

Primary Election - March 3

LOCAL RACES ARE HAPPENING, TOO

ERIC PARFREY

While most people who care anything about politics are currently necessarily obsessed with the Trump impeachment trial and the Democratic presidential primary, there are at least two local races here in San Joaquin County (and Modesto) that are competitive and are worth learning about. These include the contest between three Democrats to succeed Assemblywoman Susan Eggman in District 13, and the race between Eggman and others to fill the Senate District 5 seat.

Unfortunately, this will be the first primary since local political reporting by the San Joaquin Record has evaporated after the newspaper was taken over by hedge fund managers who have fired most of the staff (see my recent three-part series on "What is Left after Newspapers Disappear?" posted on my Facebook page). Thus, for many voters there will be next to no local coverage of these and other local primary races. Residents will be forced to make decisions about who to vote for based almost solely on campaign flyers they receive in the mail, campaign endorsements and contributions, candidate websites, or one-sided opinions they read online.

One valuable piece of unbiased information is the campaign contribution forms that each of the candidates

must file on a regular basis with the State of California (see <http://powersearch.sos.ca.gov/advanced.php>). Notably, by reading the most recent campaign contribution forms we can identify which special interests are supporting which candidates, which can give us guidance on how to vote.

CA State Senate District 5 Eggman vs. Grewal

The highest profile and most expensive legislative race in the Stockton and Modesto area is the slugfest for the State senate seat being vacated by Kathleen Gagliani, who is termed out. There are two Democrats and three Republicans running. The candidates include Susan Eggman (who has served four terms as the Stockton Assemblywoman); Modesto City Councilman Mani Grewal (D); Stockton City Councilman Jesús Andrade (R); Jim Ridenour, ex-mayor of Modesto (R); and Kathleen Garcia (R), a Stockton school board trustee who was a registered Democrat until a few months ago.

Senate District 5 consists of portions of Sacramento, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties – with San Joaquin making up over 72% of the total number of voters. However, a large chunk of voters, over 100,000, reside in Modesto. The current registration shows an almost 10% Democratic registration advantage. Hillary Clinton won this district in 2016 by almost 35,000 votes.

The front runner has to be considered Eggman. She is well funded and has been endorsed by the Democratic Party, Gov. Newsom, numerous labor organizations, the Sierra Club, and many local officials. She has been a very strong leader on Delta issues, fighting to kill the Delta Tunnel(s).

She has high name recognition in Stockton and San Joaquin County and has been a very successful fundraiser. The most recent campaign disclosure forms indicate she has raised \$740,000. Large contributors include the Democratic Party and other legislators; labor organizations (California Teachers Association, AFSCME, nurses); health political action committees; progressive, gay and women's activist groups (including Courage California); and a few private developer interests (Califia, developer of the huge River Islands project in Lathrop).

Eggman's main competitor is Modesto councilman Manmeet (Mani) Grewal (D), who claims to be a "different Democrat." Grewal is apparently hoping to attract major Republican support to counter what may be strong Democratic support for Eggman. If elected, Grewal would be the first Sikh American elected to the Legislature. Grewal is a dentist and he owns seven dental offices throughout San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, as well as several hotels and gas stations.

Even though Grewal is little known outside Modesto, he has raised a huge amount of cash over the last three years (approximately \$963,000), although almost one

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LOCAL RACES CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

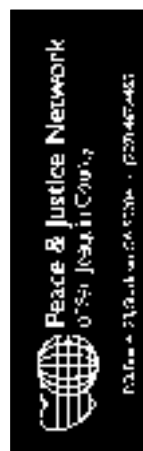
SAVE THE DATES

FEB 23, 2020 PJN Annual meeting
MAR 3, 2020 Calif. Primary Election
APR 26, 2020 Earth Day Festival
NOV 3, 2020 Election Day

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EDITOR'S LETTER

BRUCE GIUDICI

We are at the cross-roads. With the Trump acquittal, the beast is loose for the next 9 months—a very long period sufficient to fix an election in any number of ways. Tried and true methods of voter suppression and the spreading of lies using obscene amounts of money will continue unabated—much of it made legal in the past 10 years. Cyber hacking and the selective release of partial truths in the new tradition of 2016 have not been curtailed—so we can expect an expansion, especially when the current administration was given a clean bill of health for its 2016 Russian “non-collusion” verdict and the Ukrainian “exoneration” just delivered. The one weapon we have in defense of this onslaught is what we have had throughout: real facts wielded by an informed electorate. And the only hope we have is that the electorate is motivated by the diabolical direction in which current trends are leading—and demand changing the road we are on.

So how can we ensure an electorate informed by real facts? In a world bombarded by multiple streams of purported facts, which are real, which are pure opinion and which are outright lies? We at Connections have always recommended

that voters multi-source their news to determine accuracy. If many sources are reporting the same basic information, that becomes a starting point. It is also vital to understand the motivation of the messenger—is there a profit motive that may skew the editorial selection process (for while all corporate media will say there is a division between the business and editorial sides of media, when swimming in the for-profit pool, it is impossible for the media fish to survive outside their life-sustaining corporate water)? We thus mourn the loss of newspapers nationwide to the profit-demanding market, either by scaling themselves back to becoming mere ghosts of their former selves (the local Record for one) or by simply disappearing altogether. A not-for-profit model sustaining local news (similar to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that sustains PBS and NPR) would be one way to keep real local factual reporting available: this is an option that will never happen under the current administration. There will need to be a change.

The current year's electoral choices will determine the type of world we leave to posterity. Because of continual delay of making the hard choices - for the

Changing the road we are on

environment, for health care, for our general fiscal health - the off ramp to the sustainable road will be more jarring than it might have been if we had changed lanes 40 years ago. But here we are - in an increasingly warming planet, in a country where we squander billions of dollars on “health care” and “defense,” borrowing trillions to lower taxes on the top 1%. This unsustainable track cannot persist—it is just a matter of when we decide the change needs to happen. For those of us who care for peace and justice, the time is now.

For our part, we ask you to please circulate Connections to as many as you can—and discuss current events with your

friends and family. The information you find in these pages is factual; our motive is stated in our mission statement—to support peace and justice in their many forms. If the many doesn't stand for something, they will fall

for anything. We cannot let that happen.

The way forward is for an informed citizenry to vote and agitate for change.

March 3 is election day—celebrate it and vote!



HOW TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

Registered to vote as No Party Preference**

As a voter registered with No Party Preference, if you want to vote for U.S. President, you must request a primary election ballot with presidential candidates from one of the following parties:

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party
- Libertarian Party

If you vote by mail, you will need to request this ballot from your county elections office.

If you vote at the polls, you can request a ballot when checking in at the polling place.

For more information on this process, visit HowToVoteForPresident.sos.ca.gov.

If you want to vote for the Green, Peace and Freedom, or Republican Parties' presidential candidates, you must re-register with that specific party. To change your voter registration, visit registertovote.ca.gov.

**Voters registered with a non-qualified political party are considered No Party Preference voters.

Registered with a Qualified Political Party?

If you registered with any of the following qualified political parties, you can only vote for that party's presidential candidates:

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party
- Green Party
- Libertarian Party
- Peace and Freedom Party
- Republican Party

If you want to vote for another party's presidential candidate, you must re-register with that specific party. To change your registration, visit registertovote.ca.gov.

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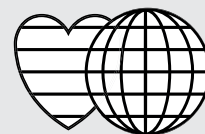
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"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared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

CA State Senate District 5 Eggman vs. Grewal

LOCAL RACES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Even though Grewal is little known outside Modesto, he has raised a huge amount of cash over the last three years (approximately \$963,000), although almost one third of this amount is loans he personally made to his campaign. He has received significant campaign contributions from oil interests, hospitality and real estate firms, trucking companies, and developers. Grewal has also received significant endorsements from moderate to conservative elected officials, including legislators and the sheriffs of San Joaquin and Stanislaus County.

Most tellingly, however, is that Grewal has benefited from almost \$450,000 in independent expenditures from a major petroleum fund, named "Restore California's Middle Class Coalition, including energy companies who produce gas, oil, jobs and pay taxes." The expenditure paid for a recent mass mailing on Grewal's behalf that arrived in voter's mailboxes in mid-January. As noted by CalMatters, an online news service, "oil companies and their allies, unions that represent oil workers, increasingly feel under attack in Sacramento. Knowing Republicans have little power in the Capitol, oil companies, like other business interests, identify and seek to elect Democrats who will cast votes supportive of their interests" (see <https://calmatters.org/newsletter/mental-illness-emerges-as-a-campaign-issue-oil-spend-big-on-legislative-races-uc-drops-tuition-hike-for-now/>).

Grewal was involved in a notable controversy early in the campaign when he was accused of homophobic smears against his competitor, Susan Eggman. As reported in the Modesto Bee, Sept. 13, 2019, Equality California, the state's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy group, called on lawmakers in 2019 to withdraw their endorsements of Grewal after he falsely claimed that a state bill to eliminate the discrepancy in how gay and straight young adults are punished for having sex with a minor would let adults who abuse preteens avoid registering as sex offenders. The LGBT organization, which sponsored the bill, took particular offense to a Grewal campaign ad that suggested the measure would protect "adults who molest our children." It accused him of "engaging in a blatantly homophobic campaign" against his lesbian opponent, Democratic Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes Eggman of Stockton, an original co-author of the bill.

Stockton City Councilman Jesús Andrade is one of the three Republicans that have entered the race. He is endorsed by the Republican Party. Andrade is a relative moderate who has served on the Stockton City Council since 2016 representing south Stockton, where he grew up. He is currently the CEO of the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. According to the most recent campaign finance disclosures, he has raised approximately \$128,000 from developers and Republican legislators.

The two other Republicans do not appear to be serious candidates. Neither has raised any serious money. However, if they were able to siphon off enough GOP votes from Andrade, they could enable the Democrats to secure the top-two spots in the primary.

CA Assembly District 13 Fugazi vs. Miller vs. Villapudua

In this race, Christina Fugazi is running against two other Democrats, San Joaquin County Supervisor Kathy Miller and former Supervisor Carlos Villapudua. Assembly District 13 consists of western San Joaquin County, including the eastern half of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and is centered on Stockton. AD 13 is a solidly Democratic district (49% Democratic, 26% Republican, 21% No party preference).

For the first time in recent history in this area, there will not be a Republican candidate on the primary or general election ballot. It is rather shocking, although not surprising, that the Republicans have completely given up on competing in this race. The lack of a Republican candidate means that two of the three Dems running will emerge from the "jungle" primary (even if one receives over 50% of the vote) and will face each other again in the general election. The strong likelihood is that the two candidates that will emerge will be the two women.

Christina Fugazi is serving her second four-year term on the Stockton City Council, representing the downtown area and older neighborhoods of the city. Prior to being elected to the Council in 2014, she served eight years as a Stockton Planning Commissioner, having been appointed to that position by former Councilmember Susan Eggman (who has served four terms as AD 13 Assemblywoman and is now running for election to State Senate District 5).

Fugazi is a high school science teacher. She is endorsed by San Joaquin County Sheriff Patrick Withrow, the Sierra Club, and several labor organizations including the California Professional Firefighters, California Labor Federation (CLF), the North Valley Labor Federation (AFL-CIO), the San Joaquin Building Trades, UA Local 442, Sheetmetal 104, IBEW 595, the Northern California Carpenters, and the San Joaquin

County Correctional Officers Association. She has raised approximately \$145,000 to date for this Assembly campaign, mostly from unions.

Notably, Fugazi has not been endorsed by the Democratic Party, which has endorsed Miller. Her failure to receive the Party endorsement is due in part to her prior connection with disgraced and convicted former Stockton Mayor Anthony Silva and a history of running successfully against Party chosen candidates in recent years. In three separate primary and general elections in 2014 and 2018, she defeated a City Council candidate that had been handpicked by the Democratic Party (a woman married to one of Susan Eggman's aides). Fugazi has since fallen out of favor with the local party leaders including Eggman.

Fugazi has a strong environmental record. Miller has also been pro-environment on many votes and has been an especially strong leader for Delta issues and opposing the Delta Tunnels. In contrast, Villapudua is not known for his environmental record.

First appointed as Stockton city planning commissioner in 2007, Fugazi opposed the provision in the city's General Plan allowing sprawl development north of Eight Mile Road, the northernmost boundary of the city (as did Susan Eggman, when a vote was taken at the City Council).

cil). The plan would have destroyed part of Stockton's last remaining region of open agricultural space.

Eleven years later, an update of the Stockton General Plan was debated with much citizen participation. The original drafts were very oriented toward infill development and paring back suburban sprawl at the agricultural borders of the city. However, at the last moment, the Stockton City Council, lead by Mayor Michael Tubbs and the city manager, directed staff to include a new 3,800-acre "enterprise zone" north of Eight Mile Road, accompanied by sufficient housing for the anticipated workers (25,000 units). Activists mobilized an impressive coalition of infill-advocates to defeat the late amendment but were not successful. When the final votes came down, Councilwoman Fugazi was the lone courageous dissenter against the new plan to allow a new kind of sprawl north of Eight Mile Road.

Miller has served six years on the County Board. Before becoming a supervisor, Miller served six years on the Stockton City Council. Miller represents District 2, which covers Stockton. She has focused much of her attention on water and homelessness issues during her time in office. Miller first ran for the City Council as a registered Republican, then registered as decline to state, and became a registered Democrat some years ago. She was encouraged to run for the Assembly seat by Eggman. As of January, 2020, Miller has raised \$222,000. Miller's largest contributors are various Courage Campaigns (a progressive group), labor organizations, and some local Stockton developers.

Miller has won the support of the California Democratic Party. She is endorsed by several State officials, including California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Senator Bill Dodd, Senator Connie Leyva, Assemblymember Susan Eggman, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, as well as Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs.

Carlos Villapudua served on the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors from 2008 to 2016. He currently works as a government relations manager for Western Pacific Truck School. His endorsements include California Teachers Association, and two "moderate Dems," Assemblymember Adam Gray (D-Merced) and Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove). When he served on the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, he was known for his strong business and pro-development votes. Villapudua has raised \$153,000, including money from trucking companies, petroleum interests, and developers.

Although Villapudua has outraised Fugazi, some pundits believe he will not make the cut in the primary based on his weak performance in previous races. For example, in the 2018 primary for the same Assembly seat, Carlos Villapudua received only 17% of the vote, with the winning incumbent Susan Eggman getting 53%, and the Republican candidate receiving 30%. During the primary all three Democrats will compete for Republican votes as well as try to secure a large portion of Democrats. All three candidates already have legitimate support from liberal and conservative groups



ERIC PARFREY IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST AND RETIRED CITY PLANNER WHO HAS LIVED IN STOCKTON FOR 30 YEARS.

DISCLOSURE: THE AUTHOR IS VERY ACTIVE WITH THE SIERRA CLUB AND THE CLUB HAS ENDORSED A CANDIDATE IN BOTH OF THE RACES DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE ABOVE.



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CALIFORNIA PRIMARY • MARCH 3

Congress: war profiteering must end

SARAH ANDERSON

The prospect of war with Iran is terrifying. Experts predict as many as a million people could die if the current tensions lead to a full-blown war. Millions more would become refugees across the Middle East, while working families across the U.S. would bear the brunt of our casualties. There is one set of people who stand to benefit from the escalation of the conflict: CEOs of major U.S. military contractors. This was evident in the immediate aftermath of the U.S. assassination of a top Iranian military official on January 2. As soon as the news reached financial markets, these companies' share prices spiked. Wall Street traders know that a war with Iran would mean more lucrative contracts for U.S. weapons makers. Since top executives get much of their compensation in the form of stock, they benefit personally when the value of their company's stock

goes up.

I took a look at the stock holdings of the CEOs at the top five Pentagon contractors (Lockheed Martin, Boeing, General Dynamics, Raytheon, and Northrop Grumman). Using the most recent available data, I calculated that these five executives held company stock worth approximately \$319 million just before the U.S. drone strike that killed Iranian leader Qasem Soleimani. By the stock market's closing bell the following day, the value of their combined shares had increased to \$326 million.

War profiteering is nothing new. Back in 2006, during the height of the Iraq War, I analyzed CEO pay at the 34 corporations that were the top military contractors at that time. I found that their pay had jumped considerably after the September 11 attacks. Between 2001 and 2005, military contractor CEO pay jumped 108 percent on average, compared to a

6 percent increase for their counterparts at other large U.S. companies.

Congress needs to take action to prevent a catastrophic war on Iran. De-escalating the current tensions is the most immediate priority. But Congress must also take action to end war profiteering. In 2008, John McCain, then a Republican presidential candidate, proposed capping CEO pay at companies receiving financial bailouts. He argued that CEOs relying on taxpayer funds should not earn more than \$400,000—the salary of the U.S. president.

That common sense notion should be extended to all companies that rely on massive taxpayer-funded contracts. Senator Bernie Sanders, for instance, has a plan to deny federal contracts to companies that pay their CEOs excessively. He would set the CEO pay limit for major contractors at no more than 150 times the pay of the company's typical worker.

Currently, the sky's the limit for CEO pay at these companies—and the military contracting industry is a prime offender. The top five Pentagon contractors paid their top executives \$22.5 million on average in 2018. CEO pay restrictions should also apply to the leaders of privately held government contractors, which currently don't even have to disclose the size of their top executives' paychecks. That's the case for General Atomics, the manufacturer of the MQ-9 Reaper that carried out the assassination of Soleimani. Despite raking in \$2.8 billion in taxpayer-funded contracts in 2018, the drone maker is allowed to keep executive compensation information secret. We do know that General Atomics CEO Neal Blue has prospered quite a bit from taxpayer dollars. Forbes estimates his wealth at \$4.1 billion.

War is bad for nearly everyone. But as long as we allow the leaders of our

privatized war economy to reap unlimited rewards, their profit motive for war in Iran—or anywhere—will persist.

SARAH ANDERSON DIRECTS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY PROJECT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES, AND IS A CO-EDITOR OF INEQUALITY.ORG.

Source: *OtherWords* 1/8/20
<https://otherWORDS.ORG/>



Restore the Delta

Single Delta planning begins with "Notice of Preparation"

Planning for a single tunnel through the San Francisco Bay-Delta formally began today as the California Department of

comparison of timelines, the previous (now dead) Twin Tunnels planning process began under Governor Schwarzenegger.

"We have crucial Delta needs once again taking a backseat to a project that Californians do not want—especially on the heels of the Trump water plan."

Water Resources (DWR) released its Delta Conveyance Notice of Preparation. The document begins the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the "Delta Conveyance Project." DWR's notice today acknowledges that the proposed single tunnel is a new project, not a continuation of the Twin Tunnels permitting process. For

Reaction from Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director, Restore the Delta: "We are disappointed that the notice of preparation for the Delta tunnel project was released today because:

- A tunnel won't resolve the drought problems coming with climate change and will not bring water use and available

water into reconciliation. (We still promise more water to users than actually exists.)

- A Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan has not been implemented, and the proposed models for the Voluntary Agreements to set flows into and through the Delta reveal less available freshwater for the estuary.

- The Newsom administration has not yet filed its lawsuit against the Trump administration's corrupted biological opinions, the rules for how water export pumps operate to protect fish.

- Water quality issues around pollution, discharge from the San Joaquin River, and the growth of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Delta have not been resolved.

- The California Aqueduct is sinking as a result of groundwater pumping by big agricultural users ac-

cording to a report released by the Department of Water Resources on December 31, 2019, and will require costly repairs on top of the costs for the tunnel.

- A tunnel does not protect the Delta's 4 million people from extreme flood threat from climate change

"We have consistently maintained that regional sustainability projects found in Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio should be prioritized to reduce dependence on Delta water exports before moving forward with the tunnel. Instead, we have crucial Delta needs once again taking a backseat to a project that Californians do not want—especially on the heels of the Trump water plan."

Source: *Restore the Delta* 1/15/20
www.restorethedelta.org

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30 years of single-payer research shows Medicare for All will save U.S. money

EOIN HIGGINS

A comprehensive new study that reviewed nearly three decades of existing analyses shows implementation of a single-payer healthcare system like Medicare for All could dramatically reduce costs in the United States, with savings likely experienced in the first year and definitely over the longer term. The meta-analysis, published Wednesday in the *PLOS Medicine* journal, reviewed 22 existing studies of state and national single-payer healthcare proposals.

Christopher Cai, a third-year medical student at the University of California at San Francisco and the primary author of the study, explained in a statement that the economic findings were similar regardless of ideological perspective. "The most important conclusion from our study is that there is near consensus that single-payer would save money,

the study: "The researchers were able to estimate longer-term savings by using cost projections made in 10 of the models, which looked as far as 11 years into the future. These studies assumed that savings would grow over time, as the increases in healthcare utilization by the newly insured leveled off, and the global budgets adopted by single payer systems helped to constrain costs. By the tenth year, all modeled single payer systems would save money, even those that projected costs would initially increase." The study concludes with a call to implement the systems, saying that "the logical next step is real-world experimentation."

The cost savings benefit of a single payer healthcare system has long been an argument in favor of moving the U.S. away from private insurance. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has put Medicare for All at

start with different single designs and modeling assumptions, the vast majority of these studies all come to the same conclu-

neyn, president of Physicians for a National Health Program, which advocates for Medicare for All, told *Common Dreams* that the

"At this point, the most expensive health care plan is the status quo." Cai said that the way forward involves making a fundamental change to the U.S. healthcare system in order to enjoy the benefits of lower costs.

sion," said UCSF Institute for Health Policy Studies professor James G. Kahn. "This suggests that fears that a single-payer system would increase costs are

costliest system is the current one. "The numbers speak for themselves," Gaffney said in response to the new study. "Even studies by conservative and libertarian think tanks conclude that Medicare for All will reap enough administrative savings to cover the uninsured and upgrade coverage for everyone else," Gaffney said. "At this point, the most expensive health care plan is the status quo." Cai said that the way forward involves making a fundamental change to the U.S. healthcare system in order to enjoy the benefits of lower costs. "Replacing for-profit private insurance with a robust public system is essential to achieving these savings," said Cai.



both in the first year of implementation and in the long term," Cai told *Common Dreams*. "These findings held true regardless of the political affiliation of study authors." Of the 22 studies reviewed, 19 of them, or 86%, showed that healthcare costs would be reduced in the first year. All showed savings within a decade.

According to a UCSF press release announcing

the center of his presidential campaign and made the issue a key part of the 2020 Democratic primary. At a primary debate on in January, moderators continually asked Sanders and other Democrats about the costs of such a policy. According to the study's researchers, however, cost should be the least concerning aspect of moving towards Medicare for All. "Even though they

likely misplaced." In comment to *Common Dreams*, Cai expressed hope that "public officials will draw on this research to spread accurate information."

"It's natural for the public to be skeptical of change and debate is healthy," said Cai. "Yet as physicians and researchers we want the discussion to be evidence-based, and we want the best for our patients." Dr. Adam Gaff-

Source: *Common Dreams* 11520
www.commondreams.org

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Dems respond to Trump Iran war moves

MIKE LUDWIG

As Democratic presidential hopefuls scrambled to respond after President Trump ordered the assassination on Thursday of a top Iranian military commander, Sen. Bernie Sanders touted his antiwar voting record on the campaign trail and laid out a vague but bold vision for removing U.S. troops from the Middle East while redirecting overseas military spending to programs that improve life for people back home.

The United States and Iran appear to be at the brink of war, or at least a proxy war, which could sow bloody chaos in Iraq and further conflict in the region. After supporters of an Iran-backed Shia militia besieged the U.S. embassy in Baghdad this week in protest of deadly U.S. airstrikes against the group, Trump ordered a drone strike near Baghdad on Thursday that killed up to 10 people and assassinated Maj. Gen. Qassim Suleimani, commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force and one of the most powerful men in Iran. Iran has vowed to seek "severe revenge."

The strike has raised fears of war across the globe and divided lawmakers largely along party lines. Republicans generally applauded the killing of a commander accused of targeting U.S. forces during the Iraq war while leading Democrats characterized the move as a dangerous escalation made without approval from Congress. While presidential contenders Pete Buttigieg, Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren referred to Suleimani as an enemy of the U.S., they questioned whether Trump had considered the consequences of the strike and the president's long-term plan for dealing with Iran.

"Now we must deal with the consequences of this action, beginning with the immediate and very real dangers to American citizens in and out of uniform in the Middle East," said Buttigieg, a former military intelligence officer, in said in a statement. "We must prepare for the impact on regional stability, complex forms of retaliation, and the potential for escalation into war."

However, the airstrike also exposed divisions among Democrats, whose progressive wing in the House rose in protest

just three weeks ago when language that would have prevented Trump from attacking Iran without congressional approval was dropped from a massive, \$738 billion military spending authorization package. Republicans were able to win major concessions on the package due to their majority in the Senate, and most House Democrats voted for the package as a year-end deadline loomed.

Sen. Sanders voted against the package, as he has several times in the past. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who is jockeying with Sanders for support from progressive voters in the Democratic presidential primaries, came out later against the military spending legislation.

Speaking at a town hall in Iowa on Friday, Sanders reminded voters that he voted against going to war with Iraq in 2002. At the time, he warned that the war would become a bloody and expensive quagmire that would further destabilize the Middle East. Unfortunately, his prediction turned out to be true. Today, Iraq suffers from rampant corruption, unrest, poverty and Iranian interference that spurred riotous protests in recent weeks. War, Sanders said, must be "our last recourse in international relations."

"All of that suffering, all of that death, all of those huge expenditures of money for what?" Sanders said. "It gives me no pleasure to tell you, that at this moment, we face a similar crossroads fraught with danger. Once again, we must worry about unintended consequences and the impact of unilateral decision making."

Sanders also laid out a vision for U.S. foreign policy centered around peace and diplomacy, in stark contrast to nearly two decades of military adventurism and endless conflict in the Middle East sparked by the War on Terror under the Bush administration and expanded under the Obama administration. In a world where authoritarianism is rising and nuclear weapons continue to proliferate, Sanders said the U.S. must chart a very different course.

"I believe, in the midst of all that, the role of the United States, as difficult though it may be, must be to work with the international community to end conflicts, to end the threat of war, not to promote war, as President Trump is doing," Sanders said. "This is how the true power of the United States is shown, and that is how I will use American power as president."

Responses from rival Democratic candidates were more tempered, reflecting a shrewd political calculation of how centrist voters will respond to news that Trump killed a commander portrayed as the violent mastermind behind Iran's "expansionist agenda." Robert C. O'Brien, Trump's national security adviser, said on Friday that Suleimani was plotting attacks against U.S. service members in Iraq but would not provide any further details about the alleged plans when pressed by reporters.

While Sanders focused on his vote against the Iraq war, Warren called Suleimani a "murderer" responsible for thousands of deaths, including U.S. casualties. However, Warren also called the assassination a "reckless" act that could lead to greater violence, arguing that avoiding another costly war should be the top priority. Sen. Cory Booker, another presidential

Cost of Medicare for All an issue, not the price of endless war

EOIN HIGGINS

Democrats onstage Tuesday night at the *CNN Des Moines Register* debate in Iowa were challenged repeatedly by moderators on the cost of major plans like Sen. Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All — scrutiny that was missing in the first half hour when the questions focused on endless war and a potential attack on Iran. "Wonder if *CNN* asked how much going to potential war with Iran cost?" asked artist Karla Ortiz.

Questions on costs and how the presidential candidates proposed to pay for their proposals appeared to use an analysis provided to *CNN* Tuesday by Larry Summers on the cost of the Sanders agenda. The majority of the questions on cost were directed to Sanders and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). But those questions only came in the second hour of the debate, and were absent during the discussion on foreign policy.

Progressives quickly noted the disconnect. "None of the candidates who

said they support keeping troops in Iraq were asked how they were going to pay for it," tweeted Sanders campaign national organizing director Claire Sandberg. Policy analyst Dan Riffe was incredulous at the line of questioning. "They just asked 27 questions about sending troops to the Middle East and preventing Iran from developing nukes and not once asked how they'd pay for it," said Riffe. "But not letting poor people die? Whoa, what's the price tag on that?!"

Social media lit up with commentators and observers from the left taking aim at the difference in approach from the moderators. "If you didn't ask 'how do you pay for it' when it comes to the disastrous war budget, bank bailouts, or oil company subsidies, you have little to stand on," said Sanders surrogate Nina Turner. "Show the receipts!"

Source: Common Dreams 1/15/20
<https://www.commondreams.org>

hopeful, said Trump has "no strategic plan for Iran and has only made the region less stable."

Biden voted for the 2002 invasion of Iraq and served as vice president in the Obama administration, which signed off on deadly drone strikes, supported the overthrow of Libyan leader Muammar al-Gaddafi, intervened in the Syrian civil war and launched the war against ISIS. Biden claimed Suleimani "supported terror and sowed chaos" and "deserved to be brought to justice for his crimes." But he also said Trump "just tossed a stick of dynamite into a tinderbox."

"I hope the administration has thought through the second- and third-order consequences of the path they have chosen," Biden said in a statement. "But I fear this administration has not demonstrated at any turn the discipline or long-term vision necessary — and the stakes could not be higher."

Democrats are largely united in their criticism of Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. Since taking office, Trump has pulled out of the Iranian nuclear deal negotiated by the Obama administration that would have placed strict limits on the country's nuclear weapons program. The Trump administration has withdrawn from the agreement, slammed Iran with devastating economic sanctions that harm the Iranian population and designated the Revolutionary Guard a terrorist group.

As Trump has taunted Iranian leaders on Twitter, a series of tit-for-tat strikes and escalations has taken place, often involving various proxies throughout the region. Earlier this week, the U.S. launched deadly airstrikes against a militia with ties to Iran in Iraq and Syria after accusing the group of rocket attacks against U.S. and coalition forces, including one that killed an American security contractor last week. Supporters of the Shia militia in Iraq respond-

ed by besieging the U.S. embassy, and the latest U.S. drone strike killed the militia's commander along with Suleimani.

The Constitution gives Congress — not the president — the ability to declare war, and the Trump administration has not yet revealed its legal justification for the assassination of a foreign military commander, which Iran clearly views as an act of war. O'Brien said the attack on Suleimani was consistent with the 2002 Authorization of Use of Military Force (AUMF) that allowed President Bush to invade Iraq in the first place — legislation Biden infamously supported. Observers expect the administration to use a controversial interpretation of the AUMF to justify the assassination to Congress.

Language that would have repealed the 2002 AUMF and required Trump to get permission from Congress before attacking Iran were among the progressive provisions stripped from the military spending authorization bill passed by Congress last month. Democrats used their majority in the House to put these provisions on the table, only to have them dropped after negotiations with the GOP-controlled Senate. A bloc of 41 progressive Democrats and a handful of isolationist Republicans in the House voted against the package in protest.

Biden, Warren, Buttigieg and other Democrats are attempting to draw a contrast between themselves and Trump's blundering, shoot-from-the-hip approach to foreign policy as the conflict with Iran looms over the 2020 elections. But their statements on the assassination of Suleimani and the very real threat of war with Iran were eerily similar.

Sanders was an original opponent of the 2003 invasion of Iraq and has spoken for decades against massive military

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

A truly antiwar agenda includes free college and Medicare for All



ROBY FANNING

The last Iowa debate brought home a reality for me: A truly antiwar agenda is not confined to priorities traditionally seen as "foreign policy." It must include bold plans to address climate change, education, institutional racism and sexism, health care and immigration justice. And our movements must reflect that broad-based vision.

The recent assassination of Iran's top Gen. Qassim Soleimani was a frightening reminder of the undemocratic and reckless approach of those who currently rule the U.S. And days later, the detention and denial of entry to dozens of Iranian Americans at the border drew attention to the racism and Islamophobia of this country's border patrol apparatus.

Activism in resistance to Trump's reckless provocation has been inspiring. We saw powerful marches across the country in response to the strike against Soleimani. The strongest messages coming out of those rallies was that Iran is not our enemy—and that the true enemy of poor and working-class people in this country is the current administration and the ruling class that drives us into war.

For many, these events were also a wake-up call to rebuild an antiwar/anti-militarism movement. Such efforts will be critical to prevent U.S. interventions in the Middle East and end trillion-dollar wars that redirect money from education, health care, infrastructure and environmental protections. In September of 2017, the Senate voted to increase the annual military spending budget from \$620 billion to \$700 billion. The \$80 billion used for that in-

crease could have made public colleges and universities tuition-free. The roughly \$6 trillion spent on the wars in the Middle East since 2001 could have made the energy grid in the U.S. 100 percent renewable. And of course, there are the countless lives that have been destroyed because of U.S. militarism, and the potential to destroy countless more.

Yet somehow, as we saw in the debate, politicians are never asked how they are going to pay for increases in military budgets, but always pounce on the questions of how we would pay for Medicare for All, free college, or green energy. The stakes couldn't be higher when it comes to the need to build an antiwar movement. But what will that movement look like? And are we closer to realizing it than we think?

At the No War with Iran marches I heard a few reminiscences about the marches during the Vietnam war. One person specifically referenced the day in October of 1967 when 100,000 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to challenge the war and the racism that fueled it. "We need to see something like that again," that person said longingly. Others spoke of the antiwar marches in 2003 where up to 500,000 marched in New York City alone to protest the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

As inspiring as the antiwar movements of the past have been, it's important that we don't overly romanticize them and take them out of historical context. These movements were far from perfect and ultimately left the apparatus that continues to drive us to war intact. Yes, we need to replicate much of the energy of these previous decades and get ourselves back to a place where hundreds of thousands bring "business as usual" for the military-industrial complex to a grinding halt over a sustained period of time. But we can't overlook the work being done that is creating a broader conception of an anti-militarism movement in the current moment.

In the spirit of embracing the

moment we are in, and seeing the great work that is already being done, let's look at some of the campaigns that are in action now and draw out some of the ways these struggles are directly and indirectly challenging U.S. militarism and laying a foundation for a broader and healthier intersectional antiwar movement that will one day welcome soldiers home, convince students not to sign up for the current wars, and redirect the trillions spent on the military to infrastructure, health care and education.

FIGHTING FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Many in the climate justice movement are drawing the connections between the U.S. military and the warming planet. They are challenging our elected officials to do more to shut down the 800 military bases around the world that are polluting more than 140 countries combined. People are recognizing that there

death. Roughly 20 percent of the 184,000 people who sign up for the military each year come from households that make less than \$40,000 a year. It's hard to find a college education that costs less than that amount. I signed up for the military in part to pay off my college loans. I always ask myself if I would have signed up if I were debt free. If college debt were erased, thousands of soldiers would lose their incentive to stay in the military — a huge threat to the U.S. war machine.

CONFRONTING RACISM

So much of the racism used to fuel aggression overseas in foreign wars is taught through our existing institutions. People like Angela Davis and the leaders of the Movement for Black Lives have been making the connections between U.S. imperialism and the policing of Black and Brown communities for years, emphasizing that racist institu-

truly erupts in the military. When this happens, the military will be rocked to its core. Civilian survivors' struggles for justice are leading the way for women in the military to speak out about sexual assault in the ranks.

FIGHTING FOR MIGRANT RIGHTS

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, in part because it has exploited countries in Latin America for decades. The migrant rights movement is challenging the idea of American exceptionalism and chauvinism that justifies so much killing and destruction around the world. Many have called upon active-duty soldiers to lay their weapons down and refuse to police the border. They are challenging active-duty soldiers to make these historical connections in order to further question the legitimacy of their mission at the border. Most elected officials understand that if college were free, then the pool of potential military recruits would plummet. Indeed, much of our movement work is already threatening U.S. militarism. We can see this in the declining numbers of students who are willing to sign up for the military, despite enormous recruiting and marketing budgets. More and more activists are confronting militarism in words and actions while battling climate change, racism, sexism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, student debt, for-profit health care and capitalism as a whole.

At the debate, the moderators presented war as an issue wholly separate from other urgent priorities. Meanwhile, the moderators and centrist candidates criticized progressive candidates' plans for free college and Medicare for All, even as they called for an end to "endless wars." It's time we looked to grassroots movements — which increasingly recognize how these issues are inextricably linked — to be our guide.

Source: *Truthout* 1/15/20
<https://truthout.org/>

The roughly \$6 trillion spent on the wars in the Middle East since 2001 could have made the energy grid in the U.S. 100 percent renewable.

is no such thing as a green military, and there never will be. You are either for the environment or for U.S. imperialism. You can't be for both. More and more people are recognizing the point Sarah Lazare recently argued in *In These Times*: "We must not only tie together U.S. imperialism and climate, but use both as an entry point to combat the other."

DEMANDING FREE HIGHER EDUCATION

It's been inspiring to see people fight for free education and recognize that one of the greatest obstacles to free college is the U.S. military. Most elected officials understand that if college were free, then the pool of potential military recruits would plummet — and that fact scares them to

tions at home fuel war abroad and vice versa. Supporting the existing efforts of those making these connections will resonate with students considering the military, as well as those currently on active duty who are questioning the mission.

CONFRONTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Two out of every three women are sexually assaulted or harassed while in the military. The #MeToo movement is inspiring women in the military to challenge the patriarchy and toxic masculinity the military thrives on. The unhealthy and undemocratic power dynamic of "the chain of command" creates conditions ripe for abuse. It's only a matter of time before #MeToo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

budgets, and he recently championed an effort in Congress to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen's brutal civil war. As the conflict with Iran continues, expect to hear him tout this record on the campaign trail. (It should be noted that Sanders has also been criticized by antiwar activists for supporting President Clinton's intervention in the

1999 war in Kosovo and other U.S. overseas operations.)

Sanders is betting that voters want the violence to end and for their tax dollars funding overseas military operations to be spent on rebuilding infrastructure, fixing the health care system and addressing climate change. "We must invest in the needs of the American people, not spend trillions more on endless wars," Sanders said.

He is also betting that voters want to

see a brand of foreign policymaking that is different than the status-quo, which only the progressive wing of the Democratic party has consistently challenged. "We must end our involvement in the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, which is now one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes on Earth," Sanders said on Friday. "And we must bring our troops home from Afghanistan. Instead of provoking more volatility in the region, the United States must use its power, its wealth, and

its influence to bring the regional powers to the table to resolve conflicts."

Sanders did not elaborate on how exactly he would end U.S. military options in the Middle East, though it is clear he favors diplomacy where Trump favors aggression when it comes to Iran — and he is prepared to use his record to set himself apart from Biden and rival Democrats.

Source: *Truthout* 1/4/20
<https://truthout.org/>

Being rich buys 9 extra years of 'healthy' living

JESSICA CORBETT

A new study that highlights the serious impacts of wealth inequality in the United Kingdom and United States suggests that being rich can add about nine "healthy" years to a person's life. The transatlantic study on "healthy life expectancy," published Wednesday in the *Journal of Gerontology*, is based on data from more than 25,000 adults—10,754 in the U.K. and 14,803 in the U.S.—aged 50 and older. The data came from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS).

Although life expectancy for both countries has significantly risen over the past century, recent evidence has shown life expectancy falling in the U.S. and leveling off in the U.K. amid rising rates of disability and chronic conditions among older adults, the study notes. Previous research also has shown that Americans are worse off in terms of health compared to the British.

"While life expectancy is a useful indicator of health, the quality of life as we get older is also crucial," said lead author Paola Zaninotto, an associate professor of epidemiology and public health at University College London and a member of the ELSA management group.

"By measuring healthy life expectancy we can get an estimate of the number of years of life spent in favorable states of health or without disability," Zaninotto added. "Our study makes a unique contribution to understanding the

levels of inequalities in health expectancies between England and the U.S. where healthcare systems are very different."

With the exceptions of Medicare, which serves people aged 65 and older, and Medicaid, which serves people with low incomes or disabilities, most Americans are stuck relying on a private healthcare system, despite public pressure to transition to a single-payer program. The U.K., meanwhile, established its National Health Service (NHS) in 1948. British conservative politicians repeatedly have pushed for increased privatization of the government-run NHS, but such calls have sparked swift backlash.

Referencing other research showing an American disadvantage in health compared with the British, the study says that "since access to healthcare is not the only explanation for inequalities in health, cross-national comparisons of health expectancy can also help evaluating strategies adopted in different countries to help reducing health inequalities."

"Other possible explanations for greater health inequalities in the United States compared to England might relate to a more generous welfare state system in England compared to the United States, including unemployment compensation, sick pay, housing policies, and social retirement benefits," explains the study. "These contextual factors can in turn provide better psychosocial health and reduced stress, especially among socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. It is possible that older Americans are exposed to more psychosocial distress, which has been shown to increase the risk of chronic conditions and early mortality."

Along with acknowledging some of the differences between the two countries, the researchers also emphasize some similarities—notably, that "it is now well established that in the United States and England, there are striking socioeconomic inequalities, in both general health and life expectancy, with apparent socioeconomic gradations, rather than differences only being seen between rich and poor."

The researchers found that wealth was the "biggest socioeconomic advantage" in terms of healthy life expectancy in both countries and across all age groups. Specifically, they found that from the age 50, the wealthiest British and American men lived 31 more "healthy" years compared with 22-23 years for the poorest men; rich women lived about 33 additional "healthy" years compared with 24-26.6 years for their poor counterparts.

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"Levels of disability-free life expectancy in the United States and in England (from HRS and ELSA) are approximately the same," explains the study. "We have shown that in England and the United States, despite living longer lives, not all the increased years of life are being spent in optimal health. Our findings have implications for policymakers interested in reducing health expectancy inequalities."

"Improving both the quality and the quantity of years that individuals are expected to live has implications for public expenditure on health, income, and long-term care need of older people as well as work participation in older

ages," the study concludes. Echoing the study's conclusion, Zaninotto said that "our results suggest that policymakers in both England and the U.S. must

make greater efforts into reducing health inequalities." That call also came from politicians and political figures on both sides of the Atlantic who responded on social media to reporting on the study's findings. Zarah Lultana, a Labour member of Parliament in the U.K., declared on Twitter that "extreme economic inequality scars our society" and expressed a desire to "live in a Britain that cares for everyone equally."

Dr. Victoria Dooley, a family medicine physician who also serves as a surrogate for Sen. Bernie Sanders's presidential campaign, also took to Twitter to share her reaction to the study. As she put it: "Starvation wages, bad for workers, helps the super rich literally drain their life force so that they can live longer lives."

Source: *Common Dreams* 1/15/20
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Republican call for overturning *Roe v. Wade* in Supreme Court filing

KATELYN BURNS,

In an amicus curie brief released Thursday, 205 Republican lawmakers, including 39 senators, asked the Supreme Court to consider whether *Roe*, the 1973 landmark Supreme Court case protecting the right to an abortion, "should be reconsidered and, if appropriate, overruled."

They're weighing in on *June Medical Services v. Gee*, a key abortion-related case set to be heard in early March determining whether the state of Louisiana can require abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. Advocates predict that, if the Louisiana law is upheld, two of the remaining three abortion clinics in the state will close down.

Abortion rights advocates sounded the alarm Thursday, warning that the legal battle over *Roe* is now in full swing. "The anti-choice movement is no longer trying to hide their real agenda," said Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, in a statement. "They are gunning to end *Roe*, criminalize abortion and punish women. If it wasn't clear why we fought like hell to stop [Supreme Court justice] Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation before, it should be crystal clear now."

But beyond the specifics of this case, the brief represents an ideological statement for Republicans as they enter what is expected to be a bitterly fought election year. And judging by the brief, the party has its sights set squarely on eliminating the right to legal abortion. While several Republican senators in hotly contested reelection battles such as Susan Collins (ME) and Martha McSally (AZ) withheld their support, two anti-abortion House Democrats, Dan Lipinski (IL) and Collin Peterson (MN) added their names to the brief with their colleagues across the aisle. With *Roe* at stake, all eyes will be on the Supreme Court for oral arguments in this case on March 4 — and on Republican lawmakers on the campaign trail in 2020.

THE FIRST BIG ABORTION CASE HEARD BY THE NEW COURT

Gee will be the first abortion case heard by the Supreme Court since Kavanaugh was appointed to the bench last year. The case centers on a 2014 Louisiana law requiring doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. Abortion advocates argue that such privileges are unnecessary because complications from abortion care are relatively rare and if a serious medical emergency occurred during an abortion, a patient would be transported to a local hospital which would have no choice but to administer treatment regardless of any admitting privileges.

The law, advocates say, is what's known as a "TRAP" (targeted regulations on abortion providers) law, or a law that looks at first glance like a regulation to increase safety for abortion patients but is really designed to make it harder for clinics to operate.

The case is essentially a relitigation of the 2016 decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, which struck down a nearly identical law in Texas. Why would the court take up nearly the same case just three years after ruling on essentially the same issue? Quite simply, it's Kavanaugh's presence on the bench, as Vox's Anna North and Ian Millhauser explained: "But the Supreme Court today is different from what it was in 2016. *Gee* is the first abortion-related case the Supreme Court will hear on the merits since Justice Brett Kavanaugh replaced the more moderate conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy. For many years, Kennedy was the Court's 'swing' vote on abortion — typically voting to uphold abortion restrictions but also recoiling at laws that cut so deep into the right to an abortion that they virtually nullified it. Kavanaugh, by contrast, is overwhelmingly likely to vote with his conservative colleagues to uphold the abortion restriction at issue in *Gee*. The *Gee* decision may not be the final straw for *Roe v. Wade* — indeed, it is fairly likely that the Court will prefer to dismantle the right to an abortion in incremental steps. But it is likely to, at the very least, be the beginning of the end."

Republican lawmakers, however, don't appear to want to settle for an incremental rollback of abortion rights in the US. While making arguments on several key

provisions of the case, such as whether June Medical Services has standing to bring the suit in the first place, the Republican brief argues that *Roe* is a "radically unsettled precedent" while pointing out that two of the original justices who joined the majority in the case have since repudiated their ruling. "*Roe* jurisprudence has been haphazard from the beginning," reads the brief. "*Roe* did not actually hold that abortion was a 'fundamental' constitutional right, but only implied it."

The brief also asked the court to reconsider the 1992 ruling in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* which upheld *Roe* but allowed states to enact some restrictions on the medical procedure, as long as they didn't impose an "undue burden." The 207 lawmakers, however, argue that federal courts have struggled to consistently apply that standard. "After two decades of inconsistency, the Court officially disavowed 'fundamental right' status for abortion and strict scrutiny review, adopting instead an 'undue burden' test in *Casey*," reads the brief. "As a result, consistency and predictability continue to be undermined as federal courts struggle to apply the *Roe Casey* standard."

A DIVISIVE ELECTORAL ISSUE

The majority of the country — 58 percent of Americans, according to a 2018 Pew poll — believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases. But that support belies an increasingly partisan division: While 36 percent of Republicans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, over 75 percent of Democrats believe the same.

As North explained last year, that wasn't always the case; in "the 1970s, politicians' views on abortion didn't break down along neat party lines": The story of the abortion debate since the 1970s is one of party leaders moving farther and farther apart on the issue. The reasons, scholars and activists say, are a combination of grassroots activism and establishment political strategy. The results are a landscape that would be unrecognizable to many voters in 1982 — or even five years ago.

And in that increasingly polarized atmosphere, anti-abortion activists have seen an opening. They — and by extension the Republican party — have been building toward this Supreme Court showdown for the better part of the last decade, as North explained: "At the turn of the decade, statehouses went red across America. Republicans gained control of 11 state legislatures and increased their majorities in three more; in some places, like Alabama and North Carolina, they erased Democratic majorities that had existed since the 19th century. When the votes were counted, the GOP had added 680 seats in state legislatures around the country. On abortion, the impact was swift and powerful. Teresa Fedor, a Democrat who has served in the Ohio legislature since 2001, remembers that before 2010, "Democrats were able to really have an impact on policy." After 2010, when Republicans took control of the state House of Representatives and the governors' mansion, she told Vox, it was "a full-on assault against women's reproductive rights." In the next year alone, five anti-abortion bills passed in Ohio, Fedor said. The same thing happened around the country: Overall, more abortion restrictions were passed in 2011 than in any year since *Roe* established a right to the procedure in 1973."

In fact, the law in question in *Gee* was part of that initial anti-abortion wave, passing the Louisiana state legislature in 2011. It's a reminder that elections have consequences, a lesson abortion advocates have recently taken to heart. Reproductive rights advocates took direct aim at the lawmakers who signed on to the bill Thursday. "These anti-abortion politicians are making it very clear — they want the Supreme Court to effectively ban abortion, precedent be damned," said Samuel Lau, director of Federal Advocacy Media for Planned Parenthood Votes in a statement specifically naming Lipinski and Sens. Tillis (R-NC), Ernst (R-IA), and Cornyn (R-TX). "To the members of Congress who signed on to this amicus brief: Brace yourselves for the consequences you will face at the ballot box in November."

But even after losing big with suburban women in



2018, the 205 Republican signees don't seem concerned — instead, they're into their anti-choice bona fides. After all, Republicans have been winning elections on abortion for decades, and judging by Thursday's brief, a good many of them are counting on doing it again in 2020.

Source: Vox 1/3/20 <https://www.vox.com>



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One of the most heartbreaking casualties of the Australian Bush Fires are the millions of animals that have been killed, injured and displaced.

The outpouring of international support and sentiment has taken on a unique twist. Craftspeople have rallied to help in very tangible ways by sewing, crocheting and knitting pouches to be used for infant koalas, kangaroos as they heal.

Global Craft Movement started as a Facebook page and quickly went global using the hashtag #GlobalCraftMovement. The fabrics need to be natural and soft—flannel, fleece and cotton to avoid further damage to delicate burn victims.

Local activist and craftsperson, Denise Jefferson heard of a movement online. Denise sent out the following appeal via email to friends, "Like many of you

I have watched the news reports of the Australian fires with sadness and helplessness. Watching the scorched animals was unbearable. Then early this week I received a facebook posting sent to people worldwide who sew, asking them to make pouches for the orphaned animals. Finally there was a simple way to help.

The pouches for wallaby and kangaroo "joeys" are made of natural fibers, preferably cotton with cotton flannel lining. Using remnants of other projects I have made six, with six more cut out so far, but I have run out of flannel. If any of you have flannel scraps you would be willing to donate I will continue making them."

Denise is very handy with the sewing machine—usually channeling her efforts to making granddaughter dresses or window coverings. She researched online for recommended

patterns and went to work using leftover natural cotton fabrics that she had on hand. Most of her pouches are cotton prints on the outside lined with softer flannel. Denise takes great pains to finish off the edges smoothly and reinforce straps to make them strong.

Her husband Coburn (Coby) Ward wanted to help, so she trained him on the basics using her trusty old Singer sewing machine.

Friends have also joined in by donating suitable fabrics and assisting in cutting out the patterns.

Denise and Coby sent off their first shipment to Australia and continue to work on more pouches, but have been instructed to hold off sending any more. The outpouring of donations has apparently been overwhelming and the organizers are regrouping to assess the ongoing need.

ACTION: Donate fabric or help with crafting. Contact Denise Jefferson in Stockton at: jeffergirl@gmail.com

ANIMAL RESCUE PATTERN ALBUM:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MEDIA/SET/?SET=A.517912862266006&TYPE=3

FOR MORE INFO FOUND ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GLOBALCRAFTMOVEMENT

WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/

GLOBALCRAFTMOVEMENT

TWITTER: CRAFT_MOVEMENT



Denise Jefferson displays some of the completed animal rescue pouches destined for Australia Bush Fire injured animals.



Coburn "Coby" Ward (Denise's husband) learns to operate sewing machine to help with the pouch project.

PHOTOS BY AVA SIMPSON



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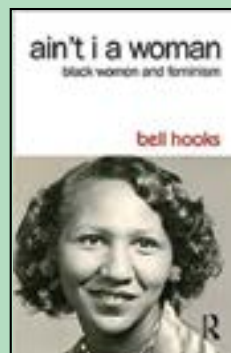


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Book Review

Ain't I a Woman *Black Women and Feminism*

Author: bell hooks (Published in 1981)



RECOMMENDED READING BY CHRISTIE KELLEY

This book describes the intersection of racism and feminism and the deconstruction of where and how white feminists (and others) got it wrong. At 71, I am constantly learning and bell hooks wrote a book in her youth that is as valid today as ever. An important read/listen for all feminists of any gender identification to understand the historical underpinnings that unite us in our struggle for a just world for all. If we don't understand our her/his/tories, we will continue to stumble. We are reminded that every voice needs to be heard and respected as unique and valuable.

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES, MIN JIN LEE, FEB 28, 2019

Gloria Watkins published her first book, "Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism," under her pen name, bell hooks (taken from her grandmother's name) in 1981.

Now, thirty eight years after its publication in 1981, "Ain't I a Woman" remains a radical and relevant work of political theory. hooks lays the groundwork of her feminist theory by giving historical evidence of the specific sexism that black female slaves endured and how that legacy affects black womanhood today. She writes, "A devaluation of black womanhood occurred as a result of the sexual exploitation of black women during slavery that has not altered in the course of hundreds of years." The economics of slavery, which commodified human lives and the breeding of more enslaved people, encouraged the systematic practice of rape against black women, and this system established an enduring "social hierarchy based on race and sex."

hooks's writing broke ground by recognizing that a woman's race, political history, social position and economic worth to her society are just some of the factors, which comprise her value, but none of these can ever be left out in considering the totality of her life and her freedom.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/28/books/bell-hooks-min-jin-lee-aint-i-a-woman.html>

For more information and a listing of bell hooks books check out <https://bellhooksbooks.com/>

OTHER GOOD READS/LISTENS:

Michelle Obama, "Becoming"
Assata Shakur "Assata: An Autobiography"
Chimadanda Ngozi Adichie "We Should All Be Feminists"
Michelle Alexander "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness"
Zora Neale Hurston "Their Eyes Were Watching God"

Women's March 2020

Fourth year of marches in support of women and human rights



PHOTO CREDIT:
KATYA EVANHOE
JIM MELQUIST
& AVA SIMPSON



Stockton men and women traveled to Sacramento and Modesto to join thousands.



Climate change happening

Australia's bushfires expose an extinction crisis that was decades in the making

TARA LOHAN

The hundreds of fires racing across Australia have captured the world's attention and left an indelible scar on the continent, with at least 27 human lives lost, 15 million acres consumed and nearly 2,000 homes destroyed. And then, of course, there are the animals, shown dead or scarred in unforgettable photos. The exact number of wild creatures killed in the blazes won't be known for a while, but one estimate, from University of Sydney ecologist Chris Dickman, puts it at a staggering 1 billion animals. With record droughts and high temperatures fueling the bushfires, experts warn that Australia's present horror could be a harbinger of climate-amplified disasters to come for the rest of the world. And while this could inspire a wake-up call for climate action, it should also ring alarm bells about the extinction crisis — and shine a light on the historical factors that have made the conflagration and resulting biodiversity loss so devastating.

BIODIVERSITY UP IN FLAMES

Globally the planet is experiencing an unparalleled biodiversity crisis, with as many as a million species facing extinction. The problem is perhaps most acutely felt in Australia, where more than 1,700 plant and animal species are federally listed as threatened. The island nation is one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots, with upwards of 80% of its plant and animal species found nowhere else.

The wildfires could wipe out some species directly or, in the aftermath, through loss of food, habitat and shelter. It's an extreme situation for a country that normally experiences some level of recurring natural fire. "Many Australian plants and animals are fire-adapted, but this fire event occurred at a scale and intensity that is unprecedented," says wildlife ecologist Sarah Legge, a professor at the Australian National University and principal research fellow with the University of Queensland.

"When fires are smaller in area and of lower intensity, rela-

tively smaller proportions of populations are affected and species are able to recover between fire events," she says. "Now, in this event, such large areas have been simultaneously affected so severely that populations will struggle to recover."

Climate change is making Australia's fire seasons longer and more severe. And fire frequency is also increasing in many areas of the country, making it harder for even fire-adapted species to bounce back from each successive event.

"We're already seeing ecosystem collapse in some areas," Legge says. "For example, the alpine ash forests of the high country are being transformed from biodiverse wet eucalyptus to an attenuated, scrubby and more flammable forest." The scale and intensity of fires are bad news for a lot of wildlife, and experts estimate that around 200 threatened species have already been affected.

Some could be brought to the brink of extinction. The Kangaroo Island dunnart, a mouse-sized endangered marsupial, may have already lost as much as 95% of its habitat. A similar fate could await the long-footed potoroo, a small marsupial found in east Gippsland, Victoria, and the spring midge orchid near Batemans Bay on the coast of New South Wales, says Legge. Species with the smallest distributions are at the greatest risk, even those few with protective measures in place. "For some species, many years of conservation effort have been obliterated in the space of a few weeks," she says. "We face a future where these events will recur at increasing frequency."

EXTINCTION HISTORY

Although the current news is grim, Australia's wildlife crisis actually predates the most recent fires and can be traced back to the beginning of European colonization. At least 90 species have gone extinct in Australia over the past two centuries, and the country now has the inglorious honor of holding the record for the most mammalian extinctions in the world, including the first mam-

mal declared extinct from climate change — the Bramble Cay melomys.

In fact, in the past 200 years the country has lost more biodiversity than any other developed nation, according to a November 2019 study published in *Conservation Letters*, which Legge co-authored. The biggest drivers of these losses include invasive species and rampant habitat destruction. And all these historical problems are compounded by a lack of modern political will.

Recent research by *The Guardian* found that under 40% of Australia's federally listed threatened species have accompanying recovery plans. The paper also found that no new critical habitat for threatened species has been listed since 2005.

The inaction has come with a cost. Australia has lost a third of its native vegetation since European colonization, according to a study published last year in *Conservation Science and Practice*. Researchers also found that the majority of the species listed as threatened are seriously affected by habitat loss, which comes from clearing land for agriculture,

mining and other development.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. In 1999 Australia passed the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) to help protect the country's biodiversity and ecological communities. But since then the Act has done little to stop habitat destruction. The study estimated that 19 million acres (7.7 million hectares) of potential forest and woodland habitat for threatened species were destroyed between 2000 and 2017, much of it to create livestock pasture.

Shockingly 93% of that lost land was never referred to the federal government to be evaluated for the development's potential impact on nearby species — a requirement under the guidelines of the EPBC Act.

This was more than a policy failure. "It's hard for any reasonable person to see how 7 million hectares of unassessed, unapproved destruction of threatened species habitat can be other than unlawful," Martin Taylor, one of the report's co-authors and a conservation science manager at the World Wide Fund for Nature-Australia, said when the report

was released in September. "The government is failing to enforce a law designed to halt Australia's extinction crisis."

The Mount Cooper striped skink lost 25% of its potential habitat to development during this period, making it one of the biggest losers in the enforcement failure. The Keighery's macarthuria, a small flowering shrub, lost 23% and the southern black-throated finch 10%.

Even more well-known species suffered. The beloved koala — perhaps the poster child for the current fires — lost around 2.5 million acres (1 million hectares), 2% of its potential habitat.

The study's authors concluded that "Australia's flagship environmental legislation is almost completely ineffective at limiting the ongoing loss of potential habitat for listed terrestrial species and communities... As habitat loss is the primary cause of species extinction, we urge mechanisms that protect habitat be embedded within the federal legislation."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Hottest decade on record

ANDREA GERMANOS

New data out Wednesday from federal and international scientists that confirmed 2019 was the second-warmest year on record and capped off the warmest decade on record underscores the scale of the global crisis, said climate advocates. The temperature data was released in the U.S. by NOAA and NASA. The World Meteorological Organization, which consolidates analysis from NOAA and NASA as well as datasets from the U.K.'s Met Office and the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit, the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts and its Copernicus Climate Change Service, and the Japan Meteorological Agency, also issued its findings Wednesday.

"The decade that just ended is clearly the warmest decade on record," said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. "Every decade since the 1960s clearly has been warmer than the one before." The agencies also drew attention to the record warmth from 2015-2019—a time frame that included warmest-year-on-the-books 2016, which, unlike 2019, included a strong El Niño event.

"The past five years have been the five warmest on record; the last decade has been the warmest on record: These are unquestionably

alarming signs," said Jean-Noël Thépaut, director of ECMWF Copernicus. The trajectory the Earth is headed in is leading towards even more dangerous levels of heating. "On the current path of carbon dioxide emissions, we are heading towards a temperature increase of 3 to 5 degrees Celsius by the end of century," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas. NOAA drew attention to a number of highlights from its latest global climate report:

- 2019 marks the 43rd consecutive year (since 1977) with global land and ocean temperatures at least nominally above the twentieth-century average.
- The five warmest years have occurred since 2015; nine of the 10 warmest years have occurred since 2005. The year 1998 is the only twentieth-century year among the 10 warmest years on record.
- The annual global land and ocean temperature has increased at an average rate of +0.13°F (+0.07°C) per decade since 1880; however, since 1981 the average rate of increase is more than twice that rate (+0.32°F / +0.18°C).
- For the 21-year span that is considered a reasonable surrogate

for pre-industrial conditions (1880–1900), the 2019 global land and ocean temperature was 2.07°F (1.15°C) above the average.

2020 has heightened concerns over continued warming. "The year 2020 has started out where 2019 left off—with high-impact weather and climate-related events," said Taalas. "Australia had its hottest, driest year on record in 2019, setting the scene for the massive bushfires which were so devastating to people and property, wildlife, ecosystems, and the environment."

"Unfortunately," he continued, "we expect to see much extreme weather throughout 2020 and the coming decades, fueled by record levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere." Advocacy group 350 Canada, in a tweet, said the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis, including Green New Deal legislation and making those most responsible pay, is clear. "Last decade was the hottest on record. And 2020 is starting off with climate impacts of an unimaginable scale," the group said. "That is why this decade we make the fossil fuel industry pay for climate justice and fight like hell for a #GreenNewDeal."

Source: Common Dreams 1/15/20
<https://www.commondreams.org/>

BUSHFIRES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The federal government does not appear to have responded to the study about the EPBC Act, but the month after the study was published it appointed a review of the law with the goal of reducing what it called "green tape" and making things even easier for businesses and farmers. The move was praised by the National Farmers' Federation in an Oct. 29 press release that called the Act "convoluted."

POLITICAL WILL AND PUBLIC PRESSURE

Weak enforcement of legislation isn't the only problem. Protective efforts also suffer from a lack of funding. The *Conservation Letters* study revealed that Australia is spending just 15% of what's needed to avoid extinctions and recover its threatened species. And it spends far less than many other countries, such as the United States, which has a high success rate for saving species listed

as endangered — though it should be noted that the Trump administration has taken steps to weaken the Endangered Species Act, which has been responsible for those accomplishments.

Australia would likely need an estimated \$1.27 billion (U.S.) a year to recover its listed threatened species. If that seems like a big price tag, the study's authors point out that the government gave out \$735 million in tax credits to coal companies alone in 2018. Australian citizens, meanwhile, spend twice the needed amount every year caring for their pet cats (which are another major driver of native species loss).

"Funding for conservation — and conservation actions — tends to be short-term and ephemeral, and thus doesn't support long-lasting change or improvements," says Legge. "Responsibility for the environment is shared between

states/territories and the commonwealth, which can lead to buck-passing."

The environment clearly hasn't been a priority for the Coalition government that won power in 2013. Since then it has slashed the federal budget for environmental programs by 40%. At the helm now is Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who has been criticized for his cozy relationship with the coal industry and for not doing enough to tackle the climate crisis — something he's been increasingly called on amid the current wildfires. His inaction on climate change has earned him comparisons to President Trump, who continues to roll back environmental regulations in the United States. As California firefighters arrived last week in Australia to help fight blazes fueled by the hottest and driest year on record, Trump moved to weaken his country's landmark National Environmental Policy Act and exclude climate

change from analyses of the potential impact of infrastructure projects.

Will Australia take a different course and galvanize the public and politicians around action to strengthen environmental regulations to fight climate change and protect wildlife? Legge says she already sees the events pulling communities together and inspiring an urge to "do something." She hopes it results in researchers and governments working together in a more coordinated way to tackle the crisis. "Still, there will have to be a seismic shift in our approach, given the potential for fires to wipe out previous efforts so quickly and thoroughly," she says. "I think most conservationists are feeling shell-shocked right now — how do we respond to this event, and to this future?" These are questions the whole world will need to answer.

Source: The Revelator 1/15/20
<https://therevelator.org/>

Sanders climate change vote stands against trade deal

JULIA CONLEY

Sierra Club California has been advocating to impeach incineration as the chief use for biomass in California and for policies that sup

Climate action advocates thanked Sen. Bernie Sanders for being adamant during Tuesday night's Democratic debate that climate and trade issues are one and the same, even as debate moderators attempted to separate the subjects. When asked about the USMCA, which he voted against moving out of committee on Tuesday, Sanders said he would not support any trade deal that "does not incorporate very, very strong principles to significantly lower fossil fuel emissions in the world."

"Every major environmental organization has said no to this new trade agreement because it does not even have the phrase 'climate change' in it," the Vermont senator and 2020 presidential candidate said. When *Des Moines Register* political reporter Brianne Pfannenstiel told Sanders that the debate would soon cover the climate crisis but the topic at hand was trade, the senator countered, "They are the same in this issue."

Grassroots group the Sunrise Movement praised the senator for making clear the connection between the climate and trade. The group, which endorsed Sanders last week, was among the climate action advocates praising the senator following the debate.

Sanders was joined by only three of his Democratic colleagues on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Tuesday—Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.)—in voting against the USMCA.

The lawmakers cited concerns over "special protections" for fossil fuel companies' profits, food safety regulation rollbacks, allowances for chemical companies to keep data about toxic pesticides secret, and other failures to mitigate the climate and ecological emergency, as reasons for opposing the deal. In December, climate action groups including the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) sent a letter to lawmakers imploring them to reject the USMCA because it "fails to meet the baseline standards for environmental and climate protection that the environmental community has consistently called for."

Food & Water Action called the deal "a one-way ticket to climate disaster" in a statement Wednesday. "Elected officials in America are charged with protecting consumers against cheap and unsafe imported food, contaminated water, and public health threats," said Mitch Jones, the group's policy director. "USMCA ansacks protections on all three fronts."

"America needs a leader who will intervene on deals like this that could lead to our children eating contaminated deli meat," he added. "Every leader in this country, especially one who wants to be our president, must oppose USMCA in the name of a healthy future."

Source: Common Dreams 1/15/20
<https://www.commondreams.org/>

Consumer action

Making socially responsible investing easy

GLORIA FEARN

I first met Dalit Baum in May 2011 when she spoke at Central Methodist Church in Stockton. At that time Dalit, a Jewish-Israeli researcher and activist, was working with Global Exchange. She talked about "Who Profits from the Occupation," a research project of the Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP) in Israel. In 2011 Who Profits was the go-to place on the web for anyone who wanted to know about companies that were profiting from the occupation and conflict in the Holy Land. Dalit is now with the AFSC with an expanded focus that includes researching corporations that produce technology and equipment for border security, mass incarceration, surveillance, immigration, and the detention of children in places around the world, including the United States and our southern border.

This past Thursday I was excited to hear Dalit speak at the United Methodist Center in West Sacramento on the topic of Who Profits from the Criminalization of Children and Youth. Dalit affirmed the church's focus on children and its endorsement of HR 2407, which calls for enforcing the provisions of the "Leahy law" by forbidding US Government funding of units that violate human rights. H.R. 2407 focuses on children in Palestine, but it applies more broadly to include children everywhere. As Dalit says, "Children touch our hearts. We know that they are innocent. When systems of oppression target children, they target the center of the community and harm the community's ability to continue. Focusing on children gives us the opportunity to see how systems of oppression work."

AT THE BORDER SECURITY EXPO

Dalit told about attending the 2019 Border Security Expo, where technologies and equipment developed and produced by our military industrial complex were displayed and marketed. Scanners, drones, teargas canisters, cameras and weapons of all sorts were on display. It was all field-tested and still in use in Israel and other places on the periphery of the empire. Now this equipment and technology follow Americans in airports, train stations, court houses, social media, public and private spaces all over the US.

To convince Americans that these technologies and equipment are needed, it is necessary to define a problem that cannot be solved by traditional means - stoking fear and dehumanizing those who are targeted. At this event speakers from government agencies like Homeland security and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) made the case for the weapons manufacturers. They defined the "crisis on the border" as resulting not from the volume of immigration, but from new patterns of immigration, which require increased resources. They argued for policing before people cross into the country,

and detaining families until there's a ruling on their case, rather than the twenty days now allowed. One speaker from ICE, actually advocated preventing undocumented immigrants from making a living. He touted the increase in arrests of employers and said that "They should fear us like they fear the IRS," referring to immigrant families as "unverified family units." There was a plea for more agents, more technology, more funding and a faster procurement system to support these policy changes. The buzz words were: AI and automation, creating new national and cross-agency unified platforms for data sharing, and using technology to predict behavior.

PUBLIC AWARENESS WORKS

This is scary and expensive. The military industrial complex includes a lot of big weapons producers like General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed, Raytheon, information companies such as, Amazon, Microsoft, Palantir Technologies, and the big banks. The good news is that these big companies are risk averse. Whether it's reputational risk, controversial risk, regulatory risk, legal risk, political risk, or conflict risk, they want nothing to do with it. Last year Elbit quit making cluster bombs in response to public pressure. More locally, in 2017 the Sacramento Regional Transit District did not renew its contract with G4S and hired 30 new in-house Transit Agents to provide security for the transit system. They did this in response to community organizing and engagement with the Sacramento Coalition for Palestinian Rights. G4S, the world's largest security company and a bad actor in the Israeli prison system, dumped its assets in Israel as a consequence of losing many such contracts. G4S is just one of many major companies that have changed their practices when public pressure was brought to bear. Trump's policies have driven profits up for private prisons. But these companies proved vulnerable because they depend on credit. Wells Fargo was targeted because they financed private prisons. Now nine major US Banks have announced that they will not extend credit to private prison companies.

TAKE ACTION

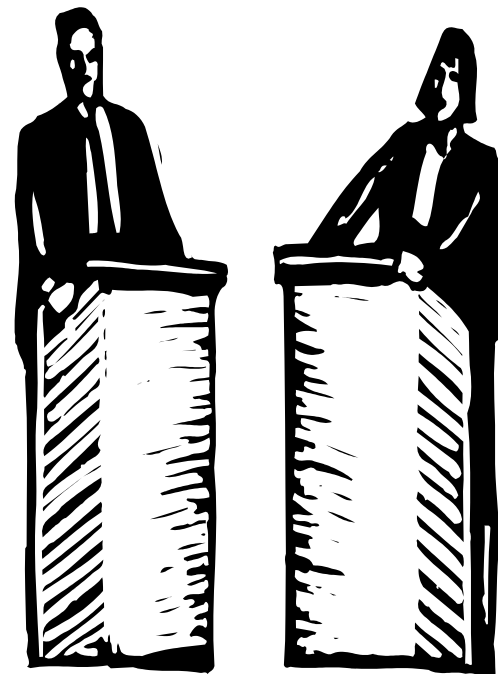
Local police, government agencies, emergency services and transportation systems are a lucrative field for big weapons manufacturers, security firms and information companies. There are a couple of things we can do to trim their wings in our local communities. First, we can help our cities and counties develop procurement policies that make human rights a priority. Portland is setting a standard in this area. Then, we can look at what our government agencies are buying, and what companies are supplying them. Then, we need to know about the bad actors.

This is where the website afsc.org/investigate is a

very useful tool. afsc.org/investigate has what you need - whether you're researching your own 401(k), companies your city, school, or special districts do business with, or seeking to engage with a movement to further a social cause such as ending mass incarceration for profit, or holding profiteers accountable for their activities in Israel/Palestine. It's an information hub, online database, and investment screening tool featuring up-to-date independent research. It has more than 150 company and industry profiles and 3,000 mutual funds screened. On this site you can learn about companies profiting from state violence, find out if you are invested in these companies, check your mutual fund, and take action as an ethical investor and active citizen.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR DALIT'S PRESENTATION IN FULL, YOU CAN FIND IT ON [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ISRAEL-PALESTINE-TASK-FORCE-CANV-UNITED-METHODIST-CHURCH-1439694949391708/](https://www.facebook.com/ISRAEL-PALESTINE-TASK-FORCE-CANV-UNITED-METHODIST-CHURCH-1439694949391708/)

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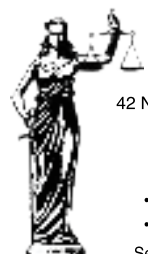
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Debate: Sanders & Warren differ on trade & health care

ALEXIS GOLDSTEIN

The final Democratic debate before the Iowa caucus had moments that further highlighted the distinctions between the leading candidates on issues like free public college and health care but for the most part it covered familiar ground.

However, the candidates closest in policy — Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren — had moments when the distinctions in their strategic approaches shone through: Warren described her approach as fighting for smaller reforms to get relief to as many as possible as quickly as possible, and Sanders emphasized that legislative opportunities are rare, and it's worth the risk of holding out for a more optimal outcome.

The debate started out with Warren and Sanders in alignment on foreign policy. On the conflict with Iran, the candidates concurred that withdrawing from the Iran deal was a mistake. Joe Biden, Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Tom Steyer all said that if they were commander-in-chief they would leave some combat troops in Iraq, while Sanders and Warren said they would withdraw the troops.

Warren said "we need to get our combat troops out" and "we should stop asking our military to solve problems that cannot be solved militarily" and instead focus on diplomatic tools. She cited the many generals she's heard before the Senate Armed Services Committee saying they've just turned a corner, but that "we've turned the corner so many times, we're going in circles," and called for cutting the defense budget and ending the revolving door between the defense industry and the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, as he did in the December debate, Sanders gave Rep. Barbara Lee credit for her lone vote against the Authorization of Military Force (AUMF) in 2001. Sanders invoked the many problems the United States faces, such as 87 million people who either lack health care entirely or are under-insured, and the 500,000 people "sleeping out on the streets tonight." Sanders then stressed that Americans are "sick and tired of endless wars which have cost us trillions of dollars," and that the focus should instead be on diplomacy and rebuilding the State Department.

The candidates agreed that the prohibitive cost of child care is an important policy issue, with Warren and Sanders citing their plans for universal child care. There was also consensus that we face a climate crisis, though Biden argued for more moderate approaches to addressing it, such as returning to mileage standards on cars and making highways green highways. Steyer, who continually stated he was the only candidate making climate change his number-one priority, was confronted with his past as a hedge fund manager whose investments included fossil fuels. He clarified that he'd divested 10 years ago, signed a pledge to give away most of his wealth, and has been fighting the climate crisis for



the last 12 years. Warren argued that in order to tackle the climate crisis, corruption in government needed to be tackled first, as it's the power of the fossil fuel industry's lobbying that's been able to block change thus far.

Free public college has long been a source of contention between some of the moderates and progressives, and this debate again highlighted these differences. Despite the fact that universal benefits are more resilient than income-capped programs, Buttigieg repeated his assertion that he wants to prevent the children of the wealthy from benefiting from free public college. Warren countered that she would be fine with the children of billionaires attending free public college, so long as those billionaires are paying a wealth tax.

Sanders and Steyer were the only candidates on stage to oppose the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade deal. Sanders started to discuss the trade deal in relation to climate policy, noting that the deal does not even mention climate change, but he was cut off by moderator Brianna Pfannenstiel who said they would get to a discussion of the climate later. However, trade is absolutely an issue that impacts the climate — that is why, as Sanders noted, every major environmental organization opposed the deal, something Steyer also noted when he said he couldn't support the deal.

Warren's inclination appears to be to accept a more limited improvement that could help people right away, whereas Sanders is calling for a longer-term fight for a more ideal solution, since it's hard to have another bite at the apple.

Klobuchar, Buttigieg and Biden all voiced support for the trade deal, as did Warren, who said the deal was "a modest improvement" that gave relief to farmers and workers. She said she supported the deal because she thought we should "accept that relief" and then "get up the next

day and fight for a better trade deal." Sanders countered that legislative opportunities don't come that often on trade, and that if this deal is ratified, "it will set us back a number of years."

The disagreements Warren and Sanders had on trade in many ways embodied the differences in their strategic approaches in other areas, too, with Sanders pushing for a bolder but perhaps more difficult to achieve vision and Warren pushing for smaller, but readily achievable reforms.

On health care, Warren noted that her approach is to "get as much help to as many people as quickly as possible." She said on Day 1 of her administration, she would create a new agency that would allow the government to produce drugs for expired patents, which would lower the cost of prescription drugs for consumers.

Meanwhile Sanders emphasized his commitment to introduce Medicare for All in his first week, arguing for the importance of fighting for a deeper change to the U.S. health care system, even in the face of challenges that such a bill would face in the likely 2021 Senate. On the debate stage, Sanders spoke about Medicare for All on the merits, explaining that "What we will do through a Medicare for All single-payer program is substantially lower the cost of health care for employers and workers, because we end the \$100 billion a year that the health care industry makes and the \$500 billion a year we spend" in administrative costs. In both health care and trade, Warren's inclination appears to be to accept a more limited improvement that could help people right away, whereas Sanders is calling for a longer-term fight for a more ideal solution, since it's hard to have another bite at the apple. It is unclear if either candidate won over new progressives, but judging from the debate fundraising hauls, at least Sanders and Warren certainly energized their respective bases.

Source: Truthout 1/15/20 <https://truthout.org/>

Contact Your Reps

President Donald Trump, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC 20500. 202-456-1414; www.whitehouse.gov; Twitter: @realdonaldtrump @whitehouse

Sen. Kamala Harris, 501 I Street, Suite 7-600, Sacramento 95814 916-448-2787, fax 202-228-3865; 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3553, senator@harris.senate.gov; Twitter: @senkamalaharris

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

Representative Josh Harder (D-District 10), 4701 Sisk Road, Suite 202, Modesto, CA 95356, (209) 579-5458, Fax (209) 579-5028. 131 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-4540. Twitter @RepJoshHarder

Governor Gavin Newsom, State Capitol, 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2841 Fax: (916) 558-3160

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

Establishment/corporate media prefers Pres. Trump to a Pres. Sanders

WILLIAM GROVER

I am a child of the presidency. I came of age politically in the early 1970s when the end game in the Vietnam War still stoked furious debate and the constitutional crisis of Watergate brought down the Nixon presidency. Historians, presidential scholars and politicians fell over themselves to decry the excesses of what Arthur Schlesinger, Jr famously termed “the imperial presidency.” And young minds like mine were entranced with sorting it all out. I have since struggled to convey to students the seismic feeling that the tectonic plates of politics in the US were shifting under our feet.

Today conjures similar tremors. An obstructionist Senate leadership awaits delivery of articles of impeachment against a criminally unhinged chief executive who blithely walks us to the brink of war with Iran, the planet faces the existential crisis of a sixth extinction with the relentless march of climate change, and—OMG!—democratic socialist Bernie Sanders has a serious shot at being elected President.

In the ‘70s political leaders sought to allay such fears with the comforting conclusion that amidst utter chaos, “the system works.” Bad guys got jail time. Nixon resigned. Elections brought change. And Congress passed legislation to reclaim its budgetary and wars powers. Our political thinking was dominated by the imagery of a constitutional “balance of power,” a metaphorical see-saw rebalanced with a now-chastened presidency on one end and a reenergized Congress on the other. Understandably reassuring back then, the imagery was misleading; we should resist its revival in today’s polarized climate. For beneath partisan differences lies a deeper structure of political and economic power to which both parties are beholden.

The modern presidency was rooted in the long tenure of FDR who confronted the crises of the Great Depression and WW II. His success was rooted, in part, in his willingness to embrace reforms—stealing “the thunder of the left”—that moved the US in a more progressive direction, thus appeasing the populist agitation routinely out in the streets. But the foundation of the office was built upon the twin pillars of endless economic growth (defined as ever-expanding GDP) and promotion of national security (defined as the projection of American power against all “enemies”). These twin goals were bipartisan, a shared consensus wedded to corporate definitions of the ends of US economic and military power, captured succinctly in Eisenhower’s 1961 farewell warning about the dangers of the “military-industrial complex.”

The shared ends are taken as a given, while the media highlight (sometimes strong) tactical differences over means. Yet this consensus on economic growth and national security simply is not sustainable today in the face of accelerating climate change and the decline of American empire. Soaring economic growth is assumed to be the antidote to all problems. Hence media analysts, and especially liberals, didn’t bat an eyelash when President

Obama proclaimed his market-based climate policy, reassuring us that being caretakers of the future of the planet involves “no contradiction between a sound environment and strong economic growth,” a proposition with which President Trump readily concurs. As scientists continue to tell us, the US (indeed the world) needs to reduce drastically the production of greenhouse gases by 2030. Promoting soaring economic growth—even in pursuit of the vital goal of expanding the economic pie and distributing it most justly—risks making emission targets even harder to reach. Physics and chemistry are spectacularly indifferent to who chairs the key environmental committees in the House and Senate.

Similarly, our common understanding of “national security” must change. Maintaining more than 800 military bases around the world, along with the environmental hazards inherent in them, will not make us more secure. Neither will the continued sophistication of our weapons and surveillance capabilities, a lesson made ever more poignant by President Trump’s recent drone assassination of Iranian Gen. Soleimani. As much as Democrats insist on the need to be briefed before such an attack, this procedural argument overlooks the deeper substantive agreement

it is because the US has been, since the end of WW II, an imperial power.

What can be done? In this election season progressives have a viable choice between Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders. Both are impressive in their own right. The question for the progressive left is not the one thrown in our faces every day: which one can beat Trump? Either one can pull that off, although Sanders’s grassroots support and fundraising ability is deeper, the loyalty of his supporters more fervent, his message to the working class more authentic. He can erode Trump’s base. The larger question is, which one is more likely to move the nation in a progressive direction, beyond mere reformism? Like Sanders, Warren did not come from a privileged background. While she was a registered Republican until 1996, her views have evolved, and it is refreshing that her economic populism frightens Wall Street. Her views of foreign policy are much less bold and overall her political career leans toward accommodation and compromise. At her core she does not appear to question the conventional bipartisan consensus on economic growth and national security. She clearly articulated her brand of reformism in a 2018 interview: “I am a capitalist. Come on. I believe in markets. What I don’t believe in is theft, what I don’t



“One of Sanders’ campaign slogans is ‘Not me. Us.’ That thought literally needs to become reality if Sanders is to address the challenges that await him.”

that historian Andrew Bacevich terms the American national security “credo,” which “summons the United States—and the United States alone—to lead, save, liberate, and ultimately transform the world.” Both parties are marinated in American exceptionalism.

In justifying the death of some 500,000 Iraqi children subjected to a punishing UN embargo, for instance, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright commented to CBS in 1996, “I think this is a very hard choice, but the price, we think the price is worth it.” She elaborated on the hubris underlying this imperial foreign policy mindset two years later, again with reference to Iraq, allowing that while diplomacy can be useful, “if we have to use force it is because we are America; we are the indispensable nation.” Not to be outdone, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—who campaigned to the right of Trump on foreign policy in 2016—offered a giddy off-air declaration to CBS following the 2011 killing of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya: “We came, we saw, he died.” This cheery sentiment should reverberate in the ears of all who harbor hopes that the Democrats operate on a fundamentally different moral plane than Republicans. To be clear, unilateral presidential action is troubling within our constitutional framework. Ignoring it would be dangerous; accountability matters. But in short, if we have an imperial presidency

believe in is cheating.” It is sad that in the age of Trump a candidate must come out against theft and cheating, but such is our political life under a narcissist with authoritarian impulses.

“The day after his triumph, President-elect Sanders would be staring in the face of capital strike. The practical result not of some ‘deep state’ conspiracy but of the normal protective reaction of elite interests, capital strike must be given sober forethought among progressives.” As the longest serving Independent in American history, Bernie Sanders potentially can take the movement further. His presidency would open the door to deeper change, what in the late 1960s used to be called “non-reformist reforms,” reforms that facilitate more fundamental change—call it a “revolution,” or democratic socialism, or call it creating a genuinely just society with an honest chance of thriving. He has a long and consistent record of progressive politics and organizing vitality, working with Democrats and Republicans, particularly on amendments to bills in the Senate. So yes, he does compromise. Criticizing him from the left has become a cottage industry. If you listen closely you can hear *The Nation* columnist Alexander Cockburn screaming from the grave about Bernie’s vote in favor of the 1994 Crime Bill. The bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999 has led some on the left to write him

off. In a long legislative career, the votes are there to criticize. And, of course, he supported Clinton over Trump last time around, although she continues to blame him for her defeat. Nonetheless, it cannot be denied that to a significant extent Sanders has profoundly impacted political discourse in the United States. Has any other post-FDR presidential candidate inspired the wrath of economic elites more than Sanders? Has the struggle for universal health care and income and wealth tax equity had a stronger advocate? His voice has had efficacy. And in light of the current Democratic opposition to President Trump’s bombing in Iran, can we imagine any other Democrat or Republican reminding us that US policy in Iran goes back beyond the seizure of hostages at the US embassy in 1979, back at least as far as CIA intervention to overthrow Iran’s elected government in 1953 and the installation of the murderous Shah, the US-funded bipartisan dictator for 26 years? Warts and all, a President Sanders would challenge the status quo and give non-reformist reforms some breathing space.

WILLIAM F. GROVER TEACHES IN THE HONORS COLLEGE AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY IN BOZEMAN. HE IS EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT SAINT MICHAEL’S COLLEGE IN VERMONT. HE IS THE CO-AUTHOR (WITH JOSEPH G. PESCHEK) OF THE BOOK, *THE UNSUSTAINABLE PRESIDENCY: CLINTON, BUSH, OBAMA AND BEYOND*.

Source: Common Dreams 1/15/20
<https://www.commondreams.org/>

The mainstream media a cheerleader for Iran War

BELEN FERNANDEZ

In the aftermath of the United States' latest war crime — the assassination-by-drone strike in Baghdad of Qassem Soleimani, head of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps — Fox News decided to educate its audience on the proper take-away from the episode. The upshot was not, of course, that the illegal killing was kind of a big deal or that the person who authorized it — Donald Trump — had potentially set the stage for calamity and bloodshed of untold proportions. Rather, the crucial point to focus on was the "polarized reaction by American news outlets."

Trotted out to confirm the severity of the situation was one William A. Jacobson of Cornell Law School, who bemoaned the sad state of the "liberal media": "Take any topic and they portray Trump as irresponsible and ignorant. This time those portrayals are on steroids, with Trump being portrayed as a war-monger surrounded by sycophants isolated from reality." Well, yeah.

In reality, the oft-invoked allegation of "polarization" in the media and the broader political establishment hardly holds water; it's like arguing that 21 degrees Fahrenheit and 22 degrees Fahrenheit are polar opposites. Just recall, for example, that time Trump fired cruise missiles at Syria and the liberal media thought it was pretty much the most exciting thing to have ever happened.

A glance at media coverage of the Soleimani

assassination also fails to produce much evidence of a fanatical anti-Trump campaign. The lead paragraph of a New York Times article about the "Master of Iran's Intrigue" is devoted to establishing how Soleimani was "behind hundreds of American deaths in Iraq and waves of militia attacks against Israel." The second paragraph reiterates that he was a "powerful and shadowy ... spymaster at the head of Iran's security machinery."

In other words: he deserved it. And never mind that the United States has been behind countless thousands of Iraqi deaths in Iraq or that — as the article later reveals — the "waves of militia attacks" took place during the brutal twenty-two-year military occupation of south Lebanon by Israel, which also boasts the distinction of having slaughtered tens of thousands of people in that country.

When you're not actually in the business of speaking truth to power, some things are better left unsaid. The New York Times article also mentions that Soleimani and other Iranian officials were "designated as terrorists by the United States and Israel in 2011, accused of a plot to kill the ambassador of Saudi Arabia ... in Washington." Although that whole alleged plot has been soundly debunked, it bears raising the question: if the United States assassinated an Iranian official on foreign soil, doesn't that qualify as terrorism?

The Washington Post opinion section, meanwhile, offered the analy-

sis that, in killing Soleimani, Trump competently "enforce[d] the red line he drew on Iran" — i.e., everything is Iran's fault, and if the country "miscalculates again, then the regime has been warned: Next time, the target will likely be Iran."

This is not to say there has been no media criticism — there has been — but the problem is that the concern over the fallout of Trump's bellicose act has to do primarily with the possibility of Iranian retaliation against the US military, US "assets," and US "interests." Yet these three components of US empire are precisely what have helped make life hell for Iranians, from the 1953 CIA-orchestrated coup against Mohammad Mosaddegh — which enabled a lengthy reign of terror by the torture-happy shah, an overzealous purchaser of US weaponry — to the cur-

rent crippling sanctions regime, a form of warfare in its own right.

Furthermore, seeing as the media has devoted much time lately to cheerleading for war with Iran — perpetuating the nuclear weapons myth and engaging in a general vilification of all things Iranian, much like in the run-up to the Iraq War — it's not clear why anyone should be particularly shocked by the assassination.

And while Fox News may prefer to despair over toxic media polarization and the allegedly vast ideological chasm between Republicans and Democrats, let's not forget that years before John Bolton advocated — on the pages of the New York Times — to "bomb Iran," Hillary Clinton threatened to "totally obliterate" the country.

The Democratic reaction to Trump's latest stunt

has been disingenuous at best. As Sarah Lazare and Michael Arria point out over at In These Times, Democratic ruckus over the manner in which the president has chosen to go to battle with Iran — without congressional approval — "belie[s] Democrats' role in helping lay the groundwork for the growing confrontation" in the first place. The \$738 billion defense bill for 2020, for instance, was passed with Democratic support after being purged of two amendments: one "to block funding for a war with Iran barring congressional approval," and one to repeal the existing "Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists," which Trump administration officials have "suggested ... may give them authority to go to war with Iran."

Democrats like Joe Biden have made sure to qualify their objections to Trump's supposed reckless-

ness with an affirmation of Soleimani's diabolical, terrorist nature and the justice that was supposedly achieved by eradicating him from the face of the earth.

As Trump and his accomplices — including his de facto allies in the Democratic Party — pursue isolation from reality to the lethal detriment of the rest of the world, who knows when they'll finally cross a red line of their own..

Source: Jacobin 1/4/20
<https://jacobinmag.com>



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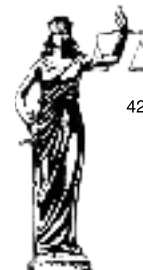
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Sat, February 29, 2020 @ 12:30-3:30pm
Ice on Fire

Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church

The HBO Movie *Ice on Fire* is an eye-opening documentary that focuses on solutions designed to slow down our escalating environmental crisis. The film goes beyond the current narrative and offers hope that we can stave off the worst effects of global warming, but we must take action.

The film which provides many never-before-seen solutions was produced by Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio, with George DiCaprio and Mathew Schmid and directed by Leila Conners.

This may be the last Leap Year humanity can deal with climate change before climate change permanently deals with us! Following the film there will be a group discussion about actions that are taking place in our community and how we can and must all be involved. This is URGENT!

Oxfam report: 2,153 billionaires wealthier than 4.6 billion of world's poorest – mostly women

JESSICA CORBETT

"Economic inequality is out of control." That's the opening line of *Time to Care: Unpaid and Underpaid Care Work and the Global Inequality Crisis*, a report that Oxfam International published Monday, ahead of the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) summit in Davos, Switzerland. "In 2019, the world's billionaires, only 2,153 people, had more wealth than 4.6 billion people," the report says. "This great divide is based on a flawed and sexist economic system." The report details how the world's existing economic system serves the richest among us while undervaluing work such as caregiving—which is disproportionately performed by females—and emphasizes the need for global governments to pursue bold actions to address inequality. "The gap between rich and poor can't be resolved without deliberate inequality-busting policies, and too few governments are committed to these," Oxfam India CEO Amitabh Behar, who is in Davos this week, said in a statement. "Our broken economies are lining the pockets of billionaires and big business at the expense of ordinary men and women," Behar added. "Not wonder people are starting to question whether billionaires should even exist."

The report explains that "this broken economic model has accumulated vast wealth and power into the hands of a rich few, in part by exploiting the labor of women and girls, and systematically violating their rights." As Behar put it: "Women and girls are among those who benefit least from today's economic system. They spend billions of hours cooking, cleaning, and caring for children and the elderly."

"Unpaid care work is the 'hidden engine' that keeps the wheels of our economies, businesses, and societies moving," he said. "It is driven by women who often have little time to get an education, earn a decent living, or have a say in how our societies are run, and who are therefore trapped at the bottom of the economy." Oxfam estimates that those at the bottom of the economy—particularly females living in poverty and from marginalized groups—collectively spend 12.5 billion hours daily on free care work, "and countless more" earning low wages. Their work "adds value to the economy of at least \$10.8 trillion," which the report calls "an underestimate."

According to Oxfam: "Without decisive action things will get far worse. Aging populations, cuts in public spending, and climate change threaten to further exacerbate gender and economic inequality and to fuel a spiraling crisis for care and carers. While the rich and powerful elite may be able to buy their way out of facing the worst of these crises, the poor and powerless will not. Governments must take bold and decisive action to build a new, human economy, that will deliver for everyone rather than a rich few, and that values care and well-being above profit and wealth."

Some "possible and crucial first steps" highlighted in the report include investing in national care systems with input from women's rights advocates, providing free public services that aim to close wealth gaps, and implementing "policies to limit the influence of corporations and the super-rich," including progressive taxation. "Governments created the inequality crisis—they must act now to end it," asserted Behar. "They must ensure corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share of tax and increase investment in public services and infrastructure."

"They must pass laws to tackle the huge amount of care work done by women and girls, and ensure that people who do some of the most important jobs in our society—caring for our parents, our children, and the most vulnerable—are paid a living wage," he said. "Governments must prioritize care as being as important as all other sectors in order to build more human economies that work for everyone, not just a fortunate few."

Other organizations responded to Oxfam's findings with condemnation of the current system as well as calls

to action. Sharing the new report on Twitter Monday, Greenpeace declared: "We don't need extreme wealth. We need a sustainable economy that works for everyone." In a statement from the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation that acknowledged Oxfam's latest figures on global wealth inequality,

"The gap between rich and poor can't be resolved without deliberate inequality-busting policies, and too few governments are committed to these."

—AMITABH BEHAR, OXFAM INDIA

ity, commissioner Magdalena Sepúlveda warned that "if multinationals—and the super-rich—do not pay their fair share of taxes, governments cannot invest in access to education, healthcare, and decent pensions, or take measures to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis."

"The impact is even greater for developing countries, as they rely more on corporate taxes. Furthermore, the tax burden is shifted to the poorest, usually through taxes regressive to consumption, such as value-added tax (VAT)," said Sepúlveda, also executive director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

"It is incumbent on all of us to make a clear commitment to the issue of international taxation, no longer considering it as a technical issue to be discussed behind closed doors," she concluded. "We must work collectively to put the interests of the majority of citizens above the often-unreasonable profits of a small group of shareholders."

Source: Common Dreams 1/20/20 <https://www.commondreams.org/>

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FEBRUARY 2020 - MARCH 2020 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.

MON, JAN 27

Delta Sierra Club meeting:

Vernal Pools--Kaleidoscopes of Life. 7 pm. Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. All welcome. 209-670-4442. (p 18)

THURS - SUN

JAN 15 - FEB 2

It's Only a Play.

Opening Wed 7:30, Thur-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. It's a tense opening night in the posh Manhattan apartment of wealthy Broadway producer Julia Budder. While the celebrity guests arrive downstairs, the hostess, playwright, director, lead actor, and friends gather upstairs and anxiously await the late-night reviews. The banter is hilarious as they boast about their theater experiences and engage in shameless, and often harsh, celebrity name dropping. The 2015 Broadway version starred Matthew Broderick, Nathan Lane, Megan Mullally and Stockard Channing. PG13. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton. \$15 - \$27. 473-2424. www.sctlivetheatre.com

JAN 23 - FEB 13

Delta Center for the Arts LH Horton Jr Gallery presents University Faculty Invitational Exhibition.

Jan 30 reception 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, JAN 31

Sky Tours at Delta College,

Telescope viewing begins at 7:00 pm. SJ Delta College, Athletics 1 Parking Lot. Free. 209-471-1674

THURS, FEB 6

Peace & Justice Network board meeting,

John Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 7 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

Washboard Monkeys at the Haggin Museum.

Washboard Monkeys began as three friends jamming in a Stockton living room on a Saturday in January of 2015. They played their first gig that spring on the Earth Day stage at Victory Park. The three had such a great time that they became five. Their eclectic style and infectious vocal harmonies bring irreverent fun to the stage. Complimentary wine from Weibel Family Vineyards & Winery and snacks courtesy of the Junior Women's Group are available every 1st & 3rd Thursday evening, when the Museum is open until 9:00 p.m. Refreshments are served beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7:00 p.m. These special evenings vary each month to include live music, special guests and more. 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

FRI, FEB 7

Lodi First Friday Art Hop,

6 - 8:30 pm, Hutchins St Square, 125 S. Hutchins St, Lodi. 209-333-5550

SAT, FEB 15

Jesse Hendricks at the Haggin Museum.

1-3 pm. Keep your Valentine's Day celebration going with a romantic date at the Haggin! In an intimate performance, guitarist Jesse Hendricks will be playing Spanish and classical guitar in the McKee Gallery. Jesse is known for his unique and exciting blend of Spanish Flamenco, Latin Rhythms and World Percussion. Sat 11:2 - 5 pm. Adult \$8, youth \$5, under 10 free with adult. Haggin Museum, Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Ave, Stockton, CA (209) 940-6300

Paint Classes at the Stockton Art Lab,

10 am - 3 pm. 2001 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Now open to ALL AGES. Come and join the fun! We will be creating a different painting every Saturday. Cost is only \$5 per painter which includes an instructor and all the art supplies you and your child need to paint a masterpiece. Space is limited, so buy your tickets now! (Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the day of the event.) 948-3075

WED, FEB 19

University Concert Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble

7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall, 3511 Pacific Ave, UOP. General \$10; seniors/Pacific staff \$5; students free. Tickets at Go.Pacific.edu/MusicTickets or at the door.

THURS, FEB 20

Pacific Avenue Clarinets at the Haggin Museum.

Five clarinets play original works and transcriptions for clarinet quintet. Matthew Erickson, Michael Hernandez, Amanda Martin, Christina Severin, and Chris Steffanic work together to bring out a unique "sound picture" of every piece; whether the work is jazz-oriented, mid-eastern, European, or classical American, every work has a distinctive collage of sounds. Complimentary wine from Weibel Family Vineyards & Winery and snacks courtesy of the Junior Women's Group are available every 1st & 3rd Thursday evening, when the Museum is open until 9:00 p.m. Refreshments are served beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7:00 p.m. These special evenings vary each month to include live music, special guests and more. 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

FEB 20 - 23

Ripon Almond Blossom Festival,

Mistlin Sports Park, 1201 River Rd, Ripon 209-599-7519

FEB 20 - MAR 29

89th 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

SUN, FEB 23

Stockton Symphony presents Pops 3:

Symphony of Illusions with illusionist Michael Grandinetti. 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Adult \$25-67, student \$10-15. 951-0196.

TUES, FEB 25

Stockton City Council meeting,

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

WED, FEB 26

Pacific Jazz Ensemble

7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall, 3511 Pacific Ave, UOP. General \$10; seniors/Pacific staff \$5; students free. Tickets at Go.Pacific.edu/MusicTickets or at the door.

FRI, FEB 28

Sky Tours at Delta College,

Telescope viewing begins at 7:00 pm. SJ Delta College, Athletics 1 Parking Lot. Free. 209-471-1674

SAT, FEB 29

Delta Sierra Club meeting:

Climate Change Crisis: Seeking Solutions. 7 pm. Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. All welcome. 209-670-4442. (p 18)

University Symphony Orchestra performing Gershwin's "An American in Paris"

7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall, 3511 Pacific Ave, UOP. General \$10; seniors/Pacific staff \$5; students free. Tickets at Go.Pacific.edu/MusicTickets or at the door.

SUN, MAR 1

42nd Annual Stockton Chinese New Year Parade & Celebration,

10 am - 5 pm. Weber Point and Stockton Civic Auditorium, 525 N Center St, Stockton. Parade begins at 10:00am at Weber Point. Festival at the Stockton Civic Auditorium and runs from 11:00 am-5:00pm. Free admission.

THURS, MAR 5

Ernest Troost at the Haggin Museum.

"If the Carter Family, Robbie Robertson, and Alfred Hitchcock wrote songs together they might sound like this," says Ernest Troost of his evocative folk and blues-inspired songwriting and guitar work. An Emmy-award winning film and television composer, Troost promises pensive, sometimes snarling but lyrically-driven Americana for fans of blues style guitar picking with timeless stories and colorful character portrayals. Complimentary wine from Weibel Family Vineyards & Winery and snacks courtesy of the Junior Women's Group are available every 1st & 3rd Thursday evening, when the Museum is open until 9:00 p.m. Refreshments are served beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7:00 p.m. These special evenings vary each month to include live music, special guests and more. 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

MAR 5 - APR 3

Delta Center for the Arts LH Horton Jr Gallery presents

Technology and the Arts Exhibition. Mar 5 reception 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

THURS, MAR 5

Peace & Justice Network board meeting,

John Morearty Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 7 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

Claudia Russell and Bruce Kaplan at the Haggin Museum.

This duo traverses a wide Americana landscape, stopping at wondrous musical landmarks along the way, tipping their hat to string bands, blues divas, jazz cats. Complimentary wine from Weibel Family Vineyards & Winery and snacks courtesy of the Junior Women's Group are available every 1st & 3rd Thursday evening, when the Museum is open until 9:00 p.m. Refreshments are served beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7:00 p.m. These special evenings vary each month to include live music, special guests and more. 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

SUN, MAR 8

Community Band Concert,

2 pm. Charlene Powers Lange Auditorium, Hutchins Street Square, 120 N Hutchins St, Lodi. Free admission, no tickets required.

TUES, MAR 10

Stockton City Council meeting,

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

SAT, MAR 21

Stockton Symphony Classics 3

with Caitlyn Smith Franklin french horn performing Walker, Strauss and Beethoven. 6 pm, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Adult \$25-67, student \$10-15. 951-0196.

MON, MAR 23

Delta Sierra Club meeting:

Habitat Conservation in San Joaquin County. 7 pm. Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. All welcome. 209-670-4442. (p 18)

TUES, MAR 24

Stockton City Council meeting,

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

SUN, APR 19

Calaveras Earth Day Celebration,

10 - 5 pm Utica Park, Angels Camp. Free admission.

SUN, APR 26

Stockton Earth Day Festival,

10 - 4 pm. Victory Park, Stockton. Free admission.

FIRST SATURDAYS

Birding field trips with San Joaquin

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.

Motown Thursdays at Bellavista,

Motown Thursdays at Bellavista, **Take Five Jazz club,** 7 - 10 pm, Valley Brew **Blues Jam Session at Garlic Brothers with house band Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood.**

8 - 11 pm. 6629 Embarcadero Dr, Stockton. No cover. 209-474-6585

Rock jam at Whirlow's,

7 pm, Whirlow's Tossed & Grilled, 1926 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. hosted by Mike, Bobby and friends. Free cover. 466-2823

FRIDAYS

Peace demonstration,

4-5 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,

6:30 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

Live DJ at the Deliberation Room,

9 pm - 1 am. 19 N California St, Stockton, 209-910-9477

A big thanks to our long-serving distributors!!

Single Payer San Joaquin

Join us.
2nd Thursday of the month
6:30 p.m.
231 Bedford Rd. Stockton

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E. Lela Nelson
BRANCHES: Lodi, Orangevale

Cleveland School Remembers 31 years

On January 17th, Cleveland School Remembers/Brady Campaign held a candlelight vigil on the steps of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in downtown Stockton. The vigil was held in remembrance of five students who were murdered

and 32 others, including a teacher who were wounded by a gunman with an automatic weapon who entered the Cleveland Elementary School playground in Stockton in January, 1989. Attendees were asked to name others they knew who have

died due to gun violence. Cleveland School Remembers/Brady Campaign is working to increase public safety, empower youth, provide anti-violence awareness and support sensible gun laws. Mayor Tubbs was in attendance.



Who is eligible to vote?

How can I help register voters?

How do I make sure I'm registered correctly?

What can I do to increase registration in my community?

Where can I get tools for registering voters?

How do I make sure my ballot is counted?

How can I help people cast a ballot?

What are the easiest ways to cast a ballot?



VOTER REGISTRATION & VOTE-BY-MAIL WORKSHOPS

**January 30, 2020 (Thursday)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

San Joaquin County Admin Bldg.
Registrar of Voters, Suite 350
44. N. San Joaquin St., Stockton

**February 3, 2020 (Monday)
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Ave., Stockton

**February 13, 2020 (Thursday)
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Lodi**

Lodi Public Library
201 West Locust St., Lodi

**February 19, 2020 (Wednesday)
6 p.m. to 7:30 pm. in Manteca**

El Concilio
1215 W. Center St. #105, Manteca

February 26, 2020 (Wednesday)

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Tracy
Tracy Transit Center
50 E. Sixth St., Tracy

**REGISTRAR@SJGOV.ORG
209-468-VOTE (8683)**

CLIMATE ACTION NOW VOTE EARTH

ECO-ART SHOW

THIS IS THE FIRST ANNUAL OF THE STOCKTON EARTH DAY FESTIVAL JURIED ART SHOW CALLED "CLIMATE ACTION NOW- VOTE EARTH" OUR MISSION IS TO AWAKEN PEOPLE'S AWARENESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY AND/OR CLIMATE CHANGE. THE ECO-ART SHOW IS OPEN TO ALL ARTISTS. NO ENTRY FEE. PRIZES AND AWARDS TO TOP PLACING CATEGORIES. ALL ART FORMS ARE WELCOME; HOWEVER, RECOMMENDED ART FORMS INCLUDE: PROCESS ART, POST-MINIMALISM, CONCEPTUAL ART, AND FOUND ART.



**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION
DEADLINE MIDNIGHT, MARCH 31, 2020**

MORE INFO AT WWW.EARTHDAYSTOCKTON.COM