

connections

PRICELESS

Volume XXV, Number 10

Published by the Peace & Justice Network since 1986

Dec 2007 / Jan 2008

SAVE THE DATES

**NOV 30-DEC 1
PEACEFUL HOLIDAY FAIR**

**JANUARY 27
PJN ANNUAL MEETING**

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Principles for livable communities

Preamble:

Existing patterns of urban and suburban development seriously impair our quality of life.

The symptoms are: more congestion and air pollution resulting from our increased dependence on automobiles, the loss of precious open space, the need for costly improvements to roads and public services, the inequitable distribution of economic resources, and the loss of a sense of community.

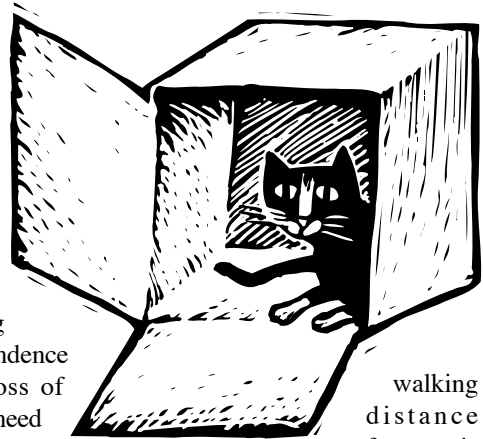
By drawing upon the best from the past and the present, we can plan communities that will more successfully serve the needs of those who live and work within them. Such planning should adhere to certain fundamental principles.

Community principles

1. All planning should be in the form of complete and integrated communities containing housing, shops, work places, schools, parks and civic facilities essential to the daily life of the residents.

2. Community size should be designed so that housing, jobs, daily needs and other activities are within easy walking distance of each other.

3. As many activities as possible should be located within easy



walking distance of transit stops.

4. A community should contain a diversity of housing types to enable citizens from a wide range of economic levels and age groups to live within its boundaries.

5. Businesses within the community should provide a range of job types for the community's residents.

6. The location and character of the community should be consistent with a larger transit network.

7. The community should have a center focus that combines commercial, civic, cultural and recreational uses.

8. The community should contain an ample supply of specialized open space in the form of squares, greens and parks whose frequent use is encouraged through placement and design.

9. Public spaces should be designed to encourage the

(continued page 3)

General Plan: A community response

Dear Stockton Planning Commissioners:

We are disappointed that the numerous specific policies that Campaign for Common Ground submitted to the Commission last year in the CCG Alternative Plan are apparently being ignored. The most recent matrix of issues and policy proposals that staff has prepared fails to include any of the 75 or so policies that CCG recommended.

We ask that all of the CCG policies that were rejected or revised by the staff be inserted back on the matrix so that each individual policy is discussed and fully considered by the commission. Every policy change that was proposed at workshops last year by CCG or any other parties must be responded to individually by the commission now, using the recent matrix as a tool.

The problem is that the previous matrix prepared by staff last November listed many of the CCG policies, with very brief justifications for why staff rejected three fourths off them. Then the December 1, 2006 draft of

General Plan hearing schedule

Tues, Nov 27, 5:30 pm
Wed, Nov 28, 5:30 pm
Mon, Dec 3, 5:30 pm
Thur, Dec 6, 5:30 pm

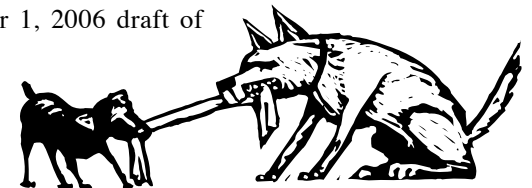
All meetings held at City Hall, 2nd Floor, 425 N. El Dorado St, Stockton

the proposed General Plan was released, which included few, if any, of the CCG policies.

This Planning Commission never took a vote to authorize agreement with or approval of the staff matrix or the General Plan draft. Yet, the most recent matrix now acts as if the previous staff recommendations in the previous matrix (to reject most of the CCG policies) were approved by the commission. They were not. The commission is making the decisions which policies are accepted or rejected, not the staff.

Please insert all of the CCG policies back into this matrix and consider each of them individually for inclusion in the updated General Plan.

Sincerely,
Eric Parfrey



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In touch with the common man

Bruce Giudici

Neighbors, we have a problem. With recession in the air, foreclosures in the headlines and choices of gas or food in many people's minds, we have a problem. The coming year's elections, a seeming referendum on the Iraq war and the violation of our civil rights, will likely turn on pocketbook issues: the cost of health care, gasoline and rent. And outside of John Edwards and Dennis Kucinich, I haven't heard much on what we can expect from a new president on economic issues.

Regrettably, for the past 27 years, when folks are hurt financially, individual responsibility has been the response. Government was the problem, not the solution. Decertifying unions, cutting food stamps and jobs programs, eliminating welfare as we know it, under funding public education:

all were enacted with no new ideas on helping those on the bottom rungs. Instead of a GI Bill, we get market-rate student loans. Instead of fixed-payment pensions, we have Individual Retirement Accounts. A community response to economic distress, last seen in the 1960's, is now a history rarely taught.

So, we have a population consistently trained to struggle alone. Today's twenty year old was 9 years old when Clinton cut welfare without a safety net for the most vulnerable. Children are now the age group most in poverty. Today's thirty year old was age 4 during the last major recession of 1981, when 12% unemployment killed Rust Belt jobs. When today's forty year old was six, we had gas lines from the first oil crisis. And as for me, today's fifty year old had just turned eight when Johnson's War on Poverty programs were

enacted in 1965—only Head Start remains today.

The holiday season is generously known for bringing out the best in us. This year, I propose that we totally change the way we look at our neighbors, their problems and ours. In a world where low wages and the effects of pollution wash up on every shore, we need to see how economic problems are distributed—who pays and who benefits.

Today, the gains on stocks are taxed at less than half the highest wage; the tax on inherited wealth will sink to zero in 2009; hedge fund managers with nine digit incomes are taxed at a maximum rate of 15%; and mortgage interest of up to \$1 million is tax deductible. Against this, the best the Democrats can come up with is to eliminate the alternative minimum tax—which attempts to ensure that singles with incomes over \$150,000 (couples with

Bruce Giudici, editor



incomes over \$250,000) pay some tax. So much for standing up for the little guy. The median income in this country is still less than \$50,000.

So, amidst the cries of "class warfare" thunder from the richest of our community, our vision must not be blurred by those wanting reward the banks, insurance companies and oil monopolies at the expense of those who work, live and die in our communities. We all have much more in common with the poor than the rich. The coming year becomes a teachable moment—for all our futures. Have a great holiday and a great start to the new year.

General Plan: Developers demand sprawl

[Editor's note: The following is a summary of the letter "Comments on Proposed 2035 General Plan sent to the Stockton Planning Commission by the A.G. Spanos Company" 8/31/07.]

...The A.G. Spanos Company... is vitally interested in the proposed 2035 General Plan...(and) is particularly concerned with certain entertainment and phasing policies in the proposed general plan, and respectfully requests that the Commission consider revising or modifying the following policies prior to adopting the plan.

No priority for downtown

First, my client requests the Commission modify...Policies... which appear to prohibit entertainment uses and facilities in areas other than downtown. As currently proposed, DV Policy 2.8 states, "[t]he City shall encourage major tourism, lodging, convention facilities, entertainment uses to locate in the downtown and shall discourage such uses in other districts,"

and DV Policy 2.9 provides, "[t]he City shall encourage the concentration of community and regional entertainment facilities to locate in the downtown area and shall discourage such uses in other districts." By actively discouraging entertainment facilities outside downtown, however, the City is artificially depriving itself of the benefits from potential entertainment facilities in outlying areas....

Sprawl as policy

Second, my client requests the Commission modify...Policy... regarding development priority. Policy 3.2 presently provides, "[t]he City shall give development priority to vacant land already served by City services over vacant, unserved land." As written, the policy is unduly restrictive and could deprive the City of benefits from meritorious projects proposed for vacant unserved land...

Infill not a priority

Third, my client requests the Commission modify...Policy...

concerning infill and villages. Policy 4.8 currently states, "[t]he City shall encourage and plan for infill development and downtown revitalization and shall monitor infill and Village growth and ensure that infill accounts for a significant portion of development activity in the city." Although Spanos recognizes that infill development is an important concept for future City planning, the language requiring infill development to be a "significant portion" of development activity is vague and overly broad....

Encourage massive developments

Finally, my client requests the Commission modify Land Use Policy 1.13 regarding growth phasing. Policy 1.13 provides "[t]he City shall phase growth based on the availability of adequate water supplies, market forces, infrastructure financing capacity, and the timing of the design, approval, and construction of water supply and transportation facilities and other infrastructure." The proposed language could be

interpreted as requiring phased development and prohibiting much needed improvements....

Please treat this letter as a formal comment on the proposed 2035 General Plan, and include it as part of the administrative record for the general plan update. Thank you for your consideration of these suggested modifications.

Steven A. Herum
Attorney-at-Law



Connections

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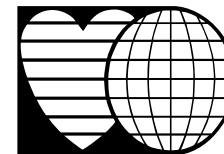
Distributors: Rosemary Atkinson, Reid Cerney, Eric Parfrey, Art Raab, Derrick Shavers, John Whittock, and many others

Community Calendar: vacant

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

Circulation: 10,000

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



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Planning Principles

(continued from page 1)

attention and presence of people at all hours of the day and night.

10. Each community or cluster of communities should have a well-defined edge, such as agricultural greenbelts or wildlife corridors, permanently protected from development.

11. Streets, pedestrian paths and bike paths should contribute to a system of fully-connected and interesting routes to all destinations. Their design should encourage pedestrian and bicycle use by being small and spatially defined by buildings, trees and lighting; and by discouraging high speed traffic.

12. Wherever possible, the natural terrain, drainage and vegetation of the community should be preserved with superior examples contained within parks or greenbelts.

13. The community design should help conserve resources and minimize waste.

14. Communities should provide for the efficient use of water through the use of natural drainage, drought tolerant landscaping and recycling.

15. The street orientation, the placement of buildings and the use of shading should contribute to the energy efficiency of the community.

Regional principles

1. The regional land-use planning structure should be integrated within a larger transportation network built around transit rather than freeways.

2. Regions should be bounded by and provide a continuous system of greenbelt/wildlife corridors to be determined by natural conditions.

3. Regional institutions and services (government, stadiums, museums, etc.) should be located in the urban core.

4. Materials and methods of construction should be specific to the region, exhibiting a continuity of history and culture and compatibility with the climate to encourage the development of local character and community identity.

Pittman Elementary celebrates the Festival of Honor

Christie Kelley

While Stockton Unified School District appeared almost daily in the local daily newspaper during the last weeks of October—apparently unraveling at some levels—some very good things were happening with the students, families and the community neighborhood around Pittman Elementary School (Pittman is located on the edge of the old State Hospital grounds, in the newly developing University Park on Park St. in Stockton.) Friday night, November 2nd from 6 to 9 p.m. was the scene of a great community party in Stockton.

As families arrived, they were greeted by a 12 foot calaca (skeletal figurine), brightly costumed in a yellow dress. Entering the courtyard, you knew you had arrived at something very special. Each classroom had designed and prepared an ofrenda (offering) to pay respect to friends,

family, community members, or concepts such as ecology, recycling, and scary books inspired by the traditional celebration of Dia de los Muertos and the mother culture of respect. La Ofrenda, interpreted by contemporary artists, maintains the altar form, not with religious connotations, but as a functional, often humorous, framework to express social issues, political concerns or personal visions. The Pittman

School community ofrendas were creative, fanciful, and represented the views and skills of students from kindergarten through 8th grade.

Well over 600 people meandered down the open hallways viewing the candlelit ofrenda. Families and community stood together to watch two groups of Ballet Folklórico. One was made up of four 8th grade girls, followed by a second adult dance troupe Nuestra Erenca Mexicana led by Elizabeth Medina. The style and energy of both groups was impressive. Another group of 8th grade students performed the now popular “crank dat” dance by Soulja Boy and many joined in the dance. They were followed by the Trio Cancun Señorial Mariachi band. Meanwhile small children ran around, full of excitement and the novelty of being at school after dark, tamales were sold and there were several tables led by CSU Stanislaus teacher credential candidates, where you could make a paper flower, a skeleton mask, or any number of other activities. It was not unlike being in a small town city center or square where you and your neighbors were out, enjoying one of our last warm evenings.



Implementation principles

1. The general plan should be updated to incorporate the above principles.

2. Rather than allowing developer-initiated, piecemeal development, local governments should take charge of the planning process. General plans should designate where new growth, infill or redevelopment will be allowed to occur.

3. Prior to any development, a specific plan should be prepared based on these planning principles.

4. Plans should be developed through an open process and participants in the process should be provided visual models of all planning proposals.

Source: www.lgc.org



The Pittman Elementary school's Festival of Honor served as a cross-cultural bridge where participants showed and displayed an act of honor by creating a remembrance or memorial to specific persons or ideas with their ofrenda. The Festival of Honor illustrated that, in all cultures, we honor people and ideas with celebration. This particular celebration provided a bridge on which new ideas and a variety of cultural traditions could meet, to share and honor the ancestral roots of the Pittman Elementary school community.

The festival was organized by Allison Savage in collaboration with Dr. Nancy Jean Smith's California State University-Stanislaus teacher credential candidates. The dedication, instruction, guidance and commitment of the principal Adrienne Machado, Arts Resource Teacher Allison Savage and the teachers of Pittman school were apparent in the artistic expression of each ofrenda the students had created. It was a

beautiful sight.

Stockton Unified may have its problems, but there are many more good things going on that directly effect the education and social development of our communities' children. Go, visit a school near you, find out what is going on and participate! You may even get great tamales and experience the excitement of our children learning.

When you visit your local school, please note that there are many physical plant problems. Support the upcoming School Bond—let's be proud of where our community sends its children to school.





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Activists meet and plan for stronger peace movement

Paula LeVeck

Peace activists, about 60 in number, met on October 20–21 in Sacramento for the Valley and North Coast Regional Peace Activists Conference. Attending from the Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County were Christie Kelley, John Morearty and Paula LeVeck. The purposes of the conference were to generate dialogue and coordination, to maximize the effect of the peace movement within Northern California.

To that end, small groups met throughout the first day to brainstorm on assigned topics. This article reports from those groups that I attended (six small groups met simultaneously on the same subjects).

Goals

Using a strategic evaluation and planning process, the first sessions focused on visions and goals, including long-term (10 years), medium-term (5 years) and short-term goals (1 year). An example of a short-term goal is to elect progressive officials and identify how the Constitution is being violated. Gathering popular support to improve public education and assessing how militarism exists and functions in schools are examples of a medium-term goal. Long-term goals included single-payer universal healthcare, a healthy national energy policy, and awareness by the general public on why wars are wrong. Overall vision statements ranged from respect and collaboration within the activist communities, to connecting poverty with war, to the creation of a Department of Peace.

The second step was situational analysis—the identification of opportunities and obstacles facing the peace movement. The developing rift between military and ruling (administration) circles, the economic downturn, the growing spiritual progressive movement, and widespread awareness of health and environmental crises were seen



as opportunities. Obstacles were the Democratic Party not living up to its promise (failing to challenge administration's proposals), lack of diversity within the peace movement and not being linked to other social movements.

The challenge was to identify strengths and weaknesses at the local, national and global levels.

The third topic and session was a critique of organizations and their activities. The challenge was to identify strengths and weaknesses at the local, national and global levels. This led to discussions on the need to evaluate the effectiveness of current practices such as vigils, mass demonstrations, events connecting with other groups, tabling and leafleting, and use of printed and electronic educational materials.

The last sessions on Saturday focused on next steps. Suggestions included developing a regional infrastructure and holding a regional congress to build coalitions within the community, becoming a credible regional voting block, educating the public regarding Iran, expanding the image of a peace movement to connect poverty with war, and reaching out to youth groups.

Sunday's sessions, with about 40 persons attending, permitted participants to join one of four discussion groups: counter-recruitment, media, confronting a police state, and expanding our connections. Because of our interest in strengthening and expanding the work of the Peace and Justice Network, Christie and I joined the latter group. Many accounts were shared on the

current work of various groups and organizations. Ideas were shared on the collective desire to link the anti-war issue to other vital concerns and to connect with diverse communities, such as immigrants, people of color, and low income, and their concerns.

As the last event of the conference, Code Pink presented a Creative Activism Workshop. Part lecture, part power point, part discussion, and part experiential, this presentation provided a definition of creative direct action and numerous examples of the forms it can take. In response to the view that the actions of Code Pinkers are "not nice", the presenter asked, "What does it mean to be nice?" She answered her own question by saying that Code Pinkers are being nonviolently, joyfully, and humorously unreasonable women!

The atmosphere throughout the two days was warm, open, positive and enthusiastic. Meals were excellent, as was the Saturday PM entertainment. Although no specific plans for follow up conferences were made, there was a general consensus that another meeting should be scheduled, probably within the next few months.

In summary, the Peace Movement in California's San Joaquin Valley, Mother Lode and North Coast is comprised of many dedicated and energetic individuals committed to creating peace and justice for all.

For more information, contact Paula LeVeck at pjveck@sbcglobal.net

What happens in California doesn't stay in California

Roger Speed

"California is a large bellwether, and it's an important microcosm of the rest of the country. Everything that's going on in the nation is going on in California in a big way—immigration, economic inequities, large employers, small employers. You have highly profitable companies and a lot who are just scrambling to get by." Economic Policy Institute

The context of that quote was in relation to a study just released that indicates children in California have lost health coverage in the last five years in huge numbers—600,000 since the year 2000. This statewide loss of coverage is within the larger national picture of American children who lost health insurance within the last five years—due to their parents losing their own coverage—a total of 3.4 million more children nationwide.

Here in our state, 55.7% of workers are now covered by employer-sponsored health insurance compared to a national average of 63%, making California the 5th lowest level of employer-sponsored health insurance among the states. This decline is going to continue for the indefinite future. As parents lose coverage, more children will lose theirs.

Seniors

Now let's switch to the other end of the age spectrum—all you seniors out there who are Medicare recipients. Many of you received your annual booklet in the mail from Medicare with all the information about your coverage, pages and pages of instructions and steps to follow to ensure you are getting the best deal. The 116-page book is necessary to describe the choices seniors have. Choices are good, right? So 116 pages describing them must mean we are getting great "consumer driven" health care. Hmm.

Let's go back a little bit to the year 2001 when a man named Tom Scully ran Medicare for the Bush

administration. He came from the private health insurance sector and he had an idea that private companies could provide medical and drug coverage to seniors better than the federal government.

Only catch was, it would require the government to give the private insurance companies more money—a bonus—to provide the administration for the plans. How much money, you ask? A recent congressional study put the extra cost of this bonus at \$15 billion this year. This cash gift was to get the private sector to do what the federal government was already doing. Tom Scully said it was necessary to give the private companies this extra in order to make it attractive to them to cover the low-income seniors. So the companies are paid 12% more than the federal government pays for traditional Medicare.

The extra cash is good for the companies, like Wellcare, which reported \$180 million earnings in the past 12 months. We taxpayers get to pay the tab so we get our choices—116 pages of them.

So what does this have to do with you? Well, your Medicare drug coverage costs are going up by as much as 71% this coming year. The popular plan by AARP—Medicare RX Preferred Plan—is going up by 16%. AARP Medicare RX Save Plan will jump 65%. Open enrollment started November 15th and ends December 31st. So you better start looking at your choices.

And whatever happened to Tom Scully? Don't worry; he negotiated a job as a highly-paid lobbyist for the health care industry while he was administering Medicare and driving the drug plan through Congress. He's not worrying about paying for health insurance.

So what's the

point of all this? Let's walk through it.

The government pays \$15 billion a year more than it had to for private insurance companies to provide Medicare for seniors.

The President vetoed the SCHIP bill to provide health insurance for low- and middle-income children because he didn't want to promote them getting dependent on the government.

Dependence on the government for support is fine and commendable for private insurance companies. Just not for individuals and their children. "Socialized medicine" is good only for the private insurance industry.

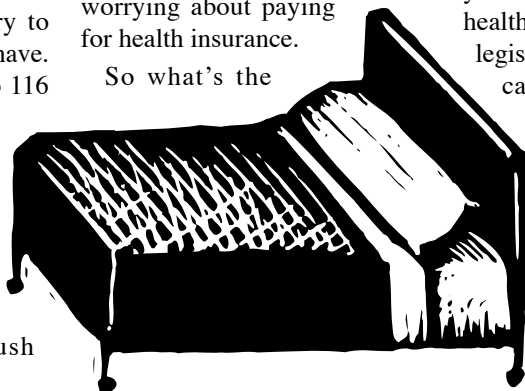
As author Kurt Vonnegut would say, "So it goes."

State health reform news:

The battle for health reform at the state level continues. The governor demands mandatory private health insurance for all. The labor unions and many advocacy groups resist this as favoring the insurance industry, not families and individuals. The governor says his plan is affordable because it offers subsidies and tax credits to those earning up to 350% of the federal poverty level—about \$36,000 for a single person and \$72,000 for a family of four. The labor unions and other groups say this is not enough and they want employers to spend more on health insurance. The governor thinks 0 to 4% of employer payroll is sufficient. The Democrats and labor are saying about 7.5% is right.

Whatever happens in the next month or so, you will probably see a ballot initiative next year asking you to vote on a financing plan for health reform. Contact your local legislator and let them know you care and are watching their performance.

Next month: Why is Hillary's plan for national health reform similar to Governor Schwarzenegger's?



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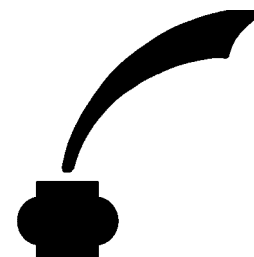
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A message to Nancy Pelosi: Impeach Dick Cheney!!

John Morearty

In November, Ohio Congressman (and Democratic presidential candidate) Dennis Kucinich introduced a motion on the floor of the House that Vice-president Dick Cheney be impeached, for warmongering and lying to the American people. Speaker Nancy Pelosi says impeachment is "off the table"; it is a frivolous fringe movement, a distraction from the serious business of the Congress. Democrats immediately banished the motion to the House Judiciary Committee.

So why impeach Cheney (and Bush)? Here are some arguments:

Lots of people agree: This country is in very big trouble.

Historian Chalmers Johnson thinks the US "is like a cruise ship on the Niagara River upstream of the falls.... A few people on board have begun to pick up a slight hiss in the background...But no one yet seems to have realized that it is almost too late to head for shore."

Naomi Wolf is alarmed that Americans have, in essence, surrendered their sovereignty to



the President and are in imminent danger of seeing their republic become a fascist police state.

John Nichols contends that unless Bush and Cheney are held to account, they "will hand to their successors a toolbox with more powers than any president has ever had, more powers than the founders could have imagined. And that box may be handed to Hillary Clinton or it may be handed to Mitt Romney or Barack Obama or someone else. But whoever gets it, one of the things we know about power is that people don't give away the tools. They don't give them up. The only

way we take tools out of that box is if we sanction George Bush and Dick Cheney now and say the next president cannot govern as these men have."

Although there may not be votes for impeachment at present, the conduct of an impeachment investigation by the House Judiciary Committee would turn the spotlight on the illegalities of preemptive war, the use of torture and the violations of international law that have made us a pariah among nations. Impeachment is the Founders' substitute for assassination and civil war. It is the constitutional remedy for royalism. Impeachment now would put future administrations on notice and bring to an immediate halt any further plans that Bush and Cheney may have to widen the war by taking actions against Iran. Call for impeachment to save our constitution and preserve our democracy!

A nationwide campaign is underway to send Nancy Pelosi handwritten letters and postcards calling for impeachment.

Contact Nancy Pelosi:
800-862-5530

U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington DC 20515

Stand up, Congress

James Madison, renown as "The Father of the Constitution," would be appalled by the fecklessness of our current Congress—specifically by its cowering in the face of an imperial executive who asserts that he is the war president and Congress must stay out of his way.

Far from being powerless to counter an arrogant, reckless, runaway White House, Congress was deliberately endowed with real muscle by the founders so it could stand up to the likes of Bush and Cheney, especially in times of war. Madison, noting that history shows that the executive branch of any government is the "most prone" to war, stated that our Constitution "has accordingly with

studied care, vested the question of war in the Legislature."

Only Congress, for example, is authorized to "declare war"—a phrase that means much more than saying, "Okay, start shooting." Much more powerfully, this declaration clause of the Constitution authorizes Congress to limit the scope and duration of any war, and even to set the terms of military engagement—something that earlier Congresses have done and the Supreme Court has ruled to be proper.

Congress has the absolute power of the purse—the ability to cut off financing for a war or any part of any war—a power that Congress exercised as recently as the 1970s to stop expansion

of the Vietnam war. Lawmakers also have the enormous power of investigation and subpoena to hold the executive branch accountable, as well as the ultimate power to initiate impeachment hearings to rein in presidents, vice presidents, and cabinet officers who try to rise above the law.

So, when your hear lawmakers today whine that they can't stop the BushCheney war regime, don't buy it. The founders clearly gave them the power to do the job—not as a political option, but as a Constitutional obligation. Having the power, they have the responsibility.

Source: *Hightower Lowdown 11/1/07*,
<http://jimhightower.com>

What you can do

Engage presidential candidates

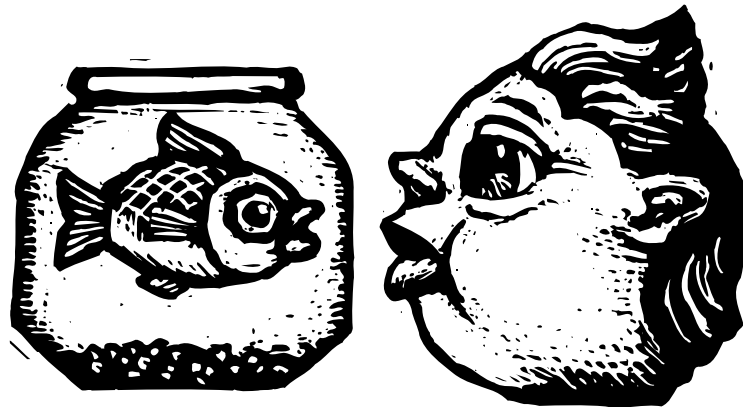
Over the next year, presidential candidates will be crisscrossing the country trying to gain public support. The 2008 presidential election presents an important opportunity to ask the candidates questions about issues that affect our health, safety, and environment. This is your chance to educate and engage the candidates and other voters on the issues you care about most.

There are many ways to express your views. You can attend candidate events, call local campaign offices, submit questions on the candidates' websites, and write letters to the editor of your local newspaper. We encourage you to engage the candidates and demand answers.

To help you get started, here are sample questions for the candidates:

* **Global warming:** We're already feeling the effects of global warming. Scientists tell us that we can avoid much more dangerous levels of warming by reducing U.S. heat-trapping emissions 15 to 20 percent by 2020 and at least 80 percent by 2050. What's your plan to meet these targets? Possible answer: Implement an economy-wide cap on global warming pollution that grows more stringent over time to achieve an 80 percent reduction in U.S. emissions by mid-century. The cap should cover all major sources of global warming pollution, the emission allowances should be auctioned to polluters, and the proceeds should benefit the public.

* **Nuclear weapons:** As president, would you re-affirm that it is the policy of the United States to work with other nations toward the elimination of all nuclear weapons? Possible answer: Announce it is U.S. policy to work toward a world free of nuclear weapons and declare that the sole purpose of U.S. nuclear weapons is to deter and, if necessary, respond to the use of nuclear weapons by another country. Unilaterally reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal to less than 1,000 total warheads. Call for further global nuclear



weapons reductions and meet within 6 months with Russia and within one year with other nuclear weapons states to pursue that goal.

* **Political interference in science:** What will you do to assure the independence and integrity of federal advisory committees, protect federal scientists from political interference with their work, and to stop the censorship and suppression of their research results? Possible answer: Ensure the work of federal scientists will not be subject to political manipulation by creating transparency in federal agency decision-making processes.

* **Food and farming:** As president, what measures would you take to encourage modern, sustainable forms of agriculture that promote better human health and a cleaner environment? Possible answer: Curb the feeding of important human antibiotics to food animals that are not sick, including encouraging Congress to pass the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.

* **Renewable energy:** To reduce our global warming pollution, would you support legislation to dramatically increase our use of renewable energy source like the sun and wind to at least 15 percent? Possible answer: Support a 15 percent national renewable energy standard requiring utilities to produce 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources like the wind and sun.

* **Vehicle fuel economy:** According to the National Academy of Sciences, the technology already exists to make today's automobiles average 40

miles per gallon without sacrificing choices in size, performance, or safety. Where do you stand on the Senate's compromise proposal to make America's passenger vehicle fleet average 35 miles per gallon by 2020? Possible answer: Ensure implementation of at least a 35 mile per gallon by 2020 fuel economy standard.

Your questions will be most effective if you make them personal. Use your own words and tie the issue to your personal expertise or experience, or to the community you live in.

Engaging the candidates is an effective way to make your voice heard and ensure that the people who want to lead the United States know what issues are most important to you—plus it's easy and fun!

Other tips and tools from UCS:

Policy solutions UCS is calling for all 2008 presidential candidates to support <<http://www.ucsusa.org/ucsaction/ucsaction/policy-solutions-2008-candidates.html>>

Contact information for candidates <<http://www.ucsusa.org/ucsaction/ucsaction/candidates2008.html>>

Tips on raising questions at events visit <<http://www.ucsusa.org/ucsaction/ucsaction/public-meetings.html>>

Tips on writing an effective letter to the editor <<http://www.ucsusa.org/ucsaction/ucsaction/writing-ltes.html>>

Source: *Union of Concerned Scientists release 11/13/07; UCS Activist Resource Center* <http://www.ucsusa.org/ucsaction/>



MSM = truth? Check out the alternatives & decide for yourself

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

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

Democracy Now! on KPFA, 94.1 FM at 9am, on KVMR, 89.5 at 7pm or on the web at: <http://www.democracynow.org>

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

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

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

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

Froomkin's White House Briefing <http://washingtonpost.com>

The Next Hurrah <http://thenexthurrah.typepad.com/>

Eschaton <http://atrios.blogspot.com>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tom Paine.common sense — <http://www.tompaine.com/>

Global Alliance Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space — <http://www.space4peace.org>

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

Angry Arab News Service—<http://www.angryarab.blogspot.com/>

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

We're on the web too!

The Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County (pjnsjc) website has information, calendar, media links, and more. Under construction and growing. Share your ideas on how the website should evolve.

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

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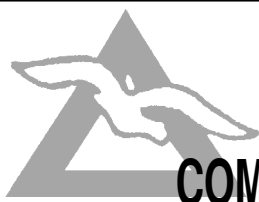
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Candidates' views

Welfare and poverty

Joe Biden, Senator (DE)

- No faith-based initiative; it ain't broke, so don't fix it. (Oct 2007)
- We're no longer certain our kids will be better off than us. (Feb 2007)
- Voted YES on welfare block grants. (Aug 1996)
- Voted YES on eliminating block grants for food stamps. (Jul 1996)
- Voted NO on allowing state welfare waivers. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on welfare overhaul. (Sep 1995)
- Fully fund AmeriCorps. (Jun 2003)

Hillary Clinton, Senator (NY)

- Time-out for mortgage companies on march toward foreclosure. (Sep 2007)
- Wellesley thesis: Saul Alinsky & people over bureaucrats. (Jun 2007)
- Hedge funds incentivize risk, but need regulation. (Apr 2007)
- Lazio weakened housing standards and limited public housing. (Oct 2000)
- Lazio fought against FHA on low-interest housing loans. (Oct 2000)
- Equal access to capital and jobs. (Jan 2000)
- Working should mean no poverty. (Jan 2000)
- Community involvement helps, but only in short term. (Dec 1999)
- Don't criminalize the homeless. (Dec 1999)
- Microcredit is an invaluable tool in alleviating poverty. (Feb 1997)
- Link payments to good parenting behavior. (Feb 1997)
- Establish a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. (Jul 2003)
- Tax credits to promote home ownership in distressed areas. (Apr 2003)
- Fully fund AmeriCorps. (Jun 2003)

Chris Dodd, Senator (CT)

- Talk more about faith in the public sector. (Oct 2007)
- No drug tests for welfare recipients. (Apr 2007)
- Voted NO on welfare block grants. (Aug 1996)
- Voted YES on eliminating block grants for food stamps. (Jul 1996)
- Voted NO on allowing state welfare waivers. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on welfare overhaul. (Sep 1995)
- Establish a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. (Jul 2003)
- Tax credits to promote home ownership in distressed areas. (Apr 2003)
- Fully fund AmeriCorps. (Jun 2003)
- Poverty in America is the cause of my life. (Jun 2007)
- A million new Section 8 vouchers; let poor move freely. (Jun 2007)
- Despite mistake on \$400 haircut, understands poverty. (Apr 2007)
- Give poor a stake with "automatic 401k" & kids' savings. (Apr 2007)
- Principles against poverty: work, opportunity, thrift, family. (Apr 2007)
- Housing vouchers, not housing projects. (Apr 2007)
- 37M in poverty is a plague on America. (Apr 2007)
- Poverty is America's greatest challenge--for citizens & govt. (Apr 2007)
- Poverty is such low priority, we have no accurate statistics. (Apr 2007)
- 30-year goal: Ending poverty in America. (Apr 2007)
- EITC is a well-run gov't program that decreased poverty. (Nov 2006)
- Raise the minimum wage and training fund to help the poor. (Aug 2004)
- Moral responsibility to help 35 million Americans in poverty. (Jul 2004)
- Raise minimum wage so full-

time workers are out of poverty. (Jul 2004)

- We need to talk about 35 million who live in poverty. (Jan 2004)
- Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit. (Jan 2004)
- My "Cities Rising" plan is to help urban America. (Oct 2003)
- Bush honors wealth while we honor work. (Jun 2003)
- Fully fund AmeriCorps. (Jun 2003)

Rudy Giuliani, Former Mayor of New York City

- FactCheck: 640,000 off welfare in NYC below national average. (Sep 2007)
- Moving people off welfare reduces crime. (May 2007)
- America Works: pay company for jobs for welfare recipients. (Oct 2002)
- The homeless need special attention: reach out & help. (Jan 2000)
- Change welfare offices into job centers. (Dec 1999)
- 460,000 moved off welfare rolls during Rudy's tenure. (Dec 1999)
- Do whatever it takes to get the homeless off the streets. (Dec 1999)
- Govt stabilizes business; businesses provide jobs. (Sep 1997)

Mike Huckabee, AR Governor

- First Amendment never intended to shut out voices of faith. (Jan 2007)
- Supports Charitable Choice for funding faith-based providers. (Dec 2006)
- Maintain TANF block grants. (Apr 2000)
- Maintain federal Social Services Block Grant funding. (Sep 2001)
- Maintain flexibility & funding levels for TANF block grants. (Sep 2001)
- More federal funding for Low-income energy assistance. (Sep 2001)
- Supports TANF grants to states. (Aug 2001)

**Dennis Kucinich,
Congressman (OH-10)**

- Funding faith-based initiatives with taxes is problematic. (Oct 2007)
- Separate state from church, not from spiritual values. (Aug 2007)
- Public sector has moral responsibility to provide jobs. (Aug 2003)
- Education is only solution to alleviate poverty. (Aug 2003)
- Work not welfare for those able to work. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on providing \$70 million for Section 8 Housing vouchers. (Jun 2006)
- Voted NO on promoting work and marriage among TANF recipients. (Feb 2003)
- Voted NO on treating religious organizations equally for tax

breaks. (Jul 2001)

- Voted YES on responsible fatherhood via faith-based organizations. (Nov 1999)
- Reduce the concentration of wealth & wage inequality. (Nov 1999)

John McCain, Senator (AZ)

- Require 40 hours work per week from welfare recipients. (Nov 2004)
- Supports block grants, welfare-to-work, state control. (Jan 2000)
- Anti-poverty shared by gov't & faith-based orgs. (Jan 2000)
- List unoccupied HUD-owned homes, & give them away. (Feb 1999)
- Use tax code to address unemployment & working conditions. (Jul 1998)

- More housing assistance; tax breaks against homelessness. (Jul 1998)
- Pro-block grants; pro-welfare-to-work. (Jul 1998)
- Voted YES on welfare block grants. (Aug 1996)
- Voted NO on eliminating block grants for food stamps. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on allowing state welfare waivers. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on welfare overhaul. (Sep 1995)
- Fully fund AmeriCorps. (Jun 2003)

Barack Obama, Senator (IL)

- Stop Fraud Act: full disclosure in subprime lending. (Sep 2007)
- Engages people of faith on all aspects of his public service. (Aug 2007)
- Community organizer on Chicago's South Side. (Feb 2007)
- Black churches minister to social needs out of necessity. (Oct 2006)
- Welfare receipts know how to become successful but need help. (Jul 2004)
- \$100M increase in IL Earned Income Tax Credit. (Jun 2004)
- Inner city problems are the painful truths. (Aug 1996)
- Exorcise the ghostly figure that haunts black dreams. (Aug 1996)

Ron Paul, Congressman (TX-14)

- Bush's faith-based initiative is "a neocon project". (Oct 2007)
- Voted YES on providing \$70 million for Section 8 Housing vouchers. (Jun 2006)
- Voted NO on promoting work and marriage among TANF recipients. (Feb 2003)
- Voted NO on treating religious organizations equally for tax breaks. (Jul 2001)
- Voted NO on responsible fatherhood via faith-based organizations. (Nov 1999)
- Abolish federal welfare; leave it all to states. (Dec 2000)

Bill Richardson, Governor (NM)

- Strategy to deal with poverty: unions; living wage; EITC. (Jun 2007)
- New Mexico ranked 48th worst in poverty, but moving forward. (May 2007)

Who'll represent reality?

Jim Hightower

Here's a statistic that George W, most presidential candidates, and the majority of Congress critters are not aware of, much less dealing with, even though this statistic affects millions of American families: \$4 a gallon.

That's not for gasoline. That's what a gallon of milk is expected to cost by year's end. Milk prices have jumped by more than 20 percent in the past year, eggs are up by 44 percent, and other grocery essentials are rising as well. Add in ballooning mortgage rates, soaring home heating bills, ever-rising medical costs, and hikes in the other basics of life—combined with stagnant wages—and you've got a harsh economic reality that doesn't fit the rosy picture touted by clueless politicians and media barons. A weekly paycheck that used to last a week, now isn't lasting more than two or three days.

This is a reality that is now experienced not only by low-income families, but also the middle-class majority—folks making \$35,000 or \$40,000 a year. But politicians and media elites don't hang around people from these neighborhoods, nor do they personally experience the stress of living paycheck to paycheck,



so they accept the contrived wisdom that somehow or other the economy is booming. They don't ask the essential question: a boom for whom?

The elites running our country mostly dwell in what one economic analyst calls the "plutonomy"—that's the golden strata of our economy, made up of CEOs, hedge fund managers, Washington lobbyists and other swells who live in a rarified world of luxury homes, private jets, and bottles of cognac priced at \$200,000 each. So what if milk is \$4 a gallon? No one cares about that... do they?

This aloofness is why so many working-class Americans are down on both political parties. They wonder where the political party is that'll represent reality, that cares more about \$4 milk than catering to the cognac class?

*Source: Hightower Lowdown, 11/6/07
http://jimhightower.com*



- Increase tax deduction for charities. (Nov 1996)

Mitt Romney, Former Governor (MA)

- Vetoed \$220K for state-run homelessness projects. (Jul 2005)
- Vetoed studying how MA can overcome federal workfare rules. (Jul 2005)
- Would require welfare recipients to work. (Nov 1994)

Fred Thompson, Former Senator (TN)

- 1990s welfare reform worked because it empowered states. (Sep 2007)
- Voted YES on welfare block grants. (Aug 1996)
- Voted NO on eliminating block grants for food stamps. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on allowing state welfare waivers. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on welfare overhaul. (Sep 1995)

Source: http://www.issues2000.org/default.htm On The Issues, 1770 Massachusetts Ave. #630, Cambridge, MA 02140



Contact Your Reps

Pres. George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC 20500. 202-456-1414

Sen. Barbara Boxer, 1700 Montgomery St, Ste 240, San Francisco, CA 94111. 415-403-0100; 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3553, senator@boxer.senate.gov

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

Rep. Jerry McNeerney, 11th District, 2222 Grand Canal Blvd #7, Stockton, CA 95207. 209-476-8552. Fax 209-476-8587. 312 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington DC 20515; info@jerrymcnerney.org, 925-833-0643, http://www.JerryMcNeerney.org

Rep. Dennis Cardoza (R-District 18) 137 E. Weber Ave, Stockton, CA 95203. 209-946-0361, 503 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-6131.

Rep. John Doolittle (R-District 4), 2130 Professional Dr, Ste 190, Roseville, CA 95661. 916-786-5560; 1524 Longworth Bldg, Washington, CA 20515. 202-225-2511

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, 2201 C St, NW Washington, DC 20520

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2841

State Sen. Michael Machado (District 5), 31 E Channel St, Room 440, Stockton, CA 95202. 209-948-7930; State Capitol, Rm 4035, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2407

Assemblyperson Kathleen Galgiani (District 17), 31 E. Channel St., Rm. 306, Stockton CA 95202, 209-948-7479

Candidates' views

Foreign Policy

Joe Biden, Senator (DE)

- Pakistan is potentially most dangerous country in the world. (Aug 2007)
- China holds the mortgage on our house, to pay for war. (Aug 2007)
- American troops on the ground in Darfur now. (Jul 2007)
- US troops on ground in Sudan to end Darfur carnage. (Jun 2007)
- Biggest threat to US is from North Korea, Iran, & Russia. (Apr 2007)
- Voted YES on enlarging NATO to include Eastern Europe. (May 2002)
- Voted YES on killing a bill for trade sanctions if China sells weapons. (Sep 2000)
- Voted NO on cap foreign aid at only \$12.7 billion. (Oct 1999)
- Voted NO on limiting the President's power to impose economic sanctions. (Jul 1998)
- Voted NO on limiting NATO expansion to only Poland, Hungary & Czech. (Apr 1998)
- Voted YES on \$17.9 billion to IMF. (Mar 1998)
- Voted YES on Strengthening of the trade embargo against Cuba. (Mar 1996)



- Voted YES on ending Vietnam embargo. (Jan 1994)
- Multi-year commitment to Africa for food & medicine. (Apr 2001)

Hillary Clinton, Senator (NY)

- Cuba deserves peaceful transition to freedom & democracy. (Sep 2007)
- Should not telegraph our adversaries about preconditions. (Aug 2007)
- Our fiscal responsibility undercuts Chinese power over us. (Aug 2007)

- US support & no-fly zone, but UN troops on ground in Darfur. (Jul 2007)
- Arabic and Muslim countries take women leaders seriously. (Jul 2007)
- Diplomacy yes; propaganda no; when meeting enemy leaders. (Jul 2007)
- NATO-enforced no-fly zone to end Darfur genocide. (Jun 2007)
- Supported Palestine in 1998, before Bill officially did. (May 2007)
- Dems believe in fighting terror with cooperation. (Jun 2006)
- Engage in world affairs, including human rights. (Oct 2000)
- Human rights are central to our objectives abroad. (Oct 2000)
- Keep Cuban embargo; pay UN bills. (Oct 2000)
- Smartest strategic choice is peace. (Nov 1999)
- Puerto Rico: Stop using live ammo at Vieques. (Oct 1999)
- Foreign aid spending is only 1%; lead by remaining engaged. (Feb 1997)
- Supports micro-loans to third-world women. (Sep 1995)
- China: criticized authoritarianism with women & children. (Dec 1999)
- Voted YES on enlarging NATO to include Eastern Europe. (May 2002)

Chris Dodd, Senator (CT)

- We spend \$500B in Iraq; add some to \$1.6B in Latin America. (Sep 2007)
- Expand the Peace Corps. (Sep 2007)
- We've neglected Latin America; need to re-engage. (Sep 2007)
- Cuba embargo hasn't worked for 50 years; unravel the embargo. (Sep 2007)
- No time to get new Pres. ready; need experience in advance. (Aug 2007)
- Pakistan's dictator is only thing preventing fundamentalism. (Aug 2007)
- China is a competitor, but getting close to adversary. (Aug 2007)
- Iraq lost US moral leadership to

- deal with Darfur. (Jul 2007)
- We neglect the Caribbean; I will pay attention. (Jul 2007)
- US unilateral action to end Darfur genocide. (Jun 2007)
- Constructive engagement to rebuild international relations. (Apr 2007)
- Voted YES on enlarging NATO to include Eastern Europe. (May 2002)
- Voted YES on killing a bill for trade sanctions if China sells weapons. (Sep 2000)
- Voted NO on cap foreign aid at only \$12.7 billion. (Oct 1999)
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- Voted NO on Strengthening of the trade embargo against Cuba. (Mar 1996)
- Voted YES on ending Vietnam embargo. (Jan 1994)

John Edwards, Former Senator (NC)

- Our Latin America policy is either disengaged or bullying. (Sep 2007)
- We need country-of-origin labeling for China trade safety. (Aug 2007)
- Meet with enemy leaders after diplomacy first. (Jul 2007)
- Make primary school available to 100M kids in Africa. (Jul 2007)
- No-fly zone in Darfur; but also social spending in Africa. (Jun 2007)
- Russia has moved from democracy to autocracy. (Apr 2007)
- Lead international effort on economic development. (Apr 2007)
- The Israelis do not have a partner for peace right now. (Oct 2004)
- Strengthen the sanctions on Iran. (Oct 2004)
- America should lead by extending a hand, not a fist. (Aug 2004)
- Reorient US aid to support open societies. (Mar 2004)
- UN-led peacekeeping, but US forces under US command. (Mar 2004)
- Target Castro's regime but help people of Cuba. (Mar 2004)

- More funds for AIDS prevention in Africa. (Mar 2004)
- Haiti is in crisis because Bush stayed disengaged. (Feb 2004)
- Bring UN, allies and friends to Iraq. (Nov 2003)
- Need multilateral solutions for world's problems. (Sep 2003)
- Voted YES on enlarging NATO to include Eastern Europe. (May 2002)
- Voted YES on killing a bill for trade sanctions if China sells weapons. (Sep 2000)
- Voted NO on cap foreign aid at only \$12.7 billion. (Oct 1999)

Rudy Giuliani, Former Mayor of New York City

- Democracy is a long-term goal, after building bedrock. (Aug 2007)
- Iran is dangerous; not 10 years from nuclear weapons. (Jun 2007)
- Bring peace by sharing gift of freedom with Middle East. (Jun 2007)
- As mayor, asked Yasir Arafat to leave concert both attended. (Jan 2007)

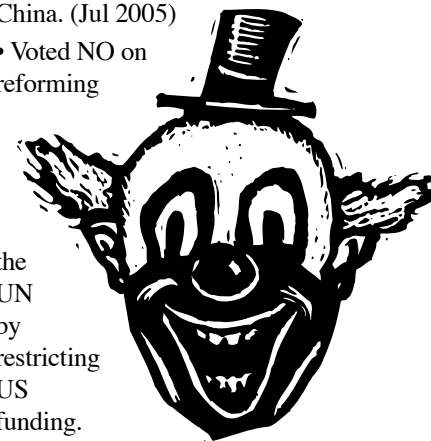
Mike Huckabee, AR Governor

- It's not OK in Pakistan; bin Laden is hiding there. (Oct 2007)
- Law of the Sea Treaty gives away our sovereignty. (Oct 2007)
- Genocide in Darfur matched by infanticide of the unborn. (Sep 2007)
- We answer to our Constitution, not to international law. (Sep 2007)
- Don't pressure Israel to give up land for promise of peace. (Sep 2007)
- Monitor the eradication of legal slavery in Sudan. (Sep 2007)
- Avoid ratifying Law of the Sea Treaty. (Sep 2007)
- Not the job of the US to export our form of government. (Aug 2007)
- Support Israel as strategic ally, but respect Palestine. (Jan 2007)

Dennis Kucinich, Congressman (OH-10)

- My most favored nation is America; no MFN for China. (Aug 2007)
- If Darfur had oil, we'd be occupying Sudan. (Jun 2007)

- Reject war as an instrument of foreign policy. (Jun 2007)
- Americans have been misled about the Iraqi war. (Jan 2004)
- Affirm intention to work with the world community. (Nov 2003)
- Promote international treaties but reject global corporatism. (Aug 2003)
- Lead world to sustainable energy production. (Aug 2003)
- Foreign aid for peace incentives, not conflict. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on deterring foreign arms transfers to China. (Jul 2005)
- Voted NO on reforming



the UN by restricting US funding. (Jun 2005)

- Voted YES on keeping Cuba travel ban until political prisoners released. (Jul 2001)
- Voted NO on withholding \$244M in UN Back Payments until US seat restored. (May 2001)
- Voted NO on \$156M to IMF for 3rd-world debt reduction. (Jul 2000)
- Voted NO on Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. (May 2000)
- Voted YES on \$15.2 billion for foreign operations. (Nov 1999)

John McCain, Senator (AZ)

- Situation in Pakistan very serious, but not nuclear threat. (Oct 2007)
- Naive to exclude nukes; naive to exclude attacking Pakistan. (Aug 2007)
- We have good reason to expect solidarity of our allies. (Aug 2004)
- Suu Kyi and the people of Burma will rule themselves someday. (Apr 2004)
- Overthrow "rogue" governments to keep Americans safe. (Feb 2000)
- Our conscience influences US intervention, as in Rwanda. (Feb 2000)
- Africa: Money for AIDS would be lost to corruption. (Jan 2000)

- Concern over Chechnya spreads to Caucasus oil reserves. (Jan 2000)
- Russia: Sanctions until Putin exits Chechnya. (Jan 2000)
- IMF's Russia policies bad, but agency is OK. (Oct 1999)
- Urge Japan to open economy to ensure Asian recovery. (May 1999)
- Clinton abandoned framework of assertive multilateralism. (Apr 1999)
- Korea: ease starvation, but avoid war during death throes. (Apr 1999)
- Pay dues to UN after UN reforms. (Jul 1998)
- Support the One-China policy, don't weaken it. (Mar 2000)
- \$1M political donations by Chinese Army should not be legal. (Jan 2000)
- China: Advocate for political reforms, and guard Taiwan. (Jun 1999)
- Inaction on spying led to Chinese nuclear improvement. (May 1999)
- Engage with China as they become a great power. (Apr 1999)
- Cuba: No diplomatic and trade relations. (Jul 1998)
- Voted NO on killing a bill for trade sanctions if China sells weapons. (Sep 2000)
- Voted YES on cap foreign aid at only \$12.7 billion. (Oct 1999)
- Voted YES on limiting the President's power to impose economic sanctions. (Jul 1998)
- Voted NO on limiting NATO expansion to only Poland, Hungary & Czech. (Apr 1998)
- Voted YES on \$17.9 billion to IMF. (Mar 1998)
- Voted YES on Strengthening of the trade embargo against Cuba. (Mar 1996)
- Voted YES on ending Vietnam embargo. (Jan 1994)
- Libyan disarmament was a CIA success story. (Mar 2005)

Barack Obama, Senator (IL)

- Invest in our relationship with Mexico. (Sep 2007)
- Strengthen NATO to face 21st-century threats. (Aug 2007)
- \$50B annually to strengthen weak states at risk of collapse. (Aug 2007)
- No "strategic ambiguity" issues.

- (Aug 2007)
- My critics engineered our biggest foreign policy disaster. (Aug 2007)
- China is a competitor, but not an enemy. (Aug 2007)
- Meet with enemy leaders; it's a disgrace that we have not. (Jul 2007)
- No-fly zone in Darfur; but pay attention more in Africa. (Jun 2007)
- Europe & Japan are allies, but China is a competitor. (Apr 2007)
- Palestinian people suffer-but from not recognizing Israel. (Apr 2007)
- FactCheck: Palestinian suffering from stalled peace effort. (Apr 2007)
- Protested South African apartheid while at college. (Feb 2007)
- Focus on corruption to improve African development. (Oct 2006)
- Supports Israel's self-defense; but distrusted by Israelis. (Oct 2006)
- Visited Africa in 2006; encouraged HIV testing & research. (Oct 2006)
- Never has US had so much power & so little influence to lead. (Jul 2004)
- US policy should promote democracy and human rights. (Jul 2004)

Ron Paul, Congressman (TX-14)

- No constitutional or moral authority for US action in Darfur. (Sep 2007)
- Don't pressure Israel to give up land for promise of peace. (Sep 2007)
- Not US role to monitor eradication of legal slavery in Sudan. (Sep 2007)
- Avoid ratifying Law of the Sea Treaty. (Sep 2007)
- Right to spread our values, but wrong to spread by force. (Aug 2007)
- Our foreign policy is designed to protect our oil interests. (Jun 2007)
- Bush mistake: ran on humble foreign policy; now runs empire. (Jun 2007)
- Non-intervention is traditional American & Republican policy. (May 2007)
- Voted NO on deterring foreign arms transfers to China. (Jul 2005)

- Voted NO on reforming the UN by restricting US funding. (Jun 2005)
- Voted YES on keeping Cuba travel ban until political prisoners released. (Jul 2001)
- Voted YES on withholding \$244M in UN Back Payments until US seat restored. (May 2001)
- Voted NO on \$156M to IMF for 3rd-world debt reduction. (Jul 2000)
- Voted NO on Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. (May 2000)
- Voted NO on \$15.2 billion for foreign operations. (Nov 1999)
- Foreign aid often more harmful than helpful. (Dec 2000)
- Ban foreign aid to oil-producers who restrict production. (May 2001)

Bill Richardson, Governor (NM)


- At UN, embraced Clinton's vision of international cooperation. (Oct 2007)
- US can inspire world with sacrifice instead of arrogance. (Oct 2007)
- US is isolated; need vision to rejoin world. (Oct 2007)
- Jaw-boning is a non-military way to get things done. (Oct 2007)
- Alliance with Latin America on microlending & human needs. (Sep 2007)
- Be tougher on China; it's a strategic competitor. (Aug 2007)
- UN troops in Darfur, & UN-enforced no-fly zone. (Jul 2007)
- We always forget about Africa; I will care. (Jul 2007)
- Pressure China & Europe to enforce no-fly zone in Darfur. (Jun 2007)
- Talking to your enemies can produce results, like N. Korea. (Jun 2007)
- Israel is less safe with Bush's policies. (Jun 2007)
- Strategic interests in Russia: loose nukes & Chechnya. (Apr 2007)
- Being stubborn isn't a foreign policy--diplomacy is. (Apr 2007)
- Re-evaluate embargo for post-Castro Cuba. (Apr 2007)
- Bad guys like Richardson; he can make peace with enemies. (Feb 2007)



Fred Thompson, Former Senator (TN)

- Meet threats before threats become tragedies. (Jun 2007)
- Diplomacy works better when we're prepared to use force. (Jun 2007)
- Zimbabwe chairing Development Cmte shows UN needs watching. (Jun 2007)
- If everybody in Iran had a computer, it'd be a free country. (Jun 2007)
- Israel shows restraint in limited response to Gaza attacks. (May 2007)
- Voted YES on enlarging NATO to include Eastern Europe. (May 2002)
- Voted NO on killing a bill for trade sanctions if China sells weapons. (Sep 2000)
- Voted YES on cap foreign aid at only \$12.7 billion. (Oct 1999)
- Voted YES on limiting the President's power to impose economic sanctions. (Jul 1998)
- Voted NO on limiting NATO expansion to only Poland, Hungary & Czech. (Apr 1998)
- Voted NO on \$17.9 billion to IMF. (Mar 1998)
- Voted YES on Strengthening of the trade embargo against Cuba. (Mar 1996)

Source: *On The Issues*, 1770 Massachusetts Ave. #630, Cambridge, MA 02140 <http://www.issues2000.org/default.htm>





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Environment

Joe Biden, Senator (DE)

- America should guarantee Katrina reconstruction. (Jun 2007)
- Take away the billions of subsidy to the oil companies. (Jun 2007)
- Voted YES on including oil & gas smokestacks in mercury regulations. (Sep 2005)
- Voted NO on confirming Gale Norton as Secretary of Interior. (Jan 2001)
- Voted NO on more funding for forest roads and fish habitat. (Sep 1999)
- Voted YES on transportation demo projects. (Mar 1998)
- Voted YES on reducing funds for road-building in National Forests. (Sep 1997)
- Voted YES on continuing desert protection in California. (Oct 1994)
- Voted YES on requiring EPA risk assessments. (May 1994)
- End commercial whaling and illegal trade in whale meat. (Jun 2001)
- Rated 95% by the LCV, indicating pro-environment votes. (Dec 2003)
- EPA must do better on mercury clean-up. (Apr 2004)

Hillary Clinton, Senator (NY)

- Support green-collar job training. (Aug 2007)
- Put someone in charge of Katrina recovery who actually cares. (Aug 2007)
- Overcome almost criminal indifference to Katrina rebuilding. (Jun 2007)
- Launched EPA study of air quality at Ground Zero. (Jun 2007)
- Stands for clean air and funding the EPA. (Sep 2000)
- Reduce air pollution to improve children's health. (Jun 1998)
- Voted YES on including oil & gas smokestacks in mercury regulations. (Sep 2005)
- Voted NO on confirming Gale Norton as Secretary of Interior. (Jan 2001)
- Remove PCBs from Hudson River by dredging 200 miles. (Apr 2001)

- Rated 89% by the LCV, indicating pro-environment votes. (Dec 2003)
- EPA must do better on mercury clean-up. (Apr 2004)

Chris Dodd, Senator (CT)

- Bush's lack of Katrina response was shameful. (Jul 2007)
- Make Katrina recovery a symbol of what we can do right. (Jun 2007)
- Support a carbon tax and a 50-miles-per-gallon CAFE standard. (Jun 2007)
- Spend oil profits on research of alternative energy sources. (Jun 2007)
- Voted YES on including oil & gas smokestacks in mercury regulations. (Sep 2005)
- Voted YES on confirming Gale Norton as Secretary of Interior. (Jan 2001)
- Voted NO on more funding for forest roads and fish habitat. (Sep 1999)
- Voted YES on transportation demo projects. (Mar 1998)
- Voted YES on reducing funds for road-building in National Forests. (Sep 1997)
- Voted YES on continuing desert protection in California. (Oct 1994)
- Voted YES on requiring EPA risk assessments. (May 1994)
- Rated 84% by the LCV, indicating pro-environment votes. (Dec 2003)
- EPA must do better on mercury clean-up. (Apr 2004)

John Edwards, Former Senator (NC)

- Pay New Orleans residents to rebuild from Katrina. (Jun 2007)
- Victims in New Orleans Ninth Ward were "shaming of America". (Jun 2007)
- Investigate & enforce clean air laws against the refineries. (Jun 2007)
- Katrina gave a face to millions in poverty. (Apr 2007)
- Protect ANWR, lead in global warming battle. (Mar 2004)
- Voted NO on confirming Gale

Norton as Secretary of Interior. (Jan 2001)

- Voted NO on more funding for forest roads and fish habitat. (Sep 1999)
- Rated 37% by the LCV, indicating a mixed record. (Dec 2003)
- EPA must do better on mercury clean-up. (Apr 2004)

Rudy Giuliani, Former Mayor of New York City

- Prepare better for next Hurricane Katrina. (Aug 2007)

Mike Huckabee, AR Governor

- Follow Boy Scout rule: leave earth better than we found it. (May 2007)
- Supported conserving Buffalo River in north AR against dams. (Jan 2007)
- Conservatives believe in conservation. (Jan 2007)
- The earth is the Lord's; we are merely its caretakers. (Jan 2007)
- More state autonomy on brownfields & Superfund cleanups. (Aug 2001)
- Support State Revolving Loan Fund for flexible Clean Water. (Aug 2001)
- Supports national drought policy, focusing on readiness. (Sep 2001)
- Maintain water flow in Mississippi & Missouri Rivers. (Feb 2001)

Dennis Kucinich, Congressman (OH-10)

- Katrina response underscores what's wrong about race. (Jun 2007)
- Water should forever be in the public domain. (Aug 2003)
- Bush's wetland rules would increase flooding. (Aug 2003)
- Clean, safe water is a human right. (Aug 2003)
- A clean environment is not a luxury. (Aug 2003)
- Market-based system has no place in water distribution. (Aug 2002)
- Water Marks: 10 principles for water protection. (Jul 2001)
- Voted YES on increasing AMTRAK funding by adding \$214M to \$900M. (Jun 2006)
- Voted YES on barring website promoting Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump. (May 2006)
- Voted NO on deauthorizing

"critical habitat" for endangered species. (Sep 2005)

- Rated 85% by the LCV, indicating pro-environment votes. (Dec 2003)

John McCain, Senator (AZ)

- Economic & environmental interests not mutually exclusive. (Sep 2007)
 - Preserve and help our National Parks. (Jan 2000)
 - Repeal ban on new roads in wilderness due to bad process. (Dec 1999)
 - Use park visitor fees for park development bonds. (Dec 1999)
 - Preserve natural resources for future. (Jul 1999)
 - Voted YES on including oil & gas smokestacks in mercury regulations. (Sep 2005)
 - Voted YES on confirming Gale Norton as Secretary of Interior. (Jan 2001)
 - Voted YES on transportation demo projects. (Mar 1998)
 - Voted NO on reducing funds for road-building in National Forests. (Sep 1997)
 - Voted NO on continuing desert protection in California. (Oct 1994)
 - Voted YES on requiring EPA risk assessments. (May 1994)
 - End commercial whaling and illegal trade in whale meat. (Jun 2001)
 - Supports grants for brownfields remediation. (May 2002)
 - Make EPA into a Cabinet department. (May 2002)
 - Rated 53% by the LCV, indicating a mixed record. (Dec 2003)
 - EPA must do better on mercury clean-up. (Apr 2004)
 - Focus on results, not regulation. (Sep 1998)
- ### Barack Obama, Senator (IL)
- Reduce mercury and lead to protect community health. (Aug 2007)
 - Protect the Great Lakes & our National Parks and Forests. (Aug 2007)
 - Give Katrina contracts to locals, not to Halliburton. (Jun 2007)
 - Three months working on minority students recycling. (Aug 1996)
 - Voted YES on including oil & gas smokestacks in mercury regulations. (Sep 2005)

Ron Paul, Congressman (TX-14)

- Property rights are the foundation of all rights. (Sep 2007)
- Voted NO on increasing AMTRAK funding by adding \$214M to \$900M. (Jun 2006)
- Voted YES on barring website promoting Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump. (May 2006)
- Voted NO on speeding up approval of forest thinning projects. (Nov 2003)
- Rated 5% by the LCV, indicating anti-environment votes. (Dec 2003)

Bill Richardson, Governor (NM)

- Invest in bike lanes & commuter bike facilities. (Oct 2007)
- Lack of Katrina response by our government was inexcusable. (Jul 2007)
- Katrina response "disgraceful"; reform FEMA & insurance. (Jun 2007)
- Require renewable technologies and ask for conservation. (Jun 2007)
- Expand and create new state parks. (Jan 2004)
- Develop a comprehensive water management plan. (Jan 2004)

Mitt Romney, Former Governor (MA)

- Response to Big Dig death shows how Romney handles crises. (Mar 2007)
- Lit mountain with Olympic rings while placating enviro's. (Aug 2004)
- Clean environment will be a campaign theme. (Mar 2002)

Fred Thompson, Former Senator (TN)

- Voted YES on confirming Gale Norton as Secretary of Interior. (Jan 2001)
- Voted YES on more funding for forest roads and fish habitat. (Sep 1999)
- Voted YES on transportation demo projects. (Mar 1998)
- Voted YES on reducing funds for road-building in National Forests. (Sep 1997)

Source: *On The Issues*, 1770 Massachusetts Ave. #630, Cambridge, MA 02140 [issues2000.org](http://www.issues2000.org) <<http://www.issues2000.org/default.htm>>

Global-warming gases set to rise by 57% by 2030

Emissions of greenhouse gases will rise by 57 percent by 2030 compared to current levels, leading to a rise in Earth's surface temperature of at least three degrees Celsius (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit), the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday.

In its annual report on global energy needs, the Paris-based agency projected greenhouse-gas pollution would rise by 1.8 percent annually by 2030 on the basis of projected energy use and current efforts to mitigate emissions.

The IEA saw scant chance of bringing this pollution down to a stable, safer level any time soon.

It poured cold water on a scenario sketched earlier this year by the Nobel-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

the UN's paramount authority on global warming and its effects.

The IPCC said that to limit the average increase in global temperatures to 2.4 C (4.3 F)—the most optimistic of any of its scenarios—the concentration of greenhouse gases would have to stabilize at 450 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere.

The IPCC warned that, to achieve this goal, CO₂ emissions would have to peak by 2015 at the latest and then fall between 50 and 85 percent by 2050.

But the 2007 edition of the IEA's World Energy Outlook saw no peak in emissions before 2020.

To achieve the 450ppm target would mean that CO₂ from energy sources would have to peak by 2012, and this would require a

massive drive in energy efficiency and switch to non-fossil fuels, the report said.

"Emissions savings (would have to) come from improved efficiency in fossil-fuel use in industry, buildings and transport, switching to nuclear power and renewables, and the widespread deployment of CO₂ capture and storage in power generation and industry.

"Exceptionally quick and vigorous action by all countries and unprecedented technological advances, entailing substantial costs, would be needed to make this case a reality.

Under the IEA's most optimistic scenario, which takes into account measures that are currently in the planning stage for tackling emissions, greenhouse-gas pollution would rise by one percent

per year, rather than 1.8 percent on present trends.

Emissions would decline steadily beyond 2030, translating into an eventual rise in temperatures of "about" three C (5.4 F), IEA analyst Trevor Morgan said.

In contrast, under the IEA's most pessimistic scenario, warming could reach six C (10.8 F) if China and India continue their strong growth relentlessly, using coal as a principal energy source.

By 2030, the biggest polluters would be China, the United States, India, Russia and Japan.

In a massive report issued this year, the IPCC said that since 1900, the mean global atmospheric temperature had risen by 0.8 C (1.44 F) and levels of CO₂, which account for about three-quarters of greenhouse-gas output, are now at

their highest in 650,000 years.

This temperature rise has already caused glaciers, snow and ice cover to fall back sharply in alpine regions, reduced the scope of Arctic sea ice and caused Siberian and Canadian permafrost to retreat.

By 2100, global average surface temperatures could rise by between 1.1 C (1.98 F) and 6.4 C (11.52 F) compared to 1980-99 levels, the IPCC said.

Heatwaves, flooding, drought, tropical storms and surges in sea level are among the events expected to become more frequent, more widespread and/or more intense this century.

Source: Agence France-Presse via Truthout 11/7/07 <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/>

Solving climate change

According to the authors of *Stabilization Wedges*, a portfolio of technologies currently exists that could meet the world's energy needs over the next 50 years and limit atmospheric CO₂ to a trajectory that avoids a doubling of the preindustrial concentration.

[Editor's note: see <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/305/5686> for a full description of this study. There are reasons to question/reject some of these technologies but it is good to start the discussion.]

Energy efficiency and conservation

1. Efficient vehicles: Increase fuel economy for 2 billion cars from 30 to 60 mpg

Issues: Car size, power

2. Reduced use of vehicles: Decrease car travel for 2 billion 30-mpg cars from 10,000 to 5000 miles per year

Issues: Urban design, mass transit, telecommuting

3. Efficient buildings: Cut carbon emissions by one-fourth in buildings and appliances

Issues: Weak incentives

4. Efficient baseload coal plants: Produce twice today's coal power output at 60% instead of 40% efficiency

Issues: Advanced high-temperature materials, fuel shift

5. Gas baseload power for coal baseload power: Replace 1400 GW 50%-efficient coal plants with gas plants

Issues: Competing demands for natural gas; CO₂ Capture and Storage (CCS)

6. Capture CO₂ at baseload power plant: Introduce CCS at 800 GW coal or 1600 GW natural gas

Issues: Technology already in use for H₂ production

7. Capture CO₂ at H₂ plant: Introduce CCS at plants producing 250 MtH₂/year from coal or 500 MtH₂/year from natural gas

Issues: H₂ safety, infrastructure

8. Capture CO₂ at coal-to-synfuels plant: Introduce CCS at synfuels plants producing 30 million barrels a day from coal, if half of feedstock carbon is available for capture

Issues: Increased CO₂ emissions, if synfuels produced without CCS, durable storage, permitting

Nuclear fission

9. Nuclear power for coal power: Add 700 GW

Issues: Nuclear proliferation, terrorism, waste

Renewable electricity/ fuels

10. Wind power for coal power: Add 2 million 1-MW windmills

Issues: Multiple uses of land because windmills widely spaced

11. Photovoltaic (PV) power for coal power: Add 2000 GW-peak PV on 2 x 10⁶ ha

Issues: PV production cost

12. Wind H₂ in fuel-cell car for gasoline in hybrid car: Add 4 million 1-MW-peak windmills

Issues: H₂ safety, infrastructure

13. Biomass fuel for fossil fuel: Add 100 times the current Brazil or U.S. ethanol production (one-sixth of world cropland)

Issues: Biodiversity, competing land use

Forests/agricultural soils

14. Reduced deforestation, plus reforestation, afforestation, and new plantations: Decrease tropical deforestation to zero and establish 300 Mha of new plantations

Issues: Land demands of agriculture

15. Conservation tillage: Apply to all cropland

Issues: Reversibility, verification

Source: *Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies*, by S. Pacalal & R. Socolow. Science, <http://www.sciencemag.org>, AAAS

Taxpayer loan guarantees for nukes?

The Senate energy bill passed earlier this year includes a highly objectionable provision sought by the nuclear power industry that seeks to provide taxpayer guarantees of repayment on a potential \$50-\$100 billion in loans to finance the construction of new nuclear power plants. The proposed "loan guarantees" would protect future investors in the debt obligations of new plants (which can cost \$3-5 billion apiece) by ensuring that taxpayers would repay the loans if the new nuclear power projects go bust, as many of them did 25 years ago during the first big wave of nuclear reactor construction.

This would greatly increase the number of reactors eligible to obtain such loan guarantees, and strip congressional appropriations committees of their obligation under current law to set annual limits on the Secretary of Energy's authority to issue new guarantees, thereby allowing the secretary at his own discretion to obligate future taxpayers to the potential repayment of billions in bad nuclear debts.

Even the Bush administration "strongly opposes" the proposal,

noting that the new loan guarantee program "would remove appropriate controls over the size of the program and significantly increase potential taxpayer liability." It also would defeat the original intent of the loan guarantees, which was to spur deployment of "innovative" low-carbon technologies, and instead tilt the energy technology playing field in favor of nuclear power at the expense of truly sustainable renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind power, advanced biofuels and other low-carbon options.

Senators and representatives will decide the fate of this blatantly over-reaching special interest provision during ongoing negotiations to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the energy bill.

ACTION: Send a message urging your senators and representative to ensure that the final energy bill does not include expanded support for nuclear loan guarantees.

Source: NRDC's Earth Action alert 11/7/07 www.nrdc.org. Natural Resources Defense Council, 40 West 20th St, NY, NY 10011 <http://www.nrdc.org>

In the hands of the military

Chris Hedges

The last, best hope for averting a war with Iran lies with the United States military. The Democratic Congress, cowed by the Israel lobby and terrified of appearing weak on defense before the presidential elections, will do nothing to halt an attack. The media, especially the electronic press, is working overtime to whip up fear of a nuclear Iran and tar Tehran with abetting attacks against American troops in Iraq. The American public is complacent, unsure of what to believe, knocked off balance by fear, and passive. We will be saved or doomed by our generals.

The last wall of defense that prevents the Bush administration from targeting Iran, an attack that could ignite a regional conflagration and usher in apocalyptic scenarios in the Middle East, runs through the offices of Secretary of Defense

Robert Gates; Adm. William Fallon, the head of the Central Command (CENTCOM); and Gen. George Casey, the Army's new chief of staff. These three figures in the defense establishment have told George W. Bush and the Congress how depleted the U.S. military has become, that it cannot manage another conflict, and that a war with Iran would make the war with Iraq look like an act of prudence and common sense.

The reliance on the military command, however, to be the voice of reason in the debate about a new war is not a healthy sign for our deteriorating democracy. Compliant generals can always be found to carry out the Dr. Strangelove designs of a mad White House. Those who resist implementing decisions can easily be removed.

The United States is able to launch a massive and devastating air attack

on Iran's military installations. It can obliterate the Iranian air force. It can cripple if not dismantle effective communications and military command and control. It can destroy some of Iran's underground nuclear facilities. But our intelligence inside Iran, as was true in Iraq, is uneven. We do not know where all of Iran's nuclear facilities are. And it is probable that an Iranian response against American targets, such as the Green Zone in Iraq, as well as Iranian-sponsored terrorist attacks on American soil, would follow. Shiites in the region would interpret an attack as a war on the Shiite community and would unleash unrest, terrorism and violence against us and our allies from Lebanon to Pakistan.

The battle is between the Cheney camp, which would like to carry out strikes on Iran before Bush leaves office, and Gates and his senior generals. Cheney, who has

always been able to push aside the feckless Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, is having a tougher time with the military.

Gen. Casey informed Congress this fall that the Army was "out of balance" and added: "The demand for our forces exceeds the sustainable supply. We are consumed with meeting the demands of the current fight, and are unable to provide ready forces as rapidly as necessary for other potential contingencies."

This White House has a habit of dismissing recalcitrant generals. Gen. Eric Shinseki, when he was chief of staff of the Army, ended his career when he told the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on the eve of the war in Iraq that "something in the order of several hundred thousand soldiers" would probably be required for postwar Iraq. Gen. Peter Pace also ran afoul of the White House and was not nominated for a second term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when he publicly defied Donald Rumsfeld. At a press conference in November 2005 he stood next to Rumsfeld as the secretary of defense asserted that "the United States does not have a responsibility" to prevent torture by Iraqi officials. Pace pointedly disagreed with Rumsfeld, saying, "It is the absolute responsibility of every U.S. service member, if they see inhumane treatment being conducted, to intervene, to stop it." Pace also openly dismissed White House claims that Iran was supplying weapons and explosively formed penetrators to Iraqi insurgents. He too was shown the door.

The White House, isolated and reviled at home and abroad, believes it is on a higher mission to save the world from itself. The instability in the Middle East could undermine Gates and his generals. A limited Israeli strike on suspected Iranian nuclear production facilities, currently under discussion in Jerusalem, could trigger retaliatory strikes by Iran on Israel and U.S. targets in Iraq and the Persian Gulf. The clamor for revenge, fueled by a rapacious right-wing media, coupled with our feelings of collective humiliation, could sweep aside all reasoned objections to

war with Iran. It happened after the attacks of 2001. It can happen again.

A petition addressed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and all U.S. military personnel urges them to defy orders to attack Iran. It points out that a pre-emptive war with Iran is a war crime under international law. It reminds military personnel of the statute in the Army Field Manual 27-10, Section 609, and Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 92, that states: "A general order or regulation is lawful unless it is contrary to the Constitution, the law of the United States. ..."

The petition notes that any provision of an international treaty ratified by the United States becomes the law of the United States. The United States is a party and signatory to the United Nations Charter, of which Article II, Section 4, states, "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. ..."

Iran has not attacked the United States. The U.S., as a party and signatory to the U.N. charter, would be in clear violation of international law and the laws enshrined in the Constitution if it went to war with Iran. If the citizens and their representatives in Congress refuse to resist and uphold the rule of law, perhaps the military can be prodded to halt our slide into despotism. It is not the best option, but it may be the only one left.

We live now at the mercy of events. A provocation by Iran, aided by a bellicose White House, could plunge us into another war. It could unleash the primitive chant for violence and revenge that rises up from a population that feels vulnerable, uncertain and afraid. There are forces in our society ready and willing to fan the blood lust for a wider circle of war and mayhem. The Iranians, like us, are cursed by their leadership. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is as primitive, inept and paranoid as George Bush. They are the perfect dance partners for a waltz into Armageddon.

Source: Truthdig 11/12/07 <<http://www.truthdig.com/>

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Book Reviews

American Dreamer: A Life of Henry Wallace

By John C. Culver and John Hyde; W.W. Norton and Company, Inc.

Reviewed by Gary Putnam

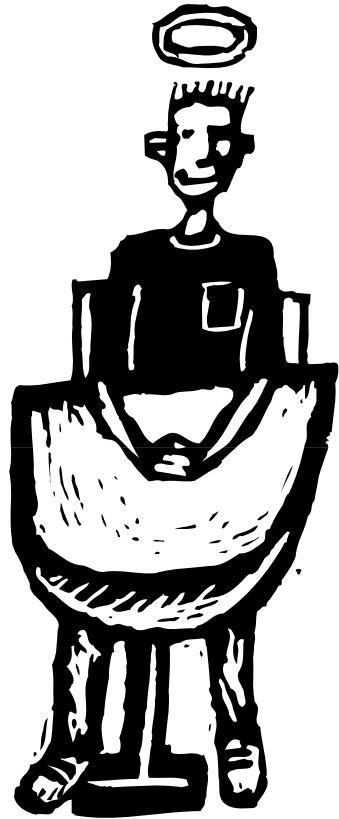
This biography of Henry Wallace, former Secretary of Agriculture and Vice President under FDR, presents a portrait of an idealistic humanitarian crushed by culture of American politics. Despite the difficulties Wallace encountered, he made very significant contributions to the lives of citizens of this nation and other nations.

The book's title comes from Wallace's dreaming of what could be, rather than what is. The New Republic magazine wrote "The strength and weakness of Wallace is that he has no place at all in the underworld of manoeuvre and intrigue. Behind him there is nothing but the ideas that animate him, and the confidence his personality inspires by the mingled appeal of his kindness and courage."

His visionary outlook prompted Wallace in 1912 to develop a grain storage system which he dubbed the "Joseph plan," based on the Biblical Genesis story of planning for lean years in the prosperous years. Wallace was very involved in his religious faith but struggled with the institutional church. The book describes his view that "all organized religions have a powerful conservative streak that 'forces them to hold to the past with utmost devotion.' Change always threatens organized religion. 'This it is that we have the historic conflict between the priest and prophet.'" Wallace wrote.

Championing the notion of commonweal, commitment to the common good, not of the USA, but of world citizens, Wallace said "We must invent, build and put to work new social machinery. This machinery will carry out the Sermon on the Mount as well as the present social machinery carries out and intensifies the law of the jungle."

Besides being a social visionary, Wallace was an intense technician of things agricultural. Through his commitment, hybrid seed corn came into being. Ultimately,



this scientific breakthrough gave rise to Pioneer Seed Corn, which gave Wallace financial security. The impact of hybrid seed corn is evident when one realizes that in 1931 the average corn yield in the US was 24.1 bushels per acre, about the same as at the conclusion of the Civil War. By 1941 this increased to 31 bushels per acre. By 1981, this was 110 bushels per acre and today's yields are almost twice that number.

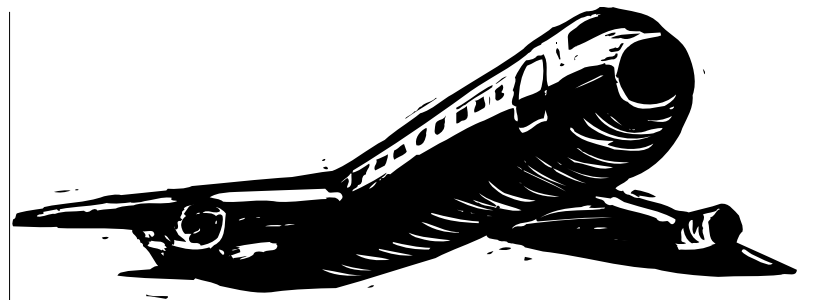
Wallace's leadership did not simply enhance the life of the American farmer. In 1948, for the first time since 1910, Mexico did not need to import food to care for their own population. Within 20 years, because of Wallace's influence, corn production in Mexico was tripled and wheat production increased five fold. Whereas US farmers in 1940 produced a bushel of corn with one hour's labor, Mexican farmers required as much as 500 hours of labor to produce a bushel of corn. Iowa, with one-eighth the population of Mexico, produced eight times the amount of corn. The impact of Wallace's life was felt as poor farmers around the world sat down at their table to eat.

This powerful biography is not a listing of agricultural statistics, but an account of a humanitarian seeking to give life to benevolent principles through governmental policies. Wallace's close associations with President Franklin Roosevelt reveals FDR's abilities to lead a nation but not be faithful to friends. Wallace maintained fierce loyalty to FDR and the New Deal program despite being dealt with cruelly by prominent leaders of that movement. Also, Harry Truman comes off looking less of a champion and more of a chump.

Apropos to headlines of today regarding the War on Iraq, and years before the United Nations was established, Wallace said that "no longer could Americans be like the strong, well-armed pioneers who thought they could defend themselves without the expense and bother of joining their neighbors in establishing a police force, ... We in the United States must remember this: If we are to expect guarantees against military or economic aggression from other nations, we must be willing to give guarantees that we will not be guilty of such aggression ourselves."

The book's authors bring significant credentials to this study. John Culver served as a US representative and Senator from Iowa for 16 years. His son now serves as Governor of the State of Iowa. John Hyde served for 11 years in the Des Moines Register's Washington Bureau, his newspaper having the distinction of being awarded more Pulitzer Prizes than any other except the New York Times.

Wallace is not widely remembered with favor among most citizens. The McCarthy era victimized Wallace's ideals as "Communitistic" and naïve. In a sense Wallace was martyred on the altar of political expediency, but his life story is one that can encourage others who might follow and strengthen their resolve in adhering to the noblest of ideals.



The Serpent of War Beguiles us to do Evil in the Name of Good

by Larry Artope Jackson; Trafford Publishing

Review by John Morearty

A deep little novel of war, death, love and righteousness across the borderlines, told plain as sun on sea water. The author, Methodist minister and educator Larry Artope Jackson, flew as a navigator on bombing missions over Germany; his hero, Herman Williams, is an aspiring physics professor, an American convert to the Judaism of his dead mother and an airman fighting a truly Just War against Nazism, yet fearing to commit an act he morally abhors—bombing German cities, slaughtering women and children.

Stationed in England, Herman falls in shimmering love with deep-hearted medical student Heather Meyer, daughter of a Jewish family doctor and amateur sailor who died rescuing British soldiers at the evacuation of Dunkirk. Her grandfather is an actual historical figure, an Anglican bishop who (like Herman) supported the war yet condemned the sin of bombing German cities.

Herman flies his first mission, bombs a railroad yards in Munich, is grateful for the target, and trembles thinking what city apartment buildings will come next. He meets his beloved's bishop, and ponders announcing from the cathedral pulpit that he will not slaughter the innocent.

Will Herman declare his treasonous disobedience, wreck his career and his hopes for marriage?

It sounds like soap opera. It is, and cleansing soap: a true and human tale, twined with the ironies of Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse Five, Reinhold Niebuhr's theology, and hope beyond evil and disaster.

The author (full disclosure) is

a friend of mine, the man who hired me in 1967 with a fresh Ph.D. to help found Callison College, a UOP "cluster college" dedicated to global understanding. By Jackson's plan, we sent all our students for their sophomore year to India, hoping they would experience in their bones that humans are every one of us sisters and brothers, and act on that knowledge. Many have.

Before that, the ex-bomber navigator worked with Quakers in Germany after the War, healing the wounds; then he was principal of an international girls' high school in Chile. He left Callison in 1969 to become president of Lander College in the hills of his native South Carolina, an educated white man of God serving mostly first-generation college students, African-American and white. He retired in 1992.

At the end of Serpent of War I'm left with a breath of joy, and the question: This author has wrestled with the tangled bitter questions of his youth, and as an old man offers us a way: Be Brave and Speak the Truth. And we?



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Say Uncle

Somewhere, everywhere, Uncle
is lurking
His star-spangled presence
touching the lives of millions
Upon billions who know his steely
glance
And have felt the oppressive
weight of his white gloved hand

More than a century ago, from sea
to shining sea
He lit the torch of manifest
destiny
Crushing those foolish enough to
oppose him
Creating the foundation of
empire
Awash in the false chorus of "with
liberty and justice for all."

An empire whose shadows are
now limitless
Encircling the globe in the dawn's
early light
Even now, new entreaties of
"I want you!"
Echo across the purple mountains
majesty
Reaching out to amber waves
of grain
Beckoning the young in the cities
and on the fruited plains

"I want you!"
Words once spoken to halt the
tyranny of Nazism
And avenge a day that will live
in infamy
Noble words then in that time of
crisis
Which are now uttered through
clenched, decaying teeth
Partially obscured by thin, cupidic
lips

You and I—all of us
Bearing the enviable birthright of
America
The proud descendents of
immigrant, of pioneer, of slave
Must now proclaim what we
proudly we hail
Casting our eyes and our
consciousness
across these United States of
America
We must confront an iconic old
man
Whose capacity for compassion
is fading
Slipping through clutching, blood
stained hands

Now is the time to act, to speak
out
Before the rockets red glare blots
out the sun
Leaving all of U.S. scattered
across the land of the red, white
and blue
Swearing tardy allegiance to a
tattered Old Glory

My uncle, your uncle, our uncle
Beware—his name is Sam

—Dave Waldon

Who's afraid of a falling dollar?

Mark Weisbrot

What do policy-makers in
China, Japan, Argentina,
Malaysia, Indonesia, the European
Union and many other countries
understand that ours don't? It
seems they know that if the value
of their currencies rises too much,
it can hurt their economy. But for
a number of reasons it hasn't quite
sunk in here.

Which is too bad, because
we've lost more than three million
manufacturing jobs in the U.S.
since 2001, and much if not most
of this job loss is due to the dollar
being overvalued. This is bad
news not only for the people who
lost those jobs, but for the tens of
millions more whose wages are
depressed by the displacement of
these workers—and arguably for
the nation as a whole, as America's
manufacturing base continues its
process of "hollowing out."

Perhaps most amazing
is that now that the dollar is
finally falling—it has dropped
by 23 percent against a trade-
weighted basket of currencies
since February 2002 -- we hear
warnings from prominent citizens
and government officials that
this is something we should be
worried about. Just last week,
former Treasury Secretary Robert
Rubin, reacting to the dollar's
recent fall, said that relying on a
weaker dollar to boost growth isn't
a "sound approach."

"Our objective ought to be to
have a strong currency based on
sound policy," he said.

On the same day U.S. Treasury
Secretary Henry Paulson said, "I
am strongly committed to a strong
dollar."

Comments like these
simply reinforce the popular
misunderstanding that a "strong
dollar" is good for the country.
But an overvalued dollar makes
imports artificially cheap, and
prices US exports out of foreign
markets. If the dollar is 25 percent
overvalued, that's the same as
putting a tariff of 25 percent on
U.S exports, and at the same time
giving a 20 percent subsidy to
foreign manufacturers exporting to
the U.S. market. This handicap has

probably had as much impact on
the loss of manufacturing jobs in
the U.S. as trade agreements such
as NAFTA, which were designed
to facilitate the movement of US
manufacturing to countries with
cheap labor and lax environmental
regulation.

It is because of many years
of overvaluation that we have
run up an enormous trade
(and current account) deficit,
borrowing from the rest of the
world at an unsustainable pace.
This borrowing will have to slow,
and the way this will happen
is through an adjustment in
the dollar. This will reduce our
imports and increase exports. In
fact, it appears to be beginning
already, as a result of the dollar's
decline: Exports of goods rose
by a 23 percent annual rate in
the third quarter of this year, the
fastest such jump since 1989.

That is the purpose of a flexible
exchange rate: it adjusts to move
your trade back towards balance.
Our trade doesn't have to be
balanced, but the deficits can't be
so large as to pile up an explosive
foreign debt....

Some of our big transnational
corporations like a high dollar
because it makes everything they
buy overseas—including other
companies as well as labor—
cheaper for them. And of course
for those whose first priority is an
affordable vacation in Europe—
well they are out of luck when
the Euro rises, as it has now, to
\$1.45.

But for the vast majority of
the country, a "strong dollar" is
more like a "strong influenza
virus"—something to be avoided
whenever possible.

Mark Weisbrot [http://www.
cepr.net/content/view/full/81/81/](http://www.cepr.net/content/view/full/81/81/). is
Co-Director of the Center for
Economic and Policy Research
<http://www.cepr.net>.

Source: AlterNet 11/8/07 [http://www.
alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org)



Grand Old Pachyderm

The President floundered
His flunkies did too
It was August of '01 and they felt
rather blue
They'd all come to D.C.
Prepared to grind axes
Yet their only idea was to slash
rich folks' taxes

Then came a horrible day in the
East
The old Elephant said, "Let's
harness the beast."
Old Glory unfurled. Let's wave it
some more
It won't take long now to get us
to war.

So with looks of intensity and flag
lapel pins bristling
They rolled up their sleeves and
began silently whistling
They marched into Congress
They stood in the aisle
Stern faces all stifling a smile
"We've got the war started. This
could take quite a while."

Then the President spoke
And he spoke with conviction
He enraptured the masses with a
stirring benediction,
"I've said what I meant
And I've meant what I've said
The nation is safer with the
terrorists dead."

Soon we discovered Saddam had
no A-bombs
No anthrax, no nerve gas hidden
under the palms
No al Qaeda, no insurgents
prowling the streets
Just the pitter patter of Iraqi feet
Yet the President stood firm
His forecast upbeat
"We must achieve victory. There'll
be no defeat.
In case you missed it the first
time
It's here I'll repeat—
I've said what I meant
And I've meant what I've said
The nation is safer with the
terrorists dead."

Some folks brought up the name
of Bin Laden
To remind Mr. Bush in case he'd
forgotten
It was he who'd attacked us that
dark day in September
We must pursue him—oh please
sir, remember!

Still the President stood firm
With Cheney the confider
He announced his new status as
the nation's "decider."
"Iraq's where we'll fight—we'll
fight in Iraq.
Once I've decided I never look
back."

Then Mr. Bush laughed and
peeked into his pouch
"Osama's not here! Maybe under
the couch?
If y'all missed it before I'll say it
again
When we fight a war we fight it
to win.
Now, I've said what I meant
And I've meant what I've said
The nation is safer with the
terrorists dead."

Then we filled up the prisons
In Abu and Cuba
While our TV's were transfixed on
Schiavo and Aruba
Then the President gave us a new
reason to fight
"Democracy in Iraq. By God, it's
their right!"
So the prisoners languish under
guard and bright lights
Denied the basic freedoms the
founders said is their right
To face their accuser
A sole day in court
Making their case a chance to
retort

Meanwhile, Mr. Bush trots out to
remind us again
"Losing's not an option. We're in
this to win."
And his lackeys in Congress
March lock-step in boots
The folks at Fox News, no doubt,
in cahoots
Then it was time for the familiar
refrain
We've heard it before—we'll hear
it again.
"I've said what I meant
And I've meant what I've said
The nation is safer with the
terrorists dead."

So the war carried on
For five years and still counting
More death and more carnage
The heartaches still mounting

While Halliburton and Bechtel
Conduct clinics on money
hoarding
We argue the merits of forced
water-boarding
And the carpet baggers of conflict
exclaim,
"Oh great parookas! We'll keep
making tanks,
Grenades and bazookas!
We'll extract every drop
Of oil from their soil
Then add up our profits and leave
'em to boil."

Still the President insists that
we're doing what's right
Gunshot diplomacy with no end
in sight
We can now rest assured that he
meant what he said
As the casualties mount and we
count up the dead
We'll not cut and run

We'll stay the duration
No matter the cost to our once-
proud nation

So hats off to the man
Who said what he meant
The subterfuge grows
Lives and dollars are spent
Leaving us to only pray before
it's too late
The world survives George Bush
until 2008.

—Dave Waldon



A tiny study in poetry

I write my poems in a tiny study,
jammed with words from wall to
wall,
scribble them down on scraps
of paper,
barely space to squeeze them
all.

With minuscule thoughts in tiny
letters
this question to myself I put:
not how many feet will fit in the
metre,
but how much metre will fit in a
foot?

—John Morearty

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John Morearty's memoir of 40 years in the
peace movement in Stockton

Daniel Berrigan says, "You have been cursed and blessed
with an interesting and passionate life."

Mike Fitzgerald says, "Arrogant...rash...brave...fun."

Reid Cerney says, "a peace provocateur."

Sue [Rice] Harper says, "lyrical and pungent."

Preview at www.johnmorearty.com,
or call 209-464-3326

Peace and Justice Network



of San Joaquin County

Author to speak on Israel and Palestine; Sac Jewish Federation opposes discussion

Alice Rothchild, MD, is Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School. She is author of *Broken Promises, Broken Dreams* in which she describes "an intimate journey grappling with the complicated historical legacy of Israel and Palestine and my relationship to these issues as a Jewish American physician, grounded by the traumas of the Holocaust and my family's passionate love of Israel."

Dr. Rothchild will speak in Sacramento on Sunday, Dec 2 (2-4pm at the Belle Cooleage Library Community Room, 5600 South Land Park Dr at Fruitridge), on the same day in Davis (7-9pm at the Davis Branch Library, Blanchard Room, 315 East 14th Street), and

in Elk Grove on Monday, Dec 3 (7-9pm, Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd).

To hear a prominent Jewish American physician who traveled in Israel and the Palestinian territories tell stories of ordinary people in both communities can only add to our understanding of Israelis and Palestinians and the effects our government policies are having in the region.

Unfortunately, the Jewish Federation in Sacramento disagrees, saying, "...[Our] mission is, in part, to enrich those of the Jewish community (sic) who support and identify with Israel. We do not believe [Dr. Rothchild's appearance] supports this mission." In other words, the Federation has decided what it means to "support

Israel" and criticism of Israeli policies is not allowed.

Why should this matter to anyone outside the Jewish community? Simply because peace in the Middle East is of vital importance to all of us, including US policy toward Israel and Palestine. For too long some in the Jewish community have attempted to silence those who express criticism of Israel's continued occupation of the Palestinian territories.

However, when well respected, compassionate voices speak out, it becomes much more difficult to claim that such criticism is somehow anti-Semitic. Come and hear this respected author and make up your own mind.

Source: Jewish Voice for Peace, Sacramento



Renaissance Christmas music

Come listen to a marvelous local Early Music quintet performing renaissance-era Christmas music, benefitting First Unitarian Church music program. Wednesday, December 20; 7:00 pm. \$10 admission at door. 2737 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 209-466-7743.

Stockton Chorale celebrates holidays

The holidays are upon us and Holiday Delight concerts featuring the Stockton Chorale, Master Chorale and Youth Chorale will be the best way to bring the holidays home.

This double performance will be held 7:30 pm on Friday, December 14, 2007 at the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton, and on Sunday December 16, 2007, 3:00 pm at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, 1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi. Handel's full Christmas Messiah will be performed Sunday, 3:00 pm December 2, in the new Grand Theatre in Tracy.

The Chorale's artistic director and conductor is Dr. Edward Cetto. The Stockton Chorale, founded in 1951, is a 110-member community chorus from the Central Valley, Contra Costa County and Sierra foothills communities.

Single concert tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for students age 17 yrs. and younger. Season tickets are \$75 for adults and \$37.50 for 17 yrs. and younger. Choice value (5 choice passes) are \$80. Tickets may be purchased from by calling 209/951-6494, from Chorale members, or at the door.

Sierra Club Holiday Party

Monday December 17, 2007, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Join members and guests for Holiday cheer featuring hearty homemade soups provided by chefs, Gina Bloom, Conni Bock and Nan Ballot, Monday December 17, 6:30 to 8:30 at the Fireside Room at Central United Methodist Church (where we normally meet). Members and guests will be welcomed with music played by talented member Gale Stocking. Bring your favorite food to share as well as your place setting. If you have not mailed in your ballot to select the three new Executive Committee members, you can vote in person this evening. Mark your ballot and deposit it in the ballot box.

Hospice Tree of Lights shines

The holiday lights are shining brightly on the Holiday tree at Delta College (corner of Pacific and Yokuts). Decorated faithfully each year by PG&E employee volunteers, the tree serves not only as a holiday decoration but also as a memorial for families who have purchased a colored light in remembrance of a loved one.

Names of honorees and donors are placed on a marquee at the base of each tree for the public to view. Proceeds help Hospice of San Joaquin to provide the highest level of care for terminally ill patients and their families and the bereaved of the community. The community is invited to join with family and friends to remember and honor loved ones by dedicating a light on the holiday tree through December 31. Names are updated weekly.

To dedicate your light call 209-922-0242 or visit us at www.hospicesj.org.

Season's Greetings from Pacific Complementary Medicine Center



Yi-Po Anthony Wu, M.D., Medical Director; Brian Chee C. Loh, L.Ac., O.M.D.;
Yoshiko Kage, L.Ac., M.A., M.S.; Dorel Rotar, L.Ac., MTOM;
Susan Wang, L.Ac., Ph.D., O.M.D.; Teresa M. Chen, Ph.D.

(right to left): Phyny Phan, Benni Serna, Liza Bringas, Paul Chan, Liz Cordero, Connie Tracy,
Chastity Tyler and Connie Lui

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December/January Calendar

Editor's note: if your event isn't listed, let us know. Send copy to: bgiudici@caltel.com by the 7th of the month.

Nov 5 - Dec 1

Collage work by Mary Lois Thompson. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave. 463-4033

Nov 14 - Dec 9

Nunsensations! The Nonsense Vegas Revue, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton \$12-\$22. 473-2424.

Nov 24 - Jan 21

Ice on the Delta outdoor skating. Tue-Fri 5 - 8 pm, Sat 11 am - 9 pm, Sun 11 am - 7 pm. DeCarli Waterfront Square, Channel & El Dorado, Stockton. \$5 includes skates, specials various days. Info 937-8206 or www.stocktongov.com/iceonthedelta.

Nov 29 - Dec 20

Shelley Gardner & Joshua Greenberg art show: River of Life. T 11-4, W-Th 11-6:30, F 11-1. LH Horton Jr Gallery, Shima Center, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5507

Fri, Nov 30

Music in the Schools benefit concert for Stockton school music programs, 7:30 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP. \$10 general, \$5 student ID. 714-875-8311

Fri, Nov 30

Peaceful Holiday Fair - food, music, conflict-free gifts that support community and lots of fun. Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network. Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 4 - 9 pm. 467-4455.

Nov 30 - Dec 8

Tam & Cam: A story of Cinderella, an Asian Cinderella for younger audiences. 7:30 pm, 2 pm matinee. Long Theatre, UOP. \$8 - \$12. 946-2867.

Dec 1 - Dec 9

Treasure Island. Fri-Sat 7 pm, Sun 2 pm. Lewis Theatre, Locke Center, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 adults, \$8 student/senior. 954-5110.

Sat, Dec 1

Peaceful Holiday Fair - food, music, conflict-free gifts that support community and lots of fun. Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network. Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. 467-4455.

Festival of Lights: lighting the tree and the boat parade opens the season. 5 - 7 pm. Weber Point Event Center, Center at Miner. Free. 937-8099.

An evening with the Yellowjackets, jazz fusion's quintessential group. 8 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$25/\$35. 954-5110.

Dec 1 - 2

Festival of Trees, with over 70 uniquely decorated trees. 10 am - 4 pm. SJ County Historical Museum, 11793 N Micke Grove Rd, Lodi. \$8 general, \$1 kids 2 - 10, under 2 free. All funds raised benefit youth education. 953-3460.

Sun, Dec 2

Dr. Alice Rothchild to speak on her experiences in Israel and the Palestinian territories. 2-4 pm at the Belle Coolege Library Community Room, 5600 South Land Park Dr at Fruitridge, Sacramento. Also at 7-9 pm at the Davis Branch Library, Blanchard Room, 315 East 14th Street, Davis (see page 18).

Mon, Dec 3

Dr. Alice Rothchild to speak on her experiences in Israel and the Palestinian territories. 7-9 pm, Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove (see page 18).

Dec 3 - Jan 5

Holiday show and sale featuring local artists. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

Thu, Dec 6

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

Miracle Mile holiday stroll, with Santa, local musical bands and groups, and holiday specials. 5 pm, Pacific Ave between Castle St and Harding Way, Stockton. Free. 933-0441.

Yosemite Sound Series experimental & improv music. 8 pm. Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite, Stockton. \$3, 943-6938.

Sat, Dec 8

Stockton Art League Delores D'Pharr reception, 4-7. Elsie May Goodwin Gallery, 1902 Pacific Ave, Stockton. free. 466-6604. Gallery hours Tue-Fri 11-5, Sat 10-4.

Tue, Dec 11

Delta Holiday Band Concert, 7:30 pm, Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave. \$8 pm, \$5 students/seniors. 954-5110

Thu, Dec 13

Health Care for All San Joaquin group meeting, 6-8 pm. 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. Second Thursdays.

Fri, Dec 14

Nutcracker ballet, presented by P. O.P.A and Ballet San Joaquin, 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP. \$25 adult, \$16 child/senior. 946-2474

Nutcracker ballet, presented by the Capital Ballet Company, 7:30 pm.

Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15-\$20 adult, \$12 children/students/seniors. 954-5110.

Sat, Dec 15

Nutcracker ballet, presented by the Capital Ballet Company, 2 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15-\$20 adult, \$12 children/students/seniors. 954-5110.

Holiday poetry fest, 2 pm. Stewart Hazelton Room, Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado Ave, Stockton. Free. 937-8221.

Mon, Dec 17

Sierra Club holiday party. 6:30-8:30 at Central United Methodist Church (see page 18).

Thu, Dec 20

Classical quintet plays renaissance holiday music. First Unitarian Church, 2737 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 at the door. 466-7743 (see page 18).

Fri, Dec 21

Drinking Liberally - Promoting Democracy One Pint at a Time. An informal inclusive progressive social group - bring democratic discourse to your local democratic space. Stockton Grand Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton. Free to attend, support event host. 7 pm. 351-3397.

Sun, Dec 30

Borders Open Mic Series, a unique gathering of diverse local writers, artists, and musicians performing original works following a 30 minute set from the featured poet. Free admission, open to all ages. Musicians welcome, collaborations encouraged. 10776 Trinity Parkway, Stockton.

Jan 9 - Feb 3

Wait Until Dark, mystery-suspense by Fredrick Knott. Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton \$12 - \$22. 473-2424.

Thursdays

Peace and social justice demonstration, many issues. Edge of Delta campus along Pacific Avenue just north of Yokuts. Bring flags, signs, banners. 5-6:30 every Thursday.

Infinite Harmony & Reiki Healing Network. Come and receive a Reiki mini session to heal Body, Mind and Spirit. Spiritual Truth Center, 4545 Georgetown Pl, Stockton, 95207. 7:30-9 pm. \$10 donation. 983-9633

Fridays

Downtown farmers market, Hunter Square & E Main, Stockton. 9 am - 2 pm. 464-5246

First Sundays

Vegan potluck, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 5:30 pm \$2 donation bringing food, \$9 without. sjvegans@hotmail.com.

First Thursdays

Experimental & improv music, 8 pm Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite, Stockton. \$3. 943-6938.

Third Thursdays

Hispanics for Political Action - HPA meets 6 pm at 2080 E 4th St, Stockton. Info, call Louis Gonzales 464-9205

Fourth Saturdays

Greater Lodi Area Democrats (GLAD) meets 8:30 a.m., Dee Dee's Restaurant, 1170 S. Cherokee Ln, Lodi. All welcome, including recovering Republicans. 339-1599. No meetings in November and December.

Talking It Through

Talking It Through is now two half-hour shows.

The Real Show hosted by Margee Ensign is on Monday at 6pm

Talking It Through is hosted by Adrian Nichols and Sammy Nunez every Monday evening at 6:30pm

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network, InterFaith Council of San Joaquin County, Pacific Complementary Medicine Center

Check the TV page of Wednesday's Record for latest info.

Studio volunteers wanted! All ages...we'll train. Call 467-4455.

Pacific Theatre University of the Pacific

Fall 2007 FILM SCHEDULE

Starter for 10 — Fri., & Sat., Nov 30, Dec 1

Shakespeare Behind Bars (Documentary) — Thurs., Dec 6

Tokyo Godfathers (Japanese Anime) — Fri. & Sat., Dec 7, 8

Spider-Man 3 — Fri. & Sat., Dec 14, 15

Show Time: 8:00pm

(Doors Open 7:30pm)

Phone: (209) 946-2025

Pacific Students: FREE

Pacific Staff, Faculty, Alumni: \$3.00

General Admission: \$5.00



ASuop Film Series

Peace Work is Happening

Peace & Justice Network

Annual meeting and potluck

January 27, 4 - 7 pm

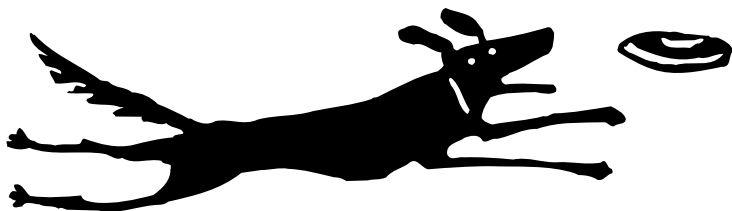
Please set aside the last Sunday of January for our annual get-together, celebrating the past year while looking forward to the next. Good friends, great food and a sense of community is what you will find when we discuss where our network will be going in the important year 2008. While the location is to be determined, please look to the next issue of *Connections* for more details on this grand event. See you there.



Earth Day Festival

Sunday, April 20

If you are interested in helping out at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Stockton's Earth Day Festival, coordinating meetings are happening now. We are always on the lookout for food vendors who serve vegetarian fare, local musical talent and interactive, educational display booths. Please contact Susan at Susan.Loyko@ci.stockton.ca.us or call 467-4455.



connections

Would you like *Connections* delivered to your home? It's FREE!

Name _____

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Peace & Justice Network does not sell or donate our mailing list. Connections is supported by donations and advertisers.

Upcoming changes at PJN; request for support to continue our work in 2008

Dear Friend of Peace and Justice,

At the end of December—barring some heroic last minute source of funding partnership—we will close the doors of our Bedford Road Peace and Justice Center for the last time.

What a loss! Two years ago, the Peace and Justice Network took a huge leap of faith and opened that center. Dozens of you volunteered ingenuity, sweat and cash to turn bare studs into a lovely space.

Always busy—sometimes more than others—the Center has been a source of pride to us all. But now, after two years of meetings, art shows, films and organizing, we have run out of funds to keep it open. We have beaten the bushes for partners to share our rented space, with no success.

We deeply value your ongoing financial contributions to our primary mission—educating the community on issues of peace and justice. But we can't spend your money on education if it's drained by rising rent and other costs.

Our educational work must and will go on. Ignorance is the common cause of our problems; when we truly understand what others endure to merely survive, deep education happens—and that's vital in a democracy like ours.

2008 will be a great year of decision, and we need to be hitting on all cylinders—using *Connections*, Talking it through, our new radio project, and our Earth Day Festival (our 20th anniversary edition) to awaken our neighbors to the urgent need for peace and justice locally and globally. Killing and dying in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran; torture and wiretapping; global warming and habitat destruction; political corruption and media manipulation; real health care for all—these are but a few of the issues on which we will help you take action. Local issues of urban sprawl, water and air quality, and remedies for youth violence will also be at the top of the page.

As always, we will be relying on you, our faithful readers and supporters.

We deeply thank you for your past support of the Peace and Justice Network. And now, in the season of harvest and celebration, as our country enters into an urgent time of education and awakening, we ask you to help out once more.

Please give what you can, ask a friend to do the same, and most importantly, spread the word that our community and our world need peace and justice now!

Thank you, and have a peaceful, joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,
Bruce Giudici
PJN Treasurer and Connections Editor

Lawn signs, peace pins, mugs, T-shirts

"War is NOT the answer" lawn signs come from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We are requesting a \$5 donation to cover costs (sorry, we can't ship lawn signs). We also have elegant pins made of pewter in the shape of the peace symbol for \$10. Also, handsome PJN T-shirts in many colors, and more. Come by the P&J Center to see these items, plus buttons and bumperstickers galore, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton CA 95204. Call 467-4455.

