducing imported water use by 50 percent, as part of the Sustainable City plan.

The western parts of Los Angeles, could do even more to increase wastewater recycling. Some agencies can benefit financially from water reuse, as they can sell treated wastewater throughout the region.

Additionally, residents can adopt more efficient irrigation methods. Half of Southern California's water use goes to landscaping. One solution is to accelerate removing thirsty turf grass and replacing it with drought-tolerant and low-water landscaping.

Sierra Club California continues to challenge the tunnels projects in various venues at the state and local level. We've also established a petition for Southern Californians to sign, telling the agencies to vote NO on the tunnels when the MWD board considers in April whether to spend \$11 billion on the project.

Toxic waste pollution: hope for California's contaminated communities?

EDDIE MORENO

California has the worst quality of life in the United States, according to a new ranking released March 6 by U.S. News & World Report. Fifty percent of the ranking score comes from the quality of the natural environment, measuring drinking water quality, pollution and industrial toxins, and air quality.

This may come as a shock for many living here in the state. However, when we take a closer look at the performances of some agencies such as the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which is responsible for protecting Californians from toxic chemical and industrial pollutant exposure, it becomes abundantly clear why the state ranks so low.

While DTSC's mission is to protect California's communities, for years it has seemed more interested in protecting the economic interests of industry. Its lack of regulation enforcement and general inaction has disproportionately impacted disadvantaged communities and people of color. These residents have seen the effects of toxic pollution firsthand but their concerns and complaints have gone unanswered.

Years of mismanagement, leadership turnover and high-profile pollution exposure events, such as the Exide battery

recycling plant in southeast Los Angeles, which exposed thousands of children to very high levels of toxic lead, prompted California's legislature to take action.

In 2015, the legislature passed Senate Bill 83, which established an Independent Review Panel (IRP) within DTSC to recommend improvements to the department. The IRP identified issues in leadership, human resources, transparency, accountability and timeliness, which prompted many legislators to introduce DTSC reform legislation. A notable bill introduced in 2017 was Senator Connie Leyva Senate Bill 774, which would have created an independent board to govern and oversee DTSC. The bill never got off the Senate floor.

Unfortunately, Governor Jerry Brown vetoed four of the five DTSC reform bills that made it to his desk. With the IRP dissolved and DTSC reform issues still unaddressed, environmental and environmental justice organizations, including Sierra Club California, are continuing to press the legislature to fix this broken state agency and protect vulnerable Californians. New bills are being developed to begin their way through the legislature and to the outgoing governor's desk.

Source: Sierra Club California Capitol Voice March 2018
<https://www.sierraclub.org/california>

'Dangerous' decline in biodiversity threatens humanity's well-being worldwide

JESSICA CORBETT

From failures to combat global warming to pollution and the exploitation of natural resources, human activity is significantly contributing to a worldwide and "dangerous" decline in biodiversity, jeopardizing nature's ability to benefit to people's wellbeing, according to a major study published Friday. "Biodiversity and nature's contributions to people sound, to many people, academic and far removed from our daily lives," noted Robert Watson, chair of the intergovernmental body that compiled the research. "Nothing could be further from the truth—they are the bedrock of our food, clean water, and energy," he said. "They are at the heart not only of our survival, but of our cultures, identities, and enjoyment of life."

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) brought together more than 550 experts from all around the world for the peer-reviewed United Nations-backed assessment, which was conducted over three years. Researchers found that people in all four studied regions—the Americas, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia—are threatening the essential variability of living creatures around them. IPBES executive secretary Anne Larigauderie warns that achieving the various goals for humanity and the planet set forth by U.N. bodies in recent years "all depend on the health and vitality of our natural environment in all its diversity and complexity."

"Richer, more diverse ecosystems are better able to cope with disturbances—such as extreme events and the emergence of diseases," Larigauderie explained. Diverse ecosystems not only operate as "our" insurance policy against unforeseen disasters, but also "offer many of the best solutions to our most pressing challenges." The goal of the study was to analyze threats to biodiversity, identi-

fy ways and regions in which progress is being made, and prescribe policy improvements for each region studied.

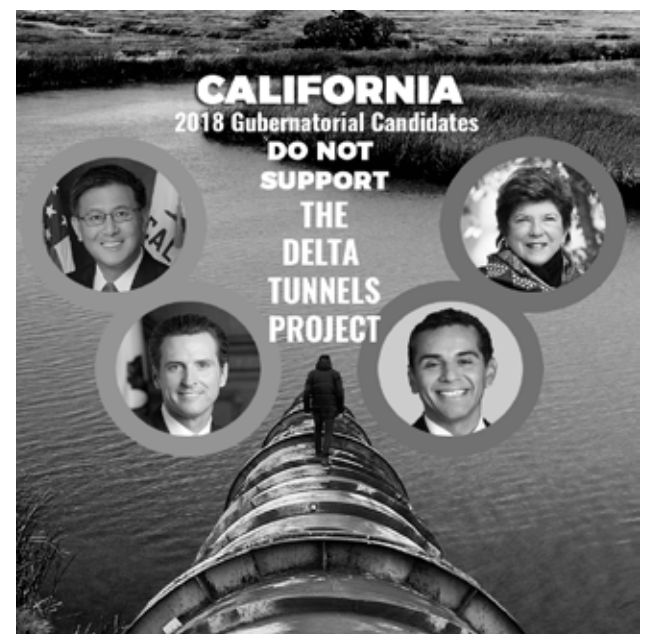
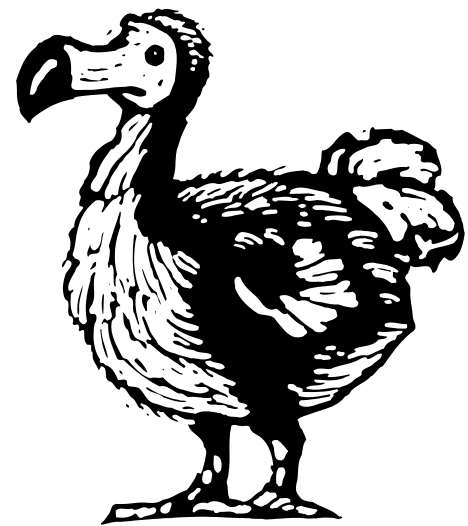
The Asia-Pacific report featured grave warnings about marine life. Researchers expressed concerns about mounting threats to coral reefs, and warned "unsustainable aquaculture practices, overfishing, and destructive harvesting, threaten coastal and marine ecosystems, with projections that, if current fishing practices continue, there will be no exploitable fish stocks in the region by 2048."

In assessments for both Africa and the Americas, researchers noted that anthropogenic climate change will be a major driver of biodiversity loss over the next 30 years. They also emphasized the need to incorporate knowledge and practices from local indigenous populations into broader policies. The Europe and Central Asia report also proposed integration of indigenous knowledge. This assessment emphasized the region's troubling land-use practices, noting the need for more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices.

"Although there are no 'silver bullets' or 'one-size-fits all' answers," Watson acknowledged, "the best options in all four regional assessments are found in better governance, integrating biodiversity concerns into

sectoral policies and practices (e.g. agriculture and energy), the application of scientific knowledge and technology, increased awareness, and behavioral changes." The study's main conclusion, he said, is that "we must act to halt and reverse the unsustainable use of nature—or risk not only the future we want, but even the lives we currently lead. Fortunately, the evidence also shows that we know how to protect and partially restore our vital natural assets."

Source: Common Dreams 3/23/18 <https://www.commondreams.org/>





Our healthcare crisis won't be solved until we get private insurance out

JANINE JACKSON

JANINE JACKSON INTERVIEWED MARGARET FLOWERS ABOUT UNDERMINING SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE FOR THE MARCH 2, 2018, EPISODE OF COUNTERSPIN.

Janine Jackson: When you hear that Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffett and Jamie Dimon have a plan to “fix” healthcare, questions, shall we say, naturally arise about how transformative it’s likely to be, this plan of super-wealthy corporate executives that they insist would be “free from profit-making incentives and constraints.” But if the plan comes from a group represented as liberal, and its spokespeople talk about “universal coverage” and “healthcare as a right,” and the New York Times declares it “a better single-payer plan,” well, what are you to think? Here to help us see what’s going on in a new healthcare proposal that you will be hearing about is Margaret Flowers. Margaret Flowers is co-director of Popular Resistance and coordinator of the national Health Over Profit for Everyone campaign. She joins us now by phone. Welcome back to CounterSpin, Margaret Flowers.

Margaret Flowers: Thank you so much for having me.

JJ: I guess I have a straightforward question: What is it, this “Medicare Extra for All” plan? It certainly sounds good.

MF: Sure. To people who are not policy wonks, it sounds great, because it uses the language that the movement for a single-payer healthcare plan has been using for a long time, “Medicare for All.” But the plan that the Center for American Progress is proposing is actually just another try at the public option that was put out there back in 2008, 2009, during the time when we had the health reform process in Congress, under the Obama administration. So it’s just creating an opportunity for people to join Medicare, including the private insurance portion of Medicare, which is known as the Medicare Advantage Plan. It’s another attempt at incremental health reform that doesn’t actually get at the root of the problems, but uses the language of the movement for health reform.

JJ: When I read accounts, I see, from the Center for American Progress itself, they say, “Medicare Extra for All would guarantee universal coverage and eliminate underinsurance.” What are they talking about with that claim?

MF: This is exactly the same terms that were used when the Affordable Care Act was put together. So you think about the time of the Affordable Care Act. There was a very strong public support for a National Improved Medicare for All, or single-payer health plan. The members of Congress who are funded by the industries that are profiting off of our current health system didn’t want to go against their campaign funders, but had to do something that was appealing to the public, so they said it would be affordable, guaranteed and universal. We knew that it was never going to be any of those things.

And they used something called a public option to convince single-payer supporters that they were asking for too much, and this was more politically feasible, and that it would be a backdoor to single-payer, and a lot of people fell for it.

The Affordable Care Act is resulting in the things we predicted that it would: high insurance premiums, high out-of-pocket costs for people, so that they may have insurance, but not be able to use it. A lot of people are saying, we don’t want to go backwards, but we also don’t want to fix the Affordable Care Act. We are ready for a National Improved Medicare for All. We are ready to join the rest of the world. So how do members of Congress, and their supporting institutions, once again try to convince the public to do something that’s less than what they want? And that’s what this whole proposal is about.

JJ: I find it so continually frustrating. In the media coverage, we see AP referring to “political pragmatism,”

in talking about this plan from the Center for American Progress. David Leonhardt at the New York Times used the term “realpolitik.” The insistence with which corporate media declare that things that the majority of the public want—and in this case, that other countries around the world have been doing for years—that they’re just not politically possible, that, “well, sure we all want them, but you just can’t achieve them,” you know, at FAIR, we call that things being “not journalistically viable.” It’s something where corporate elites simply say: It can’t be done. But why can’t it be done?

MF: Well, there’s no reason that it can’t be done. We’re already spending enough money in the United States to provide high-quality, comprehensive health coverage to every single person living here. We pay twice as much as the average other wealthy nation does on healthcare, and they cover everyone. They have better health outcomes. They have a longer life expectancy.

What’s interesting is, this same tactic was tried at the end of last summer. There was a very strong push, as people may remember, in Congress, with the Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. And out of that, people were pushing to not repeal it, but to actually push for a single-payer healthcare system. And so in August and September, there was a whole round of articles coming out. And I looked at them, and I kind of boiled down what their talking points were, and they were all the same: Single-payer advocates are asking for too much change at once; they don’t have the details worked out; other countries don’t have pure, single-payer systems; there’s too much opposition; we can’t do it all at once; we have to do what’s politically feasible.

And the same arguments are being used again this time. The reality is that our healthcare crisis is not going

to be solved until we get the private insurance industry out of it. They add nothing but complication, and sucking money out of our systems for their own profit.

And that’s what a single-payer healthcare system does. The majority of the public supports it. We were starting to get record numbers of members of Congress to feel that they have to get on board with it. Our movement is actually starting to win. And when you look at the history of successful social movements, we can expect these exact tactics: that the power-holders are going to say: “Oh right, we’re on your side. We want to do what you want.” But they’re actually not doing it. So this is a time for us to be pushing harder. We can change the political feasibility. That’s something that the public has the power to do.

JJ: Now, are there specific pieces of legislation that exist right now, something concrete that people can be talking about being for?

MF: Absolutely. We have legislation in the House called HR 676: The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act. It’s been introduced every session since 2003, and it was really based on principles and a framework that was put together by advocates for a single-payer healthcare system. We have over 120 cosponsors in the House right now. More than half the Democrats have signed on to it. Lots of Democrats who are running for congressional seats are running on a platform of support for it.

And then Senator Sanders introduced a bill in the Senate last year, S.1804 called the Medicare for All Act; it purports to do a single-payer healthcare system and it has some weaknesses, but also some strengths. It’s not as ideal as HR 676, but it’s another piece of legislation in the Senate.

JJ: Let me just ask you, briefly: So when someone’s out to dinner and someone says: “Hey, Center for American Progress, they’re a liberal group, and they’ve got this Medicare for All, Medicare Extra for All. It sounds really good.” What does one say, in terms of explaining why this is not single-payer? What’s a kind of succinct way to get that across?

MF: Well, the basic thing is that it keeps the complicated, private insurance system that we have here intact, and just adds more people into the public system. And so health insurance is going to continue to be expensive. It will continue to deny people care, and people will still face financial barriers, like co-pays and deductibles.

JJ: Calling it “Medicare Extra for All,” saying it guarantees universal coverage, saying it eliminates underinsurance.... That’s just deceptive.

MF: Right. It says that people are eligible or are able to buy into Medicare, but we’re going to keep the other parts of our system intact, the employer system, the other private plans that are out there. So it’s the language that they use. Under National Improved Medicare for All, when it starts, everybody is in the system all at once. It’s not that people are eligible. They’re in, and that’s the difference.

JJ: All right, then. We’ve been speaking with Margaret Flowers. She’s co-director of Popular Resistance and coordinator of the national Health Over Profit for Everyone campaign. You can get more information on HealthOverProfit.org. Margaret Flowers, thank you so much for joining us today on CounterSpin.

MF: Thank you.





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Congress needs to ask hard questions about U.S. foreign policy

JIM CASON

The president's firing of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson managed to add insult to the year of injury that has been visited on the State Department and U.S. foreign policy. The firing sows doubt among our allies and tempts those working against the values we seek. Congress needs to reassert its constitutional responsibilities to shape how the U.S. engages with the world, decide whether our nation goes to war, and review the qualifications of nominees the president proposes to lead our nation at the State Department and the CIA.

A year of understaffing and underfunding the State Department is driving America's foreign policy into crisis. Now, more than a year into the Trump administration, the State Department lacks Senate-confirmed appointees for secretary, five out of six undersecretaries, six out of seven regional assistant secretaries, and numerous key ambassadors.

As Mike Pompeo seeks the nomination as the nation's top diplomat, we urge him to clearly define his strategy for working closely with America's friends around the world to protect hard-won diplomatic victories such as the Iran nuclear agreement and the president's bold decision to engage North Korea directly. We at FCNL are particularly concerned about Mike Pompeo's past statements calling for the Iran nuclear agreement to be ripped up and calling for regime change in North Korea.

Gina Haspel, President Trump's nominee to lead the CIA, was the clandestine officer who oversaw the waterboarding torture of two terrorism suspects and later destroyed evidence of those abuses. How can we say "never again" to torture while asking one of the perpetrators of these abuses to lead the agency?

Congress must provide a steady hand in directing our country's foreign policy and its diplomatic engagement. Congress must fully fund diplomacy and development while focusing its attention on filling the vacancies that remain.

• In the weeks and months ahead, FCNL calls on Congress to focus on these key questions:

• How can additional resources best enhance key diplomatic initiatives to secure America's interests and values?

• Who will fill America's key diplomatic positions, and how quickly will they be in place?

• How will the United States support and work with our allies to build on and advance, rather than set back and undermine, our shared nonproliferation and security goals for Iran and North Korea?

• How would Secretary of State nominee Pompeo negotiate in good faith with North Korea or Iran, given his past statements on negotiations with these countries?

• How can CIA Director nominee Haspel ensure the U.S. public and the world that waterboarding and other torture never happens again, given her role in these violations of international law in the past?

**JIM CASON IS THE FCNL ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
FOR STRATEGIC ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
FOR FOREIGN POLICY**

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation 3/13/18
<https://www.fcnl.org>

Bolton: a war criminal with terrorist ties, not just "hawkish"

JUAN COLE

John Bolton helped lie our country into an illegal war of aggression that killed several hundred thousand Iraqis, wounded over a million, and displaced 4 million from their homes, helped deliver Baghdad into the hands of Iran, and helped create ISIL, which blew up Paris. In a just world, Bolton would be on trial at the Hague for war crimes. Instead, he has been promoted into a position to do to Iran what he did to Iraq.

He is also in the back pocket of the MEK Iranian terrorist organization, which despite its violent and smelly past has proved so useful to those plotting the apocalyptic destruction of Iran that the Washington elite decided to take it off the list of terrorist organizations in 2012.

The acceptable political spectrum inside the Beltway in Washington DC is a marvel to behold. Bernie Sanders, a long-serving senator and public servant won 13.2 million popular votes to 16.8 million votes for Hillary Clinton (i.e. he was backed by 43% of one of the two major parties in the country). But Sanders was virtually blacked out from corporate television coverage during his impressive presidential bid, while Jeff Zucker turned CNN over to Trump every night at 7:30 pm throughout the summer and fall of 2016 and just let him talk, or whatever he does, for an hour without even a semblance of journalistic analysis. Supposedly left-leaning MSNBC did the same thing.

America's corporations love the fascist side of the spectrum, which is obvious from the way they promoted Trump and Trumpism. Zucker also hired Cory Lewandowski, who was at the time contractually obligated to avoid criticizing Trump, as a CNN commentator. Fascism after all favors big corporations and vilifies and punishes work-

ers and the poor. Under Mussolini, the Italian poor were plunged into much deeper poverty.

Television news also loves the maniacal side of the spectrum. You seldom see normal people as commentators on cable news, and much of the commentary is polarized and superficial and often simply incorrect on the facts of the matter. Sometimes it is even just a criminal conspiracy. During the Iraq War, the NYT revealed that the Pentagon successfully pressed on CNN a gaggle of former generals, many of them actively making money off of the Iraq War through contracting while they were promoting it on television. They presented an Alice in Wonderland view of the brutal US occupation of that country as a shining success. Tom Fenton, a career television journalist, once wrote a book suggesting that television news is so bad that it is actually a standing risk for US security, since an uninformed or misinformed public cannot play the democratic role of watchdog and is not being alerted to genuine threats. Maybe the maniacs draw eyeballs and increase advertising dollars. Maybe Wall Street doesn't see people as maniacs as long as they advocate giving billionaires more money.

The fascination with the far right wing and with the maniacal dovetails in the person of Bolton, now Trump's National Security Adviser. Jesus said that if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch. The ditch in this case could well be a ruinous war with Iran. In a sane society, people like Bolton wouldn't be allowed on television, much less put in charge of American security. Bolton has assiduously tried to do the same thing he did to Iraq to Iran. Big corporations like wars. Wars mean you have to manufacture more shiny children-murdering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Congressional hearing on endless war- feet to the fire

ANDREA GERMANOS

Taking "an important step towards a long overdue debate and vote," a bipartisan congressional hearing Tuesday afternoon put a spotlight on what is often dubbed a "blank check for war"—the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF).

For over 16 years—a time period spanning the George W. Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations—the executive branch has leaned on that AUMF to justify wars across the world—from the Philippines to Afghanistan, Yemen, and Somalia—in the name of defeating supposed terrorist organizations, without prior congressional approval.

"We cannot afford to wait any longer while these wars expand. For too long, Congress has ignored our duties on these ongoing wars," said meeting co-chair Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) at the start of the hearing. Rep. Lee, it should be noted, was the sole member of Congress to vote against the AUMF, which was passed in the wake of the Sept. 11 attack.

The "2001 AUMF has become a blank check for any president to wage war anytime, anywhere, anyplace without the consent or oversight of Congress," she continued. As the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which co-hosted the ad hoc hearing along with the House Liberty Caucus, tweeted, "It's time to revisit the U.S. role in military operations around the globe."

Among the experts offering testimony at the hearing was Rita Siemion, international legal counsel at Human Rights First, who noted that not only has the AUMF "been interpreted as authorizing military operations that Congress never intended," it has also been used to justify "a range of human rights abuses from detention without charge or trial to extrajudicial killings via drone strikes far from any battlefield."

Congress, she argued, "must discuss and debate the difficult question of whether the war-centered approach [to counterterrorism] of the

past 16 and a half years has been effective." If Congress does decide that continued military force is needed, she laid out what she believes a new AUMF should include:

First, any new AUMF should name the specific enemy that military force is authorized against and specify the permitted mission objectives to prevent the executive branch from overstepping Congress's intent.

Second, any new AUMF should include robust reporting requirements to promote democratic accountability and enable Congress to fulfill its critical oversight functions.

Third, any new AUMF should require compliance with U.S. obligations under international law to demonstrate to our allies and enemies alike that the United States is a nation that complies with the rule of law and is committed to its obligations to respect state sovereignty, human rights and the law of armed conflict.

Fourth, any new AUMF should include language that makes it clear that it is the sole source of statutory authority to use force against the enemy named in the authorization to avoid overlap, confusion, or loopholes.

And last, but perhaps most importantly, any new AUMF should include a sunset provision that sets a timetable for ensuring continued congressional approval and oversight as the conflict evolves, providing a safeguard against perpetual armed conflict or overly expansive executive interpretations.

The executive director of Veterans for Peace, Michael McPhearson, spoke at the hearing as well. "The cost of war to people should compel us to rethink U.S. foreign policy and specifically these current wars," he said, citing the suicide risk veterans face, the pain of "Gold Star families," the pain felt by Iraqis whose children were killed at the hands of U.S. forces, and torture committed by U.S. forces at places like the Abu Ghraib prison.

Veterans for Peace, Human Rights First, and other groups as well as members of Congress took to

Twitter to highlight comments from the hearing and the importance of repealing the AUMF:

In a press statement following the meeting, Lee asserted that the "critical hearing showed that a growing, bipartisan group of Members are calling for a debate and vote on our ongoing wars. We are saying that enough is enough. The 2001 AUMF is a blank check for war—plain and simple."

"For far too long, our brave service members have risked their lives around the world, while Congress has failed to even debate these military operations," her statement continued. "Every day that Congress delays, we become further entangled in these conflicts. We owe it to our men and women in uniform to hold a debate on these endless wars."

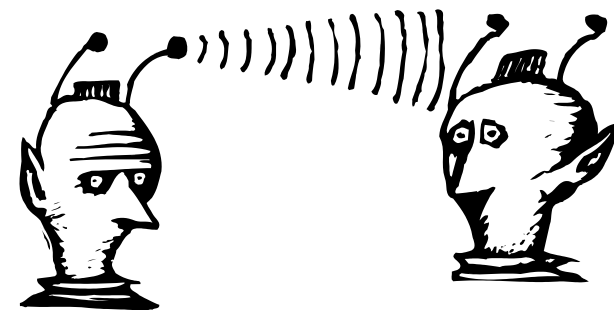
Also on Tuesday, 106 members of Congress (including 10 Republicans) signed on to a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) calling on him to lead the chamber in allowing "a serious debate and vote on the use of military force (AUMF)."

"The debate should also allow members the opportunity to debate and vote on the long-term costs and consequences of and alternatives to military action," the letter said.

While praising the signatories "for adding their voices to this critical issue," Yasmine Taeb, director for human rights and civil liberties at Friends Committee on National Legislation, decried how "Congress has abdicated its constitutional duty to decide where and when the United States goes to war."

"This cannot be allowed to continue," she added, "and these representatives recognize the duty and responsibility they have to the American people and the need for Congress to assert its proper role and oversight responsibilities in determining when and where the U.S. goes to war."

Source: Common Dreams 2/28/18
<https://www.commondreams.org/>



FCNL supports diplomatic engagement

ANTHONY WIER

FCNL applauds President Trump for agreeing to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in May. A summit alone is not a solution -- but it is a start. The president deserves full praise for taking a chance that many other American leaders might not have. Still more thanks goes to South Korean President Moon Jae-in for his bold drive to push open space for dialogue where only insult, boast, and threat had reigned. President Moon knows how truly disastrous war would be. He has shown great courage in striving for the sustainable solutions for these challenges that ultimately only diplomacy and engagement can provide.

Anthony Wier, Legislative Director for Nuclear Disarmament and Pentagon Spending, issued the following statement:

"A summit alone will not be a solution—but it can be a start. In the weeks up to and beyond this springtime of diplomacy, the United States must show even more of the courage that Presidents Trump and Moon have shown in seizing this opening. First and foremost the administration must repair and rebuild a State Department diplomatic infrastructure that has been hurt by so much neglect, derision, and retirement over the last year.

"America's history of engagement with a formidable Soviet adversary and a once-forbidden China proves that a single summit or the first few meetings will not break down complex national security challenges that have been years in the making. Many disappointments, insults, and frustrations still lie ahead. The history, both in the recent past and long ago, of missed opportunities and derailed negotiations between the United States and North Korea should lead all of us in the United States to act quickly to support efforts to use the summit to lead to negotiations and then progress in reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula.

"That same history also shows that the United States can confidently look to diplomacy and engagement as an essential part of a smart, tough strategy to secure its long-term national interests while avoiding the cataclysm that a modern war of mass destruction would bring.

"For its part, Congress must support the drive for diplomacy backed by our South Korean allies because it holds the best chance to maximize America's national security interests. We at FCNL are also urging Congress to pass legislation sponsored by Senator Murphy (S 2047) and Rep. Khanna (HR 4837) that makes clear in word and legislation that any choice to opt out of diplomacy and resort instead to war is a decision that Congress and the president must only make together."

ANTHONY WIER IS LEAD LOBBYIST AND THE DIRECTOR OF FCNL'S WORK ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY AND IS THE KEY TEAM LEADER WORKING ON OUR EFFORTS TO REIN IN PENTAGON SPENDING. HE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING FCNL'S NUCLEAR CALENDAR AND FOR REPRESENTING FCNL WITH THE VARIOUS COALITIONS THAT WORK ON THESE ISSUES.

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation, 3/9/18
<https://www.fcni.org/>
245 Second St, NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330

Bolton: a war criminal with terrorist ties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

weapons and bombs, the ultimate in planned obsolescence. No war, and the factories fall silent and the money-counting stops. People called "hawks" in Washington, a euphemism for "murderous maniacs," often get supported one way or another by the arms industry. Sometimes it is direct and their bank accounts should be exam-

ined.

Iran has never had a nuclear weapons program, and as long as the nuclear deal holds, it has no opportunity to develop them. It has no heavy water reactor. It has a limited number of centrifuges. It destroyed its stockpile of uranium enriched to 19.5% for its medical reactor. It is being actively inspected. No

country under active UN arms inspections has ever developed a bomb. Bolton wants to bomb Iran so badly that he does not care about these facts. He wanted to bomb Iran himself if he could, sort of like Slim Pickens in Dr. Strangelove. If not he wanted to have the Israelis do it. He has a list. He'd like to bomb nuclear-armed North Korea, too.

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists that keeps that clock showing how many minutes the world is away from a nuclear midnight can put it away. With Bolton's appointment, it is past midnight.

Source: Informed Comment 3/23/18
<https://www.juancole.com/>



Here's how the Trump administration has been quietly dismantling Obama's family planning policy

EMA O'CONNOR

In the past few months, the Department of Health and Human Services has steadily picked away at the Obama administration's carefully constructed family planning policy. Incrementally, the Trump administration is cutting Obama-era grant specifications and replacing them with language that benefits "faith-based organizations," abstinence-oriented programs, and "natural" family planning methods that don't involve hormonal or chemical contraceptives.

These changes themselves are subtle, but could end up having massive funding implications for health care organizations across the country. It is no secret that the Trump administration is stacked with advocates of socially conservative family planning beliefs. Just last week, at an event celebrating the anti-abortion advocacy group Susan B. Anthony List, Vice President Mike Pence told attendees that Trump was the "most pro-life president in American history" and he believes there have been more anti-abortion measures taken "in the last year ... than I have seen in public policy in all of my years." But because many of these policy changes were accomplished through small language tweaks, the aggregate effect has gone largely unnoticed by the public.

TITLE X

Most recently, HHS announced new, abstinence-oriented guidelines for Title X family planning grants, which give about \$260 million to health clinics and organizations that serve more than 4 million, primarily low-income patients across the country.

Under Obama, Title X family planning grant recipients were required to offer "a full range of FDA-approved contraceptive methods" — specifically naming long-acting ones like IUDs — and emphasized compliance with Center for Disease Control regulations that required "equity" of patient coverage and "culturally competent" delivery of services to adolescents, LGBT patients, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and "those with limited English fluency."

But the Trump administration's requirements do away with all of that language. The new guidelines released last month state that the "key issues" for the program are "cooperation with community based and faith-based organizations," as well as funding organizations that promote "activities for adolescents that do not normalize sexual risk behaviors, but instead clearly communicate the research informed benefits of delaying sex or returning to a sexually risk-free status." The only specific mention of a type of birth control is "natural family planning methods."

Abortion rights advocates fear these changes will drain funding from their organizations and ones they support, and funnel it into anti-abortion "crisis pregnancy centers," or other religiously-associated

organizations that don't provide contraception and promote abstinence until marriage.

When asked for comment, HHS pointed toward excerpts from their "Frequently Asked Questions" page that addressed contraception. According to that excerpt, the funding announcement "requires Title X projects to offer a broad range of voluntary family planning methods and services, including information, and education related to family planning preconception care, contraception, natural family planning, and infertility services." The services "range along a continuum" from "natural family planning and contraception to sterilization." Neither the FAQ nor the regulations they refer to name specific kinds of contraception or refer to protections of LGBT and minority patients.

The shift toward abstinence and away from contraceptives can in part be traced to the secretary for population affairs at HHS, Valerie Huber, who was president and CEO of Ascend, an organization that advocates for "sexual risk avoidance" and "sexual delay" — in other words promoting abstinence. These terms can now be found in HHS guidelines.

Under the new Title X guidelines, Huber will make all final calls on who is awarded the grants. This is the first time this responsibility has been left up to one person. Planned Parenthood vice president Dawn Laguens called this move "outrageous and dangerous" in a statement to BuzzFeed News Wednesday. "The Trump-Pence administration is handing [Huber] the future of the country's program for affordable birth control. It is unprecedented to give decision-making power for millions of dollars in family planning funding to just one individual, let alone someone who promotes abstinence only until marriage."

On the day of the funding announcement, Huber told press that Planned Parenthood and other organizations that provide abortions would not be restricted from applying for the grants. The goal of the changes, she said, was to expand funding availabilities to new types of organizations and to fill in geographic gaps in affordable family planning care.

The new guidelines also feature several new references to "fertility awareness," a category of "natural family planning" methods that consists of carefully tracking the menstrual cycle and either abstaining from sex or using condoms during periods of fertility. The method is sometimes used by women who have a negative reaction, aversion, or moral or religious opposition to chemical or hormonal contraception.

Marguerite Duane, the head of the natural family planning awareness group FACTS, told BuzzFeed News the day after the announcement that she was extremely pleased with the new guidelines, and felt that they would enable women to have cheap access to a larger range of family planning options.

"For the first time since Title X was

passed in 1970, there is a concerted effort being focused on providing the funding for actually being able to offer fertility awareness services to patients," she said.

Alina Salganicoff, vice president for Women's Health Policy of the Kaiser Family Foundation who advised Obama's HHS on essential preventive services for women, told BuzzFeed News that Title X-funded clinics always offered natural family planning counseling, as well as other contraceptive methods.

The Obama guidelines said providers should inform adolescents that "avoiding sex (i.e., abstinence) is an effective way to prevent pregnancy and STDs," but that if the adolescent states the intent to have sex, "providers should give information about contraception." The recommendations specifically named all FDA approved contraceptives, such as Intrauterine Devices (IUDs), the pill, patch, or ring, among others, which was a purposeful and significant addition to the requirements for grantees.

Salganicoff said that the push to educate women and providers about long-acting contraceptives was in part because of how difficult natural family planning methods are to use successfully. The guidelines under

Obama specifically outlined the effectiveness of different kinds of contraceptives versus abstinence and specified that the "rhythm method," misuse of condoms, and the "pull-out" method, put women "at a high risk of unintended pregnancy."

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, these methods result in pregnancy in 12 to 24 women out of 100 when used typically ("the way the average person does") within the first year. The CDC says that women "with conditions that make pregnancy an unacceptable risk" should avoid using fertility-based methods, "because of the relatively higher typical-use failure rates."

THE TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

In August, HHS announced that they were ending the "current implementation" of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and abruptly cut the full \$213.6 million in funding to all 81 of the grantees (which served more than a million teens across the country) two years before their grants were supposed to end.

Instead, HHS announced in November it would funnel \$10 million dollars into an effort to research questions about how to make the program more effective, such as: "Is it possible for youth who are currently engaged in risky be-

haviors to make healthier choices in the future?" and "What economic impact does sexual delay have on the individual and on society as a whole?"

In mid-February, three Planned Parenthood affiliates filed a lawsuit against HHS over the cuts to their TPP funding, arguing that it was a "politically motivated decision" that will and has already caused "irreparable harm to Plaintiffs and the high-need communities they serve," the lawsuit states.

These moves are by no means the first shots HHS has taken at Obama's liberal women's health policy. Very early on in the Trump administration, Pence cast a tie-breaking vote — his first — to allow states to strip Title X funding from organizations like Planned Parenthood that provide abortion, repealing an Obama-era rule that protected the funding. (Federal rules already prevent Title X funding from going toward abortion itself, instead it goes toward other services like contraception and cervical cancer screenings.)

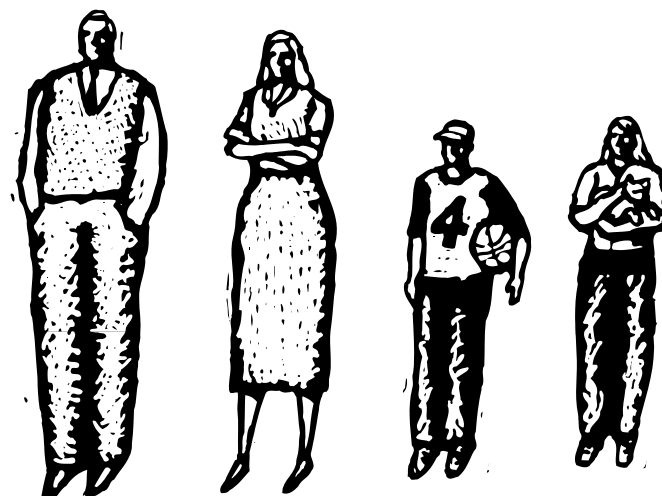
Then in October, HHS rolled back one of the Obama administration's biggest accomplishments in reproductive health, when it issued two new rules that enabled insurers or employers to stop providing insurance coverage for contraception for "religious" or "moral" reasons. This move triggered instant outrage and several state attorneys general quickly sued HHS over the rules. They are currently blocked nationwide under a judge's ruling.

Earlier this year, HHS opened an entire office devoted to fielding and acting on the complaints of health workers who don't want to perform abortions or sex-reassignment surgery for transgender patients.

These latest moves may have been quieter, but to abortion rights advocates they are no less serious. Jennifer Conti, a fellow with the advocacy group Physicians for Reproductive Health, called the funding changes a "quiet but direct attack."

"As a physician, I am concerned about the dire consequences this decision will undeniably have for the health of patients across the country."

Source: BuzzFeed 3/9/18 <https://www.buzzfeed.com/>





At UN Commission on Women Rights, Trump appointee pushes reproductive policies worse than Saudi Arabia's

JULIA CONLEY

Reproductive rights advocates on Friday denounced reports of an extremist Trump appointee pushing anti-choice policies at the United Nations' annual conference on women's rights. "Someone who doesn't respect American law and who opposes the principles of gender equality should not be empowered to negotiate on behalf of the U.S. government," Jessica Stern, executive director of OutRight Action International, told the */Independent/*, which first reported on statements made by Bethany Kozma, a USAID official at the Commission on the Status of Women on Thursday. "The U.S. government must prevent this wildcard from subverting American law in the negotiations."

Kozma, senior adviser in US-AID's Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, told other national delegations at the conference that the U.S. is "a pro-life country," and pushed for the elimination of the term "modern contraceptives" in the meeting's outcome document in order to promote abstinence-only education policies. One U.N. diplomat called Kozma's stated positions "shocking" and demonstrating a "weaker" policy on reproductive

rights than that of Saudi Arabia. While its record on women's rights has been condemned, contraceptive use is widely accepted in Saudi Arabia and is supported by the government, with nearly 75 percent of women using birth control in one study by the Center for Population Studies at King Saud University.

In the U.S., while states have taken steps to reduce access to abortion care in recent years and members of the Trump administration have expressed extreme anti-choice views, the population is largely in favor of

abortion access. A Pew Research Center poll found last year that 57 percent of Americans support abortion rights in most or all cases.

A YouGov poll taken in 2015 found that only 15 percent of Americans believe sex education should include information only on abstinence, while 66 percent said student should be taught about a wide variety of birth control and safety methods. "While previous Republican administrations took anti-choice and anti-abortion positions, they were still generally in line with accepted frameworks that recognised the importance and centrality of sexual and reproductive rights," Akila Radhakrishnan, acting president of the Global Justice Center, told the *Independent*.

Source: Common Dreams 3/23/18 <https://www.commondreams.org/>



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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 ; 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, 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

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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

Climate change 'impacts women more than men'

MARY HALTON

Women are more likely than men to be affected by climate change, studies show. UN figures indicate that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women. Roles as primary caregivers and providers of food and fuel make them more vulnerable when flooding and drought occur. The 2015 Paris Agreement has made specific provision for the empowerment of women, recognising that they are disproportionately impacted. In central Africa, where up to 90% of Lake Chad has disappeared, nomadic indigenous groups are particularly at risk. As the lake's shoreline recedes, women have to walk much further to collect water. "In the dry season, men go to the towns... leaving women to look after the community," explains Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, coordinator of the Association of Indigenous Women and People of Chad (AFPAT). With dry seasons now becoming longer, women are working harder to feed and care for their families without support. "They become more vulnerable... it's very hard work," Ibrahim recently told the BBC's 100 Women initiative.

A GLOBAL PROBLEM

It is not just women in rural areas who are affected. Globally, women are more likely to experience poverty, and to have less socioeconomic power than men. This makes it difficult to recover from disasters which affect infrastructure, jobs and housing. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, African American women were among the worst affected by flooding in Louisiana. As sea levels rise, low-lying cities like New Orleans will be increasingly at risk. "In New Orleans, there was much higher poverty

among the African American population before Katrina," says Jacquelyn Litt, professor of women's and gender studies at Rutgers University. "More than half the poor families in the city were headed by single mothers," she told BBC News. "[They] are reliant on interdependent community networks for their everyday survival and resources. The displacement that happened after Katrina essentially eroded those networks. It places women and their children at much greater risk." In the immediate aftermath of extreme events, emergency shelters can be inadequately equipped to support women. The Superdome, in which evacuees were temporarily housed after Hurricane Katrina, didn't have enough sanitary products for the women accommodated there. Increased incidences of violence against women, including sexual assault and rape, have also been documented in the wake of disasters.

'NATURAL' DISASTERS?

Much as climate change is accelerated by human behaviours, the impact of weather and climate events is influenced by societal structures. Disasters do not affect all people equally. In the wake of the 2004 tsunami, an Oxfam report found that surviving men outnumbered women by almost 3:1 in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India. While no one cause was clear, there were similar patterns across the region. Men were more likely to be able to swim, and women lost precious evacuation time trying to look after children and other relatives. Another study spanning 20 years noted that catastrophic events lowered women's life expectancy more than men; more women were being killed, or they were being

killed younger. In countries where women had greater socioeconomic power, the difference reduced.

HALF THE WORLD

In recognition of this vast disparity, governments and organisations working on climate change are gradually moving to include women's voices in policy and planning. The UN has highlighted the need for gender sensitive responses to the impacts of climate change, yet the average representation of women in national and global climate negotiating bodies is below 30%.

THE NUMBERS DON'T IMPROVE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

"Women are often not involved in the decisions made about the responses to climate change, so the money ends up going to the men rather than the women," environmental scientist Diana Liverman told the BBC's Science in Action programme on the World Service this week. As an author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), whose reports influence climate change policy, Liverman has been monitoring the numbers of women involved. Twenty-five percent of those nominated to participate in the next report are women. "IPCC has been very receptive to this and is actually discussing how they can support women better," explains Liverman. "Women are half the world. It's important they participate in all major decisions,"

"Climate change is not a fight for power," points out Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, "it's a fight for survival."

Source: BBC 3/10/18 www.bbc.com



'Outrageous': over half of \$1.3 trillion budget headed for more war-making

JESSICA CORBETT

Alarmed anti-war advocates are calling it "outrageous" that over half of the \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending deal rammed through the Senate in the early morning hours of Friday is heading directly to the Pentagon. The final deal contains \$700 billion in military and war spending. Peace advocates not only disapproved of the \$80 billion boost in military spending over the previous budget—they also pointed to how those funds could be used to better serve Americans.

As Diane Randall, executive secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL),

a Quaker lobby for peace and justice, put it: "While the Senate was deliberating on the spending bill late Thursday, Randall's group shared a *Nation* article that describes the Trump administration and GOP lawmakers' joint attack on safety net programs, which includes 'a proposal to punish immigrants for participating in programs like Head Start; closing a Department of Justice office that was created to make legal aid more accessible; repealing guidance to judges that suggested they consider an individual's ability to pay a fine before allowing her to languish in jail; imposing work requirements

and time limits on people who need assistance with healthcare, housing, or food."

As the Republican lawmakers and president aim to make it harder for poor Americans to get by, the \$700 billion in defense spending, as *CNBC* outlines, "will be spread over the Pentagon's base budget of \$589.5 billion and \$65.2 billion for the overseas contingency operations," which pays for U.S. operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Africa, and elsewhere.

It specifically allocates \$144.3 billion for military equipment, including Navy ships, F-35 and F/A-18 fighter jets, and the Mis-

sile Defense Agency. *CNBC* notes that "the defense-friendly bill also provides \$238 billion for operations and maintenance, \$89.2 billion for research and development, and \$137.7 billion for personnel pay—a 2.4 percent increase from fiscal year 2017."

This win for the Defense Department—and by extension, its private contractors—comes as Trump has announced that war-monger John Bolton will take over as the president's national security adviser early next month.

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Spending bill continues to leave dreamers behind

HANNAH GRAF EVANS

Congress passed a \$1.3 trillion package to fund the government through the rest of this fiscal year. Included in this package is money for the Department of Homeland Security, the agency that carries out detention, deportation, and border enforcement. While the spending bill included many harmful provisions, FCNL and advocates nationwide helped stop some of the most dangerous proposals.

The spending bill does not include a permanent fix for Dreamers or other undocumented members of our communities – which FCNL was pushing for Congress to enact without expanding immigration enforcement. Annual spending on immigration detention, deportation, and border enforcement hovers around \$20 billion annually, and the bill includes additional money for detention, investigative enforcement agents, and to continue harmful fencing and barriers between southern border communities.

•However, negotiators held the line against many of

the worst proposals and increases requested by President Trump.

Congress rejected the requested expansion of immigrant detention, which is already at a historic high. They included oversight language to push ICE to detain fewer people on a daily basis, encouraging ICE to utilize alternatives to detention. Congress also rejected additional border patrol agents and ICE agents whose sole purpose is to deport immigrants. This deal comes on the heels of more than four hundred young adults lobbying Congress to reject extreme immigration enforcement and immediately enact a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth.

•Hannah Graf Evans, FCNL's lobbyist on immigration stated, "The congressional conversation has totally changed about immigration enforcement. More elected officials are pushing back against expanding the machinery behind deportation, detention, and harmful border enforcement than ever before. Still, congressional inaction

paired with new funding leaves millions of people – including future Dream Act beneficiaries – at risk of imminent detention and deportation. Congress should be ashamed that they've abdicated their responsibility to permanently protect Dreamers yet again. The vast majority of the country still wants Congress to enact a pathway to citizenship for undocumented young Americans immediately. As Congress discusses funding for next fiscal year and heads into election season, the hundreds of young adults who joined us this week will continue holding Congress accountable to that demand. The tides are shifting, and we will continue to push Congress to prioritize protection over deportation."

HANNAH GRAF EVANS IS LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE, IMMIGRATION AND DOMESTIC POLICY AND LOBBIES FOR COMPASSIONATE IMMIGRATION POLICIES.

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation 3/23/18
<https://www.fcnl.org>



\$30 million for "Trump's vanity military parade" nothing compared to \$5.6 trillion spent on endless war since 2001

JON QUEALLY

A mere drop in the bucket in terms of wasteful spending by the U.S. military—which since 2001 includes an estimated \$5.6 trillion spent on what the world has come to know as America's "Global War on Terror"—the Pentagon on Friday released details of the military parade ordered by President Trump that will take place on November 11, Veterans Day, later this year—a spectacle described by anti-war critics as "a gross example of [the president's] narcissism" and estimated to cost somewhere in the range of \$30 million.

The Pentagon says there will be no tanks involved—"consideration must be given to minimize damage to local infrastructure"—but the parade, which will go from the White House to the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., will include large "wheeled vehicles," a "heavy air component," and the president himself (who infamously received multiple deferments, including one for bone spurs, to avoid serving in the Vietnam War) "surrounded" by decorated veterans in the reviewing

area.

When the idea of the parade was first floated last year, peace advocates denounced it as "totally disgusting" and Medea Benjamin, co-founder of the peace group CodePink, said all efforts should be made "to stop this colossal waste of money and display of authoritarianism."

While pro-war hawks and pundits at *FOX News* and elsewhere are downright giddy over the idea, veterans groups have actually been some of the loudest opponents of the parade. But while many have argued such a parade is simply a waste of money, the reality is that the cost—estimated at \$10 million on the low end and \$50 million at the upper end—is infinitesimal compared to the financial outlays made by the Pentagon since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the illegal war and occupation of Iraq that began in 2003, and the drone wars and smaller conflicts in dozens of countries now that the U.S. considers nearly the entire planet a battlefield in its 'global war on terror' (GWOT).

"Progressives must oppose the parade,

wrapped up as a tribute to veterans, since we know that the best way to show support for veterans is to stop war. And we have to counter it with a massive peace parade."—Medea Benjamin, CodePinkAccording to Benjamin, "the \$30 million estimated price tag of Trump's vanity military parade is minor when compared to the \$700 billion annual military budget or the trillions the US has spent on war since 9/11."

In an email to *Common Dreams* on Saturday, she argued the "real cost" of Trump's parade is how it "ramps up the glorification of militarism, priming the US public for continuing the endless wars we are already in as well as potential new wars. Perhaps Iran? Progressives must oppose the parade, wrapped up as a tribute to veterans, since we know that the best way to show support for veterans is to stop war. And we have to counter it with a massive peace parade."

Detailed in the latest comprehensive estimate put out by 'Costs of War'—a project of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown

University—the U.S. (from 2001 through 2018) has spent a total of \$5.6 trillion on these various overseas misadventures.

And while these totals speak nothing about the human costs of war—both to the civilian victims of U.S. armed forces around the globe and the lives of U.S. soldiers lost or shattered by 17 years of conflict—they certainly make most uproar over the cost of Trump's parade appear misplaced.

Notably, in addition to the \$5.6 trillion, the analysis estimates that because large portions of the GWOT budget were paid for with borrowed funds, those wanting a more complete picture of the total costs of the wars—including payment for veterans' medical and disability needs which will stretch out to the year 2056—should add another \$7.9 trillion on top.

Just think of the parade a country could throw with that. Sadly, like the war-making it is meant to celebrate, it could be one that never ends.

Source: Common Dreams 3/10/18
<https://www.commondreams.org/>



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

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As Trump threats stir global arms race, new report details the nuclear war profiteers

ANDREA GERMANOS

A new report offers a comprehensive look at who's profiting from the new nuclear arms race. "If you have been wondering who benefits from Donald Trump's threats of nuclear war, this report has that answer," said Beatrice Fihn, executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), winner of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

ICAN, along with Netherlands-based peace group Pax, released the report, entitled "Don't Bank on the Bomb" on Wednesday. It shows that 329 financial institutions in 24 countries invested \$525 billion into the top 20 companies involved in the production, maintenance, and modernization of nuclear weapons from January 2014 through October 2017.

The good news is that the number of investors marks 30 fewer institutions than in last year's report. Yet despite the shorter list, the institutions are investing about \$81 billion more in these companies that make weapons of mass destruction. The increased funds, added with the fact that the nuclear-armed states are "modernizing" their arsenals as well as bellicose rhetoric from world leaders

like Trump, make clear the need for the global public to campaign for divestment, the groups argue.

The report's "Hall of Shame" shows the top 10 financial institutions with the biggest investments in nuclear weapons manufacturing—all U.S. firms—are: BlackRock, Capital Group, Vanguard, State Street, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup, Evercore, Wells Fargo, and Goldman Sachs. These institutions accounted for nearly half (\$253 billion) of the total investments made.

The top three nuclear weapons producers, by investments, are also all based in the U.S.: Boeing, Honeywell International, and Lockheed Martin.

Those corporations, and the 17 others that are most heavily involved in nuclear weapons making, stated Fihn, "are the companies that stand to profit from indiscriminate mass murder of civilians. We grow less safe while they cash in on chaos by banking on Armageddon."

The report offers more than doom-and-gloom, however, as it describes the landmark Treaty on the Prohibi-



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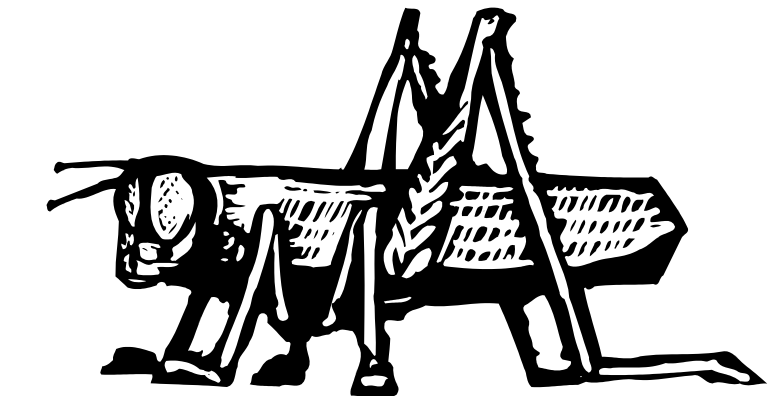
California court blocks state agriculture department from spraying pesticides

MAUREEN NANDINI MITRA

In a win for environmental and public health advocates, a California court has halted a program that allows the state agriculture department to spray pesticides on public and private property without proper notice to the public about its intention to spray or adequate study of the possible adverse impacts of the chemicals used.

The court order, which came late last week, was in response to a lawsuit brought by 11 environmental and public health groups—including the Environmental Working Group, Center for Food Safety, Pesticide Action Network North America, Center for Biological Diversity, and Moms Advocating Sustainability – and the city of Berkeley.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program, which is supposed to control outbreaks of invasive plant pests, gave the agency the license to use 79 pesticides – including some known to cause cancer and birth defects and to be highly toxic to bees, butterflies, and



other wildlife – anywhere it the state. The “anywhere” included school grounds, public parks, near organic farms, and even in private backyards.

The agriculture department uses the program to control pests such as the Asian citrus psyllid, which can infect citrus trees with a bacteria that has been wreaking havoc on citrus farms in Florida. Since the program was adopted in 2014, the agency has carried out more than 1,000 treatments across the state, spraying pesticides such as chlorpyrifos, neonicotinoids, methyl bromide, and chloropicrin, which are known for their toxicity.

The lawsuit sought

to halt the program citing “far-reaching flaws in the state’s analysis of the environmental harm” caused by the use of these pesticides, and the agriculture department’s decades-long history of avoiding talking about the public health and environmental risks of the pesticides it uses by repeatedly granting itself emergency exemptions from environmental laws.

Environmental and public health activists have for years been trying to persuade the agency to shift to less toxic pest control alternatives to no avail. “The lawsuit was born out of concerns about flagrant pesticide spraying, rather than sensible pesticide policy,” says Paul Towers, spokesperson for Pesticide Action Network North America. “State officials attempted to write themselves a blank check for 30 years to use harmful pesticides wherever they wanted.”

California Superior Court Judge Timothy W. Frawley issued the injunction against the pest prevention program last Friday, following his January ruling that the program violated numerous state laws.

In his January ruling, Judge Frawley said the agriculture department had been relying on “unsupported assumptions and speculation” to conclude that pesticides would not contaminate water bodies. The ruling cited the state’s “woefully deficient” analysis of the cumulative danger of increasing the more than 150 million pounds of pesticides already used in

California each year.

The ruling halts the program until the state develops a system to give adequate public notice of its pesticide use activities and offer citizens more opportunities to comment on them. “The judge’s ruling requires the department to adopt a tailored review and provide tailored solutions to each pest problem,” Towers adds.

The agriculture department issued a brief statement on Monday saying it might appeal the ruling.

“The decision in EWG Plaintiffs vs. CDFA compels the state agriculture agency to reformulate its pesticide policies to restore the balance, as California law requires,” Environmental Working Group President Ken Cook, a resident of Marin County, said in a statement. “For too long the state’s own widespread pesticide spraying has been driven by agribusiness demands, without adequate consideration of the impacts on human health and the environment.”

EWG also pointed out that California’s agriculture department has a long history of working to downplay the risks pesticides pose to human health. In 2010, the agency gave a \$180,000 grant to a chemical agriculture front group, the Alliance for Food and Farming, to attack EWG’s Shopper’s Guide to Pesticides in Produce.

**MAUREEN NANDINI MITRA
IS EDITOR OF EARTH ISLAND
JOURNAL.**

Source: Earth Island Journal
3/4/18 www.truth-out.org

Getting ready for a summer garden

SHAYNE ZURILGEN - PUENTES FARM

Still having winter dreams of bell peppers, tomatillos and eggplants? Well the time to prepare for them is now. We are rapidly approaching the last days of potential frost. But that doesn’t mean there aren’t things you can do now to be getting ready for that summer feast.

START SEEDS INDOORS

Plant seeds in flats or other small containers indoors. Put them in a south facing window or, better yet, under a UV light in a warm room. If you can get those plants up to three or four inches before you put them in the ground they will be much stronger and better able to endure pests and diseases once in the garden. Allow these plants some time to harden off. That means put them outside a week or so before planting them. Bring them back in at night the first few days and then leave them out for a couple full nights. This ensures that your plants are adjusted to cooler night temperatures.

TEST YOUR SOIL

While you are waiting for your transplants to develop conduct a soil test in your garden. Don’t bother

with those simple tests from the home improvement store. There are several labs that will do the analysis for around \$30. I am a fan of A and L Western Labs in Modesto. They provide an easy to read graph that lets you see what is good and what needs to improve in your soil. When you get the report it will have some recommendations for how you should amend. They also make a soil expert available for you to call if you need more translation. Their website tells you how to collect and mail in a sample for analysis. Find them at <http://www.al-labs-west.com/>

CLEAN AND SHARPEN TOOLS

If your hula hoe, shovel or pruners have been getting rusty in the shed all winter, now is a good time to get them ready. Use a wire brush to knock off any dirt or rust from the business end. Then use a file or bench grinder to clean up the edge. These tools perform much better when sharp. A bucket of wet sand to run your tools through after each use will prevent them from rusting as well. Use linseed oil on wood handles to prevent them from splitting due to exposure.

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Judge OKs waiving environmental laws to build U.S.-Mexico border wall

On Tuesday, a federal judge in California ruled that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not abuse its authority in waiving dozens of environmental laws to build sections of wall along the border between the U.S. and Mexico. The ruling frees the department to waive laws for future border wall construction projects.

In August and September the department waived more than 30 laws, including key environmental laws, to expedite construction of three border wall projects in California. The projects include the construction of eight wall prototypes, now completed, and the replacement of two sections of existing border fencing.

Judge Gonzalo Curiel consolidated three separate lawsuits against the Department of Homeland Security that were initially filed by the state of California, a consortium of NGOs (Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund), and the NGO Center for Biological Diversity. The suits contend that the department exceeded the authority Congress granted it, via legislation dating back to 1996, to waive laws for border infrastructure construction, and that it violated environmental laws and the constitution in the process. Judge Curiel's 101-page ruling on the consolidated cases threw out those arguments, finding that the department's actions are valid.

Currently about one third of the roughly 2,000-mile-long U.S.-Mexico border has fencing. President Trump has pushed to fortify the remainder, saying it is necessary to prevent the flow of drugs and undocumented immigrants over the border. But he has since indicated that he might accept a less complete structure.

Trump responded to the ruling on Twitter on

"The Trump administration has completely overreached its authority in its rush to build this destructive, senseless wall,"

Tuesday: "Big legal win today. U.S. judge sided with the Trump Administration and rejected the attempt to stop the government from building a great Border Wall on the Southern Border. Now this important project can go forward!"

But the next day he declared that he would delay further wall construction in California until the entire project gains approval. It remains uncertain whether Congress will fund the president's border wall project. The issue was wrapped up in heated negotiations over broad immigration reforms last month, but the discussions have stalled out after a looming deadline evaporated. Congress now appears to have moved on to other topics.

Brian Segee, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the plaintiffs in the case decided this week, said the group plans to appeal the ruling, according to the Los Angeles Times.

"The Trump administration has completely overreached its authority in its rush to build this destructive, senseless wall," Segee told the paper. "They're giving unprecedented, sweeping power to an unelected agency chief to ignore dozens of laws and crash through hundreds of miles of spectacular borderlands. This is unconstitutional and shouldn't be allowed to stand."

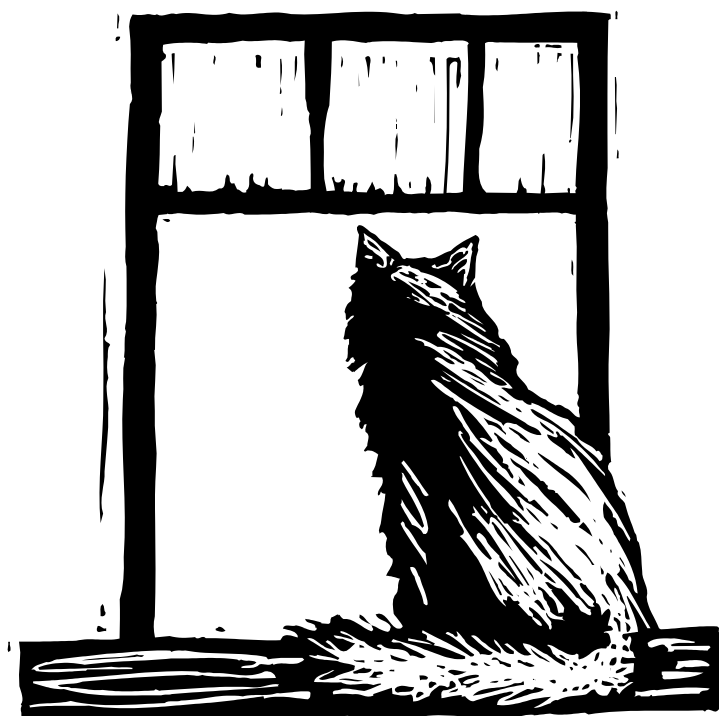
The President's border wall proposal has been intensely controversial, with the Mexican government and numerous local governments and civil society groups opposing the wall on practical, humanitarian, and environmental grounds.

Conservationists say the existing border infrastructure, most of it erected under former U.S. President George W. Bush, has disrupted ecosystem connectivity and harmed borderland wildlife populations that rely on habitats in both countries. Low barriers that most species can cross well enough traverse about 300 miles of the border. But tall walls that stop all but the smallest non-flying animals in their tracks run along another 405 miles.

Conservationists have issued dire warnings about the potential impact of a wall traversing the entire border. Numerous species would be negatively affected, including bison, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, bears, foxes, salamanders, and even certain bird species, they say. "President Trump insists on constructing a wall along the entire border: if he achieves making this a reality this barrier will rewrite the biological history of North America. A history that for millennia allowed animals to travel along the grasslands and forests from Mexico to Canada," Rurik List, an ecologist at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Lerma in Mexico, wrote in an issue of *Jornada Ecológica* this summer. "The future of the bison and many other species that the two countries share is at stake at the border."

The current case drew widespread attention because Trump targeted Curiel in 2016, claiming the Indiana-born judge could not preside fairly over a lawsuit against Trump University because he was "Mexican."

Source: Mongabay 3/1/18
https://news.mongabay.com/



Replacing original windows: a big mistake

ROBERT OAKES

Vinyl retrofit windows are this century's aluminum siding that owners of Victorian homes so eagerly purchased in the middle of the last century to give their homes an "updated" look. Later generations, who appreciated the original detail of the homes, removed the aluminum siding and had the gingerbread details remanufactured. Retrofit vinyl windows are worse. The payback for retrofit vinyl windows is terrible, the aesthetic degradation of an original home is nearly irreplaceable, and they require the use of precious raw materials and energy to manufacture, ship, and install. Worse, the old windows have to be thrown away in landfills. New retrofit vinyl window are an environmentally hostile act, even before considering that original windows can last for the life of the building, while vinyl retrofit windows have a 20-30 year life-cycle.

THE MYTH DISPELLED

Most energy loss results from the window frame and air gaps, not through the glass. New weather stripping, sealant, and the installation of replaceable interior cellular blinds has a rate of return that is double that of new retrofit vinyl windows. Replacing original windows requires creating new areas that need to be sealed. Since all seals fail and need to be replaced, retrofit vinyl windows have increase the places where heat or cold can escape or penetrate. At the very least, they increase the long-term upkeep required to assure a tight envelope around the living space.

When new, replacement windows increase a home's energy efficiency by 5%-15%. Part of this efficiency is created by having less glass and more plastic that blocks light and fundamentally changes the appearance and human experience of the space. Some studies estimate that it will take the average homeowner 100 years of increased energy efficiency from replacement windows to justify their costs.

Considering that vinyl windows have a 20-30 year lifecycle, only one-third of their cost is recovered during their useful life. That's a bad deal. It is also horrible for the environment. Retrofit vinyl windows have a 20-30 year life; that's three or four sets of windows in any 100 year cycle. All those old windows must be tossed into landfills, where it will take centuries for the plastic to biodegrade.

BETTER AND CHEAPER

Replacement windows often destroy the original aesthetic of a home. The charm of original windows in any color available from the paint store is not equal to white or tan plastic framed windows with fake grids inside the glass. If the replacement windows are cheap and/or alter the charm and character of the home, they may also diminish the resale value of the home. New windows cost money twice: once when installed, and again when they harm the value of the home at time of sale. As they age, they also require more maintenance, while having lost any energy efficiency they offered when new.

Keep your original windows. Insulate the attic and crawl-space or basement. Reseal your existing windows and clean or repair their sliders to assure a tight fit. Install new weather stripping around your doors. Put insulation pads behind your electrical outlets along exterior walls. Install glass reflective surface film on glass. Install insulating interior cellular shades. These are far less costly than new windows. They also offer greater energy efficiency.

Preserving original windows preserves the character and charm of your home, gives you more color options, saves you money, and is better for the environment. Saving your original windows won't require the use of new plastics or energy to manufacture, ship, and install new ones. Maintaining your original windows also means you won't be adding garbage to landfills.



This is history now: is the "American Dream" over for black boys?

WRENETHA JULION

As a parent of three children, including one son, I have witnessed Black boys start to lose interest in their studies in elementary school.

Years ago, I walked down the hall of my neighborhood Chicago public school, and outside one classroom sat a little boy on the floor. He had been kicked out of the classroom by his teacher and relegated to a space on the floor in the hallway. I don't know how long he sat there, but I do know time spent in the hallway was time away from learning.

Author Jawanza Kunjufu in his book, *Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys* refers to the "fourth grade failure syndrome," when Black boys begin to lose interest in school. Unfortunately, this may also be a time that schools, teachers and administrators also lose interest in Black boys. Forty percent of Black boys in urban public schools drop out of high school. Boys who drop out of school are more likely to enter the school-to-prison pipeline by becoming involved in criminal activity or simply being outside of supervised, structured environments that can help to shield them from crime

and danger.

The recent video showing young Black elementary school students in Atlanta exuberantly dancing on tables after hearing they would be guests at a showing of the movie *Black Panther* is both an amusing distraction and a reminder of how we have failed Black boys in school and beyond.

The Marvel comics film has earned more than \$500 million at the box office to date, and its predominantly Black cast centers on a good-versus-evil battle of a villain whose rage is fueled by the pain of his childhood, against the *Black Panther*, who wants the best for his people.

Placed in *Wakanda*, a fictional African country emerging from its seclusion, it is a metaphor for young Black children -- particularly males -- to symbolically emerge from the sidelines to claim their rightful place in the US. But contrary to the success of the fictional King T'Challa and his brilliant nemesis Killmonger, who graduated from MIT at the age of 19, children remain in the shadows of educational systems that are failing Black boys in particular.

Since 1968, the US Department of Education's

Office for Civil Rights has collected mandatory data from all public schools on civil rights indicators related to access and barriers to educational opportunity from early childhood through high school.

Data on disparities in discipline, access to high-level math and science courses, and availability of experienced teachers in the classroom has remained intractable. For example, Black students are twice as likely to be expelled without educational services than white children. Moreover, Black children are also twice as likely as white students to be disciplined by law enforcement.

To be sure, barriers to educational equity for Black boys is not the sole purview of public schools. Private institutions can also be complicit.

A recent piece in the *Grio* tells the story of Josh Crayton, a senior at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Ohio, who was expelled five months before graduation for allegedly "raising his voice" at his white English teacher.

Since adolescence is known to be a developmental period where youth are prone to make mistakes, it is particularly important that teachers

are in tune and skilled at teaching Black boys in urban communities. Regrettably, the route to prosperity via education is not played on a level field. For many Black boys growing up in urban and impoverished neighborhoods, an equitable and quality education is elusive. Factors such as teacher preparation, large teaching loads in understaffed schools with lower economic resources and teacher expectations about the ability of their students to succeed can contribute to sub-optimal outcomes for Black boys. Similar circumstances may also contribute to the fact that Black boys are more likely to be placed in special education classes, and less likely to be classified as "gifted." Black boys are also more likely to be punished more harshly than other

students for the same rule infractions.

One answer is to hire more Black teachers because students of color do better when taught by teachers of color. The US teacher workforce is 80 percent white, so additional solutions are needed. White teachers must be intentional about learning cultural competency skills that enable them to adjust their unconscious bias to see their students clearly. But they need not to just see Black boys; they can actively immerse themselves in the communities where they work so that they understand the contexts of the lives of children, families and communities.

White women are the largest demographic of the teaching workforce, and authors Moore, Michael and Penick-Parks in their 2017 book *The Guide for White Women who Teach Black Boys* are explicit in their guidance for teachers by stripping away the illusion that the race of teachers and students doesn't matter. This book teaches white educators to foster learning environments that help Black boys thrive in school, change school culture so that Black boys can be their authentic selves and recognize their unconscious biases to truly connect with Black boys.

Far too often, when it comes to Black boys and men, the answer to societal woes is to invest more in the criminal legal system than educational equity. Recent University of California-Los Angeles protests were directed

toward Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel for proudly taking credit for a brand new multimillion dollar Police Training Academy while simultaneously closing high schools in Black neighborhoods. This is another example of Black boys facing discrimination and ongoing disadvantage.

As a nurse, I have also seen the devastating impact on the physical and psychological well-being of Black boys and men when this society does not value who they are or what they have to contribute to this world. To combat the real-life inadequacies we give to Black boys, we must offer appropriately prepared teachers and equitable educational options for students, rather than limiting the opportunities and possibilities for students of color. This is real, and no Marvel superhero, no matter how popular, is going to change the landscape for us. We have to care. We have to act.

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As Trump threats stir global arms race, new report details the nuclear war profiteers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

tion of Nuclear Weapons as being a catalyst for positive change. Since its adoption last year, ABP, the fifth largest pension fund, and the Norwegian Government Pension Fund, globally the 2nd largest pension fund, announced they would no longer put their assets into nuclear weapons-making companies.

Another sign of hope, the report states, are the 22 institutions listed on the "Hall of Fame" that have policies preventing investments in nuclear weapon producers. The list includes for the first time a U.S.-based institution called Green Century, a sustainability-geared investment firm that has roughly \$525 million in assets under management. All the other hall-of-famers are based in Europe.

According to report author Susi Snyder, the "Nuclear Ban Treaty has sparked momentum towards divestment, shown by 10 percent fewer investors in nuclear weapon producers, and an increase in financial institutions comprehensively prohibiting any investment. Investments are

not neutral, these companies should be congratulated for standing on the side of humanity."

The big picture from all the data, the report says, is this: "By divesting from nuclear weapon producers, we can make it harder for those that profit from weapons of mass destruction and encourage them to cut the production of nuclear weapons from their business strategies. Producing, possessing, and modernizing nuclear weapons is not something to be proud of and 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' names those that are still okay with trying to make a profit from producing nuclear weapons, our job is to shame them."

The report urges the public to take action, whether by just raising public awareness of financial institutions' role in abetting nuclear arms production or by organizing protests.

"When the world is closer to nuclear war than ever," Fihn writes, "we need to make sure that no one should profit from this terror."

Source: *Common Dreams* 3/7/18 <https://www.commondreams.org/>

Source: *Truthout* 3/11/18 www.truth-out.org



At new health office, civil rights mean doctors can say no to patients

EMMARIE HUETTEMAN

The Trump administration is embarking on a sweeping effort to redefine civil rights in health care, with critics accusing the Department of Health and Human Services of sidestepping the rights of patients to soothe a far smaller constituency: conservative nurses, hospitals and other caregivers.

The department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has been greatly strengthening and expanding protections for health care providers who have religious- or conscience-based objections to procedures such as abortion. By way of explanation, officials cite 36 complaints OCR received from, or on behalf of, those working in the health care system from President Donald Trump's election through early January of alleged affronts to religious beliefs and moral convictions -- up from 10 such complaints it had fielded since 2008. What officials did not mention is that those 36 complaints pale against the more than 30,000 total complaints that OCR received during 2017, according to the agency's latest budget request's latest budget request; most involved alleged breaches of privacy or discrimination against patients.

"Times are changing," Roger Severino, OCR's director, said in a speech in January. "And we are institutionalizing a change in the culture of government, beginning with HHS, to never forget that religious freedom is a primary freedom; that it is a civil right; that it deserves complete enforcement and respect."

During the Obama administration, OCR operated under a two-pronged, patient-centric mission: to protect civil rights and health information privacy. The office focused on a part of the Affordable Care Act known as Section 1557, which, for the first time, barred providers who receive federal funding from discriminating on the basis of gender identity.

But the new, wide-ranging proposal to strengthen conscience protections at OCR involves the creation of a division, hiring of staff and re-evaluation of which civil rights it will protect. Overseen by Severino, who has deep ties to the religious right, the makeover appears radical, one that critics worry will jeopardize the care of pregnant women and transgender individuals, as well as others who could be denied certain procedures. Officials spent months quietly rethinking policies and plans for enforcement, Severino has said, preparing to remake the office as a guardian of objections to abortion, sterilization and physician-assisted death, for example.

"Administrations are able to come in and put their own stamp and agenda on how they see policy. And that is politics. That is politics as usual," said Mary Alice Carter, executive director of a new watchdog group called Equity Forward. "But the core issue here is we have individuals coming in who fundamentally don't believe in the very mission they're serving. They are coming in with the agenda of burning it down."

Trump's selection of Severino -- a former Justice Department lawyer who most recently researched religious issues at the conservative Heritage Foundation -- signaled the changes in store. In 2016, he co-authored a paper that argued OCR's interpretation of Section 1557 as barring discrimination based on gender identity threatened health care providers who "as a matter of faith, moral conviction, or professional medical judgment, believe that maleness and femaleness are biological realities to be respected and affirmed, not altered or treated as diseases."

In an interview, Severino said the goal is to achieve "parity" in civil rights, enforcing existing laws passed by Republicans and Democrats alike to ensure those with moral objections are not excluded from the health care field.

In January, Severino unveiled the agency's Con-

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—MARY ALICE CARTER,
DIRECTOR OF EQUITY FORWARD

science and Religious Freedom Division, which will have equal standing with OCR's existing Civil Rights and Health Information Privacy divisions, right down to getting its own staff and a director. Previously, conscience complaints from health care providers were reviewed alongside other discrimination complaints by the Civil Rights Division.

Last week, an HHS spokesperson said the office had received at least 40 more conscience-related complaints from providers in the weeks since the division opened, part of what the spokesperson characterized as "a clear surge" in such complaints under the Trump administration.

Under the proposed rule outlining HHS' plans, the division would collect and investigate complaints filed by health care professionals and entities, in addition to reviewing the policies of HHS and its partners to make sure they comply with a slew of conscience-protection laws. If any recipient of federal funding is found to have violated the law, HHS "would consider all legal options." That could include cutting off federal funds, taking back previously allocated funds or even referring the culprit to federal law enforcement officials.

That means a hospital that forces a nurse to participate in a vasectomy against her religious objections to sterilization, for instance, could risk having its federal funding revoked. But beyond objections to abortion and sterilization in particular -- which have some explicit protections under federal law -- it is murky which complaints HHS would deem valid. For example, it is unclear whether conscience-protection laws would shield a primary care doctor who refused to prescribe pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, which drastically lowers the risk of contracting HIV and is often used by gay men.

Severino rejected the notion that his office is elevating the concerns of a small group of conservative, Christian health care providers above others. In an interview, he argued HHS is early in the normal regulatory process and will work out the practicalities of how to balance the rights of providers with the rights of those they have sworn to treat as it reviews comments from the public and finalizes its proposal.

"We're about increasing access for everybody," Severino said. "And part of increasing access for all is making sure we have a diverse set of providers for people."

Hinting at the scope of the changes in store, officials filed notices in January rewriting OCR's mission statement to emphasize conscience and religious free-

dom and empowering Severino to implement related laws. Jocelyn Samuels, a former Justice Department civil rights lawyer who led OCR under Obama, said the office's latest efforts suggest officials are setting the stage for an unprecedented expansion in the ability of providers to deny care. The recent changes, she said, "presage a commitment to invest more resources in protecting people's rights to deny care than promoting expansions of access to care."

Already, OCR has reversed decisions of its Obama-era predecessor. In 2016, for example, OCR concluded that a California law requiring that health insurance plans include coverage for elective abortions did not violate the Weldon Amendment -- a measure barring federal funding to those that discriminate against professionals or institutions for not providing, or otherwise assisting patients in obtaining, abortions.

In a call with members of the conservative Federalist Society in February, Severino said OCR no longer stood by that 2016 decision.

OCR has also said it will not enforce Section 1557's protections based on gender identity -- the same protections Severino railed against in his 2016 paper -- as well as its protections based on "termination of pregnancy." Officials have attributed that decision to an injunction by a federal judge.

Asked whether the conscience-protection efforts would shield those who object to hormone therapy or other treatments for transgender patients, Severino told Federalist Society members the office was abiding by the judge's injunction "to the fullest extent." He added that he had never heard of anyone citing conscience-protection laws in such a case.

In the waning days of George W. Bush's presidency in 2008, HHS introduced a rule that would prohibit discrimination against those who refuse to perform abortion or other procedures on religious or moral grounds, as well as established a way to file related complaints to OCR. The Obama administration replaced it with a more narrowly tailored rule.

However, the big-picture efforts by the Trump administration have gone further than that Bush administration rule -- a point underscored by a note in the proposed rule that explicitly grants OCR "full enforcement authority over a significantly larger universe of Federal statutes" protecting religious- and conscience-based objections than the 2008 rule. Some have greeted the change with open arms, praising HHS for abandoning what Severino called the "outright hostility" of the Obama years. Said Everett Piper, the president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, an evangelical Christian school that sued to be exempted from the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employer insurance plans cover contraceptives: "I just want to say how good it is to be here thanking Health and Human Services and the Office of Civil Rights rather than suing them."

EMMARIE HUETTEMAN IS A CONTRIBUTOR AT KHN. BEFORE THAT SHE WORKED AT THE NEW YORK TIMES, WHERE SHE COVERED CONGRESS WITH A FOCUS ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND, MOST RECENTLY, THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO RUSSIAN MEDDLING IN THE 2016 ELECTION. IN 2015, SHE REPORTED FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE NASCENT REFUGEE CRISIS IN GERMANY AS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR JOURNALISTS' ARTHUR F. BURNS FELLOWSHIP. A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, EMMARIE ALSO HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING FROM NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S MEDILL SCHOOL, WHERE SHE WORKED ON AN AWARD-WINNING REPORTING PROJECT ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

Source: Kaiser Health News 3/11/18
www.truth-out.org



Senators made history by holding vote to end illegal US war in Yemen

KATE GOULD

"Today, 44 senators made history by supporting the first-ever vote on withdrawing U.S. armed forces from an unauthorized war. While the Senate missed this opportunity to end the war, it is a welcome development that 44 senators took an important step toward restoring congressional authority over decisions on war and peace, as required by the Constitution, and toward ending U.S. collusion in the famine-inducing Saudi-led war in Yemen. On the very same day the Saudi Crown Prince visited the White House and Capitol Hill, this historic vote sent a crystal clear message that U.S. complicity in the Saudi-led slaughter of Yemeni men, women, and children must end. It is fitting that this historic vote occurred on the 15th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, a sobering reminder of the catastrophic consequences of the decision to go to

war. Since that fateful day, it is staggering how rarely Congress has voted on or debated U.S. wars around the globe. The Sanders-Lee-Murphy legislation forced the Senate to both debate and vote on a war that the U.S. has waged in the shadows for three years.

Despite Trump's White House and Saudi-funded lobbyists teaming up to run a full-court press on Capitol Hill, the momentum to end this war continues to build. Opponents of this legislation took to the floor today to argue in favor of ending this famine-inducing war, and justified their vote on the grounds of favoring action in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) over S.J. Res. 54. We look forward to working with SFRC leadership and members to ensure that meaningful action is taken, which the committee has failed to do for more than three years.

This debate, as well as the courageous vote by 44

senators, is owed in no small part to the indomitable power of citizen activists in every state who generated tens of thousands of calls and emails to ensure

Yemen topped every senator's agenda. The groundswell of grassroots activism to end this war is not going to let up until this illegal war ends, and U.S. pilots stop fueling U.S.-made bombers to rein down U.S.-made bombs on schools, hospitals and neighborhoods. The U.S. must stop literally fueling the deliberate killing and starvation of countless civilians in Yemen, and support a peaceful solution to end this crisis."

KATE GOULD IS FCNL'S LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST POLICY. KATE IS ONE OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF REGISTERED LOBBYISTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WORKING TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES AND SUPPORT DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS TO RESOLVE DISPUTES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN AND THE CONFLICTS IN SYRIA, IRAQ, YEMEN AND ISRAEL/PALESTINE.

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation 3/20/18
<https://www.fcnl.org/>

California Dems oppose penalizing boycotts of Israel, endorse protecting Palestinian children from arrest and torture

On Sunday, Feb. 25, at their annual convention in San Diego, California Democrats voted to oppose S 720/HR 1697, the Israel Anti-Boycott Act, a federal bill that would impose draconian penalties for boycotting Israel; and S 170/HR 2856, the Combatting BDS Act, which purports to permit and encourage states to enact similar laws – as many have. Both bills are currently pending in congress.

The ACLU, among others, has sounded the alarm about such laws, saying they are unconstitutional because they seek to "punish individuals for no reason other than their political beliefs." The Anti-Boycott Act could impose fines of up to \$1 million and 20 years in prison against any U.S. individuals or entities that support, or whose actions "have the effect of furthering or supporting," a boycott of Israel or its illegal settlements called for by "international governmental organizations" such as the United Nations or European Union.

In the first judicial test of such laws, brought by ACLU, a federal court last month blocked enforcement of Kansas' anti-boycott statute after a teacher was denied a state contract when she observed her church's decision to boycott products from illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The judge explained that it is clearly illegal for the government to force someone to waive their constitutional right to free political speech in order to obtain a benefit to which she is otherwise entitled, in this case a teaching contract.

In a parallel move, California Democrats Sunday approved a platform that excised a section from the Platform Committee's first draft that would

have had them "join the national Democratic Party in opposing any effort to delegitimize Israel, including at the United Nations or through the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement."

"We hope and believe that with the Kansas ruling and now our state party's opposition to such unconstitutional laws and removal of the platform clause, the tide is starting to turn against this concerted effort to stigmatize and suppress a form of nonviolent protest against Israeli government policies that is taking hold around the country," said Iyad Alfalqa, chair of the Arab American Caucus.

The party also approved a recommendation from the Legislation Committee to support HR 4391, the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act that was introduced recently by Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn. This bill would prevent the use of U.S. tax dollars for the Israeli military's ongoing detention and mistreatment of Palestinian children. Its 21 co-sponsors to date include four California Democrats: Representatives Ro Khanna, Barbara Lee, Jackie Speier, and Anna Eshoo.

Sections regarding Israel-Palestine were the most contentious to come up during the five-hour Platform Committee hearing Feb. 23, said David L. Mandel, lead sponsor of an entire alternative plank on "World Peace and International Relations" submitted with backing from leaders of the party's Progressive, Arab-American and Veterans caucuses. On another section, he said, "we couldn't get the committee to oppose Trump's mov-

ing the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, but it added support for a possible capital in East Jerusalem for a Palestinian state."

The Jerusalem clause and other wording that remains left the amendments' proponents less than fully satisfied, said Progressive Caucus chair Karen Bernal. "But we're not going away," she added. "The state party is becoming more progressive on many levels, and it's time to adopt a human rights/international law-based approach supporting equality for Palestinians and Israeli Jews, no matter what political solution is eventually worked out."

At its previous convention in May 2017, the state party adopted a resolution that did exactly that, the activists noted.

Other items adopted from the progressives' proposed international plank included a demand to "end support for indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Yemen;" "oppose the use of military drones for 'targeted killings' in countries with which the United States is not at war;" "oppose regime change strategies as a pretext for war and occupation;" and support for the recently concluded United Nations Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons, which the United States has not signed.

FULL TEXT OF THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM IS AVAILABLE AT [HTTPS://WWW.CADEM.ORG/OUR-CALIFORNIA/PLATFORM](https://www.cadem.org/our-california/platform)

Source: California Democratic Party 2/25/18
<https://www.cadem.org>

Israel passes law to strip residency of Jerusalem's Palestinians

ANDREA GERMANOS

The Israeli parliament has passed a law that allows the minister of interior to revoke the residency rights of any Palestinian in Jerusalem on grounds of a "breach of loyalty" to Israel. The bill, ratified on Wednesday, will also apply in cases where residency status was obtained on the basis of false information, and in cases where "an individual committed a criminal act" in the view of the interior ministry. Under the new measure, Israel's Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, leader of the ultra-Orthodox political party Shas, will be able to strip the residency documents of any Palestinian whom he deems a threat. Hanan Ashrawi, a senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), described the law as "an extremely racist piece of legislation. By unethically stripping the residency of Palestinians from Jerusalem and depriving the rights of those Palestinians to remain in their own city, the Israeli govern-

ment is acting in defiance of international law and is violating international human rights and humanitarian laws," said Ashrawi, according to a statement published on Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency.

Despite Israel's claims that occupied East Jerusalem is part of its "eternal, undivided" capital, the Palestinians who are born and live there do not hold Israeli citizenship, unlike their Jewish counterparts. Palestinians in the city are given "permanent residency" ID cards and temporary Jordanian passports that are only used for travel purposes. They are essentially stateless, stuck in legal limbo – they are not citizens of Israel, nor are they citizens of Jordan or Palestine. The new bill will only worsen the difficult conditions for the 420,000 Palestinians living in occupied East Jerusalem, who are treated as foreign immigrants by the state.

Source: Aljazeera 3/7/18
<https://www.aljazeera.com/>



The 15th anniversary of "original sin"

STACY BANNERMAN

Here we go again. Every year around this time, some of the conservatives who championed the Iraq War put on their hair shirts and launch a pre-emptive mea culpa strike that's a pity-party in disguise. I came across a particularly poignant example of this from Max Boot, a senior fellow for national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Apparently Boot, according to his recent *Washington Post* op-ed, has felt "vilified by the far left as a bloodthirsty neocon warmonger for the Original Sin of having supported the invasion of Iraq along with 72 percent of the American public."

Dear Max—and all of the rest of the conservative pundits who so stridently wanted a war they never wanted to fight in themselves—I hope you can find some small comfort in the fact that you were among the majority who supported it. I've heard there's safety in numbers, though I wouldn't know. I was among the minority who opposed the war, which made things a lot trickier at work and with family and friends. (Full disclosure: I was a charter Board member of Military Families Speak Out, family members of troops who joined forces to actively protest the war.)

You want to talk about being vilified? I've got stories that'll make your ears pucker. I mean, who in their right—or left—mind would oppose a war that one of their immediate family members was fighting? We did.

There were just a few hundred of us at first, but as the war dragged on and the casualties climbed, we numbered in the thousands. Even so, there were never nearly enough of us to gain any serious traction in ending a war that shouldn't have begun. A war that will never end for those of us who've been directly impacted, over there and

over here.

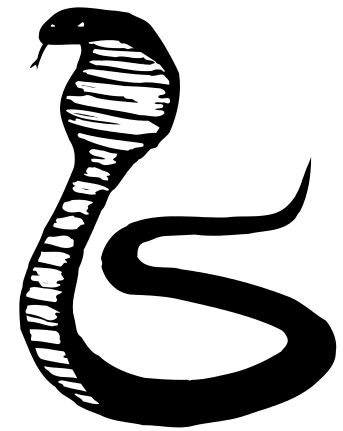
March 19th will mark the 15th Anniversary of the "Shock and Awe" bombing of Baghdad. It's the only anniversary I have left. The war came home so hard—carrying severe PTSD, crystal meth, veteran domestic violence, and a semi-automatic weapon—that I had to leave my whole life in order to save it. But I barely have time to miss being married when I have so much to celebrate on the special anniversary coming up. I don't mean to brag, but you would not believe the gifts I've gotten from this war.

I've got two Army National Guard Freedom Medals and matching Freedom Clocks, dozens of Department of Defense Deployment Preparedness pamphlets, camouflage portfolios of various sizes, tiny folded flags in triangular wooden cases, and a bunch of other hardware and trinkets I collected when I was a military spouse during wartime. I've got boxes of stuff I'll never open again, because the purpose of the cardboard is to contain the past, but sometimes it fails. Then I go to the closet in a room I don't use and push aside the coats I don't wear. I clutch the DCU from his first tour to my chest and lay my head on a Wounded Warrior Project box with the contents listed in bold, black sharpie:

*OLD

- Cell phone
- Life
- Military Toys

The middle one is the hardest to leave behind. It's hard to create a new life when you did everything you could to protect your old life and keep your one love. Making a new life is all-but-impossible with a Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score that cratered in the low 40s out of a possible 100. After years of caring for my combat-disabled vet and enduring the horror show on



my homefront, I was diagnosed with persistent depression, suicidal ideation, anxiety, and Post Traumatic Stress.

My household income fell nearly 90 percent after the divorce, and I've been living at or below the poverty line since 2016. I barely scrape by, applying for jobs, maxing out my credit cards, sometimes relying on food stamps and energy assistance. I've been digging myself out of the grave this nation's foreign policy made of my life one goddamn shovel at a time. And I had to construct my own shovel.

But enough about me, Max, I worry about you. I feel your pain and understand your defensiveness about being so wrong for so long about the Iraq War. Perhaps there is solace to be found in finally getting it right by calling your support an "Original Sin." In the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, we all had the chance to choose the fruit from the cherry-picked tree of knowledge of good and evil. You made your choice and you're going to have to live with it. Unfortunately, so do I.

Source: Common Dreams 3/11/18 <https://www.commondreams.org/>

Tell the Senate to block Pompeo for supporting unconstitutional war

ROBERT NAIMAN

CIA director Mike Pompeo, Trump's nominee for Secretary of State, wants war with Iran, even without Congressional authorization. A Senate vote to confirm Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State would be an implicit Senate endorsement of unconstitutional war with Iran. A Senate vote to reject Pompeo would be a Senate rejection of unconstitutional war with Iran.

Under the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution, only Congress, not President Trump, can authorize the use of force against Iran. But the Senate in which we would need 51 votes against an authori-

zation for the use of force against Iran is the same Senate which is about to vote on the confirmation of Iran war advocate Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State. If we know we're going to need to find 51 votes in the Senate against war with Iran, we might as well find them right now.

Mike Pompeo's Trump Administration believes in "Presidential war" – the claim that the President can wage war without Congressional authorization, in direct opposition to what it says in the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution. They are War Powers Resolution deniers.

On March 20, 44 Senators rebuked Mike Pompeo

and the Trump Administration's assertion of Presidential war power by voting for the Sanders-Lee-Murphy resolution against continued unconstitutional U.S. participation in the catastrophic Saudi war in Yemen. But Mike Pompeo's Trump Administration continues to violate the Con-


stitution by refueling the Saudi warplanes that are bombing Yemeni children and starving them by blockade.

As the New York Times has exposed, the CIA is the most slavishly pro-Saudi part of the U.S. government. The culture of the CIA is to slavishly assert

that the U.S. is obligated to fight Saudi Arabia's proxy wars against Iran. The last thing we need now is a Secretary of State steeped in the slavishly pro-Saudi culture of the CIA.

Action: Urge your Senators to do everything in their power to block Mike Pompeo from becoming Secretary of State by signing our petition.

Source: Just Foreign Policy 3/24/18 www.justforeignpolicy.org



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DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE
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DIRECTED BY
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Tues-Wed., May 16-17, 8am-4pm: Nature journaling with John Muir Laws

We live in a world of beauty and wonder. Train your mind to see deeply and with intentional curiosity, and the world will open before you. Keeping a journal of your observations, questions, and reflections will enrich your experiences and develop gratitude, reverence, and the skills of a naturalist. The goal of nature journaling is not to create a portfolio of pretty pictures but to develop a tool to help you see, wonder, and remember your experiences. You can learn to do this. You do not need to be an artist or a naturalist. These are skills you will develop as you go. The time to begin is now.

John teaches workshops and gives public lectures about nature stewardship, journaling, drawing birds, natural history and observation. Come to his two day workshop: Next Generation Science Standards and Nature Journaling at the Durham Ferry Outdoor Education Center, May 16 and 17, 8:00 - 4:00. A minimal cost of \$20 is a great deal. Call (209)468-4880 for more information and to register. And you can check out his Nature Journaling public presentation on May 16, 7 pm at the Wentworth Education Center, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton. Signed books will be for sale.



SENIORS VOTE

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO MEET THE CANDIDATES
FOR CONGRESS**

Hear what your candidates say about
Protecting and Improving Medicare,
Medicaid and Social Security
and other Senior Issues


MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

11:00am - 1 pm
Community Room
Salida/Modesto Library
4835 Sisk Road, Salida, CA 95368

Special Guest: Sha Na Na's Jon "Bowzer" Bauman

We will invite the candidates running for your Congressional District.
This event is open to the public.
You must RSVP to attend, space is limited
Special Guest: Sha Na Na's Jon "Bowzer" Bauman

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



ABOUT CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), a non-profit organization. CARA does not support or oppose any candidate for political office. For questions, please contact the CARA office at our toll free number: 877-223-6107 or go to our website at www.californiaalliance.org.



PEACE & JUSTICE NETWORK & KXVS VOLUNTEERS AT POTLUCK

Tues-Wed., Apr. 13 6pm: Green Fashion Show

In 2012, Sustaining Pacific held its first annual Green Fashion Show at UOP, where student, staff, faculty, and community members have the opportunity to create and showcase sustainable fashion designs. Pieces are made from recycled and repurposed materials leading to stunning outfits such as an origami dress or a dress made of newspapers. The show also welcomes local vendors to support the local businesses and invest back in the community. This year, we'll be hosting the Eighth Annual Green Fashion Show on April 13th, 2018 at 6pm in Grace Covell Dining Hall at the University of the Pacific. To make this event successful, we are looking for community sponsors and vendors. We would greatly appreciate if your business would sponsor our event by providing prizes, gift cards, clothing items etc. as raffle prizes or gifts for the fashion show participants and/or be a vendor during the event and table to promote your upcoming event. We believe that a key part of sustainability is supporting local businesses so we would really like to showcase your business at the Green Fashion Show. If you are interested, please contact us at SustainingPacific@pacific.edu

IF YOU CARE ABOUT STOCKTON,
Join KXVS!
Become a member and
Let's make Stockton
better, together!

KXVS - The Voice of Stockton

Your Community Radio Station is Going FM, Finally!

If all goes well this year, Stockton, California will finally have an FM radio station dedicated to serve the community of Stockton. That would be nothing short of amazing, and very much needed in our area, since local media sources are so scarce. There are still a few hurdles to overcome, but you can help make this dream a reality.

KXVS The Voice of Stockton is now reaching over 100,000 people each month through daily live stream broadcasts on Facebook and YouTube! They broadcast informative programs 6-10 hours a day by and about the community and its members, including "Connections Peace & Justice Radio," hosted by Bruce Guidici, which airs Mondays at 8PM, and "Balancing the Scales: The Economic Justice Report" with Vic Berndorff on Sundays at 5PM. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the all-volunteer staff has been busy getting ready to go "on the air" on the FM dial, building and planning, and making necessary adjustments in programming and personnel.

Now is a great time to get involved in this rare opportunity. Your support will have a lasting effect with ongoing recognition, greatly benefiting our community, and all the area nonprofits we promote. Your experience in communications, multimedia production, and marketing would be of great use, helping us grow and develop and fulfill our mission to serve.

To get involved, or to make a donation, please visit KXVS.org/join, call 209-467-4455, or email inbox@TheVoiceofStockton.org.

What's that bird? Local opportunities to learn

**DAVE FRIES, CONSERVATION CHAIR,
SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON CHAPTER**

Have you ever looked into your backyard, seen a bird, and wondered what it is that bird? You are not alone. Most of us have been there. Anyone who knows birds will tell you that one learns to identify birds one-at-a-time. Get a good look. This is helped with a set of binoculars. Get a bird i.d. resource, like a good bird book or a bird i.d. app on your computer or smart phone. Also, you can learn a lot by taking advantage of local field trips organized by the San Joaquin Chapter of the Audubon Society. Best things are: They are free! They are led by knowledgeable volunteer leaders! They are friendly! They are local! And, most of all, they are fun! You don't have to be a member of the San Joaquin Audubon Society to join in. But, be cautious, it's addicting and you may get sucked in. Opportunities for April 2018 include:

- April 7 Introductory Birding Field Trip, Lake Lodi.
- April 8 Stockton Rural Cemetery Field Trip
- April 10 Kiln Canyon Hummingbird Hike
- April 14 Consumnes River Preserve
Monthly Bird Census
- April 15 Mokelumne River fish Hatchery
Monthly Bird Census
- April 18 Ripon Oak Grove Park and
Wastewater Treatment Plant Field Trip
- April 21 Woodbridge Wilderness Area
Monthly Bird Census
- April 22 Earth Day, Victory Park, Stockton
- April 28 Del Porto Canyon Field Trip
- April 29 University of the Pacific
Native Plant Gardens Tour

May 2018 field trips are just as extensive and exciting. Hope to see you there. Find details on each of the above outings at:

<http://www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org/trips.htm>

Organizer Training, History of Inequity – Social and Environmental Justice

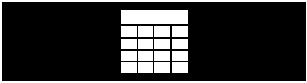
I cannot speak highly enough of the value of this event as a training place for community organization leaders, having presented and participated in a similar event recently in Tulare County.

Restore the Delta is co-sponsoring this event with Reinvent South Stockton, Little Manila, San Joaquin Pride Center, Sow a Seed, Cafe Coop, other local community groups, the Community Governance

Partnership and their training arm, the California Organizing Academy, for a two- day training with David Hunt of David Hunt Associates, senior staff alumni of the Midwest Academy. The Midwest Academy is internationally recognized for his training of progressive community activists.

The event is a two-day training. However, if you cannot attend on 4/6, I strongly encourage you to participated in the local panels starting at lunchtime on 4/7/18. In addition, I am open to you all recommending other community social and environmental leaders who should be part of this training -- people we may have overlooked from your organizations. The training is a \$500 value -- scholarships (with a few hours of volunteer work) can bring the cost to \$0 -- or a \$50 contribution can be made (for those who can't bear to take on one more task; we all get that way sometimes). Let me know ASAP if you will be participating, and/or who else you think we should be inviting. I look forward to hearing back from you and seeing you at the event.

**BARBARA BARRIGAN-PARRILLA IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
RESTORE THE DELTA, 42 N. SUTTER ST, SUITE 506, STOCKTON, CA
95202 (209) 479-2053 WWW.RESTORETHEDELTA.COM**



APRIL - MAY 2018 CALENDAR

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

MAR 20 - APR 13
The Revolution will be DIY, an interactive exhibition and event series. Jeannette Powell Art Center, Reynolds Gallery, 1071 W. Mendocino Ave, Stockton. M-F, 9am - 4: 30pm. Through the run of the show the gallery will host art installations, collaborative projects, and performances by campus and community artists that empower change through creative action. All events are free and open to the public. Materials from the Holt-Atherton archives frame the history of Pacific campus activism from the civil rights era to the present, including letters from the Black Student Caucus and a DeltaFusion puppet. Punk rock epitomizes the do-it-yourself ethos. Chad Sengstock’s photographs from greater California’s punk shows are featured in the exhibition along with images from the Stockton music scene by Hanna Thrasher and Jacob Porta.

MAR 22 - APR 29
87th annual Robert T. McKee Student Art Contest and Exhibition. The Haggin Museum is proud to feature the work of student artists from kindergarten through grade 12. All schools in San Joaquin County—public, private, charter and homeschools—receive invitations to submit their work. Every year we receive on average 1,000 pieces of art chosen by teachers as the best of their class. Sat-Sun 12-5 p.m, Wed-Fri 1:30-5 p.m, 1st & 3rd Thur, 1:30-9 p.m. Adult \$8, youth \$5, under 10 free with adult. Haggin Museum, Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton, CA (209) 940-6300

WED, MAR 28
The Revolution will be DIY, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Reynolds Gallery, 1071 W. Mendocino Ave, Stockton. Art activist and Stockton native Ryan Camero and Pacific student Carmen Cobian will co-create a migration themed mural called Borderlands. Free. Info 209.932.3254 lcooperman@pacific.edu.

THURS, MAR 29
Take 5: Brian Kendrick Little Big Band. 7 pm, Valley Brewing Company, 157 W Adams St, Stockton. 464-2739

The Revolution will be DIY, 6 - 8 pm. Reynolds Gallery, 1071 W. Mendocino Ave, Stockton. The owners of Stockton Rags will demonstrate their screen printing process and encourage local business startups. Free admission Info 209.932.3254 lcooperman@pacific.edu.

TUES, APR 3
The Revolution will be DIY, 3 - 6 pm. Reynolds Gallery, 1071 W. Mendocino Ave, Stockton. Jazmine Munoz from Sustaining Pacific leads an art workshop on Endangered Animals. Free admission Info 209.932.3254 or lcooperman@pacific.edu.

THURS, APR 5
Peace & Justice Network board meeting, John Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 7 pm. All welcome. 467-4455
Take 5: Randy Sandoli Quartet. 7 pm, Valley Brewing Company, 157 W Adams St, Stockton. 464-2739

Poetry Reading by Monica Sok. 6:30 pm, Wendell Phillips Center (WPC), 140 1000-1070 W Stadium Dr, UOP, Stockton. A recipient of awards including the National Endowment for the Arts, Monica Sok is a poet, essayist and daughter of Cambodian refugees. Her chapbook “Year Zero” was selected for a Poetry Society of America Fellowship. Currently she is a fellow of the Lucas Artists Program at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, California near San Jose.

THURS-SUN APR 5 - 8
Pacific Opera Theatre Presents The Beggar’s Opera, a ballad opera in 3 acts. Thurs - Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP, 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton \$19 general, \$10 seniors, students free.

FRI, APR 6
Queer Drag Coffeehouse, 6 -9 pm, Don & Karen DeRosa University Center, 901 Presidents Dr, Stockton. You are invited to our third annual Queer Drag Coffeehouse! Come out for a night of drag performances, local LGBTQ+ artwork, and free food. We’ve got a photo booth, raffle prizes, and a cash bar. Don’t miss the biggest campus pride event of the year! Suggested donation is \$5 at the door. All proceeds from the event benefit the San Joaquin Pride Center.

THURS, APR 12
Take 5: Brian Kendrick Little Big Band. 7 pm, Valley Brewing Company, 157 W Adams St, Stockton. 464-2739

Stockton Planning Commission meeting, 6:00 pm. City Hall, 425 N El Dorado St, Stockton 209-937-8266

FRI, APR 13
The Revolution will be DIY, 6 - 7 pm. Reynolds Gallery, 1071 W. Mendocino Ave, Stockton. Community artist Garrett Daniels’ installation Desert Cornucopia addresses food insecurity in the area. Visitors who bring a nonperishable food or hygiene product to the installation for the Little Free Pantry will receive a special coupon for the E.A.T. food truck, which will be on site for the show.

The Revolution will be DIY, 7 - 10 pm. Reynolds Gallery, 1071 W. Mendocino Ave, Stockton. Punk, Metal and the Meaning of Life - The exhibition concludes with a free, all-ages show of punk and metal bands NDN Giver, Cheap Shoes, Knee Deep, and xMalcolmX. Free admission Info 209.932.3254 lcooperman@pacific.edu.

FRI-SAT APR 13-14
SJ Delta College Dance presents Tableaux in Motion, directed by Valerie Gnassounou. 8 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. Still only \$12; \$10 for students and seniors over 61. 209-951-5110.

SUN, APR 15
University Symphonic Wind Ensemble and University Concert Band. 2:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall, 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 adult, \$5 senior, students free.

TUES, APR 17
Stockton City Council meeting, 5:30 pm. City Hall, 425 N El Dorado St, Stockton 209-937-8827

WED, APR 18
Pacific Jazz Ensemble, 7:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall, 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 adult, \$5 senior, students free.

THURS, APR 19
Trumpeter Ron Meza at the Haggin 1st & 3rd Thursdays. Ron will be performing a tribute to the great Lee Morgan. Lee is the subject of the current documentary called I Called him Morgan and Ron will play a selection of tunes that Lee was known for. Rounding out the quartet are Aaron Gardner - piano, Gerry Piñeda - bass and Jeff Miniweather - drums. 6:30-9 pm, Adult \$8, youth \$5, under 10 free with adult. Haggin Museum, Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton, CA (209) 940-6300

Brubeck Institute presents drummer Lewis Nash with the Institute Jazz Quintet. 7 pm, Valley Brewing Company, 157 W Adams St, Stockton. 464-2739

APR 19 - MAY 11
Delta Center for the Arts LH Horton Jr Gallery presents the Student Art Exhibition Show Reception Apr 19, 5 - 7 pm. 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.

FRI, APR 20
UOP Earth Day Garden Party, 5 - 8 pm. 1071 W Mendocino Ave, Stockton. The Pacific Garden program will be celebrating Earth Day and John Muir’s Birthday in the Robb Garden and on the Abigail Robb Plaza, which is nestled amidst the Bon Appétit Native Plant Garden right next to the Robb Garden. Food, drink, live music performances and open mic!

SAT, APR 21
Stockton Symphony presents Classics 5, works by Chadwick, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich with guest pianist Stanislav Khristenko. 6 - 8:30 pm, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Adult \$25-67, student \$10-15. 951-0196.

SUN, APR 22
30th Annual Earth Day Festival, Victory Park, Stockton. Yoga 9-10, March for Science 10-11, Festival 11am - 4 pm. The theme, “Every Day is Earth Day” will be the focus of the event. The Festival will have an array of informative, interactive booths, demos, displays and exhibits. Local area schools will be teaching how to better take care of our Earth with a variety of hands-on activities, and environmental organizations will provide education about the important issues and how we can make a difference. Over 70 vendors will border the oak trees and cross the grass field at Victory Park. Come join us for yoga in the park, local music and entertainment, delicious, healthy food and fun learning activities. It’s a fun day for kids and families, and admission is free. 209-559-6279.

Pacific Choral Ensembles, 2:30 pm. Morris Chapel, 620 Chapel Lane, Stockton. \$10 adult, \$5 senior, students free.

THURS-SUN APR 25 - MAY 12
Dead Man’s Cell Phone. Opening Wed 7:30, Thur-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Dead Man’s Cell phone follows Jean whose life is altered forever just because she answers a stranger’s cell phone. In its review of the original production, Variety said, “Ruhl’s zany probe of the razor-thin line between life and death delivers a fresh and humorous look at the times we live in.” Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton. \$15 - \$27. 473-2424. www.sctlivetheatre.com

THURS, APR 26
Joe Mazzaferro Group, 7 pm, Valley Brewing Company, 157 W Adams St, Stockton. 464-2739

Stockton Planning Commission meeting, 6:00 pm. City Hall, 425 N El Dorado St, Stockton 209-937-8266

SAT, APR 28
University Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP, 3511 Pacific Ave, Stockton \$10 general, \$5 seniors, students free.

MON, APR 30
Delta Sierra Club meeting. 7 pm. Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. All welcome. 209-670-4442. (p 18)

THURS, MAY 3
Peace & Justice Network board meeting, John Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 7 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

Valley Community String Orchestra at the Haggin 1st & 3rd Thursdays. 6:30-9 pm, Adult \$8, youth \$5, under 10 free with adult. Haggin Museum, Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton, CA (209) 940-6300

THUR - SUN, MAY 4 - 13
Working - the Musical, book by Studs Terkel, adapted by Mina Faso and Stephen Schwartz, directed by Ashlee Temple. Thur - Sat 7 pm, Sat-Sun 2 pm. Adult \$9, Students/seniors \$4. Tillie Lewis Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 209-954-5110.
SUN, MAY 6
Stockton Symphony presents Pops 4, the Texas Tenors. 2:30 pm, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Adult \$25-67, student \$10-15. 951-0196.

TUES, MAY 8
Stockton Concert Band Concert directed by Arthur Holton, 7 pm, Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. Still only \$8; \$5 for students and seniors over 61, children under 12 free. 209-951-5110.

THURS, MAY 10
SJDC Choral Finale Concert, 7:30 pm, Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. Still only \$8; \$5 for students and seniors over 61, children under 12 free. 209-951-5110.

Stockton Planning Commission meeting, 6:00 pm. City Hall, 425 N El Dorado St, Stockton 209-937-8266

TUES, MAY 15
SJ Delta College Jazz Bands, 7:30 pm. Tillie Lewis Theatre, SJ Delta College, Stockton. Still only \$8; \$5 for students and seniors over 61, children under 12 free. 209-951-5110.

Stockton City Council meeting, 5:30 pm. City Hall, 425 N El Dorado St, Stockton 209-937-8827

WED, MAY 16
SJ Delta College Symphonic Band, 7 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, Stockton. Still only \$8; \$5 for students and seniors over 61, children under 12 free. 209-951-5110.

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, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton

SECOND SATURDAYS
Stockton Citizens’ Climate Lobby, 9:30 am - noon at the John Morearty Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton

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

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

WEDNESDAYS
Mindfulness Meditation at Morris Chapel, 5:30 - 6:30 through May 9. Join members of our local community for a weekly Mindfulness Meditation based on the Buddhist tradition. The event is open to students, faculty, staff and community members who are interested. In Mindfulness Meditation, we learn to deliberately cultivate our awareness of what is happening around you and within you without criticism or judgment. New to Mindfulness Meditation? The meditation leaders host an Introduction to Mindfulness from 5-5:30pm on the second Wednesday of every month. If you are interested or curious, please be prompt.

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.

Take Five Jazz club, 7 - 10 pm, Valley Brew

FRIDAYS
Peace demonstration, 5-6 pm, corner of Highway 4 & 49 in Angels Camp. Bring a sign with a positive message. We get LOTS of thumbs up! Info 559-6279.

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

A big thanks to our long-serving distributors!!

CALENDAR EDITOR’S NOTE: IF YOUR EVENT ISN’T LISTED, LET US KNOW. SEND ALL COPY TO: BGIUDICI@CALTEL.COM BY THE 10TH OF EVERY MONTH.

Working Locally for a Better World



FRIDAY MAY 11 DELTA SMELT SPAWNING MARCH

**10AM MEET AT CAL EPA 1001 I ST, SACRAMENTO
MARCH TO USBR 650 CAPITOL MALL
THEN MARCH TO CAPITOL (NORTH SIDE)**

12PM RALLY

Decades of overpumping the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and greed-driven water mismanagement has lead California to a critical moment in its environmental history. Only two Delta smelt were identified in the state's last fish survey--the lowest count in 50 years. Now more than ever, this small but mighty indicator species needs fresh water to flow through the Delta, but the federal and state government have other plans.

While Delta smelt swim a fine line between survival and extinction, the Trump Administration is putting together a plan to maximize exports out of the Delta, the state government is continuing to do the same under the guise of a different name: the CA WaterFix, or Delta Tunnels proposal. If either executive body has their way, the Delta smelt will be the first fish species to become extinct in the United States since the Endangered Species Act was signed in 1973, and we lose our lifeline to understanding the state of the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas.

IF DELTA SMELT ARE LOST FOR GOOD, CALIFORNIA WILL LOSE:

- *Iconic salmon runs and aquatic species up the Delta smelt food chain*
- *Hundreds of job opportunities for sustainable anglers and commercial fishermen*
- *Livelihoods and fisheries for Northern California tribes, such as the Winnemem Wintu Tribe*
- *Protections that have positive water quality benefits for Delta farmers, Delta urban residents, and SF Bay Area residents*
- *Our environmental heritage*

FOR MORE INFO: [HTTPS://RESTORETHEDELTA.WIXSITE.COM/](https://restorethedelta.wixsite.com/)



Growing up my momma told me
Nothing stops a bullet
Like an education
But what happens when bullets
Get on the bus with you
When they get dropped off at school
When they race through the hallways
Wanting to spread your knowledge
Across the classroom
When did schools change
From being windows of opportunity
To bullet proof
We talk about creating safe spaces at schools
In being a teacher
The only safe space I see
Is under the desks of my classroom
Campuses are poor replacements
For war zones
For there is always casualty
Always a death
Whether it be of flesh and bone
Or of hope that there is a place
Where raised arms aren't so fatal
So to my government
I ask what shall you do
Shall we stay in this maddening cycle
Where access to guns is more readily available
Than access to health care
Where in some states minors
Who aren't even allowed to drive or vote
Can tote steel like a fashion statement
I'm just saying
Insanity is perpetually doing the same thing
Expecting a different result
And this stretch of school shootings
Has confirmed our diagnosis
Now to our schools
It is our duty to create a culture
Where ostracism isn't so common
Where fellowship isn't so rare
These campuses need be places to grow
But how can one do that
When their continually masked in a shadow of fear
Whether it be from teachers or peers
Let our bodies be better lovers than fighters
So today I choose to walk out
And walk up
I choose to speak out
Against a broken system
That listens to the NRA's song on replay
To muddle the sounds of children
Who are slain on their watch
And speak up for the
Students whom I see on fringe
To let them know they are not alone
We all are broken people
Trying to find a place
Where our splintered edges fit best
And every morning I fall on my knees and pray to God
Ask Jesus to be with my students and I today
That we wouldn't hit the 6 o'clock news
That we wouldn't be the next live stream on Facebook
That my wife's good bye to me this morning
Wasn't so permanent
So dear government
I promise to make my classroom
A place where all students find love
A place acceptance is more readily available than bullying
A place where lead only scrapes across paper
The question is
What are you gonna do?

Youth lead Stockton March for Our Lives

JULIE SCHARDT

Saturday, March 24th, saw young people throughout the nation lead their communities in the March for Our Lives as a response to the horrific mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida last month. Stockton's youth were no exception. Under the leadership of students from Franklin, Edison, and Bear Creek High Schools as well as the Stockton Youth Task Force over 400 people gathered at Martin Luther King Plaza in downtown Stockton. The students' eloquent poetry and powerful speeches articulated demands that Congress pass meaningful legislation to mitigate the awful toll of gun violence on our communities. They want to see strong universal background checks for all firearm purchases; a ban on the sale of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines; and funding for research into the implications of gun violence as a public health issue. The future of youth activism in Stockton looks promising with students like Valentino Silva; Anahi Ballesteros and Eila Madrigal; Celin Corpuz, Gloria Alonso, and Rogelio Vivero; Sara Abdeltawab; Kristina Perry and Valyncia Hernandez leading the way.

The youth were supported in their efforts by Cleveland School Remembers, a local chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

PHOTO BY LU SOBREDO



RETIRED TEACHER, JULIE SCHARDT, FROM CLEVELAND SCHOOL REMEMBERS, ACKNOWLEDGES STUDENT EFFORTS. MARCH FOR OUR LIVES ORGANIZER, 18-YEAR OLD HUMPHREYS UNIVERSITY STUDENT, VALENTINO SILVA (RIGHT).



PHOTO BY JULIE SCHARDT

FRANKLIN HIGH SENIOR, EILA MADRIGAL, STEPS UP TO THE PODIUM.



PHOTO BY ROGER PHILLIPS

BRANDON LEAKE 9TH GRADE ENGLISH TEACHER ABLE CHARTER SCHOOL SPOKEN WORD POET WITH CALLED TO MOVE

To view live spoken word video from Stockton March for Our Lives <https://www.facebook.com/calledtomove/videos/1520145634778982/>



PHOTO BY LU SOBREDO

MARCHERS OF ALL AGES BRAVE HEAVY RAIN AND SLEET AS THEY TAKE THEIR MESSAGE FROM MLK PLAZA TO DOWNTOWN STOCKTON